



Shannon Kindornay, Director  
of Research, Policy and  
Practice

Canadian Council for  
International Co-Operation

# Progressing National SDGs Implementation: Fourth Edition

An independent assessment of the Voluntary National Review reports  
submitted to the High-level Political Forum in 2019

# A review of emerging best and practice in 2030 Agenda implementation

Civil society initiative



- Reviews available of reporting to the United Nations, 2016-2019
- 47 Voluntary National Review reports examined in 2019
- Governance and institutions, policies and means of implementation
- SG Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines



# Key Features

- Best practice spotlight
- Secretary-General's reporting guidelines
- Case study in good practice
- Country profiles

ALGERIA

In 2019, Algeria submitted its first voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

**GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS**

**LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS**  
An inter-ministerial coordination committee was set up in 2016 under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The latter brings several bodies, with the mission of monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Algeria.

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**  
According to the report, Algeria has chosen a participatory and inclusive framework in the view of ensuring ownership of the SDGs by all of society and the mobilization of the latter at focus of the monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This approach aims to achieve sustainable development objectives for the benefit of all categories of population. The establishment of civil society dialogues was done via numerous information and awareness-raising activities and events organized by the government. The National Council for Human Rights also contributed to the VNR process.

**POICIES**

**BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS**  
Two assessments have been conducted: in 2015, a United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment was conducted to examine alignment between the 169 SDG targets and national policies. Roughly 58% were found to align. In 2017, a more detailed policy area assessment was performed, finding that 118 SDG targets (83%) were directly tied to the National Strategy for Development and Integration.

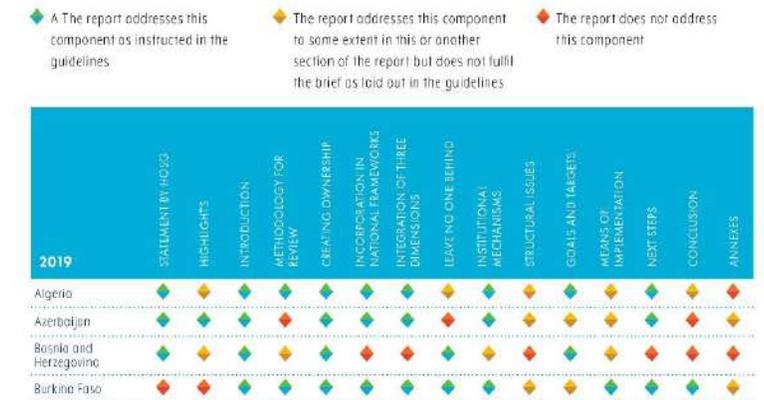
**INCORPORATING THE SDGS**  
Algeria included the SDGs in various sector strategies and the National Strategy for the Environmental Sustainable Development (2018-2030), a reference tool and road map for sustainable development. The strategy also goes together to recently adopted sectoral thematic strategies, plans, and programs and are served as a frame of reference for spearheading a large number of SDGs.

**NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA**  
Algeria has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs beyond its existing priorities as outlined in the national strategy. Algeria established a list of indicators aligned with national methodologies and standards to disaggregate data. The next step will be the establishment of mechanisms or higher levels of governance with the intent to strengthen the coherence of public policies for sustainable development and identifying national priorities at the highest level. The government also plans to propose an SDG roadmap for Algeria to its stakeholders.

**INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE**  
Algeria provided a good-to-great analysis in its report. The focus on one goal more than another depended on the availability of data covering the 71 indicators produced from national sources, representing 30% of the total indicators needed for achieving the SDG targets. As the priority areas are not yet defined, no linkages between them were highlighted. Policy coherence for sustainable development was not mentioned. The report showed fewer details on environmental dimensions of sustainable development compared to economic and social. The SDGs are linked to

**BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT**  
Assess policies, data availability and baselines to inform prioritization and nationalization of the 2030 Agenda and ensure an evidence-based approach to implementation.

FIGURE 21. THE EXTENT TO WHICH COUNTRIES INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF THE SG COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES, 2019



**A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: PARTNERSHIP FOR AN INCLUSIVE VNR IN FIJI**

The government of Fiji partnered directly with civil society to prepare its VNR. This included the creation of a Civil Society Organization Voluntary Review Taskforce that organized a two-day forum to report on how civil society is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The taskforce included a range of civil society organizations representing women, people with disabilities, children, LGBTQ+ individuals, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Source: Except adapted from Fiji's VNR report.

# Progressing National SDGs Implementation can help you!

- Understand the current state of 2030 Agenda Implementation
- Best practice in implementation and for VNRs unpacked
- Basis for parallel reporting
- Advocacy tool
- Reference for progress in individual countries



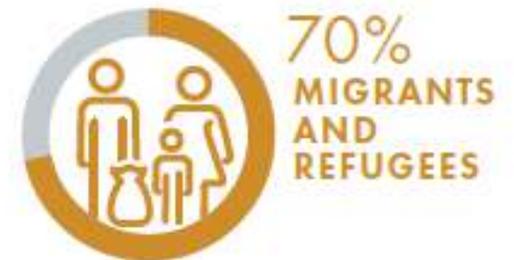
## Progressing National SDGs Implementation

# Overall, reporting is improving

2019	STATEMENT BY HOSG	HIGHLIGHTS	INTRODUCTION	METHODOLOGY FOR REVIEW	CREATING OWNERSHIP	INCORPORATION IN NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS	INTEGRATION OF THREE DIMENSIONS	LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND	INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS	STRUCTURAL ISSUES	GOALS AND TARGETS	MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION	NEXT STEPS	CONCLUSION	ANNEXES
Percentage of countries including component in 2019	83%	81%	96%	83%	94%	98%	85%	81%	98%	53%	94%	91%	77%	79%	72%
Percentage of countries including component in 2018	83%	72%	96%	93%	80%	96%	72%	63%	96%	67%	91%	76%	74%	80%	61%
Direction of change over previous year	-	▲	-	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲

# Leaving no one behind is becoming a defining feature

- Most countries reporting on LNOB
  - 81% of countries provided information on LNOB in 2019 up from 61% in 2018
  - LNOB a challenge for 21%
  - Need for disaggregated data by gender, age and other disaggregation
  - 36% highlighted embedding LNOB or efforts to address inequality and social exclusion as part of overarching development plans



## It is standard practice to include non-state actors in governance arrangements

- 70% of countries noted non-state actors are included in high-level or working-level institutional arrangements
- Greater focus on technical working groups may present fewer opportunities for non-state actor input into overall strategic direction
- Academia, civil society and private sector actors saw increases in participation in technical groups



# Formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement are emerging while civil society organizations continue to emphasize quality

- Increased reporting on formal processes of stakeholder engagement
  - 60% in 2019 versus 39% in 2018
- Direct engagement in the drafting of VNRs increased to 53% in 2019 vs 29% in 2018
- Quality of engagement still matters
  - Principles for Effective Multi-Stakeholder Engagement



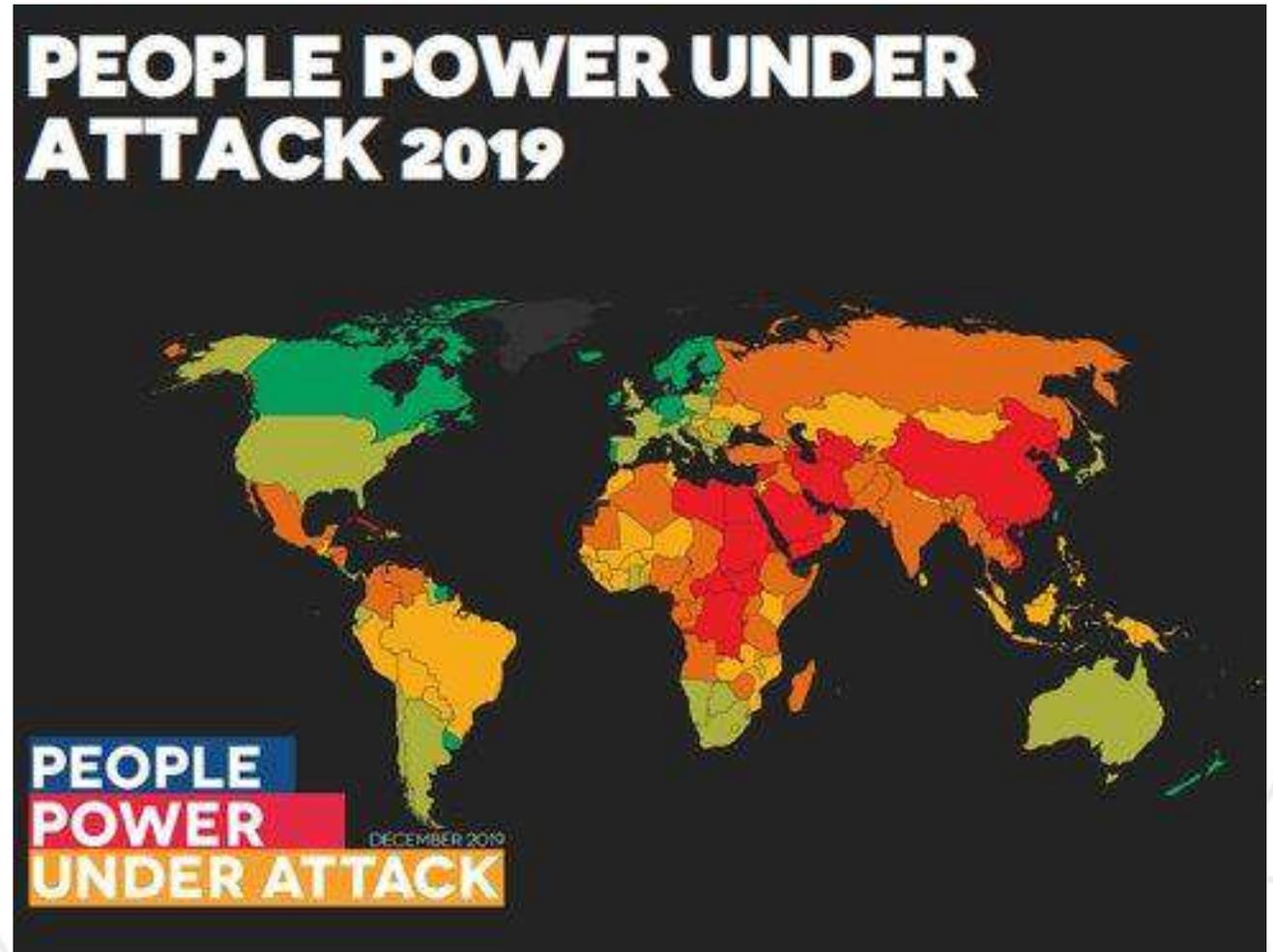
## Countries are presenting *national VNR* reports that showcase contributions by non-state actors and partnerships

- All countries but one provided information of non-state actors involvement in SDG implementation
  - 68% of countries provided information on civil society vs 56% in 2017 but with a narrow view of civil society's role
  - An improvement over 2018 where only 85% of countries provided this information
  - 2019 saw declines in reporting on the role of parliamentarians, academia and the private sector



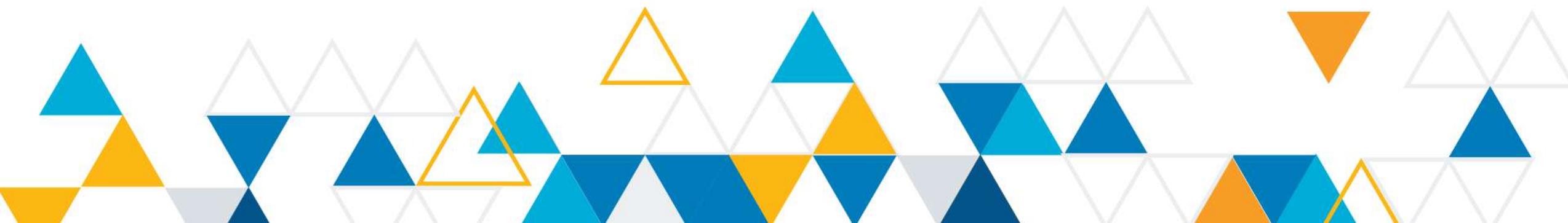
# Yet VNR reports continue to ignore closing civic space

- Limited reporting on the creation of enabling policies for non-state actors
- No VNR report included closing of civic space
- Civil society reports continue to point to the need to improve interactions between the government and civil society for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

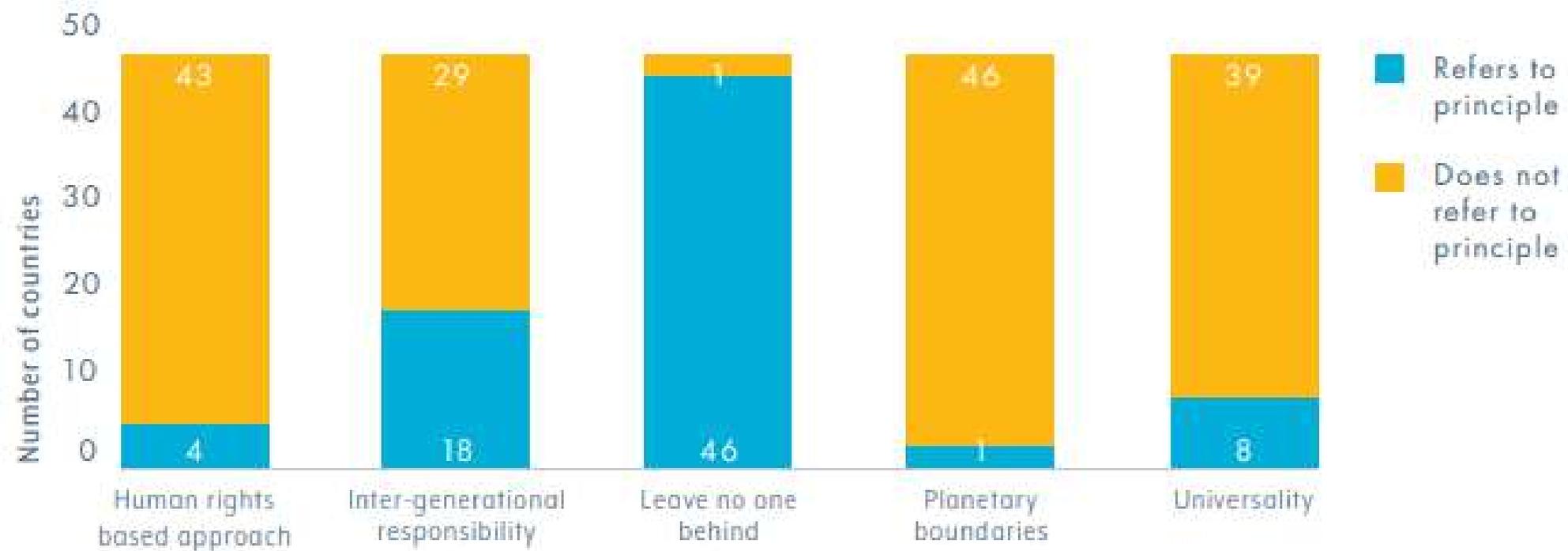


# Informed by assessments of policies and/or data, the SDGs have been integrated into policies and monitoring and evaluation processes

- Countries noted an assessment of policies, data or both to inform implementation
  - 17 countries mapped policies against SDGs
  - 14 countries conducted policy and data assessments
  - 6 countries performed assessments of data availability or baselines
- In 2019, 79% of countries reported integrating the SDGs into national policies
- Most countries (76%) provided information on data availability
  - Significant increase from previous years



# But Member States continue to focus less on other elements of the 2030 Agenda



# Member States do not consistently emphasize all elements of sustainable development



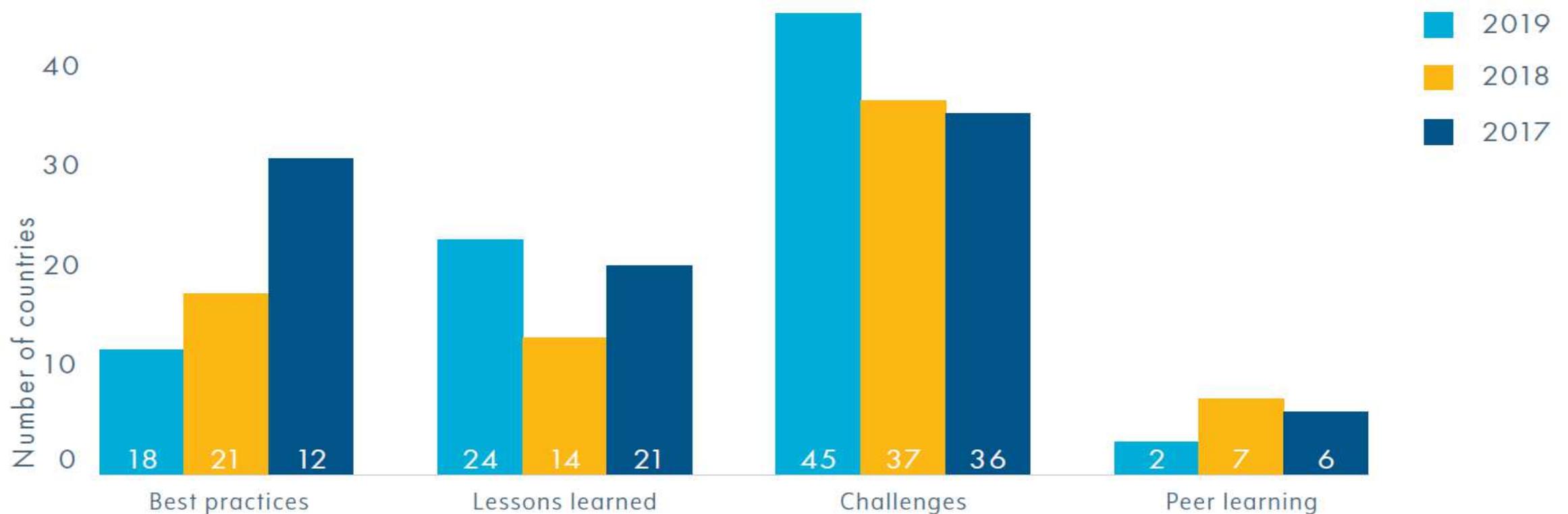
## While countries have not costed implementation, most have identified sources of finance and 2019 saw greater reporting on budgeting processes over previous years

- Increased integration of the 2030 Agenda into budgeting processes
  - 64% of countries referred to budgeting processes versus 46% in 2018
- 70% of countries have identified sources of finance vs 57% in 2018 and 49% in 2017
  - Finance and resource mobilization most commonly cited challenge
- Countries have not costed the 2030 Agenda
  - In 2019, 26 countries did not mention costing but did identify sources of finance
    - Up from 21 countries in 2018 and 16 countries in 2017



## Reporting on some means of implementation declined though improvements seen in reporting on challenges and good practice

- Declines see in reporting on international public finance, trade and systemic issues
- Mixed improvements and declines in reporting on learning elements of HLPF



# While countries reported on follow-up and review processes, VNR reports lack reference to accountability mechanisms

- 85% of countries provided information on follow-up and review processes at the national level in 2019 however
- VNR reports lack reference to accountability mechanisms at national level
  - Only 5 countries noted involvement of parliamentarians in follow-up and review process
- Limited information on regional and global review processes





**Thank  
you!**

Questions?