



## High-level Political Forum, July 2016

### Day 1- 11 July Afternoon Session 4: Ensuring that no one is left behind - Fostering economic growth, prosperity, and sustainability

Agenda2030 cannot be achieved unless the systems and structures that impede sustainable and equitable development are dismantled. Responding to the theme of HLPF this year, we need to remind that Communities are not forgetfully 'left behind'. Instead, some are catapulted ahead through global economic and political systems that depend on the exclusion and exploitation of others, particularly women in economically and politically marginalised communities. The dominant growth-oriented development model is in practice since after World War II and was further supported by the advancement of neoliberalism, which lead to the rapid destruction of rural/peasant societies in Africa, Asia and Latin American regions.

Mounting evidence and awareness that neo-liberal economic policies widen inequalities, impact most negatively on those 'left behind' and pose a threat to the future of the planet has failed to shift government policy in most states.

Para 30 of Agenda 2030 strongly urges to refrain applying any economic, financial and trade measures that can impede the full achievement of economic and social development, particularly in developing country. In reality, big MEGA-trade agreements that conflict with both Agenda 2030 and the UN Charter were pursued immediately after the agreement was signed.

These agreements give multi-national corporations powers to challenge national policies designed to advance environmental protections, fiscal policies, labour rights, affirmative action policies, public health and public access to basic needs and services and human rights. In doing so they accelerate the power of the wealthiest and leave the vast majority of the population behind. The proposed and concluded agreements include clauses that directly contradict targets within Agenda2030 including on access to medicines, seed availability and sovereign policy space. Trade Agreements magnify existing inequalities and have been found to have a discriminatory impact on women, Indigenous peoples, people living with HIV or other illnesses, people with disabilities, older people, rural communities, workers and those dependent on state support, living in poverty or those already 'left behind'.

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