



ASSESSMENT OF THE OPEN WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

-ANALYSIS OF PARTICIPANT SURVEY-

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Executive Summary

From March 2013 to July 2014, international actors came together over 13 sessions of the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Approximately 1,500 participants registered to attend an OWG session, with many more attending without registering. With the work of the OWG now finished, focus now shifts to the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which is the preeminent forum within the broader UN family to coordinate, facilitate, and review the implementation of the future SDGs beginning in 2016.

General Assembly resolution 67/290, Paragraph 15, allows non-state actors to be involved in all the processes of the HLPF at all levels. Although NGOs, major groups and members of civil society have been granted significant participation rights in the HLPF, specific enhanced modalities to do so are yet to be formally agreed upon. This survey sought to assess civil society's experience of the OWG, and thereby to inform the enhanced modalities for civil society participation in the HLPF.

The data in the report come from a non-random survey sample with 255 respondents, who were invited to complete the survey whether they attended in person or not. Although this survey is not a representative sample of OWG participants, it nonetheless boasts considerable breadth in respondents. First, half of all respondents attended at least one OWG session, while another half did not. This is important because the voices of non-attendees at international processes often go unheard. Second, there was significant representation of groups who attended without registering, and those who attended one, two, a few, or all sessions, which suggests the a variety of OWG experiences. Third, half of respondents identified with a Major Group, while half did not. This is important because respondents involved with a Major Group reported higher levels of satisfaction with their OWG experience, while the voices of participants whose activities are not organized or channeled in some way are often difficult to capture in studies like this. Fourth, respondents varied in their level of international experience and SDG focus areas. Finally, and perhaps most important, respondents varied in their overall experiences. A challenge with surveys that are not representative is that they attract respondents who feel very strongly (usually extremely happy or extremely unhappy). But the percentage of respondents rating their OWG experience as 'okay' was higher than those reporting 'very positive' or 'very negative.'

Main findings:

1. **Overall a positive evaluation:** 63% of respondents said their overall OWG experience was positive or very positive. Respondents overwhelmingly felt attending was worth the effort, that civil society was able to influence the agenda, and are optimistic that civil society voices will be reflected in the final OWG report. Those who attended one or two sessions or all sessions were significantly more positive, while those attending between three and eleven sessions in total, and those with less experience attending such international processes, were less positive.
2. **Benefits of being in a Major Group:** Respondents who reported identifying with a Major Group (63%) reported much more positive OWG experiences. MG respondents were 20% more positive about their overall OWG experience than non-MG respondents. These respondents likely benefitted from the organizational strength of their MG. 84% of Major Group respondents agreed or agreed strongly that "I was able to influence the drafting" of statements at morning meetings, compared to 59% for non-Major Group

respondents. Non-Major Group respondents were much less positive about the opportunities for ‘other stakeholders’ to participate than Major Group respondents. The fact that about half of non-MG respondents reported little knowledge of the MG system suggests their experiences could have been improved had they participated through an MG.

3. **Who are ‘other stakeholders’?:** 51% of respondents did not identify with a Major Group. In open-ended responses, they generally described themselves as national level NGOs working on issues of poverty, the environment, education, or human rights. They were more likely to self-describe as being internationally inexperienced, much less likely to have attended even one OWG session, and much less likely to report having a good understanding of the Major Group system.
4. **A (worrisome?) gap between OPs and non-OPs:** 33 respondents (13%) identified as an Organizing Partner (OP) of a Major Group. OP respondents were 15% more positive about their overall OWG experiences than non-OP respondents. In addition, OPs reported significantly higher satisfaction than non-OPs with government plenaries (by 35%), satisfaction with DESA secretariat (by 33%), and with the accessibility of drafts agendas (by 30%), statements and presentations (25% higher), and drafts reports after sessions (23% higher). OPs were also much happier about the ability of civil society to influence the agenda during OWG’s report-writing phase, and were more optimistic than others that civil society voices will be reflected in the final OWG report. Non-OP evaluations of OP were not encouraging, with only about one-third of respondents saying their OP helped them advocate.
5. **Optimism about the HLPF:** 75% said their OWG experience made them optimistic about civil society’s engagement in the HLPF. Respondents overwhelmingly said the work of the HLPF is important to them, and would be concerned if the Major Groups did not have a strong role. But much remains to be done on issues of transparency: only about half of respondents said they understood the HLPF process or how civil society can contribute to it. Moreover, among respondents who attended between 3 and 11 OWG sessions, only 46% reported optimism about the HLPF compared to 87% for all others.

The overall picture is of civil society satisfaction with the OWG process, but cautious optimism about what the HLPF holds. Challenges present themselves in experience gaps between OPs and non-OPs, and with the lack of clarity about the HLPF modalities. In addition, many respondents who seemed to get little out of the OWG process may have benefitted from the structured engagement offered by participation through a Major Group.

These challenges notwithstanding, the survey data suggest civil society actors were willing, active and engaged in the OWG, and want to carry this forward into the HLPF. This is a useful corrective to the common narrative about civil society engagement in international processes, in which the dissenting voices of civil society are pitted ‘against’ member states. By contrast, while the report shows OWG raised the bar for civil society expectations concerning the HLPF, it also reveals much introspection *within* civil society.

1. Background

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from 2016. The Open Working Group (OWG) on SDGs brought together state and non-state actors in 13 sessions over two years to take stock of progress on MDGs and to draft a new set of SDGs, as mandated in the Rio+20 Outcome Document. Approximately 1,500 participants registered to attend sessions lasting a total of 48 days from March 14, 2013 to July 18, 2014.¹ In July 2014, 17 goals emerged around which negotiations will focus toward producing specific SDG goals and targets.²

The work of the OWG has finished. A final report will be presented to the 68th UN General Assembly (UNGA) in September, 2014. Thereafter, global attention will turn to the General Assembly, which will finalise the formulation of the SDGs, culminating in international endorsement of a new set of goals and post-2015 framework at an UN Summit in September 2015.

CIVICUS and its partners assessed civil society's experience at the OWG. Through an online survey implemented in late July, early August 2014, CIVICUS asked respondents about their OWG experience to identify best practices and lessons learnt that could be applied to the development of enhanced modalities of civil society engagement in the HLPF. The purpose of the survey was (1) to evaluate the experience of civil society at the OWG, and (2) to identify lessons learned to inform the 'enhanced modalities' for civil society participation in the HLPF.³

The 2013 UNGA resolution which adopted the HLPF—and thereby ended the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)—extended significant participatory privileges to civil society organisations, and referred to 'Major Groups and other stakeholders,' but specific modalities for civil society participation have yet to be articulated.⁴ It remains to be established who 'other stakeholders' are, and how the concept of 'enhanced modalities' is defined.⁵ As a recent report by Jan-Gustav Strandenaes documents, the HLPF must be strengthened as an independent body within the UN with its own bureau and secretariat: if it is integrated into ECOSOC, civil society stands to lose because NGOs do not have the right to access ECOSOC meetings. Technically, the UN does not grant NGOs a *right* to participate at all, with participation heavily regulated throughout the UN system. This survey moves us toward specifying what elements of the OWG experience could be adopted by the HLPF.

¹ Registrant data from UN DESA.

² The focus areas can be found [here](#).

³ This report uses the term 'civil society' to refer to actors who do not seek to hold office or to make a profit. It includes Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), which the United Nations (UN) recognize as legally existing entities, but also actors who may not consider themselves NGOs, such as social movements, trade unions, religious groups, representatives of commercial groups (farmers, industry), or members of research communities. 'Civil society' also includes OWG participants who identify with one of the nine Major Groups, as well as those who identify as 'other stakeholders.'

⁴ Jan-Gustav Strandenaes (2014), "Participatory democracy – HLPF laying the basis for sustainable development governance in the 21st Century. Modalities for major groups, Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders engagement with the high level political forum on sustainable development." UNDESA/DSD. Available [here](#).

⁵ The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want* (A/RES/66/288, 2012), makes reference to "other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families as well as older persons and persons with disabilities" (para. 43).

2. Survey methodology

The survey was designed by CIVICUS in consultation with its partners in civil society and inter-governmental organizations, including those familiar with the OWG and Major Group system. The survey was pre-tested on randomly selected recipients using CIVICUS' list of OWG past attendees. The full survey was disseminated as follows:

- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) mailing list.
- ECOSOC list of accredited NGOs
- UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (NGLS)
- Stakeholder Forum, which distributed the survey to a list of 1,895.
- Major Group Organizing Partners (OPs) were asked to follow-up with their members.

According to data provided by DESA, which organized the OWG through its Division for Sustainable Development (DSD), over 1,500 people registered to participate in at least one OWG session. Of the 255 survey respondents, 135 (53%) attended at least one OWG session, and 98 (38%) of these attendees *registered* to attend, suggesting a 7% survey response rate for OWG registered attendees. Since participants could attend a session without registering, and since many without the ability to travel to New York could participate online and follow events through webcasts, our survey includes those who attended without registering, and those who did not physically attend.⁶ Box 1 breaks down survey respondents according to these categories. 15% attended without registering, and 47% did not attend any sessions.⁷ This latter group is especially important in evaluating OWG's success in reaching out to interested civil society actors without the means to physically attend sessions.

Box 1: Survey respondents' attendance

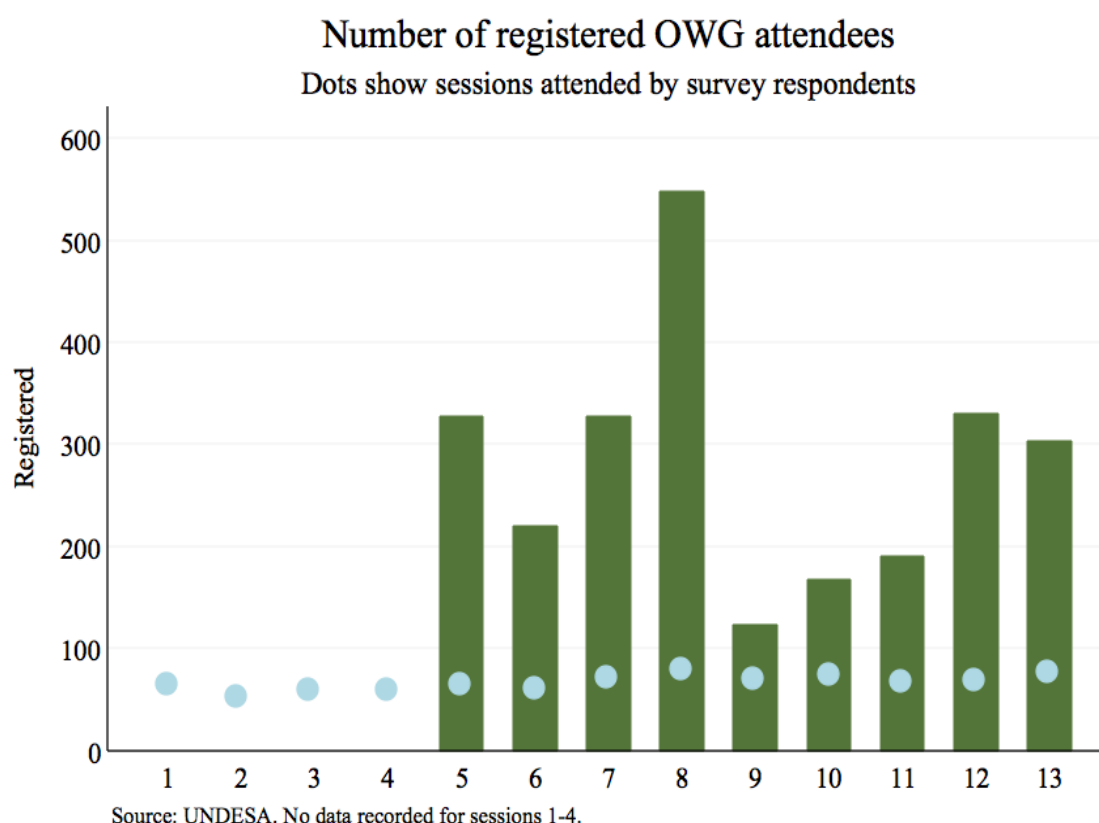
Survey respondents	Number (%)	DESA did not make available detailed registration information, so it was not possible to conduct a representative survey on a random sample of participants. For example, because we do not know the number of OWG participants from South Asia, or the share of registrants that participated through the Indigenous Peoples Major Group, we cannot say whether survey responses are representative of those who actually participated. This report is clear, therefore, that the findings are only representative of those who completed the survey. The survey is not representative of civil society or of OWG participants.
Attended	135 (53%)	
<i>Attended and registered</i>	98 (38%)	
<i>Attended without registering</i>	37 (15%)	
<i>Attended 1 or 2 sessions</i>	42 (17%)	
<i>Attended 3 to 12 sessions</i>	50 (20%)	
<i>Attended all sessions</i>	41 (16%)	
Did not attend any	120 (47%)	
Total survey respondents	255 (100%)	

DESA reports that over 1,500 participants registered to attend at least one session (excluding participants who registered for more than one session), and we have exact registration data for sessions 5-13. The graph below shows the exact numbers registered for each session. Note that a participant could register for several sessions, and would appear in the chart as multiple registrations. Dots show the number of sessions attended by survey respondents.

⁶ 58% reported watching the OWG via webcast.

⁷ OPs were more likely to register to attend than non-OPs who otherwise attended.

Box 2 Number of registered OWG attendees



We asked respondents to rank their main reasons for attending an OWG session. We provided six options, as well as an option to not rank an answer. The cells show the percentage of respondents ranking each item. 23% ranked “Lobby government delegates” as the number one reason for attending the OWG. 53% ranked it in their top three.

Box 3 Reasons for attending OWG

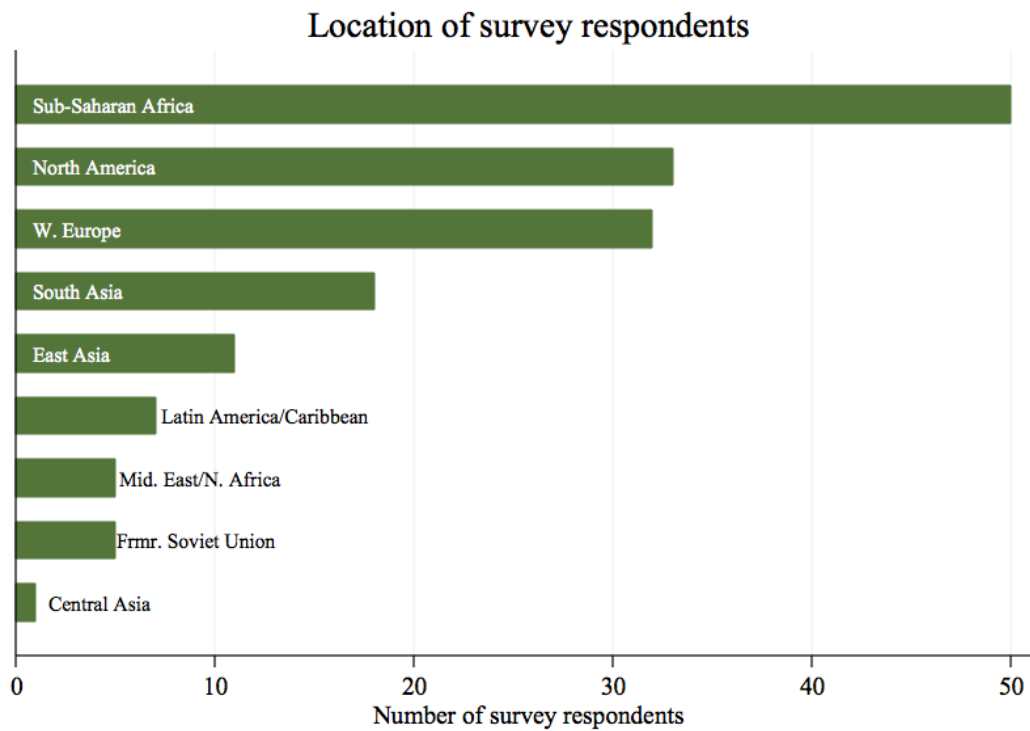
Reasons for attending (% of respondents)	Ranked 1 st	Ranked top 3	Ranked last or not at all
Lobby government delegates	23	53	24
Learn about sustainable development and SDGs	22	54	26
Network with other civil society organisations	16	51	19
Draft and submit joint written statements	16	48	24
Submit statements as an individual organization	12	38	40
Speak at morning hearings and formal sessions	6	33	34

The rankings speak to the diverse nature of participants. Lobbying government delegates was a strong priority across respondents, as was learning about SDGs, networking with other CSOs, and working on joint statements. Learning was especially important for respondents who did not identify with a Major Group and for those who self-identified as inexperienced in attending international processes like the OWG. But, perhaps surprisingly, submitting

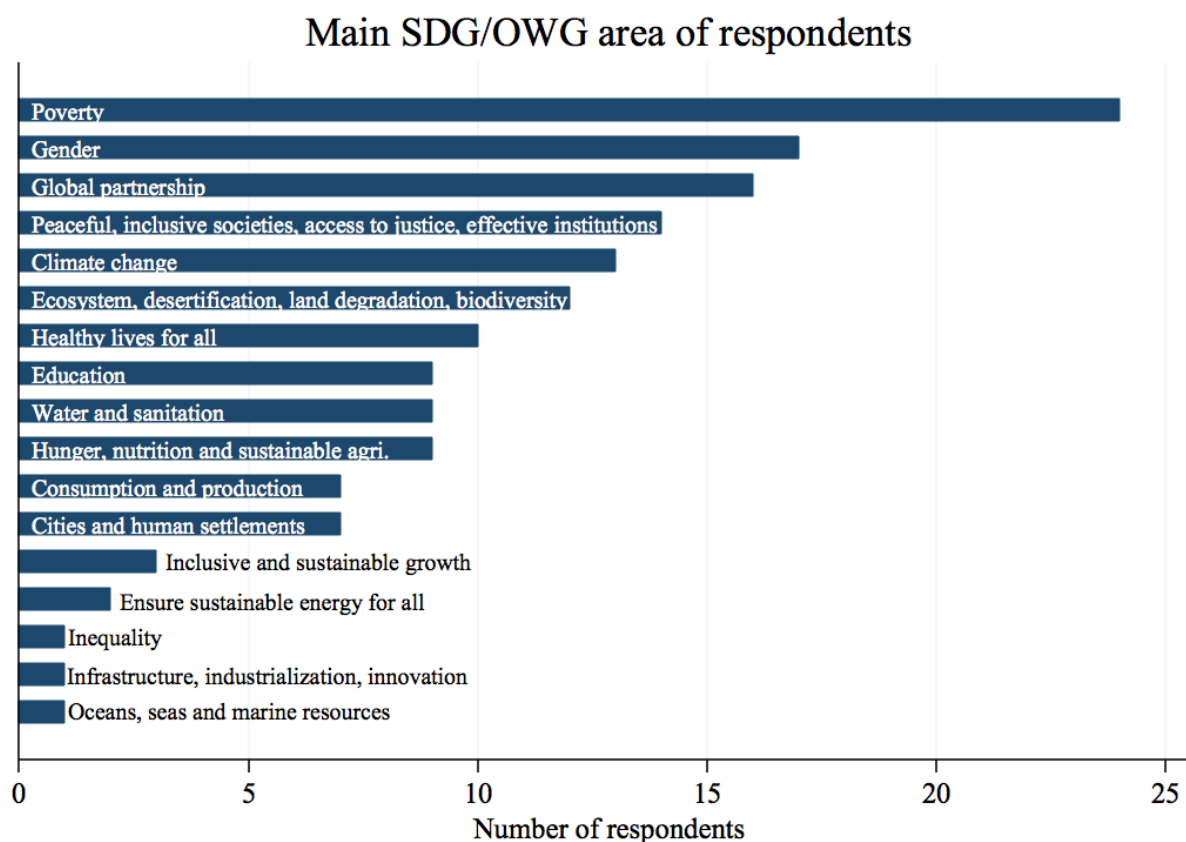
statements as an individual (or individual organization) was a low priority, as was speaking. Many respondents may not have associated ‘being heard’ with speaking in the main plenary.

Diversity in respondents is also reflected in the location of respondents (box 4) and main SDG/OWG area (box 5).

Box 4 Location of survey respondents



Box 5 Responses by OWG/SDG focus



3. Overall satisfaction

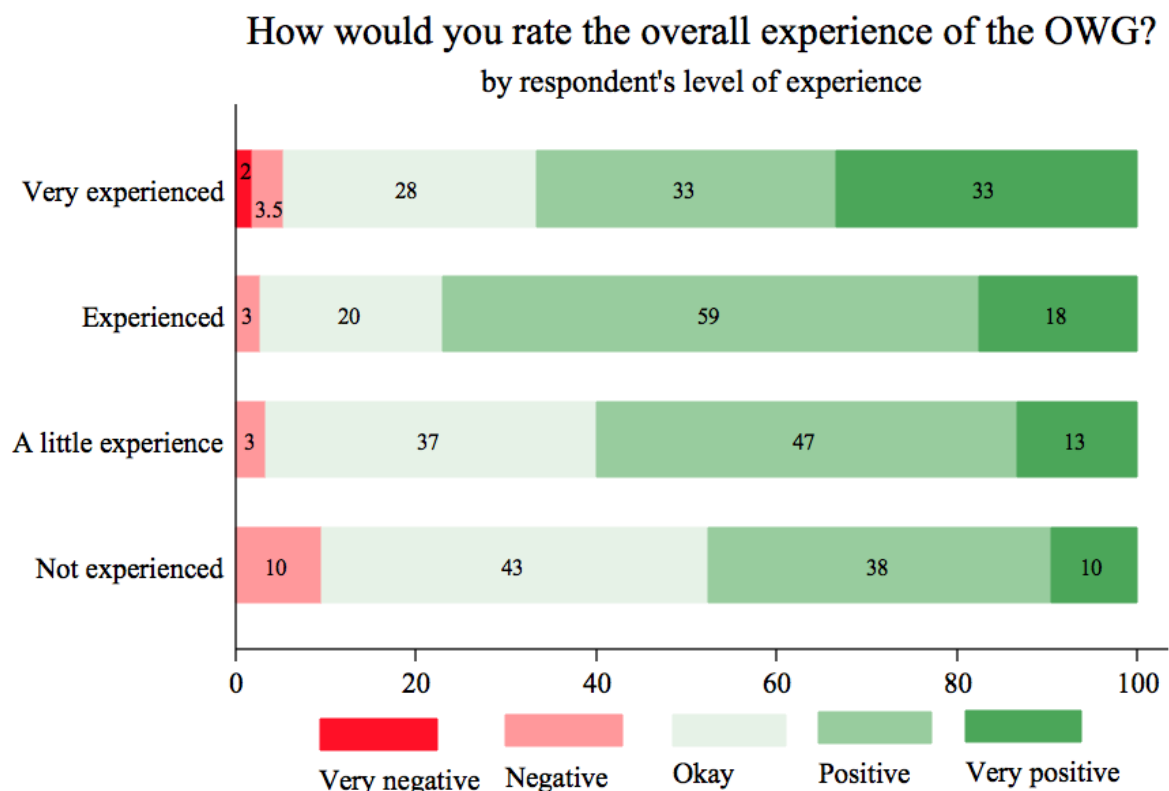
Respondents were asked to evaluate their “overall experience participating at the OWG.” They were asked to answer the question, whether or not they attended. 63% said their overall experience was positive or very positive, with only about 5% reporting negative. This is heartening. In light of a persistent image of civil society actors standing discontented in opposition to governments, it is encouraging that respondents were generally happy with their OWG experience.

Three respondent characteristics were associated with overall satisfaction:

1. *Attendance*: Respondents attending at least one session were 18% more positive about their overall experience than those who did not attend any. Those attending 1 or 2 sessions, or all sessions, were about 20% more positive than those attending between 3 and 11 sessions.
2. *Experience*: We asked respondents to rate how experienced they are at such events. Those saying they had little or no experience at all at international processes like the OWG were 15% less positive overall (see box 6).
3. *Affiliation*: Those who identified with a Major Group were 20% more positive, OPs were 15% more positive, and respondents who felt they had a good understanding of

the Major Group system were 30% more positive overall.⁸ Answers by SDG/OWG area are shown in box 7.

Box 6 Overall satisfaction by respondent experience

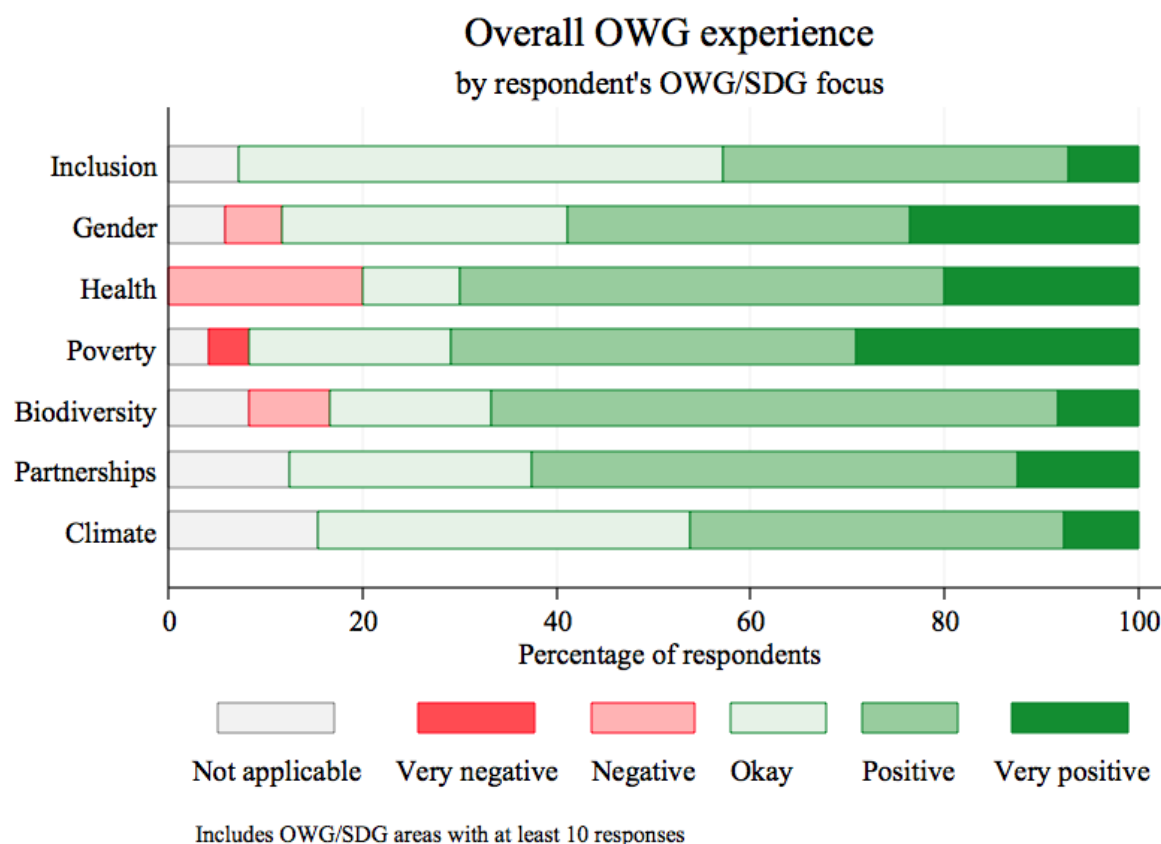


Question asked: How experienced are you or your organization at attending intergovernmental processes like the OWG?

'Not experienced' option said "Not at all experienced - OWG was the first time"

⁸ All differences are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level. This means that if this same group was surveyed 100 times, we would expect this result 95 times.

Box 7 Overall experience by OWG/SDG focus



We also asked respondents about their experience with prominent actors and components of the OWG, namely the quality of the government plenaries, the work of the Co-Chairs, and the work of DESA. The results are illustrated in box 8.

Plenaries: 45% thought the quality of government plenary sessions was very good or excellent, but this may be driven by responses from OPs, whose overall satisfaction with the plenaries was almost 35% higher than non-OP respondents.⁹

Co-Chairs: 65% rated the quality of the work of the Co-Chairs very good or excellent. This seems to have been driven by respondents who attended every session, 89% of whom rated Co-Chairs as very good or excellent, compared to 59% for all other respondents.

DESA: The same pattern was found with overall satisfaction with DESA. 65% rated the quality as very or excellent, but 81% of OPs gave this rating compared to 48% of non-OPs.

⁹ Does not include 'don't know/not applicable answers.'

Box 8 Views on plenaries, Co-Chairs, and DESA

How would you rate the overall quality of...

... the OWG government plenary sessions



... the work of the Co-Chairs



... the work of the UN DESA Secretariat



Don't know Poor Fair Good Very good Excellent

Box 9 Voices from civil society (1)

"I am impressed with the coalition-organizing, focus-sharpening, and collaborative document-writing led by CIVICUS, GCAP, IBON, and Women's Group. Terribly important, in view of the continued refusal of UN top leaders to accept any NGO input.

I see increasing divergence between the UNGS official climate/SDG plan (unchanged since 2012) and the entire civil society world—despite admirable efforts by midlevel UN agencies in worldwide consultations, internal FfD commissioned reports, deeply thoughtful NGO submissions to OWG and the Co-Chairs' work. The game was rigged from the start, but we must keep the pressure on, and make the alternatives clear (as in analyses by Women's Group and Global Partnership of Solidarity), and insist they are possible. Bravo!"

Respondent from United Kingdom

"Given that civil society is much more willing to advocate and act for responsible, transformative actions and to take the steps needed to achieve the goals and agreements already made, we should be given the lead rather than treated like second class citizens.

- Preparations for the Morning Hearings always started too late.*
- Too many things were removed from the SDGs during the last couple of sessions.*
- The first 8 or 9 sessions turned out to be a waste of time and cost too much in time and resources to be worthwhile.*

-
- *We could have all submitted written papers and statements on the then 19 themes; DESA and the co-chairs could have written a first report. We could have again responded and they could have written a second report; and then we could have started the substantive discussions on the actual Focus Areas and Goals and have just skipped the first 8 or 9 sessions.*
 - *An effort should have been made to look into the agreements and commitments that have already been made to date and to incorporate the most ambitious goals from those in the SDGs as well; and then the SDGs should have been presented as a means through which we are going to try to fully implement all of the existing agreements and commitments in an integrated, cohesive and coherent manner”*
Respondent with NGOs Major Group

4. Shaping events

Despite overall satisfaction with OWG, respondents were not enthusiastic about opportunities to speak. Asked how they felt about the statement “Civil society had enough opportunity to speak during formal sessions,” 54% of respondents agreed or agree strongly, but the result may have been driven by highly experienced participants: 81% of OP respondents agreed or agreed strongly with the statement, compared to 48% of non-OPs. While about two-thirds of those attending a few or all sessions agreed or agreed strongly, only one-third of those attending between 3 and 11 sessions thought so.

Nevertheless, respondents overwhelmingly felt attending was worth the effort, that civil society was able to influence the agenda, and are optimistic that civil society voices will be reflected in the final OWG report. In the table below, the first number in each cell is the percentage agreeing or agreeing strongly with a statement. The number in brackets is for the ‘control’ group, and bold indicates a statistically significant difference between the two. For example, 87% of respondents who said they had little or no experience attending international processes like the OWG agreed or agreed strongly that “Attending sessions was worth the effort,” while 88% of all other respondents agreed or agreed strongly. The difference is not statistically significant.

Box 10: Shaping OWG sessions

% agree or agree strongly	“Attending sessions was worth the effort”	“CS was able to influence agenda during the stock-taking phase”	“CS was able to influence agenda during the report-writing phase”	“Optimistic CS voices will be reflected in final OWG report”
Limited/no experience	87% (88%)	81% (85%)	80% (84%)	85% (80%)
Identify with Major Group	85% (88%)	85% (80%)	85% (80%)	84% (80%)
Attended 1 or 2 sessions	89% (86%)	84% (83%)	81% (83%)	85% (81%)
Attended 3 to 12 sessions	83% (87%)	77% (84%)	72% (86%)	62% (87%)
Attended every session	95% (84%)	89% (82%)	90% (81%)	95% (80%)
Organizing Partner	88% (86%)	90% (83%)	94% (81%)	88% (82%)
Average	86%	83%	83%	82%

The striking difference comes when comparing OPs and those attending every session with all other respondents. OPs were much happier about the ability of civil society to influence the agenda during the report-writing phase, and were more optimistic than others that civil society voices will be reflected in the final OWG report. This is especially true for respondents who attended between 3-12 sessions, 62% of whom agree or agreed strongly that they were so optimistic, compared to 87% for all other respondents. Again, note that this is

true only of those OPs who responded to the survey. The survey is not representative of OPs in general.

5. Accessibility

The overall picture was of satisfaction with the accessibility of OWG sessions—about half rated it very good or excellent—but this masks an important division in satisfaction between respondent OPs and non-OPs, and between respondents who attended all sessions and respondents who did not attend as many as they would have wished.

Box 11: Accessibility of OWG sessions

How would you rate the accessibility of...	... registration information	... draft agendas	... statements and presentations	... drafts reports after sessions
Limited or no experience	34% (53%)	33% (44%)	43% (48%)	39% (55%)
Globally focused org	45% (48%)	42% (39%)	43% (50%)	58% (45%)
Identify with Major Group	54% (35%)	46% (39%)	51% (43%)	56% (46%)
At least one session	46% (47%)	45% (42%)	52% (44%)	57% (46%)
1 or 2 sessions	49% (46%)	47% (42%)	64% (44%)	61% (50%)
3 to 11 sessions	30% (51%)	32% (47%)	31% (54%)	46% (54%)
12 to 13 sessions	76% (39%)	58% (40%)	62% (45%)	64% (49%)
No sessions	40% (50%)	41% (45%)	42% (51%)	43% (57%)
Organizing Partner	66% (49%)	69% (39%)	69% (44%)	72% (49%)
Average	46%	44%	48%	52%

Satisfaction with OWG accessibility among those attending a total of 3-11 sessions is significantly lower than other respondents. We also see large differences between OPs and non-OPs. While we saw in the previous table that OPs and non-OPs overwhelmingly thought attending was worth the effort, clearly non-OPs found the process more difficult to navigate. Non-OPs were less satisfied about the accessibility of drafts agendas (by 30%), statements and presentations by (25%), and drafts reports after sessions (by 23%).

6. Major Groups and Organizing Partners

33 respondents (13%) identified as Organizing Partners for a Major Group.¹⁰ In the following, we look at responses from the 87% of respondents who are not OPs. In general, satisfaction with OPs was not high: in none of the four questions did a majority of respondents agree or agree strongly with any statement concerning OPs. Only 30% of those with limited or no experience in international processes agreed or agreed strongly that OPs “helped me understand how to participate,” while responses to OP “helped me advocate for my issue(s)” were overwhelmingly unsatisfactory from all types of respondents.

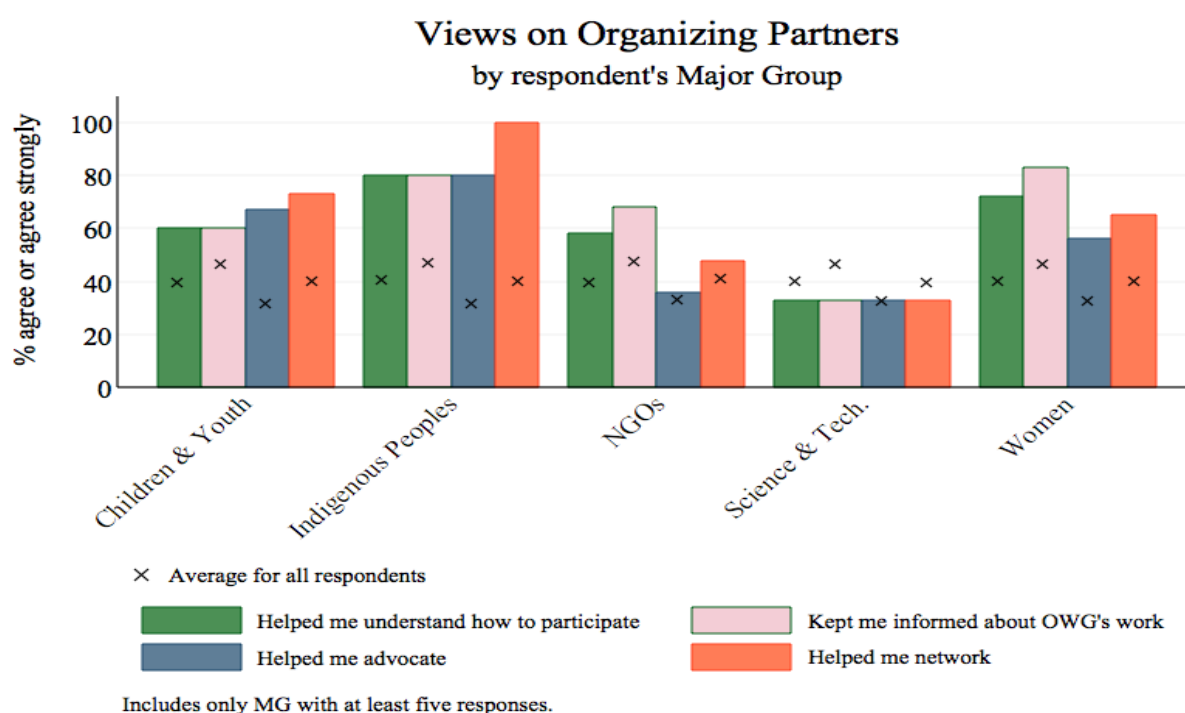
Box 12: The helpfulness of Organizing Partners (OPs)

¹⁰ An OP from each Major Group responded except for the Business and Industry Major Group. 17 of the 31 OP respondents were from the NGOs Major Group, with 6 from the Children and Youth Major Group.

How well did OPs help you...	understand how to participate	keep informed about OWG's work	advocate for my issue(s)	network with participants
Limited or no experience	30% (40%)	36% (48%)	32% (28%)	36% (37%)
Globally focused org	34% (43%)	49% (45%)	26% (33%)	30% (44%)
Identify with Major Group	40% (40%)	47% (47%)	26% (41%)	35% (45%)
At least one session	39% (41%)	49% (44%)	33% (31%)	36% (42%)
1 or 2 sessions	42% (40%)	44% (47%)	44% (29%)	51% (37%)
3 to 11 sessions	37% (41%)	55% (44%)	27% (34%)	27% (43%)
12 to 13 sessions	40% (40%)	54% (45%)	26% (34%)	33% (41%)
No sessions	41% (40%)	39% (51%)	33% (32%)	44% (37%)
Average	40%	47%	32%	40%

In the graph below, we see views on OPs according to the respondent's Major Group. Only Major Groups with at least five respondents are included. 'x' shows the average for all respondents. For example, 60% of Children & Youth Major Group respondents agreed or agreed strongly that their OP "Helped me understand how to participate," which was well above the survey average of 40% (denoted with 'x').

Box 13 Views on Organizing Partners by Major Group



Few responses for Indigenous Peoples (5) and Science and Technology (6) Major Groups mean their results should not be over-emphasized. We can analyze responses for the NGOs Major Group with greater confidence, however, since 71 respondents identified with it, even though we should not interpret the findings as representative of anyone except the survey respondents. The data suggest unmet demands within the NGOs Major Group in helping groups network and advocate.

We asked respondents about the morning meetings between OWG Co-Chairs and participants, which were organized by Major Group steering committees. Of those attending at least one OWG session, 87% agreed or agreed strongly that morning meetings were useful.

Box 14 Views on morning meetings

	Morning meetings were useful	I was able to influence the drafting of MG/OS statements at MM	The Major Group steering committees which organized the morning meetings were effective
Little or no experience	80% (89%)	65% (81%)	87% (85%)
Identify with MG	87% (88%)	84% (59%)	87% (83%)
Attend 1 or 2	97% (81%)	86% (73%)	94% (80%)
Attend 3 to 11	76% (98%)	69% (86%)	74% (96%)
Attend all	100% (86%)	91% (75%)	100% (83%)
OP	82% (88%)	83% (76%)	89% (85%)
Average	87%	77%	86%

But again we see a large and statistically significant difference in reported satisfaction between those who attended between 3 and 11 sessions, and all other respondents. And while about two-thirds were overall satisfied with the effectiveness of morning meetings, this 3-11 group was much less satisfied with the effectiveness of morning meetings. Participants in Major Groups may have benefited from their organizational strength, as 84% of Major Group-respondents agreed or agreed strongly that “I was able to influence the drafting” of statements at morning meetings, compared to 59% for non-Major Group respondents.

Box 15 Voices from civil society (2)

“The flood of information one receives daily makes it difficult to determine what is most up-to-date and what is most important. The NGO Major Group’s organizing partners provided clear, relevant information in good time. It was appreciated.”

Respondent from Norway, NGOs Major Group

“The Major Group system is useful and needs to be carried over to the HLPF, with improvements to the governments and the UN system that is supposed to support our engagement into global multilateral processes. South-based NGOs are disadvantaged in the current system. We need more explicit input into the governance and resources of NGLS, DESA and others whose mandated role is to facilitate our input.”

Respondent with Women’s Major Group

“The Major Group format has become too restrictive and can no longer contain ‘relevant stakeholders.’ The latter category is too large. Moreover, since we are no longer dealing with silos but are trying to see how all is integrated, the silos of 9 Major Groups has been left behind.

If there are OPs as a general category, these could act as facilitators, After Rio +20, we outgrew the OP system. During the OWG, some OPs spoke for only a part of their constituency, other OPs stayed away altogether and so no one spoke for that Major Group at all. Yet others had too much on their plate: info on how Major Groups were to be able to participate came too late for them to be able to get the word out on time. Instructions were confused and differed from meeting to meeting.

At times, OPs felt necessitated to play an authoritative role deciding both with regard to what went into oral statements or else who they thought should make one. During the CSDs there were also power struggles within a number of Major Groups and between Major Groups. This alienated many participants and impoverished the content of what was said. Now we are in an in-between stage and this is terribly hard on the UN Secretariat and also on CSOs who go through many sacrifices to participate. The only way forward is to realize the difficulty that all are facing and together to try and come to processes that will work as the scenario that the HLPF is dealing with will be in a constant process of change.”

Respondent

7. ‘Other stakeholders’

The Rio+20 outcome document, *The Future We Want*, makes reference to “other stakeholders, including local communities, volunteer groups and foundations, migrants and families as well as older persons and persons with disabilities.”¹¹ One objective of the participant survey was to gain a better understanding of the ‘other stakeholders’ concept. Who are these ‘others’? How do they see themselves in relation to the MG system? And what has been their experience?

The survey asked respondents who did not identify with a Major Group (51% of respondents) to describe themselves. Overwhelmingly they were national level NGOs focused on common issues: poverty, the environment, education, and human rights. They were more likely to self-describe as being inexperienced, much less likely to have attended even one OWG session, and much less likely to report having a good understanding of the Major Group system. In the table below, we see large differences between the experience, engagement and knowledge of Major Group and non-Major Group respondents. All differences are statistically significant. For example, 23% of respondents who are part of a MG reported having little or no experience attending international processes like the OWG. This compares to 35% for non-MG respondents, a statistically significant difference of 12%.

Box 16 Major Group participants and ‘other stakeholders’

	Part of Major Group	Not part of Major Group	Difference
Little or no experience	23%	35%	12%
Attended at least one OWG	72%	35%	37%
Understands Major Group system	85%	49%	36%

Non-Major Group respondents were much less positive about the opportunities for ‘other stakeholders’ to participate than Major Group-respondents. In the graph below, we see two-thirds of Major Group respondents (“In Major Group”) were overall positive about OS opportunities to participate, only about 40% of OS respondents were so positive. The second graph then makes interesting reading. While the first graph points toward some dissatisfaction among non-Major Group respondents, the second suggests significant ambiguity about the future involvement of non-Major Groups in the Major Group system. On the question of whether additional Major Groups should be created to incorporate non-Major Groups, 29% of non-Major Group respondents said they did not know or had no opinion, with a slim majority (59%) in favor.

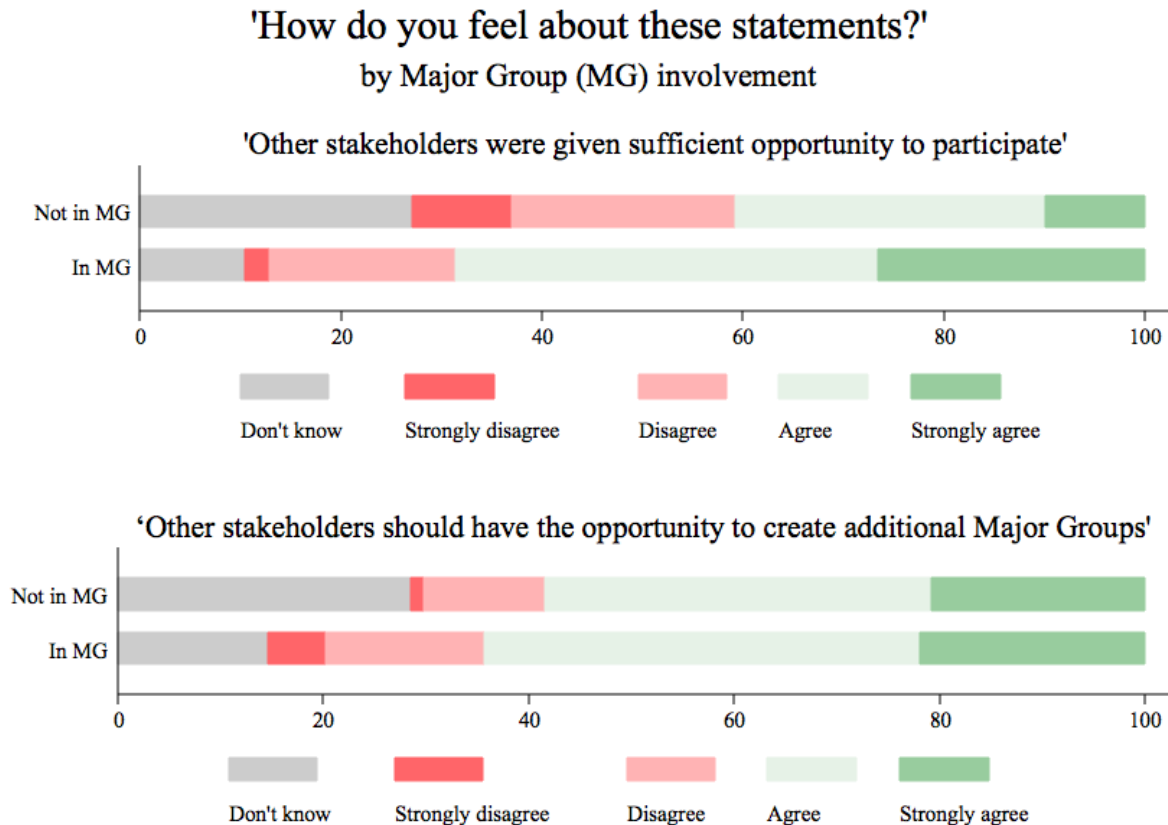
¹¹ A/RES/66/288, 2012, para. 43.

Box 17 Voices from civil society (3)

“Concerned involvement of ‘other stakeholders’ will primarily involve private sector, and their interests, which are not accountable to governments, human rights standards, yet hold a lot of political and financial sway.”

Respondent from UK

Box 18 Views on ‘other stakeholders’ by Major Group



Last, 46 respondents made suggestions for new Major Groups: 6 mentioned elderly, 3 disability, 3 family, 2 LGBT. 17 made suggestions that would organize Major Groups by theme or cluster rather than by actors, such as grouping actors interested in democratic governance, climate change, education, etc.

Box 19 Voices from civil society (4)

“Volunteering, like disability and the aged, should have the same recognition and status as the Major Groups, which was the commitment made at the beginning of this process. The statement made by the Secretary General shortly before September 2013, that the role of volunteering should be recognised in the discussion related the creation of the SDGs should be honoured. Volunteering is integral to people-centered development and the achievement of the SDGs.”

Respondent from Canada

8. Looking forward to the HLPF

We asked respondents how their OWG experience will affect their expectations about the HLPF. While the OWG and HLPF are entirely distinct entities with the UN system, and have no relationship to one another on an institutional level, from the perspective of civil society actors interested in the development of SDGs, the HLPF represents the continuation of the OWG's work.

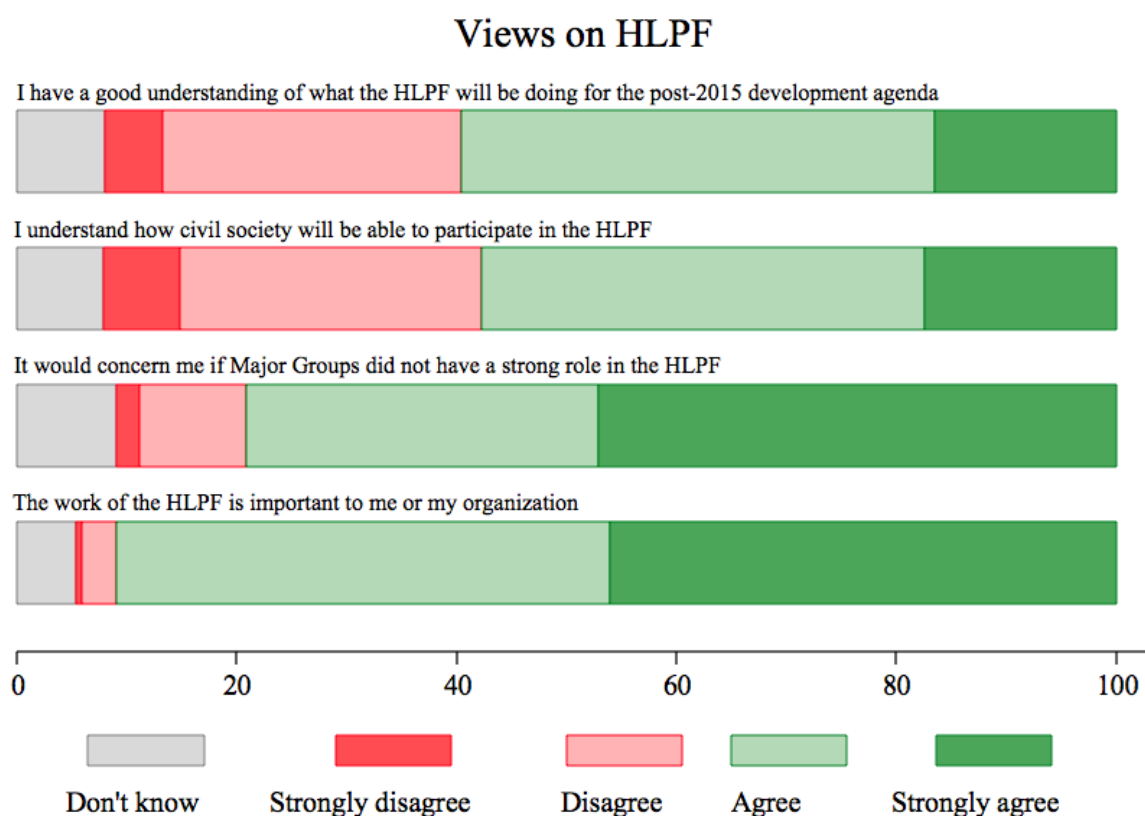
First, we asked if their OWG experience made them optimistic about civil society engagement in the HLPF. 75% were optimistic about CS engagement in the HLPF.¹² But there was significant differences in answers by attendance. 89% of respondents attending all OWG sessions were optimistic, compared to 71% for all other respondents, and 46% of respondents attending between 3 and 12 sessions were optimistic compared to 87% for all others.

We then asked if the OWG experience made it likely they would attend the HLPF. 86% said the experience made them likely to attend.¹³ Major Group participants were 15% more likely than non-Major Group participants to say so, while 97% of those attending every OWG session said it made them more likely, compared to 82% for all others.

¹² Agreed or agreed strongly with the statement "It [your OWG experience] makes me optimistic about civil society engagement in the HLPF."

¹³ Agreed or agreed strongly with the statement "It [OWG experience] makes me likely to attend the HLPF."

Box 20 Views on HLPF



There is a marked difference between interest and understanding regarding the HLPF. As we see above, respondents overwhelmingly said the work of the HLPF is important to them, and would be concerned if the Major Groups did not have a strong role. On questions of understanding the HLPF process or how civil society can contribute to it, however, there appears significant room to improve. Only about half of respondents gave positive answers to these questions.

Finally, we asked respondents about their priorities for attending the HLPF. The table shows respondent rankings for their highest priorities at the HLPF. Respondents were allowed to not rank an answer if they wished. By far the leading priorities are participating in setting the post-2015 agenda and implementing specific SDGs. Both were ranked the number one priority by about 20% of respondents, and about half of all respondents put these two in their top three.

Box 21 Priorities for attending HLPF

Priority	Ranked No. 1	Ranked Top 3
Participating in setting the post-2015 agenda	22%	48%
Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	20%	45%
Engaging with member states	10%	37%
Accessing documents	4%	21%
Being a part of the group of “other stakeholders”	6%	21%

Developing partnerships with non-state actors	4%	21%
Securing funding to implement SDGs	3%	20%
Speaking at meetings	4%	16%
Funding to attend meetings	8%	16%
Engaging in the annual review processes	4%	15%
Being a part of a Major Group	8%	15%
Organizing side events	4%	13%

Box 22 Concerns and suggestions for civil society engagement in the HLPF

“Ensure that those attending UN meetings in person can either freely participate in discussions... Where there is limited time, oral statements should be written by groups of stakeholders—both those attending the meeting and those participating from afar. The method using the google docs could work if the technology were totally clear. This technology of this tool was too confusing for many and they gave up and refused to engage subsequently.”

Respondent

“Full access to related negotiations and associated documents. A role in setting the agenda, and official avenues to submit shadow reports.”

Respondent from India, Children & Youth Major Group

“We are anxious that NGOs will be pushed aside, while commercial interests will be promoted.”

Respondent from Switzerland, NGOs Major Group

"The strict requirement of physical presence of an NGO/their legal representative in relevant UN events is more an impediment than a facilitation to NGO participation, because meetings are held at the most diverse locations on planet Earth, travelling is expensive, and floor-time is very limited (eg. 5 mins to report 4 years of activity at the HRC). Therefore, I propose the creation of a formal UN-NGO forum using a *secure* UN internet portal, with a direct, one-to-one channel between the UN and each NGO/their legal representative, for all relevant communications, from paperwork to video-conference to physical meetings, with emphasis on the paperwork and the video-conference.”

Respondent from Switzerland

“Better interface of Major Groups with other stakeholders”

Respondent from Kenya

“Civil society's participation should be fully integrated into the intergovernmental processes as it was during the early and middle years of the CSD process. Interactive multi-stakeholder dialogues & multi-stakeholder hearings and fully interactive multi-sectoral informal sessions focus on very specific topics are needed. The HLPF should adopt an outcome based process where the focus is on what is needed to scale up the means of implementation and fulfillment of all agreements made to date.

- Please make it a priority to make electrical outlets available to most civil society seats, like the governments have.
- Allow us to enter and leave the meeting hall through all available doors.
- Substantially increase the number of tables and space to put out and display handouts.
- Make the seating chart for the meeting room, widely available.
- Prioritize the participation as speakers and panelists of the long time participants in the UN sustainability processes.
- Ensure that there is a computer with a printer available to civil society at all times in the Conference Building, so that we can print out documents, flyers, handouts, announcements, etc.”

Respondent with NGOs Major Group

“CSOs working in a group within a particular region should have quarterly meetings via skype to review what will be tabled before the HLPF at the open session meetings.”

Respondent from Nigeria, NGOs Major Group

“We need much more clarity on the CSO, Major Groups and OS engagement system with member states through the HLPF. It should be consistent and clear in text and not up to major interpretation/largesse of the Chairs. Again, it is about sustained and adequate resourcing to participate, and that does not mean shepherding/CSOs being 'managed' by UN agencies. They are there to facilitate, and NGOs and civil society have as much right to monitor their usefulness, as they seem to take to assess ours as civil society.”

Respondent with Women's Major Group

“HLPF will be a fiasco if it is run the same way as the UN official "World We Want"—top-down, pre-set secret agendas, totally ignoring new NGO proposals and historical UN commitments to human rights. We must keep the pressure on.”

Respondent from USA, NGOs Major Group

“Holy See, an observer, gets to speak on woman's reproductive health issues... a conflict of interest and unfair to others with observer status yet unable to speak or give input; neocolonialism and neoimperialism evident in land-grabbing, disregard for indigenous rights and HLPF not considering the potential and actual conflict of interests inherent in private partnerships. Major Groups need mandated inclusion and decision making power.”

Respondent with Women's Major Group

“If the modality of CSO access to the HLPF will be through the Major Group structure, FBOs and Humanitarian and relief organizations will be lost among in the "other stakeholders." As the focus in international development focuses on 'sustainability' carving out space in the discourse for groups conducting work on DRR or even rapid response to complex emergencies will be a critical consideration for the future of the post-2015 process and the on-going working in monitoring and evaluation conducted/ reviewed by the HLPF.”

Respondent from Swaziland

9. A closer look at the dissatisfied

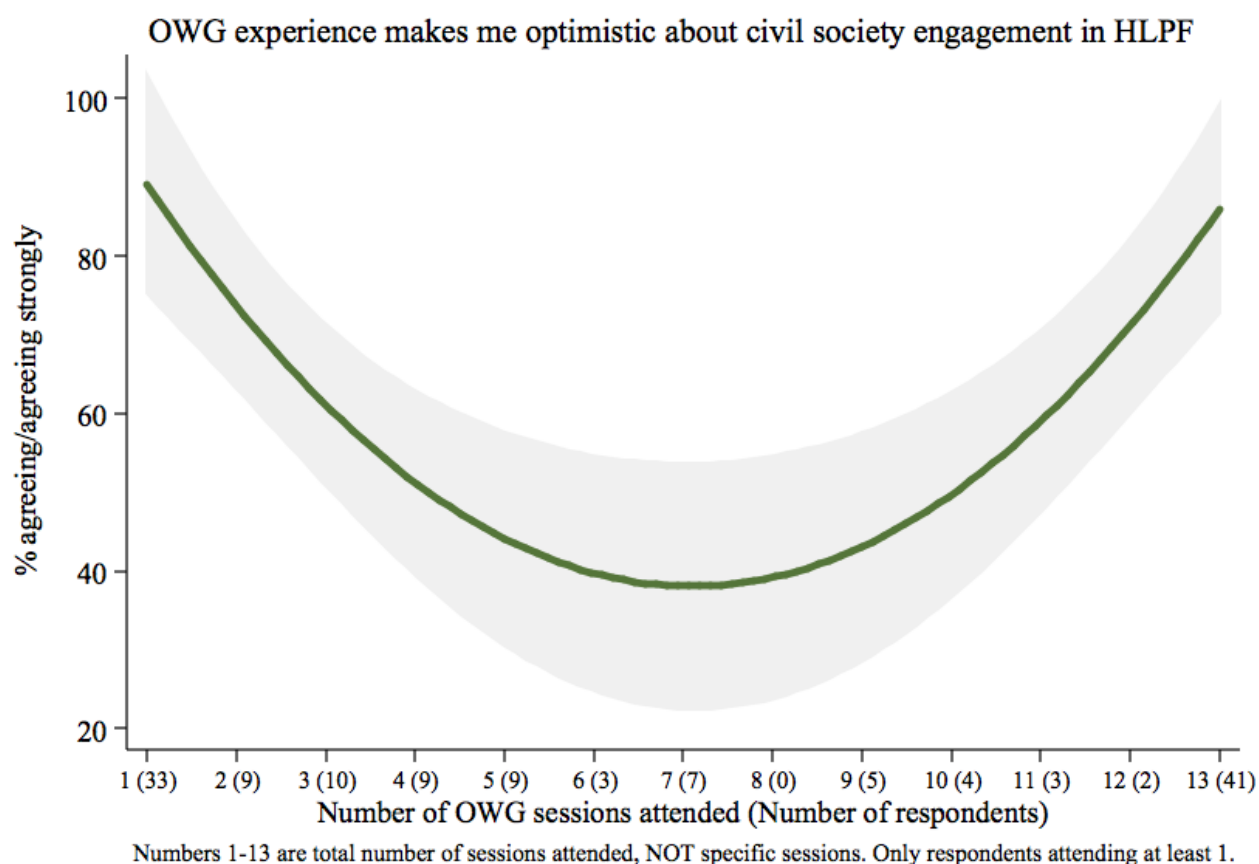
A consistent finding in the survey is the dissatisfaction of the 20% of respondents who reported attending between 3 and 11 sessions. The basic pattern is shown in box 23: as the number of sessions attended increases (left to right), the probability of a respondent agreeing or agreeing strongly with the statement “OWG experiences makes me optimistic about civil society engagement in HLPF” decreases, but then increases for those attending almost all or all sessions.¹⁴

Who are these dissatisfied respondents? This group appears as globally focused as those attending all sessions, but majorly lacking in resources. The table below arranges respondents’ attendance (total number of sessions) according to their answers to several questions. The first number in each cell is the percentage of respondents in that category, and the number in brackets is the percentage not in the group. The cell is bold when the difference between the two is statistically significant. For example, 53% of respondents who attended one or two sessions said they had little or no experience attending international processes like the OWG, compared to 76% who did attend one or two. The difference is statistically significant.

Compared to all other respondents, respondents attending 3-11 sessions are more likely to identify with a Major Group, be ECOSOC accredited and UNDPI associated, and to have ranked lobby governments as a priority for attending OWG: 38% of respondents who attended 3-11 sessions ranked “lobbying government” in their top two priorities, compared to 17% for all other respondents.

¹⁴ The grey band either side of the curved line is the 95% confidence interval, which is a measure of the reliability of the estimated relationship between the x-axis and y-axis. A *wider* confidence interval suggests less confidence in the estimate.

Box 23 HLPF expectations from OWG experience



We asked respondents to list (not chose from pre-arranged list) any reasons they did not attend as many OWG sessions as they would have wished. In open-ended responses, just under one-third of respondents attending once or twice mentioned funds as the main reason they didn't attend more. But of the 50 respondents attending 3-11 sessions, half mentioned funds, with another ten mentioning a resource related issue: 23 said funds; 2 said human resources; 3 said problems with accreditation, credentials, or getting a visa; 7 said time constraints, mostly that there were simply too many sessions.

Box 24 Respondent characteristics by number of OWG sessions attended

Respondent characteristics	Number of OWG sessions attended			
	At least one	1-2	3-11	All
Little or no experience	53% (76%)	21% (22%)	25% (26%)	8% (26%)

Organizing Partner	64% (51%)	18% (16%)	18% (20%)	27% (14%)
		21%	26%	
Identify with a Major Group	72% (35%)	(12%)	(13%)	23% (9%)
				25%
Good understanding of MG system	71% (51%)	20% (20%)	26% (19%)	(11%)
			34%	
ECOSOC accredited	83% (66%)	29% (22%)	(20%)	26% (17%)
			37%	
UNDPI associated	86% (70%)	26% (19%)	(23%)	28% (21%)
OWG priority: Speak (rank top 2)	69% (65%)	27% (20%)	27% (24%)	15% (20%)
OWG priority: Network (rank top 2)	65% (66%)	23% (19%)	21% (27%)	19% (20%)
		27%		
OWG priority: Submit (rank top 2)	70% (63%)	(18%)	21% (27%)	22% (18%)
			38%	
OWG priority: Lobby (rank top 2)	79% (57%)	16% (24%)	(17%)	26% (16%)
		42%		
HLPF priority: Funding (rank top 2)	65% (73%)	(19%)	8% (30%)	15% (23%)
Number of respondents	135	42	50	41
% of respondents	53%	17%	20%	16%

These resource constraints are not reducible to the image of a small NGO from a developing country unable to attend an international event. In addition to the finding reported above that respondents in this group were more likely to be affiliated with an MG, ECOSOC and UNDP, 63% of those attending 1 or 2 sessions identified a non-OECD country as their main location, while only 27% of those attending 3 to 11 sessions did so. Significantly, only 8% of this 3-11 group put funding to attend the HLPF in their top two priorities, compared to 42% for those who attended one or two sessions. Thus, this 3-11 group seems resource constrained, but perhaps not simply in financial terms.

Box 25 Voices from civil society (5)

"It is sad that we did not have had the opportunity to participate in this vital event due to lack of financial support. It is really disappointing - we have been, ever since, the launching of the MDG, active in spreading its principles to different segments of the society, through interactive/written/published mode of communication."

Respondent from Bahrain

Appendix – Survey instrument

Assessment of the

This survey seeks to evaluate the engagement of NGOs, Major Groups and civil society at the OWG. The survey has two goals:

- 1) Evaluate civil society experience of the OWG
- 2) Identify lessons learned and best practices from the OWG experience to inform enhanced modalities* for civil society participation in the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The survey should take 10 minutes to complete. It will remain open until Aug 12.

Contact Freya Seath of CIVICUS at freya.seath@civicus.org with any questions.

* What are enhanced modalities?

General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/290 OP 14 spoke of "enhancing the consultative role and participation of the major groups and other relevant stakeholders at the international level in order to make better use of their expertise, while retaining the intergovernmental nature of discussions."

Participation was to be "open to the major groups, other relevant stakeholders and entities having received a standing invitation to participate as observers in the General Assembly, building on arrangements and practices observed by the Commission on Sustainable Development."

Assessment of the

1. How would you rate your overall experience participating at the OWG?

- ☐ Very positive
☐ Positive
☐ Okay
☐ Negative
☐ Very negative
☐ Not applicable

2. How would you rate the overall quality of...

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know/No opinion
... the OWG government plenary sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... the work of the Co-Chairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
... the work of the UN DESA secretariat	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3. How do you feel about these statements?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know/No opinion
I am optimistic civil society voices will be reflected in the OWG final report	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I did not feel listened to at the sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil society was kept away from important discussions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil society was able to influence the OWG's agenda during the stock-taking phase (sessions 1-8)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil society had enough opportunity to speak during the formal sessions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Civil society was able to influence the OWG's agenda during the report-writing phase (sessions 9-13)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Attending sessions was worth the effort	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Assessment of the

4. The work of Major Groups was facilitated by Organising Partners. How well did Organising Partners do the following?

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know/No opinion
Helped me understand how to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helped me to advocate for my issue(s)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Helped me network with other participants	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Kept me informed about OWG's work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

5. Did you watch any OWG sessions through the UN webcast?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Not relevant

6. How would you rate the accessibility of...

	Excellent	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor	Don't know/No opinion
Draft agendas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Registration information for participation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Draft reports released after each session	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Statements and presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

7. With respect to morning meetings between the OWG co-chairs and Major Groups and other stakeholders, how do you feel about the following?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know/No opinion
I was able to influence the drafting of Major Group/other stakeholder statements at morning meetings	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Morning meetings were useful	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The Major Group steering committees which organized the morning meetings were effective	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Assessment of the

8. What were the main reasons you participated in the OWG?

Move your main reason to the top of the list by selecting '1' from the drop down menu, or by clicking and dragging the statement. Tick 'don't rank' for any answer you don't wish to rank.

<input type="text"/>	To draft and submit joint written statements	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	To learn more about sustainable development and the SDGs	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	To network with other civil society organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	To speak at the morning hearings and formal sessions	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	To submit written statements as an individual organization	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	To lobby government delegates	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank

9. How do you feel about these statements?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know/No opinion
'Other stakeholders' were given sufficient opportunity to participate	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
'Other stakeholders' should have the opportunity to create additional Major Groups	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a good understanding of how the Major Groups System works	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. If you have an idea for a new Major Group, write it here.

11. Some participants identify with a Major Group. Others identify as "other stakeholders." Do you identify with either of these?

- ☐ Major Group
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ "Other stakeholders" (please specify)

Assessment of the

Part 2. Looking forward to civil society participation in the High-Level Po...

12. How do you feel about these statements?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know/No opinion
The work of the HLPF is important to me or my organization	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
My organisation's past experience with the Committee on Sustainable Development (CSD) was positive	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It would concern me if Major Groups did not have a strong role in the HLPF	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have a good understanding of what the HLPF will be doing for the post-2015 development agenda	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I understand how civil society will be able to participate in the HLPF	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

13. How will your OWG experience affect your expectations about the HLPF?

	Agree strongly	Agree	Disagree	Disagree strongly	Don't know/No opinion
It makes me optimistic about civil society engagement in the HLPF	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It makes me likely to attend the HLPF	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Assessment of the

14. How important will these things be for you at the HLPF? Drag the answers that are your highest priorities. Tick the 'don't rank' box if you don't wish to rank an answer.

<input type="text"/>	Accessing documents	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Securing funding to implement SDGs	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Funding to attend meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Participating in setting the post-2015 agenda	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Organizing side events	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Speaking at meetings	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Being a part of the group of "other stakeholders"	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Developing partnerships with non-state actors	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Engaging with member states	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Being a part of a Major Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank
<input type="text"/>	Engaging in the annual review processes	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't rank

15. If you have any concerns or suggestions for future civil society engagement under the HLPF, please explain what these are.

Assessment of the

Part 3. Final questions

16. How experienced are you or your organization at attending intergovernmental processes like the OWG?

- ☐ Very experienced
- ☐ Experienced
- ☐ A little experience
- ☐ Not at all experienced - OWG was the first time

Assessment of the

17. Which OWG sessions were attended by you or your organization?

Tick all that apply

Attended every session	<input type="radio"/>
Attended no sessions	<input type="radio"/>
1st (14-15 March 2013)	<input type="radio"/>
2nd (17-19 April 2013)	<input type="radio"/>
3rd (22-24 May 2013)	<input type="radio"/>
4th (17-19 June 2013)	<input type="radio"/>
5th (25-27 November 2013)	<input type="radio"/>
6th (9-13 December 2013)	<input type="radio"/>
7th (6-10 January 2014)	<input type="radio"/>
8th (3-7 February 2014)	<input type="radio"/>
9th (3-5 March 2014)	<input type="radio"/>
10th (31 March – 4 April 2014)	<input type="radio"/>
11th (5-9 May 2014)	<input type="radio"/>
12th (16-20 June 2014)	<input type="radio"/>
13th (14-18 July 2014)	<input type="radio"/>

18. Did you attend any OWG sessions without registering?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/Not relevant

19. Did you or your organisation attend previous HLPF meetings?

Attended

1st meeting - 24 Sept. 2013	<input type="radio"/>
2nd meeting - 30 June 2014	<input type="radio"/>

20. What country do you or your organisation consider your main location?

Other (please specify)

Assessment of the

21. My organization mostly works at...

- ☐ ... the national level (select this even if you occasionally participate in regional or global events)
- ☐ ... the regional level (select this even if you occasionally participate in national or global events)
- ☐ ... the global level (select this even if you occasionally participate in national or regional events)
- ☐ Not applicable

22. What SDG or OWG goal area is the primary focus your organization's work?

23. Are you an ECOSOC accredited organization? Accreditation means you have official consultative status with ECOSOC.

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

24. Are you a UN Department of Public Information (DPI) associated organization?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know/Not relevant

25. If you did not attend as many OWG sessions as you would have like, what was the main reason?

26. What is the name of your organisation? This is optional.

27. In case we need to contact you to follow-up on your experience, please enter your email. This is optional.