

## **Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review**

**Devanshu Jha, Wednesday, July 7, 12:15 PM - 1:15 PM EDT:**

Hello everyone my name is Devanshu Jha and I am delighted to be representing the Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for Europe and Central Asia today.

According to the sustainable Development Goals Report 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities, set poverty goals back and reversed human rights gains. We know this well as we work at the grassroots with the most affected.

Civil society are key partners with access, knowledge, experience and commitment to those marginalized by age, gender, disability, ethnicity, class, religion, sexuality and location to ensure inclusion moving forward. We represent 24 constituencies and 6 regions. The vision 2030 guarantees all civil society the right to participate in the SDG processes. We draw attention to the United Nation Secretary General's guidelines on this subject in order to ensure that the process includes systematic consultation with our key constituencies, in all geographic areas and urban and rural areas.

Even after all these years, women of all ages and ethnicities continue to face numerous barriers to accessing justice and achieving equality as a result of gender stereotypes and biases, structural barriers, inequalities and discrimination. Women's human rights are an obligation not a wish list.

Please count us in as we bring the faces, evidence and experiences of our diverse constituencies to add to the work of the United Nations to ensure we are better placed to achieve the SDG targets on time.