



Brussels, 14 July 2022  
(OR. en)

11334/22

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SUSTDEV 133  
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### 'I' ITEM NOTE

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From: General Secretariat of the Council  
To: Permanent Representatives Committee (Part 2)

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Subject: Attendance of third parties at the Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development meetings during the Czech Presidency (1 July - 31 December 2022)  
- Approval

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1. The Working Party on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (WP 2030) is responsible for ensuring the regular follow-up, monitoring and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all relevant EU internal and external policies, to honour the commitment taken by all UN members in 2015 to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere, leaving no one behind.
2. To adequately satisfy the requirements of its mandate as a Council preparatory body, WP 2030 needs to be able to rely on the operational input from and exchanges of information and views with third parties working or researching in the field of sustainable development and the SDGs. Implementation actors may also have important contributions through briefings about their experience of SDG implementation at local, country or regional level.
3. The Presidency considers that these invitations are in the interest of the Council and in line with the framework applicable to the occasional presence of third parties, including interest representatives, at meetings of the Council or of its preparatory bodies.

4. These third parties fall into three broad categories:
  - a) Representatives of EU institutions, bodies or entities that are not part of the permanent working party's membership (Members of the European Parliament, Committee of the Regions, European Economic and Social Committee, EU Delegations to partner countries or the UN; Eurostat, the Joint Research Centre);
  - b) Representatives of non-governmental organisations or other civil society organisations dealing with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs or sustainable development in general (CONCORD Europe, SDG Watch Europe, Business Europe, Corporate Social Responsibility Europe (CSR Europe), Public Strategy for Sustainable Development (PS4SD), the Social Platform);
  - c) Representatives of think tanks or academia, expert groups, specialised networks or platforms (European Sustainable Development Network (ESDN), Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), Platform on Sustainable Finance);
5. The attendance of these third parties in WP 2030 meetings for the purposes of their operational input and the exchange of information and views between them and the members of WP 2030 are in the interest of the Council, as they support the objectives laid down in the working party's mandate to follow-up, monitor and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across all relevant EU internal and external policies.
6. When invited, these third parties may convey their views to, inform or reply to questions from delegates concerning a subject at issue under a given agenda item. However, they cannot be allowed to intervene during the deliberations, unless their views on the operational or technical dimension of different policy options are expressly sought during the relevant meeting on specific aspects.
7. Proceedings will be organised so that the representatives of these third parties do not participate in the drafting of written documents or in the course of the decision-making process. Whenever possible, the meetings will be organised in such way that the representatives of third parties can be requested to leave the room during the deliberation and discussion phases.

8. In view of the above, the Permanent Representatives Committee is invited to approve the attendance of the representatives of the above mentioned third parties at WP 2030 meetings during the Czech Presidency until 31 December 2022 for the purposes outlined above.
  9. The Council secretariat will produce an information note to the Permanent Representatives Committee specifying the guests, who have attended WP 2030 meetings at the end of the Czech Presidency.
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