

ECOSOC High-Level Segment on "Where are we heading? Visions and projections for the future of the SDGs"

19th July 2019

Thank you very much for the invitation to this ECOSOC session.

I am here on behalf of the Volunteer Groups Alliance, (Major Group and other Stakeholders) and the Volunteer Network Chile Voluntario, member of the International Association for Volunteer Efforts – IAVE.

We thank you for providing the opportunity to share the voice of Civil Society and the volunteer movement.

There are one billion people volunteering around the world.

Civil Society and volunteer groups have actively developed conversations and promoted alliances with Governments looking for new ways to strengthen the Civil Society sector and volunteering.

Volunteer groups are an essential agent in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, promoting important actions and especially building capacities for NGOs.

Civil Society Organizations and Volunteers facilitate people's participation in their own development.

Volunteer groups and civil society organizations are working on Global Goals, and we are ready to work with governments not only to create awareness about the SDGs, but to get involved with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We are able to contribute with our expertise on field data and knowledge to the process.

But we need to be given the space not only to spread the word about Global Goals, but also, as Civil Society, we need some basic conditions, such as:

- Committed governments with mechanisms of participation that allow every person to express their voices and act on their commitment.
- We need not only an empowered Civil Society, but we also need one that is transparent, efficient and conscious about its impact.
- We need an active and conscious citizenship, responsible for their acts and aware of their duties.

- We need governments, citizens, academia and the private sector to see in volunteer groups an opportunity for providing a better quality of life for citizens, and we need awareness of the world we're living in.

The action is urgent for our planet and people, but we need not just any kind of action, we need a sustainable one. We need to work together for achieving the Global Goals.

Volunteering is a great ally to the 2030 Agenda. Volunteering contributes to changing lives of communities and volunteers' own lives. Volunteering helps to build more solid and inclusive societies.

Volunteer groups around the world are part of the SDGs, and they are a key part of its implementation for "leaving no one behind."

Thank you.

Delivered by:

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