

## **TITLE: BUILDING INCLUSIVE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS- ENSURING A ‘WHOLE OF SOCIETY’ APPROACH**

**Co-organisers:** NGO Major Group-Africa, Action4SD, Africa CSO Working Group, African Monitor, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction, Library and You, Tanzania SD Platform, Ghana CSOs SDGs Platform and other national partners

Despite the SDGs being in place for three years, the world continues to face serious challenges. Countries around the world are greatly benefitting from the guidance the 2030 Agenda provides to the creation of development policies: however, further conversations are needed to accelerate the effective implementation of the SDGs in a way that its benefits are felt at all level of societies, including for communities who are most in need. As we are now nearing the end of the first 4 years cycle of the HLPF Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), it is a crucial time to consider the functioning of the follow up and review processes for the SDGs. Civil society plays a key role to see that adequate steps are taken by national governments towards fulfilling the goals by 2030. Civil society at the local level, who feels the everyday reality of development challenges, has also an important role to play in informing countries’ efforts to build coherence among different global frameworks, such as those guiding action on climate change, disaster risk reduction and urbanization. Action for Sustainable Development (Action4SD), alongside members and partners such as Forus, CCIC and Action Aid, have supported a regular analysis of the VNR process in the global report: [‘Progressing National SDGs Implementation’](#). They have recently prepared a new ‘People’s Scorecard’ that sets out a systematic approach to monitoring of delivery for use by civil society in each country. In addition, in an effort to address development challenge in a holistic approach, the Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR) and partners are collecting local information on communities’ resilience priorities, with the aim to provide further data in support of government’s efforts to approach development in risk-informed approach. The NGO Major Group for Africa has been proactive in putting together a coordination mechanism that ensures inclusive participation of NGOs across all the five regional blocks, whilst Africa CSO Working Group has supported national coalitions in VNR engagement with key members such as African Monitor active in developing citizen generated data for monitoring the SDGs. Also, [Library and You](#) has embarked on a continental project called [Library Impact Project](#); an initiative designed to facilitate access to information towards achieving the SDGs through functional and efficient libraries. These provide an essential evidence base for further improvement. The session which aligns itself with the main theme of the ARFSD 5 “**empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**” and the thematic focus of “**strengthening voluntary national reviews**” seeks to promote the exchange of good practices and lessons learned in building strong strategies for SDGs implementation in countries across the continent by creating spaces for cross-learning among multistakeholder participants and also ensuring civil society proposals will influence the annual processes of review in the HLPF in July and the quadrennial review in the HLPF to be held in September during the General Assembly 2019.

**Panelist:**

- Mr. Oli Henman (Global Coordinator – Action for Sustainable Development)
- Mr. Stephen Chacha (Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform)
- Mr. Ayman Okeil (Northern Africa Regional Organizing Partner – NGO Major Group)
- Ms. Marilyn Mbogua (Eastern Africa Regional Development Coordinator – Global Network of Civil Society Organizations)
- Mr. Ezekiel Chibeze (CARE Ghana)
- Mr. Damilare Oyedele (Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer – Library and You)
- Mr. George Osei Akoto-Bimpeh (Co-chair Ghana CSOs SDGs Platform)
- Mr. Kofi Kankam (Chair – NGO Major Group Africa, West Africa Regional Organizing Partner - NGO Major Group)

**Moderator:** Adessou Kossivi Nevaeme (Western & Central Africa Regional Coordinator; GNDR)

**Participants:** Government, Civil Society, Private Sector, Multilateral & Bilateral organizations, etc.

**Date:** April 17, 2019    **Time:** 13:00 – 14:30    **Venue:** Opale Room

Contact: [info@elizkafoundation.org](mailto:info@elizkafoundation.org) / [nmgasecretariat@ngomajorgroup.africa](mailto:nmgasecretariat@ngomajorgroup.africa)