

SEOUL

CALL TO ACTION

Representatives of international volunteer cooperation organisations and volunteer involving organisations from around the world gathered in Seoul 22-26 October 2017 for the annual meeting of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development, on the theme *Implementation of the SDGs through Transformative Partnership in Volunteering*. The conference sub-themes were *Enabling Environment, Innovation and Measurement*.

A diverse group of organisations, including civil society, government agencies, UN bodies, academia and the private sector, Forum members work in partnership at home and across borders for a more just and sustainable world. We are committed, collectively and in partnership with others, to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), to addressing poverty and inequality, and to the recognition of the importance of volunteerism in achieving this universal agenda.

Two years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, volunteering for development in all its forms remains a powerful and cross-cutting means of implementation for the SDGs. Volunteering, at home and overseas, builds capacity, solidarity and social capital. It facilitates social inclusion and accountability, and makes the world a safer place. Now especially, it is a counterpoint to isolationism, and it embodies a confident, hopeful, internationalist agenda.

As well, through our deliberations this year, we shared learning and good practice, and strengthened our understanding, of the role that transformative partnerships play in achieving the SDGs.

As a constituency, volunteer groups are well placed in the follow-up and review process for the SDGs. Our next step is to develop and communicate a more robust understanding of volunteer contributions to SDG implementation that will underpin our advocacy efforts, particularly towards governments reporting on their progress to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

We will advance our shared interests by committing our own resources to Forum, its working groups and the Volunteer Groups Alliance. Accordingly,

We commit to –

- Recognising the importance of, and actively developing, transformative partnerships for sustainable development
- Committing time, energy, knowledge and evidence from our organisations to better demonstrate the impact of volunteering for development, including on the implementation of the SDGs
- Strengthening our efforts to contribute, communicate and advocate those impacts to governments and UN processes through the Volunteer Groups Alliance, including the High-level Political Forum and Global Technical Meeting 2020
- Advancing good practice in the sector through the development of leading standards in volunteering for development

We call on governments to maximise the contribution that volunteers make to development and SDG implementation by –

- Developing supportive legislation and policies on the enabling environment for volunteering
- Supporting volunteering schemes at national level
- Measuring the role and impacts of volunteers and capturing their contribution in national SDG implementation plans and Voluntary National Reviews
- Engaging with UN processes, including the High-level Political Forum and Global Technical Meeting 2020

See the list of signatories to the Seoul Call to Action here:

<http://forum-ids.org/news/seoul-call-to-action-signatories/>