UN Conferences in which We are Most Engaged

Commission for Social Development (CSocD)

- **Initiated:** 1946 (renamed 1966)
- **Membership:** 34 States
- **Focus:** People at center of development
  - –Poverty eradication
  - –Social Integration/Inclusion
  - –Employment and decent work
- **Key reference: Copenhagen Declaration** (First Word Social Summit, 1995)

CSocD Annual Meeting:

- Held at UNHQ in February
- New “priority theme” each year
- Civil Society Participation:
  - CS Forum organized by NGO Committee on Social Development (NGO CSocD)
  - Written statements submitted in prior Oct/Nov
  - Oral statements during meeting

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

- **Initiated:** 1946
- **Focus:** Gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls
- **Membership:** 45 States
- **Key reference: Beijing Declaration & Platform for Action** (Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995)

CSW Annual Meeting:

- Held at UNHQ throughout middle two weeks of March
- Two themes/areas of focus per year:
  - New “priority theme”
  - Review theme (reflection on progress made toward the “priority theme” of four years prior
- Civil society participation:
  - Robust civil society forum (“parallel events”) outside UNHQ in addition to main programme and full schedule of “side events” inside UNHQ
  - Written statements submitted in prior Oct
  - Oral statements delivered during meeting

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII)

- **Initiated:** 2000
- **Membership:** 16 States
- High-level advisory board to ECOSOC
- **Focus:** Concerns of Indigenous Peoples related to environment, culture, rights & representation, health, economic issues, social development, education…

PFII Annual Meeting:

- Held at UNHQ from mid-/late April to late April/early May
- New priority theme each year
- Civil Society Participation:
  - Delegates of Indigenous Nations from around world gather to participate
  - NGO Committee on Rights of Indigenous Peoples & NGO Mining Working Group often sponsor several events on margins

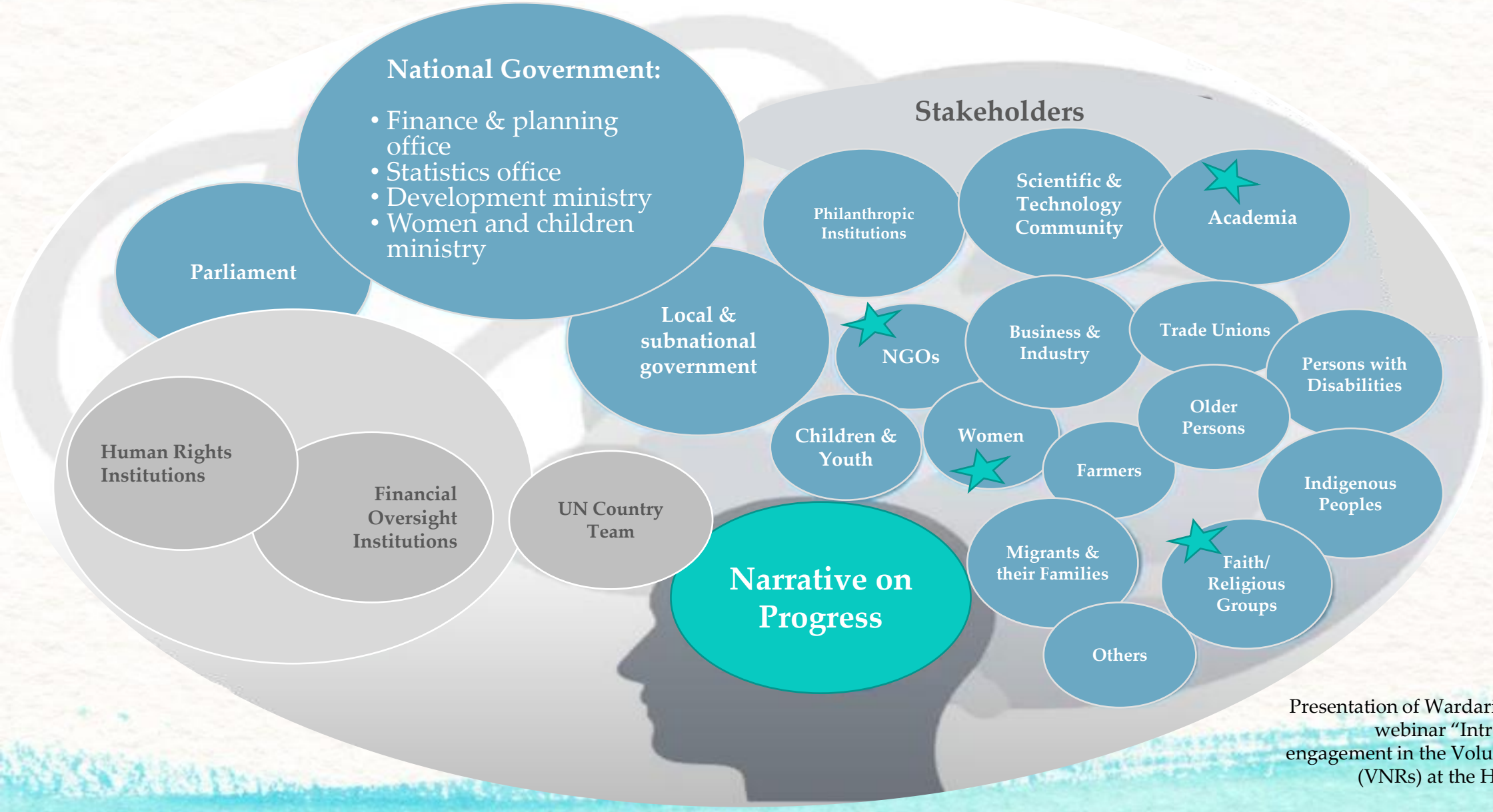
High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

- **Initiated:** 2012 (successor of Commission for Sustainable Development, 1992-2012)
- **Focus (since 2015**): Follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals
- **Key references:**
  - Rio Declaration on Environment & Development (1992)
  - "The Future We Want" (2012)

Annual HLPF:

- Held at UNHQ in July
- Theme: rotating selection of 5 SDGs, always including SDG 17 (partnerships & resources for sustainable development)
- 35-40 States present "Voluntary National Reviews" on SDG progress
- Civil society participation:
  - Sponsorship of events
  - Participation in "VNR Teams" organized by Major Groups to respond to governments' VNR presentations
  - Participation in NGO Major Group's side event and/or position paper
  - JCoR training programme offered annually (Jan-Aug)

Major Groups & other Stakeholders:
Civil Society's Broad Channels for UN Participation



Graphic source:
Presentation of Wardarina Thaib for MGoS CM webinar "Introduction to stakeholder engagement in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the HLPF 2022" (31 Jan 2022)