

Brussels, 15 June 2018

WK 4643/2018 REV 3

LIMITE

**AG
ONU
DEVGEN
ENV**

WORKING PAPER

This is a paper intended for a specific community of recipients. Handling and further distribution are under the sole responsibility of community members.

WORKING DOCUMENT

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Subject:	Draft EU Key Messages for the High Level Political Forum (July 2018) - Silence procedure (15 June at 16.00 Brussels time)

At the request of some delegations, changes were introduced in paragraphs 23, 31 and 36.

The text is hereby submitted to an extended silence procedure until **today 15 June at 16.00 (Brussels time)**. If no objections are raised (Rossalina.Madjirova@bg-permrep.eu and cc WP2030-Agenda@consilium.europa.eu) the key messages will be considered agreed and will be shared with New York colleagues as indicated by the Presidency. The text is intended as guidance and reference for all EU actors, including the Member States, in their interventions before and during the HLPF next July.

Draft EU Key Messages for the High Level Political Forum July 2018

Strategic and cross-cutting issues

1. The EU and its Member States are committed to lead by example in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to enhance efforts in order to achieve the transformative shift which it requires, while leaving no one behind.
2. The EU and its Member States recognise the role of the UN in supporting countries in their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda, its goals and targets, and express full support to the High Level Political Forum.
3. The EU and its Member States welcome that the 2018 HLPF will focus on SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17. Investment in achieving these SDGs will yield significant co-benefits for the achievement of the whole agenda. They stress, however, that it remains essential in every High Level Political Forum to consider implementation of all SDGs in an integrated manner and across all dimensions of sustainable development and the importance to adequately take into account the cross-cutting issues of the 2030 Agenda, including human rights, gender inequality, combating inequalities and climate change. The EU and its Member States underline that good governance, the rule of law, democracy, and effective and accountable institutions are prerequisites for peaceful and inclusive societies. The indivisibility of the 2030 Agenda should be respected allowing for no backsliding.
4. This inter-connectedness is a critical asset of the 2030 Agenda. There is a need, therefore, to pay particular attention to interlinkages between SDGs and to integrated action that can create co-benefits and meet multiple objectives. The EU and its Member States also recall the imperative to link and create synergies between implementation of the 2030 Agenda to commitments under the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the New Urban Agenda, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets as well as the Global Strategy for the EU Foreign and Security Policy and the European Consensus on Development.
5. The EU and its Member States express their full support for the UN Secretary-General Guterres' ambitious reform agenda. The ultimate objective is to make the UN system fit for the purpose of contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
6. The EU and its Member States look forward to the review of the High Level Political Forum process in 2019. The EU and its Member States will continue to work towards

improving the High Level Political Forum every year while taking full account of related ongoing UN review processes.

7. The EU and its Member States note that the three strands of the UN reform (management, peace and security, development) are inextricably intertwined and mutually reinforcing. They welcome the adoption by the General Assembly of Resolution 72/279 of 1 June 2018¹, which is a first important step towards the reform of the UN development system. In addition, they see DESA reform as an inseparable aspect of the UN development system Reform. The EU and its Member States hope for an ambitious outcome of the discussion on the review of GA resolution 68/1 to fully align the work of ECOSOC with the 2030 Agenda.
8. The EU and its Member States stress the importance of making the Ministerial Declaration more concise, operational and focused to provide high-level guidance on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as well as clear message on the progress made and the obstacles met in achieving all the SDGs, taking into account the UN Secretary General's yearly SDGs Progress Report.
9. The EU and its Member States further support reporting practices at the High Level Political Forum that enhance mutual accountability and facilitate cooperation for the success of the 2030 Agenda, including the Voluntary National Reviews. Involvement of all stakeholders, including civil society and private sector, is crucial. The EU and its Member States are pleased to note that 24 out of 28 EU Member States will have presented Voluntary National Reviews by July 2018. The 2030 Agenda is globally agreed but nationally owned and led. It is important to draw lessons and share best practices on implementation from Voluntary National Reviews, as well as from the review of the SDGs under in-depth review.
10. An important element for the HLPF monitoring and policy guidance role is also the in-depth reviews of selected SDGs. In-depth reviews should address real successes and challenges in the implementation, provide a forum for exchange on good practices among the Member States and the stakeholders and utilise the input from other international bodies. The HLPF in-depth reviews should focus especially on the interlinkages between all SDGs and ways to foster synergies and reduce trade-offs.

¹ A/RES/72/279 of 1 June 2018, adopted on 31 May 2018

Thematic issues

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all (SDG6)

11. The EU and its Member States stress that good governance and adequate water infrastructure is at the heart of most water challenges. Water is a shared resource and we need to improve cooperation across borders, on transboundary waters, to avoid both conflicts and to avoid natural disasters. The relevance of water for peace and stability will increase with ever more and competing demands and the climate change impact. Innovative approaches to integrated water resource management are therefore needed and require engagement from all.
12. We reaffirm our commitments regarding the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The EU and its Member States highlight the value of water for both humans and ecosystems. Achieving universal access to basic sanitation will require further efforts for accelerated progress particularly in rural areas, with special attention to women and girls.
13. Water demand will increase mainly due to economic and population growth as well as growing urbanization and pollution. The growing global challenges in the water sector call for global efforts. The EU and its Member States call for concerted efforts to implement SDG 6.
14. In the EU, implementation of water legislation has improved largely the quality of water, life and health. SDG 6 offers an opportunity to boost investments and operations in the water sector.

Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all (SDG7)

15. Energy is an important development enabler, critical to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. The EU and its Member States make additional efforts for supporting accelerated and concerted action by all stakeholders, recognising the importance of access to clean, sustainable, reliable, modern and affordable energy for all, including for communities that are most vulnerable and the furthest behind.
16. The EU and its Member States underline the need for collective improvement in energy efficiency and interconnectivity, in line with the circular economy model. We call for acceleration of wider deployment of renewable energy technologies in end-use sectors as well as in the electricity, heating and cooling sector. The rapid growth of

decentralized renewable energy technologies requires a shift in energy planning from least-cost energy supply towards value maximization approach. We emphasise the need to accelerate increased levels of investment (private and public), and effective action by all stakeholders to achieve SDG7 and accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon climate-resilient energy system contributing to the achievement of the objectives set by the UN Paris Agreement on Climate Change. We call for more priority to access to electricity, the water-food-energy nexus, decentralised renewable energy and clean cooking solutions. The EU and its Member States will promote the phasing-out of environmentally harmful fossil fuel subsidies.

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG11)

17. As the implementation of SDGs will occur primarily at local level, the EU and its Member States underline the important role that local authorities and cities play in the implementation of SDGs.
18. The EU and its Member States underline that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a strategic and integrated approach taking into account different territorial contexts (namely the diversity of cities and their wider territorial context) while building on urban-rural linkages.
19. The EU and its Member States highlight that the EU cohesion policy is one of the main policies also contributing to the achievement of the SDGs in the EU, leveraging around 500 billion euros during the 2014-2020 period.
20. The EU and its Member States underscore the value of the Urban Agenda and its role as the key delivery vehicle for the achievement of SDG 11. Specifically, they endorse the role of EU partnerships (such as on Energy Transition, Urban Mobility, Climate Action, Circular Economy) to achieve better regulatory frameworks, better funding and better knowledge. The EU and its Member States stress the need to unlock finance needed for investments in resilient economy at the local and regional level. Private public partnerships will have an important role to play. The EU and its Member States stress the important role that local authorities and cities play in increasing resilience, leading the transition to low-emission resource efficient and circular economy and development and fostering innovation and sustainable growth, as well as addressing the highly vulnerable impacts of climate and supporting leading initiatives, such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.

21. The EU and its Member States stress the importance of gender equality and addressing the drivers of inequality for promoting inclusive cities.
22. The EU and its Member States underscore that they support and facilitate peer learning between cities at global level. The EU and its Member States support global efforts for common indicators and a common, people-based' definition of cities and settlements.
23. The EU and its Member States underline the importance of green and resilient cities, integrated participatory urban and spatial planning and management, urban green spaces, urban ecosystems and air quality, as well as the role of public space and cultural heritage.

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns (SDG12)

24. The EU and its Member States are committed to a transition towards a low-carbon, resource efficient and circular economy. Adopting Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns is one of the most cost-efficient and effective ways to achieve economic development, reduce impacts on the environment and advance human well-being within planetary boundaries. Continued support is needed for the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (10YFP – One Planet Network). The EU and its Member States also stress that the sound management of chemicals and waste is an essential element of the 2030 Agenda and call for an active participation of all actors in the process considering the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
25. The EU and its Member States stress the need to prioritise the areas of Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns that have the largest impacts on standards of living – such as transport, food, building, textiles and plastics, taking into account all three dimensions of sustainable development. The EU Circular Economy Action Plan, including the new EU Plastics Strategy covers the whole products' life cycle and materials from production and consumption to waste management and secondary raw materials. We stress the need to effectively reduce and prevent food waste and food losses throughout the food value chain, through strengthened cooperation across public and private sectors and involving all actors, including consumers.
26. The EU and its Member States encourage and support corporate social responsibility and responsible business practices.

27. The EU and its Member States promote instruments and measures to foster a more sustainable consumption, such as development and uptake of sustainable products and services, providing education and information for sustainable lifestyles, putting in place adequate economic incentives, and sustainable public procurement.

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and biodiversity loss (SDG15)

28. Land degradation, unsustainable land use and the increasing loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services are systemic phenomenon with far reaching negative consequences for example for food and water insecurity and climate change. Timely action can contribute to the climate adaptation and mitigation and to addressing environmental drivers of conflict as well as migration. The EU and its Member States will address wild life poaching, illegal trade in wildlife and timber and the illegal exploitation of other natural resources. Implementing SDG 15 will contribute to the achievement of other SDGs, including those under review at this HLPF. Several measures have generally proven to contribute effectively to achieving the targets, such as protected areas, reducing urban sprawl into high value landscapes, combatting illegal logging, and integrated soil fertility management. The EU has the world's largest network of protected areas stretching over 18% of the EU's land area and almost 6% of its marine territory.
29. The EU and its Member States underline that efforts for protection and adequate land management must be stepped-up significantly and call for renewed efforts to reach the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and its Aichi targets. The EU and its Member States aim at an ambitious follow-up to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 to be adopted at the 15th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Beijing, 2020.
30. The EU and its Member States recognize that protected areas will not be sufficient to safeguard biodiversity and ecosystems and calls for more efforts towards the integration of biodiversity values and ecosystem services, such as pollination, in decision-making at the level of land use planning and all sectors and levels in society, notably for tourism, transport, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries.
31. The EU and its Member States highlight the need to reduce the demand for land in order to preserve biodiversity and promote sustainable use of ecosystems and to urgently prevent irreversible land degradation and accelerate the implementation of restoration measures including soil and water resources, the benefits of which are on average

10 times higher than the costs. The EU and its Member States call on all UN Members and observers to implement actively the UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategy as a framework to achieve a land degradation-neutral world consistent with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

32. The world's forests are fundamental to life on the planet and sustainable forest management is important to unfold the full potential of forests for contributing to the achievement of SDGs. Halting deforestation and restoring degraded forests by 2020 requires urgent action now. Application of available best practices and tools must be scaled-up and progress accelerated. The EU and its Member States call on all UN Member States and other relevant actors to implement actively the UN strategic plan for forests 2017-2030 as part of the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17)

33. The EU and its Member States recall that only by effectively developing and using partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels can the SDGs be reached by 2030. We call for enhanced stakeholder platforms that effectively involve private sector, civil society, youth and the research communities.
34. The EU and its Member States also reaffirm their commitment to Policy Coherence for Development as a crucial element to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and an important contribution to the broader objective of policy coherence for sustainable development.
35. The EU and its Member States also welcome the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force and conclusions and recommendations of Financing for Development Forum. All means of implementation need to be put in use to achieve the SDGs as outlined in the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Agenda.
36. The EU and its Member States will continue to develop innovative ways to promote mobilisation and effective use of resources from all sources, including domestic and private, as well as creating an enabling environment. The EU and its Member States also continue to be the largest provider of Official Development Assistance, and reiterate their Official Development Assistance commitments, including to the Least Developed Countries. All UN Member States should strive to improve effectiveness of development actions.

37. The EU and Member States' efforts to support developing countries in implementation of these goals, in line with the European Consensus on Development, target a range of actions for the goals under review, such as enhanced access to sustainable energy services, support to sustainable consumption and production patterns practices and improving the management of protected areas.
38. The EU and its Member States reaffirm their commitment to an open and rules based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its core. The EU and its Member States remain also convinced that trade policy is not only limited to a means of economic growth but can have a beneficial impact and contribution to numerous SDGs. This is what we seek to do with the trade and sustainable development chapters of its trade agreements and with the GSP+ tool.
39. The EU and its Member States also stress the importance of science, technology and innovation in the implementation of the SDGs. Bottom-up technological solutions can be very important key drivers for the SDGs and that many technologies needed to achieve the SDG targets are available and ready to be deployed.
40. The EU and its Member States underline the importance of further advancement in terms of data and statistics. Discussions and reflections at the HLPF need to be informed by the data and evidence, including disaggregated data thus ensuring that we leave no one behind.