



'Delivering on SDG 17: Going Further, Together'

Side Event on the Margins of the 2020 UN High-Level Political Forum

Thursday 16 July 2020



An Roinn Gnóthaí
Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of
Foreign Affairs and Trade

TASKteam
CSO Development Effectiveness
& Enabling Environment

The Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment ([Task Team](#)) organized a virtual side event titled “*Delivering on SDG 17: Going Further, Together*” that took place on the margins of the UN High-Level Political Forum on 16 July 2020. The side event was co-hosted by the Government of Ireland, as Co-chair of the Task Team, with contributions from the United Nations, Kenya, Canada, the OECD and the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE). The session welcomed more than 80 participants covering many corners of the globe and consisting of government, civil society representatives and academia.

The side event focused on the crucial role civil society organizations (CSOs) must play in the implementation of SDG 17, and with that, all SDGs. An independent [study](#) by the International Institute of Social Studies ([ISS](#)) was presented, which provided academic evidence that large parts of civil society, especially those that are not part of the typical aid communities in the capitals, are in practice and international commitments notwithstanding, not sufficiently engaged in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) processes or consultations at the country level.

The contributors to the side event deliberated on these serious gaps between what has been agreed internationally and what happens in practice. The contributors underlined the importance of the commitments made to ensure that CSOs contributions to development reach their full potential. The compliance with these agreements was argued to be especially urgent seeing that strong and inclusive partnerships – involving all stakeholders – are key for the realization of the fast approaching end of the Agenda 2030.

Parallels to other similar findings were drawn such as the [2018 Global Partnership Monitoring Round](#), the recent OECD publication “[Development Assistance Committee Members and Civil Society](#)” and the recent survey “[Off-Track, Under Threat: SDGs in the time of Covid](#)” from the CPDE. As such, the side event illustrated the need to act so that CSO engagement in SDG processes and consultations are adequately measured and monitored at the country level to ensure better inclusion of CSOs in national efforts to deliver on the SDGs, each and every year in the final decade of Agenda 2030.

The participants and contributors welcomed the initiation of a process to establish a methodology, data and testing for such an indicator in the SDGs to be presented for consideration of the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) during its indicator framework comprehensive review in 2025. They further welcomed the ongoing work of bodies like the Task Team to further effective CSO participation in development processes by promoting and advancing international commitments on CSO Development Effectiveness and CSO Enabling Environment.

17 July 2020



For the recording of the side event, please visit the Task Team website
<https://taskteamcso.com>