

WFP International: RCEM Hosts Virtual Civil Society Forum

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On March 18, over a hundred participants logged on for the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) hosted a virtual Civil Society Forum.

Oli Henman, Global Coordinator for Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD), presented the National Civil Society Reporting for the HLPF 2020.

Henman went over the lessons learned from the first 4 years, human rights dimension, and HLPF reform recommendations. The recommendations included the following:

HLPF reform recommendations

1. The ambition of the HLPF must be increased
2. The presentation of Voluntary National Reviews must be given more time
3. Ensure that there is a focus on leaving no one behind every year
4. Better alignment and integration of the 2030 Agenda with other frameworks, particularly environmental and human rights mechanisms
5. More opportunities for meaningful follow up, learning and review
6. Major groups and other stakeholders must be able to participate meaningfully in the HLPF

After the presentation, the participants were broken up into groups and discussed the following questions:

Q1: What are the main structural barriers in your country, in terms of Agenda 2030 implementation? What are the issues governments in your country are not reporting on?

Q2: Is the VNR process in your country open to civil society? Is there a structured process? Is there legislation on the national level to ensure participation of CSOs in decision-making processes related to Agenda 2030? Are there good examples of what is working well, or has been achieved?

Q3: What can civil society do to create an inclusive space for work on VNRs to ensure that no one is left behind?

For all of these questions, many of the participants felt that there needed to be changes made on the government level, as well as a paradigm shift within the idea of gender norms and even among those who have a disability.

One group even posted that, "The High-Level Political Forum 2020 needs to include synergies with SDGs and UNGA to agree on a process for the updating of the SDG targets with an end date of 2020."