

PLAN OF ACTION TO INTEGRATE **VOLUNTEERING INTO THE 2030 AGENDA**

The Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda is a framework under the auspices of the United Nations (UN) through which governments, UN agencies, volunteer-involving organizations, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector come together to integrate and accelerate the contribution of volunteerism for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



The 2030 Agenda for **Sustainable Development and** its 17 goals

provide a shared vision of a sustainable future free of hunger, inequality and poverty based on the principles of inclusion, solidarity and active citizenship.



- Enhance people's ownership of 2030 Agenda
- Integrate volunteering into national efforts Better measure the impact of volunteering

Volunteering gives people the opportunity to directly contribute to sustainable development.

> enabling them to take charge of their own futures, strengthening social cohesion, solidarity and trust by promoting individual and collective action.

One billion volunteers contribute to their communities globally - yet volunteering remains a largely untapped resource with a huge potential to achieve a people-centric and socially-inclusive sustainable development. The Plan of Action provides an unprecedented opportunity to shape the future of volunteering for the 2030 Agenda, through:



Strong partnerships among stakeholders are required to to scale up the impact of volunteering.

The Plan of Action brings together diverse voices and builds a coalition among governments, UN agencies, volunteer-involving organisations, civil society organisations, academia, private sector and others to leverage existing knowledge, skills and capacities in different communities and countries.



DIALOGUES FOR MUTUAL LEARNING

The Plan of Action provides opportunities for stakeholders to share knowledge and to identify mutual priorities for support.

Regional consultations will be held under the auspices of the UN regional commissions, while other stakeholders will use existing processes to carry out consultations. These fora supplemented by online dialogues, will discuss evidence and identify knowledge gaps on volunteering for the SDGs. In 2020, a global technical meeting will further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers to the SDGs.



EVIDENCE FOR POLICYMAKING

Under the Plan of Action, stakeholders will work together to strengthen the evidence base on volunteerism for development.

UN Member States have committed to cooperate with volunteer-involving organizations and other Plan of Action stakeholders to systematically gather data on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in achieving the SDGs. Evidence will be consolidated into a global synthesis report and an online portal, to inform policy making on volunteerism and the SDGs.



ROAD TO 2020: REIMAGINING VOLUNTEERISM

The roadmap shows the multi-stakeholder processes leading to the Global Technical Meeting on "Reimagining volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda."

LED BY VIOS, CIVIL SOCIETY, PRIVATE SECTOR & ACADEMIA

VIOs, academia, private sector and civil society **gather and report evidence on volunteering for SDGs** at various fora such as IAVE, IVCO, IMPACT2030 events.

An **online portal & global**

Knowledge Base

synthesis report will

consolidate knowledge on how volunteering can be reimagined for the 2030 Agenda.

PLAN OF ACTION PROCESSES

201

2015-2018

2019

2020



Evidence Gathering

LED BY MEMBER STATES

INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROCESSES

Member States incorporated volunteering in the 2018 United Nations Secretary-General's report and Voluntary National Reviews, and submitted National Situation Analysis (NSAs) of the state of volunteering in their countries.

Stakeholder Consultations

Five regional synthesis reports based on the NSAs will be discussed at regional consultations on the margins of UN Regional Commissions.

Other stakeholders will carry out Plan of Action consultations **to discuss evidence and identify knowledge gaps** on volunteering for the 2030 Agenda.

Online consultations and virtual fora will also provide an opportunity for a wide range of stakeholders to be involved in the process.

Global Technical Meeting 2020: Reimagining Volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda

The GTM 2020 will build upon the foundations provided by the processes led by Member States and other stakeholders to further strengthen the engagement and contributions of volunteers to the 2030 Agenda.

2019 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

www.unv.org/planofaction



Plan of Action Online Dialogues - Shape the Future of Volunteering www.unv.org/planofaction/dialogues



Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Europe (on the margins of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE region)



Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Asia Pacific (on the margins of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development)



Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Arab States (on the margins of the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development)



Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Africa (on the margins of the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development)



Regional Consultation on the Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda - Latin America and the Caribbean (on the margins of the Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development)



High Level Political Forum 2019 (Presentation of the Voluntary National Reviews)



Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) (tbc)



International Volunteer Cooperation Organisations Conference (IVCO)



International Federation of Red Cross Statutory Meetings(tbc)



ENGAGE IN THE PLAN OF ACTION

The Plan of Action for Integrating Volunteerism into the 2030 Agenda brings together United Nations Member States, UN Agencies, volunteer-involving organizations, academia, civil society organisations and the private sector to boost the contribution of volunteerism under the 2030 Agenda. The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) oversee implementation of the Plan of Action.

During 2019 and 2020, diverse stakeholders are coming together to reimagine the future of volunteerism by:

UN

MEMBER

UN

AGENCIES

CIVIL

SOCIETY

ACADEMIA

VIOs

PRIVATE

SECTOR

VOLUNTEER INVOLVING ORGANIZATIONS (VIOs)

- ✓ Participating in the Volunteer Groups Alliance to highlight the contribution of volunteers in the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and in other intergovernmental processes and mechanisms
- ✓ Sharing trends, evidence, best practices and lessons learnt through the consultation and evidence processes under the Plan of Action
- ✓ Identifying priority areas for the Global Technical Meeting where volunteerism can really bolster efforts to reach the furthest behind first

UN MEMBER STATES

- ✓ Measuring volunteer work and impact through national statistical offices
- ✓ Integrating volunteering into sector and national strategies, schemes and volunteering infrastructure, with a focus on social and economic inclusion
- ✓ Providing an enabling environment with the rights and freedoms for volunteers to organize for peace and development
- ✓ Creating spaces and opportunities for evidence generation and dialogue on volunteerism with stakeholders at national and sub-national level, as part of regular policy, planning and implementation
- ✓ Participating in Plan of Action dialogues at regional and global level, in the margins of SDG processes
- ✓ Incorporating information on the scale, contribution and impact of volunteerism in Voluntary National Reviews of the Sustainable Development Goals

UN AGENCIES

- √ Recognizing and including volunteering in UN-led and sector processes at the national, regional, and global level
- ✓ Participating in UN inter-agency for a on citizen-led approaches and community partnerships through volunteering
- ✓ Measuring and documenting of the contribution of volunteers in peace and development strategies and programmes of all UN agencies and their partners
- √ Mobilizing volunteers for diverse assignments supporting the 2030 Agenda as part of UN system capacities

ACADEMIA

- ✓ Strengthening evidence of volunteerism's contribution to development through deepening research and sharing knowledge and expertise on key volunteering and development themes and topics such as gender, climate change, migration and inclusion
- ✓ Strengthening the inputs from Southernbased academia to improve evidence base from the global South
- ✓ Supporting governments and their development partners in use of evidence for policies and practice on volunteerism

PRIVATE SECTOR

- √ Sharing expertise, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in working with volunteers through various fora, platforms and processes
- ✓ Promoting and integrating corporate volunteering as part of the company's CSR initiatives

CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- √ Using volunteerism to widen participation in and strengthen people's ownership of the 2030 Agenda
- Measuring and documenting the contribution of volunteers in peace and development strategies and programmes
- ✓ Sharing expertise, experiences, best practices and lessons learned in working with volunteers through various foras, platforms and processes under the Plan of Action
- ✓ Advocating for an enabling environment and the freedom to self-organize through volunteering as part of civil society space



PLAN OF ACTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The **Plan of Action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda** was developed together with volunteer-involving organizations, civil society organizations, private sector, academia, UN agencies and UN Member States. Adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2015, the Resolution on "Integrating volunteering in peace and development: the **Plan of Action for the next decade and beyond"** (A/RES/70/129) provides a global framework through which stakeholders can support and leverage the potential of volunteerism to deepen civic engagement and sustainable development outcomes.

How was the Plan of Action developed and why?

The UNGA resolution that followed in 2018 (A/RES/73/140) encouraged Member States to increasingly cooperate with other volunteering stakeholders to further integrate volunteerism into national development strategies; include information on the impact of volunteerism in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of the SDGs; and called for national-level analysis on volunteering as inputs for regional consultations on volunteering in 2019, to be held in the context of the annual Regional Forums on Sustainable Development.

The implementation mechanisms for the Plan of Action are set out in the Report of the Secretary General on the Plan of Action. These include the preparation of country level analysis with the aim of ensuring that these National Situation Analysis (NSA) inform and be part of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports on progress towards the SDGs. The NSAs will inform the Regional Synthesis Reports which will be presented at the Regional Consultations coinciding with the annual Regional Forums on Sustainable Development. Finally, a Global Synthesis Report will be developed for the Global Technical Meeting in 2020 (GTM2020). To complement these inter-governmental implementation mechanisms, civil society, academia and the private sector and especially volunteer involving organizations are encouraged to use all existing fora and processes to increase consultations and document trends, evidence, best practices and lessons learnt. These will serve as inputs to the GTM2020 and the Global Synthesis Report.

How is the Plan of Action implemented?

The theme of the 2020 Global Technical Meeting will be "Reimagining Volunteerism for the 2030 Agenda". It will focus on sharing lessons learnt with a view to informing a debate on the evolving nature of volunteerism in the face of more complex global challenges; and the adjustments required to further improve the practices, contributions and impact of the global volunteer movement to peace and development and the achievement of the SDGs between 2021 and 2030. The outcomes of the GTM2020 will help set the roadmap on the reimagining of volunteering in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

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What will happen at the Global Technical Meeting 2020?

Generating analysis, evidence and knowledge sharing on how volunteerism has been and is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a critical component to effectively scale up the impact of volunteering in the 2030 Agenda. This entails: reviewing the role of volunteerism, particularly in the process of localizing and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); and creating a knowledge base that is inclusive of good practices, lessons learnt and data sets on volunteering for the SDGs.

Why is an evidencebased approach the cornerstone of the Plan of Action?

The Global Volunteer Community including governments, UN Agencies, civil society, academia and the private sector and especially volunteer involving organizations has an important role in collecting and validating evidence in the lead up to the GTM 2020, particularly on the role of volunteerism in improving data availability for Agenda 2030; on measures which can be taken to make volunteerism more effective as a modality and mechanism to help achieve the SDGs; and on key Agenda 2030 policy areas through which policymakers and Plan of Action stakeholders can prioritize volunteers as powerful SDG accelerators. Some relevant policy areas to look at include inequality, social inclusion, demographic changes, gender, climate change, safety and security of volunteers, role of volunteering in the SDG localisation process, South-South cooperation, and impact measurement.

What are the key focus areas of the consultations leading to the GTM2020?

The GTM2020 Secretariat is co-chaired by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and UNV. A technical working group provides strategic direction to the process. The Plan of Action Secretariat is hosted at UNV. Its main role is to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action to integrate volunteering into the 2030 Agenda, including co-organizing the GTM2020.

How is the Plan of Action coordinated?

Visit the Plan of Action website <u>www.unv.org/planofaction</u>. Contact the Plan of Action Secretariat at <u>unv.poa@unv.org</u> or your national UN Volunteers focal point for further information.

Where can I find more information?