

BONN CALL TO ACTION

Representatives of organisations engaged in volunteering at home and across borders met in Bonn on 9th-12th October 2016 for the annual conference of the International Forum for Volunteering in Development, focusing on the theme of Increasing Resilience of Communities through Volunteering. Representing civil society, government agencies, UN bodies, academia and the private sector, Forum members work in partnership for a more just and sustainable world.

Volunteers and volunteer organisations are essential to people-centred development and vibrant, resilient communities. Acting alongside local and national governments, multilateral agencies and the private sector, volunteers of all ages build capacity and active citizenship.

Volunteers are uniquely positioned to reach out to marginalised, vulnerable people and fragile communities, supporting them to build their resilience and ownership of sustainable people-centred development interventions.

We are individually and collectively committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in order to eliminate poverty and inequality by 2030. We recognise that communities must be at the centre of their own development, and that women and young people must be fully engaged.

We commit to continuing to work together, strengthening our diverse contributions, demonstrating accountability, and achieving greater visibility, recognition and resourcing of volunteering.

We also commit to:

- Measuring and documenting the individual and collective contribution of volunteerism.
- Demonstrating the value of volunteering as a powerful and cross-cutting means of achieving the SDGs.
- Building and strengthening volunteer partnerships and practice.
- Contributing to the United Nations' plan of action for integrating volunteering into peace and development.

The Bonn conference demonstrated the power of volunteerism in strengthening individual and community resilience in order to adapt to change, build back better, and so achieve sustainable development.

We therefore call on local and national governments, the High-level Political Forum of the United Nations and other major stakeholders to make volunteerism key to the achievement of the SDGs.

To strengthen our collective actions, Forum invites organisations in all sectors to endorse this declaration and support this Call to Action.

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

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