

Dr. Sewanyana

I have just begun to interact and advocate in UN organized events, and have not yet participated in the forums you are most interested in, (mainly, my participation has been within CS friendly spaces such as HLPF, CSW, and as an expert speaker at the Expert Global Meeting for SDG 4).

Therefore, I do not have direct answers to your survey questions. But I do have an observation that might be something you could watch for in the responses of others, and that is the lack of direct and meaningful participation of persons for whom policy is being debated, and the case in point where I most observed this was for migrants, refugees and displaced persons.

In my work as Executive Director of LIDE, I work in EiE in all three of those settings and with the collaboration, contribution, and full participation of the people of those communities. And so it surprised me to see dates for calls to action in regard to refugees where there was no representation from among that population. Now and then, a refugee or migrants may give a statement, or appear in a video being shown in the forum. That is not participation. They have no voice in the writing of policy and no vote on the policies that will inform actions. This harkens back to a way of working that no longer is accepted at these very tables where it is happening. Humanitarian work has shifted from a perspective of "giving" to one of "empowering". Crisis response has transformed an attitude of respond and leave to one of building long term resilience. And in all of this work, we say it must be done in collaboration with those affected. If we are to do that, these human beings with loves and rights should have not just an a chance to present but also a role in steering their future.

Thanks you for doing the very hard work of bringing what I imagine will be many voices to the table.

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