

Briefing on EC involvement in the UN processes on the Sustainable Development Goals

8 June 2022
13:00h - 15:00h CET

Background

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is one of the international policy frameworks which guides the work of the European Union both internally and in its development cooperation. The 2030 Agenda is enshrined in the Consensus on Development and various other EU policies, notably the recent Global Gateway, and Team Europe initiatives.

In December 2021, European Commission and the EU High Representative set out the Global Gateway¹, a new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors and to strengthen health, education and research systems across the world. Between 2021 and 2027, Team Europe, meaning the EU institutions and EU Member States jointly, will mobilise up to EUR 300 billion of investments in digital; climate and energy; transport; health; and education and research. The Global Gateway is aligned with the UN's Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement.

As a part of its commitment to accelerating and implementing the 2030 Agenda, the EU will present a voluntary report at the 2023 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). The focus on this voluntary report will be primarily internal to the EU with some focus on external actions and internal/external policy coherence. Members of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) are active participants in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs, in many cases in partnership with the EU. In the spirit of this partnership, representatives in the Directorate General for International Partnerships of the EC are convening a meeting to: update PFD members on the current situation of EU work toward the SDGs; share EU priorities for the 2022 High Level Political Forum; and communicate an overview of the planning around the EU Voluntary Review (EUVR).

Objective

The meeting has three key objectives:

1. Share the state of play of SDG implementation in the Commission in general and in international partnerships.

The Commission will present the state of play of actions to integrate SDGs into the work of the EU, including a range of developments on SDG integration at corporate level under the Von der Leyen Commission: political and programming guidelines, Mission Letters, Commission Work Programmes, the European Semester, the revised Better Regulation Framework, impact assessments and legislative proposals, as well as in key initiatives such as the Green Deal. The presentation will also take stock of the actions of the Commission in the context of international partnerships to support the implementation of the SDGs and a sustainable recovery, including in its policy framework, financing instrument, programming, Team Europe initiatives and Global Gateway.

2. Share the priorities and plans of the EU at the UN HLPF 2022

The Commission will present EU priorities for the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July for the SDGs under review. It will also present the ongoing preparation of a planned EU high-level side event at HLPF, expected to be on Global Gateway, highlighting its relation on SDGs, with a focus on this occasion on education.

¹ For more information and the full communication, please see: https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/stronger-europe-world/global-gateway_en#documents

This will be followed by an exchange, ahead of the European Development Days, on the views of stakeholders on the current work on Global Gateway, including its objective of establishing strong global partnerships for sustainable investments in digital, transport, education and research.

3. Communicate the plans towards the EU Voluntary Review on SDGs in 2023

The Commission will share its initial thinking regarding the way ahead towards the first ever EU Voluntary Review (EUVR) on the implementation of SDGs to be presented at the 2023 HLPF, in support of accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The EUVR should address internal and external actions and consider the internal/external policy coherence. It should therefore integrate several reporting strands into a single political document, enhancing policy coherence among EU actions at all levels. The meeting will address the issue of engaging with stakeholders, which will play an important part in the EUVR.

Methodology and draft agenda

The event will be a moderated online briefing for PFD members only. Simultaneous translation in French and Spanish will be available. A representative from INTPA will share the updates and then open the floor for PFD members to ask questions and make comments.

13:00 - 13:05: Welcome and introductions

13:05 - 13:30: State of play of SDG implementation and priorities and plans of the EU at the UN HLPF

13:30 - 14:30: Questions and answers

14:30 - 14:40: Plans towards the EU Voluntary Review on SDGs in 2023

14:40 - 14:55: Questions and answers

14:55 - 15:00: Wrap up