



Making the 2030 SDGs a Reality in the United States

A report from
Commission on Voluntary Service & Action
for the
2022 High Level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development



Summary

Commission on Voluntary Service and Action (CVSA) launched an all volunteer-run nationwide Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the United States, where CVSA is based, on International Volunteer Day December 5, 2016.

CVSA continues building this campaign through direct contact with hundreds of volunteer service organizations in communities across the country, as well as school classrooms, church congregations, staff of small businesses and professional associations, providing education and localized organizing tools for the SDGs to be made a reality in the U.S.

This Campaign acts in solidarity with people of all nations, aware that as long as the government of one of the most powerful and wealthy countries in the world does not actually engage in the process agreed to in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and does not enact the policy changes and priorities necessary for the full implementation of the SDGs domestically, then the suffering of working and disenfranchised people of the United States (and of the rest of in the world) will continue to grow, global progress is held back and we will fail to achieve the 2030 global commitment that humanity cannot live without.

CVSA is a consultative and coordinating body of nongovernmental voluntary service organizations based primarily in North America as well as around the world, founded in 1945 to promote, coordinate and extend the field of independent voluntary service and action programs serving people and communities in need of systemic solutions to economic, social and environmental problems worldwide. CVSA holds Special NGO Consultative Status to ECOSOC since 2013. CVSA's staff is entirely volunteer. CVSA member organizations are independent organizations that address the needs of those suffering poverty, lack of access to health care, legal justice, affordable housing, clean affordable energy and water, decent employment, and who are living in communities most effected by industrial pollution, toxic contamination and global warming, and more, through the participation of volunteers. They are described in CVSA's cornerstone publication, *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action*, the catalogue of volunteer opportunities.

None of these organizations can solve these systemic problems themselves, but, through working together, along with other stakeholders and

through a “whole of society” approach, we can we build the power to address the root causes and win the transformative policy and governing changes that can accomplish the Goals. The grass roots leadership that continues to rise and is developed through the struggles of these organizations is the source of our hope and commitment to achieve this goal.

In the United States, economic losses due to the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic have caused unprecedented hunger, increased poverty, loss of access to education and the deaths of over one million people to date. Throughout the pandemic, CVSA member organizations have reported injustices of extreme economic inequality and racial and social discrimination of many kinds. The burden of organizing aid and relief for the millions in need has largely fallen upon non-profits, volunteer associations and organically grown self-help mutual aid organizations resulting from a noticeable absence of federal coordination and relief.

With official U.S. policy still perpetuating unchecked emissions of greenhouse gases (despite the promises otherwise and the acknowledgement of the 1.5 degree limit warning) and in the absence of officially empowered federal bodies established to involve all stakeholders in planning, implementing and monitoring the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Goals in the United States, Commission on Voluntary Service and Action reaffirms its commitment to:

1. Build the necessary groundswell of support for and participation in the implementation of the SDGs at local levels across the country until the nation’s political leadership materially prioritizes the SDGs as policy, in cooperation with all other nations;
2. Mobilize increased volunteer involvement with organizations internationally and in the United States to tackle the needs of people, strive for solutions to these problems and to assist them in building partnerships with businesses, academic institutions and faith-based groups to work together for the achievement of the SDGs.

This report provides a snapshot of what some CVSA member organizations are doing consistent with Goals 4, 5, 12 and 15, which are being reviewed in the 2022 HLPF, and what they say is needed to achieve these Goals. This is also a call to action for more organizations and volunteers to join us in this campaign to make the 2030 SDGs a reality in the United States as well as the rest of the world.

Efforts by CVSA Member Organizations Towards Goals 4, 5, 14 and 15

GOAL 4: ENSURE INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE, QUALITY EDUCATION AND PROMOTE LIFELONG LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

According to the U.S. Department of Education, 54% of U.S. adults 16 to 74 years old (130 million people) read below 6th grade level. Among high school graduates, 19% are functionally illiterate. The U.S. has the highest average college tuition costs among OECD countries. 69% of college graduates in 2019 took out student loans, graduating with an average debt of \$29,000 for an undergraduate education.

According to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, hunger was cited as the 3rd most important issue affecting college campuses, with 42% of community college students regularly facing hunger, and more than 1/3 of all U.S. college students do not always having enough to eat. College campuses across the country have established emergency food closets and feeding programs to aid their students. In Los Angeles, 80% of the over 600,000 students in the Los Angeles public school system live in poverty and there is a 23% dropout rate in public schools. In New York City, 10% of public schools students – over 100,000 – go to school from homeless living arrangements.

► **Howard Area Community Center**, in Chicago Illinois: Howard Area Community Center serves the diverse, low-income communities in Rogers Park, in the City of Chicago, with over 24% of all households reporting incomes below the official poverty line. They host a Head Start Child Education program for preschool children, and ESL and GED classes for adults.

They report that Chicago's Public School system uses a Student-Based Budgeting model that allocates funding to schools based on the number of enrolled students. Howard Area Community Center reports that this disproportionately impacts poor and Black communities where there are more school closures and less funding. In 2013 more than 50 schools were closed and 42 of those schools had a population that was greater than seventy-five percent Black. Neighborhoods such as Englewood, Austin, and Garfield

Park faced the most instability, as multiple schools within a few miles of each other were shuttered or relocated, forcing families to send their children to schools outside their community.

“We are nowhere close to achieving the goal of adequate education being available to all children here in Chicago. The gap is widening and will continue to widen [...] Like many school districts, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) receives inadequate local, state, and federal funding for schools.” Ikoro, M. P. and C. (2022, February 25). Chicago Public Schools and Segregation, South Side Weekly.

► **Jason Nunzio Dorio, PhD, Associate Director, Undergraduate Programs for Community Engagement, School of Education and Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles**, who collaborates with Commission on Voluntary Service & Action on SDG education and community service, reports:

“The higher education system in the U.S. has been globally recognized as having some of most high-quality tertiary institutions in the world. However, there are many current challenges that U.S. higher education institutions face, which will inhibit the country’s ability to realize SDG Goal 4.3 to “ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university,” if not addressed.

There is an overall lack of awareness on the SDGs on the part of students, faculty, and administrations. The pandemic exacerbated the overwhelming mental health crisis that not only impacts undergraduate and graduate students, but is also faced by university faculty, administration, and staff. The costs of higher education and the amount of debt student accrue impacts which academic paths and fields of study students pursue. Furthermore, campuses need to comprehensively recognize how they contribute to climate change and develop critical sustainability plans to transform policies, emissions, and overall praxis around climate change.

I teach the SDGs as an important foundation to the third mission of the purpose of higher education: community service. However, through Goal 4.7, we need to be building stronger and more equitable connections and collaborations between institutions of higher education and communities. We need to foster reciprocity among university students, faculty and communities, and counter deficit paradigms that problematically frame communities through embracing the cultural wealth of communities.

Currently, primary and secondary schools are confronted by the perfect storm of pandemic, teacher burnout, gun violence, need for comprehensive counselor and mental health efforts, as well as attacks on progressive learning. If not properly addressed, these issues will have drastic consequences in quality of education at all levels and for the broader community in building the political will needed to fully commit U.S. society to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which impacts the future of our world.”

GOAL 5: ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL GIRLS

The United States ranks 74th in wage equality among 145 countries. Women in the U.S. earn 2/3 what men make for similar work. The United States and Papua New Guinea are the only two nations in the world that do not ensure paid time-off for new mothers according to the International Labor Organization (ILO). Only 12% of American companies offer paid maternity leave.

In 2020 there were 152,854 women in prisons and jails in the U.S., mostly low-income women and women of color, and an estimated 62% of women incarcerated in state prisons are mothers with children under the age of 18.

Women in the United States experience health disparities throughout their lifespans as a result of historic health inequities for women in the health care system.

► **Black Women for Wellness (BWW)** is a community-based, grassroots, woman-centered non-profit organization in South Los Angeles with a mission towards all of California. BWW strategizes for and works to eliminate health inequities, systemic racism, and misogyny. BWW conducts and shares research on the history and current challenges and issues of Black women’s health, for instance, to reduce toxic hair care chemicals that are prevalent in the black community. BWW trains speakers for panel discussions, academic lectures and organizational programs on all aspects of Black women’s health, and provides health education and information on strategies to prevent illness and to maintain and restore health.

The absence of this kind of much needed community-based education and outreach coming is a large omission in the practice of government public health policy and practice in the U.S., yet critical towards the rights and empowerment of all women and girls.

► **Hour Children:** Founded by the Sisters of St. Joseph in Queens, New York, involving volunteers from throughout the community, Hour Children works to meet the needs of incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and their children. There are more than 4,000 women incarcerated in New York State prisons and local jails at any given time, mostly low-income women and women of color. It is estimated that there are more than 105,000 children with a parent in prison or jail in New York State alone. Every year, more than 1,000 women are discharged and return to the city needing assistance with housing, employment and education opportunities, and in building a home for their children.

Hour Children provides parenting education and advocacy within the prisons and helping organize family visits. Within the community it provides workforce re-entry programs, transitional housing, and mental health services, and supports the children through after-school programs, summer camps and support groups. The organization provides leadership opportunities and pushes the boundaries of historically gender-constricted roles within public service provision.

Hour Children only exists in New York City; there are few such volunteer-based nonprofit programs in the other hundreds of U.S. cities where the same situation and needs exist. Solutions to the economic and social conditions and injustices that low-income women face, and to the legal system that puts such a high number of people in prison, can best be determined by those who have struggled through the system and work with organizations like Hour Children. This is also an example of how achieving Goal 5 is directly connected to achieving Goal 1, 4, 8 and 16 as well.

GOAL 14: PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS, SUSTAINABLE MANAGE FORESTS, COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, AND HALT AND REVERSE LAND DEGREDDATION AND HALT BIODIVERSITY LOSS

Freshwater animal populations in river and lake habitats in the U.S. have been collapsing by up to 81% since 1970 following huge water extraction for industrial farms, expanding housing developments and manufactural, chemical, and industrial agricultural pollution. However, when agricultural operations are sustainably and organically managed, they preserve and restore critical habitats, protect watersheds and improve soil health and water quality.

According to a Cornell University study, topsoil is disappearing at a terrifying rate in the U.S., nearly 10 times faster than it can be replaced: almost two billion tons of farmland are lost to soil erosion every year, resulting in loss of food crops and income. Massive changes in weather patterns with more extreme and more frequent storms, hurricanes and tornadoes, longer and hotter heat waves and more fires, is affecting the soil quality in the Midwest and California, the areas where the majority of the food is grown in the country.

► **Atchafalaya Basinkeeper, Inc.** The Atchafalaya Basin in Louisiana is the largest wetland forest in North America, containing almost one million acres of America's most significant bottomland hardwoods, swamps, bayous and backwater lakes — and it is currently under threat of drying up. Industrial installation of HVL (highly volatile liquid) pipelines through the basin is the major cause of this destruction, as spoil banks (a bank of excavated refuse or earth) pile up, creating high amounts of sediment damage to the basin's hydrology and severely impacting ecosystems.

The Atchafalaya Basinkeepers, Inc., which involves volunteers in protecting and restoring the swamps, lakes, rivers, streams and bayous of the Atchafalaya Basin, have identified the increasing sedimentation in the area as the largest challenge to the protection and restoration of the aquatic environment. Sediments are being accumulated in the basin instead of flowing out to build up the coastline, blocking water and putting millions of people at risk for flooding. The result is the rapid filling of portions of the Basin at an unsustainable rate, destroying fisheries, wildlife habitat and impairing the ability of the Basin to contain floodwaters from the Mississippi River.

“The Basinkeepers work closely with the community and are collectively frustrated by the lack of state and federal policies that are not being enforced to protect the Basin and its wild life as well as the futures of the surrounding human populations. What is most unsettling is the long-term, cumulative impact these development projects have on the Basin's ecosystems, flood capacity and surrounding communities. We demand compliance with permits and proper enforcement by our regulatory agencies.”

► **National Family Farm Coalition:** The National Family Farm Coalition (NFFC), founded in 1986, with 30 member organizations representing over 50,000 farmers and ranchers and over 400,000 fishers across the rural United States, organizes against inequities

in the farm and food system and for policies that sustain sustainable farming practices and food sovereignty. “The farmers who lead our work at NFFC strive to work in harmony with nature rather than subduing it. To do so, they must contend with pressures from industrial agriculture and its friends in government that instead incentivize farm practices that kill the very ecosystem they rely on.”

NFFC reports from first-hand experience: Due to intensive industrial farming practices in the U.S., topsoil is eroding 10 times more rapidly than it can be replaced. Fertilizers, with voluminous untreated animal waste from factory farms, are polluting ground and surface water across the country. In the Gulf of Mexico, a “dead zone” the size of several New England states forms every year as a result of fertilizer and other nutrient runoff from the Mississippi River watershed. In communities from North Carolina to Wisconsin to California, the water is undrinkable because dangerous chemicals and bacteria from factory farms have contaminated residents’ wells.

NFFC calls for policies that support sustainable farming practices, which include: using compost, cover crops, and rotational grazing to build healthy living soil; rotating crops and using companion planting to attract beneficial organisms to fight pests; integrating crops and livestock; planting trees and shrubs to increase biodiversity; working with land contours when planting; and other measures. NFFC stands against chemical-based farming as it not only harms the soil health of the treated area, but it increases runoff, flooding and eutrophication (harmful algal blooms, dead zones, and fish kills in estuaries) and promotes solutions of agroecology and small-scale food production to feed communities across the country. “Without natural, biodiverse methods of farming, terrestrial ecosystems will continuously be destroyed.”

► **Huerta del Valle**, located in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, inland of Los Angeles California, where 16% of residents live in poverty, works to provide affordable access to high-quality foods through sustainable land management through their “one garden every mile” program designed to transform the urban landscape and impact systemic inequity in the local communities around food access. “We want Huerta del Valle and our projects to serve as an innovative model of sustainable environmental justice.”

With the mission of making it possible for all people in an urban environment to eat delicious, nutritious, fresh, local, sustainably

produced food through farming, healthy food access, nutrition education, sustainable production and distribution, and economic development, Huerta del Valle also provides education to the community about ecology and agricultural practices that preserve the health of the soil and the biodiversity of the region. They rely on local government support and on volunteers, and want to share their model with others across the country.

Goal 15: CONSERVE AND SUSTAINABLY USE THE OCEANS, SEAS AND MARINE RESOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Water runoff is the primary source of ocean pollution in U.S. urban areas, contributing to flooding and wasting water that could irrigate landscapes and replenish groundwater. Coastal water quality continues to be threatened by discharges of storm water and sewage, as well as oil spills on the west coast. America's wastewater infrastructure is in disrepair, outdated and failing, after decades of neglect. As a result, sewage spills and infrastructure failures release approximately 900 billion gallons of under-treated sewage into surface waters every year.

In the 2018-2019 rain season, 18.8 inches of rain fell over Los Angeles County, which equates to almost 200 billion gallons of stormwater flowing through the streets, into the waterways and out to the ocean, picking up pollutants along the way that pose serious risks to public and environmental health. This occurs in every urban area in the country, polluting the waterways and oceans and wasting the fresh water of good rain years that could be captured and used.

During the pandemic, the plastic production industry continued to grow: more single-use plastic products are being produced than ever before, and of the 6.3 billion tons of plastic that people have used and thrown away, only 9% has been recycled. A recent report from the United Nations Environment Program and Azul (a California based nonprofit volunteer-involving organization) finds that people are harmed at every stage of the plastic lifecycle, from its production to its use to its disposal. Much of it ends up on the oceans – also harming life in the seas.

► **Azul:** A California-based Latinx environmental justice organization working to protect the ocean and coasts founded in 2011 to bring Latinx perspectives and participation to ocean conservation, Azul has been organizing awareness and action on the fact that “We don’t have a Water Shortage Problem, We have

a Water Management Problem,” explaining in public hearings that investment in repairing the aging water pipe systems in the state could save the 17% of clean water currently being lost. They also advocate for increased treatment of wastewater as a first choice over desalination, because wastewater is cleaner than ocean water and treating it to potable standards is about 20% cheaper than desalinating ocean water, does no harm to the coastal waters and sea life and uses less energy in the process.

► **Heal the Bay:** Located along the Santa Monica, California coast, Heal the Bay carries out community education and advocacy with official government agencies for systemic change and equitable solutions that: prioritize nature-based and equitable storm capture projects, invest in water recycling to increase local resilience and reduce pollution; advocate about better alternatives to costly ocean desalination; raise awareness about sea level rise, warming, erosion, and other impacts of climate change, while pressing local and state regulators to replace fossil fuel sourced energy with renewable energy. They engage students of all ages and adults in clean-up and restoration projects, water testing operations, and continue a process of monitoring the actions and decisions of local and state officials and responsible government agencies to press them to take the correct actions.

The above snapshots are a few examples out of thousands of organized volunteer action organizations across the country who know what the solutions are to the social, economic and environment problems. They just need more resources and the power to enact those solutions. They all could be contributing their knowledge, skill and commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. But they cannot do it alone.



Building Partnerships for the Goals

CVSA develops and fosters partnerships that are consistent with the “whole of society” approach to the 2030 SDGs described in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These are examples of how CVSA has brought natural allies together, and inspired increased stakeholder action working for the implementation of the 2030 SDGs in the U.S.:

► **United Business Bank:** CVSA formed a partnership with United Business Bank, a western regional community-based bank whose customers are primarily labor unions and small businesses, whereby we identified with them which of the 17 Goals the bank’s community development objectives are most aligned with: Goal 1 focused on target 1.4, with equal rights to economic resources; Goal 5 focused on target 5.a for Women’s equal rights to economic resources and financial services; and Goal 8, focused on Target 8.3 to promote development oriented policies that support entrepreneurship, growth of micro, small and medium businesses through access to financial services, and Target 8.10: to strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all.

CVSA introduced the bank’s branch offices in four western states to volunteer service organizations located near them for the purpose of building local partnerships around those specific goals and as volunteer opportunities for their employees.

An exemplary outcome is the work of their Denver Colorado branch in partnering with a local office of Grid Alternatives, a nonprofit organization whose Energy For All Program installs solar on the homes of low-income families in communities throughout California, Colorado, the Mid-Atlantic region, and tribal communities nationwide,

based on the principles that free, clean electricity from the sun should be available to everyone. Grid developed a model to make solar PV technology practical and accessible for low-income communities, while also providing job training to members of the communities where installations take place, creating pathways to clean energy jobs.

The UBB Denver branch had a long standing relationship with a local electrical workers union. They introduced Grid Alternatives to the union and forged a partnership between them through which the trainees certified by Grid Alternatives in their on-the-job training program are eligible to join the union's apprenticeship program, creating more access to clean energy jobs for people in the community.

► **International Facility Managers Association (IFMA)**

Foundation: The IFMA Foundation promotes education for the facility management profession around the world. Facility managers operate any building where people work or gather; these buildings can include office buildings, laboratories, schools, universities, factories, museums, airports, churches and hotels. According to the Department of Energy's building energy data book, U.S. buildings account for 39% of primary energy consumption and 72% of all electricity consumed domestically. Buildings accounted for more energy use than the entire U.S. transportation sector in 2006 and, globally, buildings are responsible for 40% of greenhouse gas emissions, including in their construction.

In 2018, CVSA introduced the leadership of the IFMA Foundation and local chapters of IFMA in the Los Angeles area to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Goals, of which they were previously unaware. IFMA Foundation began utilizing the education given by CVSA about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and made the 2030 SDGs a key element in IFMA's programs. In June 2022, IFMA Foundation held an international summit focused on Facility Management's relationship to the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and how facility managers can contribute to each of the 17 Goals, in order to set the standards in the industry based on the SDGs.

► **SAVe – Sustainability in AV:** ClearTech, a small audio visual (AV) integration company located in Altadena, California, partnered its business with CVSA's Community Education Campaign for the Implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

and identified four Goals and targets that most apply to what they can address through their business. They incorporated into their strategic planning: Goal 4, “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”; Goal 5, “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”; Goal 12, “Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns”; and Goal 17, “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.”

When researching the overall situation, they learned that, in 2019, less than 20% of used electronics were formally recycled, and that the industry has no unilateral process, system or policy to deal with where the equipment goes at the end of its life cycle. In 2019, over 50 million tons of e-waste – including displays, cables, power supplies and other AV equipment – was generated in North America and Europe.

Recognizing there was little that one company could do to solve these industry-wide problems — they formed a new nonprofit organization called SAVe and are now reaching out to other audio visual installation companies to join them in addressing industry solutions to the current system of unsustainable manufacturing, distribution, shipping and installation practices. To act against e-waste for example, in the immediate, SAVe is developing a process for companies to donate and service used working equipment that is being replaced with newer equipment through a network established with CVSA, which will make equipment available to community-based, non-governmental organizations that need it, rather than end up in a dump. Acknowledging that industries and businesses will not change if: a) it costs them money in the immediate, and b) there are not incentives and assistance from the government for these necessary changes, SAVe is bringing the issues to AV professional associations to create more collaborations that can influence the large players in the industry to motor the big changes needed.

► **Viterbi School of Engineering of University of Southern California:** Through CVSA’s partnership with the Min Family Challenge, which provides students at the Viterbi School of Engineering of the University of Southern California with the opportunity to use innovations in engineering and technology to develop sustainable and effective solutions to global problems and to positively affect the greater global society, CVSA has introduced

dozens of engineering and entrepreneurial students to the problems faced by low-income communities in southern California. CVSA facilitated visits with and presentations by community-based organizations such as Western Service Workers Association, Grid Alternatives, Azul (the only ocean conservation organization in the U.S. that focuses specifically on working within Latinx communities), and Black Women for Wellness, which the students otherwise would have no direct contact with through the classroom, in order to base their development projects on the realities of the systemic problems faced by the majority of working people in the U.S. The Viterbi School of Engineering also became a sponsor of CVSA's *INVEST YOURSELF: A Guide to Action* and many faculty in the school are promoting the 2030 SDGs in their work.

► **Women Graduates, USA:** Women Graduates USA is an affiliate of Graduate Women International (GWI), the leading girls' and women's global organization run by and for women, advocating for women's rights, equality, and empowerment through access to quality education and training. Recognizing that the 2030 SDGs were not being implemented in the U.S. in any coherent manner at the federal level, and the power that their membership could have by acting locally for the global goals, WG USA sponsored a webinar for their nationwide membership given by CVSA on 'Taking Ownership of the 2030 SDGs' and is calling on all their members to build awareness and mobilize people in their local areas to make the SDGs a reality in the U.S. as well as the rest of the world, with a focus on Goal 4 and all of its ramifications.

Conclusion: Call to Action for the Implementation of the SDGs in the U.S.



CVSA's experience shows that once people are given an understanding of what the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is, the systemic transformations that the 17 Goals require, how they as stakeholders are supposed to have a part in how the problems that the Goals address can be solved, they agree and want to know why there is no media coverage about the SDGs and so little government action to carry them out, and most importantly, are willing to take action themselves to make them happen. Therefore:

CVSA calls on the U.S. government to carry out its pledge to implement the 2030 SDGs in the U.S. and form a national SDG Coordinating Council.

State and local councils should also be set up to oversee data collection, draw up implementation plans, coordinate policies and monitor the progress or implementation in their state and submit those to the national coordinating body, making the process public and open.

Members on the councils at all levels should include representatives from nongovernment volunteer organizations, faith-based service organizations, social service administrators, educators,

labor leaders, scientists, poor people’s representatives, family farm leaders, health advocates, legal justice specialists, environmental specialists, religious leaders, credit unions and community banks, small business representatives and other stakeholders.

In the meantime, in the absence of adequate U.S. governmental action to date towards this promise, we call on CVSA member organizations and other stakeholders to “take ownership” of the SDGs in your work and seek partnerships with others on the local level for the 2030 SDGs. CVSA can provide consultation, coordination and tools to:

- Promote the SDGs in your community through the work your organization is already doing. Bring more people into this discussion and build alliances.
- Make plans to advance the SDGs locally, monitor and keep government accountable to them.
- Contribute information to include in CVSA’s reports to the UN on status of implementation of the Goals in the U.S. based on your organization’s direct experience.
- Join CVSA in building this movement to increase our collective strength and transform our world while insuring no one is left behind.

Commission on Voluntary Service and Action is available to assist volunteer service programs and their allies with organizing methodology and tools to accelerate grassroots participation in their community or country for achieving the SDGs, dedicated to leaving no one behind. Contact:

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