

# Stakeholders' Participation in the context of public policies for sustainability.



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## HEADCET MidTerm Meeting

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**Andrea Noferini, PhD**  
CEI, International Affairs  
[andrea.noferini@ceibcn.com](mailto:andrea.noferini@ceibcn.com)



**cei** international  
affairs  
escuela diplomática  
de Barcelona



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The 2030 Agenda reinforces the **participation** of multiple stakeholders as a key aspect of sustainable development policymaking (Sachs et al., 2019).



**SDG target 16.7** | To encourage the participation **of civil society organizations** acting on behalf of the recipients of the public policies implementing the SDGs.

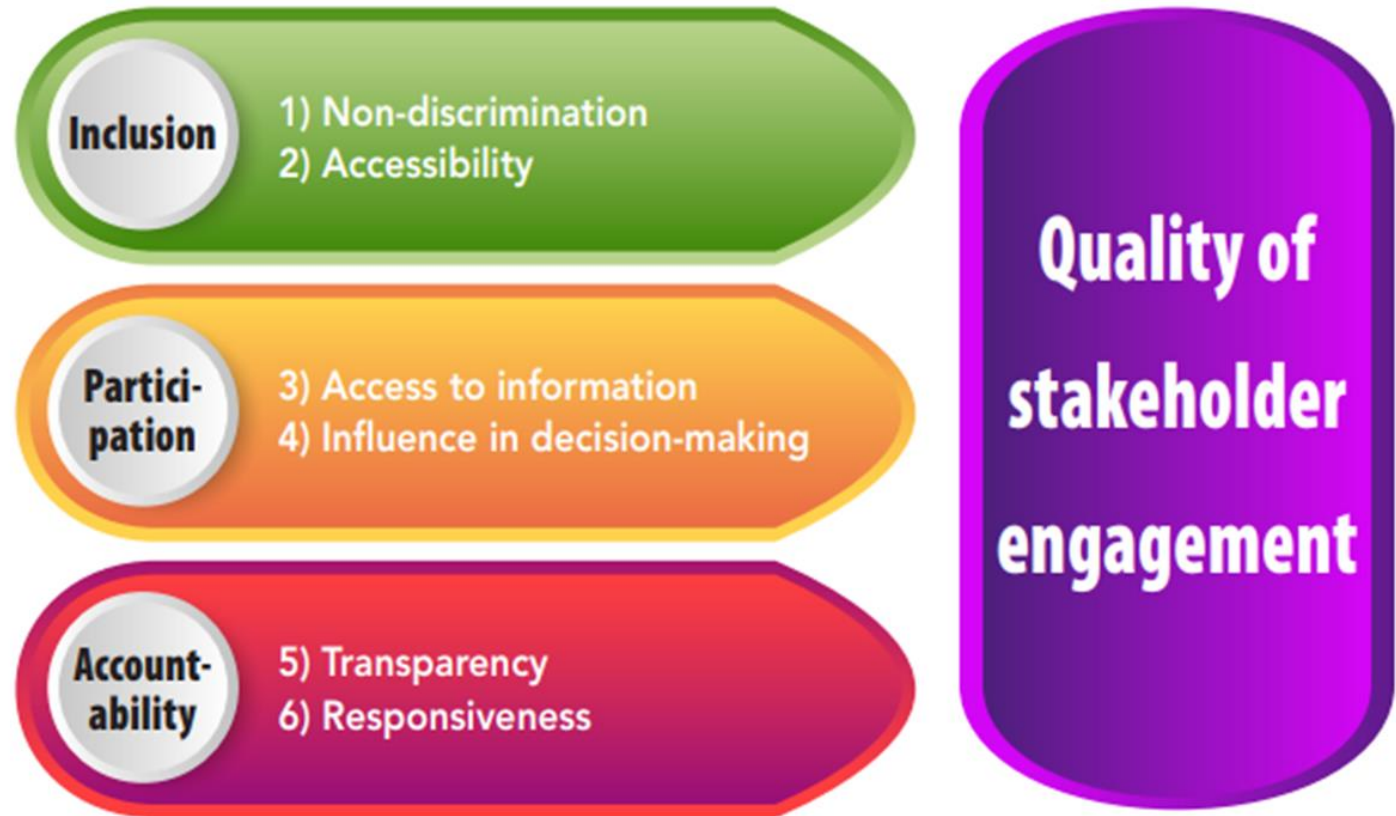
**SDG target 17.16** | To enhance the global partnership for SD complemented by **multi-stakeholder partnerships** that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of SDGs in all countries, particularly developing countries

**SDG target 17.17** | To encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and **civil society partnerships**, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships



UNDP | UNDESA, 2021, *What is a 'Good Practice'?*, A framework to analyze the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, UNDP, Oslo Governance Centre,

**Diagram 1: Principles and Dimensions of the Analytical Framework**





### Inclusion

- 1) Non-discrimination
- 2) Accessibility

**Who participate and why?** *Only traditional actors (trade unions, industrial associations, largest NGOs)? / Are selection criteria explicit or not? / Is there a debate regarding which actors are entitled to participate? / Are not majoritarian groups also invited to participate?*

### Participation

- 3) Access to information
- 4) Influence in decision-making

**Is information available?** *Is information partial, asymmetric and costly for participants? / Are the rules of participation clear and public (calendar, planning, list of participants) ?*

**Participation for what?** *Informative participation versus deliberative participation / Is the aim of participation informative or can participants propose amendments ?*

### Accountability

- 5) Transparency
- 6) Responsiveness

**What about my participation?** *Does public administration provide explanations regarding the use of actors' participation? / Are participants aware about how their contributions will be used for?*

# Agenda 2030 y participación de las entidades del tercer sector social en la implementación de los ODS

A. Noferini and F. J. Granados (2022)

*The study is based on primary data obtained in semi-structured in- depth interviews and discussion groups with members of the public administration and civil society organizations of the third social sector in Catalonia*



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**2'**  
In two minutes

**National Plan for the Implementation  
of the 2030 Agenda in Catalonia**

**#284**  
September  
2019  
XII legislature

The National Plan contains **920 commitments** by all Catalan ministries to contribute to achieving the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** set by the United Nations for **2030**

**transformative**  
sets targets with a measurable impact to generate real change

**integrated**  
involves the 13 ministries of the Catalan government

**cohesive**  
facilitates alignment of public policy across ministries

**a living document**  
reviewed annually to keep it up-to-date until 2030

The Plan has two dimensions: national and international

of the **920** commitments

810 are aimed at transforming Catalonia

110 seek to generate a positive impact in the world

The process leading up to the adoption of Plan

The 2030 Agenda: Transforming Catalonia, Improving the World, a report published by the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS) in September 2016, laid the groundwork for the Plan. The report identifies the main challenges the Catalan government faces to achieve the SDGs, with contributions from experts, academic institutions and civil society organisations

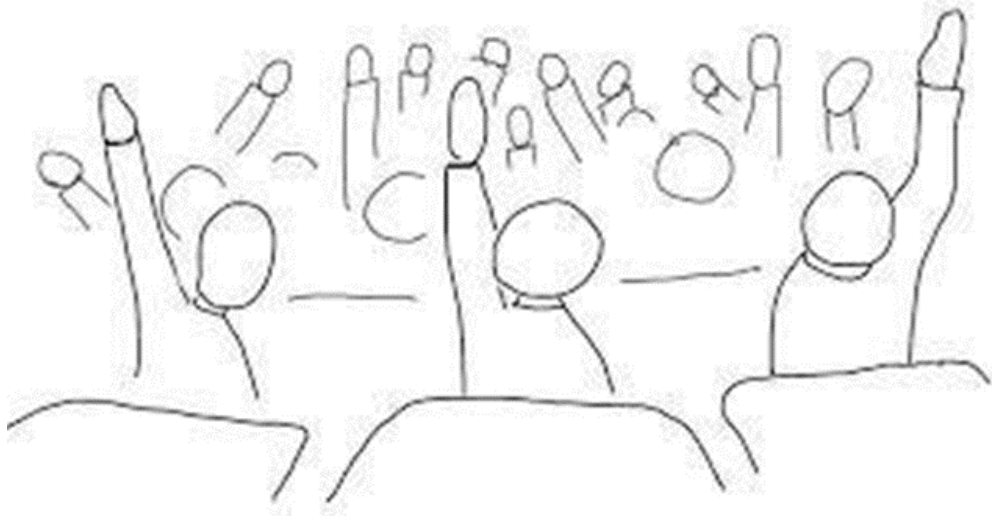
The 13 ministries of the Catalan government were involved in developing the Plan.

A Technical Committee – structured in 17 working groups, each focusing on a specific SDG – has been set up



# Main Results of the study

1. The official narrative of the A2030 seems to have a **slightly positive** effect in strengthening participation. (*greater legitimacy and improved implementation*)
2. **Information** and **transparency** are the two dimensions that have made the most progress



3. Participation is mainly **informative** and with little margin for incidence/influence on the definition of policies.
4. Poor monitoring of the contributions provided by the entities (**accountability**)
5. **Dissatisfaction** and some **mistrust** regarding the public administration's use of participation spaces.
6. **Fatigue** in terms of devoting time and resources to participation processes that are not effective in influencing government action.
7. The **multitude** of SDG targets adds complexity and uncertainty to participation.

**Interview 8** | *"Many times we consider that there has been participation because the government has opened horizontal platforms, or it has promoted some new meetings for collecting ideas or preferences.*

*That is to say: we have done much participation because we have consulted everyone. But, then, what is done with that participation is another story. In reality, the effects are very limited.*



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For more info:  
[andrea.noferini@ceibcn.com](mailto:andrea.noferini@ceibcn.com)

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