



An independent  
assessment of the  
Voluntary National Review  
reports submitted to the  
United Nations High-level  
Political Forum on  
Sustainable Development  
in 2019

# Progressing National SDGs Implementation



The Fourth Edition in an annual series  
commissioned by civil society organizations

**actionaid**



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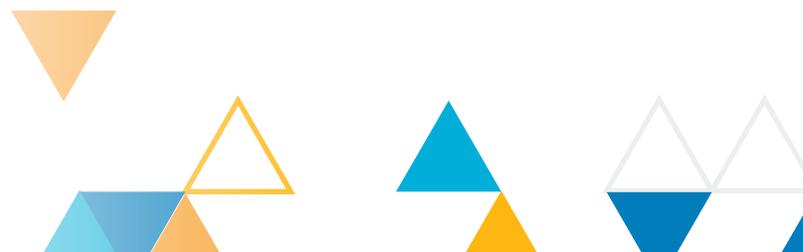
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## HIGHLIGHTS

In September 2019, heads of state and government around the world came together again for the first time since 2015 at the SDG Summit to commit to a [Decade of Action and Delivery](#) to realize the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The fifteen-year agenda for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership enters its fifth year in 2020, and it is hoped that governments will respond with accelerator actions and transformative change to meet their commitments for 2030 and ensure that no one is left behind.

For the past four years, civil society organizations have reviewed reporting by governments to the United Nations' High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports submitted by governments as part of the follow-up and review processes indicate the status of 2030 Agenda implementation. These reports are meant to be prepared through inclusive and participatory processes, serve as a source of information on good practices, lessons learned and challenges in implementation and provide a basis for peer learning and accountability at the global level.



Tom Merilion / Save The Children

The review of the 47 VNR reports submitted to the HLPF in 2019 revealed a range of good practices and trends in implementation and reporting, many of which are positive, some of which are cause for concern. *The Progressing National SDGs Implementation* report covers all aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation through an examination of governance and institutional arrangements, stakeholder engagement, policies, the means of implementation and reporting. Key findings, good practice case studies, emerging best practices and recommendations are presented throughout the report. The full set of recommendations is consolidated in the conclusion. Here we highlight the key messages arising from the analysis of 2019 VNR reports.

### **Countries are more consistently following guidelines for VNR reports and providing information on most aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation.**

VNR reports show increased compliance with reporting against the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines over 2016 to 2019. Over 75% of countries reporting in 2019 included information on all components in the guidelines except for information on structural issues. VNR reports for 2019 showed increases in reporting on most aspects of implementation. For example, 60% of VNR reports referred to processes for stakeholder engagement versus 39% in 2018. More countries reported on localization efforts and partnership in 2019 than in 2018. Nearly all countries reported on the challenges they face in implementing the 2030 Agenda (96%) compared to 2018 (80%). The most significant increase in reporting, however, was seen in the inclusion of a dedicated chapter or robust information on leaving no one behind. While 61% reported this information in 2018, 81% did so in 2019.

### **However, broad gains in reporting were also matched by decreases in reporting on international public finance and trade as well as best practices and learning from peers. Information on these topics is important for ensuring the success of the HLPF as a forum for peer learning and exchange. Also, many states continued to provide only partial information on the key components in the guidelines.**

While more countries provided information on the means of implementation overall, 2019 saw decreased reporting on international public finance and trade. All but two countries (96%) referred to the role of international public finance in 2018 versus 77% in 2019. Similarly, only 60% of countries reported on trade in 2019 versus 76% in 2018. These declines follow gains in 2018 over 2017. Concerning stakeholder engagement, the level of detail on formal processes varies significantly across reports. Declines were also seen in reporting on best practices (38%) and learning from peers (4%). While improved reporting on challenges and lessons learned is a positive gain for supporting the HLPF's mandate, declines in other areas are worrisome, particularly after increases in reporting on these dimensions in 2018 over 2017.

### **Reporting suggests that leaving no one behind is becoming a defining consideration in 2030 Agenda implementation.**

Like 2018, most countries provided nuanced information on those at risk of being left behind. Data to leave no one behind remains a recognized challenge. Reporting on the key forms of disaggregated data needed to leave no one behind improved in 2019 over 2018. Countries most commonly cited the need for disaggregated data by gender, age and disability. All countries except one provided information on efforts related to at least one vulnerable group in 2019 versus 89% in 2018 and 73% in 2017, indicating a positive upward trend. All VNR reports except one indicated women, children and youth are at risk of being left behind. The majority of VNR reports also mentioned people with disabilities (96%), poor people (94%) and migrants and refugees (70%).



**Yet, the extent to which overall efforts are guided by leaving no one behind, matched with changes to policies, programs and approaches, remains unclear.**

Only 36% of countries highlighted embedding leaving no one behind or efforts to address inequality and social exclusion as part of overarching development plans. While an improvement on 2018 when 22% of countries reported the same, there is a need for more countries to demonstrate how the principle of leaving no one behind is informing overall plans and approaches. Countries continue to present a range of universal and specific approaches to leave no one behind pointing to legal frameworks, overall policies, social protection and specialized programs for certain groups. The extent to which these approaches are new or have changed because of the promise to leave no one behind is generally not articulated in VNR reports. In 2019, 21% of countries recognized that leaving no one behind is a key challenge in 2030 Agenda implementation overall.

**The promise of a whole-of-society approach to 2030 Agenda implementation appears to be translating into practice with tangible gains in non-state actor participation in governance arrangements for implementation and formal processes for stakeholder engagement.**

Formal inclusion of non-state actors in governance arrangements is becoming a standard practice. Over 2016-2019, 70% of reporting countries noted that non-state actors are included in high-level and/or working-level institutional arrangements to guide implementation. An increasing number of countries are pointing to examples of formal processes for stakeholder engagement outside governance arrangements such as policies for stakeholder engagement, communication strategies to support awareness-raising, participatory budgeting processes, multi-stakeholder forums, youth councils or annual events. While more forms of stakeholder engagement are emerging, the use of these approaches broadly continues to be limited across countries. Direct engagement of non-state actors in the drafting of VNR reports appears to have increased (53% versus 29% in 2018), but the actual inclusion of their recommendations in the final reports is less verifiable.

**These promising trends, however, come in the context of silence on closing civic space globally and ongoing attacks on human rights defenders and environmentalists.**

While some countries emphasized the creation of enabling policies for non-state actor engagement and participation in 2030 Agenda implementation, no VNR report referred to closing civic space. Over 2017-2019, VNR reports have been largely silent on this issue despite increasing calls for action by civil society organizations and others around the world to address the deteriorating human rights situation in many countries and protect human rights defenders and environmentalists. Moreover, reports by civil society organizations on 2030 Agenda implementation continue to point to the need for improvements in the quality of interactions and engagement between government and civil society.

**VNR reports also indicated a move towards inclusion through technical working groups rather than high-level councils or committees. Reporting on partnerships suggests limited improvements and some backsliding over previous years.**

Compared to 2018, 2019 saw a decline in the number of countries that pointed to the inclusion of academia, civil society, government institutions and the private sector in lead councils or committees with declines seen across these stakeholder groups. Academia, civil society and the private sector all saw significant increases in their inclusion in working groups or



technical committees. The greater focus on technical working groups rather than high-level governance arrangements is worrisome as it suggests that there may be less opportunity for non-state actors to input into overall strategic direction and coordination.



Louis Leeson / Save The Children

All countries, except one, provided examples of contributions by non-state actors to 2030 Agenda implementation in 2019 beyond consultation on priorities, participation in governance arrangements and general references to their role in implementation, an improvement over previous years. While 68% of VNR reports referred to civil society in 2019, an increase over 2018, individual reports tend to portray narrow perceptions of the roles that civil society organizations play focusing largely on specific projects, forming coalitions and promoting accountability. Only 23% of reports reported on parliamentarians, 53% on the private sector and 28% on the role of academics and experts, representing declines in reporting on all three groups over 2018.

**Informed by baseline and gap assessments, countries report the integration of the SDGs into national and, to a lesser extent, local policies and programs.**

Over 77% of countries reporting over 2017-2019 indicated informing their approach to 2030 Agenda implementation with an assessment of policies, data or both. In 2019, 76% of countries provided information on data availability, a significant increase

over previous years. Nearly 80% of countries reported integrating the SDGs into policies in 2019, up from around 50% of countries reporting in 2018 and 2017. At the local level, 28% of countries highlighted having integrated the 2030 Agenda into local plans and policies with 11% noting plans to do so. This was a positive shift over 2018 when more countries indicated plans to integrate the 2030 Agenda at the local level (22%) rather than having already done so (13%).

**Nevertheless, except for leaving no one behind, VNR reports continue to suggest limited attention to the transformative principles of the 2030 Agenda. Reporting in 2019 also raises concerns regarding the extent to which countries are taking integrated approaches that respect all dimensions of sustainable development and ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development.**

Over 40% of VNR reports did not assess the full set of SDGs. Only 25% referred to appropriate linkages between the goals, down from previous years. Fewer countries – 57% – gave equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in their VNR reports, down from 63% in 2018 and 75% in 2017. Reports were more likely to bias social issues over other dimensions of sustainable development. While increases were seen in the number of countries referring to relevant international frameworks supportive of the 2030 Agenda such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, 2019 saw an overall decline in countries focused on policy coherence for sustainable development. This was both in terms of policy coherence for sustainable development as a guiding framework for 2030 Agenda implementation and analysis of the impact of domestic and foreign policies on global progress.

**VNR reports indicate increased integration of the 2030 Agenda into budgeting processes with countries noting that sources of finance have been identified.**

While under 46% of the VNR reports for 2018 provided information on the inclusion of the SDGs in national budgets or budget-related processes, 2019 saw an increase to 64% of countries. Of the 30 countries reporting this information, 14 indicated plans to incorporate the SDGs into budgeting processes while 16 noted having already done so. Seventy percent of countries have also identified sources of finance to support 2030 Agenda implementation, pointing to domestic resources, private investment, remittances, and where applicable, official development assistance and South-South cooperation.

**Yet, countries have not costed 2030 Agenda implementation, nor do VNR reports consistently refer to all means of implementation.**

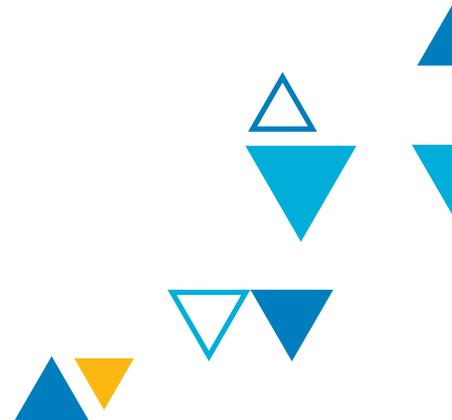
Nearly 75% of countries reporting in 2019 have not costed implementation of the 2030 Agenda. At the same time, over half of VNR reports noted that finance and resource mobilization are a challenge. VNR reports showed declines in detailed reporting on international public finance, trade and systemic issues. One lesson learned from the Millennium Development Goal era pertained to difficulties operationalizing goal 8 on global partnership. Reporting on all means of implementation is critical for informing global discussions on gaps and challenges and identifying where accelerator actions are needed to fully realize the ambition of SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

**Finally, overall information on national, regional and global follow-up and review processes is limited. VNR reports lack reference to accountability mechanisms at the national level.**

While 85% of countries provided information on follow-up and review processes at the national level in 2019, up from

previous years, it was unclear when reporting occurs, by whom and to whom. Only five countries noted involvement by parliamentarians in follow-up and review processes, raising concerns over how countries are ensuring accountability through elected officials. No country referred to engagement in regional review processes or future engagement at the HLPF.

In 2020, the global community starts a new cycle of follow-up and review. The procedures and mechanisms of the HLPF are under review. This provides an opportunity to strengthen the processes of comparative analysis and tracking progress further as many countries return for their second or even third VNR. The HLPF provides the critical forum for VNRs to take place and links the monitoring and accountability cycle from national to regional and global level reviews. Following promising trends with respect to stakeholder engagement at the national level, it is hoped that the future development of the HLPF will include even more time for meaningful dialogue and engagement between member states, civil society organizations, experts and other stakeholders.





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# INTRODUCTION

In July 2020, United Nations member states will again convene at the United Nations [High-level Political Forum \(HLPF\)](#) on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. They will review progress on the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#) five years into their implementation. This HLPF follows a political declaration adopted by Heads of State and Government in September 2019 to accelerate efforts on the 2030 Agenda. The declaration, [Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development](#), reconfirmed political commitment to the 2030 Agenda.

The HLPF is the main global venue for governments, civil society and other stakeholders to share their efforts to implement and monitor the goals at a procedural and substantive level. The Forum is mandated to carry out regular, inclusive, state-led and thematic reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with inputs from other intergovernmental bodies, regional processes and [Major Groups and Other Stakeholders](#). Different countries

present [voluntary national reviews \(VNRs\)](#) on an annual basis. The follow-up and review process aims to promote accountability to citizens, support effective international cooperation and foster exchange of best practice and mutual learning. <sup>1</sup>To date, 142 countries have presented VNRs with 13 having presented more than once. <sup>2</sup>In 2020, 49 countries will present their VNR, 22 of which will be presenting their VNR for a second or third time. Though not presented as a formal component of the HLPF, civil society organizations and coalitions from around the world also regularly produce their own independent reviews and analysis on their respective governments' implementation of the agenda, complementing official processes.

This publication is the fourth in a series prepared by a coalition of civil society organizations to document and analyze progress on the 2030 Agenda through an annual examination of VNR reports and a sample of civil society reports. <sup>3</sup>The review aims to improve the VNR process and the VNR reports and strengthen accountability around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Complementary to the

## THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Adopted by member states of the United Nations in 2015, the 2030 Agenda serve as a comprehensive, universal, agenda to realize sustainable development in all countries and for the world. It is grounded in a promise to ensure no one is left behind in the implementation of the goals and in a set of principles that represent a transformative approach to sustainable development. These include:

- Human rights-based approach
- Leaving no one behind and combating inequality
- Preserving the planet and inter-generational responsibility
- Integrated nature of sustainable development and the equal importance of the economic, social and environmental pillars
- Inclusivity, solidarity and participation
- Transparency and accountability

<sup>1</sup>See United Nations. 2016. [Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level](#). Report of the Secretary-General. A/70/684. New York: UN.

<sup>2</sup>Azerbaijan, Benin, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Guatemala, Indonesia, Mexico, Philippines, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo and Turkey.

<sup>3</sup>Details on the methodology, including the analytical framework, used for the assessment of all the VNR reports can be found in Annex 2.

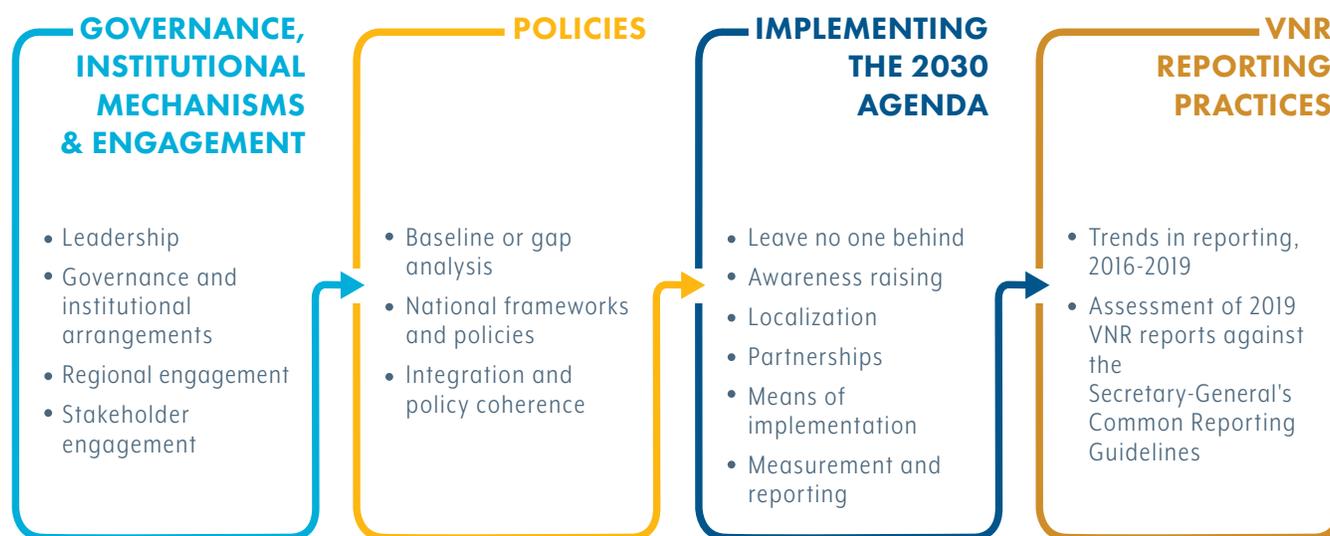
## COUNTRIES REPORTING TO THE HLPF IN 2019

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nauru, New Zealand, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Kingdom, Tanzania, and Vanuatu.

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' [synthesis of VNR reports](#), the assessment provides an analytical critique of progress on 2030 Agenda implementation and identifies good and best practices as well as where VNR reports could be improved. The analysis provides a basis for recommendations on how governments, civil society organizations and other stakeholders can improve efforts to implement and report the SDGs. This year's review includes an assessment of all 47 VNR

reports submitted in 2019. All countries except for Nauru submitted a VNR report.<sup>4</sup> An overview of reporting countries by region and income level is available in Annex I. The review follows the Progressing National SDGs Implementation assessment framework that was built and expanded upon since the first report in this series from 2016. Findings presented in the 2020 edition also include a comparison with the key trends identified in previous reports, where appropriate.<sup>5,6</sup>

FIGURE 1. WHAT'S IN THE PROGRESSING NATIONAL SDGS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT?



<sup>4</sup> Though Nauru did not submit a full VNR report the country has been included in the data presented below. Nauru reported on a number of elements in the assessment framework and on components of the reporting guidelines through main messages.

<sup>5</sup> The 2017 and 2018 reports are referred to throughout, however only cited once here for ease of reading. See Kindornay, Shannon. 2018. Progressing national SDGs implementation: An independent assessment of the voluntary national review reports submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2017. Ottawa: CCIC. See Kindornay, Shannon. 2019. [Progressing national SDGs implementation: An independent assessment of the voluntary national review reports submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018](#). Ottawa: CCIC. Similarly, for the 2016 edition of this report see Cutter, Amy. 2016. [Progressing national SDGs implementation: Experiences and recommendations from 2016](#). London: Bond.

<sup>6</sup> The 2017 edition of this report examined all countries except Belarus. The Kingdom of the Netherlands' VNR report included information on four countries – Aruba, Curaçao, the Netherlands and Saint Maarten. As such, the report included data for 45 countries, though only 43 VNR reports were submitted to the HLPF that year. Unless otherwise stipulated, data for 2017 is for 45 countries, not for the 42 VNR reports reviewed that year. The 2016 review of VNR reports by Bond only examined the 22 available English reports.

The report is structured around four sections 1) governance and institutional mechanisms, 2) policies, 3) means of implementation and 4) reporting against the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines (Figure 1). Further information on the assessment framework, data sources and overall research approach is available in Annex 2. Finally, this report includes an annex of short country profiles for the 47 reporting countries based on the analysis (Annex 3).

The analysis in the review is based largely on the VNR reports, and where available, civil society reports.<sup>7</sup> No additional research was conducted to verify the accuracy and confirm the validity of the information governments included in their reports. This is a clear limitation of the findings.

### HOW TO USE THIS REPORT

This review of VNR reports is comprehensive and covers most, if not all, aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation and VNR reporting. The report has a lot to offer governments, civil society, researchers and others interested in understanding the current state of 2030 Agenda implementation and reporting, including good practices. While stakeholders are encouraged to review the report in its entirety to get a full picture of 2030 Agenda implementation, subsections of analysis can be read on a standalone basis, allowing readers to review topics that are of most interest.

#### Find good practices

For governments that are planning to carry out a VNR, this report serves as useful guide good practices in implementing the VNR and reporting. It also offers a range of examples from which governments can draw in establishing governance and institutional mechanisms, policies, program and partnerships to support 2030 Agenda implementation.

#### Inform civil society reporting and advocacy

For civil society organizations, the content and structure of this report provides a basis for parallel reporting and highlights the key issues that civil society organizations may want to consider, including to improve their own reporting on 2030 Agenda implementation. The report is also a powerful advocacy tool that can be used to promote the adoption of best practice at the country level.

#### Know where your country stands

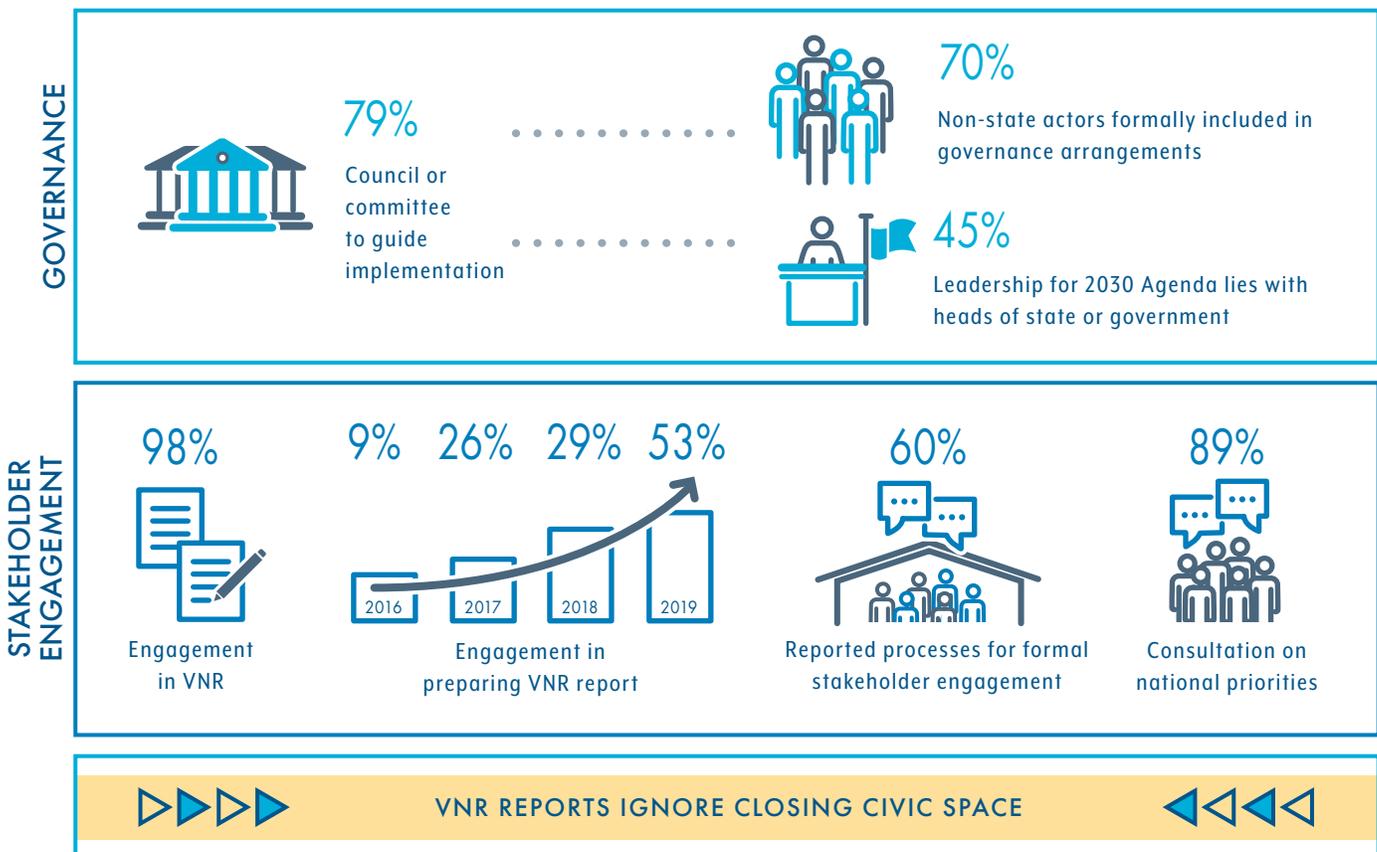
Finally, the country profiles included in this report provide a simple, short overview of the current status of 2030 Agenda implementation according to the pillars of analysis for reporting countries, serving as a useful reference document.

<sup>7</sup> [Civil society reports](#) are available for eight of the countries reviewed in 2019 and can be found under "Civil Society Reports."

# GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND ENGAGEMENT

## KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ Governments continue to cite the use of new or existing councils or committees to govern 2030 Agenda implementation with leadership most commonly residing with the head of state or government. There was limited reporting on subnational institutional arrangements.
- ◆ Formal inclusion of non-state actors in governance arrangements is an emerging standard practice. In 2019, 70% of countries noted inclusion of non-state actors. This was largely through technical working groups rather than lead councils or committees as was the case in 2018.
- ◆ A downward trend is emerging in terms of countries reporting on how they engage with peers at the regional level on the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, 53% provided this information, 41% in 2018 and only 34% in 2019.
- ◆ While VNR reports continue to ignore the issue of closing civic space, reporting on multi-stakeholder engagement suggests improvements. Over half of countries, 60%, reported on formal processes for stakeholder engagement in 2019, an improvement over 39% in 2018. Ten of the 28 countries pointed to the creation of policies or frameworks to support an enabling environment.
- ◆ Nearly 90% of countries reported consultations to define national priorities and 98% (all but one country) highlighted stakeholder engagement to prepare the VNR report. There has been a steady increase in the number of countries directly including non-state actors in drafting VNR reports or providing written inputs. In 2019, 53% noted such approaches.



## LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

The establishment of governance and institutional mechanisms is a basic building block for effective 2030 Agenda implementation. Such efforts signal to national and international communities the extent to which governments have institutionalized their commitments and efforts towards realizing progress on sustainable development. Where governments assign leadership for 2030 Agenda implementation indicates the level of political commitment as well as lines of accountability. Information on governance arrangements for 2030 Agenda implementation was available in all VNR reports examined from 2017-19.<sup>8</sup>

### LEADERSHIP

Leadership for 2030 Agenda implementation provides an indication of the importance ascribed to the 2030 Agenda by governments. Most VNR reports include information on leadership, identifiable through an examination of governance arrangements. VNR reports over 2017-19 show a range of approaches (Figure 2). In 2019, information on leadership was available for most countries though

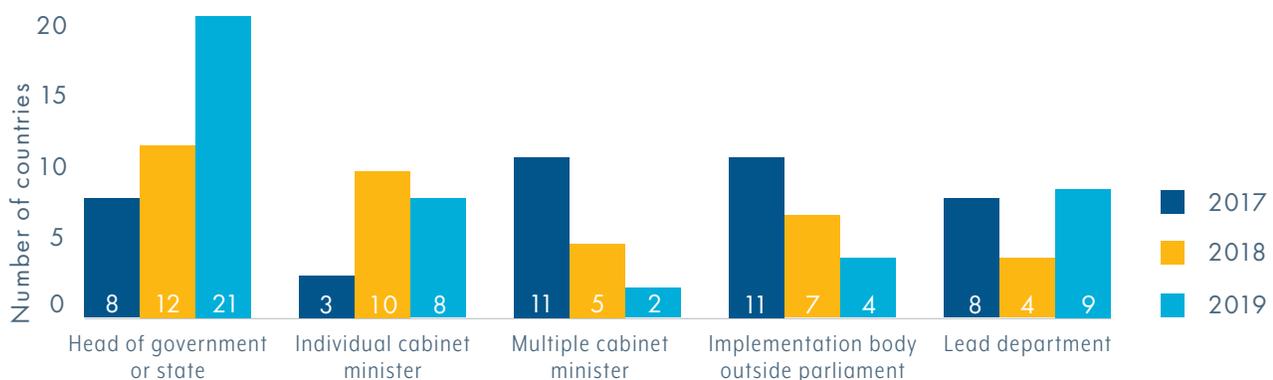
leadership was unclear for Palau and Timor-Leste and information was not presented for Guyana.

In 2019, the most common category of leadership for the 2030 Agenda was a head of state with 45% of countries. The second most common type of leadership was to have a lead department (19%), followed by an individual cabinet minister (17%), leadership by a body outside parliament (9%), and multiple cabinet ministers (4%). Guyana did not provide this information in its VNR. The most noticeable trend is the increase in the number of countries reporting leadership for 2030 Agenda implementation residing with the head of state.

### GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

Given the scale, scope and ambition of the 2030 Agenda, effective governance arrangements and institutional mechanisms are important for orienting and providing impetus for implementation, ensuring policy coherence and coordinating action across government institutions, including at national and subnational levels. As with 2017 and 2018, most countries reporting in 2019 – 79% – are

FIGURE 2. MOST COMMON SOURCES OF LEADERSHIP FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION



Leadership for 2030 Agenda implementation

<sup>8</sup> The main messages for Nauru include reference to the governance structure but the information is incomplete. In 2017, data was not available for Curacao, though was available for other countries included in the report by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

making use of new or existing councils or committees to govern 2030 Agenda implementation. The use of councils, committees or other forms of coordinating bodies appears to be emerging standard practice with respect to institutional arrangements. In 2019, 30 countries noted creating a new council or committee, of which 16 countries noted that implementation occurs through government institutions and six noted the use of a lead department for this purpose. Seven countries are making use of existing councils or committees. Seven countries referred to implementation through government institutions and did not refer to the existence of a council or similar governing body. Information provided by Eswatini was unclear in terms of the governance structure while Israel and Guyana noted they will develop institutional arrangements (though Israel also referred to an existing strategic level council for economic policy making).

As with previous years, the main responsibilities for governing bodies tend to include overseeing and driving nationalization of the 2030 Agenda, policy alignment, coordination, implementation and monitoring. Twenty-six countries noted the creation of technical and/or substantive working groups or other specialized bodies to support implementation (compared to 13 in 2018).

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Assign responsibilities for 2030 Agenda implementation across government institutions. This creates ownership, identifies shared responsibilities and ensures transparency and accountability for progress on implementation.

The review of VNR reports in 2018 identified the good practice of including information on lead ministries responsible for 2030 Agenda implementation in addition to governance arrangements. In 2019, some countries provided this information. For example, Palau listed lead ministries

for particular SDGs and Tonga provided information on lead and supporting government institutions.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Formally include non-state actors in governance arrangements. This contributes to inclusivity, and a whole of society approach in 2030 Agenda implementation and the promotion of partnership.

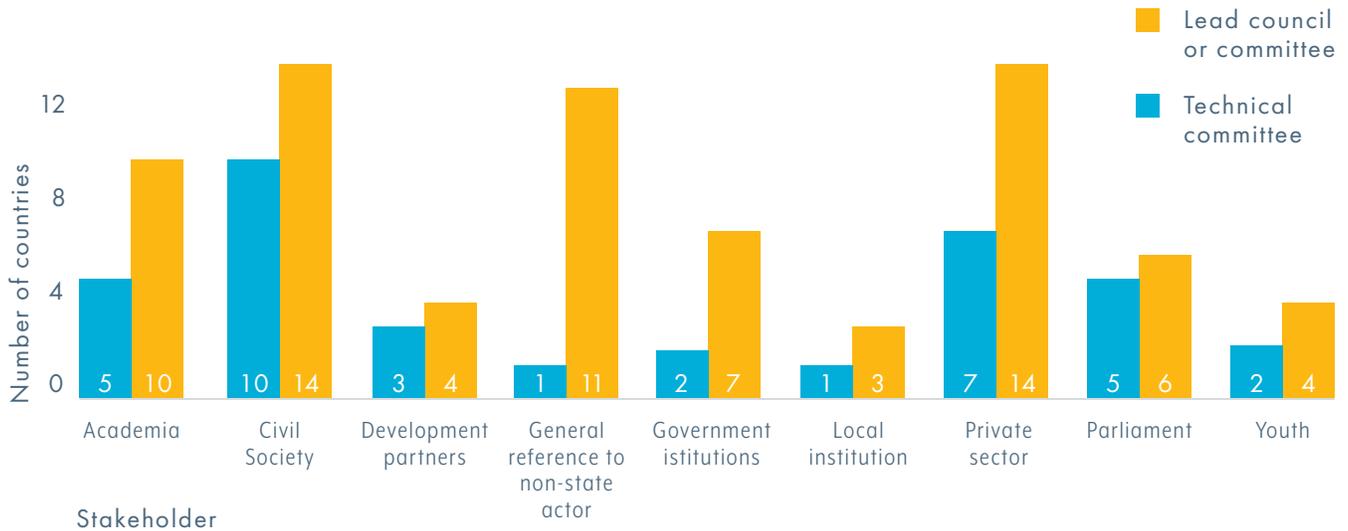
### NON-STATE ACTOR ENGAGEMENT IN GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

The involvement of non-state actors in governance arrangements is one indicator of the extent to which a government is adopting a whole-of-society approach for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Information on the involvement of non-state actors in formal governance arrangements was either unclear or not available for 30% of countries that reported in 2019. Nevertheless, most countries reporting in 2019 (70%) provided information on engagement with non-state actors. Indeed, as shown by Kindornay and Gendron,<sup>9</sup> the formal inclusion of non-state actors in governance arrangements is an emerging standard practice. Over 2016-2019, 70% of countries reporting to the HLPF noted formal inclusion of non-state actors in high and/or working-level institutional arrangements for 2030 Agenda implementation. While this is a positive move towards a whole-of-society approach, VNR reports do not provide an indication of how policies and approaches change as a result of inclusive governance arrangements.

Figure 3 presents figures regarding the inclusion of different stakeholder groups in working-level and high-level governance mechanisms. Working groups or technical committees tend to focus on progressing technical issues. High-level governance mechanisms refer to lead councils or committees that aim to provide overall direction for 2030 Agenda implementation and typically involve senior level officials.

<sup>9</sup>Kindornay, Shannon and Gendron, Renée. 2020 (forthcoming). Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019). New York: UN DESA.

FIGURE 3. PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION ACCORDING TO 2019 VNR REPORTS



In 2019, both working group and lead council or committee governance arrangements had the highest levels of participation from academia, civil society, and the private sector, like previous years. Over 2017-2019, the review of VNR reports has consistently shown progress in terms of formal inclusion of non-state actors. While 2017 VNR reports tended to point to a commitment to engage non-state actors rather than formal inclusion, 2018 saw a significant increase in their inclusion, particularly through lead councils or committees. The trend towards formal inclusion continues in 2019. However the predominant entry point noted in VNR reports is technical working groups, rather than lead councils or committees.

Compared to 2018, 2019 saw a decline in the number of countries that pointed to the inclusion of academia, civil society, government institutions and the private sector in lead councils or committees. In 2018, eight countries pointed to academia, 17 to civil society, 15 to government institutions and 17 to the private sector. In 2019, five countries listed academics as part of high-level governance mechanisms, 10 referred to civil society, two to government institutions and 7 to the private sector. Nevertheless, the increase in terms of inclusion in working groups was significant, up from three countries pointing to academics in 2018 to 14 in 2019. Civil society was referred to by five countries in 2018 versus 14 in 2019 with similar trends for government institutions (up



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: INCLUDING NON-STATE ACTORS IN GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN CHAD

In March 2018, the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development created a national coordinating body for 2030 Agenda implementation. The mechanism brings together 30 representatives from different ministries, the National Assembly, civil society and United Nations agencies. The coordination mechanism has three branches: a high-level orientation and evaluation committee, a technical committee and an administrative committee. To guide Chad's implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a roadmap with 7 pillars was created. The pillars include alignment, prioritization and acceleration, localization, data and statistics, coordination mechanisms, advocacy and awareness-raising and financing.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Chad's VNR report.

to 17 from five in 2018) and the private sector (15 versus 5 in 2018). In 2019, there was also a decrease in the number of countries pointing to formal inclusion of local governments over previous years at three countries versus five in 2018. A similar trend emerges for trade unions with only two examples of their inclusion in high and working level institutional arrangements versus eight in 2018.

In addition to formal inclusion in governance mechanisms, the review also pointed to governments that have committed to engagement as shown in previous editions of this report. A commitment to engage was noted when the VNR report did not specify a formalized mechanism of engagement, but there is a well-established precedent for engagement or promise to engage non-state actors. Compared to 2017 and 2018, a more limited number of countries made such a promise (instead pointing to formal inclusion). For example, Liechtenstein indicated a promise to engage stakeholders but did not provide further information as to how, when, and by which process. Israel indicated it will include stakeholders in the governance mechanism that emerges from its work on SDGs. Israel promised to coordinate with government agencies, ministries, and non-governmental actors. Croatia made a similar promise.

Overall, the 2019 VNR reports suggest a continued approach to formal inclusion of representatives from major stakeholder groups. This approach supports whole-of-society ownership over the 2030 Agenda, cross-sector relationship and trust building, and inclusive multi-stakeholder approaches to implementation. Nevertheless, the greater focus on non-state actors in technical working groups rather than high-level governance arrangements is worrisome as it suggests that there may be

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Engage with peers to promote learning, establish collaborative initiatives to realize the 2030 Agenda and review progress on implementation.

less opportunity for non-state actors to input into overall strategic direction and coordination. It is also unclear what direct impact results from inclusion in formal governance arrangements. It remains to be seen how far policies and approaches are redesigned due to diverse voices being heard.

#### ENGAGING PEERS ON THE 2030 AGENDA

An important element of the 2030 Agenda is implementation at the regional level, including through engagement with regional organizations, peer learning and regional follow-up and review. A smaller number of VNR reports provided information on regional activities in 2019 suggesting a decline in terms of countries reporting on this dimension. In 2017, 56% of countries provided this information, 41% in 2018 and only 34% in 2019. While most VNR reports tend to include information on regional initiatives, such as those relating to trade or climate change, there is limited information on regional efforts that specifically address implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Ghana and South Africa referred to their contributions with respect to advancing regional positions in the lead up to the 2030 Agenda. Hosting or participation in regional events was noted by Algeria, Chad, Chile, Ghana, Guatemala, and Palau. Algeria, Iceland, Mauritius, and the Philippines noted efforts to include the 2030 Agenda as part of their participation in existing forum. Indonesia highlighted its leadership in the development of the indicator framework for the SDGs globally while Fiji noted the creation of an SDG Hub for the Pacific. Oman pointed the Statistical Centre for the Cooperation Council for the Arab Countries of the Gulf and its work related to monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda for members of the centre. Turkmenistan pointed to its efforts to lead cooperation on the elaboration of a regional environmental program for sustainable development in Central Asia. Only Iceland and Timor-Leste referred to participation in special country groupings to advance the 2030 Agenda, in particular various Nordic country groupings and the g7+ respectively, down from eight countries in 2018 and 10 in 2017.

Overall there has been a decline in reporting on regional country grouping and participation in special country groups to advance the 2030 Agenda in relation to previous years. This contrasts with the range of activities presented in VNR reports in 2018 that at the time suggested positive movement on regional follow-up and review (particularly with respect to the development of regional frameworks and indicators), peer-to-peer engagement and collective efforts to promote sustainable development at regional levels.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Clearly establish leadership and governance structures to support 2030 Agenda implementation and lay out lines of accountability between various national stakeholders.
- ✓ Formalize non-state actor engagement in governance structures to realize the 2030 Agenda. This includes lead councils or committees and technical working groups.
- ✓ Identify opportunities to realize the 2030 Agenda domestically and globally through engagement more formally in regional level initiatives and with like-minded countries. Such engagement offers opportunities to share best practice with and learn lessons from peers.



## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

The multi-stakeholder and inclusive nature of the 2030 Agenda are well established through its emphasis on whole-of-society approaches to implementation and leaving no one behind. A prerequisite to effective engagement is an enabling environment for non-state actors to contribute. Some countries that reported in 2019 noted efforts to create an enabling environment through policies that support multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation. These included Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Indonesia, Lesotho, Mauritius, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Establish an enabling environment through the creation of appropriate legal, regulatory and policy frameworks that support non-state actors to contribute to sustainable development and set out how multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership will occur.

### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: POLICY FRAMEWORKS TO PROMOTE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

- **Cameroon's** VNR report pointed to the creation of a national volunteer strategy as part of its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- The **Central African Republic's** multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring framework supports the achievement of sustainable development objectives.
- **Chile's** sustainable development efforts are guided by a Country Commitment that recognizes that leaving no one behind can only be achieved by directly including the most vulnerable groups in development planning. The country also develops what it calls National Consensus Agreements, in which civil society participates.
- Working with civil society organizations, **Indonesia** developed a Guideline for Multi-Stakeholder Partnership to implement the SDGs.
- **Lesotho** is reviewing its 2013 Partnership Policy and developing a national partnership and coordination strategic plan to strengthen engagement mechanisms.
- To ensure an inclusive VNR process, **Mauritius** developed a Stakeholder Engagement Plan and SDG Communications Strategy.
- **Pakistan** is developing a Responsible Business Framework in consultation with non-state actors.
- A partnership framework is being developed in **Sierra Leone** to strengthen non-state actor engagement in implementation.
- The creation of specific legislation and policies in Tanzania are promoting private sector participation in the implementation of the SDGs.
- The **United Kingdom** published a Civil Society Strategy in 2018 that articulates how government will work with and support civil society, though does not have an explicit focus on SDG implementation.

However, countries in general tend not to engage directly with the issue of closing civic space in their VNR reports. This gap in VNR reports is particularly concerning given the increasing trend of closing civic space around the world.<sup>10</sup> According to the [CIVICUS Monitor](#), which examines the status of civic space around the world, civic space for over two thirds of the countries that reported to the HLPF in 2019 (68%) is characterized as “obstructed,” “repressed” or “closed.”

## PROCESS FOR STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

In addition to an enabling environment, formal arrangements for stakeholder engagement are an element of governance and institutional mechanisms that support

participation and input by all stakeholders in 2030 Agenda implementation. They help to promote greater understanding of shared goals, objectives and potential synergies, build momentum and strengthen partnerships in implementation, particularly with a broader set of stakeholders than those captured through lead councils or committees and working group structures.

While only 18 VNR reports (39%) provide information on processes for stakeholder engagement beyond governance mechanisms, or ad hoc consultations in 2018, this number increased to 28 (60%) in 2019. Of these, seven countries only noted that they plan to develop formal processes or continue their engagement with non-state actors (versus one country in 2018).<sup>16</sup> As shown above, 10 countries referred to policies or frameworks to support an enabling

### UNDERSTANDING THE STATUS OF CIVIC SPACE IN VNR REPORTING COUNTRIES FOR 2019

CIVICUS's Monitor of civic space has information for all 47 countries that reported to the HLPF in 2019. Only five (5) of the countries that reported to the HLPF in 2019 were considered “open,” meaning the state enables and safeguards civic space.<sup>11</sup> For 10 countries, civic space is considered “narrowed.”<sup>12</sup> This means the rights to freedom of association, expression, and peaceful assembly have been violated. For a country to be considered obstructed, civic space must have a series of legal and practical constraints on the practice of fundamental rights. In these conditions, illegal surveillance and bureaucratic harassment occur. There is some space for non-state media, but journalists are subject to attack. Fifteen reporting countries were classified as obstructed.<sup>13</sup> The monitor ranks a country as “repressed” if civic space is severely restrained. Individuals who criticize a power holder may be subject to surveillance, harassment, intimidation, injury or death. The work of civil society organizations is often impeded and under threat of deregistration by authorities. Mass detentions may occur, and the media usually only portrays the position of the state. Websites and social media activities are heavily monitored. In 2019, 14 reporting countries were in the “repressed” category.<sup>14</sup> The last category in the CIVICUS scale is “closed.” In this category, there is a complete closure of the civic space. An atmosphere of fear and violence is prevalent. Powerful state and non-state actors routinely imprison people and cause injury and death to individuals who seek to peacefully assemble and express themselves. In such circumstances, criticizing authorities is severely punished. The internet is heavily censored and online criticisms of authorities are severely punished. In 2019, three reporting countries were classified as “closed.”<sup>15</sup>

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, Rowlands, Lynda and Gomez Pena, Natalia. 2019. [We will not be silenced: Climate activism from the frontlines to the UN](#). CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation position paper, November 2019. Johannesburg: CIVICUS. Brechenmacher, Saskia and Carothers, Thomas. 2019. [Defending Civic Space: Is the International Community Stuck?](#) Washington, DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development has also recently launched an [Observatory on Civic Space](#).

<sup>11</sup> Iceland, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Palau and Saint Lucia.

<sup>12</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Chile, Ghana, Guyana, Mauritius, South Africa, Tonga, United Kingdom, and Vanuatu.

<sup>13</sup> Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Guatemala, Indonesia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mongolia, Nauru, Philippines, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, and Tunisia.

<sup>14</sup> Algeria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Eswatini (formerly Swaziland), Iraq, Kuwait, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Turkey.

<sup>15</sup> Azerbaijan, Central African Republic, and Turkmenistan.

<sup>16</sup> Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan, Lesotho, Mauritania, Pakistan and Palau.

environment (compared to seven in 2018). Ghana, Guyana, Fiji, and Tanzania pointed to participatory budgeting processes. Chile, New Zealand and South Africa highlighted the creation of a stakeholder forum while Cameroon pointed to an annual dialogue with non-state actors. In 2018, five countries noted the creation of a stakeholder platform while four highlighted an annual event. Croatia and Iceland noted engagement via youth councils while Turkmenistan highlighted the selection of Young Ambassadors of the SDGs and the creation of a volunteer network led by youth as part of youth engagement. Guatemala, Tonga and Turkey noted that stakeholder engagement occurs through existing mechanisms (two countries did the same in 2018). Cambodia and Indonesia noted that processes are in place for ongoing stakeholder engagement but provided limited details. Rwanda established a National Women's Council that includes structures from the village to the national level. Timor-Leste has established a civil society advisory group while the Philippines will make use of "stakeholder chambers" to engage non-state actors through its Sub-Committee on the SDGs. Iceland launched an information portal that allows organizations to present projects that promote the SDGs and share information.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Establish and report on formal mechanisms to ensure regular, inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement on 2030 Agenda implementation in line with good practice for ensuring effective and inclusive engagement.

As noted above, there appears to be a continued positive trend in terms of non-state actor participation in formal governance arrangements from reporting in 2018 to 2019 (notwithstanding what appears to be a decline in participation in lead councils or committees). More countries are also reporting on processes of stakeholder engagement. These are positive trends. The establishment of policies to support an enabling environment and

the creation of formal processes and mechanisms that allow for more widespread and regular engagement with stakeholders outside governance mechanisms are important. They contribute to ongoing awareness-raising efforts, national ownership and whole-of-society approaches to implementation. Such mechanisms have potential to make a positive contribution to leaving no one behind by ensuring that populations that are being left behind, and individuals or the organizations that represent them, are included and supported to engage.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Support capacity development of civil society, including grassroots organizations representing marginalized communities, to participate in opportunities for stakeholder engagement and promote accountability for 2030 Agenda implementation.

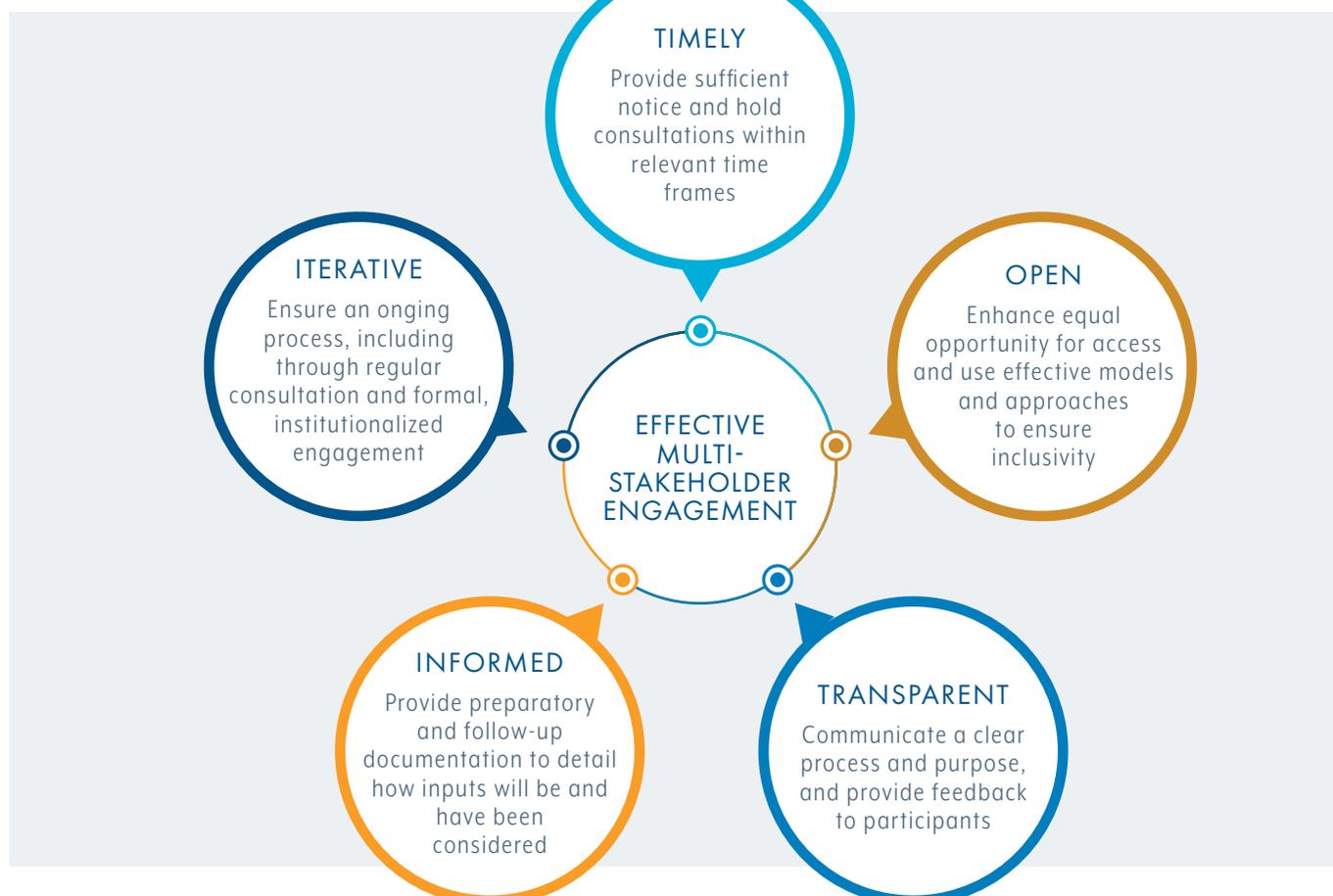
Information presented in VNR reports does not assess the quality of formal processes for multi-stakeholder engagement possible. Nevertheless, [civil society](#) reports for 2019 provide some indication of the challenges related to multi-stakeholder engagement. Civil society reports were prepared for the following countries that reported to the HLPF in 2019: Cambodia, Ghana, Guatemala, Mauritania, Mongolia, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the United Kingdom.<sup>17</sup> VNR reports for Cameroon, Israel, Mauritius and Sierra Leone included written chapters or subsections by civil society organization.

The reports and written inputs by civil society organizations in VNR reports point to challenges including the need for improved coordination, higher quality interactions between civil society organizations and government and increased capacity for all stakeholders, and the expansion of public space for civil society organizations to discuss, advocate and operate.

<sup>17</sup> Reports were also available for Argentina, Brazil, El Salvador and Nepal though these countries did not submit VNR reports to HLPF in 2019. They were not examined as part of this review.

- **Cambodia**'s civil society report noted how the lack of a coordination mechanism and lack of inter-ministerial process to harmonize the SDGs hampers implementation.
- Civil society organizations in **Cameroon** and **Sierra Leone** referred to the need for more participatory engagement.
- The civil society report for **Ghana** praised the strong national institutional arrangements but presented concerns over weak local coordination.
- In the case of **Guatemala**'s civil society report, concern was raised over the degradation of the quality of the country's democracy. The report cited the continued failure of the government to address inequality and poverty and high levels of corruption as eroding democracy.
- **Mauritania**'s civil society report called for a coordination mechanism between civil society, development partners, and those involved with reporting and monitoring of the SDGs.
- Civil society organizations in **Mongolia** stressed the need for a multi-stakeholder mechanism to discuss and resolve policy conflicts.
- The civil society report for **Pakistan** called for improvement in the capacity of members of parliament and the SDG Task Force to identify bottlenecks, deepen comprehension of the complexity of the SDG indicators, and improve oversight.
- Finally, the **United Kingdom**'s civil society report highlights the need for a mechanism to engage stakeholders for the purposes of planning, budgeting, and holding the government accountable. The report stated there is limited engagement of stakeholders by the British government.

FIGURE 4. CORE ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE AND MEANINGFUL STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



As noted in the 2019 Progressing National SDGs Implementation Report, the quality and long-term engagement of civil society and other non-state actors supports a whole-of-society approach to 2030 Agenda implementation. Engagement should occur within a broader context of fostering an enabling environment for civil society (and other stakeholders) with approaches centred around the five core elements that support meaningful engagement as presented in the 2019 edition of this report.<sup>18</sup>

In practice, an effective and inclusive approach to multi-stakeholder engagement means making use of varied and inclusive approaches to consultation such as online and offline methods and publicizing consultation opportunities widely and with appropriate lead time, including at subnational events in different parts of the country. It also means taking steps to include marginalized groups and their representatives and ensuring that information is available in local languages and accessible to all. As capacity for stakeholder engagement varies by country, there is also a role for development partners to support developing countries in this context.

## ENGAGEMENT IN DEFINING NATIONAL PRIORITIES

Part of a whole-of-society approach to 2030 Agenda implementation is developing a shared, national vision for implementation that reflects priorities from stakeholders across society. This approach supports broad-based, democratic ownership over the nationalization process. The majority of VNR reports noted consultation on national priorities with non-state actors (89%).<sup>19</sup> This represents an increase over 2018 when only 57% of countries pointed to

consultations to identify national priorities.<sup>20</sup> In 2017 this figure was 69%.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Ensure inclusivity and participation in the nationalization of the SDGs, including the creation of national targets and indicators, in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda.

Overall, VNR reports provided enough detail to understand consultation processes albeit with varying degrees of detail overall in terms of who governments engage and how. Countries asserted that consultations had occurred with a broad cross-section of non-state actors. Azerbaijan was the only country that had not identified priorities while information for Chad, Congo, the Philippines and South Africa was unavailable or unclear. For countries that reported national consultations, these tended to include online and offline elements. Governments also tend to pair their VNR process with the process of generating national ownership and selecting national priorities.



<sup>18</sup> For a historical review of VNR reporting on stakeholder engagement with a focus on lessons learned, see Kindornay, Shannon and Gendron, Renée. 2020 (forthcoming). Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019). New York: UN DESA. See also Wayne-Nixon, Laurel, Wragg-Morris, Tanya, Mishra, Anjali, Markle, Dawson, and Kindornay, Shannon. 2019. Effective multi-stakeholder engagement to realize the 2030 Agenda. [Good Practice in 2030 Agenda Implementation Series](#). Vancouver and Ottawa: BCCIC and CCIC.

<sup>19</sup> This analysis found a higher number of countries than Kindornay and Gendron (2020, forthcoming) as examples of prioritization carried out through governance mechanisms, in addition to broader consultations, are included in the figure above.

<sup>20</sup> However, according to Kindornay and Gendron (2020, forthcoming) 32 countries pointed to multi-stakeholder engagement to generate ownership over the 2030 Agenda. The difference in the figures is accounted for by countries that noted efforts in a more general sense rather than for the selection of specific national priorities.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: DEFINING NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN VANUATU

Vanuatu organized a series of participatory discussions to nationalize the 2030 Agenda. The drafting team was given explicit instructions to ensure their plan reflected the priorities of all the population, including children, youth, women, and marginalized and excluded people. In 2014, five-day public Forum was held at the Chief's Nakamal in Port Vila. On average, 75 to 100 people attended each day and the forum was aired live on radio and television. The information gathered at the forum was put into a feedback matrix which informed the drafting of the national plan. In 2016, a consultation draft was prepared and circulated for additional comment. The report was translated into Bislama and further consultations were held. Over a six-month consultation process, hundreds of people gathered at one of 15 locations to provide feedback during one-day events. Where possible, the presentation of the draft plan was presented in the local language. Throughout 2015 and 2016, further consultations were held with women's organizations, civil society organizations, youth and children's organizations, Christian organizations and chiefs.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Vanuatu's VNR report.

## ENGAGEMENT TO CARRY OUT VNRS

The 2030 Agenda includes a commitment to participatory follow-up and review. The Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines encourage governments to provide information on how they carried out VNRS in their reports. As shown in previous reviews of VNR reports, governments tend to include this information, however, the level of detail can vary significantly. To support member states to carry out participatory VNRS, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs has prepared a [Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews](#). The handbook provides guidance to countries on multi-stakeholder engagement and stresses the importance

of an open, inclusive and participatory VNR. Governments take a variety of approaches in this regard, including consultations, soliciting written inputs and commentary on draft reports and including non-state actors in drafting teams.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Solicit verbal and written inputs from all stakeholders in the preparation of VNR reports and provide stakeholders with an opportunity to review and comment on the first draft through public consultation.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: IRAQ'S PRINCIPLES FOR THE REVIEW

Iraq developed a series of principles that guided its VNR methodology. The first principle is the voluntariness of participation and contribution to the process. The second principle was to ensure the process was participatory at all stages. The third principle focused on the integration of SDGs and high-level networking to improve the ability to achieve the goals. Inclusion and leaving no one behind were also included in the principles. This meant the VNR process should include all people, taking gender and geographic areas into account. The VNR process was also to be of high quality and adapt international reporting standards. The VNR report was also based on many national documents including the constitution, Iraq Vision 2030 and the national development plan as key resources. Finally, the VNR process included a principle related to exchanging expertise with other countries.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Iraq's VNR report.

New Zealand was the only country in 2019 that did not refer to consultations and/or non-state actor engagement in the VNR. With 45 out of 46 countries reporting non-state actor engagement, a positive trend is emerging towards non-state actor engagement in VNRs as standard practice.<sup>21</sup> As with the case of consultations on national priorities, most countries made use of offline and online consultation formats like previous reporting years.

A trend that emerges from the review of 2019 VNR reports is the inclusion of non-state actors in drafting VNR reports – either as part of the official drafting team or through the inclusion of dedicated chapters or subsections prepared by non-state actors. For example, Burkina Faso established a special technical committee with academics, research centres, civil society and the private sector to provide input into the report. Some countries made use of existing multi-stakeholder governance and institutional arrangements to prepare their VNR such as Azerbaijan, Eswatini, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Oman, Palau, Rwanda, and Timor-Leste. Cameroon's VNR included a supplementary VNR report by civil society as an annex and Sierra Leone's VNR highlighted including inputs from specific stakeholder groups.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Include non-state actors in institutional mechanisms responsible for the VNR and drafting the VNR report.

Since 2016, there has been a steady increase in the number of countries reporting these types of approaches culminating in 53% or 25<sup>22</sup> countries in 2019. According to Kindornay and Gendron (2020, forthcoming) this is an increase over 29% in 2018, 26% in 2017 and 9% in 2016.<sup>23</sup> Other methods of consultation and engagement were noted across VNR reports. Iceland and the Philippines made their VNR reports available through an online consultation portal to encourage public engagement and feedback. Some governments also partnered directly with non-state actors to carry out consultations, particularly to reach the furthest behind, such as Croatia, Fiji, Sierra Leone and Tonga.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: MAURITIUS'S COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Mauritius viewed the VNR process as a way of creating momentum and ownership of the SDGs. In addition to working through its multi-stakeholder SDG Steering Committee to prepare the VNR, the country prepared a Stakeholder Engagement Plan as well as an SDG Communications Strategy. The country launched a media campaign using newspapers and radio to invite broad participation in the VNR. Between November 2018 and June 2019, Mauritius held workshops and consultations on the mainland as well as the islands of Rodrigues and the Outer Islands. Ministries were asked to consult with their respective stakeholders and an SDG questionnaire was used to gather information. The government engaged civil society umbrella groups as part of the VNR validation process. The VNR report includes an annex of consulted organizations and contributors to the report.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Mauritius's VNR report.

<sup>21</sup> In 2018, 43 of 46 countries reported engaging non-state actors in the VNR while this figure was 34 of 45 countries examined in 2017.

<sup>22</sup> Algeria, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Indonesia, Israel, Kuwait, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Pakistan, Rwanda, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tunisia and United Kingdom.

<sup>23</sup> Figure based on the 43 VNR reports presented in 2017 and 22 VNR reports presented in 2016.



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

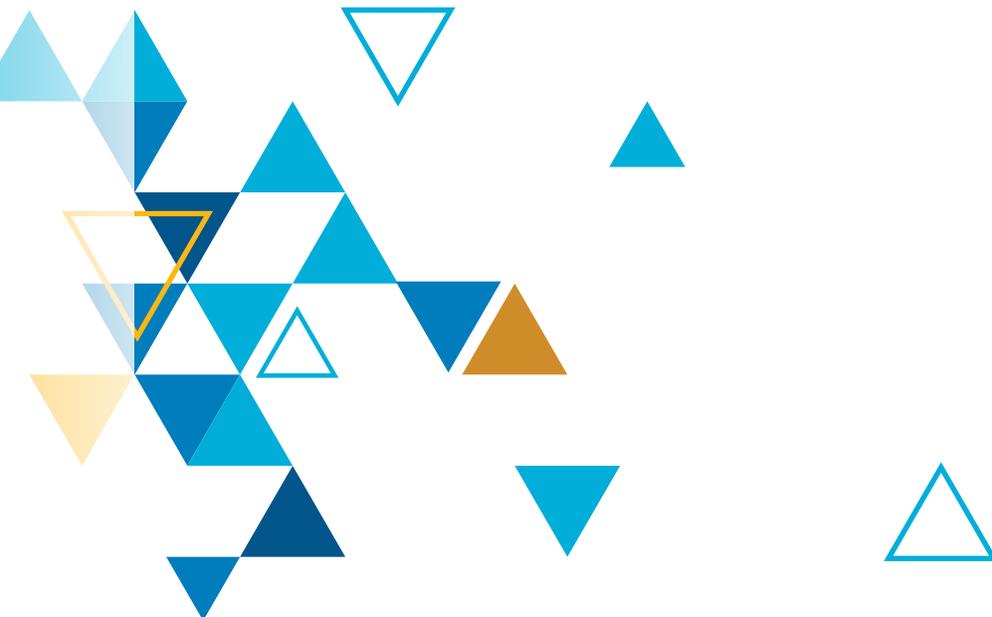
The government of Fiji partnered directly with civil society to prepare its VNR. This included the creation of a Civil Society Organization Voluntary Review Taskforce that organized a two-day forum to report on how civil society is contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The taskforce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

Source: Excerpt adapted from Fiji's VNR report.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

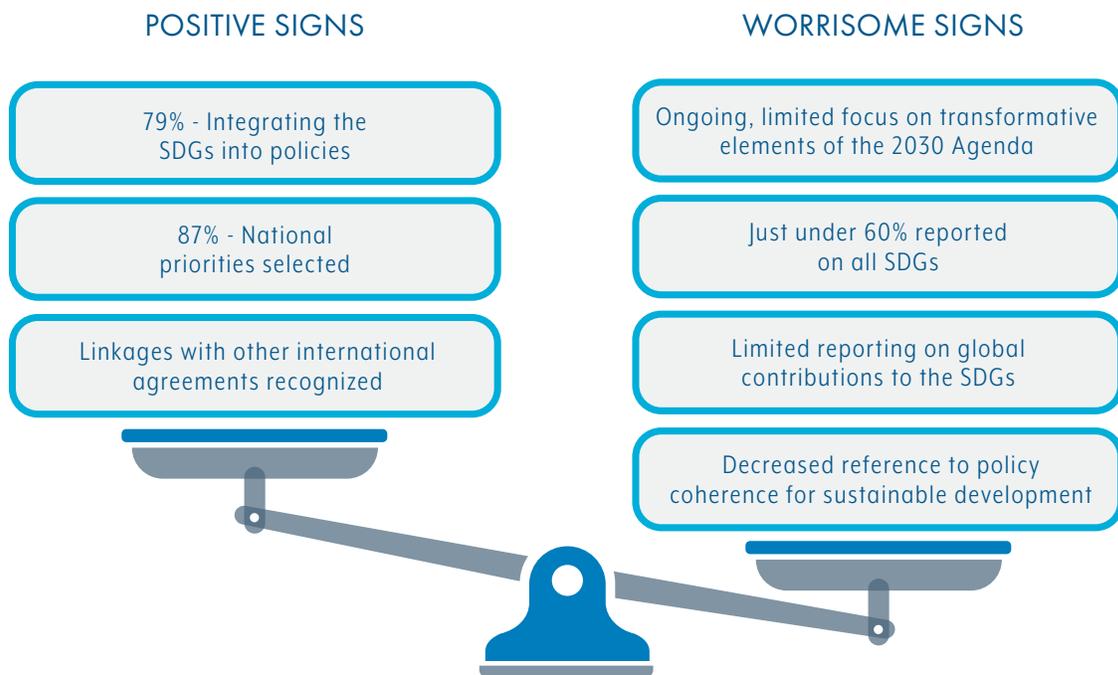
- ✓ Follow good practice in multi-stakeholder engagement by ensuring that approaches are timely, open and inclusive, transparent, informed and iterative.
- ✓ Support an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder engagement through the legislation, regulation and the creation of policies that set out how engagement will occur.
- ✓ Create and report on formal mechanisms to ensure regular and inclusive stakeholder engagement.
- ✓ Engage diverse stakeholders in the selection of national priorities and partner with non-state actors to reach the furthest behind.
- ✓ Develop a range of opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement in VNRs including through online and in-person public consultation, soliciting inputs to and feedback on draft reports, and inclusion of non-state actors as partners in carrying out the review and drafting the VNR report.



# POLICIES FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

## KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ In 2019, most countries (79%) reported they carried out a baseline or gap assessment, most of which focused on policies related to 2030 Agenda implementation. In 2018 countries most commonly assessed policies and data.
- ◆ More countries (79%) reported integrating the SDGs into their policies in 2019 than in 2017 and 2018 when only half of countries reported similar approaches.
- ◆ Countries continue to focus on the SDGs rather than the broader 2030 Agenda and its transformational principles overall, except the principle of leaving no one behind. VNR reports for 2019 showed a decline in the number of countries pointing to the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda, human rights-based approaches and planetary boundaries.
- ◆ Four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, 87% of countries reported the selection of national priorities, compared to 76% in 2018 and 2017. Priorities related to the economy, social outcomes and governance are most commonly cited, followed by the environment. Only 17 countries reported selection of national targets and indicators.
- ◆ Countries are backsliding on reporting integrated approaches to implement the SDGs. Only 57% of countries gave equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of development in their VNR reports and only a quarter referred to appropriate linkages between the goals, down from previous years. Over 40% of VNR reports did not assess the full set of SDGs.
- ◆ Reporting on linkages between the 2030 Agenda and relevant international agreements shows improvement in 2019 over 2018. This suggests increased recognition of the synergies between the 2030 Agenda and other relevant agreements to promote sustainable development.
- ◆ Fewer countries focused on policy coherence for sustainable development as a guiding framework for 2030 Agenda implementation. VNR reports revealed limited analysis of domestic and foreign policies on the realization of the SDGs globally in 2019, down from previous years.

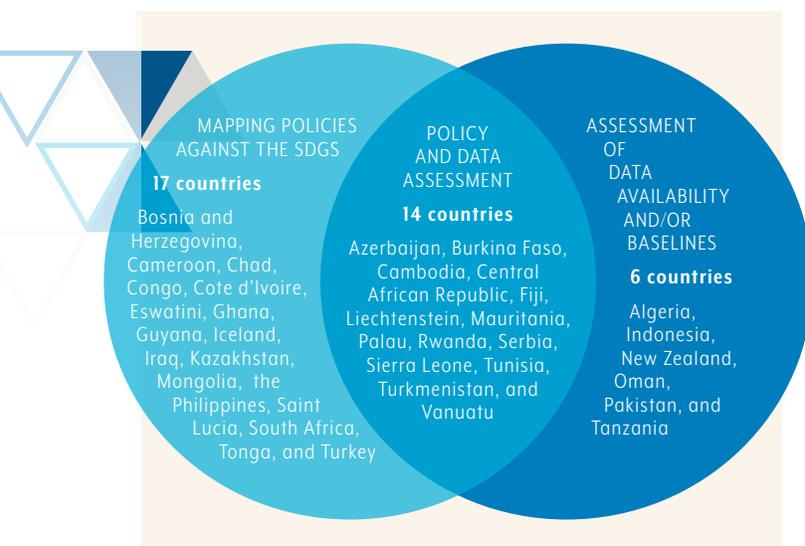


## BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Baseline and gap analyses are vital to informing Agenda 2030 policy priorities. They ensure decisions are grounded in the needs of the community and provide a baseline against which to measure progress towards achieving the goals. In 2019, 79% of reporting countries indicated they performed an assessment for all or some SDGs. Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Chad, Kuwait and Liechtenstein did not assess the full set of SDGs. Chile, Croatia, Guatemala, Israel, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nauru, Timor-Leste and the United Kingdom did not indicate that they had carried out a gap analysis or baseline assessment. Nevertheless, it should be noted that Chile did present an assessment in its 2017 VNR report. In Guatemala’s 2017 VNR, Guatemala indicated it was planning an assessment, however, there is no mention of that assessment in the 2019 report. Israel did not provide an assessment it did include statistical information as to how Israel compared with other countries.

Overall 2019 saw an uptake in the proportion of countries reporting that they had carried out a baseline or gap analysis over previous years. In 2018, 70% of countries noted that they had carried out an assessment or planned to while in 2017, the number was 84 versus 62% in 2016.

FIGURE 5. TYPES OF BASELINE OR GAP ASSESSMENTS LISTED IN VNR REPORTS



### 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.

In terms of the content of assessments, the degree to which assessments were detailed varied, though what was assessed was often clear. The most common type of assessment noted in VNR reports related to examining policies and their alignment with the SDGs (36%). In 2018 the most common type of assessment noted in VNR reports was for data and policies (33%). In 2017, most assessments (36%) focused on data availability and/or the establishment of baselines.

In terms of the results of assessments, for countries that assessed policies, the VNR reports tend to provide information regarding the extent to which the SDGs and their targets are aligned or integrated into national policies, with some countries providing details on the percentage of targets aligned. This is particularly the case for countries that use the United Nations Development Programme’s Rapid Integrated Assessment tool. The results of data assessments tend to be presented in terms of overall data availability. Information on gaps in terms of progress for 2030 Agenda implementation is also presented in the goal-by-goal analysis for some countries (however this information is not explicitly linked to the assessment carried out or showcased as results of the assessment).

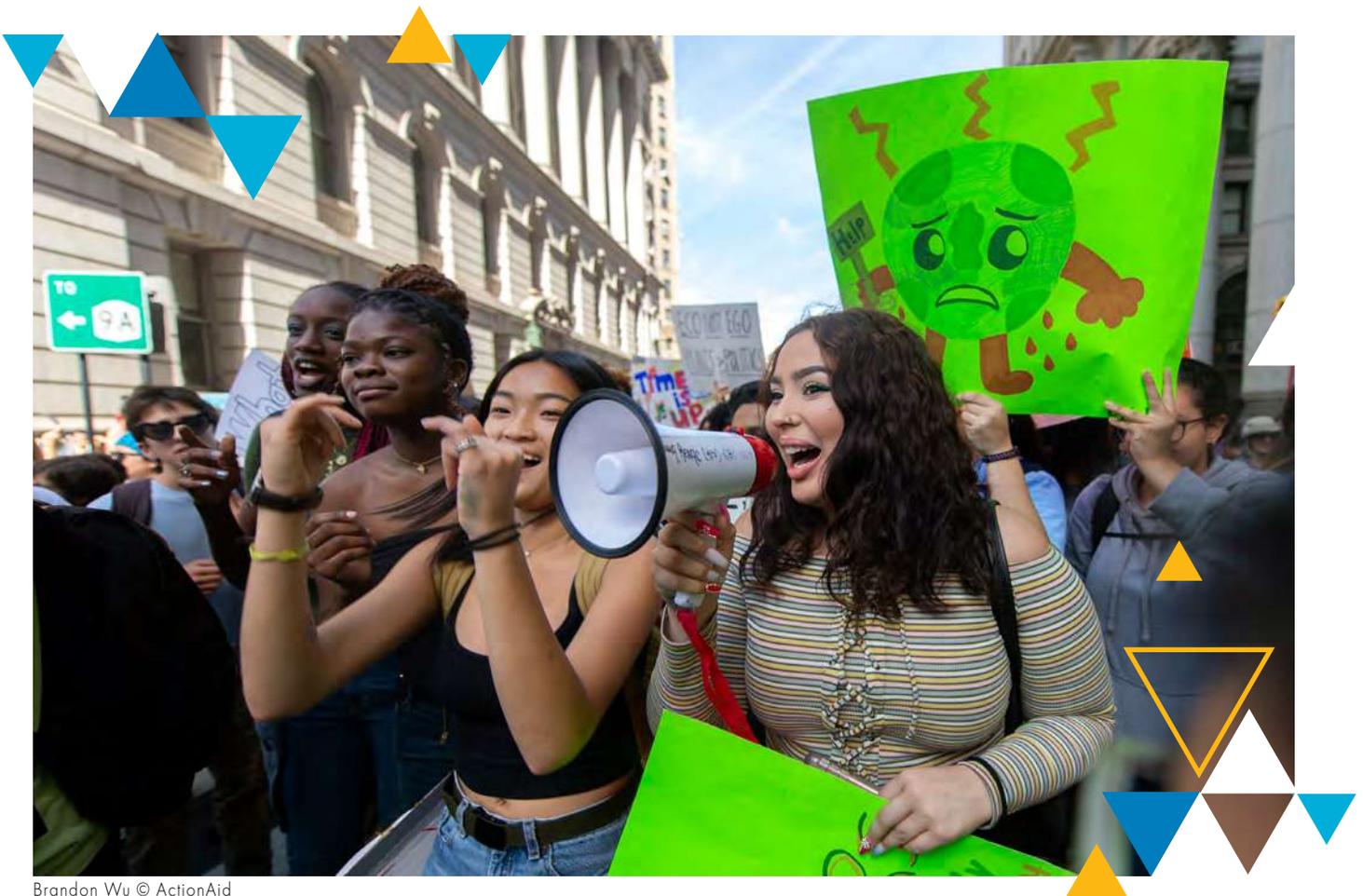


### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: MAKING USE OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME'S RAPID INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT TOOL TO SUPPORT 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

Similar to 2018, a number of VNR noted the use of the [United Nations Development Programme's Rapid Integrated Assessment Tool](#) to assess alignment of existing national policies to the SDGs. Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Guyana, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Saint Lucia, Tonga, Tunisia, and Turkmenistan made use of the tool to assess their policies. The tool assists countries to mainstream the SDGs into national and subnational planning through an assessment of readiness for SDG implementation. It includes a set of steps and templates that enable countries to assess the relevance of the SDGs and interlinkages across targets.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Conduct an assessment that identifies gaps in existing policies and programs, examines data availability, and sets out baselines from which to measure progress and assess where additional efforts are needed.
- ✓ Articulate how the assessment was conducted and provide a summary of the gaps identified for each goal.
- ✓ For countries present a subsequent VNR report to the HLPF, identify where progress has been made since initial policy and data assessments and provide information on changes between reporting years at national and subnational levels and for the furthest behind.



## INCORPORATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA INTO NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES

Incorporating the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and its transformative principles, into policies, plans and programs is a building block for implementation. National frameworks and policies set the overall direction for implementation and provide guidance to government institutions and other stakeholders. In 2019, 79% of countries reported integrating the SDGs into national policies. While most countries (36) incorporated the SDGs into national policies, Bosnia and Herzegovina noted the creation of a strategic framework to implement the SDGs. Burkina Faso, Guatemala and the United Kingdom also pointed to the creation of national SDG implementation plans in addition to incorporating the SDGs into their policies. Overall, findings for 2019 show an increase in countries integrating the SDGs into their policies over reporting in 2017 and 2018 where only half of countries reported similar approaches.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

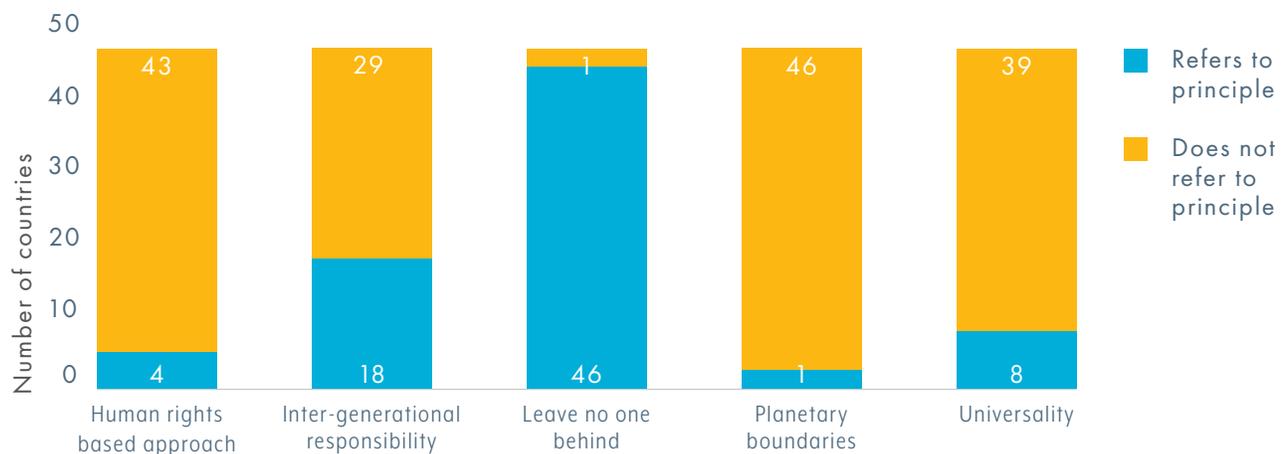
Integrate Agenda 2030 priorities into national policies and frameworks and develop a roadmap to accelerate implementation.

## INTEGRATING THE 2030 AGENDA PRINCIPLES

The 2030 Agenda is about more than the SDGs. It is informed by the principles of universality, human rights, integration, partnership, inclusivity, pursuing development within planetary boundaries, inter-generational responsibility and leaving no one behind. These principles represent the spirit of the 2030 Agenda and serve as transformative elements of implementation. The assessment of VNR reports looks at whether they mention principles of the 2030 Agenda, including human rights-based approaches, leaving no one behind, universality, inter-generational responsibility and planetary boundaries.<sup>24</sup>

As shown in Figure 6, the principle of leaving no one behind is well established and referred to in VNR reports with all countries, except Nauru referring to this principle. This finding points to a continued upward trend in countries referring to leaving no one behind from 89% in 2018 and 87% in 2017. Like 2018, inter-generational responsibility was the next most cited principle (39% of countries), though it should be noted that reports refer to this principle in different ways, such as the rights of future generations or responsibility towards future generations. Compared to 2018, reference to the principles of universality, a human rights-based approach and planetary boundaries all saw declines. Universality was referred to in 16 VNR reports in 2018 and only eight reports in 2019.

FIGURE 6. REFERENCE TO 2030 AGENDA PRINCIPLES



<sup>24</sup> Other principles are captured in the sections that follow through the examination of integration, stakeholder engagement and partnership.

**BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT**

Explicitly link the implementation of each SDG to relevant national and international human rights frameworks. Establish policies and institutions to ensure a human rights-based approach to sustainable development in 2030 Agenda implementation.

Mauritania, Mongolia, Serbia and Tunisia explicitly referred to the human rights-based approach (versus six countries in 2018 and 10 in 2017). Nevertheless, 29 countries made some reference to human rights in their VNR reports, up from 28 in 2018. Twelve VNR reports, up from nine in 2018, refer to human rights as central to the 2030 Agenda and provide evidence throughout the VNR report on the prioritization of human rights and/or their links to specific SDGs. Another 18 reports also refer to human rights occasionally, generally in relation to specific SDGs, particularly SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, although they do not include an overarching reference to human rights in relation to the 2030 Agenda. In 2018, nine countries took a similar approach. Some countries included reference to international and national human rights legislation throughout their report, highlighting the establishment of institutions and policy processes that aim to guarantee human rights. For example, Serbia's VNR report includes a subsection in the analysis of SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions by the Human and Minority Rights Office of the government. Turkmenistan's VNR report extensively

addresses the protection of human rights, including in reporting on specific SDGs. The report has a dedicated section on human rights protection which highlights cooperation with the United Nations and a National Action Plan on Human Rights (2016-2020) among other initiatives. Vanuatu's report highlighted challenges with respect to promoting human rights and has developed national targets related specifically to safeguarding human rights.

Only one country – Oman – referred to planetary boundaries, compared to three countries in 2018. Of the [nine planetary boundaries identified by the Stockholm Resilience Center](#),<sup>25</sup> countries that do not refer directly to planetary boundaries tend to refer to climate change, biodiversity, land system change, and chemical pollution. Some reports also referred to the ozone and ocean acidification, but with less frequency. Even in the instances where reports refer to some of the planetary boundaries, they are not understood as such, but rather presented as part of country progress and commitments related to environmental goals.

As with previous reporting years, VNR reports show that countries tend to focus on the SDGs rather than the broader 2030 Agenda and its transformational principles overall. While the near universal reference to leaving no one behind is welcome, the decline in countries pointing to the universal nature of the agenda, human rights-based approaches and planetary boundaries is a worrying trend.

**A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: TURKMENISTAN'S FOCUS ON HUMAN RIGHTS**

Turkmenistan's VNR report has a strong focus on human rights and children's rights. The VNR details the government's 2016-2020 National Action Plan on Human Rights. It also looks at how children's rights are fulfilled based on the best interest for a child including the provision of an inclusive environment that permits the child to thrive. The government also announced plans to eradicate child labour and pointed to the creation of an independent national Ombudsman for Human Rights.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Turkmenistan's VNR report.

<sup>25</sup> These include stratospheric ozone depletion, loss of biosphere integrity (biodiversity loss and extinctions), chemical pollution and release of novel entities, climate change, ocean acidification, freshwater consumption and the global hydrological cycle, land system change, nitrogen and phosphorus flows to the biosphere and oceans and atmospheric aerosol loading.



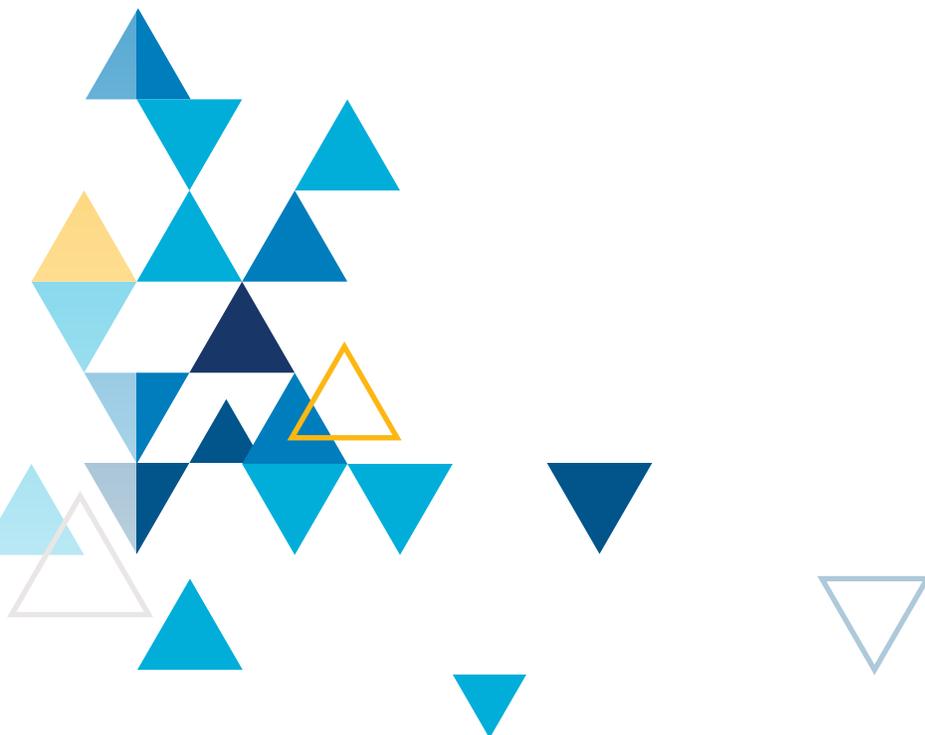
### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: SERBIA'S COMMITMENT TO PRINCIPLES

Serbia committed to a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to 2030 Agenda implementation. The VNR report highlights the government's commitment to universality, leaving no one behind, the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs and partnerships among different stakeholders. The VNR report stressed the need for a holistic and inclusive approach to empower every individual regardless of sex, race, ethnic background or identity. Serbia and the United Nations developed a 2016-2020 Partnership Framework that has been fully integrated into Serbia's national plans.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Serbia's VNR report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Fully integrate the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into national and subnational plans and strategies based on an evaluation of existing policies, approaches and progress to identify gaps, adapt policies and target areas where further progress is needed especially for the furthest behind groups.
- ✓ Operationalize the principles of the 2030 Agenda in approaches to implementation recognizing the universal, human rights-based and interlinked nature of the agenda. VNR reports should demonstrate how approaches to sustainable development are transformative based on the principles of the 2030 Agenda and not just the SDGs.
- ✓ Ground plans and strategies in human rights, including by linking activities to international and national human rights commitments and establishing appropriate institutions and mechanisms to support a human rights-based approach to sustainable development.
- ✓ Undertake actions with reference to and respect for planetary boundaries and responsibilities towards future generations, including avenues for intergenerational partnerships.



## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

While successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires that governments work towards realizing all SDGs, governments are expected to implement the 2030 Agenda in line with their national context and priorities. This means identifying national (and local) priorities, targets and indicators through inclusive and participatory processes. This process helps countries situate implementation in light of baselines and existing progress, generate ownership and adapt the goals to country-specific contexts. In the context of prioritization, the integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda means that countries can be a leader on some goals but a laggard on none.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

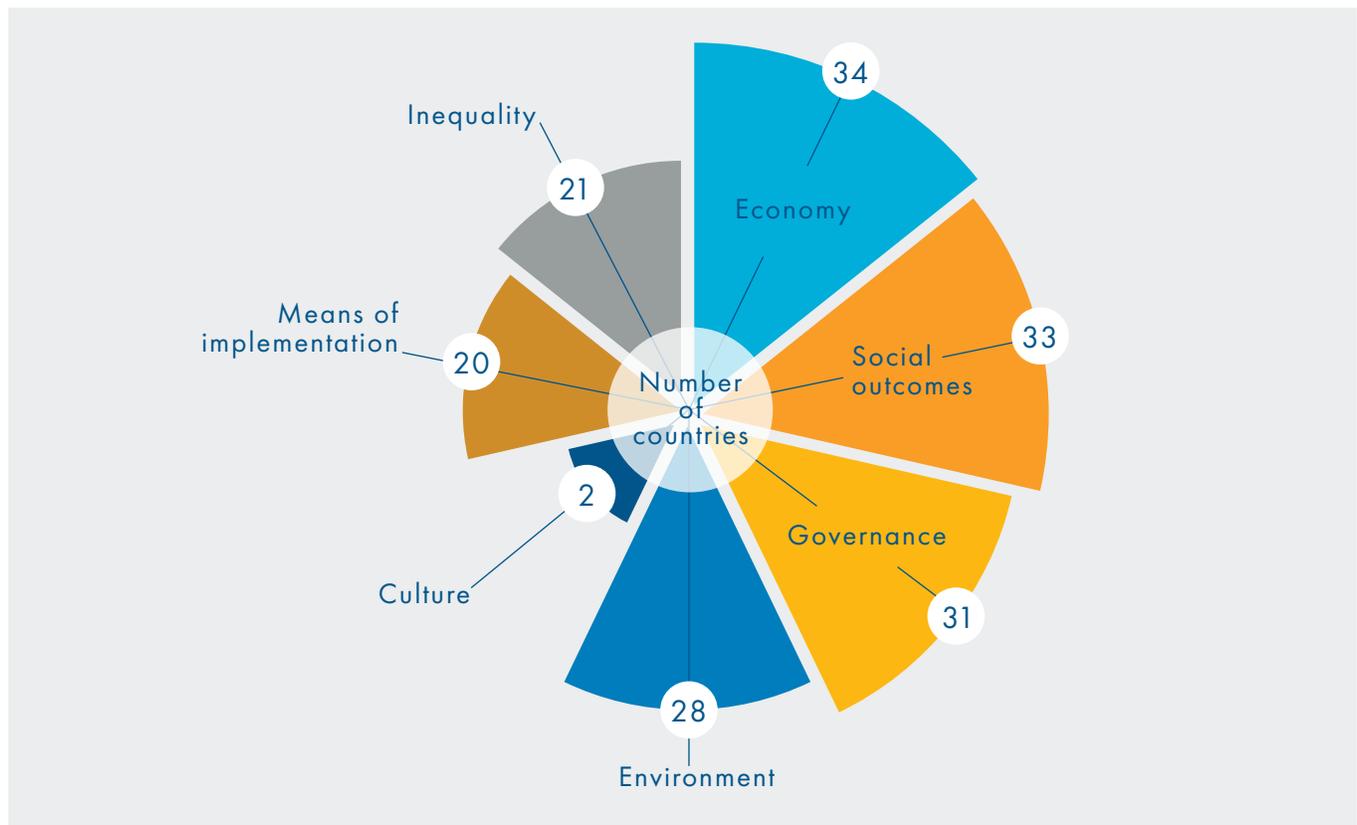
Include all dimensions of sustainable development in the selection of national priorities.

## PRIORITIES

Four years after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, 41 countries, or 87% that reported in 2019, noted the selection of national priorities. This compares to 76% in 2018 and 2017. For the six countries that have not selected national priorities, four noted that they plan to select national priorities going forward. Like previous reporting years, how countries articulate their priorities vary. Some list national priorities in terms of specific SDGs while others note priority areas, such as economic growth or social inclusion that apply to more than one goal. Others still point to priority targets within goals.

The 38 countries that provided information on their priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation tended to showcase most SDGs, resulting in increased references for all priority areas over previous years. The most commonly cited priorities included those related to the economy (34 countries, 72%) and social outcomes (33 countries, 70%)

FIGURE 7. PRIORITIES FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION



(Figure 7). In 2018, these figures were 30 and 32 countries, respectively. A slightly larger number of countries prioritized the environment in 2019 at 28 versus 26 in 2018. The number of countries reporting governance issues as a priority rose in 2019 with 31 countries versus 21 countries in 2018 and 2017. More countries also prioritized inequality at 21 countries versus 13 in 2018 and nine in 2017. Twenty countries pointed to issues related to the means of implementation, or SDG 17, a figure that stood at 14 in 2018 and 10 in 2017. Only two countries – Kuwait and Oman – pointed to culture as a priority overall in 2019, down from six countries in 2018. Cambodia added an additional priority for its national context – reducing landmines and unexploded ordnances. Bosnia and Herzegovina also included an SDG 18 to be mine free by 2030.

## NATIONAL TARGETS AND INDICATORS

The selection of national (and local) targets and indicators links national priorities to monitoring and follow-up and review. In 2019, 60% of countries provided some information on the selection of national targets and indicators. Most countries reported selecting national targets and indicators – 17 of the 29 countries that provided information. This is an improvement over 2018 when only seven countries reported identifying both targets and indicators. Seven countries reported only having developed national targets while four pointed to the selection of indicators only. Azerbaijan, Croatia, Timor-Leste, Eswatini, Fiji, Ghana, Iceland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Nauru, Saint Lucia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Vanuatu did not provide information on the selection of national targets and indicators. Information available in the VNR reports for Chile and Guyana was unclear on whether the countries had developed national targets and indicators.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: NEW ZEALAND'S LIVING STANDARDS FRAMEWORK

The New Zealand Treasury created a Living Standards Framework through a broad process of public consultation. The framework analyzes current and future well-being of New Zealanders according to social, economic and environmental indicators. Well-being is defined along the following indicators: civic engagement and governance, cultural identity, environment, health, housing, knowledge and skills, income and consumption, jobs and earnings, safety, social connections, subjective well-being and time use. The framework considers four types of capital: nature, human, social and financial and physical. It informs the government's implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Source: Excerpt adapted from New Zealand's VNR report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Identify national sustainable development priorities that address all dimensions of sustainable development, recognizing the interlinkages between society, the economy, the environment and governance.
- ✓ Develop national targets and indicators through an inclusive and participatory process to complement global targets and indicators.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The 2030 Agenda is significant in its scope and scale. It covers economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, alongside issues related to governance, culture, inequality and partnership. It has implications for domestic and foreign policies as well as efforts at the local level. Governments and other stakeholders face the challenge of ensuring an integrated and coherent approach to 2030 Agenda implementation. Implementation must promote synergies to realize progress on all dimensions of sustainable development at local, national and global levels while addressing trade-offs.

### REPORTING ON THE SDGS

While the HLPF has an annual theme, countries are encouraged to report on all 17 SDGs. This facilitates assessment of how well countries are progressing on the

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Provide a detailed assessment of all 17 goals, with appropriate linkages to all dimensions of sustainable development and reference to domestic and global efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda.

SDGs. In 2019, 28 (59%) countries provided information on all 17 SDGs (Table 1), the same number of countries as in 2018. Azerbaijan, the Philippines, and Tanzania only provided information on the SDGs selected by the HLPF theme. Fifteen countries presented on a different subset of the SDGs. Landlocked countries tend fall into this category as they do not review SDG 14 on life below water, a finding consistent with previous reviews of VNR reports. Nauru presented main messages to the HLPF and as such did not provide a goal-by-goal analysis. No country presented progress through a thematic discussion with references to individual goals as we saw in the review of 2018 and 2017 VNR reports.



Charlie Forgham-Bailey / Save The Children

TABLE 1. GOAL BY GOAL REPORTING IN THE 2019 VNR REPORTS

SDG COVERAGE	COUNTRIES			
All SDGs examined (28 countries)	Algeria	Iceland	Oman	
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Indonesia	Palau	
	Cambodia	Israel	Serbia	
	Cameroon	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone	
	Côte d'Ivoire	Kuwait	South Africa	
	Croatia	Liechtenstein	Turkey	
	Fiji	Mauritania	United Kingdom	
	Ghana	Mauritius	Vanuatu	
	Guatemala	Mongolia		
	Guyana	New Zealand		
	SDGs covered by the HLPF theme (3 countries)	Azerbaijan	Philippines	Tanzania
		Burkina Faso	Eswatini	Saint Lucia
Central African Republic		Lesotho	Timor-Leste	
Limited set of country-selected SDGs (15 countries)	Chad	Iraq	Tonga	
	Chile	Pakistan	Tunisia	
	Congo	Rwanda	Turkmenistan	
	Nauru			
	SDGs examination not articulated in the VNR			



**A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: REPORTING ON THE STATUS OF THE SDGS IN OMAN'S VNR REPORT**

Oman uses two approaches to assess progress over time. The Sustainable Development Goals Information Board measures positive results against targets noting when 1) positive results have been achieved according to the SDG, 2) some positive results have been achieved, or 3) a negative trend is emerging.

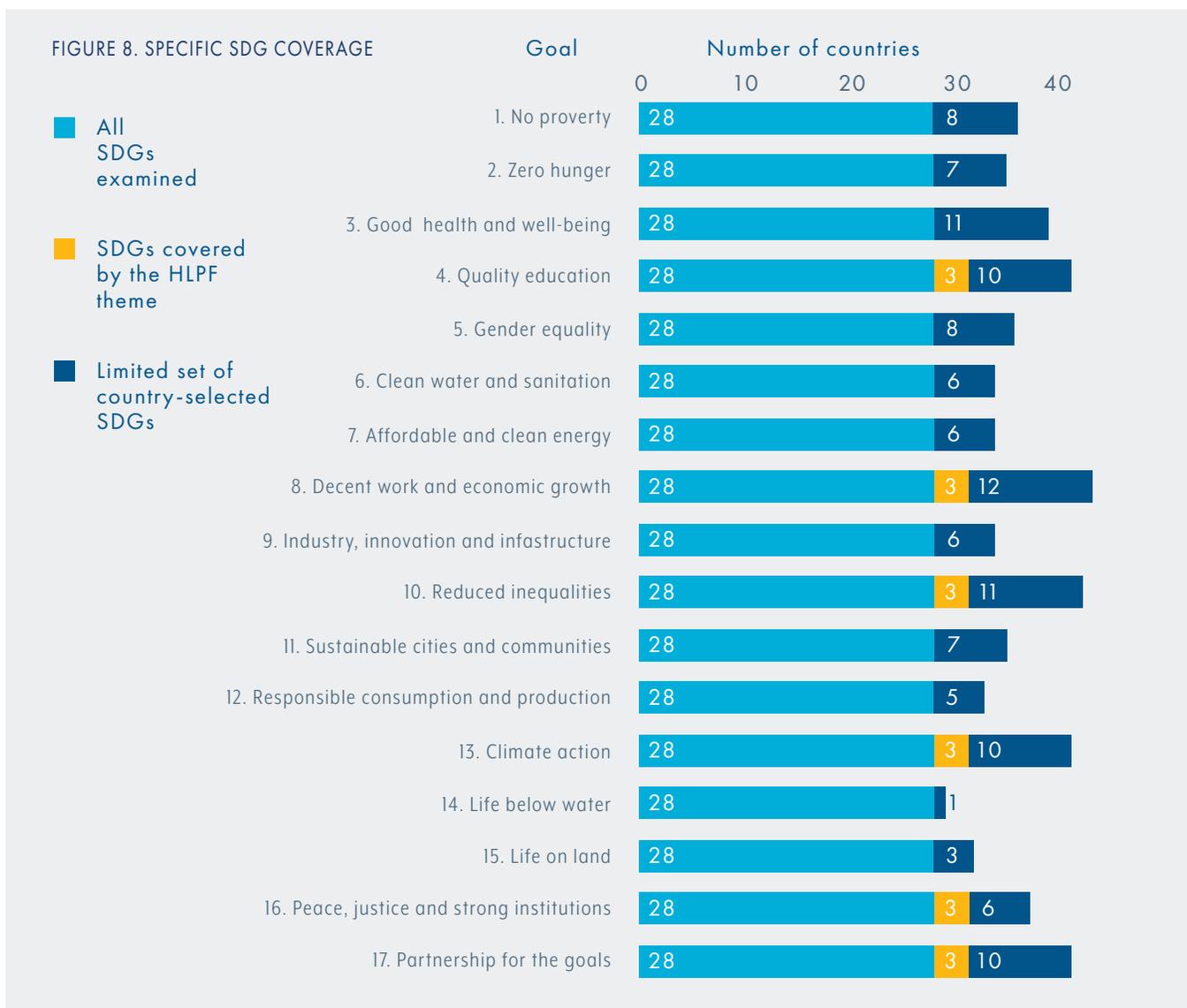
The National Center for Statistics and Information audits the 100 indicators that reflect the country's 72 targets. It assesses the achievement of SDGs by measuring the overall trends of indicator values and divides results into the following categories: 1) goals achieved, 2) movement towards achieving the goals, 3) average achievement of the goals, 4) challenges to achieve the goals, and 5) goal not evaluated.

Source: Except adapted from Oman's VNR report.

Figure 8 provides an overview of the goals most cited in VNR reports according to the approach taken to the goal-by-goal analysis.

The review suggests a positive trend in VNR reports towards greater detail in the examination of SDGs, targets and indicators. Most countries, 89%, provided a detailed examination versus 65% in 2018 and 64% in 2017. Detailed examinations tend to include overall information on the status of a particular SDG, efforts to accelerate implementation, successes and challenges. Four countries provided only summary level information while Nauru did not provide details of the implementation of specific SDGs in its main messages.

With respect to the integrated nature of the SDGs, the review of VNR reports also looks at the extent to which countries refer to linkages between the goals as well as coverage of all three dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic and environmental) overall in the VNR report. Despite more detailed reporting on the SDGs compared to previous years, the review of 2019 VNR reports found a continued decline in the number of countries making applicable linkages to all three aspects of sustainable development between the goals. In 2019, 25% made references to linkages versus 37% in 2018 and 49% in 2017. These results may indicate that countries are not sufficiently ensuring integration in their approaches to 2030 Agenda implementation.



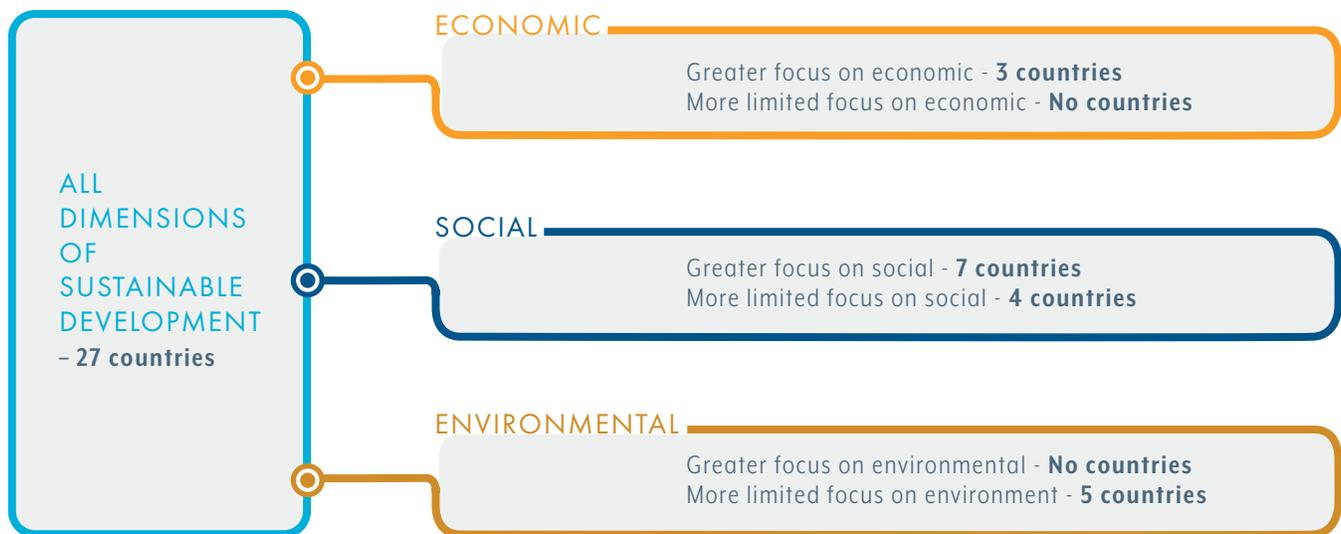
In addition to more limited reference to linkages between the goals, VNR reports also showed a decline in the number of countries giving equal attention to the all three dimensions of sustainable development. Figure 9 provides an overview of the extent to which countries examined all three dimensions of sustainable development.<sup>26</sup> Twenty-seven countries, or 57%, placed equal emphasis on the three dimensions of sustainable development versus 29 (63%) in 2018 and 33 (75%) in 2017. Seven countries (14%) addressed all three dimensions of sustainable development but placed greater importance on the social. Azerbaijan, Chile and Kuwait addressed all dimensions of sustainable development but put greater emphasis on the economy. Algeria, Mauritania, Serbia, Timor-Leste and Tunisia gave more limited attention to the environment. Eswatini, Oman, Rwanda, and Tanzania placed limited focus on the social dimensions. Overall, the review of VNR reports over 2017-2019 suggests a worrisome decline in terms of the extent to which countries are reporting integrated approaches to implementing the SDGs.

## POLICY COHERENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The review of VNR reports looks at the extent to which countries make linkages to international agreements related to the 2030 Agenda and policy coherence for sustainable development. There are many international agreements and frameworks that support implementation the 2030 Agenda. The review examined references to climate change and the [Paris Agreement](#), the [Addis Ababa Action Agenda](#), the [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#) and the [global aid development effectiveness agenda](#).<sup>27</sup>

Overall, reporting on linkages between the 2030 Agenda relevant international agreements shows improvement in 2019 over 2018 except for a decline in references to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In 2019, all countries (95%) except Congo and Sierra Leone mentioned the Paris Agreement on climate change. Although Sierra Leone did not mention the Paris Agreement, the country did provide information on how it was addressing climate change.

FIGURE 9. ATTENTION TO SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VNR REPORTS



<sup>26</sup> Nauru is excluded from Figure 9.

<sup>27</sup> The revised Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting [guidelines](#) for 2020 now encourage countries to make specific reference to these agreements (and others) in the introductory section.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: TONGA'S RISK RESILIENCE TOOL KIT

Tonga developed a Risk Resilience Tool Kit. The kit helps corporate planners identify and assess risks for a specific project. When the tool kit identifies a risk, the corporate planner is directed to the appropriate authority and a series of risk management and risk mitigation efforts are undertaken. The reflective exercise helps corporate planners design better projects that account for the risks posed to Tongan communities. Institutional processes have been updated to include the use of the tool kit. In addition, the Ministry of Finance has made it a requirement that projects submitted for funding to use the tool kit as part of their request. Communities also apply the tool kit to screen community projects for economic, social and environmental opportunities and risks.

Source: Except adapted from Tonga's VNR report.

In 2018, 82% of countries referenced the Paris Agreement in their VNRs. In 2017, 22% countries reported on climate change. Compared to previous years, 2019 marked an improvement of countries reporting on climate change and the Paris Agreement. As with previous years, VNR reports tend to point to national climate policies, efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, renewable energy and improved energy efficiency and efforts to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change and disasters. Some countries also referred to education initiatives, adaptation, and conservation initiatives. In terms of other environment related agreements, the review found that only 29% of countries referred to the Convention on Biological Diversity, a decline from 2018 when 57% of countries reported on the link. In relation to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, 59% of countries noted the framework in 2019 versus 41% in 2018.

With respect to financing the 2030 Agenda and other means of implementation, VNR reports continue to show

a positive trend in terms of references to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Over half of VNR reports, 57%, referred to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda in 2019 versus 46% in 2018 and 33% in 2017. However, VNR reports showed even more limited reference to the aid effectiveness and development effectiveness agenda in 2019 with four countries compared to nine in 2018. The Philippines pointed to its participation in the 3rd Monitoring Survey of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. Timor-Leste described its commitment to country-owned and country-led aid and noted efforts by the g7+, including the New Deal framework for fragile and conflict-affected states. Guatemala pointed to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness while the United Kingdom noted that it delivers international assistance at the highest level of aid effectiveness.

Beyond coherence with relevant international frameworks, implementation of the 2030 Agenda also depends on policy coherence for sustainable development. Domestic policies have an impact on the realization of sustainable



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: INTEGRATING CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS IN LIECHTENSTEIN

Liechtenstein integrated climate change across the SDGs. Climate change and related issues have been integrated in the primary and elementary school systems. This approach is intended to empower young people to act and combat climate change. Students are encouraged to engage with the SDGs. For example, on SDG 13 (climate action), students look at nature, energy use and environmental protection. They are encouraged come up with their own projects and implement them in class. The information is then placed onto an internet platform and presented at a local event. Over the course of the five-year project, teaching aids and materials will be designed to support further education.

Source: Except adapted from the VNR report for Liechtenstein.

development at home and abroad. In this context, policy coherence for sustainable development is about ensuring that domestic policies maximize their positive contributions and minimize negative contributions to sustainable development globally. Just over half of reporting countries – 24 – referred to policy coherence in their VNR report. However, all these countries except New Zealand and the United Kingdom refer to policy coherence in the context of domestic policies. Countries tend to point to the challenges they face in realizing policy coherence at the domestic level with some pointing to efforts to ensure coherent implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Link the 2030 Agenda to relevant international agreements that support sustainable development to ensure coherency and synergies in implementation.

In comparison to previous years, a limited number of countries examined the impacts of their foreign and/or domestic policies on the realization of the SDGs globally. Only New Zealand, Turkey and the United Kingdom pointed to the impacts of their domestic and foreign policies on the realization of the SDGs globally (versus 10 countries in 2018 and 11 in 2017). In addition to highlighting the impacts of international assistance and other efforts related to global partnership, New Zealand and the United Kingdom

noted efforts to address agricultural subsidies while Turkey noted its support for Syrian refugees. Eight countries noted the impacts of their foreign policies – largely in the form of the provision of foreign aid – on the SDGs globally. This compares to 15 countries in 2018 and 17 countries in 2017. Nevertheless, some countries provided a systematic analysis of their global contributions. For example, Israel and the United Kingdom included information on their contributions to the SDGs globally as part of the goal-by-goal analysis. Iceland included information on implementation targets under each SDG, particularly those related to contributions for development partners. Israel, New Zealand, Turkey and the United Kingdom provided information on their global efforts to contribute to the SDGs as part of the goal-by-goal analysis.

Overall VNR reporting for 2019 showed a decline in the extent to which countries focused on policy coherence for sustainable development as both a guiding framework for 2030 Agenda implementation and in terms of analysis of domestic and foreign policies on the realization of the SDGs globally.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Include information on global contributions to the SDGs alongside assessments of progress at national and subnational levels, recognizing the impacts of domestic and foreign policies.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Assess all 17 goals in VNR reports, respecting the indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- ✓ Ensure all dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in SDG implementation and VNR reporting. Linkages and synergies between the different dimensions of sustainable development should be clearly stated in policies, supported through implementation and included in reporting - all to help ensure clear integration.
- ✓ Link implementation of the 2030 Agenda to relevant international agreements that support 2030 Agenda implementation, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and global agreements on aid and international development effectiveness, including in VNR reporting.
- ✓ Provide an assessment of domestic and global dimensions of sustainable development in the goal-by-goal analysis, demonstrating contributions to realizing the SDGs at home and abroad, and supporting policy coherence for sustainable development.

# IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

## KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ In 2019, 79% of countries reported on leaving no one behind in terms of a dedicated chapter or robust information in their VNR report. All VNR reports except one indicated women, children and youth are at risk of being left behind. VNR reports also mentioned people with disabilities (96%), poor people (94%) and migrants and refugees (70%).
- ◆ Data to leave no one behind remains a recognized challenge with only nine countries noting efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data. Countries most commonly cited the need for more disaggregated data by gender, age and disability.
- ◆ Only 36% of countries highlighted embedding leaving no one behind or efforts to address inequality and social exclusion as part of overarching development plans. In 2019, 21% of countries recognized that leaving no one behind is a key challenge in 2030 Agenda implementation overall.
- ◆ While reporting on awareness-raising improved in 2019, countries continue to take ad hoc approaches to awareness raising with only four pointing to the creation of a communications strategy.
- ◆ Reporting on localization improved at just under 75%, up from 65% in 2018. A greater proportion of countries, 28%, pointed to the integration of the 2030 Agenda into local plans in 2019, an improvement over 13% in 2018.
- ◆ All countries except one reported on contributions by non-state actors however individual VNR reports continue to portray narrow perceptions of the roles that civil society organizations and reporting on the role of parliamentarians (23%), the private sector (53%) and academia (28%) declined in 2019 compared to 2018.
- ◆ Though financing and resource mobilization are the most commonly cited challenge to implementation noted by member states (53%), nearly 75% of countries reporting in 2019 have not costed 2030 Agenda implementation. Nevertheless, 30 countries, or 64%, reported information on budgeting with 14 indicating plans to incorporate the SDGs into budgeting processes and 16 noting having already done so.
- ◆ Reporting on the means of implementation improved overall for information on domestic resources and technology as well as lessons learned (51%) and challenges (96%). Declines were seen for reporting on international public finance (77%), trade (60%), systemic issues (47%), best practices (38%) and learning from peers (4%).
- ◆ In 2019, more countries provided information on follow-up and review at the national level (85%) and data availability (76%) compared to 2018. While increased reporting in these areas is welcome, countries provided limited reference to when, how and to whom national reporting will occur. Only five countries referred to the role of parliament.



## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines encourage member states to include a chapter on leaving no one behind. In 2019, 81% of countries reported on leaving no one behind in terms of a dedicated chapter or robust information in their VNR report. Countries typically provided a relatively detailed chapter on leaving no one behind. Timor-Leste included a section on leaving no one behind in the goal by goal analysis. The United Kingdom provided examples of efforts to leave no one behind (LNOB) in its goal-by-goal analysis, as well as a short chapter on the subject. Ghana's VNR report included an annex with comments on who is being left behind and suggested interventions, identified through the VNR consultation process. Ten countries did not provide a chapter on leaving no one behind or significantly address the issue in other sections of their reports.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Prepare a dedicated chapter on leaving no one behind in VNR reports and integrate information on efforts to leave no one behind in the goal-by-goal analysis.

## UNDERSTANDING WHO IS AT RISK OF BEING LEFT BEHIND

The availability of disaggregated data is critical for informing efforts to LNOB. As noted in the [Inclusive Data Charter](#) of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, timely, comprehensive disaggregated data is critical to understand the experiences of the poorest and most marginalized. All populations must be included.

Reporting for 2019 indicates that countries continue to face the challenge of producing enough disaggregated data to monitor progress on leaving no one behind. VNR reports for nine countries indicated that efforts to LNOB were informed by existing data (compared to 13 in 2018). Moreover, the review of VNR reports showed that gender disaggregated data was mostly available or consistently available 57% of the time.<sup>28</sup>

Regardless of data limitations faced by countries, all countries reporting in 2019 except Nauru identified groups that are being left behind or at risk of being left behind. This compares to 42 countries in 2018 and 33 in 2017, suggesting that reporting on the main populations at risk of being left behind continues to improve. Identifying who is left behind (and why) enables countries to target efforts that work to



### BEST CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: SIERRA LEONE AND TONGA STRENGTHEN DISAGGREGATED DATA TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Sierra Leone's VNR recognized the importance of information, data and data disaggregation identifying and supporting vulnerable populations. Sierra Leone performed the Integrated Household Survey, Demographic and Health Survey and the Multiple Cluster Indicator Survey to measure progress on the SDGs. The information gathered informed the government on vulnerable groups. Sierra Leone joined with other countries in the creation of a Multidimensional Poverty Index Report that provides information on poverty-related issues involving children. The report was issued in May 2019.

Tonga's Statistics Department developed innovative approaches to data disaggregation. Tonga used a 'small area estimation' technique to disaggregate the data on the main island and the rural islands, in villages and districts as well as in constituencies. A multidimensional poverty report was also disaggregated according to geographic region, leading to more targeted policy interventions for marginalized populations.

Source: Except adapted from the VNR reports for Sierra Leone and Tonga.

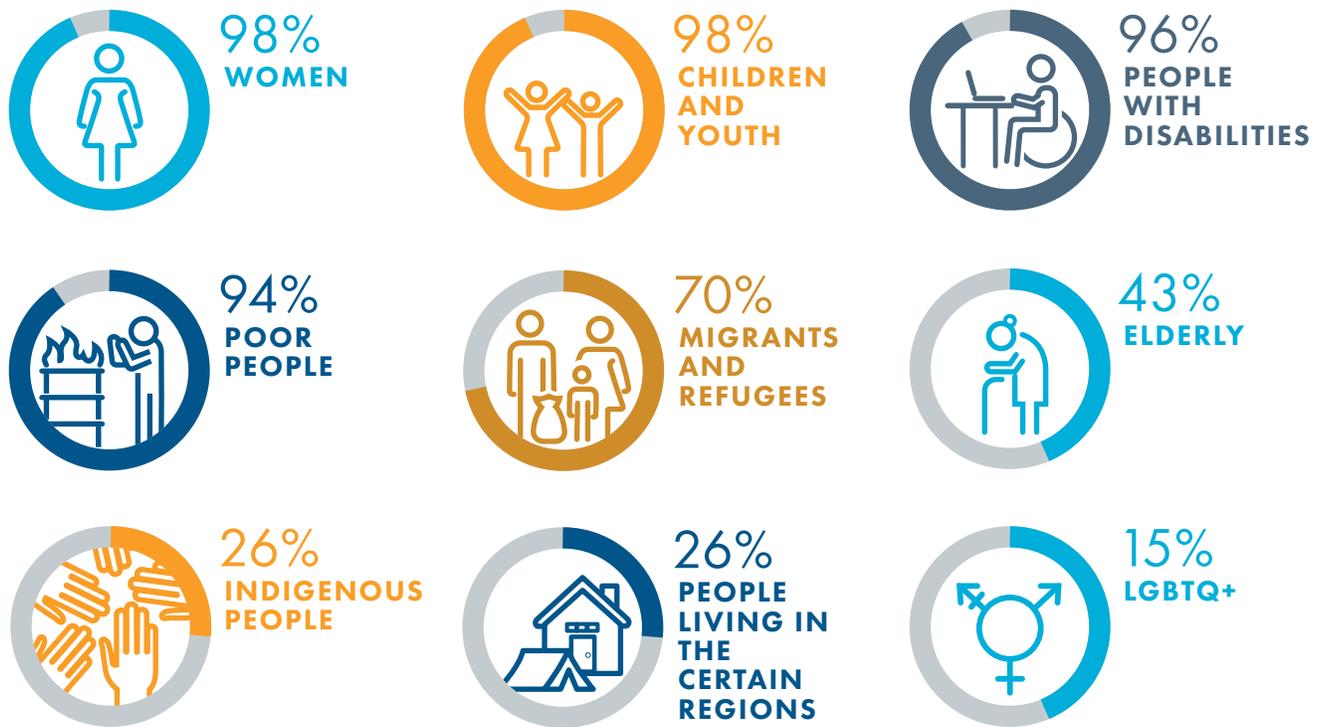
<sup>28</sup> For a more comprehensive overview see the ODI's [leave no one behind index](#) which provides an independent assessment of status of the data of leave no one behind.

ensure that all members of society benefit from progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Figure 10 provides an overview of the main groups identified as vulnerable or being left behind in 2019. It shows women (46), children and youth (46), people with disabilities (45), poor people (44 countries), migrants and refugees (33), elderly (20), indigenous (12) and people from particular or rural regions (12) are most at risk of being left behind. The findings for 2019 are in keeping with the vulnerable populations identified in 2018 and 2017. In 2018, people with disabilities (34), children and youth (30), women (25), and elderly people (21) are the groups most often cited as being left behind or at risk of being left behind. In 2017, women (28) were cited more often than people with disabilities. Also, in 2017, children and youth were cited 27 times, people with disabilities 21 times, and the elderly on 16 occasions.

In keeping with the trend over the years, 2019 saw a broader range of groups being identified in as being left behind or at risk of being left behind with countries noting specific groups within broad categories, such as children with disabilities or living in single-parent homes. In addition to the groups identified in Figure 10, seven countries identified lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, two spirit and/or intersex people at being at risk of or being left behind. Six countries reported ethnic minorities of being at risk of or being left behind. Five countries identified people with HIV/AIDS, four countries reported Roma, two countries identified single-parent households, and two countries identified the unemployed as at risk of or being left behind. Fifteen countries provided additional categories of individuals and groups they identified as being at risk of being left behind.<sup>29</sup>

FIGURE 10. GROUPS MOST COMMONLY IDENTIFIED AS VULNERABLE IN VNR REPORTS



<sup>29</sup> For example, Cambodia noted people without access to land. Ghana cited prisoners, farmers, homeless, rural unemployed, terminally ill, informal sector workers, people on the street, tuberculosis sufferers, and subsistence small farmers. Sierra Leone pointed to people with albinism and people in prison.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: BURKINA FASO'S SINGLE REGISTER FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Burkina Faso is creating a single register for vulnerable groups. The process began in 2017 and will end by 2022. To date, vulnerable groups have been identified in 67 municipalities. With this information, the government will extend integrated responses to better meet the needs of vulnerable groups.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Burkina Faso's VNR.

## EFFORTS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

In 2018, 41 countries provided information on efforts to LNOB versus 33 of 45 countries in 2017. Though not all countries included a dedicated section on leaving no one behind in their VNR report, all countries except Nauru provided information on efforts related to at least one vulnerable group in 2019. The same number of countries provided information on efforts to realize gender equality, an improvement over 2018 when 40 countries provided such information. Like 2018, the review of 2019 reports found a predominance of countries pointing to universal programs such as social assistance and existing specialized programs to LNOB. The combination of universal policies with targeted approaches and strong leadership can be an effective approach to reaching marginalized communities.<sup>30</sup> It is also worth noting that 17 countries highlighted embedding leaving no one behind or efforts address inequality and social exclusion at part of overarching development plans compared to 10 in 2018, suggesting

some movement towards incorporating the principle of leaving no one behind in the creation of national sustainable development policies. Moreover, some countries noted either reference to specific groups as part of national sustainable development policies or the creation of national policies related to targeting specific vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants and people with disabilities.

Table 2 provides an overview of the main approaches to leaving no one behind identified for specific groups from VNR reports.<sup>31</sup> It provides information for the groups for which countries most consistently provided information. Overall approaches to LNOB tend to refer to vulnerable groups more generally, including people living in poverty. More limited references were found across VNR reports to efforts related to supporting indigenous peoples, elderly people, specific ethnic groups, LGBTQ+ communities and people living in rural areas. Nevertheless, where referenced, countries tended to point to similar strategies for these groups as outlined in Table 2.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: TANZANIA'S DISAGGREGATED DATA FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Efforts in Zanzibar to leave no one behind with disabilities led and implemented by the Department of Disability Affairs, the Office of the Second Vice President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar. The government created a database (JUMUISH-base) on people with disabilities and website. They also analyzed the sexual reproduction health rights and family planning situation of young people with disabilities. The government developed a five-year strategic plan for National Council for Persons With Disabilities in Zanzibar as well as a corresponding implementation strategy.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Tanzania's VNR.

<sup>30</sup> Samman, Emma. 2016. *10 Things to Know about 'Leave no one Behind.'* London: ODI.

TABLE 2. APPROACHES TO LNOB HIGHLIGHTED IN VNR REPORTS

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES REPORTING APPROACH BY GROUP						
	OVERALL APPROACH	WOMEN	CHILDREN AND YOUTH	PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES	MIGRANTS, REFUGEES, ASYLUM SEEKERS OR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE	
APPROACH	National policy	17	23	5	4	4
	Sectoral policy	10	7	3	4	1
	Legal instruments <sup>32</sup>	8	25	13	12	7
	Social protection	18	1	3	6	3
	Cash transfers	9	-	6	5	1
	Improved access to health or education	10	11	28	15	5
	Employment program	5	16	9	16	4
	Dedicated institution	4	12	6	7	9
	Measuring to LNOB	7	4	3	5	0

In addition to the main approaches outlined above, a limited number of countries also reported awareness-raising related to gender equality and children’s rights, gender-based budgeting, expanding social welfare, policies for specific groups, consultations targeted to LNOB and international efforts related to LNOB.<sup>33</sup> Countries reporting on their international efforts tended to include high-income countries.

Like 2018, VNR reports do not provide enough information on data to leave no one behind to evaluate the outcomes of activities. Information on progress is often presented in the goal-by-goal analysis, such as for SDG 1 on no poverty or SDG 5 on gender equality and not necessarily disaggregated for groups at risk of being left behind. Except data on specific programs, the links between specific policies and actions and the results presented are not always clear.



**A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: TIMOR-LESTE TARGETS EXCLUDED GROUPS**

Timor-Leste established a civil society organization advisory group to ensure excluded groups participated in the VNR process. Representatives from youth, women and conflict prevention non-governmental organizations participated. They provided advice to the VNR secretariat on how best to leave no one behind, particularly in terms of how to include young women and men, children, people with disabilities and rural populations.

Source: Except adapted from Timor-Leste’s VNR.

<sup>31</sup> It is difficult to compare data for the 2019 VNR reports with 2018 as data on leaving no one behind was not disaggregated by specific groups, except for women. The 2019 data shows a continued emphasis on similar approaches. In 2018, the most prominent strategies to leave no one behind included access to social services and social protection (20 countries), special programs such as employment support (20 countries), targeted plans or strategies for specific groups (20 countries), use of legal instruments (17 countries) and ensuring equal access to health and education (17 countries).

<sup>32</sup> Three countries also referred to legal instruments with respect to indigenous peoples.

<sup>33</sup> See Kindornay and Gendron (2020, forthcoming) for a review of stakeholder engagement to LNOB.

## TARGETING DOMESTIC INEQUALITY

Addressing inequality is a fundamental part of the 2030 Agenda to LNOB and as part of SDG 10 on reduced inequalities. Efforts to reduce inequality are tied to leaving no one behind. Countries point to national policies,

guarantees to non-discrimination including through legal instruments and universal and specialized programs. For countries with significant challenges between rural and urban areas or diverse geographies, such as Guyana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan and Tonga, infrastructure development was highlighted.

### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: EFFORTS TO REDUCE INEQUALITY

**Cambodia** has embarked on a program to improve land access by issuing land titles. By 2018, the government has issued 5,127,819 land titles. The government has also facilitated the registration of indigenous lands in 24 communities.

**Fiji** has made reducing inequality in all its forms a key focus of its five-year and 20-year development plans. The country aims to improve the well-being of all Fijians regardless of geographical location, gender, ethnicity, physical and intellectual capability and socio-economic status. Fiji saw a decrease in its Gini Index from 40.4 in 2008 to 36.7 in 2013 with the proportion of the population living in poverty falling from 31% to 28% in the same period. The country regulated its national minimum wage and developed a policy to protect unskilled, non-unionized labourers.

The national development plan for 2017-2022 in the **Philippines** stresses the reduction of inequality by expanding economic activities, developing human capital and equitable regional development. The plan is complemented by legislation regarding the rights of vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, women, indigenous peoples, elderly and children and youth. The country also has social protection programs that respond to risks and vulnerabilities for households and individuals.

Source: Excerpt adapted from the VNR reports for Cambodia, Fiji and the Philippines.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Ensure policies and programs are informed by and integrate efforts to leave no one behind, including by prioritizing those most in need to consistently reach marginalized communities.
- ✓ Include a specific chapter on leaving no one behind in VNR reporting and demonstrate how the principle of leaving no one behind is being translated into action in an overarching way.
- ✓ Provide information on the status of data collection or plans to improve data availability to inform efforts to leave no one behind. This includes information on gender disaggregated data. Ensuring no one is left behind means knowing who is being left behind, by how much, and in what areas.
- ✓ Highlight existing and planned efforts to leave no one behind, including how policies and program are being adapted, and in particular, new approaches to reach the people who are furthest behind first.
- ✓ Promote gender equality through international good practice such as gender budgeting, gender-based analysis and mainstreaming into policies and plans, and appropriate legal, policy and institutional frameworks.
- ✓ Report on the outcomes of efforts to leave no one behind, including by drawing on civil society expertise and citizen-generated data. Clearly present links between specific policies and actions with results, presenting progress for specific marginalized groups.
- ✓ Target domestic inequality in 2030 Agenda implementation, including in support of SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, and outline the current status of domestic inequality and how it is being addressed in VNR reports.

## AWARENESS-RAISING

Raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda and educating citizens on sustainable development is an ongoing process critical for establishing a national vision for sustainable development, generating support, and promoting whole-of-society approaches to implementation. In 2019, information on awareness-raising activities was available for 87% of countries. This compares to 83% in 2018 and over 90% in 2017. Information was not available on activities for the Central African Republic, the Congo, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand and Vanuatu.<sup>34</sup> The VNR reports for the Central African Republic and Congo referred to the need to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and challenges in terms of capacities and finance to do so. An additional five countries pointed out that more efforts were needed to raise awareness.

While a range of methods to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda are emerging (Figure 11), the most commonly cited form of awareness-raising was technical or localization workshops with stakeholders in government and beyond on 2030 Agenda implementation (12 countries in 2019 versus 10 in 2018). Events were highlighted by nine countries (eight noted events in 2018). Another nine countries noted education activities, the same as in 2018. Seven versus nine countries in 2018 referred to the VNR process as part of awareness-raising efforts. Four countries noted

translation into local languages, including Algeria, Eswatini, Ghana, and Rwanda. While six countries prepared or planned to prepare a communications strategy in 2018, only four countries noted this approach in 2019 – Eswatini, Guatemala, Mauritius and Tanzania. Five countries pointed to websites, five pointed to engagement with the media and journalists while three pointed to awareness campaigns through media and social media. An additional three countries noted the creation of publications and communications materials. Like previous years, VNR reports recognize that awareness-raising is an area for ongoing effort throughout the course of 2030 Agenda implementation.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Develop a communication and engagement strategy to continue to raise awareness of and ownership over the 2030 Agenda with a wide range of stakeholders over the course of SDG implementation.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: ALGERIA'S APPROACH TO AWARENESS-RAISING

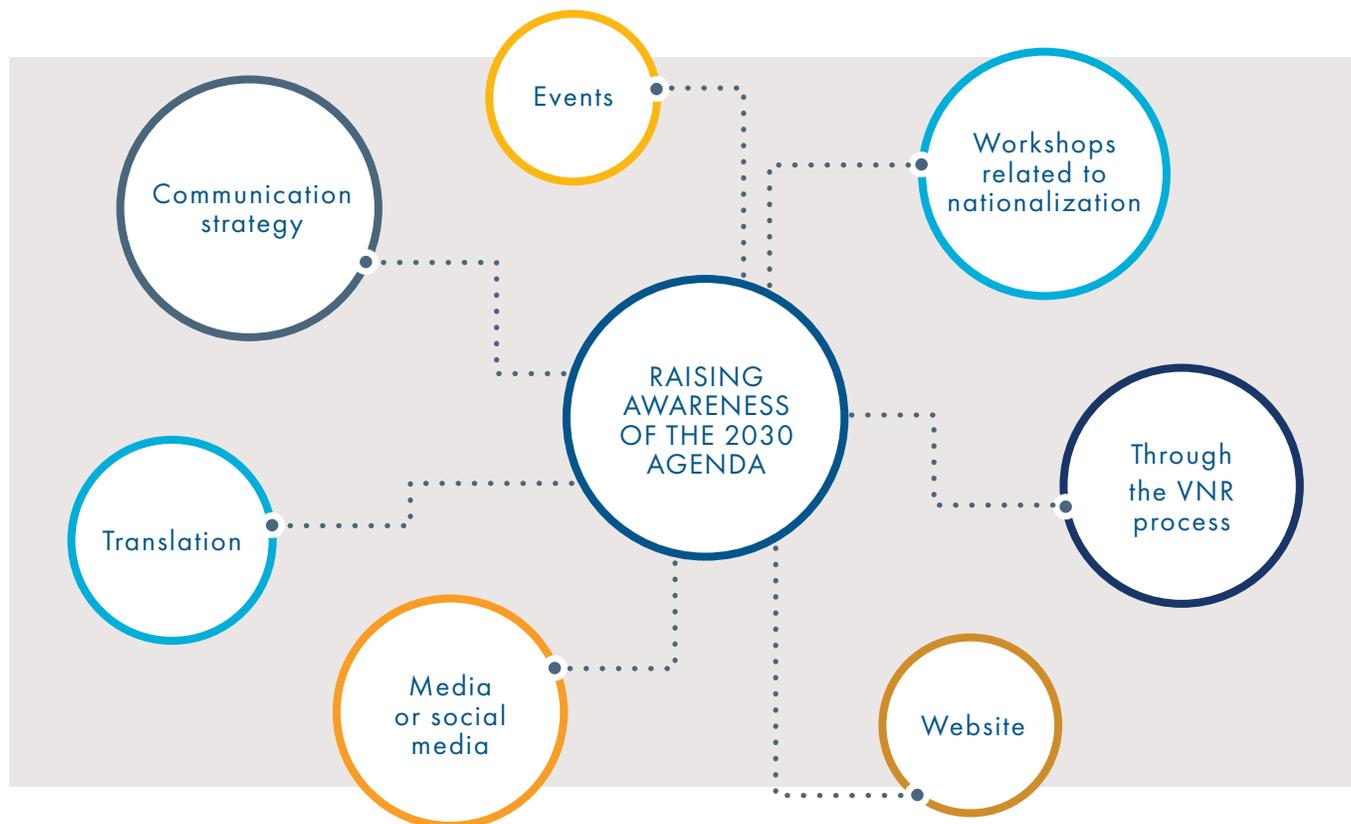
The High Commission for Amazighity translated the SDGs into the Amazigh language. A national day was organized called the Sustainability at the Heart of Public Policies. The event was attended by ministers, ambassadors, professions, academicians, partners from other sectors and civil society.

In addition, a series of workshops were organized to raise awareness of the SDGs and encourage reflection on the goals. The workshops encouraged the discussion of the national communication strategy of the SDGs, provided a focal point to obtain media coverage and led to the establishment of a group of resource journalists at the regional and national levels.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Algeria's VNR report.

<sup>34</sup> Though Timor-Leste referred to the VNR as supporting awareness-raising, providing limited information otherwise.

FIGURE 11. COMMON METHODS OF RAISING AWARENESS OF 2030 AGENDA



 **A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: CAMEROON'S CIVIL SOCIETY STRENGTHEN NATIONAL OWNERSHIP THROUGH AWARENESS-RAISING AND ENGAGEMENT**

In Cameroon, civil society organizations have translated SDGs into local languages, made efforts to inform people who are not literate, created sustainable development clubs at high schools and colleges, produced comic books, established a common platform for collaboration, and organized several workshops.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Cameroon's VNR report.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda on an ongoing basis.
- Continue to promote innovative ways to raise awareness of the SDGs among the general public, including in partnership with civil society and other non-state actors.

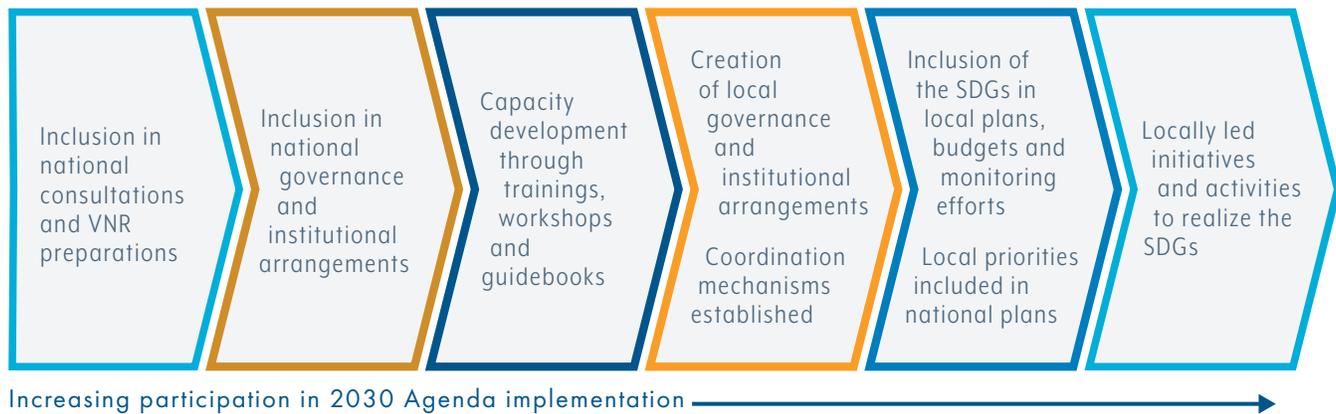
## LOCALIZATION

In many countries regional and local governments play a frontline role in delivering progress on the SDGs. Localization requires coordination between different levels of government, incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into local plans and policies, and often financial support and capacity development for local governments to effectively participate.<sup>35</sup> Rooting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in local priorities and activities at the community level makes the agenda meaningful and practical in the day-to-day lives of citizens. While not mentioned in VNR reports for 2019, some cities are also conducting [voluntary local reviews](#), paving the way for subnational accountability structures.

Just under 75% of countries provided information on their efforts to localize the 2030 Agenda in 2019, up from 65% in 2018.<sup>36</sup> As was the case in previous years, the VNR reports continue to show wide variance in terms of where countries and their local governments are in terms of localization. Lack of consistent reporting also makes it difficult to assess the status of localization overall. Some countries presenting dedicated sections on localization or showcased initiatives by local governments throughout their reports such as Israel, Serbia and the United Kingdom whereas others provided very limited space in their VNR report on the topic.

Figure 12 provides an overview of the main elements of localization reported in VNR reports.

FIGURE 12. LOCALIZATION EFFORTS NOTED IN VNR REPORTS



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: INDONESIA'S MOBILIZATION OF SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDGS

Indonesia incorporated the SDGs at the national and subnational level. The country is preparing a 15-year SDGs Road Map as well as Regional SDG Action Plans. In addition, technical guidelines have been formulated to support national government institutions and subnational governments in their implementation of SDGs.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Indonesia's VNR report.

<sup>35</sup> For an overview of good practice in localizing the 2030 Agenda, see Wayne-Nixon, Laurel, Wragg-Morris, Tanya, Mishra, Anjali, and Markle, Dawson. 2019. Localizing the 2030 Agenda. *Good Practice in 2030 Agenda Implementation Series*. Vancouver and Ottawa: BCCIC and CCIC.

<sup>36</sup> Data was available for 33 of 45 countries (73%) reviewed in 2017.

Beyond references to local government engagement in the VNR process or national governance arrangements, VNR reports provided some insights on the status of localization. In 2019, 18 countries (38%) referred to integrating the 2030 Agenda into local plans and policies, 13 (28%) of which have done so and five (11%) of which plan to do so. In 2018, 16 countries (35%) made similar references, however, most – 10 or 22% – had planned to include the 2030 Agenda into local plans while six (13%) had already done so.

Reference to local initiatives were presented by 13 countries, an increase from three in 2018. Twelve countries referred to capacity development efforts for local government with some pointing to ongoing training sessions and the

creation of resource materials. Coordination between national government institutions and local governments was noted by seven countries and one country highlighted this as an area where further work is needed. Five countries noted having integrated local governments into monitoring and evaluation with one country noting plans to do so. Three countries, the same as in 2018, mentioned they engaged associations of local municipalities as part of their localization efforts. Mauritania, Pakistan and Rwanda referred to local councils or bodies supporting 2030 Agenda implementation. These included Chile, Côte d'Ivoire and Iceland. Indonesia and Tanzania referred to localization as part of SDG roadmap implementation plans while another two countries pointed to awareness-raising activities.



#### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: SOUTH AFRICA'S ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY

The municipality of Ethekwini in South Africa has entrenched the SDGs into city development planning and communications. For example, the city is preparing a statement on gender equality that will refer to relevant SDGs and corresponding targets and indicators. As part of the municipality's commitment to the SDGs, the municipality is carrying out awareness and advocacy seminars for middle and senior management, informed by international examples of SDG implementation. The municipality has also developed SDG awareness and localization toolkits that have been shared internationally.

Source: Excerpt adapted from South Africa's VNR report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Include localization as part of 2030 Agenda implementation strategies, strengthen coordination with local governments and local institutional structures, capacities and resources.
- ✓ Support the translation of the SDGs into local plans, programs and monitoring efforts and ensure local priorities inform national plans.



## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Partnership is a critical element of implementing the 2030 Agenda and its principles. Most countries agree that all stakeholders in society are needed if countries are to realize the SDGs by 2030. As such, VNR reports should showcase contributions from a wide range of stakeholders towards the 2030 Agenda.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Submit a national report for the VNR that systematically outlines the contributions made by a wide range of stakeholders, not just the national government.

All countries, except Nauru, provided examples of contributions by non-state actors to 2030 Agenda implementation in 2019 beyond consultation on priorities and participation in governance arrangements.<sup>37</sup> This is

an improvement over 2018 when 85% of countries provided this type of information. Approaches to showcasing efforts varied. Some countries, such as the United Kingdom, included information on efforts by non-state actors and local governments throughout in the form of vignettes. Through its two VNR processes, Turkey solicited examples of good practice from local governments and non-state actors to create an online National SDG Best Practices Database. The database includes over 400 good practices, the best of which were showcased in the government's 2019 VNR report. Local government and youth perspectives informed significant portions of the goal-by-goal analysis in Serbia's report. Israel included a chapter with written inputs in its VNR report from different stakeholder groups including civil society, local governments and the private sector. The inclusion of activities by a wide range of stakeholders provides a national picture of implementation efforts, including and moving beyond government. This approach to VNR reporting respects the principles of inclusivity and participation embedded in the 2030 Agenda.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: REPORTING ON CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM'S VNR REPORT

The VNR report highlighted different examples of coalitions that support the 2030 Agenda. For example, the SDG Network Scotland is an open coalition of more than 300 individuals and organizations across Scotland. The network was formed to develop a Scotland-wide response to the SDGs. The Scottish Government has worked with the Network and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities to produce material for the United Kingdom's VNR.

In December 2018, a Regional Stakeholder Network was created to provide people with disabilities and organizations serving people with disabilities a modality to better communicate with government. Forums were created in nine regions to share experiences about policies and services affecting people with disabilities.

Finally, the VNR report highlighted coalitions of civil society coalitions such as the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development and the Bond International Development Network that play a critical role in driving domestic and international implementation of the SDGs.

Source: Excerpt adapted from the United Kingdom's VNR report.

<sup>37</sup> This section deals with the forms of engagement and participation that have not yet been addressed in the earlier sections of the report looking beyond engagement through consultation and governance arrangements.

## CIVIL SOCIETY

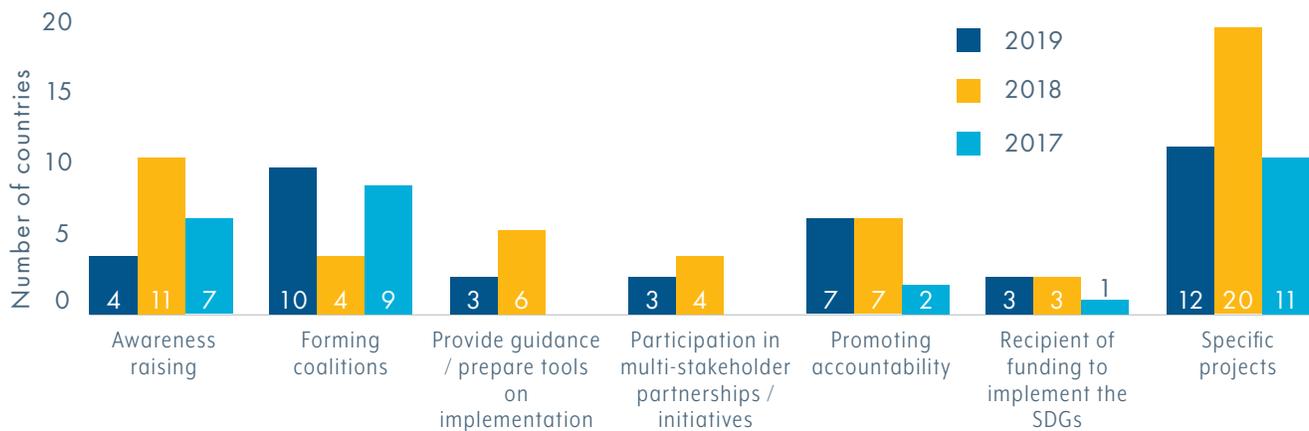
Civil society organizations support 2030 Agenda implementation by representing and advocating for citizens and those left behind, contributing to policy development, implementing projects and programs and promoting accountability through independent analysis and reporting, among other things. Reporting on civil society contributions to the 2030 Agenda as increased over 2017-2019 suggesting a positive trend in terms of countries recognizing the contributions by civil society organizations in their VNR reports in 2019. 68% of countries provided information versus 65% in 2018 and 56% in 2017.

Figure 13 provides information on the most common activities emerging with respect to reporting on civil society over 2017-2018. Information for 2019 shows a continued emphasis on the role of civil society in implementing individual projects and forming coalitions to support 2030 Agenda implementation. The role of civil society in ensuring accountability for 2030 Agenda implementation continues to be recognized as well. A small number of countries – three – also referred to civil society organizations as recipients of funding to implement the SDGs, same as in 2018. In addition to examples of civil society organizations providing guidance on 2030 Agenda implementation, four countries referred to their role in capacity development, typically through training events and workshops. Four

countries referred to efforts by civil society organizations to support or carry out consultations on the 2030 Agenda and/or VNR, including Cote d'Ivoire, Timor-Leste, Pakistan and Rwanda. A limited number of countries referred to advocacy (one), preparation of parallel reports (two), knowledge sharing (two) and participation in multi-stakeholder partnerships or initiatives (three). In previous years, a limited number of countries referred to research, promoting structured dialogue and incorporating the SDGs into institutional operations. No countries referenced these activities in 2019. While overall VNR reports continue to recognize a wide range of the roles of civil society organizations as in 2018, individual VNR reports tend to portray narrow perceptions of the roles that civil society organizations, as evidenced by the limited number of countries reporting on different types of contributions.

Civil society reports and written inputs as part of VNR reports provide useful insights on the challenges civil society organizations face in contributing to the 2030 Agenda. In 2017 and 2018, civil society reports noted a range of challenges that prevent civil society delivery of the 2030 Agenda, including low levels of awareness of the agenda by the public, civil society and government, limited engagement and coordination with government, poor institutional preparedness to implement the 2030 Agenda by national and local governments, lack of an enabling environment, limited finance, and structural factors such

FIGURE 13. MAIN CIVIL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN VNR REPORTS, 2017-2019



as deeply rooted behaviours and changes in government. Figure 14 provides an overview of the challenges noted by civil society for 2019.<sup>38</sup> In addition to what is presented in Figure 14, civil society in Ghana highlighted the need for

ongoing awareness-raising and efforts to generate local ownership while those in Mongolia argued that further integration of the 2030 Agenda into national frameworks is needed.

FIGURE 14. CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED BY CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

#### DATA AVAILABILITY AND MONITORING CAPACITIES

- **Cambodia:** Ministries have different monitoring and evaluation capacities.
- **Côte d'Ivoire:** Need to improve technical and financial resources for data collection and statistical system.
- **Ghana:** Limited data collection by civil society on the SDGs.
- **Indonesia:** Lack of data inclusive data in policy making.
- **Saint Lucia:** inadequate data support for policy planning.
- **Sierra Leone:** Limited effective monitoring, data collection and monitoring.
- **Pakistan:** Need for improved data availability.
- **Philippines:** Improved data availability, including disaggregated data.
- **Tanzania:** Inadquate baseline data.
- **Tonga:** Burden of multiple data demands of national and international reporting.

#### COORDINATION

- **Cambodia:** Lack of coordination mechanisms and an inter-ministerial process to harmonize the SDGs.
- **Ghana:** While national institutional arrangements are strong, weak local coordination is a concern.

#### QUALITY OF ENGAGEMENT

- **Cameroon:** Need for increased participation of diverse stakeholders.
- **Ghana:** Lack of presence of sub-national civil society platforms.
- **Guatemala:** Concern over degrading democracy.
- **Mauritania:** Need for a coordination mechanism between civil society, development partners and those involved in follow-up and review.
- **Mongolia:** Need for a multi-stakeholder mechanism to discuss and resolve policy conflicts.
- **Sierra Leone:** Engagement with stakeholders through participatory means.
- **United Kingdom:** Need for a mechanism to engage stakeholders in planning, budgeting and holding the government accountable.

<sup>38</sup> The contribution from civil society organizations in Israel's VNR report pointed to 10 guiding principles that should inform how the government implements the 2030 Agenda. Israel's civil society position paper on the implementation of the SDGs outlined 10 guiding principles. The principles include: 1) human dignity; 2) holistic perspective; 3) inclusivity, diversity, and representation; 4) strengthening the democratic process and faith in government; 5) inclusive governance; 6) ensure the vitality of Earth's life support systems; 7) view policy influence on future generations; 8) integrate an analysis of gender perspectives; 9) long-term planning including setting clear goals and measures; and 10) transparency and open government.

## CAPACITY OF GOVERNMENT AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

- **Burkina Faso:** High costs of large statistical studies prevents regular data collecting.
- **Cambodia:** Insufficient government budget for implementation.
- **Central African Republic:** weak state capacity and unavailability of resources.
- **Iraq:** Weak state capacity.
- **Mauritania:** Call for increased support for civil society to develop their capacities.
- **Lesotho:** Chronic political uncertainty and institutional fragmentation.
- **Pakistan:** Need for additional resources to improve capacities for civil society and members of parliament.
- **Timor-Leste:** Weak institutional frameworks.
- **United Kingdom:** Opportunity for the British government to improve capacity development for 2030 Agenda implementation.

## LAGGING AREAS OF PROGRESS

- **Cameroon:** Need to address gaps in services and rights.
- **Guatemala:** Continued failure of government to address inequality, poverty and corruption.
- **Philippines:** Improved access to education.
- **Sierra Leone:** Need for LNOB to inform all relevant policies and programs, informed by a systemic analysis of structural, financial, political and social drivers of inequality. Greater attention to environmental protection, natural resource management and resiliency to economic shocks.

## PARLIAMENTARIANS

Parliamentarians play an important role in 2030 Agenda implementation. They advocate for the priorities and concerns of the citizens they represent and hold governments to account for progress. Less countries provided information on the role of parliaments in 2019 than in 2018. Eleven countries reported on efforts by parliamentarians to support SDG implementation, beyond consultations and engagement in governance arrangements in 2019 versus 18 in 2018 (and 15 in 2017).

Parliaments in Chad, Chile, Fiji, Indonesia, Mauritius, Pakistan, and Serbia have undertaken efforts to raise awareness of the SDGs. Chile, Fiji, and Pakistan's parliaments have undertaken the writing and dissemination of SDG-related reports. Indonesia, Pakistan and Serbia have organized conferences of parliamentarians with Pakistan inviting national and provincial parliamentarians and Indonesia and Serbia organizing international events. Fiji

and Pakistan have undertaken efforts to enhance capacity for implementation of the SDGs. Guatemala, Guyana and Mongolia have adopted SDG-related legislation. Guyana's parliament was folded SDG-related activities into its regular parliamentary work. Chad has drafted an action plan and submits regular progress reports. Fiji developed a guidance note to help parliamentary committees engage effectively on the SDGs. Guyana and South Africa specifically mentioned the role of parliament in the development of the SDG-related budgets.

The activities showcased by parliaments in the 2019 VNR reports are similar to what was reported in previous years. Overall reporting on parliamentarians remains limited in VNR reports, suggesting an important area for improvement given the role of parliamentarians in ensuring accountability for 2030 Agenda implementation, identifying priorities and approving national budgets.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: INCLUDING PARLIAMENT IN 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION IN FIJI

The Fijian parliament created a guiding note on how to integrate the SDGs in all Fijian parliamentary committees. The note stresses the importance of SDG indicators and helps parliamentary committees use the indicators to advance Fiji's national development plan by providing a series of checklists and step-by-step guides. The note also provides examples of how parliamentarians can engage in the implementation of the SDGs through the scrutinizing of bills, annual reports and expenditures.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Fiji's VNR report.



## THE PRIVATE SECTOR

While the role of the private sector in contributing finance and innovative solutions to development challenges has received a lot of attention in the context of 2030 Agenda discussions – both globally and in many country contexts – only 53% of VNR reports highlight private sector contributions beyond consultations and engagement in governance arrangements. In 2018, 61% of countries did the same versus 53% of countries in 2017.

Table 3 outlines the main activities noted in 2019 and includes a comparison with 2018 and 2017. As with

previous years, the most prominent activities relate to specific projects, alignment by the private sector with the 2030 Agenda and the creation or use of forums to raise awareness and coordinate with the private sector.

Two countries in 2018 noted mapping private sector impacts while one country in 2019 pointed to monitoring progress by the private sector on sustainable development. Three countries noted that further engagement with the private sector was a priority. Low and middle-income countries tended to highlight efforts to create an enabling environment for private sector contributions to the 2030 Agenda.

TABLE 3. MAIN PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS HIGHLIGHTED IN VNR REPORTS, 2017-2019

ACTIVITY	YEAR, NUMBER OF COUNTRIES		
	2019	2018	2017
Specific projects	12	12	7
Alignment through corporate social responsibility and/or business practices	9	14 <sup>39</sup>	5 <sup>40</sup>
Creation or use of forums to raise awareness and coordinate	6	6	8
Events	5	-	6
Research	4	4	5
Provision of finance for SDG related activities	3	-	-
Multi-stakeholder partnerships	2	10	-
Creation of prizes or competitions	2	4	-



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: CHILE'S ADDING VALUE INITIATIVE

The 'Adding Value' initiative was promoted by the sustainability organization Acción Empresas, the Confederation of Production and Commerce, the Factory Development Society and Pact Global. The intention of the initiative is to highlight the country's private sector contributions towards reaching the SDGs. The initiative sets out clear guidelines as to which projects count and do not count towards the implementation of the SDGs. One private-sector initiative highlighted by the Adding Value initiative was organized by the company Sodimac and called 'Building Dream Homes.' The undertaking seeks to provide a higher quality of life for people who are socially vulnerable by providing funds for neighbourhood improvement projects, community infrastructure and improvements in public spaces.

Source: Source: Excerpt adapted from Chile's VNR report.

<sup>39</sup> Ten of which were in the form of company-specific commitments.

<sup>40</sup> Company specific commitments.

### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN TURKMENISTAN

The government systematically engaged youth in the development of the VNR and the implementation of the SDGs. The government appointed 17 youth ambassadors from throughout the country. Plans for a volunteer youth network were developed with the intentions of using the network to disseminate knowledge of the SDGs. In addition, young people have expressed an interest in working with government and business towards realizing the SDGs.

Source: Except adapted from Turkmenistan's VNR report..

## ACADEMIA AND EXPERTS

Academics and experts contribute to 2030 Agenda implementation through research, project implementation and education initiatives. After improvements in reporting on the contributions from academics or experts to SDG implementation in 2018, 2019 saw a decline. Only 13 countries provided information on the role of academics in 2019 versus 23 in 2018 and 14 in 2017. This suggests room for greater involvement by academic and expert communities in 2030 Agenda implementation. While the most common examples of academic or expert contributions noted in VNR reports related to specific projects in 2018 (14 countries), in 2019, countries most commonly referred to research (seven countries). Three countries noted the creation of courses or incorporating the 2030 Agenda into curricula (versus four countries in 2018). Three countries pointed to participation by academic institutions in networks. Contributions to capacity development initiatives, monitoring and evaluation, and multi-stakeholder initiatives were each noted by two countries.

## OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

Beyond the stakeholders noted above, a wide range of groups contribute to 2030 Agenda implementation, including youth, volunteers, trade unions and the media, inter alia. The most common groups of other stakeholders noted in VNR reports for 2019 included youth (nine countries) and volunteers (eight countries). This is like findings in 2018 when participation by youth and youth organizations was cited by 10 countries with governments taking steps to consult with youth on their priorities,

and youth organizations in some countries carrying out advocacy related to youth priorities (like 2017). Some countries also pointed to youth councils or networks, including Croatia, Guyana, Iceland, Sierra Leone, Tonga, Turkmenistan and Vanuatu.

With respect to volunteers, the eight countries emphasized the contributions of their volunteers, and some having established policies and plans to further harness their potential contributions to the 2030 Agenda. For example, Cameroon highlighted its National Volunteer Strategy, contributions to the VNR, specific initiatives across SDGs and a youth volunteer network. In 2013, Côte d'Ivoire created a National Volunteer Program. The program mobilizes all segments of society including youth.

## DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

The Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines ask countries to outline their main priorities for development partner support. The role of development partners in 2030 Agenda implementation was relevant for 38 of the 47 countries reporting countries in 2019 (includes low- and middle-income countries as well as one high-income country – Oman – that indicated they require further support). Twenty-five of these countries (66%) provided information on the role of development partners. As with previous years, countries tend to provide general information on the support they require, though the Philippines serves as a notable exception having included a chapter dedicated to how international partners can help the country.

The following areas emerged as priorities for support:

- goal specific priorities – 12 countries versus four in 2018 and seven in 2017;
- strengthening systems to collect data and monitor SDG implementation – 10 countries in 2019, versus five in 2018 and 10 in 2017; and
- support for general plans or SDG implementation – four countries versus five in 2018.

In supporting country priorities, the provision of finance (official development assistance, finance from international financial institutions and South-South cooperation) is the

most common role identified by countries (13) followed by technical assistance noted by seven countries. These two forms of support were also the most prominent in 2018 for 12 and nine countries respectively. Countries pointing to technology transfer (six) and knowledge sharing (five) rose in 2019 compared to 2018.<sup>41</sup> Overall, these types of support are consistent with VNR reports from previous years.

Finally, the number of countries noting support to carry out their VNR rose again in 2019 over 2018. In 2019, 22 countries noted support from the United Nations versus 14 in 2018 and seven in 2017.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: OUTLINING HOW THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CAN HELP IN THE PHILIPPINES

The Philippines included a chapter on how the international community can support its efforts to realize the 2030 Agenda. For example, the country noted the need to leverage information communication technology to reduce the digital divide. The VNR report stated it would benefit greatly from education exchanges, knowledge sharing activities and research and development ventures. Partnering with countries that have already deeply incorporated technology in their educational programs will accelerate implementation in the Philippines.

The Philippines also noted the importance of development assistance to address subnational development gaps and the need for additional technological support to better adapt to climate change and apply disaster risk reduction strategies. The VNR report noted specific objectives the country would pursue with additional support in this area. Finally, the chapter referred to support needed to address cyber crimes and transnational crimes and efforts to maximize South-South and triangular cooperation to boost knowledge sharing.

Source: Excerpt adapted from the Philippine's VNR report.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Support civil society to engage in 2030 Agenda implementation by creating a more enabling environment, including through institutionalized dialogue and consultation, inclusion in formal governance arrangements, finance, and capacity development.
- ✓ Integrate the 2030 Agenda into parliamentary work, recognizing the critical role parliamentarians play as citizens' representatives and in ensuring national level accountability for progress.
- ✓ Support and develop partnerships with a variety of non-state actors, including academia, the private sector, youth and volunteers.
- ✓ Where relevant, clearly stipulate and provide details on priority areas for support from the international community, laying out the role development partners can best play to support the acceleration of 2030 Agenda implementation.

<sup>41</sup> Two countries noted knowledge sharing and only one technology transfer in 2018.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Governments have committed to supporting a diverse range of means of implementation to realize sustainable development. Beyond aspects related to policy coherence and monitoring – captured elsewhere in this report – finance is a critical aspect including national and international dimensions. At the national level, activities include costing, budgeting allocations and identifying sources of finance. Domestic public resources, private investment, trade and international public finance contribute to varying degrees. In addition to supporting implementation in their own countries, development partners also have a role to play internationally by supporting developing countries, notably through effective official development assistance (ODA) and South-South cooperation, capacity development, technology transfer and by promoting fair trade, including preferential trade access where relevant. Cooperation to address global systemic challenges such as those related to climate change, peace and security, illicit capital flight and taxation are also included as part of the means of implementation.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

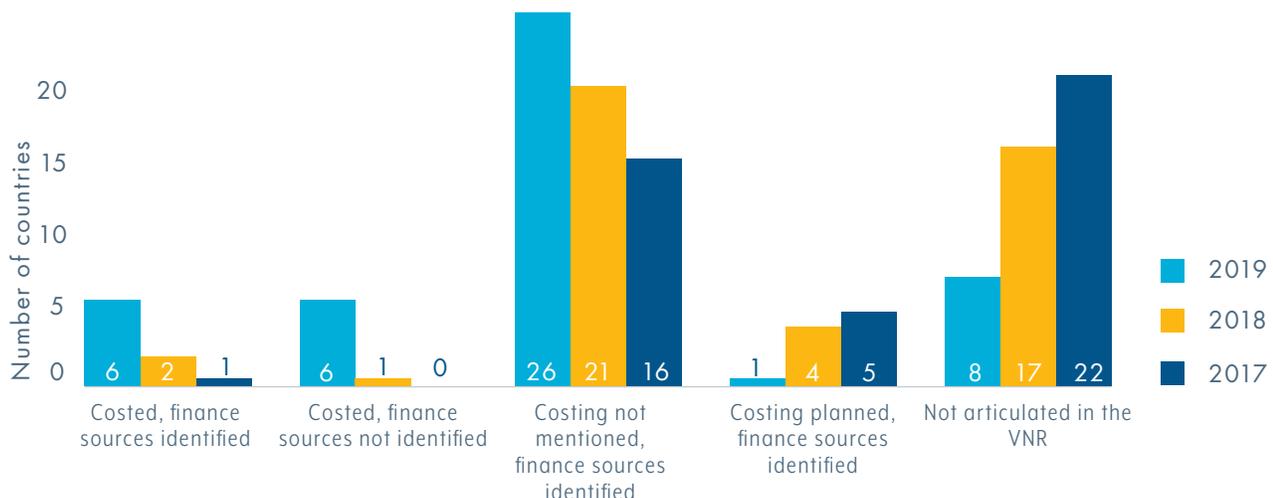
Cost out SDG implementation and identify sources of finance. Assess budget allocations for SDG implementation at national and subnational levels and incorporate and clearly denote activities aimed at realizing the SDGs in budgets.

In addition to reporting on these aspects of 2030 Agenda implementation, countries are also asked to report on best practices, challenges, lessons learned and where they would like to learn from others.

## BUDGETING FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

Costing 2030 Agenda implementation, identifying sources of finance and incorporating the 2030 Agenda into budgets assists countries in preparing realistic implementation strategies, identify financing shortfalls and setting clear expectations regarding needs when working with development partners. Figure 15 provides an overview of whether VNR reports refer to costing for domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda and identified sources of finance for 2017-2019. While there have been increases in terms of the number of countries costing 2030 Agenda implementation, most countries (72%) do not indicate that they have or plan to cost out implementation. A positive trend, however, is emerging with respect to countries identifying sources of finance with 70% having done so versus 57% in 2018 and 49% in 2017. Francophone West African countries tended to report costing the 2030 Agenda including Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, and Cote d'Ivoire. Other countries that costed implementation in full or in part included Croatia, Fiji, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Philippines, Saint Lucia, Serbia and the United Kingdom. Like previous years, for the countries that identified sources of finance, these tend to include domestic resources,

FIGURE 15. RESOURCING THE AGENDA 2030





### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: TIMOR-LESTE'S BUDGETARY ROADMAP

Timor-Leste developed a budgetary roadmap that supports the implementation of the SDGs by linking targets with budget structures and funds. Budgetary reforms will enable continued alignment of government actions to SDGs and will permit quarterly and annual monitoring of the goals. When completed in 2020, the budgetary reforms will support the nationalization process of the SDGs.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Timor-Leste's VNR report.

private investment, remittances, and where applicable, official development assistance and South-South cooperation. Overall, countries do not cost out 2030 Agenda implementation but do identify sources of finance.

The inclusion of the 2030 Agenda into national (and subnational budgets) ensures that resources are effectively allocated for implementation. Budgetary allocations also give life to government commitments and priorities, making clear the actions that are being undertaken to realize the SDGs. While under 46% of the VNR reports for 2018 provided information on inclusion of the SDGs in national budgets or budgeting processes, 2019 saw an increase to 64% of countries. Of the 30 countries reporting this information, 14 indicated plans to incorporate the SDGs into budgeting processes compared to 10 countries in 2018.

Sixteen countries noted that the SDGs are incorporated into national budgets. This is largely through allocations pertaining to national sustainable development plans that are aligned with the SDGs. Ghana, Guyana, Iceland, Mauritius and Oman indicated that budgets are explicitly

linked to the SDGs. Ghana uses budget codes to link to one or more SDG targets. Guyana requires government agencies to explicitly identify alignment with the country's national plan and the SDGs as part of the national budgeting process. Iceland links the SDGs to specific spending envelopes. Mauritius takes a similar approach. Oman has developed a tracking system related to its budgetary process to help achieve the SDGs.

## INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

International public finance, including ODA, other official flows and South-South cooperation remains important contributors to national sustainable development efforts for many countries. The examination of international public finance provides an indication of how development partners see their responsibilities with respect to supporting the realization of the SDGs globally and in developing countries. Reporting on international public finance declined in 2019 following improvements in 2018. Only 36 countries (77%) reported on international public finance versus 44 (96%) in 2018 and 38 (84%) in 2017.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: ICELAND'S FISCAL STRATEGY

For the past three years, Iceland has placed a strong emphasis of linking the SDG targets to various policy areas of the government's five-year fiscal strategy. The strategy is closely linked to the basic values and conditions in the country's Act on Public Finances and provides a detailed analysis of how the conditions and values are to be met in the coming year. This approach to budgeting describes 35 areas of operation in the next five years and provides a way of prioritizing spending. SDGs are then linked to spending envelopes and help to create linkages between the national and sectorial plans. The purpose of this budgeting strategy is to ensure the efforts towards the SDGs are well resourced and to promote a whole-of-government approach.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Iceland's VNR report.

For the 10 high-income countries that reported in 2019, six referred to their role in providing ODA while one referred to South-South cooperation.

- **Chile** referred to its role as a South-South cooperation provider.
- **Iceland** noted its support for the United Nations target for developed countries to provide development assistance amounting to 0.7% of GNI. The country's ODA amounted to 0.29% of GNI in 2017 but plans to increase ODA to 0.35% of GNI by 2022. Iceland also noted that over 40% of its ODA goes to the poorest countries.
- **Kuwait** notes that its ODA stands on average at 2.1% of its GDP, surpassing the United Nations target. The country provided a list of countries and SDG goals targeted by its efforts.
- **New Zealand** highlighted a recently announced plan for its engagement with the region – the Pacific Reset. The Reset promises to improve policy coherence for sustainable development and the provision of an additional \$714 million in overall aid funding as announced in the country's 2018 budget.
- **Palau** referred to the contributions it receives from development partners, noting that as a high-income country, it faces challenges continuing to attract ODA in the form of grants. The country is also experimenting with South-South cooperation.
- Finally, the **United Kingdom** highlighted its commitment to the United Nations ODA target. To leave no one behind, the country continues to allocate between 0.15-0.2% of GNI to ODA to least developed countries and over 50% of the country's aid goes to fragile and conflict-affected states. The role of the United Kingdom's development finance institution was also highlighted.

Low- and middle-income countries covered a wide range of issues related to international public finance and their ongoing needs for such support (Figure 16). The figure below does not show references to ensuring donors meet their ODA commitments. In 2018 two countries noted this issue while only South Africa did the same in 2019. Seven countries made similar calls in 2017. Two countries referred to climate finance – Sierra Leone and Tunisia, down from three in 2018.



FIGURE 16. ISSUES RELATED TO INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FINANCE HIGHLIGHTED BY LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



## TRADE

Participation in international trade is a key strategy for realizing sustainable development across countries. Moreover, the international community has committed to establishing a universal, rules-based, fair trading system that enables developing countries to reap the benefits of trade. Like international public finance, reporting on trade declined in 2019 after an increase in 2018. In 2019, 28 countries (60%) reported on trade versus 35 (76%) in 2018 and 22 (49%) in 2017. Countries tend to note the importance of trade in general terms with a focus on increasing trade overall through integration into regional and global trading systems (nine countries), specific initiatives to strengthen trade such as by improving competitiveness (nine countries) and finalizing specific trade deals (two countries). Iceland, New Zealand, Turkey and the United Kingdom pointed to efforts to reduce trade barriers, particularly for least developed countries.

## CAPACITIES FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

In the examination of capacities for 2030 Agenda implementation, the review examines how members refer to capacity development, technology transfer and systemic issues that impact capacities to implement the 2030 Agenda. Thirty-two countries referred to capacity development in some way in their VNR report, the same as in 2018 and 2017. As with previous years, discussions on capacity development tend to focus on capacities for implementation such as institutional and human resources and monitoring and evaluation. Capacities related to monitoring and data collection were noted – both in terms of challenges but also efforts to improve capacities. Some countries provided analyses of capacity challenges within the goal-by-goal analysis. High income countries and countries that provide South-South cooperation tend to showcase their efforts to support capacity development in other countries. Overall, the issues related to capacity development as reported in VNR reports in 2019 are consistent with reporting in 2018 and 2017.

With respect to technology, SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals includes three targets on technology transfer to developing countries. Trends over 2017-2019 show that countries typically report on technology. In 2019, information was available for 87% of countries versus 80% in 2018 and roughly 75% in 2017. In 2019, all countries reporting on technology made some reference to leveraging technology to implement the SDGs. Most (83%) referred to technology to advance the SDGs domestically. For example, Guyana, Iceland, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Tanzania, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom discussed technology in terms of environmental management, improving the quality of their environments or greening their economies. Sixteen countries discussed ways of improving the education system with technology or enhancing learning through the mobilization of technology.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Articulate specific capacity constraints to 2030 Agenda implementation and with respect to realizing specific SDGs in VNR reports. Indicate the type of support needed to address capacity constraints.

Algeria, Iceland, Kazakhstan and Turkey referred to facilitating technology transfers of technology to developing countries. For example, Algeria noted its full commitment to a global technology facilitation mechanism. The country highlighted the development and expansion of the trans-Saharan fibre optic link connecting Algeria, Niger and Nigeria with plans to expand to Chad and Mali. Kazakhstan's Green Bridge Partnership Program is an interregional mechanism to facilitate the transfer of green technologies and best practices in governance and innovation. Bosnia and Herzegovina and South Africa discussed receiving technology transfers. In 2019, six countries expressed an interest in receiving technology transfers. In 2018, three countries mentioned technology transfers received or needed, compared to eight having done so in 2017. For example, Cameroon noted technology and skills transfers should be prioritized in trade agreements.

Finally, systemic issues such as global macroeconomic stability, peace and conflict, migration and illicit flows impact the capacity of countries to pursue sustainable development. In 2019, only 22 countries (47%) referred to systemic issues versus 32 (70%) in 2018. This decline follows from an increase in 2018 over 2017. There has also been a shift in identified systemic issues. Six countries referred to climate change or environmental degradation as systemic issues. Five countries – Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Guyana, Iraq and Mauritania – referred to regional instability, terrorist organizations, or otherwise hostile illegal activities on their territories as a systemic issue. Chad, Iraq and Mauritius noted the fluctuations in oil prices as a systemic issue. In 2018, global economic and financial crises or instability was the most commonly cited issue (nine countries) followed by efforts to combat illicit flows (seven countries).

**BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT**

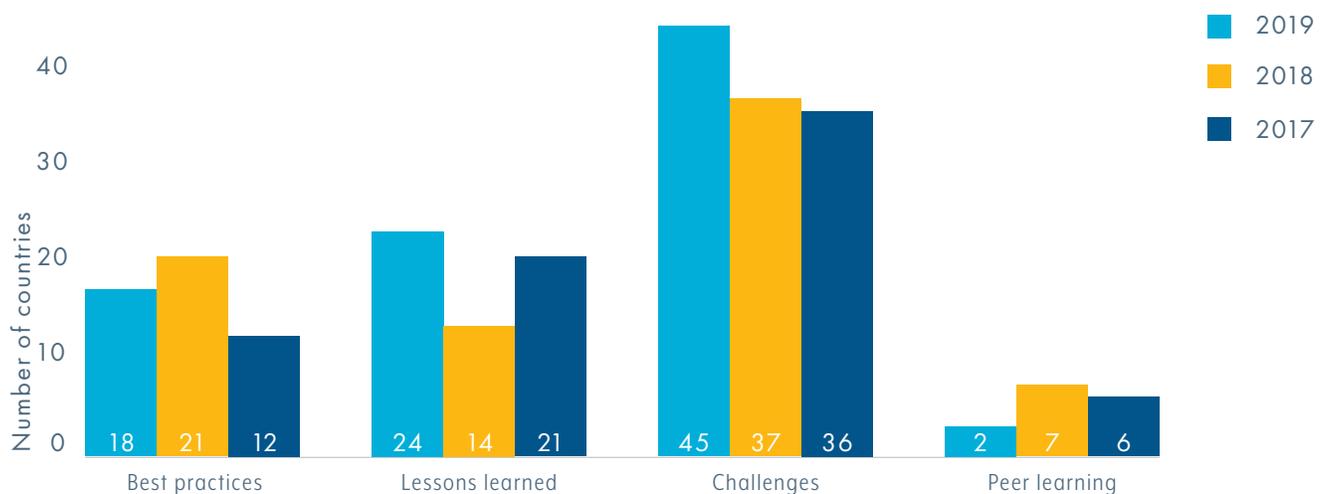
Report on best practice, lessons learned to accelerate 2030 Agenda implementation, challenges and areas countries would like to learn from peers.

**EXPERIENCES IN IMPLEMENTATION**

The Secretary-General’s voluntary common reporting guidelines ask member states to outline their best practices, lessons learned in accelerating implementation, challenges and what they would like to learn from peers. Honest reflection on these elements is critical for the promotion of peer learning and the identification of areas for greater support by domestic and international stakeholders.

Figure 17 shows that there has been improvement in reporting on lessons learned and challenges in 2019 over 2018 with slightly fewer countries reporting on best practices and learning from peers. Almost all countries reported on challenges at 96%. Just over half of countries reported on lessons learned (51%) while only 38% cited best practices and four percent learning from peers. Consistent with findings in 2018, there is significant room for improved reporting on learning from peers, good practices and to a lesser extent, lessons learned. Reporting on these elements is critical to meeting the learning objectives of the HLPF. Despite the encouragement for member state to include this information throughout their VNR reports, there continues to be a need for the United Nations to explore with member states why there is underreporting on these dimensions particularly given the focus of the HLPF follow-up and review process on knowledge and lesson sharing.

FIGURE 17. COUNTRIES HIGHLIGHTING AREAS REQUESTED IN THE VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES, 2017-2019





## A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: AZERBAIJAN'S EFFORTS TO ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGS

A forum was organized in Baku on October 25-26, 2018 that brought together senior officials from Europe and Central Asia. The purpose of the forum was to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice, build accountable and inclusive institutions, and strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. The Baku Principles that emerged from the forum provide guidelines on how to integrate the SDGs and accelerate their implementation. The principles draw on Azerbaijan's experience with and lessons learned from the "Mainstreaming, Acceleration, and Policy Support" platform introduced by the United Nations Development Group.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Azerbaijan's VNR report.

### Best practice

The information shared for best practices tends to be detailed across reports particularly through case studies and text boxes, providing a good basis for understanding and learning. Slightly fewer countries presented information on best practices in 2019 compared to 2018 with 18 countries providing this information versus 21 the previous year. Like 2018, most countries highlighted specific programs or practices related to the realization of specific SDGs. Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Israel, the Philippines and Tunisia provided information on best practices across most if not all SDGs. The United Kingdom highlighted good practice examples from civil society and the private sector. Serbia cited participatory processes for national strategic planning and programming. Good practices related to inclusion were noted by Bosnia and Herzegovina (policy for Roma people), Congo (study on LNOB carried out), and Sierra Leone (inclusive planning processes at the local level). Turkmenistan cited the appointment of Youth Ambassadors to promote the SDGs to younger generations as a best practice. Finally, Turkey highlighted the creation of a national database of best practices that includes efforts by diverse stakeholders from within and outside government.

### Challenges

Identifying challenges in 2030 Agenda implementation is an important contribution of VNR reports. Frequently cited challenges across VNR reports signal areas where more support is needed from the United Nations and development partners. Moreover, the discussion of challenges can inform expectations regarding the speed and scale of 2030 Agenda implementation and provide a basis for addressing bottlenecks in individual countries.

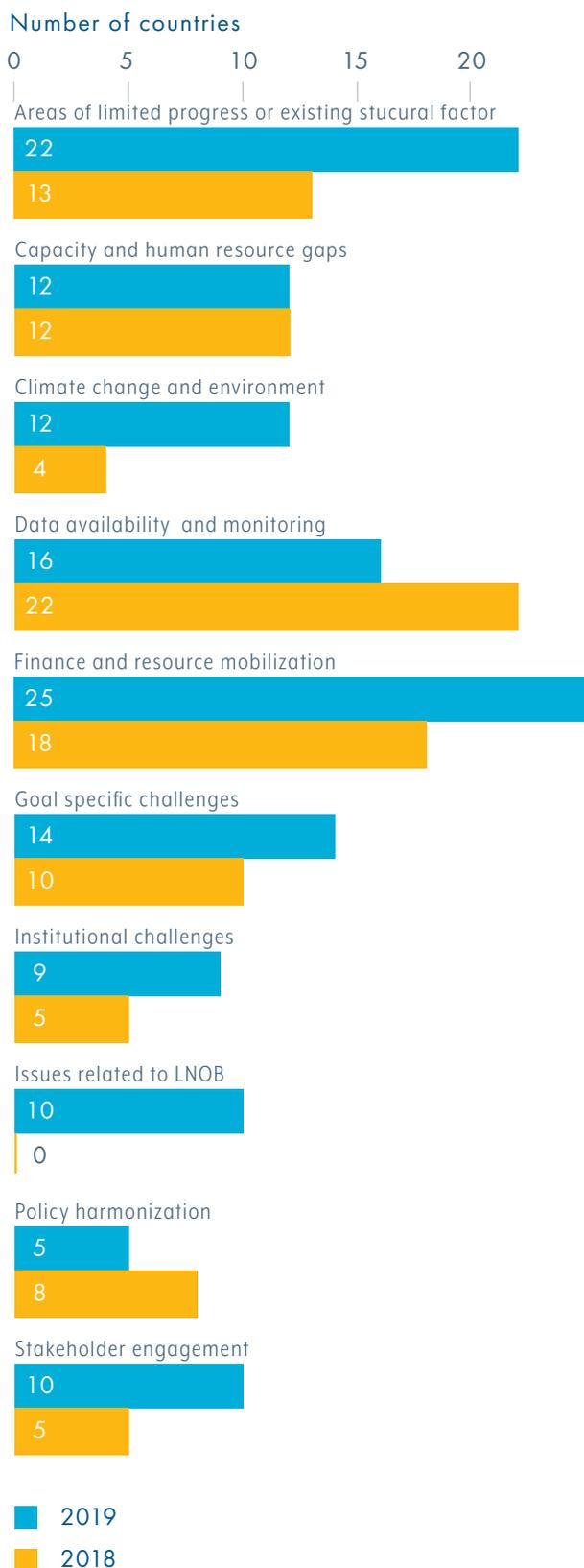
Figure 18 provides an overview of the main challenges identified in reports.<sup>42</sup> As was the case in 2018, most countries present implementation challenges as a list of key issues without significant details provided. Greater details tend to be available for challenges identified for specific SDGs. Figure 18 shows the main challenges emerging in 2030 Agenda implementation over 2018-2019.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Articulate clear and detailed challenges in 2030 Agenda implementation to inform how the country can best be supported by domestic and international communities.

<sup>42</sup> Issues mentioned by a limited number of countries but not captured below include public awareness (two countries), stakeholder coordination (two countries), and declining official development assistance (two countries). In 2018, two countries each referred to stakeholder coordination and public awareness. Four countries pointed to localization in 2018 while five pointed to governance. Localization was not presented as an issue in 2019, however, four countries referred to governance issues.

FIGURE 18. MOST COMMON CHALLENGES IN 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION, 2018-2019



Finance and resource mobilization emerged as the top challenge in 2019 followed by areas of limited progress such as low education rates or structural factors such as global oil prices. Data availability and monitoring was the next most commonly cited concern. Data constraints and monitoring progress was the top challenge for both 2018 and 2017 with finance the next most commonly cited issue in those years. Capacity constraints were cited by the same number of countries – 12 – in 2019 as 2018. Countries continue to face challenges related to broader 2030 Agenda implementation including ensuring institutions are fit for purpose, harmonizing policies and stakeholder engagement. A challenge that emerged in 2019 not seen in previous years was the issue of ensuring inclusivity and meeting the promise to leave no one behind with 10 countries citing issues related to this topic.

### Lessons learned

Pointing to lessons learned in VNR reports is another aspect of reporting that supports peer learning. For the 24 countries that highlighted lessons learned 10 emphasized stakeholder engagement for successful 2030 Agenda implementation compared to five in 2018. Eight countries pointed to lessons learned related to developing appropriate systems for follow-up and review. Four countries highlighted the roles of local governments. Another four pointed to the importance of prioritization under the 2030 Agenda and four countries emphasized country ownership as critical to success. Integrating the agenda into government systems including policies, budgets and monitoring and evaluation was also highlighted by four countries. With respect to leaving no one behind, four countries highlighted issues related to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations. For example, Cameroon noted the lesson of allocating more resources to the ministries in charge of social services to strengthen inclusiveness in the implementation of the SDGs. In addition to the issues noted above, two countries highlighted ensuring integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development through policies and in implementation as a lesson learned. Finally, one country, Rwanda, highlighted strong political commitment. The lessons learned in the 2019 VNR reports are largely aligned with what was reported in the VNR reports examined in 2018 and 2017.

## Learning from others

Reporting on what countries are keen to learn from others saw a decline in 2019 with only three countries providing this information, down from 7 in 2018. Cambodia noted learning from the experiences of others with respect to carrying out a VNR. Rwanda's VNR pointed to the creation of a private company to strengthen South-South cooperation with a mandate to promote homegrown solutions and coordinate peer learning in areas such as the business enabling environment, public finance management, governance and unity and reconciliation. Timor-Leste noted the importance of peer learning as part of capacity development and noted they would like to learn from others' experiences on justice, education and decent work.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: REPORTING ON KEY CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED BY SIERRA LEONE

In its VNR report, Sierra Leone provided a summary of the key challenges the country is facing to realize the SDGs as well as lessons learned. Challenges listed relate to resources, monitoring progress, limited finance for civil society, limited private sector activities and illicit financial flows (as well as other issues related to financial accountability), low revenue-GDP ratio and limited fiscal space, coordination across government and non-state actors, and community empowerment.

The VNR report highlighted lessons learned with respect to early data collection to yield better results from the VNR process, appropriate resourcing of VNR processes to ensure inclusivity, strengthening civil society to support greater ownership over the 2030 Agenda, mobilizing communities and working to meet community needs.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Clearly include best practices, lessons learned in accelerating implementation, challenges going forward and where opportunities exist to learn from peers in VNR reports.
- ✓ Examine national and subnational budgets as an essential part of the implementation process and start integrating the SDGs into them to ensure that resources are allocated for implementation. In doing so, build on the good practice in costing out SDG implementation and identify sources of finance to implement the 2030 Agenda at country level.
- ✓ Report on all means of implementation, including clearly specifying capacity constraints. Such information is critical for assessing gaps, identifying where greater domestic and international efforts are needed and informing development cooperation frameworks.
- ✓ Bolster efforts to support development partners' capacity development priorities, including strengthening statistical systems and the capacities of local stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- ✓ Scale up efforts to address systemic issues that impact SDG implementation, in particular international peace and security, illicit capital flight, corruption, tax avoidance and tax evasion, among other things.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines suggest countries include information on how they intend to review progress at the national level. The guidelines also recommend countries provide information as to how they will report to future HLPFs.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Provide an account of national level reporting and accountability processes for 2030 Agenda implementation in VNR reports.

In 2019, 85% of countries provided information on follow-up and review processes at the national level. This represents a continued positive trend in terms of reporting on this dimension of 2030 Agenda implementation. In 2018, 67% of countries discussed measures to report on the national level versus 72% in 2017. Algeria, Chile, Fiji, Guatemala, Mauritania, Palau, and Sierra Leone did not provide information on national reporting. Chile and Guatemala also failed to provide information on how they would present progress on the national level in their 2017 VNR reports.

The Secretary-General's voluntary common report guidelines strongly encourage repeat reporters to present progress made since their last VNR. In 2019, seven countries

reported for a second time. These included Azerbaijan, Chile, Guatemala, Indonesia, the Philippines, Sierra Leone, and Turkey. All seven repeat reporters provided information on their progress since their last VNR report. For example, Sierra Leone assessed the country's progress in delivering its LNOB indicators developed in 2016. Turkey did not provide statistical information to discuss the changes between 2016 and 2019 but did discuss policy changes and adjustments it made in the interim years as well as efforts to mobilize non-state actors. Guatemala provided a description of the progress it made since its last VNR whereas Azerbaijan listed trends for available data.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Provide an account of progress made between VNR reports with reference to trends for SDG targets and changes to policies, institutions and partnerships for 2030 Agenda implementation.

## DATA AVAILABILITY

Data is important to ensure monitoring and evaluation of 2030 Agenda efforts. Reporting on data availability for 2030 Agenda monitoring improved significantly in 2019 over previous years. In 2019, 36 countries (76%) provided information on data availability. In 2018, 18 countries provided clear information on data availability for SDG monitoring versus 14 in 2017.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: MAURITIUS'S TRAFFIC LIGHT SYSTEM TO MONITOR PROGRESS

Mauritius developed a traffic light system to present progress on the SDGs in its VNR report. All goals that are achieved are listed in green. All goals that are on track are listed in yellow meaning resources are available, implementation is underway and the current trajectory of progress is positive. An indicator of red was reserved for goals for which progress is not on track. A red indicator means enabling policies and legislative frameworks are not in place, there is no concrete implementation plan, resources are limited or not available and there is limited to no progress. Mauritius's VNR report listed progress on SDG targets according to this system.

Source: Excerpt adapted from the Mauritius's VNR report.

Like previous years, there is no consistent method countries use to measure and report on data availability making it difficult to provide an overall assessment of data availability for 2030 Agenda monitoring based on VNR reports. In addition, countries often do not provide information on the specific data they lack. Some countries providing an overall percentage on data availability and others note data gaps for specific SDGs.

Table 4 provides a year-by-year comparison of data availability according to the reporting countries' calculations. The data presented does not attempt to reconcile the differences in how countries calculate data

availability. Rather the table provides an indication of where countries situate themselves in terms of data availability, and further demonstrates the need for countries – regardless of their income level – to strengthen data availability for SDG monitoring. The information presented in the table is based on available data, proxy data, or partial data according to information in VNR reports. For 2019, over half of the countries (25) reporting that data was available for less than 50% of SDG indicators. Guatemala saw significant gains in terms of data availability according to reporting in 2017 versus 2019, moving from availability of under 20% to between 71 and 80% of indicators.

TABLE 4. DATA AVAILABILITY FOR GLOBAL SDG INDICATORS

PERCENTAGE	COUNTRIES		
	2017	2018	2019
11-20%	Guatemala	Paraguay	
21-30%	Azerbaijan, the Maldives	Jamaica	Cambodia, Croatia, Eswatini, Fiji, Iceland, Iraq, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Serbia, Tonga, Vanuatu
31-40%	Japan, Panama, the Netherlands	Bahamas, Dominican Republic	Algeria, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Liechtenstein, Turkey
41-50%	Belgium, Italy, Nigeria, Peru	Benin, Egypt, State of Palestine	Côte d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Oman, Saint Lucia, Tunisia
51-60%	Denmark	Ecuador, Niger, Spain, Uruguay, Viet Nam	Lesotho, Mongolia, Philippines, Tanzania, Timor-Leste
61-70%	Indonesia	Bhutan, Cabo Verde, Lithuania, Senegal	Indonesia, Israel, Rwanda, South Africa
71-80%	Bangladesh	Hungary, Mexico	Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guatemala, United Kingdom
81-90%	Malaysia		



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: CAMBODIA'S EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DISAGGREGATED DATA

Cambodia noted the challenge of limited disaggregated data. In response, the government has increased the national budget for national surveys. The execution of the 2019 General Population Census of Cambodia is in keeping with international recommendations and standards. The census will provide the government and other groups with the baseline data necessary to measure progress against the SDGs and timely and quality data. Cambodia also engaged in dialogue with stakeholders about SDG indicators and data availability.

Source: Excerpt adapted from Cambodia's VNR report.

As noted in the section on leaving no one behind, information on disaggregated data is not well reported in the VNR reports. Yet, this information is important for establishing baselines and informing evidence-based approaches to policy-making and programming. While only 12 countries in 2018 noted the need to improve disaggregated data, this figure jumped to 30 in 2019. Four years into reporting on the 2030 Agenda, this suggests a strong recognition by governments that efforts to LNOB will require improvements to the availability of disaggregated data. Countries also provided more information regarding the forms of disaggregated data required in 2019 over 2018. They include gender (13), age (11), region (six), disability (five), income or socio-economic status (three), ethnicity or social group (three), migration status (three) and housing (one).

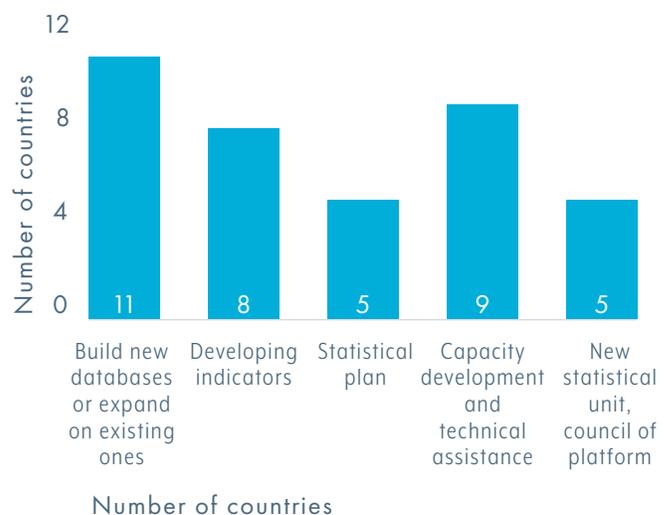
building data sets and reviewing goals and indicators. Chile noted the urgent need to create a permanent council that will further digital transformation, data governance and shared services. To ensure consistent reporting, Rwanda developed an SDGs metadata handbook with definitions, methodologies, identified data gaps and methods for reporting. Timor-Leste noted the importance of subnational governments in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Timor-Leste identified a need to pair local governments with local data to ensure better implementation of the SDGs.

The efforts noted in 2019 are largely consistent with 2018 and 2017, though in both years there was a stronger focus on capacity development. Reporting in 2018 and 2017 also provided greater attention to improving coordination, resource mobilization and data dissemination.

## IMPROVING DATA AVAILABILITY

All 47 reporting countries in 2019 indicated efforts to improve data availability, an improvement over 2018 when only 31 countries reported the same. The three most cited ways to address data availability were building or expanding on data (11 countries), improving capacity (nine countries) and developing or modernizing indicators (eight countries) (Figure 19). Five countries each referred to statistical plans and institutional changes to strengthen statistical systems. For example, Ghana noted the creation of a roadmap where it would fill data gaps, encourage data use, and strengthen the entire data ecosystem. Oman announced plans to have a national census in which the results would be available in real time. Cambodia detailed

FIGURE 19. EFFORTS TO IMPROVE DATA AVAILABILITY



## NATIONAL REPORTING ON 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

Reporting at the national level ensures visibility of the 2030 Agenda and encourages a country-level follow-up and review process. For the 40 countries that provided some information on national level reporting in 2019, 18 (38%) indicated their national reporting process or mechanism was in development. Nineteen (40%) countries pointed to a regular national report, seven of which promised to report annually. Chad indicated it will report more frequently and Kuwait indicated that its VNR reporting would serve as a means for national reporting. VNR reports were not always clear on who would prepare reports and to whom reporting would occur. Nevertheless, eight countries listed reporting by coordination bodies and two countries highlighted the use of a national statistics bureau or national evaluation council as the writers of the report. Only five countries noted involvement of parliamentarians (compared to two in 2018). A dashboard or platform for online national reporting

was noted by 12 (26%) countries. This number is in keeping with findings from 2018 where 11 countries commented on using or developing online platforms.

Like previous years, VNR reports did not refer to regional-level follow-up and review processes. Moreover, countries did not provide information on planned HLPF reporting for the future.

### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Link accountability for progress on 2030 Agenda implementation to regular, planned parliamentary reviews.



### A CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE: SHOWCASING THE ROLE OF INDONESIA'S SUPREME AUDITING INSTITUTION

Indonesia's Supreme Audit Board is responsible for the evaluation of state finances and SDG-related processes. The Supreme Audit Board participates in International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions, an institution that facilitates the exchange of knowledge between government auditing institutions and has been promoting contributions by supreme auditing institutions to the 2030 Agenda.

Indonesia's Supreme Audit Board used a Geographic Information System that enables it to capture, store, manipulate and visualize data according to geography. To improve the government's ability to implement the SDGs, the Supreme Audit Board is developing a Continuous Comprehensive and Multi-perspective Audit approach to ensure independent oversight of specific SDG target and indicators.

In addition, the Supreme Audit Board reviewed resources, capacities, and follow-up and review mechanisms since Indonesia's first VNR in 2017. The audit strongly encouraged the Government of Indonesia to standardize methodologies for data collection and improve resource efficiency in conducting surveys among stakeholders. Standardization of data regulation was encouraged to assist in the provision of disaggregated data at the subnational level.

In July 2019, Indonesia's Supreme Audit Board began a second performance audit on the effectiveness of SDG implementation. The intention of this audit is to evaluate the policy design and implementation between 2015 and 2019. On the policy side, the audit will focus on policy coherence, data integrity and monitoring and reporting systems. The review will evaluate how well the government is advancing its goals. The audit will also assess how well the poor have access to services.

Source: Excerpts adapted from Indonesia's VNR.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Report on data availability, including disaggregated data, and country efforts to improve data availability – given the importance of data for SDG monitoring and accountability, as well as leaving no one behind.
- ✓ Link reviews of progress for 2030 Agenda implementation to parliamentary oversight mechanisms in order to ensure accountability at the national level.
- ✓ Spell out plans to review progress at the national level and be accountable to citizens for progress on the 2030 Agenda beyond reporting to the HLPF. This should include consulting with non-state actors and articulating plans for future HLPF reporting. These elements are important for ensuring accountability for progress on the 2030 Agenda, identifying gaps in implementation, allowing for course correction and ensuring transparency in reporting processes.
- ✓ Include an assessment of progress on 2030 Agenda implementation in VNR reports to the HLPF, particularly with reference to the status of implementation in previously submitted VNR reports.



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# VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES

## KEY FINDINGS

- ◆ The review of VNR reports shows increased compliance with reporting against the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines over 2016 to 2019.
- ◆ Over 75% of countries provide full or partial information on all components of the guidelines with a notable exception of information on structural issues.
- ◆ Most components of the guidelines saw increased reporting in 2019 with the most significant gains seen in reporting on leaving no one behind and the means of implementation. Declines were seen in reporting on the methodology for the review, structural issues and conclusions from 2018.



CJ Clarke / Save The Children

## VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES

The United Nations Secretary-General proposed a set of voluntary common reporting guidelines to help countries frame their VNR reports to the HLPF. The guidelines have evolved over time with an update in 2018 and for reporting in 2020. The guidelines are voluntary. Countries ultimately

decide how to present their findings. The guidelines for reporting in 2019 emphasized the use of the structure outlined by the Secretary-General to promote consistency and comparability and were unchanged from the 2018 guidelines.

### WHAT'S IN THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES?

- Opening statement by the Head of State or Government, a Minister or other high-ranking Government official.
- Highlights presented in a one-to-two-page synthesis overview of the review process, status of SDG progress and how the government is responding to the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda and working to leave no one behind.
- An introduction that sets the context and objectives for the review, outlines the review cycle and how existing national reports were used. The policy architecture for implementation and policy tools to support integration of the three dimensions, as well as linkages to relevant international agreements could also be mentioned.
- Presentation of the methodology for the review, outlining the process for preparation of the national review.
- Policy and enabling environment
  - Creating ownership of the SDGs with an outline of efforts towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the SDGs. This section can address how specific groups have been engaged.
  - Incorporation of the SDGs in national frameworks understood in terms of the critical initiatives countries undertook to adapt the SDGs and targets to its national circumstances, and to advance their implementation. This section should include challenges in implementation, and their cause, and refer to efforts taken by other stakeholders.
  - Integration of the three dimensions through a discussion of how the three dimensions of sustainable development are being integrated and how sustainable development policies are being designed and implemented to reflect such integration. Could include analysis related to the HLPF theme.
  - Assessment of how the principle of leaving no one behind is mainstreamed in implementation. Includes how vulnerable groups have been identified, efforts to address their needs, and particular attention to women and girls.
  - Institutional mechanisms described in terms of how the country has adapted its institutional framework in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. Would be useful to include how the country plans to review progress and can note where support is provided by United Nations Country Teams in the preparation of national SDG reports.
  - Relevant structural issues or barriers, including external constraints that hinder progress. Transformative approaches to addressing these challenges can be highlighted.
- A brief analysis of progress on all goals and targets, including whether a baseline has been defined. Discussion can also include trends, successes, challenges, emerging issues, lessons learned and actions to address gaps and challenges. Countries completing a subsequent VNR are encouraged to describe progress since the previous review.
- Presentation of the means of implementation, including how means of implementation are mobilized, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed. The section can include reference to financial systems and resource allocation to support implementation, the private sector, the role of technology, concrete capacity development and data needs and the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships. An outline of next steps the country is taking or planning to take to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Can also outline how implementation will be reviewed at national and subnational levels.

- A conclusion that provides a summary of the analysis, findings and policy implications. Lessons learned from the VNR could be highlighted.
- Annexes that can include an annex with data, using the global SDG indicators as a starting point and adding priority national/regional indicators and identifying gaps. Additional annexes can also showcase best practice or comments from stakeholders.

The Secretary-General's guidelines have been revised for reporting in 2020. They include most of the same categories as in 2019 though next steps and conclusions have been combined. They also provide greater specificity on what can be included under each component, such encouraging countries to refer to specific, complementary international agreements and how synergies are being promoted with 2030 Agenda implementation in the introduction. For countries reporting to the HLPF for a second or third time, the guidelines also point to further guidance, encouraging countries to provide information on progress made on findings presented in previous reviews.



Hanna Adcock / Save The Children

## USE OF THE GUIDELINES

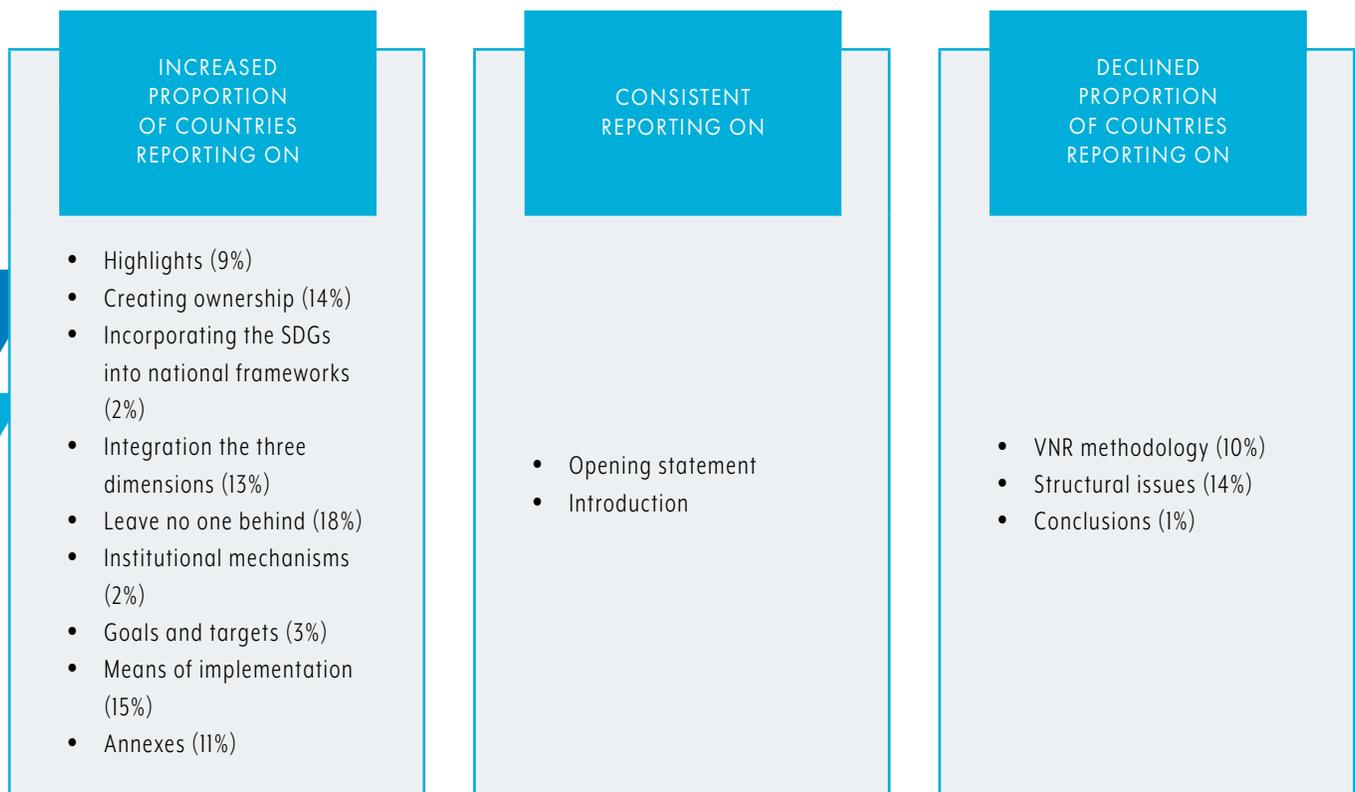
All the VNR reports presented in 2019 were reviewed against the guidelines to identify which of the suggested components are being addressed by countries. Figure 21 provides an overview of trends, outlining countries that:

- have fully met the guidelines for a component indicated in green;
- partially met the guidelines by referring to the component but not most aspects requested in the guidelines, indicated in yellow; or
- did not include the component at all, indicated in red.

As shown in Figure 21, most countries provide the information – in full or partially – as recommended by the Secretary-General’s voluntary common reporting guidelines. Information on structural issues remains an exception as was the case in 2018. In comparison to previous years, VNR reports are tracking positively in terms of compliance with the guidelines. Reporting increased on most components listed in the guidelines in 2019 compared to 2018 with the most significant gains seen in reporting on leaving no one behind and the means of implementation (Figure 20). The proportion of countries including a statement by the head of state or government and an introduction remained the same over 2018 and 2019. Some declines were seen in reporting on the methodology for the review, structural issues and conclusions.



FIGURE 20. TRENDS IN REPORTING AGAINST THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES OVER 2018-2019





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
KAZAKHSTAN	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
KUWAIT	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green
LESOTHO	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
LIECHTENSTEIN	Red	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Red
MAURITANIA	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow
MAURITIUS	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
MONGOLIA	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Green
NAURU	Red	Green	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Red	Red
NEW ZEALAND	Green	Red	Yellow	Red	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Red	Red	Red
OMAN	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
PAKISTAN	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Red
PALAU	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
PHILIPPINES	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red
RWANDA	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green	Green
SAINT LUCIA	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Red
SERBIA	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
SIERRA LEONE	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
SOUTH AFRICA	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Red	Green	Red
TANZANIA	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow	Green
TIMOR-LESTE	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green
TONGA	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Red	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
TUNISIA	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Red	Green
TURKEY	Green	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
TURKMENISTAN	Red	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Red	Yellow	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
UNITED KINGDOM	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green
VANUATU	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Yellow	Green	Red	Green	Yellow	Green	Green	Yellow

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	-	▲	-	▼	▲	▲	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲	▲	▲	▼	▲



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## STATEMENT BY HEAD OF GOVERNMENT OR STATE

In 2019, 39 out of 47 (83%) reporting countries included a statement by the head of government or state, the same proportion as in 2018 and up from 71% and 25% of countries reviewed in previous editions of this report for 2017 and 2016 respective. In this context, 37 (79%) fully met the requirements while two countries (4%) partially met them. Overall, there is an increase in the number of countries fulfilling this component of the guidelines over 2016-2019. The high number of reports including opening statements bodes well as an indication of political support to the 2030 Agenda.

## HIGHLIGHTS

There was an improvement in the trend of including a highlights section. More than three quarters (81%) of reports included complete or partial information on highlights. In this context, 51% fully met the requirements. In 2018, 71% reported highlights. This number contrasts with 86% in 2017 and 94% in 2016.

## INTRODUCTION

In 2019 all countries except Mauritius and Nauru included a full or partial introduction. This means 45 out of 96% of countries met this reporting guideline. All countries examined in 2018, 2017, and 2016 followed a similar approach. In 2016, only China did not meet the requirement of introduction.

## METHODOLOGY FOR REVIEW

VNR reports for 2019 showed a downward trend in reporting on methodology. In 2019, 83 of reporting countries included the methodology for the review as detailed by the Secretary-General's common reporting guidelines. In 2018, 93% included this information, the majority of which fully met the guideline. By contrast, in 2017, 13 countries did not provide any information on methodology. For those that provided information, VNR reports tended to include information on leadership, the drafting process, data sources, methodology, and engagement mechanisms. In addition 10 countries included additional information on their VNR process as an annex, outlining further details on institutions consulted, feedback received, and/or the process.

### WHAT SHOULD REPORTING ON INTEGRATION LOOK LIKE?

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs 2020 edition of the [Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews](#), the section on integration for the three dimensions of sustainable development should consider using the following questions:

- What are the most important national interlinkages, or nexus of interlinkages, between goals and targets covered in the VNR?
- What are the main barriers to the better integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development and the 17 SDGs?
- How does a country engage in discussion and find effective solutions to trade-offs that have to be made?
- What actions are being taken to ensure that all levels of government work together (horizontally across sectors, and vertically from national to local) to integrate the three dimensions and the SDGs?
- Are there examples of the positive impact of more integrated national policies?<sup>43</sup>

The handbook refers to a mapping exercise to highlight the linkages between goals, special interests and national priorities as a way of better targeting specific groups. The handbook refers to the framework and tools of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development.

<sup>43</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. 2020. [Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews](#). New York: UN DESA. pp. 24-25.

## CREATING OWNERSHIP

In 2019, there is an improvement of reporting trends with most reporting countries (94%) including a section on creating ownership with the majority fully meeting this component (87%). This represents an increase over previous years. In 2018, 19% did not provide information on generating ownership. In 2017, 93% reported on creating ownership versus 69% in 2016.

## INCORPORATION OF SDGS IN NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

All but Bosnia and Herzegovina provided information on how the SDGs were incorporated into national frameworks. The high rate of reporting in 2019 (98%) is in keeping with previous years. Only two countries in 2018, one country in 2017, and 2 countries of the 16 reviewed in 2016 did not include this information. For the countries provided information on how they incorporated SDGs into national frameworks, Chile was the only country in 2019 that did not fully meet with the guideline.

## INTEGRATION OF THE THREE DIMENSIONS OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In 2019, 85% of countries fully or partially reported on how they integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. The increase in reporting countries reporting on this component is in keeping with previous trends. A larger proportion of countries reported on how they integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in the 2018 reports (72%) compared to 2017 (67%) and 2016 (56%).

## LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND

In 2019, there an improvement in the number of countries reporting on leaving no one behind with 81% of countries fully or partially meeting the criteria laid out by Secretary-General's common reporting guidelines. Of the 37 countries that did include a section in the report, 12 partially met the

reporting guidelines. In 2018, 61% addressed this component fully or somewhat in their VNR reports. Leave no one behind was part of a thematic analysis for 2016 but not for 2017. In 2016, 50% of reporting countries provided this information. Overall, 2019 indicated the continuation of a positive trend in terms of reporting on efforts to leave no one behind.

## INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

In 2019, the reporting trend of institutional mechanisms was in keeping with high reporting rates in previous years. In 2019, 98% of countries reported in part or in full on this category. Only Guyana did not provide any information on institutional arrangements. In 2018, only Sudan and Singapore did not report on institutional mechanisms. In 2017, all countries provided this information while four of 16 countries reviewed in 2016 did not.

## STRUCTURAL ISSUES

In 2019, 53% of countries provided full or partial information on structural issues. Of those that did report, 11 provided full information according to the Secretary-General reporting guidelines and 14 provided partial information. In 2018, when structural issues were first introduced to the guidelines, 67% included information on the component.

## GOALS AND TARGETS

In 2019, nearly all countries (94%) provided complete or partial information on goals and targets. Only Guatemala, Nauru and Tonga, did not provide any information on goals and targets. In 2018, all countries except for Bahrain, Kiribati, Slovakia, and Sudan fully included or partially included a section on goals and targets. This compares to 2017 where all countries met or partially met this reporting component, the majority only reported on a subset of goals.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There continues to be an upward trend in countries fully or partially reporting on the means of implementation. In

2019, 91% of countries partially or fully met the Secretary-General's common reporting guidelines. Of the 44 countries that reported on the means of implementation, 28 (63%) only partially met the reporting guideline requirements, like previous years. In 2018, 76% reported on the means of implementation, more than in 2017 (64%) and 2016 (44%). While reporting on the means of implementation improved overall for information on domestic resources and technology, declines were seen for reporting on international public finance, trade and systemic issues.

## NEXT STEPS

In relation to the section on next steps, 77% of countries provided full (32 countries) or partial (5 countries) information. This number is in keeping with previous years when roughly 75% of countries reported on next steps in 2018 and 2017. Thirteen of 16 countries (81%) provided this information in 2016. While some countries continued to be vague in the level of information provided, others provided enough detail to allow for an assessment of progress on next steps in subsequent VNR reports. Moreover, some countries included next steps as part of the goal-by-goal analysis. Detailed explanations of next steps are important for articulating future activities and for supporting accountability in SDG implementation. This information enables stakeholders to follow up on whether countries have carried out the actions identified in their VNR reports.

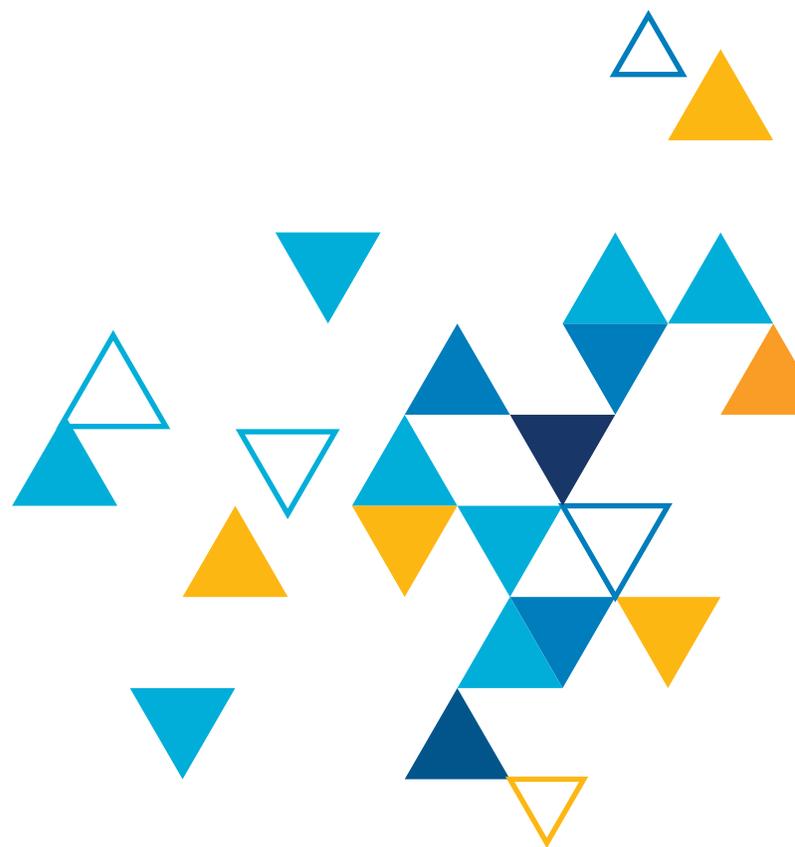
## CONCLUSION

In 2019, 79% of countries included a conclusion. In this context, eight countries (17%) only partially met the reporting guidelines. This number is in keeping with previous years when 80% countries in 2018, 76% in 2017 and 75% in 2016 included a conclusion. However, the finding for 2019 is slightly down compared to 2018.

## ANNEXES

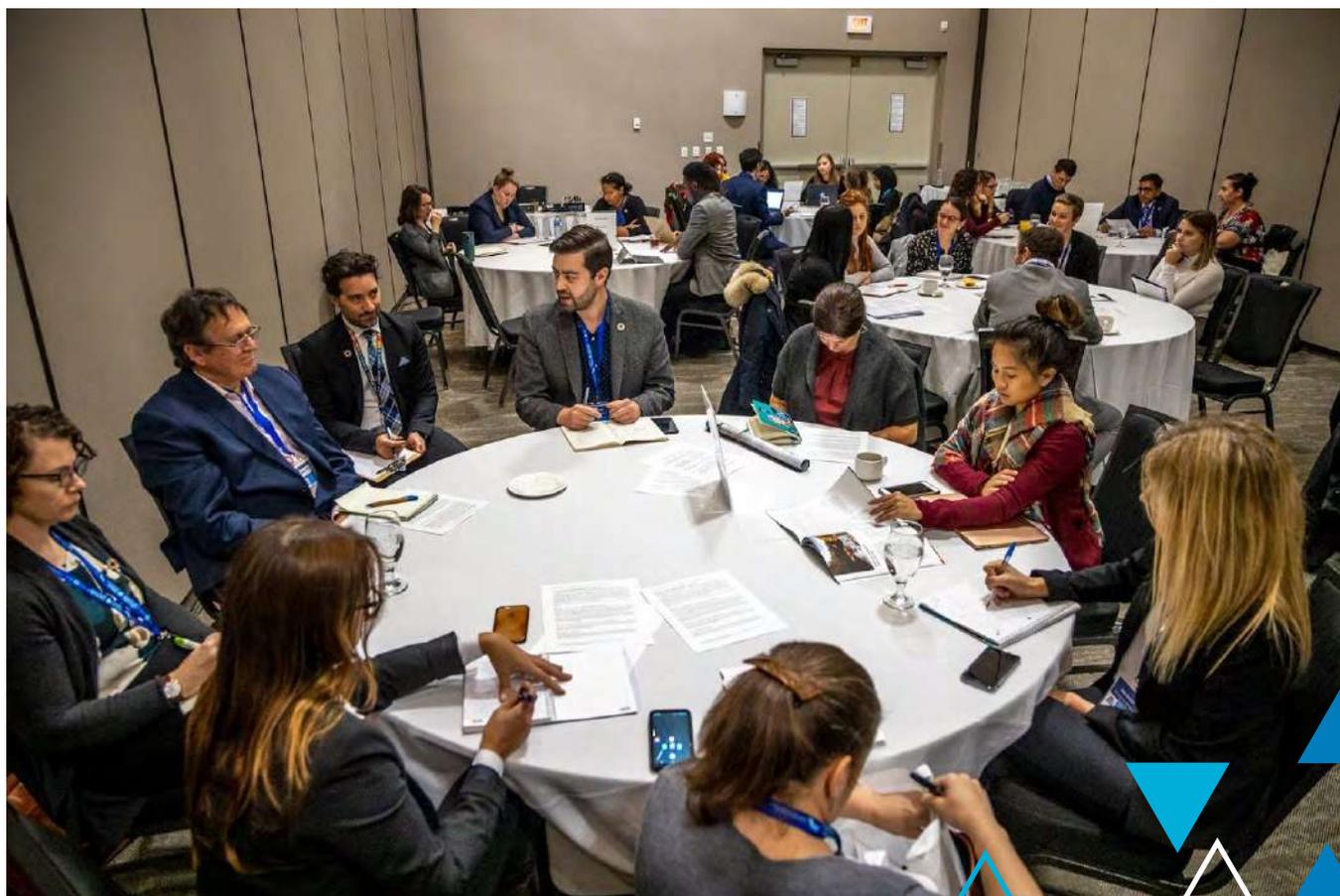
The revised Secretary-General common voluntary guidelines for 2018 encouraged member states to include a statistical annex, as well as other relevant information, such as good practices or inputs from non-state actors. In 2019, 72% of countries included an annex. This compares to 2018 when 61% did the same. In 2017, only 49% provided a statistical annex, but in 2016 63% did.

The proportion of countries including a statistical annex specifically (fully meeting the guidelines) improved in 2019 as well with 25 providing this information over 20 in 2018. Seven countries also provided additional information along the lines of the guidelines with their statistical annex. Countries that provided an annex on issues outside statistics tended to cover information related to prioritized targets and indicators, data sources, consulted organizations for the VNR or comments received and inputs from non-state actors.



## RECOMMENDATIONS

- ✓ Follow, as much as possible, the guidelines as proposed by the Secretary-General to ensure that all elements of SDG implementation are captured and facilitate comparison of shared challenges, good practices and lessons learned.
- ✓ Continue to include the methodology for the VNR, with details that articulate how the drafting process occurred, timing, how stakeholders were engaged, and lessons learned. This will provide greater clarity on what was done, and how other member states can draw from the experience of different countries.
- ✓ Make use of the guidance provided by the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews to better assess and report on integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in VNR reports.
- ✓ Report on the means of implementation as instructed in the guidelines, including domestic finance, resource allocation, budgeting, international public finance, trade, capacity development, technology and partnerships.
- ✓ Provide a detailed assessment of the forward-looking agenda, outlining where the country needs to go and the steps to get there, based on gaps and lessons learned to date. This should include next steps in terms of follow-up and review with concrete commitments to be fulfilled by states, strengthening the VNR process and clarifying what stakeholders can expect in the years following VNR reporting at HLPF.
- ✓ Report on data availability, including disaggregated data, with reference to global and national level indicators, in the statistical annex. This will provide a better picture of countries' overall capacity to monitor SDG implementation.



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## CONCLUSION

As the global community moves forward with accelerating efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda in the Decade of Delivery and Action, VNRs continue to offer an opportunity to strengthen national level accountability and demonstrate accountability for 2030 Agenda implementation on the global stage. VNRs are much more than just reports. Countries continue to value the VNR process and use it as more than just a means to an end. In 2019, countries provided more detailed information on their VNR processes with some including specific sections outlining what had been learned from the VNR process, recognizing the value of VNRs in generating national ownership and momentum to realize sustainable development.

As countries look to reporting in 2020, this report has identified good and best practice in 2030 Agenda implementation. The report highlights areas of emerging standard practice and progress, including with respect to following the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines and reporting on leaving no one behind. Inclusion of non-state actors in governance mechanisms and carrying out baseline or gap assessments appears to be emerging standard practice. Nevertheless, the review raises questions on the extent to which member states are incorporating the principles of sustainable development into their approaches, flagged more limited inclusion of non-state actors in lead councils or committees responsible for 2030 Agenda implementation and highlighted limitations in reporting on partnerships and the means of implementation.

The format and organization of the HLPF is being reviewed in 2020 to "benefit from lessons learned in the first cycle of the forum as well as from other processes" ([UNGA Resolution 70/299](#), para 21). This report has outlined lessons from the 2019 VNR process and, in addition to the reports covering 2016, 2017, and 2018, civil society has developed detailed feedback and recommendations based on extensive engagement. As the review moves forward, it should include forums for meaningful participation by civil society and other stakeholders. This includes setting minimum

standards for their institutionalized participation and efforts to strengthen major groups and other stakeholder engagement mechanisms.

Revisions to the Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines for reporting in 2020 have sought to further strengthen the value of VNR processes and reporting, including with reference to the role of non-state actors in implementation. The HLPF can be further strengthened by continuing to examine how VNR reporting can be improved, including by following the recommendations outlined in this report, given that the VNRs serve as an important mechanism for national accountability for 2030 Agenda implementation and the basis for follow-up and review at the HLPF. Presentations and discussions at the HLPF require more time and space with opportunities for civil society to meaningfully participate and engage with governments on the content of VNR presentations. Opportunities for exchange of views on independent assessments, including reports from civil society and expert analysis, would enable member states to benefit from a wider pool of knowledge. Action in these areas is essential if the original vision of the positive and constructive follow-up and review mechanisms outlined in the 2030 Agenda are to become reality. In addition to strengthening the quality of discussions at the HLPF, regional forums should also be supported as key opportunities for peer-to-peer learning among member states with a focus on trends and challenges in implementation.

This review aims to highlight the bright spots and worrisome trends in 2030 Agenda implementation recognizing the critical need to accelerate action to leave no one behind. The identification of good and best practices and recommendations presented throughout this report are meant to help guide countries and other stakeholders in their efforts at national and global levels. As countries move into the Decade of Action and Delivery, these recommendations can serve as the basis for accelerating action for a sustainable future.

## CONSOLIDATED RECOMMENDATIONS

### GOVERNANCE, INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS AND ENGAGEMENT

#### Leadership, governance and institutional arrangements

- ✓ Clearly establish leadership and governance structures to support 2030 Agenda implementation and lay out lines of accountability between various national stakeholders.
- ✓ Formalize non-state actor engagement in governance structures to realize the 2030 Agenda. This includes lead councils or committees and technical working groups.
- ✓ Identify opportunities to realize the 2030 Agenda domestically and globally through engagement more formally in regional level initiatives and with like-minded countries. Such engagement offers opportunities to share best practice with and learn lessons from peers.

#### Stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation

- ✓ Follow good practice in multi-stakeholder engagement by ensuring that approaches are timely, open and inclusive, transparent, informed and iterative.
- Support an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder engagement through the legislation, regulation and the creation of policies that set out
- ✓ how engagement will occur.
- Create and report on formal mechanisms to ensure
- ✓ regular and inclusive stakeholder engagement.
- Engage diverse stakeholders in the selection of national priorities and partner with non-state actors
- ✓ to reach the furthest behind.
- Develop a range of opportunities for multi-stakeholder engagement in VNRs including through online and in-person public consultation, soliciting inputs to and feedback on draft reports, and inclusion of non-state actors as partners in carrying out the review and drafting the VNR report.

### POLICIES FOR 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION

#### Baseline or gap analysis

- ✓ Conduct an assessment that identifies gaps in existing policies and programs, examines data availability, and sets out baselines from which to measure progress and assess where additional efforts are needed.
- ✓ Articulate how the assessment was conducted and provide a summary of the gaps identified for each goal.
- ✓ For countries present a subsequent VNR report to the HLPF, identify where progress has been made since initial policy and data assessments and provide information on changes between reporting years at national and subnational levels and for the furthest behind.

#### Incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into national frameworks

- ✓ Fully integrate the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into national and subnational plans and strategies based on an evaluation of existing policies, approaches and progress to identify gaps, adapt policies and target areas where further progress is needed especially for the furthest behind groups.
- ✓ Operationalize the principles of the 2030 Agenda in approaches to implementation recognizing the universal, human rights-based and interlinked nature of the agenda. VNR reports should demonstrate how approaches to sustainable development are transformative based on the principles of the 2030 Agenda and not just the SDGs.
- ✓ Ground plans and strategies in human rights, including by linking activities to international and national human rights commitments and establishing appropriate institutions and mechanisms to support a human rights-based approach to sustainable development.
- ✓ Undertake actions with reference to and respect for planetary boundaries and responsibilities towards future generations, including avenues for intergenerational partnerships.

### Nationalizing the 2030 Agenda

- ✓ Identify national sustainable development priorities that address all dimensions of sustainable development, recognizing the interlinkages between society, the economy, the environment and governance.
- ✓ Develop national targets and indicators through an inclusive and participatory process to complement global targets and indicators.

### Integration and policy coherence

- ✓ Assess all 17 goals in VNR reports, respecting the indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.
- ✓ Ensure all dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in SDG implementation and VNR reporting. Linkages and synergies between the different dimensions of sustainable development should be clearly stated in policies, supported through implementation and included in reporting - all to help ensure clear integration.
- ✓ Link implementation of the 2030 Agenda to relevant international agreements that support 2030 Agenda implementation, such as the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and global agreements on aid and international development effectiveness, including in VNR reporting.
- ✓ Provide an assessment of domestic and global dimensions of sustainable development in the goal-by-goal analysis, demonstrating contributions to realizing the SDGs at home and abroad, and supporting policy coherence for sustainable development.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### Leave no one behind

- ✓ Ensure policies and programs are informed by and integrate efforts to leave no one behind, including by prioritizing those most in need to consistently reach marginalized communities.
- ✓ Include a specific chapter on leaving no one behind in VNR reporting and demonstrate how the principle of leaving no one behind is being translated into action in

an overarching way.

- ✓ Provide information on the status of data collection or plans to improve data availability to inform efforts to leave no one behind. This includes information on gender disaggregated data. Ensuring no one is left behind means knowing who is being left behind, by how much, and in what areas.
- ✓ Highlight existing and planned efforts to leave no one behind, including how policies and program are being adapted, and in particular, new approaches to reach the people who are furthest behind first.
- ✓ Promote gender equality through international good practice such as gender budgeting, gender-based analysis and mainstreaming into policies and plans, and appropriate legal, policy and institutional frameworks.
- ✓ Report on the outcomes of efforts to leave no one behind, including by drawing on civil society expertise and citizen-generated data. Clearly present links between specific policies and actions with results, presenting progress for specific marginalized groups.
- ✓ Target domestic inequality in 2030 Agenda implementation, including in support of SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, and outline the current status of domestic inequality and how it is being addressed in VNR reports.

### Awareness-raising

- ✓ Develop a communication strategy to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda on an ongoing basis.
- ✓ Continue to promote innovative ways to raise awareness of the SDGs among the general public, including in partnership with civil society and other non-state actors.

### Localization

- ✓ Include localization as part of 2030 Agenda implementation strategies, strengthen coordination with local governments and local institutional structures, capacities and resources.
- ✓ Support the translation of the SDGs into local plans, programs and monitoring efforts and ensure local priorities inform national plans.

### Partnership to realize the SDGs

- ✓ Support civil society to engage in 2030 Agenda implementation by creating a more enabling environment, including through institutionalized dialogue and consultation, inclusion in formal governance arrangements, finance, and capacity development.
- ✓ Integrate the 2030 Agenda into parliamentary work, recognizing the critical role parliamentarians play as citizens' representatives and in ensuring national level accountability for progress.
- ✓ Support and develop partnerships with a variety of non-state actors, including academia, the private sector, youth and volunteers.
- ✓ Where relevant, clearly stipulate and provide details on priority areas for support from the international community, laying out the role development partners can best play to support the acceleration of 2030 Agenda implementation.

### Means of implementation

- ✓ Clearly include best practices, lessons learned in accelerating implementation, challenges going forward and where opportunities exist to learn from peers in VNR reports.
- ✓ Examine national and subnational budgets as an essential part of the implementation process and start integrating the SDGs into them to ensure that resources are allocated for implementation. In doing so, build on the good practice in costing out SDG implementation and identify sources of finance to implement the 2030 Agenda at country level.
- ✓ Report on all means of implementation, including clearly specifying capacity constraints. Such information is critical for assessing gaps, identifying where greater domestic and international efforts are needed and informing development cooperation frameworks.
- ✓ Bolster efforts to support development partners' capacity development priorities, including strengthening statistical systems and the capacities of local stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda.
- ✓ Scale up efforts to address systemic issues that impact

SDG implementation, in particular international peace and security, illicit capital flight, corruption, tax avoidance and tax evasion, among other things.

### Measurement and reporting

- ✓ Report on data availability, including disaggregated data, and country efforts to improve data availability – given the importance of data for SDG monitoring and accountability, as well as leaving no one behind.
- ✓ Link reviews of progress for 2030 Agenda implementation to parliamentary oversight mechanisms in order to ensure accountability at the national level.
- ✓ Spell out plans to review progress at the national level and be accountable to citizens for progress on the 2030 Agenda beyond reporting to the HLPF. This should include consulting with non-state actors and articulating plans for future HLPF reporting. These elements are important for ensuring accountability for progress on the 2030 Agenda, identifying gaps in implementation, allowing for course correction and ensuring transparency in reporting processes.
- ✓ Include an assessment of progress on 2030 Agenda implementation in VNR reports to the HLPF, particularly with reference to the status of implementation in previously submitted VNR reports.

### Reporting to the HLPF

- ✓ Follow, as much as possible, the guidelines as proposed by the Secretary-General to ensure that all elements of SDG implementation are captured and facilitate comparison of shared challenges, good practices and lessons learned.
- ✓ Continue to include the methodology for the VNR, with details that articulate how the drafting process occurred, timing, how stakeholders were engaged, and lessons learned. This will provide greater clarity on what was done, and how other member states can draw from the experience of different countries.
- ✓ Make use of the guidance provided by the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews to better assess and report on integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in VNR reports.
- ✓ Report on the means of implementation as instructed

in the guidelines, including domestic finance, resource allocation, budgeting, international public finance, trade, capacity development, technology and partnerships.

- ☑ Provide a detailed assessment of the forward-looking agenda, outlining where the country needs to go and the steps to get there, based on gaps and lessons learned to date. This should include next steps in terms of follow-up and review with concrete commitments to be fulfilled by states, strengthening the VNR process and clarifying what stakeholders can expect in the years following VNR reporting at HLPF.
- ☑ Report on data availability, including disaggregated data, with reference to global and national level indicators, in the statistical annex. This will provide a better picture of countries' overall capacity to monitor SDG implementation.



Progressing  
National  
SDGs  
Implementation

# Annexes



# ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1. VNR REPORTS REVIEWED

All [VNR reports](#) are available through the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

Table A1 provides an overview of the countries reviewed. Of these countries, most – 16 – are upper-middle-income according to World Bank country classifications. Fifteen countries are lower-middle-income, 10 are high income and six are low-income.

Seventeen countries were from Africa (all from sub-Saharan Africa except Algeria and Tunisia), 14 from Asia, six from Europe, six from Oceania and four from Latin America and the Caribbean reported, according to United Nations classifications.



Louis Leeson / Save The Children



TABLE A1. COUNTRIES REVIEWED IN THE ANALYSIS OF 2019 VNR REPORTS

COUNTRY	REGION	SUB-REGION	INCOME LEVEL
Algeria	Africa	Northern Africa	Upper-middle-income country
Azerbaijan	Asia	Western Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Armenia	Asia	Western Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Europe	Southern Europe	Upper-middle-income country
Burkina Faso	Africa	West Africa	Low-income country
Cambodia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Cameroon	Africa	Middle Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Central African Republic	Africa	Middle Africa	Low-income country
Chad	Africa	Middle Africa	Low-income country
Chile	Americas	South America	High-income country
Congo	Africa	Middle Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Côte d'Ivoire	Africa	Western Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Croatia	Europe	Southern Europe	High-income country
Eswatini	Africa	Southern Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Fiji	Oceania	Melanesia	Upper-middle-income country
Ghana	Africa	Western Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Guatemala	Americas	Central Americas	Upper-middle-income country
Iceland	Europe	Channel Islands	High-income country
Indonesia	Asia	South-eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Iraq	Asia	Western Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Israel	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Kazakhstan	Asia	Central Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Kuwait	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country

<sup>1</sup> According to UN classifications.

<sup>2</sup> According to UN classifications.

<sup>3</sup> According to World Bank classifications for the 2020 fiscal year.

COUNTRY	REGION	SUB-REGION	INCOME LEVEL
Lesotho	Africa	Southern Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Liechtenstein	Europe	Western Europe	High-income country
Mauritania	Africa	Western Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Mauritius	Africa	Eastern Africa	Upper-middle-income country
Mongolia	Asia	Eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Nauru	Oceania	Micronesia	Upper-middle-income country
New Zealand	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Oman	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Pakistan	Asia	Southern Asia	Lower-middle income country
Palau	Oceania	Micronesia	High-income country
Philippines	Asia	South-eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Rwanda	Africa	Eastern Africa	Low-income country
Saint Lucia	Americas	Caribbean	Upper-middle-income country
Serbia	Europe	Southern Europe	Upper-middle-income country
Sierra Leone	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
South Africa	Africa	Southern Africa	Upper-middle-income country
Tanzania	Africa	Eastern Africa	Low-income country
Timor-Leste	Asia	South-eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Tonga	Oceania	Polynesia	Upper-middle-income country
Tunisia	Africa	Northern Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Turkey	Asia	Western Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Turkmenistan	Asia	Central Asia	Upper-middle-income country
United Kingdom	Europe	Channel Islands	High-income
Vanuatu	Oceania	Melanesia	Lower-middle-income country

## ANNEX 2. METHODOLOGY

The review follows the assessment framework prepared for previous editions of the *Progressing National SDGs Implementation*<sup>4</sup> report. It examines countries in terms of 10 pillars of implementation. The framework complements the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' [synthesis of VNR](#) reports. The report by UN DESA provides greater detail on actions undertaken at the goal level but does not assess VNR reports in terms of good practices and where they could be improved. The 10 pillars of analysis are listed below.

1. Incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into national frameworks and policies
2. Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms
3. Baseline or gap analysis
4. Integration and policy coherence
5. Leave no one behind
6. Raising awareness and creating ownership of the 2030 Agenda
7. Stakeholder engagement
8. Implementing the 2030 Agenda
9. Partnership to realize the 2030 Agenda
10. Measurement and reporting

These 10 pillars of analysis are presented in the three sections in the report that focus on 1) governance and institutional mechanisms, 2) policies, and 3) means of implementation. The assessment framework also gives special attention to the spirit of the 2030 Agenda through, for example, the examination of the principles of the 2030 Agenda. Limited changes were made to the framework in 2019 over previous editions to ensure ongoing comparability in the series. Sub-components were added to improve the analysis of leaving no one behind. As a result, the researchers collected additional information on children and youth, ethnic groups, persons with disabilities, migrants and refugees, indigenous peoples and other groups that may be left behind.

The framework was initially tested and revised for the 2017 edition of *Progressing National SDG Implementation*. For open-ended components of the analysis (instances in which researchers could not provide a set answer, such as yes or no), the text was drawn directly from the VNR reports ensuring the highest level of accuracy. In some cases, researchers paraphrased information when the text from VNR reports was more than 200 words. Information

from available civil society reports was also included in the framework. For set answer components, relevant information was listed in a 'notes' section of the framework. For open-ended components, text from civil society reports is available directly following the text from VNR reports. All data sets were reviewed by one researcher to ensure the consistency of data collection.

In terms of data sources, the analysis presented in this review is based solely on official VNR reports and where available, civil society reports. Secondary literature was used in a limited number of instances to show consistency between the analysis in the review and those carried out by others. No additional research was conducted to verify the accuracy and confirm the validity of the information governments included in their reports. The lack of additional research is a clear limitation of the findings.

<sup>4</sup> The 2017 edition built on the framework set out in [Bond et al's 2016 assessment of the VNR reports](#). See Cutter, Amy. 2016. *Progressing national SDGs implementation: Experiences and recommendations from 2016*. London: Bond. The second edition built on the eight pillars of analysis by adding two more that focus on partnerships to realize Agenda 2030 and the means of implementation. In 2018, the framework was slightly revised to include greater details on leaving no one behind, environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda and additional information on budgeting under means of implementation.



TABLE A2. ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION		
Country name	Provide country name	Short version, e.g. Ethiopia rather than the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
Region	Based on United Nations Statistics Division <a href="#">classifications</a> .	The region as stipulated in the classification.
Sub-Region	Based on the United Nations Statistics Division <a href="#">classifications</a> .	The intermediate region as stipulated in the classification.
Income level	World Bank classification for the 2019 fiscal year.	Low-income country. Lower-middle-income country. Upper-middle-income country. High-income country.
INCORPORATION OF THE SDGS INTO NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES		
SDGs in national frameworks and policies	Refers to how governments are incorporating the SDGs into national frameworks and policies broadly.	SDGs incorporated into national development plans and related policies and frameworks.  SDGs incorporated through a national SDG implementation strategy.  SDGs incorporated into national development plans and related policies and frameworks and through the use of a national SDG implementation strategy.  SDGs have not been incorporated through a national strategy or into national development plans and related policies and frameworks.  Not articulated in VNR report.
Principles of Agenda 2030 – human rights-based approach	Whether the VNR report refers to the use of a human rights-based approach.	Yes, Indicate if the report refers specifically to the human rights-based approach or has a strong human rights focus. Include a description of the human rights-based approach if explained, otherwise indicate that it is referred to but not defined.  No.

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Principles of Agenda 2030 – universality	Whether the VNR report refers to universality.	Yes. No.
Principles of Agenda 2030 - leave no one behind	Whether the VNR report refers to leaving no one behind.	Yes, Indicate if there is a dedicated chapter or if cross-cutting (or both). No.
Principles of Agenda 2030 – planetary boundaries	Whether the VNR refers to planetary boundaries.	Yes; List if the nine planetary boundaries are specifically listed or if not the specific boundaries, what other planetary impacts are mentioned such as water, biodiversity, climate change, land use, etc., for the nine planetary boundaries see <a href="http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/planetary-boundaries/about-the-research/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html">http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/planetary-boundaries/about-the-research/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html</a> . No.
Principles of Agenda 2030 – inter-generational responsibility	Whether the VNR refers to inter-generational responsibility.	Yes, Indicate if this concept is integrated throughout the report or a one-off mention. No.
<b>LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS</b>		
Governance arrangement for delivering the SDGs	Refers to the use of existing or new governance mechanisms to oversee SDG implementation and ensuring coordination.	Existing council or committee. Creation of new council or committee. No council or committee with implementation through government institutions. Council or committee established with implementation through the lead department. Existing council or committee with implementation through the lead department. Creation of specialized office. Council or committee established with implementation through government institutions. Other.

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
		<p>Unclear from the VNR report.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Leadership on SDG implementation	Refers to the key government actor responsible for leading on SDG implementation.	<p>Head of government or state.</p> <p>Individual cabinet minister.</p> <p>Multiple cabinet ministers.</p> <p>Parliamentary committee.</p> <p>Specific SDG implementation body or committee outside parliament.</p> <p>Lead department.</p> <p>Other.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Non-state actor official engagement in governance arrangements	Refers to if and how non-state actors are included in official SDG implementation governing structures.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.
Regional coordination on the SDGs	The extent to which the country is engaged in coordinating efforts at the regional level. Must refer to specific SDG related activities.	<p>Participates.</p> <p>Does not participate.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Activities at the regional level	Description of how regional coordination on the SDGs is occurring.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>VNR makes no mention of regional activities.</p>
Engagement in special country groupings on the SDG	Description of the grouping to which the country belongs (for example, landlocked, a small island, least developed, etc.) and the activities it is pursuing, as noted in the VNR report. Must refer to specific SDG related activities.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>VNR report makes no mention of participation in country groupings.</p>
<b>BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS</b>		
Gap analysis or baseline study carried out	Evidence that the country conducted a gap analysis or baseline study to assess existing policies concerning the SDGs.	<p>An assessment carried out for all SDGs.</p> <p>An assessment carried out for some SDGs.</p> <p>Assessment planned.</p>

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
		<p>No assessment carried out.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Content of the gap analysis/baseline study	Description of the key elements examined through the gap analysis or baseline study conducted.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Note whether they looked at policies, data or policies and data.</p> <p>No assessment carried out.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Gaps identified	Areas identified in the VNR report where additional progress is needed as a result of the gap/baseline analysis. This information is sometimes found in the description of individual goals (i.e. areas where more efforts needed).	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>No assessment carried out.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
<b>INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE</b>		
Overall SDG coverage by the VNR report	This refers to the composition of SDGs examined in the VNR report.	<p>All SDGs examined.</p> <p>SDGs covered by the HLPF theme examined.</p> <p>A limited set of country-selected SDGs examined.</p> <p>SDGs not examined.</p>
Specific SDGs examined by the VNR	This refers to the specific SDGs examined in the VNR report.	<p>All 17 SDGs.</p> <p>List the specific SDGs examined.</p> <p>No specific goal-by-goal analysis but rather analysis based on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.</p> <p>No specific goal-by-goal analysis but rather analysis based on country priorities.</p>
Detailed analysis	This refers to the level of detail in which the VNR report examines the SDGs.	<p>Detailed examination of all or most of the goals, targets and indicators mentioned in the report.</p> <p>Summary of examination of goals, targets and indicators provided with limited details.</p> <p>No detailed examination or summary of the goals, targets and indicators mentioned in the report.</p>

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development	The extent to which the VNR report addresses all three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental – in the report.	<p>Equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All dimensions addressed but a greater focus on economic.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All dimensions addressed but a greater focus on social.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All dimensions addressed but a greater focus on environmental.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All dimensions addressed but limited focus on social.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All dimensions addressed but limited focus on economic.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>All dimensions addressed but limited focus on environmental.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Only social dimensions addressed.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Only economic dimensions addressed.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Only environmental dimensions addressed.</p>
Integration in SDG implementation	The extent to which the analysis of specific SDGs in the VNR report reflects the integrated nature of the agenda.	<p>Reference to applicable linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in analysis of specific goals, targets and indicators.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Limited reference to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in analysis of goals, targets and indicators.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>No mention of linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in analysis of goals, targets and indicators.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>No detailed analysis of specific goals, targets and indicators.</p>
Reference to policy coherence for sustainable development	Whether the report refers to policy coherence for sustainable development.	<p>Yes.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>No.</p>

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Assessment of domestic and foreign policies on SDG outcomes	Whether the report includes a systematic assessment of how domestic and foreign policies impact the realization of the SDGs in-country and globally.	<p>Assessment of domestic and foreign policies on the realization of SDGs globally.</p> <p>Assessment of domestic policies on the realization of SDGs globally.</p> <p>Assessment of foreign policies on the realization of SDG globally.</p> <p>No assessment of domestic or foreign policies on the realization of SDGs globally.</p>
The overall approach to policy coherence to sustainable development	Reviewer summary of how PCSD is understood. If PCSD is not mentioned, but the report covers related issues, indicate what they are.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Linkages to climate change and the Paris Agreement	Whether the report links SDG implementation to climate change and delivering on the Paris Agreement.	<p>Climate change and the Paris Agreement explicitly linked to the SDGs.</p> <p>Climate change referenced but no mention of the Paris Agreement.</p> <p>No mention of climate change or the Paris Agreement.</p>
Tackling climate change	How the report links climate change and the Paris Agreement to the SDGs.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Linkages to the Convention on Biological Diversity	Whether the report links SDG implementation to the Convention on Biological Diversity.	<p>Yes.</p> <p>No.</p>
Linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Whether the report links SDG implementation to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.	<p>Yes.</p> <p>No.</p>
Linkages to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda	Whether the report links SDG implementation to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.	<p>Yes.</p> <p>No.</p>
Linkages to Aid Effectiveness and Development Effectiveness Agendas	Whether the report links to the Rome, Paris or Accra agreements on aid effectiveness or the Busan, Mexico and Nairobi agreements on development effectiveness.	<p>Yes; Include which agreements are referenced in notes.</p> <p>No.</p>

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
<b>LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND</b>		
Data to leave no one behind	Availability of data and baselines to ensure no one is left behind.	<p>Additional data required to leave no one behind.</p> <p>Efforts to leave no one behind informed by existing baselines/available data.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Gender disaggregated data to leave no one behind	The extent to which the report includes gender-disaggregated data where relevant. Use the notes section to provide context for selection.	<p>Gender disaggregated data is not available or rarely available</p> <p>Gender disaggregated data is available most of the time</p> <p>The status of available gender-disaggregated data is unclear from the report</p>
Targets of efforts to leave no one behind	Groups within society mentioned by the VNR report to leave no one behind.	<p>List groups specifically mentioned.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Approaches to targeting those left behind	Type of programmes/approaches adopted to leave no one behind. List all that apply.	<p>Existing specialized programmes for specific groups.</p> <p>New specialized programmes for specific groups.</p> <p>Universal programmes such as social assistance.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Efforts to leave no one behind	Indicate whether the county has adopted an overarching approach to translating the commitment into guidance for policy, targets, goals, etc.	<p>Two options for all sub-components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</li> <li>Not articulated in VNR report.</li> </ul>
Efforts to leave no children behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no Indigenous Peoples behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no persons with disabilities behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Efforts to leave no migrants/refugees behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no people in poverty behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no ethnic group behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no one behind - other groups	Efforts specifically geared towards any other group not captured by the categories above, as outlined in the VNR report.	
Realizing gender equality	Efforts specifically geared towards realizing gender equality as outlined in the VNR report.	
Reducing domestic inequalities	Efforts specifically geared towards reducing domestic inequalities as outlined in the VNR report.	
Results of efforts to leave no one behind	The results of efforts to leave no one behind as outlined in the report.	

#### RAISING AWARENESS AND CREATING OWNERSHIP OF SDGS

Awareness-raising efforts carried out by the government	Whether the government took efforts, including working in partnership with others, to raise awareness about the SDGs at the country level.	Yes; Include what efforts were taken in the notes section. No. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Nationalization of the SDG agenda at country	Does the VNR report indicate that the country has identified national priorities within the context of the SDGs?	National priorities selected. No national priorities selected.
Preparation of national targets and indicators	Has the country defined its national targets and indicators?	National targets only; Indicate whether the report states that the national targets are aligned to the global targets. National indicators only; Indicate whether the report states that the national indicators are aligned to the global indicators and/or if the country has developed proxy indicators for the global indicators.

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
National priorities under the SDGs	List the national priorities identified under the SDGs.	<p>Unclear from the VNR report.</p> <p>Provide direct text from the VNR report if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Localization of the SDG agenda at country level	The extent to which the VNR report outlines how the SDGs are being implemented at the local level.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
<b>STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT</b>		
Process for stakeholder engagement	Whether a process for engagement has been set up and what it entails.	<p>Provide direct text from the VNR or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</p> <p>Not articulated in VNR report.</p>
Consultation on SDG priorities	Articulation of how non-state actors were involved in the definition of national priorities under the SDGs.	<p>Non-state actors engaged in identification of national priorities.</p> <p>Non-state actors were not engaged in the identification of national priorities.</p> <p>The VNR report does not set out national priorities.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
Engagement in the development of VNR reports	Whether non-state actors were engaged in the development of the VNR report.	<p>Yes.</p> <p>No.</p> <p>Unclear from the VNR report.</p>
Civil society report	Does a civil society parallel report (report prepared for the HLPF or report prepared on the country's progress on the SDGs not linked to the HLPF) exist?	<p>Yes, Indicate report author and provide a link.</p> <p>No.</p>

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA		
Best practices as identified by the country	The Secretary-General guidelines invite countries to outline 2-3 best practices.	Two options for all sub-components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</li> <li>• Not articulated in VNR report.</li> </ul>
Lessons learned in accelerating implementation	The Secretary-General guidelines invite countries to outline 2-3 lessons learned in accelerating the implementation of the SDGs.	
Challenges in implementing Agenda 2030	The Secretary-General guidelines invite countries to outline 2-3 challenges they face in implementing the SDGs.	
Learning from peers	Areas in which the country would like to learn from others, as identified in the VNR report.	
Technology	Whether the report refers to technology in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include a description of the country's efforts and gaps as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country).	
Capacity development	Whether the report refers to capacity development in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include a description of the country's efforts and gaps as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country).	
Systemic issues	Whether the report refers to systemic issues. Include issues related to global macro-economic stability (e.g. impact of global crises on country), respect for policy space, and other systemic issues mentioned by the country (e.g. global peace and security concerns are sometimes listed as impacting overall sustainable development progress).	
Budgeting for Agenda 2030 at country level	Whether the VNR report indicates that the SDGs have been incorporated into the national budget.	Yes; Provide direct text from the VNR report. No. Not articulated in the VNR.

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Reference to financing Agenda 2030 at country level	Whether the report references, financing needs to realize the 2030 Agenda at the country level and how efforts will be funded. Include in notes section description of efforts (domestic resource mobilization, etc.)	<p>Country-level implementation has been costed and the country has identified sources of finance.</p> <p>Country-level implementation has been costed but sources of finance are not identified.</p> <p>Costing for country-level implementation not mentioned but sources of finance identified.</p> <p>Costing for country-level implementation is planned and no sources of finance have been identified.</p> <p>Costing for country-level implementation is planned and sources of finance have been identified.</p> <p>Not articulated in the VNR report.</p>
International public finance	Whether the report refers to international public finance (official development assistance, South-South and Triangular Cooperation) in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include a description of the country's efforts as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country). For SSC providers, this should include support they receive as well as the support they provide (or their views on these issues).	<p>Two options for all sub-components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</li> <li>Not articulated in VNR report.</li> </ul>
Trade	Whether the report refers to trade in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include a description of the country's efforts as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country).	

#### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Local non-state actor participation in the implementation	Whether non-state actors are engaged in the implementation of the SDGs.	<p>Yes, Indicate generic information on how broadly.</p> <p>No.</p>
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SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Parliamentarians	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> parliamentarians are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	Two options for all sub-components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</li> <li>• Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in the VNR report.</li> </ul>
Civil society	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> national civil society actors are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	
Private sector	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> national private sector actors are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	
Academia/experts	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> national academia or experts are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	
Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – other	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> other national actors not belonging to the stakeholder groups of civil society, the private sector, parliament or academia/experts, are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Priority areas for development partner support	Key areas in which the government requires additional support to realize the SDGs. This should be the 'what' or 'priority goals' for help, whereas the role of development partners below looks at how – technical assistance, capacity development, etc.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. ..... If not applicable (high-income country), state Not applicable.
The role of development partners	Type of support required from development partners, as indicated in the VNR report. This refers to the 'how' of the support provided- i.e. what is being asked for (technical assistance, capacity development, etc.), whereas priority areas above are about the policy goals/areas for support.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. ..... If not applicable (high-income country), state Not applicable.
Support provided to the government to carry out the VNR	Meant to provide some indication of country capacity to participate in the VNR process.	Provide direct text from the VNR report if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. ..... If not applicable (HIC), state Not applicable.

#### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Data availability	Description of the percentage of SDG indicators for which data is available (existing indicators and proxy indicators combined).	0% ..... 1-10% ..... 11-20% ..... 21-30% ..... 31-40% ..... 41-50% ..... 51-60% ..... 61-70% ..... 71-80% ..... 81-90% ..... 91-100% ..... Unclear from the VNR report. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
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SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Availability of disaggregated data	Description of the availability of disaggregated data.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
Efforts to improve data availability	Description of how the government plans to improve the availability of good quality data for SDG monitoring.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
National reporting on the SDGs	How the government plans to report on the SDGs.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
Presentation of progress since the last VNR report	Whether the country presented progress since a previous VNR report in some way.	Yes. ..... No. ..... Not applicable.
Approach to repeat VNR reporting	Description of how the country reported on progress (for example, use of traffic light system, through their statistical annex, description of progress made since last VNR, verification of completion of 'next steps' as identified in first VNR, etc.)	Provide direct text from the VNR as needed and include a summary description of the approach taken. ..... Not applicable.

#### SECRETARY GENERAL'S VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES

Statement by HoSG	Opening statement by the Head of State or Government, a Minister or other high-ranking Government official and could highlight the current status of SDG progress and how the Government is responding to the transformative nature of the 2030 Agenda.	Three options for all components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report addresses this component, as instructed in the guidelines.</li> <li>• The report addresses this component to some extent in this or another section of the report but does not fulfil the brief as laid out in the guidelines.</li> <li>• The report does not address this component</li> </ul>
Highlights (previously Executive Summary)	One to two pages highlighting: review process, the status of SDG progress, how govt is responding to integrated and integrated nature of the SDGs and leave no one behind, examples from each good practice, lessons learned, and key challenges to learn from others and where support needed.	

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Introduction	The context and objectives of the review, relevant country context to the 2030 Agenda, national review cycle, and if existing national reports were used. Could outline policy architecture for 3 dimensions and policy tools for integration, as well as links to other policy frameworks.	
Methodology for review	This section may discuss the process of preparation for the national review and how the principles on follow-up and review from the 2030 Agenda were used. Should outline who was engaged and how.	
Creating ownership	Policy and Enabling Environment, Creating ownership of the SDGs. Refers to efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them of and involve them in the SDGs.	
Incorporation in national frameworks	Policy and Enabling Environment, Incorporation of the SDGs in the national framework. Refers to critical initiatives that the country has undertaken to adapt the SDGs and targets to its national circumstances, and to advance their implementation. Encouraged to refer to legislation, policies, etc. and main challenges in implementing. It can also refer to local governments.	
Integration of three dimensions	Policy and Enabling Environment, Integration of the three dimensions. This refers to how the three dimensions of sustainable development are being integrated and how sustainable development policies are being designed and implemented to reflect such integration. It can include analysis related to the yearly HLPF theme.	

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Leave no one behind (yearly HLPF theme was removed for 2018)	Policy and Enabling Environment, Goals and targets: Provides brief Policy and Enabling Environment, leave no one behind: Provides assessment of how the principle of leave no one behind is mainstreamed in implementation, including identification of vulnerable groups, data issues, and policies and programmes. Special attention is paid to the efforts of women and girls.	
Institutional mechanisms	Policy and Enabling Environment, Institutional mechanisms: Refers to how the country has adapted its institutional framework to implement the 2030 Agenda. It can include information on institutions and non-state actors, coordination, review plans.	
Structural issues	Policy and Enabling Environment, Structural issues: Refers to relevant structural issues or barriers, including possible external consequences of domestic policies. It can highlight transformative approaches to address barriers.	
Goals and targets	Progress on Goals and targets: Provides brief information on progress and the status of all SDGs, including critical issues and how they are being addressed and data provided in the statistical annex. Indicate whether a baseline has been defined. Encouraged to review all but some could be done in greater depth. Goal review could include gaps, challenges, successes, lessons learned, actions to be taken and can look at agreed global indicators and targets but also their national and regional ones. For those doing a second review, it is desirable to show progress since the first review.	

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Means of implementation	Description of how means of implementation are mobilized, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed based on the review of challenges and trends. It can indicate how financial systems and resource allocation are aligned with realizing the 2030 agenda and cover their technology and capacity development needs including for data. Contributions of multi-stakeholder partnerships.	
Next steps	Provide or outline what steps the country is taking or planning to take to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It can also outline review plans for national and sub-national levels, including dissemination.	
Conclusion	A summary of the analysis, findings and policy implications. It can refer to new and emerging issues identified and lessons learned from the review process.	
Annexes	An annex with data, using the global SDG indicators as a starting point and adding priority national/regional indicators and identifying gaps. Can also use additional annexes to showcase best practice and comments from stakeholders on the report.	

## ANNEX 3. COUNTRY PROFILES

The review provides an aggregate analysis of the key findings for the 47 VNR reporting countries in 2019. Except the good practice case studies, there are limited references to individual country progress against the pillars of analysis that make up the review. This annex presents short profiles for all 47 countries according to the pillars of analysis of the review.

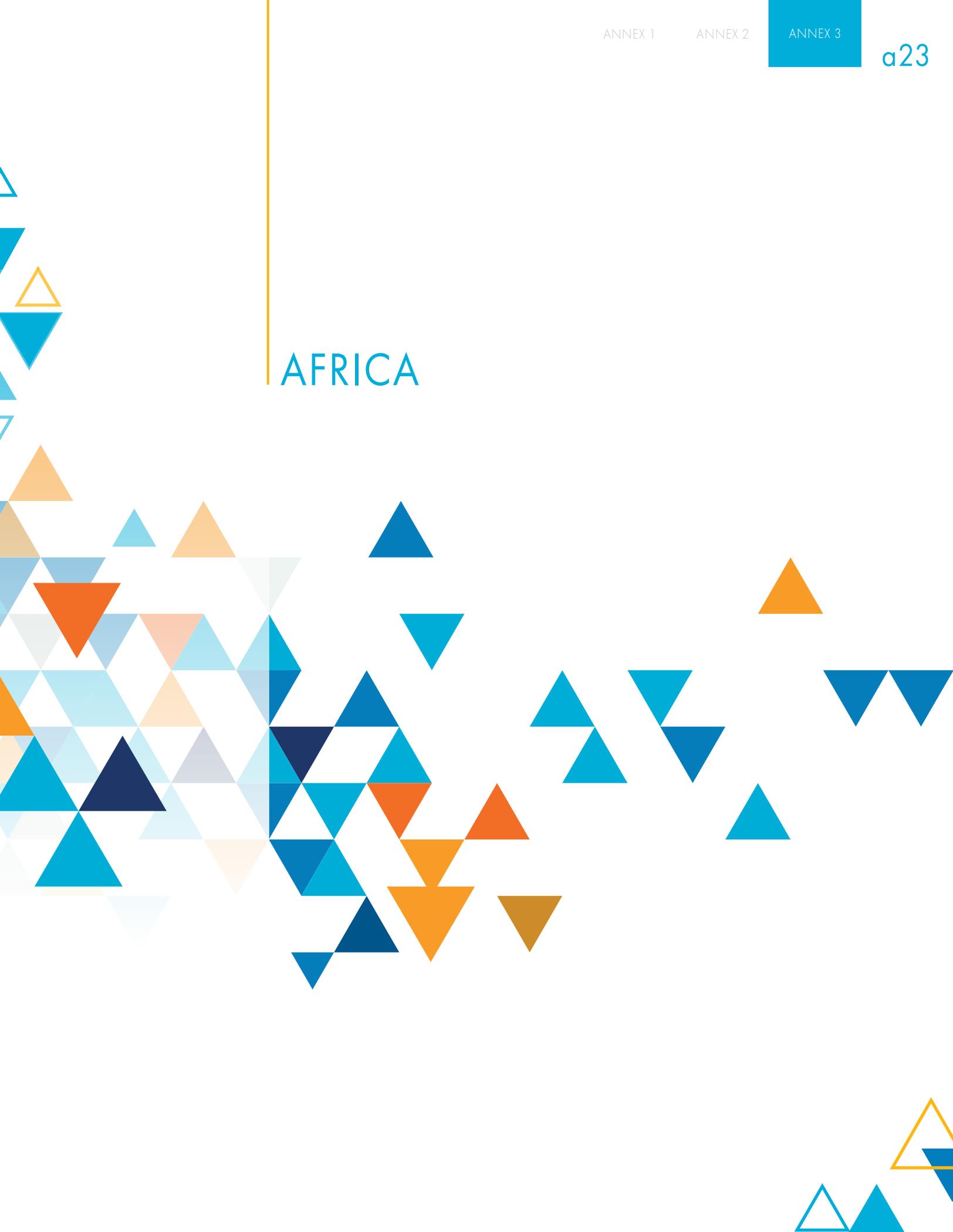
The country profiles necessarily provide only a summary of where countries stand vis-à-vis the pillars. The information presented is selective and used to illustrate, as much as possible, the overall state of 2030 Agenda implementation as outlined in the VNR report, as well as good practice. Where available, country profiles include civil society validity check statements. Members of the Steering Committee that guides the preparation of this report reached out to civil society partners to solicit feedback on the country profiles. Inputs were provided for Ghana, Sierra Leone and the United Kingdom. All other civil society validity checks noted in the profiles below were identified from civil society reports. These were used selectively to indicate instances where information diverges between government and civil society reports.



Jiro Ose / Save The Children



# AFRICA





## 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 national 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 with the view of ensuring ownership of the SDGs by all of society and the mobilization of the latter in favour 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 mobilization of civil society actors was done via numerous information and awareness-raising actions and events organized by the government. The National Council for Human Rights also contributed to the VNR process.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Two assessments have been carried out. In 2016, a United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment was carried out to examine alignment between the 169 SDG targets and national policies. Roughly 60% were found to align. In 2017, a more detailed policy area assessment was carried out, finding that 140 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 Environment and Sustainable Development (2019–2035), a consensual national vision for sustainable development. The strategy brings together 19 recently adopted sectoral thematic strategies, plans and programs and can serve as a frame of reference for operationalizing 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 international methodologies and standards to disaggregate data. The next step will be the establishment of mechanisms at 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 all stakeholders.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

Algeria provided a goal by goal 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 relevant international frameworks and agreements like the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report refers to the principle of leaving no one behind and the issues of social inclusion and inequalities. A special focus was on people with disabilities, women, children, migrants and the poor. The different categories are taken in consideration in different social sectors. The national social security system is the main policy dealing with their needs and provides more than 85% coverage. It also includes a compulsory contributory component in the private and public sectors offering coverage for the insured worker, spouse, children and dependent descendants. The government has extended this social protection, at the expense of the state, to other groups without professions such as students, the disabled, etc. The report notes that improving social inclusion, including promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights, is a key priority for the government.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Due to the recent nature of the 2030 Agenda, knowledge of the SDGs still varies. Various awareness-raising actions were undertaken within the ministerial departments in partnership sometimes with United Nations' organizations, in the sectors of education, agriculture, social development, water, forests, finance and more. A national day on "Sustainability at the Heart of Public Policies" was held. According to the report, a particular emphasis was placed on the role of civil society in order to anchor sustainability in social thinking. A cycle of workshops to raise awareness of the SDGs for media and civil society and to reflect on indicators for the benefit of experts also took place. These initiatives resulted in consensus to define a national communication strategy and to strengthen the media coverage, particularly through digital communication. This therefore not only allowed participants to share their experience, but also enabled them to reflect in order to optimize the role of civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and to establish a framework for their own planned interventions. The status of efforts to localize the 2030 Agenda was not presented in the report.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, the VNR provides limited information on contributions from diverse stakeholders. The report sets out the necessity to federate partnership efforts between the various associations of civil society active in the field of sustainable development due to their complementary and integrated nature. The report highlighted public-private partnership in implementing SDGs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes Algeria's contribution to global partnership, particularly by developing South-South cooperation via an international policy of solidarity with countries of the southern hemisphere. Since 2010, Algeria has erased the external debt of 16 countries for a total amount of USD 1.4 billion, reducing the vulnerability of these countries by contributing to debt sustainability. Algeria has also committed to multiple international scientific and technological cooperation agreements with developing countries in fields such as energy, housing, water, agriculture, technology, the environment, social security and social dialogue.

Algeria has embarked on a process of structural transformation of the economy by speeding up reforms aimed at fiscal consolidation by increasing its budgetary resources and the reduction of its dependence on oil rent. The country's efforts include mobilization and efficient use of internal public resources through the widening of the tax base, the modernization of the tax system and greater control of budgetary expenditure. Algeria is willing to set up an enabling environment to national and foreign investment as well as mobilize savings by the Algerian community abroad to raise additional financial resources. In terms of good practice, the report highlights the country's success with social protection.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report shows that of the 71 available indicators, only 27 are disaggregated, largely by gender with four indicators disaggregated according to an "urban-rural" distinction.



The report notes a central challenge linked to the national statistical system that must be addressed in terms of overall coverage of the SDG indicators, frequency of publication, disaggregation and territorialization.

Algeria is working to put in place an integrated national framework of indicators for monitoring the SDGs. The country aims to strengthen statistical production oriented towards the SDGs by covering almost all third-party type indicators by the next VNR and setting up a national SDG statistical platform to provide information on sustainable development.





## BURKINA FASO

In 2019, Burkina Faso 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

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) monitoring system is led by the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development through the Director-General of Economy and Planification. Member ministries of the fourteen sectoral dialogue frameworks of the National Economic and Social Development Plan participate in the preparation of SDG reports.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report mentions the establishment of a stakeholder engagement process. It also includes descriptions of this process (such as retreats and reviews and regional workshops) for the review and validation of the VNR. The country validated national priorities during a national workshop that saw the effective participation of central and decentralized public structures, local authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, the university and technical and financial partners. A regional workshop was held to consider the regional dimension in the report so that no one is left behind.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment was carried out to analyze the degree of alignment of the national development plan and the various existing policies, strategies and planning instruments at the national and local levels with the SDGs. The evaluation found that 89 out of 100 SDGs targets analyzed are reflected in the

national development plan and sectoral policies and strategies. Additionally, for the monitoring and evaluation of the national development plan, an overall performance measurement framework for the national development plan has been developed and contains 172 indicators. An analysis of statistical gaps in the indicators for monitoring the SDGs was conducted, which diagnosed the need for capacity building at the global and sectoral levels. Gaps identified are not articulated in the report.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Burkina Faso contextualized the 2030 Agenda in the National Economic and Social Development Plan. In January 2019, the Council of Ministers adopted a roadmap for accelerating the implementation of the national development plan and the SDGs. Alignment to the SDGs is a process of ownership, prioritization, and integration into national planning frameworks. While the report includes a focus on human rights on the review of some SDGs, it does not refer to a human rights-based approach. The principle of leaving no one behind is mentioned, and there is a specific chapter in the report on “consideration of vulnerable people.” References to the principles of planetary boundaries and intergenerational responsibility are not mentioned, though the report does give attention to water and land management, biodiversity and climate change.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

In 2016, the country carried out a first prioritization exercise of SDG targets. The analysis was based on the prioritization grid of the International Organization of La Francophonie. Subsequently, the United Nations System supported Burkina Faso in deepening the analysis of the alignment of the national development plan and other sectoral policies with the SDGs targets. This second exercise further refined the

prioritization of targets. The annex lists SDG priorities. All except SDG 14 on life below water are mentioned. Burkina Faso is landlocked.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

Only two SDGs were not examined in the report: SDG 14 (life on water) and SDG 17 (partnerships to achieve the goal). The 43 targets related to the means of implementation under each SDG, as well as the 19 targets of SDG 17 on partnerships, were not included in the Rapid Integrated Assessment analysis. All three sustainable development dimensions are addressed but there is a greater focus on the social. There is a limited reference to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the analysis of goals, targets and indicators. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report is also limited in terms of linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements, referring only to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind and the issue of social inclusion. Burkina Faso's engagement to the 2030 Agenda has the objective to take bold and transformative steps towards sustainable, resilient and inclusive development (leaving no one behind).

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Communication and training activities have been undertaken since 2016 by the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development, the Permanent Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, civil society, non-governmental organizations and United Nations system agencies. These activities have aimed to benefit public administration actors, universities and research centres, local authorities, civil society organizations, students and the private sector as well as the community of technical and financial partners. Regional and municipal development plans are the means by which the National Economic and Social Development Plan and the SDGs are implemented at the local level.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report recognizes the importance of multi-stakeholder partnerships in the implementation of the agenda, including in innovative financing. Limited examples of direct partnerships were included in the report.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes as main challenges the difficulties of resource mobilization as well as the elevated cost of large-scale statistical operations that do not ensure regularity in their production. Climate hazard is another challenge. The persistence of socio-cultural constraints and the lack of a single register of vulnerable people undermine efforts to provide care for vulnerable people. The 2020 financing plan for the National Economic and Social Development Plan is estimated at CFAF 15,395.4 billion, with 63.8% from domestic resources and 36.2% from external private and public financing (CFAF 5,570 billion) over five (5) years. Trade is mentioned under the measures to strengthen "alternative financing," particularly in the context of South-South cooperation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

According to an evaluation conducted in 2018, only 36% of the indicators defined in the national development plan framework are reported. The report includes a commitment to strengthen statistical capacities to fill gaps in data production, collection and analysis.



## CAMEROON

In 2019, Cameroon 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

The technical coordination of activities to monitor and review the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is under the responsibility of the Technical Monitoring Committee of the National Development Strategy.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

A process for stakeholder engagement was established. It will take the form of a dialogue platform jointly facilitated by the Minister of Economy, Planning and Land Management and the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations System. Representatives of public administrations, civil society, parliamentarians, and development partners will participate. The platform will meet once a year to review the regional reports and the quantitative report on progress that will be produced by the National Institute of Statistics. Non-state actors were also part of the national VNR governmental committee according to an inclusive and participatory approach.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An assessment was carried out for only some SDGs owing to a lack of data for some indicators under the following SDGs: SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land). In the analysis of each SDG, the report provides some data. However, baseline references and the current value of indicators are not always available.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

In the past, national strategies were aligned with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although most MDGs were not achieved by 2015, the main development documents, the national growth and employment strategy and the “Vision 2035” included the targets that were later incorporated into the SDGs. The report references the principle of a human rights-based approach and leaving no one behind. No reference to the planetary boundaries was made. Cameroon asserted the importance of preserving the planet for future generations.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities were selected. Cameroon identified 153 targets and work is progressing on 52 of the targets. Priorities include reducing poverty, catching up on the implementation of the MDGs and improving people’s resilience to various shocks, particularly to climate change and poverty. Additional attention was paid to economic growth, the consolidation of the democratic process and promoting national unity while respecting the diversity that characterizes the country.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs. All dimensions of sustainable development were addressed, but a greater focus was placed on the social. The report links the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Efforts to leave no one behind are mentioned at three levels including the juridical, the political and institutional and the operational levels. On the juridical level, Cameroon ratified all the international instruments for the protection of human rights. On the institutional and political levels, Cameroon has adopted the Gender National Policy and developed a national social protection policy in 2017. It also prepared a national strategy to combat gender-based violence over 2017–2020. On the operational level, Cameroon has extended social nets.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report mentions the dissemination of the SDGs in innovative ways by civil society organizations. Civil society organizations translated the SDGs into local languages, created sustainable development clubs in secondary schools and colleges, produced a comic book on the SDGs, established a common platform for collaborative work and carried out several capacity development workshops.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

In October 2016, at the decentralized local authorities level, the “*Direction de la Francophonie Economique et Numérique*” and the Organization of the Francophonie Regional Office for Central Africa organized a national information, awareness and mobilization workshop on the SDGs and local development. The objective was to raise awareness among national participants of the need to integrate the SDGs into national and local policies and strategies. The workshop also served to familiarize participants with tools for implementation of the SDGs. Civil society organizations have translated the SDGs into local languages to help all segments of the population understand them. Sustainable development clubs were created in secondary schools and colleges.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Cameroon is committed to promoting the specific contribution of volunteering. In this regard, the country has adopted a National Volunteer Strategy. The Platform of Actors Working in Volunteerism in Cameroon, as well as other civil society organizations, independently produced a parallel report. In addition, Young Cameroonians Volunteer for Sustainable Development Goals launched its program in 2019. It is an initiative of the United Nations Volunteers Program and partners with young leaders and youth associations to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report included a list of 14 challenges in implementation, including integrating the SDGs into programmatic frameworks and taking better account of vulnerable people in the implementation of the policies. Structural factors and existing levels of progress in some areas were also noted such as universal completion of basic education and extending social protection measures to a wider range of vulnerable people. The government also noted the need to better coordinate climate change responses and the challenge of restoring peace in crisis regions. Technology is referred to as a sustainable lever for transforming the public administration and the economy. Implementation has not been costed, but the sources of finance are identified including private, national and international finance.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. It is important to mobilize resources to produce statistics needed to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. Strengthening the national statistical system through the support of a project to improve the efficiency of public expenditure and the statistical system was highlighted.



## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

In 2019, the Central African Republic (CAR) submitted its first voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The governance arrangements for delivering the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is led by the Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

CAR confirms the existence of multi-stakeholder development effectiveness monitoring frameworks that support the achievement of sustainable development objectives. These efforts include the state, private sector, civil society organizations and technical and financial partners. Under the coordination of the Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation and with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme, the VNR process was conducted with the involvement of all stakeholders, including administrative and local authorities, the private sector, civil society organizations and development partners.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An assessment was carried out for all SDGs, except SDG 14 (life below water) because CAR is a landlocked country. The annex includes a baseline study and the evolution of the different SDG indicators from 2015 to 2018. The government also conducted a circular thematic analysis and a trend analysis of indicators to assess the impact of the implementation of public policies. In terms of identification of gaps, there is a disparity between boys and girls in access to the education system, differences in pay between

men and women, gender inequalities and inequalities between residential areas and regions.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs were incorporated into national development plans and related policies and frameworks. CAR has made the shared vision of the SDGs a reality through the National Plan for the Recovery and Consolidation of Peace in Central Africa (2017–2021) and sectoral development strategies. CAR has committed itself at the international level to ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The report also refers to the principle of leaving no one behind and how current new technologies can make it possible to collect the data needed to meet the commitment of not leaving any Central African behind. There was no reference to planetary boundaries or intergenerational responsibility.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The process of prioritizing the SDGs in CAR has resulted in 37 priority targets within the six SDGs reviewed under the HLPF 2019.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

CAR reviewed the goals captured by the theme for the HLPF: SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequality, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace and justice strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships to achieve the goals. The report refers to applicable linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the analysis of specific goals, targets and indicators. For instance, the report mentioned the effect of climate change and how it impacts food security. The government noted

that without peace, there is limited space to provide quality education, security, wealth creation, justice, effective institutions, reduction of inequalities and environmental protection. The report mentions policy coherence noting effective institutions are generally recognized as a lever and product of sustainable development. The institutional framework must be coherent, inclusive and provide adequate service delivery in the development of strategies and implementation of the SDGs.

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The CAR conducted a circular thematic analysis of the 6 SDGs of the 2019 HLPF and a trend analysis of indicators to assess the impact of the implementation of public policies. This analysis shows the interconnected and integrated nature of the SDGs and the impact and influence one goal has on other goals. This analysis can help identify the key accelerators of the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Several economic and social programs are aimed at reducing various types of inequalities in education, health, nutrition, sanitation, drinking water supply and financial inclusion. The report highlights actions targeting specific groups such as women, people living with disabilities and HIV/AIDS, those affected by disasters and others not covered by social protection systems.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report mentions that efforts to raise awareness and disseminate the SDGs to all stakeholders will have to continue, noting awareness-raising as a major challenge. The government recognizes the importance of all stakeholders to integrate prioritized targets into the country's intervention framework. Concerning relations with local authorities, CAR is in the process of adopting a code for local authorities to organize the administration of the territory within the framework of local development.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Beyond the development effectiveness monitoring frameworks noted above, the report makes limited reference to the specific contributions of non-state actors. Nevertheless, CAR acknowledged the importance of civil society noting their work is regulated by law. In 2007 the government created a Permanent Secretariat of NGOs. The report also points to the role of United Nations volunteers in supporting sustainable development.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Challenges for SDG implementation include governance, the weakness of the state's authority and low mobilization of domestic resources. Global warming, deforestation, climate change and soil degradation have affected the agricultural production system. Internal conflicts and conflicts in neighbouring countries create instability.

The National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan is implemented through the Transitional Results Framework based on three pillars, 11 strategic objectives and various sectoral action plans. The Transition Results Framework is divided into a development program and projects within the framework of the medium-term budget programming (2017–2021) and the three-year rolling Investment Program. Country-level implementation has been costed and sources of finance identified. Achieving the 2030 Agenda requires considerable resources estimated at between USD 6,204.6 billion and USD 10,769.32 billion. CAR recognized external financing is not sufficient and that domestic resource mobilization must be one of the fundamental pillars of development financing.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The percentage of data availability is not mentioned though the report notes a lack of disaggregated data. To address this, the National Statistics Council was created. Monitoring progress will occur through the country's existing monitoring system.



## CHAD

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

An inter-ministerial technical committee was set up by Presidential Decree on 16 October 2018. The inter-ministerial technical committee is chaired by the Director-General of the Ministry of Economy and Development Planning, the vice-presidency by the Director-General of the National Institute of Statistics, Economic Studies and Demography and the secretariat by the National Coordinator of the follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Civil society, private sector and academia are part of the “Secretariat permanente de veille,” a permanent administrative body for coordinating monitoring and evaluation.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report is unclear in terms of what long-term stakeholder engagement entails beyond participation in governance mechanisms. Nevertheless, it notes non-state actor engagement in the development of the report.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The VNR indicates that non-state actors were involved in the consultation process of the VNR, but also the coordination process for SDGs implementation and monitoring.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The rapid integrated assessment tool was used to assess the degree of alignment between the 2017–2021 national

development plan and the SDGs. It showed that the national development plan is well aligned with the SDG targets capturing 70% of relevant targets. Still, the rapid integration assessment highlighted a low level of cross-sectoral synergies. Except for SDG 14, all other SDGs have been analyzed in terms of current policies, strategies and programs as well as future challenges, opportunities and risks.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government developed “Vision 2030, Chad we want.” This has been translated into three national development plans with the first covering the period 2017–2021. The VNR does not refer explicitly to a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the SDGs, but human rights are mentioned under the review of SDG 16. There is a clear reference to the principle of universality and leaving no one behind but no reference to planetary boundaries or inter-generational responsibility.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities have been selected. In total, the national priority package of SDG targets for 2017–2021 includes 15 SDGs with 34 targets prioritized out of the 100 possible targets. The report points to national priorities under each SDG examined.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

All SDGs except SDG 14 on life below water are examined in the report. Chad is landlocked. All dimensions of sustainable development are addressed but the report has a greater focus on social dimensions. Policy coherence is not mentioned. Still, the report stresses the importance of reinforcing the inter-sectoral synergies of the national development plan and the multisectoral coordination for

the achievement of the targets considered. The report also makes linkages between the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sendai Framework.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The leave no one behind principle is seen as an essential element for the success of SDG implementation. Guided by this principle, the government is ensuring involvement of all stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda. Women, people with disabilities, children, migrant workers and elderly people are the main targets of efforts to leave no one behind through the implementation of the National Strategy for Social Protection adopted in 2015.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The process of ownership in Chad started with information sessions and training on the SDGs for the benefit of parliamentarians and focal points of different institutions. Awareness-raising started in the last quarter of 2016 at the level of the national legislature. It resulted in the establishment of a special commission to monitor the implementation of the SDGs within this institution. Other activities were organized, including the training of local elected representatives and journalists.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Chad provided detailed information on how parliamentarians and civil society organizations were involved in the SDG implementation process. The report stated the parliament has committed to the goals and drafted plans for 2019 and 2020. The parliament hears regular updates on progress. Civil society has been engaged to help Chad reach its educational goals and to help with the follow-up and review mechanisms.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda include the collapse of oil prices from 2014, the insecurity caused by Boko Haram since 2015 and the 2016 presidential election that delayed the start of implementation of SDGs.

Implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been costed at around USD 10 billion for the national development plan 2017–2021. The parliament established an action plan to improve progress reporting on the SDGs during budgeting sessions. Sources of financing have been identified. Internal resources account for 11% over the 2017–2021 period while international agreements will cover 22% of the cost. The report notes a financing gap of 67% to be sought from the private sector and technical partners.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. Indeed, it is mentioned that the institutional mechanism for implementing and monitoring the SDGs is not yet in a position to capture all the progress made or all the initiatives that are being implemented in the country. The monitoring of progress is weak and limited due to insufficient data availability and lack of coordination between the central level and the autonomous communities. The government plans to improve data availability through a process of reform of its statistical apparatus in the context of the ratification of the African Charter of Statistics in March 2015.



## CONGO

In 2019, Congo 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

The institutional framework for the evaluation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and national development plan covering the period 2018–2022, includes a National Evaluation Council organized into four levels comprised of the steering committee, the technical coordination committee, the permanent technical secretariat and the departmental coordination. The main activity of the council includes the production of annual monitoring reports on the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The government recognized the importance of involving all stakeholders for the SDG implementation, but the report does not mention what such engagement entails. Nevertheless, it is mentioned that the process of contextualizing the SDGs in national frameworks has involved the participation of actors whose actions should contribute to the achievement of the SDGs, namely state actors, civil society, the private sector as well as development partners. Stakeholders were also involved in the VNR process through the organization of national workshops.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An analysis of the level of integration of the SDGs (Rapid Integrated Assessment) into the 2018–2022 national development plan and analysis of SDGs indicators from 2014 to 2017 was conducted. Overall, the assessment established

a moderate degree of integration of SDG targets into the 2012–2016 national development plan. In total Congo retained 14 SDGs, 74 targets and 113 indicators. Out of 107 targets selected by the Congo, 65 were taken into account, representing an integration rate of 61%. By aligning with the three strategic axes of the national plan (strengthening governance, strengthening and developing human capita, and diversifying and transforming the economy), the report mentioned a 92% rate of inclusion of 14 prioritized SDGs into the country's national development plan. However, when compared to all the 17 SDGs, the rate of inclusion drops to 76%.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government developed the 2018–2022 national development plan based on the African Union Agenda 2063 and the SDGs. The efforts made by the government on human rights include the adoption and dissemination of texts on respect for human rights. Leaving no one behind (LNOB) is mentioned and a LNOB study is being carried out focused on the phenomenon of exclusion in Congo. Intergenerational responsibility is mentioned indirectly, “to ensure the health of the planet for present and future generations.”

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities were selected. Of the 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 241 indicators, Congo retained 14 SDGs, 74 targets and 113 indicators.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

All SDGs except SDG 14 (life below water) are analyzed with data annexed under each of the SDGs reviewed. All dimensions of sustainable development are addressed but with a greater focus on the social. The report made limited

reference to linkages between the dimensions in analysis of goals, targets and indicators. Nevertheless, the report recognizes the multidimensional characteristics of poverty with linkages between economic and social dimensions but also natural disaster risks that can impact poverty.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Congo's LNOB study was the highlight of the participatory process of the VNR. By drawing on the views of the population, the government feels it has a greater likelihood of meeting people's needs by 2030. Children, pregnant women, Indigenous populations and people with disabilities are the main targets of the efforts to LNOB. Efforts include improvement of health and social services, inclusive development, access to decent housing, access to quality health and nutrition services, HIV/AIDS prevention and care services, safe drinking water and sanitation and hygiene services. The government is also using cash transfers to poor and vulnerable segments of the population to prevent vulnerability in the short term to shocks and to contribute to the development of human capital.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Congo is carrying out a study on LNOB and undertaking a multi-sectoral response to address the challenge of poverty. The country recognizes poverty as a multidimensional and transversal issue.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, the Ministry of Planning, Statistics and Regional Integration organized a workshop for parliamentarians, the Department of Studies and Planning, civil society organizations and the private. The workshop increased ownership of the SDGs among the participants. Raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda among youth and the general public is mainly achieved through the dissemination of information via traditional media, social

networks and awareness campaigns. However, due to an amorphous economy and declining government revenue, the government has not yet initiated this outreach component of the 2030 Agenda.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Partners from the private sector, civil society and development agencies are mentioned in the report. Partner-funded projects that reach almost all of the SDGs in Congo except for SDGs 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 15 (life on land) are mentioned. The main areas of focus are education, the environment, health, poverty alleviation, energy, peace and partnership for sustainable development.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The first and main weakness mentioned in the report is the financing of the 2030 Agenda, which was adopted and operationalized in the context of the economic and financial crisis. The government needs strategic partnerships to mobilize financial and material resources to offset funding gaps for national development and SDGs. The gap is estimated at 63.07% of the overall cost. The cost of the 2018–2022 national development plan is estimated at FCFA 15,693,687 billion. State funding capacity is limited to FCFA 5,795 billion. A gap of FCFA 9,898 billion that will need to be covered by external contributions.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Data provided by the national statistical system has varying levels of reliability and is not current. The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data but includes a commitment from the government to modernize the national statistical institution and strengthen the capacity of its managers to produce quality data for all selected indicators.

On the basis of monitoring reports, the National Evaluation Council will organize an annual review of performance, according to a precise timetable.



In 2019, Côte d'Ivoire 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

The National Steering Committee is the technical decision-making body for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Côte d'Ivoire. It is chaired by the ministry in charge of planning and development, and the vice-presidency is provided by the ministry in charge of sustainable development. The private sector and civil society are represented through delegations at the national steering committee.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes several issues that need to be addressed by authorities to accelerate SDGs implementation, such as creating a national framework for consultation and coordination of actions for implementation.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Côte d'Ivoire has assessed the extent to which the SDGs have been considered in national policies and strategies. Gaps are identified in the report but not mentioned in terms of statistical difference compared to the baseline for each of the SDGs reviewed. All 17 SDGs are analyzed. This analysis includes progress and country performance, but also reforms, policy measures and good practices, challenges and current measures and future actions to undertake.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The evaluation of policies revealed that of the 105 SDG targets considered, 87 (83%) are aligned with sectoral plans and policies. The report refers to the principles of universality and leaving no one behind. It has a strong focus on human rights, introducing human rights and citizenship curricula in schools. Additionally, the technical unit that oversees the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs includes delegates of the National Human Rights Council. There is no reference to planetary boundaries.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The report notes that national priorities have been selected as well as super accelerators of the SDGs. Some priorities include the promotion of productive, decent and sustainable employment for all, the promotion of gender equity and the political and economic empowerment of women and girls. The report also notes implementation of measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change and strengthen social cohesion through reconciliation, national solidarity and peace.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

All SDGs were examined in the report with discussion of reforms, policy measures and good practices, challenges and current measures and future actions to undertake. The report refers to "a privileged place for priority social sectors to improve the living conditions of the populations." Applicable linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions are made in the report. Policy coherence is understood in relation to domestic efforts. The implementation of the SDGs is based on the principle of coordination of cross-sectoral interventions. The report only refers to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Côte d'Ivoire has paid attention to vulnerable groups through several measures, plans and policies aimed at promoting social equality. These vulnerable groups include the poor, people with disabilities, women, children and ethnic minorities. Youth voluntary schemes were also initiated by the government to leave no one behind, including access to compulsory and free education to all children.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

This report identified SDG accelerators to provide integrated solutions and achieve the realization of the 2030 Agenda. The exercise was carried out using four themes: social, economic, environmental and governance. Challenges were identified for each theme. The process looked at bottlenecks that could hamper the resolution of identified challenges and integrated solutions to remove bottlenecks. For example, in the social theme, the following super accelerators were identified: promotion of productive, decent and sustainable employment for all; promotion of gender equality and political and economic empowerment of women and girls; and expanding access to protection for vulnerable populations.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The government carried out awareness-raising efforts from 2016 to 2018. Activities included consultations, workshops, a media awareness campaign and the second edition of the Sustainable Development Forum. The local authorities take part in the process of implementing the SDGs through their main bodies, namely the Union of Cities and Municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire and the Association of Regions and Districts of Côte d'Ivoire. Capacity-building efforts have been carried out in the Territorial Communities.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The private sector is mentioned for promoting private-public-partnerships and corporate social responsibility.

The report also recognized the importance of volunteerism as a “human and transversal means of implementing the SDGs” that enables all citizens to take an active role in the implementation of the SDGs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDGs implementation, including the availability of disaggregated data, the adaptation of planning to the requirements of the SDGs, the mobilization of the national society and the strengthening of the public-private partnership to finance the implementation of the SDGs. Budgeting for the whole agenda is mentioned and the overall cost has been incorporated into the national development plan budget estimate. Sources of financing include innovative financing mechanisms, securitization and channelling of migrant remittances and public-private partnerships.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report indicates that data availability is 44%. The action plan of the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2018–2021) should provide the Directorates of Planning and Statistics with logistical, human, operational and financial resources to improve the frequency of collection and dissemination in line with the principle of leave no one behind.



## ESWATINI

In 2019, Eswatini 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

Under the Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, the SDG (Sustainable Development Goal) Secretariat leads SDG planning and implementation.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report highlights the importance of partnerships and that the country will continue extensive efforts to consult, engage and raise awareness on implementation of the SDGs as it did during the planning phase. Nevertheless, the report does not outline how stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation is occurring. It does, however, detail engagement by non-state actors in the VNR, including in terms of reviewing a draft version of the report. Non-state actors have been and continue to be engaged in the identification of national priorities and their implementation.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that Eswatini has assessed data gaps for monitoring the SDGs. The assessment included efforts to assess the implementation and institutional gaps for the SDGs prioritized in the country.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report states that the objectives of the SDGs are in line with the country's Vision 2022, and that the SDGs have been incorporated into the National Development Strategy and Strategy for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth

2030. Furthermore, the SDGs are aligned with the Strategic Roadmap focused on economic recovery and the National Development Plan 2019/20–2021/22.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The gap analysis included organizing the SDGs into three groups: prioritized, enablers and cross-cutting issues. A prioritized SDG represents the country's main focus for the medium term. Enablers represent the ideal environment or conditions for the implementation and achievement of other SDGs. Cross-cutting issues are areas for integration in the implementation of the goals. SDGs were reviewed with the involvement of stakeholders and government staff.

Major gaps that impede the implementation of prioritized SDGs were also identified. Additional gaps were identified in the governance framework and overall capacities.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country is committed to SDG implementation. Its major priorities include eradicating poverty, promoting shared prosperity and improving environmental quality. These selected priorities are linked to the SDGs and have led to the creation of a subset of ten goals that are national priorities. National priorities include SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (innovation, infrastructure and industrialization), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, security and justice for all) and SDG 17 (partnerships

for the goals). For the country, the inability to end poverty is considered the primary cause of economic instability. Reducing poverty is thus of critical importance to the country.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers ten selected areas that are national priorities. The report has a limited focus on the linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. The VNR makes linkages to the relevant international frameworks including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It does not mention the Paris Agreement on Climate Change but provides details on risks and efforts to address climate change within SDG 13.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The state of available data regarding leaving no one behind is unclear from the report. Vulnerable groups in the country have been identified as orphaned and vulnerable children, the elderly, people living with disabilities, women and youth. The report lists a range of policies and programs that have been put in place to improve the situation of vulnerable people. They include mostly national-level strategies and policies such as national health policy, a poverty-reduction action program and education sector policy. Also, there are social protection measures for children, an elderly grant, a disability grant, programs for empowerment (especially for women and girls) such as a youth enterprise fund, a program for women in development, a women's empowerment program and a rural development fund.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country developed a communication strategy that addresses awareness-raising. The VNR development process also helped raise awareness among stakeholders.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The report highlights engagement with local levels of government on the SDGs and showcases the efforts by local governments to incorporate the SDGs into planning

processes. It emphasizes the importance of working with local governments and other stakeholders to develop implementation plans on these issues. It also mentions local-level data collection.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report notes the importance of partnerships, it does not provide specific examples of partnerships with domestic non-state actors. Eswatini does, however, have partnerships with development partners increasing progress in social sectors.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies strengths in several areas where the country is implementing the nationalized SDGs. Major implementation challenges include limited financial capacity. Fiscal challenges have resulted in limited resources being available for the implementation of programs. The report also mentions the Public Finance Management Act of 2017 that was enacted to boost donor confidence of government accountability. Adoption and implementation of the regulations have been delayed.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not articulated in the report. The report stresses that the datasets for the SDG indicators are currently being developed. In addition, improvements to the national statistics office are planned to boost the country's ability to monitor and collect data. The country's approach to reporting on the 2030 Agenda is under development.



## GHANA

In 2019, Ghana 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

Ghana has created a coordinating and implementation system based on the country's decentralized planning system. Efforts related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are coordinated by the High-Level Ministerial Committee. Both the SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee and a Technical Committee supports them. The SDG Implementation Coordinating Committee and Technical Committee have representatives from government, civil society and the private sector, while the United Nations Country Team has observer status on the High-Level Ministerial Committee.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country developed an engagement strategy as well as a national platform to facilitate stakeholder participation. Stakeholders were actively involved in the development of the VNR as well.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country conducted a gap analysis. The analysis identified some gaps, although at least 50% of the SDGs have been reflected in development plans. The country has made adjustments in its implementation efforts that are reflected in annual action plans to address some of the gaps on an ongoing basis.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs have been integrated into the national development agenda and the country's budget. The government's national development document that integrates the SDGs is titled An Agenda for Jobs: Creating Prosperity and Equal Opportunity for All (2017-2024). Guidelines were also developed to prepare medium-term development plans mandating government institutions and local authorities to align their activities with SDGs. A tracking tool has been developed within the national budgeting process to monitor allocations and expenditure on SDG-related activities.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs have been identified. The SDGs are organized according to the four pillars of the national development agenda covering social, economic and environmental issues as well as institutional areas of concern.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. The report makes linkages to relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides an in-depth assessment of the situation of vulnerable groups in the country. It presents a detailed narrative on those left behind and efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. Goals most prominently related to the social sectors include a subsection on leaving no one behind. The report lists vulnerable groups, including the aged, children, the rural population, people living with a disability, prisoners, the unemployed and people in vulnerable employment. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Awareness creation campaigns were conducted in four regional capitals focusing on market women, school children, fisherfolk, street children, lorry drivers, marginalized groups, civil society organizations, the media and farmer groups. Currently, efforts are being made to translate the SDGs into local dialects, Braille, local proverbs and adinkra symbols for ease of communication and understanding by the target audiences. Media SDG platforms have been created to facilitate information sharing and discussions on the goals at the national, regional and district levels. To reach rural communities, the Ghana Community Radio Network has launched a project called Participatory Community Radio and the Right to Communicate—A Singular Pathway to the SDGs.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-creation campaigns have been prioritized by the country and targeted efforts focusing on several vulnerable groups.

The capacity to monitor and evaluate progress remains weak at the local level despite integration into local plans. The report notes efforts to improve capacities by recruiting additional staff and statisticians at the local government level. Training through Regional Coordinating Councils is envisioned.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

Information presented in the civil society report showed that civil society organizations need support to engage in data collection to integrate implementation efforts, especially those regarding vulnerable groups. This would improve information on progress and help to better target future efforts.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report refers to specific contributions from civil society, the private sector, academia and youth towards 2030 Agenda implementation. For example, it notes the CSOs Platform on SDGs that helps to ensure coordination and partnership with civil society as well as efforts by the private sector to incorporate sustainable development into corporate social responsibility and philanthropy. Public and private universities are contributing research. Working in partnership, youth associations are organizing an annual African Youth SDGs Summit to mobilize youth.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country assessed cross-sectoral interactions to identify trade-offs and synergies among the goals while developing interventions that build on the synergies. Ghana's budget has been aligned with the SDGs. The Ministry of Finance has developed a tool that helps track government allocations and expenditures on each SDG target. These allocations provide a measure of the government's actual expenditures on implementing the SDGs and thus indicate the country's commitment to the goals.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Access to reliable and timely data at the appropriate levels of disaggregation is listed as a challenge for the country. The country has developed a roadmap with three priority areas for action to fill data gaps, encourage data use and strengthen the entire data ecosystem. Training and data collection templates were developed to assist in data collection. The use of telecommunications and earth observation data is being explored for some of the indicators. The report notes the launch of an online data portal as part of reporting.



## LESOTHO

In 2018, Lesotho 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

The process of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) integration and implementation are overseen by the National Oversight and Advisory Committee, chaired by the prime minister. The Minister of Development Planning chairs the cabinet sub-committee on SDGs. In addition, a technical committee also supports SDG planning and implementation with members from development partners, heads of government agencies, heads of civil society organizations, chief executives, and heads of trade unions. Its responsibility is to give technical direction to the implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country engaged citizens in several aspects of SDG integration into national priorities. This included engagement on the preparation of the VNR, data selection and identification to track progress on SDG implementation and initiatives undertaken by stakeholders such as civil society organization and private sector.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report makes no mention of whether the country conducted a gap analysis of policies or data.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Lesotho has integrated the 2030 Agenda into its national priorities including its National Vision 2020 and the National Strategic Development Plan 2018/19–2022/23. The

National Strategic Development Plan is the instrument through which the National Vision 2020 is operationalized. Through the National Strategic Development Plan, Lesotho recognizes the integrated and indivisible nature of SDGs and is committed to addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The overall target of the National Strategic Development Plan is employment creation and the achievement of inclusive economic growth. Achievement of the plan's targets is expected to contribute to poverty reduction, social inclusion and improve the status of the environment. The country linked the SDGs to these specific targets. Additional national priorities have been identified. They include addressing climate change, building resilience in the agricultural sector, addressing rural poverty and inequalities, building a robust health-care system, addressing new HIV infections in adolescents, youth and factory workers and promoting a stable, peaceful and inclusive society with strong institutions.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. The report makes linkages to several relevant international frameworks including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country's strategy on the SDGs strongly focuses on the synergies between them. For example, Lesotho recognizes that with effective implementation of programs on climate change mitigation and adaptation (SDG 13), Lesotho will reduce poverty and hunger and create decent jobs (SDGs 1, 2, and 8) and reduce inequalities and violence against women (SDGs 5 and 10). With reduced poverty, hunger and a higher number of decent jobs, Lesotho's citizens will have access to improved universal health and education services (SDGs 3 and 4), clean water, sanitation and affordable energy (SDGs 6 and 7).

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The principle of leaving no one behind is critical for SDG implementation in the country. The report provides an in-depth assessment of the situation of vulnerable groups. The vulnerable groups identified include women, children, people with disabilities, migrants, people affected by poverty and youth. The report presents a detailed narrative on those left behind and efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. It emphasizes the importance of strengthening and coordinating both national and district agencies to address inequalities and manage social protection programs across the country.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report points to the VNR process as well as a national conference to raise awareness. Examples of how SDGs were localized at the subnational level are also presented. For example, SDG 1 has been integrated into local strategies by establishing district social protection coordination committees in 10 districts. A Social Protection Strategy Implementation Plan, along with a monitoring and evaluation monitoring and evaluation framework, has been finalized to support implementation, coordination and monitoring of social protection interventions.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report notes contributions from non-state actors in the general sense. The country has a Partnership Policy from 2013 that is being reviewed. The country is developing a national partnership and coordination strategic plan with the aim of strengthening engagement mechanisms with partners including development partners, civil society, the private sector and special groups. The report also points to the support of United Nations Lesotho Youth Advisory Panel to carry out consultations on the VNR. Finally, efforts by volunteers are also presented with respect to efforts across social sectors.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Since SDGs are integrated into the country's national plan, their implementation is funded through public sector financing (annual budgets approved by the parliament). The country formulated a financing strategy for the development plan. The framework lists financial needs, available funds and financial gaps.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides disaggregated data by gender as well as on rural and urban livelihoods. It stresses that the country should improve the collection, analysis and use of disaggregated data by age, sex, gender, regions and socioeconomic status, among others. The country needs capacity enhancement to be able to produce credible disaggregated data as well as to coordinate and monitor the effectiveness of existing interventions on children and social protection.

The report included a commitment to annual reviews of the SDGs. An extended meeting by the Cabinet Subcommittee on Sustainable Development occurred as part of the VNR process.



## MAURITANIA

In 2019, Mauritania 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 committee chaired by the Prime Minister with the membership of eight principal departments, the General Secretary of the Government, Human Rights Commissioner and “Tdamoun” Agency was set up. The report does not refer to non-state actor engagement in the committee.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the country’s national strategy was developed through an open and inclusive process. The strategy benefited from the input of all to ensure the three dimensions of sustainable development were reflected and full integration of the leave no one behind (LNOB) principle. Consultation meetings and workshops were organized, particularly for the development of the report itself. Focus groups have been established as part of consultations with non-state actors including national and local elected representatives, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and other groups (women, young people, etc.).

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report indicates that an assessment was carried out for all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The 2016 Rapid Integrated Assessment exercise served as a prioritization and integration exercise of the SDGs in national strategy. It also constitutes the assessment of the baseline situation of the SDGs in Mauritania. Apart from gaps identified for data

availability, the report refers to gaps in terms of hunger, inequalities and partnership which are not fully integrated into the national strategy.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The integration of the SDGs into national commitments is reflected in the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity for 2016–2030. The report explicitly refers to human rights-based action and LNOB. There is no direct mention of universality but recognition that the 2030 Agenda applies to all countries and people.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

In developing the national strategy and national priorities, a special effort was made to integrate the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and those of the African Union Agenda 2063.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs but more specifically, it looks at progress in achieving the SDG targets adopted by Mauritania in the first action plan (2016–2020) of the Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity Strategy. Particular attention is given to those SDGs corresponding to the general theme of the 2019 HLPF, namely SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent employment, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 13 on climate action SDG, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnership for the goals. Policy coherence for sustainable development is mentioned with reference to ensuring coherence and alignment of sectoral and regional policies with national strategy priorities. The report refers to international frameworks, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as the Kyoto Protocol on Greenhouse Gases and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Mauritania requires additional data to LNOB and in terms of gender disaggregated data. It focuses on women, people with disabilities, communities, victims of the aftermath of slavery and refugees. The report refers to various programs implemented to address the needs of these group. For instance, the National Social Transfer Program “Tekavoul” (“Tekavoul” “تكافل” is an Arabic word that means joint liability or solidarity) is a cash-transfer program for the benefit of the poorest people.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising was done through discussions and debates, consultations that gathered diverse and varied opinions from all stakeholders including beneficiaries, vulnerable populations, entrepreneurs, women, young people, national and local elected representatives, local governments, central administrations of sectoral ministries, development partners and civil society. The report refers as well to other national communication campaigns undertaken including on climate change.

In terms of localization the report notes the Regional Development Committee chaired by the Wali of the region was set for steering, monitoring and evaluation of the national strategy.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report does not outline specific contributions from non-state actors to realize the SDGs. However, it does refer to the role of the private sector in financing implementation.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report provides costing estimates for specific projects and activities needed to achieve specific SDGs. The report identifies implementation capacity needs such as designing, implementing and evaluating sustainable development policies, improving the effectiveness of government institutions and accelerating institutional reform.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report notes the inadequacy of sufficiently disaggregated data as a major constraint and refers to the strengthening of the national statistical system as a necessity. It acknowledges the gap in knowledge as a challenge to develop programs and assess impacts. Lessons learned from the VNR experience will be considered for the measurement and reporting of the second implementation report for the national strategy.



## MAURITIUS

In 2019, Mauritius 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

The country has linked the coordination and integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into already existing government institutions. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade leads the planning and implementation of the SDGs. The Ministry also chairs the SDG Steering Committee where the public sector, private stakeholders, civil society organizations and academia are represented through their designated SDG focal points.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report recognizes that it is essential to engage all relevant stakeholders and partners. The country engaged citizens in several aspects of the process of integrating the SDGs into national priorities, including consultations on the post-2015 agenda and thereafter. Engagement also occurred in the preparation of the report.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country developed a comprehensive approach to stakeholder engagement for the VNR. Stakeholders were involved during the development and review of the report. The VNR was seen as an opportunity to create momentum for—and ownership of—the inclusive and transparent implementation of the SDGs. As part of its communications strategy, the country launched a campaign via local newspapers and radio.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not mention if the country conducted a gap analysis of policies or data.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country has begun incorporating the SDGs into national plans and policies. Four working groups were established to identify and build synergies across sectors, address bottlenecks, sustain and accelerate progress, develop comprehensive measurement mechanisms and help explore financing options.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Having participated in the post-2015 first round of consultations, the report noted a “seamless” transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the SDGs. The report includes examples of specific SDGs being integrated into national strategies such as SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 14 (life below water). These are also referred to as priority areas for the country.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs in detail. It gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report does not mention policy coherence though does refer to a limited number of international agreements that relate to sustainable development. The country stressed that SDG implementation requires a systemic approach given the interlinked nature of the goals and linkages with the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action

Pathway and the African Union's Agenda 2063. These are aligned with the country's national development strategies and policies. Much of the legislation, along with many of the frameworks, policies, schemes, agreements, commitments, targets and indicators outlined in the report cut across multiple SDGs. The report mentions linkages to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country's perspective on leaving no one behind is centred on its extensive social protection system and the National Corporate Social Responsibility Framework, which was developed in 2016. The country's constitution guarantees fundamental rights to the individual and provides all citizens with the opportunity to fulfill their potential in life. Thus, the report notes that children, youth, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, the elderly, migrants, foreign workers and others are provided with opportunities. The report lists projects and initiatives to improve the status of vulnerable groups.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising campaigns about the SDGs were conducted for targeted groups such as in schools, civil society organizations and the private sector. A working session was used to raise awareness with members of parliament, including ministers. A publication entitled "Basic Course on Sustainable Development" was also launched, among other activities.

The VNR lists examples of SDGs that were localized at the subnational level. The report stresses that the country will take a whole-of-society approach in implementation at local and national levels.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report refers to activities by and with parliamentarians, civil society, academics, the private sector, youth and trade unions. It points to events held by civil society actors and the allocation of funds by the National Corporate Social Responsibility Foundation for programs by non-

governmental organizations. Higher education institutions are participating in efforts to internationalize education. A Youth Conference on Sustainable Development was held in collaboration with the Mauritius Commercial Bank, a local private bank, and the Rajiv Gandhi Science Centre. The report also noted the launch of the "Young Mauritians Plan for the Planet" booklet.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report outlines challenges and specific capacity development initiatives in the context of specific SDGs. Government institutions have been instructed to incorporate relevant SDG targets to monitor progress as part of the country's 2019/2020 budget exercise. The report also highlighted the challenges Mauritius faces as an upper-middle-income country in terms of accessing concessional loans and grants to support 2030 Agenda implementation. Tax, official development assistance, remittances, corporate social responsibility, foreign direct investment and alternative modes of financing are noted to implement the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report emphasizes that the country lacks capacities in terms of the limited availability of historical and disaggregated data. More research, methodologies, technical support and policy formulation are needed to assist with relevant data collection efforts.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade has the lead responsibility for monitoring and reporting. The report noted the need for the international community to design a common monitoring and reporting mechanism, via a common platform, to reduce the burden and duplication of effort by smaller countries such as Mauritius.



## RWANDA

In 2019, Rwanda 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

Major efforts at the national level to advance the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation process began in 2018. The country's institutional framework created a process to streamline SDG adoption, starting nationally and continuing to the local level with the involvement of a range of stakeholders. This led to a clear and well-designed process to translate the SDGs into national frameworks and proceed with implementation. The Cabinet is responsible for strategic orientations and approves implementation plans. A multi-stakeholder steering committee also exists as well as technical working groups.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement has been a key part of SDG implementation in the country according to the report including civil society, the private sector and development partners. The country aims to improve coordination and engagement to enhance information sharing, timely response and joint delivery in implementation. The stakeholder groups are connected to the institutional framework for the SDG implementation through the Rwanda Civil Society Platform and Private Sector Federation.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that a gap analysis was conducted to detail potential gaps and needs in advancing implementation in the country. The major gaps identified

related to financing and human capacity as well as data and monitoring. The implementation strategy was adapted to fill the identified gaps.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The integration of the SDGs into the national development framework is guided by government's domestication roadmap for the 2030 Agenda. The roadmap is informed by lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals, an initial SDG gap and data readiness analysis and 14 sector strategic plans.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected national priorities for the SDGs. The SDGs have been comprehensively integrated into the national development framework through pillars related to transformations in the economy, society and governance. National targets have been identified.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides an in-depth assessment of a limited set of SDGs. It reviews policy priorities for the country for each SDG examined but has a limited focus on the linkages between the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report is also limited in terms of linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements outside of referring to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

#### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report emphasizes the importance of addressing the leave no one behind principle of the SDGs. It provides an

overview of existing specialized programs and challenges that vulnerable populations face. The report points to children, youth, people living with a disability, women and historically marginalized populations. The government's commitment to promoting equality and equity among all Rwandans is highlighted alongside pro-poor programs and legal frameworks that guarantee equal rights and freedoms. Special categories of Rwandans including youth, women, people with disabilities and historically marginalized people, have guaranteed representation in parliament under the constitution.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

According to the report, consultations to inform the country's national strategy for 2017–2024 helped to raise awareness and create ownership over the 2030 Agenda from central to local levels. The SDGs have been translated into the local language (Kinyarwanda) and made available online and in hard copy formats.

District Councils and District Joint Action Development Forums are used to provide a forum for engaging all stakeholders at sub-national levels. Monitoring SDG implementation at the district level is considered important and is done via community outreach through the district's administration. There are also additional subnational efforts to engage citizens in the SDG process.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report emphasized participation in institutional arrangements for 2030 Agenda implementation. Beyond this, it notes the role of businesses in incorporating sustainability into corporate social responsibility and philanthropy though more effective coordination is needed. The government collaborated with the Private Enterprise Federation to examine how the private sector can be effectively engaged in 2030 Agenda implementation. The creation of the National Women's Council with national and local structures was also highlighted in the report. The council aims to mobilize women to participate in national development programs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Gaps exist in human capital and financial resources needed for the SDG implementation. Specific efforts are needed to increase resource mobilization and capacity development. The country aims to finance the larger share of the SDG implementation from domestic resources. Rwanda has continued to implement its policy of self-reliance with 84% of the government's budget funded by domestic taxes and loans in 2018/19. Nevertheless, the report does note the role of official development assistance and efforts to attract foreign direct investment. The use of innovative financing options, such as blended finance is also noted as requiring further partnerships.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda has launched an online SDG portal containing the latest available data on Rwanda's SDG indicators. The country developed an SDG metadata handbook to summarize all the indicator definitions and methodologies to ensure a standardized approach to data collection. This handbook also covers data gaps and efforts to improve data availability, along with guidance for data collection and sharing at the sub-national level.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Rwanda reported having the majority of data needed to monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda. The report mostly focused on gender-related data and the aim to accelerate progress in the capacities to collect sex-disaggregated data and conduct gender analysis. This includes analyses at both the national and sub-national levels (as well as across sectors) to inform policy and program design and implementation which also need to be strengthened. In terms of reporting at the national level, an online SDG portal was recently launched that aims to make data more accessible to decision makers and the public.



## SIERRA LEONE

In 2019, Sierra Leone submitted its second Voluntary National Review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Its first report was presented in 2016.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A committee under the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development was re-established in 2018. The committee leads the process of integrating and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Non-state actors are not formally a part of the committee. However a civil society integrated platform on the SDGs was established to provide opportunities for engagement by civil society.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

The country's profile on the SDGs reflects work done during the development of the VNR report. In partnership with the Civil Society Integrated Platform on the SDGs and support from the United Nations Development Programme country office, the government ensured all groups (women, youth, students, people with disabilities, farmers, judges, magistrates, local authorities, local councils, local court chairmen, teachers, public and private sector workers, motorbike riders, journalists, civil society organizations, religious leaders, traders, driver unions, councillors, parliamentarians, lecturers and others) were represented and participated both in the consultative and validation meetings for the development of the 2019 VNR report.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes that stakeholders were engaged in the development of the report, which was also supported by

several international agencies that provided both technical input and financial resources. All stakeholder groups provided written inputs into the VNR and civil society, the government and the United Nations country team consolidated the information into the final report. With respect to nationalizing the 2030 Agenda, the report notes that consultations were held to formulate the country's medium-term plan.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report referred to an assessment of all SDGs in terms of ensuring that all national and sectoral programs and finance are directly or indirectly linked to the SDGs. The report noted gaps in terms of tracking progress on implementation.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Sierra Leone has focused on integrating SDGs into national strategies and plans. The country recently launched a new Medium-Term National Development Plan (2019–2023) titled “Education for Development” that incorporates the SDGs. Sierra Leone has accelerated the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs through the plan. The report also noted that all three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social, and environmental) are integrated at all levels of national, sectoral and sub-national policy.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has started the process of selecting national priorities for the SDGs. The SDGs are grouped into seven categories with priorities presented to adjust the focus of the SDGs to national circumstances. The six categories

include: 1) human capital development; 2) economic diversification and the promotion of economic growth; 3) infrastructure and economic competitiveness; 4) governance and accountability for results; 5) youth, sports and migration; and 6) addressing vulnerability and building resilience.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews policy priority areas for the country and referred to relevant SDGs in that context. It provides a detailed goal-by-goal analysis of all the SDGs though with limited focus on the linkages between the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report is also limited in terms of linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements. It refers only to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind and provides a detailed overview of the challenges vulnerable groups face. These groups include people affected by extreme poverty, children, the elderly and women affected by violence. Data is presented throughout with an assessment of current legislation, policies and programs. In some cases, the report describes efforts needed moving forward. The report notes that the country set up specialized government commissions to coordinate issues of human rights and inclusion. These commissions, all of which have been recently rationalized to ensure effective service delivery, include the Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission, the Commission on Persons with Disability, the National Commission on Children and the National Youth Commissions.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, including through the VNR. It states that local communities are extremely interested in engaging with the national government and people in communities on SDG implementation. This includes radio engagement undertaken with the people in each district, complementing

face-to-face consultations on the SDGs and town and community hall meetings.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report includes an annex that serves as a position paper by civil society organizations. It also points to projects and programs carried out by civil society organizations and their role in solving priority social issues, community mobilization and follow-up and reporting. Civil society organizations in Sierra Leone lack financial resources to increase their work. The government is also working with universities to establish a partnership framework on the SDGs.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report stresses data and data disaggregation to leave no one behind. Good quality data is key to identifying population segments at highest risk and ensuring that programs and support systems are well targeted. Major statistical surveys for measuring progress and informing policies are being updated to be conducted regularly, including the implementation of the Sierra Leone Integrated Household Survey, Demographic and Health Surveys and the Multiple Cluster Indicator Surveys. To ensure data disaggregation and an in-depth understanding of service delivery challenges and effectiveness, Sierra Leone has joined other countries in the production of Multidimensional Poverty Index Reports the first of which launched in May 2019.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report states that a serious constraint for implementation in the country is the limited fiscal space, with domestic revenue-to-GDP ratio still standing at less than 15%. Innovative financing, addressing illicit financial flows and strengthening public financial management have been prioritized to advance 2030 Agenda implementation. Transforming the informal sector, which accounts for about 70% of economic activity, is extremely critical. The report also stresses the role of technology in advancing

implementation through the drive towards “e-Governance” in Sierra Leone as part of the Government’s Digitization Initiative.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. It has a commitment to strengthen statistical capacities, including strengthening data collection and technical and administrative capacities. With respect to Sierra Leone’s first VNR report presented in 2016, the 2019 report highlighted progress on leaving no one behind. The concept was defined by stakeholders under the 2016 VNR. A set of broad leave no one behind indicators were agreed. These have since served as a baseline for monitoring progress.



## SOUTH AFRICA

In 2019, South Africa 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

The government created new institutional mechanisms for internal coordination to ensure that all stakeholders are involved in monitoring the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including an Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development Agendas. This coordination mechanism also makes use of existing institutional arrangements. It focuses on evaluating the country's policies and improving coherence between global, regional, national and subnational plans and policies. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is responsible for oversight of the critical steps in planning for SDG integration and implementation. The integration process includes strategic planning, coordination of policy design and implementation, performance monitoring and accountability.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Because the SDGs call for collective effort, the government encouraged participation by major stakeholders. Institutional arrangements for 2030 Agenda implementation include a National Development Stakeholders Forum. The report also noted consultations with civil society, private and business sector associations, academia and institutions such as the South African Human Rights Commission. According to the report, extensive consultations were carried out within the government and with civil society and the private sector as part of the VNR.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Reviews were conducted for each goal to identify relevance for national priorities, adjust the goals and identify gaps. Two reports were published in 2017 and 2018 to list the outcomes of these assessments.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government reported on the extent to which the SDGs align with existing national development strategies and plans. It found a substantial convergence between South Africa's national development plan and the SDGs with over 60% of the SDG targets relevant. Out of the remaining SDG targets, 32 are addressed comprehensively in sectoral-level or other programs. Thus, only 12 of the SDG targets (7%) are not addressed by major government initiatives. The report did not indicate that national policies and frameworks had been adapted to reflect the 2030 Agenda but rather focused on overall alignment between existing priorities and the SDGs.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

As noted, the country's development plan has priorities that span the SDGs. The report provides a number of specific priorities such as increasing support for local food value chains (SDG 2 on zero hunger), strengthening procurement and human resources management in the health sector (SDG 3 on good health and well-being) and increasing the use of African languages in lower school grades (SDG 4 on quality education). Additional examples included correcting legal provisions that fail to provide adequate support for women (SDG 5 on gender equality), reducing water losses and strengthening demand management (SDG 6 on clean

water and sanitation) and increasing access to electricity, particularly in informal settlements (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy).

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report contains a detailed examination of all the goals, targets and indicators. It pays equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, but there is limited reference to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in analysis of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is mentioned understood as coordination in the domestic context. The report links the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements, referring to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report focuses on reducing vulnerability and has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind. Vulnerable groups identified include children, youth, people living with disability, women and unemployed black Africans. Current policies are strongly focused on poverty reduction, nutrition, income generation and institutional support.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, including through the VNR. The report does not provide information on the specific role of local governments in realizing the SDGs. The report highlights that local governments are involved through engagement in specific SDGs such as those related to infrastructure, gender and education. There is a need for more engagement of local governments in 2030 Agenda implementation.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report notes the contribution of parliament in coordinating implementation, particularly by ensuring budgetary allocations reflect national and SDG priorities. The report highlights specific examples of contributions from civil society and the private sector.

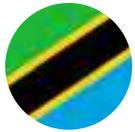
## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Challenges for implementation include the fact that strong governance practices are necessary so that decisions are based on rules and policies and are followed consistently across departments. The report also notes that an adequate budget for implementation must be provided. It stresses the importance of mobilizing domestic resources effectively as an essential component for obtaining the financing required to achieve the SDGs. With respect to official development assistance, the report calls on providers to meet and surpass their current commitments. Structural inequality is an issue identified as an important systemic issue for South Africa.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Efforts to collect disaggregated data for all relevant indicators by sex and age are ongoing and should be strengthened. The report refers to an urgent need to generate data across sectors to understand development challenges better and improve monitoring. A lack of appropriate and disaggregated data negatively impacts policy formulation and progress monitoring in many policy areas. Data gaps exist in the areas related to the incidence of crime, the sustainability of marine resources, waste disposal and recycling, the quality and coverage of post-secondary education and training and human trafficking among other areas.

The report does not provide clear details on reporting in terms of timetables and engagement by non-state actors. It notes that the national coordinating mechanism will have responsibility for reporting on the 2030 Agenda.



## TANZANIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The prime minister's office provides oversight for implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The coordination Steering Committee under the Prime Minister's Office includes permanent secretaries of key ministries. They are supported by a Coordination Secretariat that includes deputy permanent secretaries. Day-to-day coordination and monitoring is led by the Ministry of Finance and Planning.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

According to the report, stakeholder engagement has been a key part of SDG implementation in the country and included civil society, the private sector and others. The report notes the need for more coordination and engagement with stakeholders to enhance information sharing and collaboration. Participatory budgeting is also highlighted, including the role of civil society in identifying limitations in budget systems and providing recommendations for improvements. In preparing the VNR, a multi-stakeholder working group was established and consultations were conducted across the country.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report refers to an assessment of data for monitoring the 2030 Agenda. The data gap analysis found data for 67 indicators in the Mainland. A National Sustainable Development Data Roadmap was developed in response to the data gap assessments. A baseline report was also prepared in 2016 to benchmark progress on the SDGs.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Agenda 2030 was adopted when the country was already implementing its Development Vision, Tanzania Development Vision 2025, which aims to accelerate the transformation of the country into a semi-industrialized middle-income nation by the year 2025. In addition, Zanzibar was finalizing its Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty III. This afforded the country an excellent opportunity to incorporate the priorities of 2030 Agenda into the medium-term plan and the poverty reduction strategy. Furthermore, the country has developed a roadmap to guide the process of stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising. This roadmap also focuses on the resource mobilization and capacity building needed for implementation.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities have been selected for Tanzania including in the areas of growth and industrialization, social services, the creation of a business enabling environment and fostering the implementation of priorities. About 167 SDG indicators out of 240 were mapped as either primary or secondary indicators for Mainland Tanzania and 198 for Zanzibar (although only 49 indicators had baseline data). The government will use the indicators to track and report on progress.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews the SDGs covered by the HLPF theme including SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. All dimensions of sustainable development are addressed

in the report but with a more limited focus on the social elements of the SDGs. The report refers to climate change impacts and responses and makes explicit SDG linkages with the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides an in-depth assessment of the situation of vulnerable groups in the country. It presents a detailed narrative on those left behind and efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. The vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind include: poor people living in rural and urban areas, farmers, pastoralists, petty traders, children, people living with HIV, the elderly, youth and women. Reducing in-country inequalities is a strong priority for SDG implementation. Redistributive policies such as increased government expenditure on social services provision to improve access and quality (as well as increasing social protection coverage), can make a significant contribution to reducing inequalities. The government plans to implement such initiatives now and in the future.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-creation campaigns were prioritized, and targeted efforts focused on several vulnerable groups. The report mentions that civil society organizations have been supportive of efforts towards achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. Support has been encouraged by such activities as awareness-raising, data collection, collaborative interventions with security organs and legal and policy advocacy.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Civil society has formed a “Tanzania Sustainable Development Platform” to assist with tracking progress in SDG implementation. The platform facilitates engagement with the government, development partners and other stakeholders. The report highlights the role of the private sector in filling financing gaps and the need to create an enabling environment to promote investments. Youth initiatives area also highlighted, as well as the role

of development partners in supporting technological capabilities.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

According to the report, the government has undertaken measures to increase revenue mobilization and explore innovative financing. In addition to private finance, the report points to efforts to increase tax and non-tax revenue, including through capacity development raining on municipal investment finance. Challenges to implementation include climate change, inadequate progress in areas such as health and education and limited baseline data for some indicators.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Access to reliable and timely data at appropriate levels of disaggregation is listed as a challenge for the country. The country sees the availability of disaggregated data as crucial to informing policy development, planning and tracking progress. This is crucial to ensure that the most marginalized and vulnerable populations are reached. The report stresses that monitoring the SDGs calls for improved capacity in meeting data requirements. It also underscores that all stakeholders can be included in all issues related to data production and data management.

With respect to reporting at the national level, the report notes that once institutional arrangements are finalized, they will be responsible for monitoring and reporting on national development plans as well as the 2030 Agenda.



## TUNISIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The management of 2030 Agenda implementation is shared between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for diplomatic leadership, and the Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, responsible, among other things, for national planning and providing technical steering and interdepartmental coordination. While working groups that include non-state actors exist in some government institutions, overall the report recognizes that engagement with non-state actors in institutional arrangements for 2030 Agenda implementation has been insufficient.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Through its national consultation with all parties and all components of civil society on “Tunisia we want” for the post-2015 period, Tunisia contributed to the definition of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Since 2016 and with the support of the United Nations System, outreach and dissemination of the SDGs has been carried out among non-state stakeholders including civil society, youth, students and people in different regions. Parliamentary ownership of the SDGs needs to be further consolidated in the coming years.

The report was written using a participatory approach involving stakeholders with the support of the United Nations and experts.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that an assessment was carried out for all SDGs through an Integrated Rapid Assessment. The analysis according to pillars of the 2030 Agenda shows that the targets not covered mainly concern the planet (33%) and peace (20%). With respect to data, 137 indicators cannot be collected (a gap of 56%).

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Tunisia integrated the SDGs into its five-year plan for 2016–2020. The plan focuses on 1) reforms and governance, 2) the economy, 3) human development, 4) the fulfillment of regional ambitions and 5) the green economy. The report highlights the integration of the SDGs into the 2014 Constitution and in the conventions ratified by Tunisia (including those related to human rights). The Constitution reiterates concern for the preservation of the environment and respect for the rights of future generations and sustainable development in several of its articles.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Tunisia’s priorities underlined in the report are: the economic and social recovery, the improvement of the business climate and the attractiveness of the country, the fight against the informal economy and corruption and the pursuit of the decentralization reform. The Rapid Integrated Assessment assisted in the identification of national targets and indicators.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers most SDGs with a focus on those selected as part of the HLPF theme for 2019. It presents a detailed examination with equal attention to the economic

and social dimensions addressed but a limited focus on environmental. The report noted Tunisia's support for the operationalization of the SDGs and takes into consideration the interdependencies between the goals.

Policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed and references are made to relevant international frameworks including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Though efforts to leave no one behind appear to be informed by existing available data, the production of gender disaggregated data is a challenge for Tunisia. The report presents a detailed narrative on those left behind and efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. Identified groups benefit from the National Assistance Program for Needy Families and the Tunisian social protection system. The system is based on a set of social assistance programs and social security schemes.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs. Civil society participated in workshops and awareness-raising campaigns at national and regional levels. Primary and middle school students were included in specific awareness and participatory activities.

As a step to localize the 2030 Agenda, Tunisia organized three regional workshops bringing together the country's 24 governorates. In addition, the Medenine region (southeast) engaged in a pilot project on local government ownership of the SDGs by linking the five-year regional program with the SDGs. The project led to the identification of 14 priority SDGs for the region related to most SDGs. This first initiative in Tunisia to localize the SDGs has resulted in the identification of specific, relevant and realistic targets and indicators for monitoring the SDGs, while preserving the link with national priorities.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report provides limited examples of contributions from non-state actors. It notes work with civil society on climate change as well as youth engagement on the 2030 Agenda through SDG Camps.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The main challenges for 2030 Agenda implementation include the current economic situation in the country, the difficult post-revolutionary national situation characterized by terrorist attacks, trade union and social demands, an unstable international situation and environmental pressures on natural resources.

The means of implementation are discussed across the report rather than in a specific chapter. The report refers to technology and capacity development as well as official development assistance. Tunisia reported the Addis Ababa Action Agenda has the potential to improve the macroeconomic situation of the country, including by targeting illicit financial flows to ensure sustainable growth and leading to the creation of innovative partnerships and conditions conducive to private sector investments.

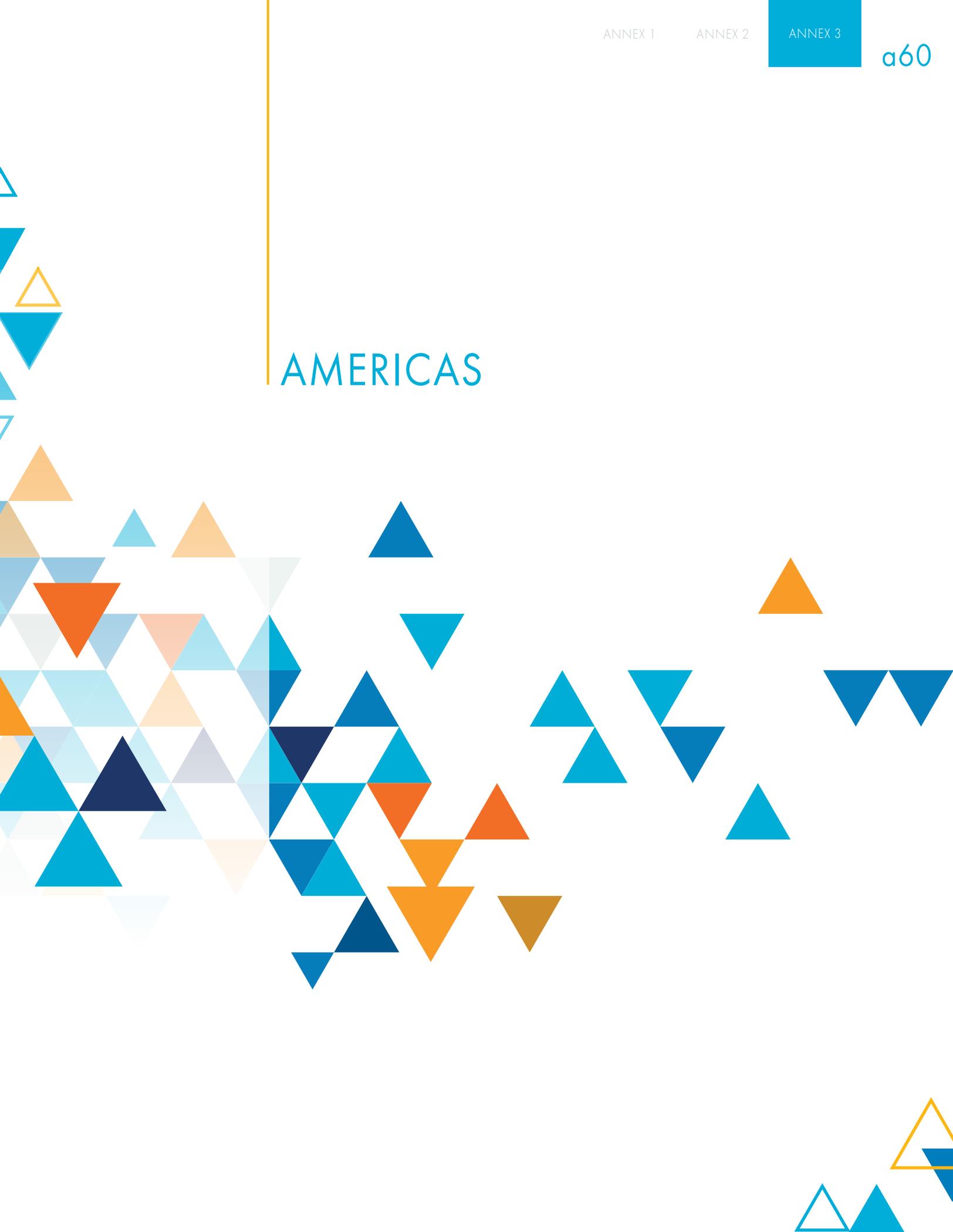
The report included a range of good practice pointing to multi-stakeholder technical working groups and progress in the water sector and on sexual and reproductive health.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The level of available data to cover SDG targets and indicators in Tunisia is around 41 to 50%.

Tunisia is establishing a system for monitoring the SDGs by setting up a platform to optimize the availability of SDG indicators and reforming the national statistical system.

# AMERICAS





## CHILE

In 2019, Chile submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Its previous presentation took place in 2017.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Chile established a National Council for the 2030 Agenda Implementation in 2016. In 2018 it was extended by the incorporation of the Ministry General Secretariat of the Presidency to the National Council to support its inter-ministerial coordination functions. An Intersectoral Group was also established, composed of the sub-secretaries from each of the Secretaries of State that are members of the council. The council was also mandated to propose a national strategy for 2030 Agenda implementation. Finally, a 2030 Agenda National Network was established as a multi-stakeholder body coordinated by the Secretariat of the Presidency.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The main tool to promote civil society engagement is the National Consensus Agreements building process. The National Consensus brings together the public and private sectors to create, finance and collaboratively implement comprehensive solutions. The report also mentions contributions to the Chilean VNR coming from the private sector, academia, local governments and the United Nations National Coordinator office through written inputs, consultations, responding to requests for information made by different ministries and participating in workshops.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

There are no references to baselines or gap analysis in the 2019 report, but in its previous presentation in 2017 the

country reported on the results of an assessment carried out for some Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). At the time, the report also noted that information-gathering activities were underway to establish national baselines for follow-up. This process was not referred to in the 2019 report. Likewise, the 2017 report had highlighted the existence of gender and territorial gaps across the country, an issue not presented in 2019.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government has incorporated the SDGs into national development plans and related policies and frameworks. Chile's commitment to the leave no one behind principle is referred to as a basis for the design of national social policies. The current administration of Chile has established three pillars for its national development process as integral, sustainable and inclusive. The latter is presented as a development that leaves no one behind. In this way, since the beginning of 2019 a national dialogue process to build a National Consensus for Integral Development is undergoing and a process of drafting an SDGs Implementation National Strategy is also underway.

The report does not make explicit reference to other principles such as universality, nor the human rights-based approach, both analyzed in Chile's 2017 report. There are indirect references to intergenerational responsibility across the text, but they are not integrated in the analysis of Chile's national situation regarding SDG implementation.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Chile's 2017 report did not identify national priorities. The 2019 report introduces thematic priorities from the current president's electoral program. Based on this, National Consensus Agreements on integral development, children,

the Aracuanía (the most impoverished region), health and public safety were established.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides a detailed examination of a limited set of country selected SDGs, namely SDGs 4 on quality education, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 13 on climate action; and 16, on peace, justice and strong institutions. Though the three dimensions of sustainable development are addressed, the links between them are rarely referenced and a bias towards the economic dimension is clear. The report refers only to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report states that Chile's Country Commitment is designed to leave no one behind (LNOB). The report has a chapter on LNOB and identifies 16 vulnerable groups. Old and new programs are presented to LNOB including those for the whole population and specialized groups. Chile built of a Vulnerability Map to ensure the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups in development planning. The VNR does not articulate the results of efforts to LNOB. While gender disaggregated data is available most of the time, additional data disaggregation is required to LNOB.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Some awareness-raising activities carried out by Chile's government include a TV show that has disseminated innovative practices and solutions contributing to the achievement of the SDGs.

Complementing these efforts towards ownership, the Chilean Association of Municipalities sought to strengthen the capacities of its members. The association included the SDGs and their local implication as an axis of Municipal Training Schools in 2019.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Local non-state actors, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, parliament and volunteers' activities are reflected in the report. However, priority

areas for development partner support are not identified. There is mention of civil society initiatives contributing to implementation at the national level, such as "Asocia 2030," an alliance of the three most prominent platforms of Chilean social organizations. Civil society is contributing to sustainable development in the country by strengthening civil society capacities to build an autonomous view on sustainable development with the coalition supporting capacity development.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The current government of Chile decided to create a Vulnerability Map based on a multidimensional vision of poverty. Its design included consultation with more than a thousand representatives of different sectors of society, opinion leaders, academics, regional and parliamentary authorities. As a result, 16 vulnerable groups were identified, each of which was then individually analyzed to have a first quantification and distinguish main features.

Sixteen multi-stakeholder work tables were created, one for each group, with the mandate of generating analyses of the affected groups, applying a standard methodology. Four common stages of work were established: diagnosis, solution design, implementation and evaluation. This work is then reviewed by the government teams that formulate social programs.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The second Chilean report pays less attention to the 2030 Agenda means of implementation than the first. In 2019 only South-South cooperation is explicitly mentioned in this field. Lessons learned and challenges are included while analyzing each specific SDG in the report.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

As part of the VNR building process, a Technical Group on Indicators involving more than 25 public services updated the 2030 Agenda indicators information. As a result of this process, as of May 2019, information was



available for a total of 134 indicators. The report notes 65 of those indicators were updated from 2017 onwards and 91 indicators have been reported through the use of methodology according to international standards. The remaining 43 indicators reported arise from nationally validated measures. Chile has achieved a high level of reporting in SDGs 1, 3, 8 and 13 (reports 70% of indicators or more) while lagging behind on SDGs 10 and 15 (73% and 86% of indicators pending measurement, respectively).





## GUYANA

In 2019, Guyana 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

Guyana's vision for sustainable development is elaborated through the eight integrated and interconnected development objectives of the Green State Development Strategy—Vision 2040.

The process for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national systems and implementation has primarily been through harmonization with Vision 2040. The articulation of Vision 2040 has entailed a very robust and consultative process. The Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups managed this process.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The engagement process was managed by the Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups, which consist of representatives from the public service, academia, civil society, youth, private sector, non-governmental organizations and development partners, among other groups. Stakeholder engagement included providing input on the relevance of the goals for the country and gap analysis of the goals. Additionally, Vision 2040 benefited from public consultations in all administrative regions of the country, resulting in an inclusive strategy.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The country completed a gap analysis to assess the alignment of the goals with national priorities and identify any gaps. The assessment reviewed 33 documents and concluded that, out of the relevant 112 targets, 89

(79%) were aligned with existing policies. This process helped integrate the SDGs into national systems and implementation, as well as informed harmonization with Vision 2040. The Multi-Stakeholder Expert Groups managed the process and ensured stakeholder involvement.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government's policies have a relatively high alignment with the SDGs. The VNR report refers to the principles of human rights and leaving no one behind, while also including a focus on human rights in the context of the rights of children. The country is taking deliberate steps and actions to ensure that all segments of its population count and that those who currently have the fewest opportunities are considered first and prioritized. This will be at the heart of how Guyana operationalizes the concept of leaving no one behind.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs. However, Guyana's Vision 2040 for sustainable development is elaborated through eight integrated and interconnected development objectives expressed in the vision, i.e., the broad areas for linking SDGs to national priorities.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides a goal-by-goal analysis. It provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas and consistently presents the linkages between them, with a greater focus on the economic dimensions of sustainable development. The report also refers to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on the principle of leaving no one behind. Vulnerable groups include women, children, people with disabilities, the Indigenous population and migrants. Gender-disaggregated data is consistently available throughout the VNR report. It also lists a wide range of actions such as adoption of international agreements and policies, national policies, support programs and skill development programs. It also emphasizes that the country has long struggled with inadequate financing for poverty alleviation by focusing on the social sector. It also discusses the huge infrastructure deficit affecting the housing sector. The report stresses the importance of the inclusion of the country's Indigenous population through a suite of initiatives. Additional challenges include addressing growing migratory flows to the country.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, including high-level workshops on understanding and ownership of the SDGs as well as targeted events on issues relevant for vulnerable people, energy efficiency, consumer choices and human trafficking. The report does not provide information on the specific role of local governments in realizing the SDGs, though it does note that efforts have been made to engage local government representatives in planning the implementation of the Vision 2040.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on multi-stakeholder partnerships. The report provides details on government engagement with stakeholders on the SDGs, potential indicators and data availability.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes that the country is in the process of reforming its public investment management system to improve the efficacy of its public investments. This is

critical, as the country sees the national budget as the key means of implementing Vision 2040 as well as the SDGs. The report also states that the country's Ministry of Finance conducted a sensitization session for all budget agencies on the SDGs and their integration into the budget process. It also recognizes the need to conduct capacity development with the involvement of the Ministry of Finance and the Bureau of Statistics to improve the use of data and indicators in planning and budgeting for SDG implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The availability of the disaggregated data is limited, even though it is seen as essential to improving the well-being of vulnerable populations. Disaggregation by gender and location has proven critical in identifying the weaknesses in the education sector. A series of steps were identified to assist in improving data gathering. Additionally, the budget process mandates data disaggregation by sex and location to ensure that policies and programs are appropriately targeted.



## GUATEMALA

Guatemala submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the 2019 session of the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Its previous presentation took place in 2017. The second report takes up the issues raised in the first with greater analytical depth and improved evidence supporting the presentation of progress.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

As was informed in Guatemala's 2017 report, the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR), a multi-stakeholder body led by the President, is the main body responsible for the country's development policies. It works as a political space for monitoring the implementation of national development priorities.

At the regional level, the First Ibero-American Forum of National Implementation Mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda, promoted by Guatemala's government, was held in coordination with the Ibero-American General Secretariat.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement takes place mainly through National Development Councils, which have been operating since 2002. Non-state actors were engaged in the identification of national priorities through the CONADUR. Public institutions, municipalities, development councils, international cooperation agencies, the private sector and civil society provided inputs as part of the VNR. Civil society also published a parallel report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

While the report does not include references to a national gap analysis or baseline study, it repeatedly identifies social, economic, territorial, gender and ethnic gaps. Gaps

are not framed in terms of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) but rather a human development approach.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

The Coordination of NGOs and Cooperatives of Guatemala (CONGCOOP) published a parallel report, analyzing the national implementation framework and some SDGs. While the economy of Guatemala grows, so does internal inequality. One of the most harmful effects of this process is the concentration of productive land in the hands of a limited number of landowners affecting small producers, a deferred group in the country. Families seek solutions through migration, making the country a migrant origin country, with the loss of human capabilities that this implies. Women are the most affected by these processes. Budget weakness and lack of political vocation are highlighted as the two main elements obstructing a path to national sustainable development.

The report notes that "with these conditions, the real Guatemala: popular, Indigenous, feminine, seems to go against the SDGs." According to the CONGCOOP report, all of this is coupled with persecutions of social leaders and lack of representation of the full range of civil society perspectives in the government institutions aimed to implement the SDGs.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government adopted the SDGs as a guideline for leading national development efforts. To that end, the

following documents were aligned with the SDGs: the National Development Plan, K'atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032, the national development plan and policy articulation strategy, the national Implementation Strategy and Follow-up to the SDGs Agenda, and the Methodological Guide for Municipal Development and Territorial Planning aligned to National Priorities. The report suggests that policies and institutional arrangements are changing to better support 2030 Agenda implementation. Only the principle of leaving no one behind is mentioned in the report.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Ten national priorities were selected, and a Methodological Guide for Municipal Development and Territorial Planning aligned to National Priorities was recently published. A comparison exercise was carried out between the targets and indicators of the National Development Plan of Guatemala, the 2030 Agenda, and the global framework of indicators for monitoring the SDGs, resulting in the national prioritization of 129 targets and 244 indicators, 44 of these were nationally designed.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report is organized through the study of ten national development priorities, linking each of them with SDGs sets. As a result, all SDGs are analyzed, but not through the typical goal-by-goal analysis. The VNR provides equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The need to improve policy coherence at the national level for sustainable development is noted. The fight against climate change is linked with the SDGs and the report underlines some commitments made by Guatemala at the international level though the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is not explicitly mentioned. The report also includes the presentation of linkages between SDGs, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the aid and development effectiveness agendas.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report includes a chapter on leaving no one behind (LNOB) and notes that the principle guides policy implementation. LNOB is a cross-cutting issue in the report. People living in poverty, Indigenous people, women, elderly, people with disabilities, inhabitants of rural areas, youth and migrants are targeted as left behind. A broad assessment of social policies aimed to support these specific groups is outlined.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The government of Guatemala carried out 2030 Agenda awareness-raising efforts. A dissemination strategy was developed for the national development plan and a website ([www.pnd.gt](http://www.pnd.gt)) was created. The website presents the national development priorities and goals. According to the report, the permanent dissemination of the K'atun plan is a continual challenge given the investment of time and resources it consumes. As noted above, the report points to the creation of a methodology guide to support local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Partners are supporting implementation at the national level by providing knowledge, technical support and human and financial capabilities. Local governments, parliament, civil society, academia, the private sector and the General Comptroller's Office are mentioned as partners, and activities carried out by each of them are outlined in the report.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is no clear identification of lessons learned in implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level, but some challenges are highlighted, such as strengthening human capacities in public institutions and access to financing resources. Internal private flows are deemed necessary to fund implementation. The report analyzes budget allocations for each of the ten national development priorities, outlining that the incorporation of the K'atun plan guidelines has been sought for budget programming.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

According to the Guatemalan VNR, the country has complete information to measure 51% of the indicators concerning its National Development Plan prioritized objectives, representing 120 indicators. The country has incomplete information for 24% of those indicators and no data is available for the remaining 25%. Data production and management challenges are pointed out in the report. Data disaggregation by income, sex, age, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, area and geographic location or other characteristics, is still insufficient and understood as essential to LNOB. To improve Guatemala's statistical capacities, the National Statistics Institute drafted a General Strategy for the generation of statistics that seeks to strengthen its role as the governing body of the national statistical system, as well as clarify and facilitate the production and use of statistics for other governmental institutions.



## SAINT LUCIA

In 2019, Saint Lucia 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

In early 2017, Saint Lucia's Cabinet of Ministers endorsed the establishment of the national coordination mechanism for the planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It consists of a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Cabinet Sub Committee of Ministers and a Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee, which is the governing committee tasked to guide the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report does not outline formal ongoing stakeholder engagement, however, it details engagement by non-state actors in the VNR and during the incorporation of the SDGs into the national agenda. In November 2016, civil society organizations led by the Saint Lucia National Trust organized a consultation under the theme "National Views on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway." The consultation provided the opportunity for civil society participants to discuss and analyze the goals and targets to assess their applicability to civil society. The outcome of the consultations was a ranking of the SDGs in order of importance to (and impact on) the work of civil society organizations in the country. In addition, focus groups were conducted with a representative sample of civil society groups and the private sector, faith-based organizations, people with disabilities, women's organizations and other relevant organizations. National consultations were coordinated by the Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Following the establishment of the coordination mechanism in the country, a Rapid Integrated Assessment was conducted in May 2018. The assessment reviewed the country's 32 planning documents, which together made up a national planning framework, to assess coverage and alignment of the SDGs and their targets. In addition, a performance audit of Saint Lucia's readiness to implement the SDGs was completed. These activities identified gaps in capacity, reviews of implementation at national, regional and international levels, baselines, national targets and means of measurement, and data collection.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

In April 2018, Saint Lucia embarked on an inclusive and strategic process to develop the country's Medium-Term Development Strategy 2019–2022. The strategy incorporates the 2030 Agenda.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

A pivotal part of the process to develop the medium-term strategy was the identification of the six key result areas including healthcare, education, citizen security, agriculture, infrastructure and tourism, and the iterative process of issue prioritization—along with developing solutions to help implement programs within these areas. The SDGs were linked to these key result areas.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers a subset of SDGs selected by the country. These include SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and

economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The report gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is weak in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas. Realizing policy coherence for sustainable development is one of the ongoing activities. Several relevant international frameworks including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, are integrated into the report.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides details on current strategies and programs to support the following vulnerable groups: children, women, LGBTQ and people with disabilities. There are also poverty reduction efforts at the family level to reduce the number of children living in poverty.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country held specific awareness-raising activities to address the relevance of specific SDGs. A high-level VNR workshop was also hosted in March 2019 that sought to improve awareness, understanding and ownership of the SDG targets, facilitate technical group discussions on indicators and, ultimately, accelerate the data collection process required to prepare the VNR.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report refers to the importance of non-state actor participation, it does not provide specific examples.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

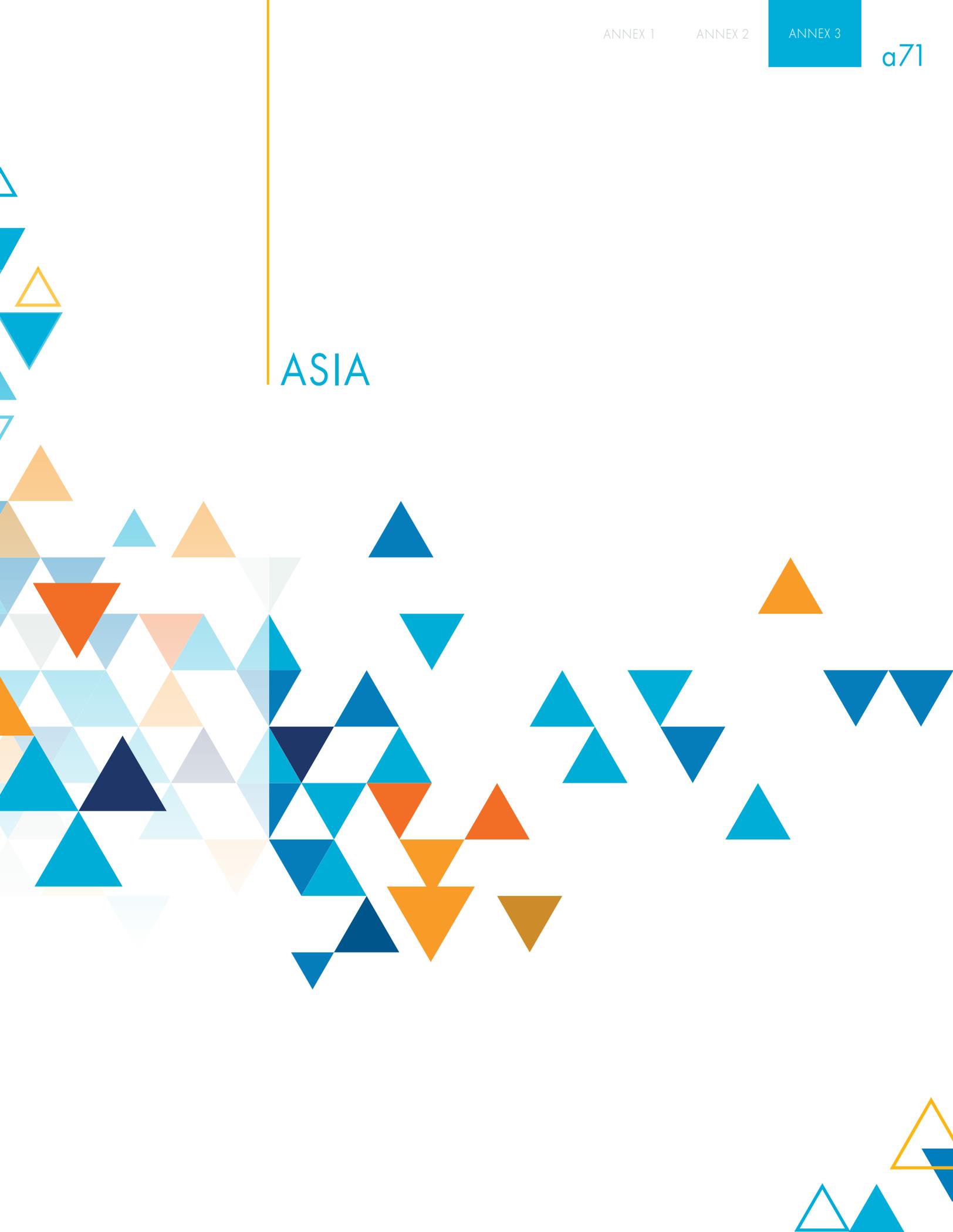
The report outlines major challenges for implementation including inadequate financing, insufficient educational outcomes and inadequate data to support planning and policy formulation which impairs the ability of the government to craft and target interventions. To date, Saint Lucia's SDG implementation has been primarily resourced through support from international development partners through loans, grants and technical assistance.

The private sector and civil society organizations are also valuable partners, but their contribution to financing SDG implementation has been limited thus far.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Several steps were defined to improve data gathering. These include developing an in-depth understanding of some of the SDG targets in the country context and self-assessment of the relevance of existing data and indicators of the SDGs to the country context. It also requires setting planning priorities that include the results areas as well as developing new indicators based on existing datasets that match the country's needs. Identifying areas of future focus for planning should be made a priority.

ASIA





## AZERBAIJAN

In 2019, Azerbaijan submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The President issued a Decree in October 2016 to establish the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan is tasked with ensuring the integration and alignment of priorities and relevant indicators in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. Four thematic working groups were established under the umbrella of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan to address specific SDG policy and implementation challenges.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

According to the report, the national council led an extensive stakeholder engagement process. This was done through discussions on SDG priorities for the country, aligning the country's socioeconomic programs and strategies with the SDGs and identifying projects and initiatives to support implementation in the country.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An analysis reviewed both integration and gaps in the country's strategies in terms of their ability to address the SDGs. The results showed that there is, for example, full alignment with SDG 5 (gender equality), along with a 90% integration for SDG 4 (quality education) and 75% integration with SDGs 2 (zero hunger) and 6 (clean water

and sanitation). Also, the process made it possible to identify data availability for the analyzed SDGs and national strategies.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government reported on the extent to which the SDGs align with existing national strategies, covering four critical areas: economic development and decent employment, social issues, environmental issues and monitoring and evaluation. The report refers to the principles of universality and leaving no one behind. While it includes a strong focus on human rights, it does not refer to a human rights-based approach.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet selected national priorities for the SDGs. The report noted ongoing discussion on the nationalization of the SDGs and the planning of comprehensive coordination procedures for implementation.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews the SDGs relevant for the 2019 reporting period. They include SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace and justice strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships to achieve the goal). For the selected SDGs, the report provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas but presents the linkages between them inconsistently. There is no mention of policy coherence. The report also refers to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind, stressing the importance of creating opportunities and resources for overcoming the inequality that affects vulnerable groups. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, the poor, people with disabilities and migrants. Data is presented throughout with an assessment of current legislation, policies and programs, as well as where additional efforts are needed. This section also focuses strongly on reducing domestic violence, violence against children, child marriage and ensuring access to quality early childhood development, childcare and pre-primary education to prepare children for primary education. The report notes that improving social inclusion (including promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights) is a key priority for the government.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report emphasizes the importance of effective cooperation between public and private institutions (including civil society) to mobilize their capacities for meeting the SDG targets. Localization efforts are being led by the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development with assistance to local governments in developing local implementation gaps and actions needed to achieve relevant SDGs. The report stresses that additional awareness-raising efforts are needed.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on multi-stakeholder partnerships and specific contributions by non-state actors. It appears that partnerships are yet to be developed, though civil society organizations did partner with the government on a panel discussion regarding the role of civil society in realizing the SDGs. The report notes that the government, while acting as coordinator for the attainment of nationalized SDGs, will be facilitating and supporting SDG-focused initiatives of civil society institutions, academia, business and professional associations, other stakeholders and partners.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan leads SDG implementation in the country. This includes preparation of the implementation plans and coordinating with subnational governments and stakeholders to develop local implementation plans. The report notes that realizing the SDGs requires stepping up the development and diversification of the national economy, strengthening export capacity and increasing exports, improving healthcare and social services and strengthening environmental protection. The country believes that international partners will also support its activities in these areas.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. The report includes a commitment to strengthen statistical capacities, including strengthening data collection and technical and administrative capacities. As part of these efforts, a Department for Sustainable Development Statistics has been established within the State Statistical Committee.



## CAMBODIA

In 2019, Cambodia 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

Following the endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in late 2015, the country started its work to adapt the goals to its national context. An interdepartmental group of senior officials has been established to advise on how to implement the SDGs best domestically and internationally. It is chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade. According to the report, there has been collaboration with non-state actors and local governments. However, the report does not detail how this collaboration is occurring.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report details engagement by non-state actors in the identification of national priorities for the VNR, including in terms of reviewing a draft version of the report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that Cambodia has done an assessment of the goals and data in the context of the country's policies and monitoring the SDGs. Details about the assessment are not provided, but the report states that it identified gaps in awareness-raising and capacities in implementing the SDGs at the local level.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report details the integration of the SDGs into national strategies and plans, such as the country's vision and

development plans. The report has a strong human rights focus. It stresses the importance of securing equitable development and leaving no one behind and preserving Cambodia's natural resource endowment, while also addressing the threats posed by climate change. These are fully embedded within the policy documents. The report also underscores the importance of intergenerational equity by emphasizing the challenges facing both the younger and older generation and promoting sound intergenerational relationships.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country strongly focused on the integration of the SDGs into the country's priorities by crafting a fully localized framework—the Cambodian SDGs. In addition to the 17 goals adjusted to the country's conditions, an 18th goal requiring the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordinance was added. The final framework comprises 18 Cambodia SDGs, 88 nationally relevant targets and 148 globally and locally defined indicators.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report pays limited attention to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the analysis of goals, targets and indicators. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. However, the report made linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The country sees climate change as an overarching threat, which challenges its progress in meeting many of the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides details about some of the vulnerable groups and lists current policies and programs. For example, the report notes that the government developed a five-year Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Children over 2017–2021. Insights gathered from disaggregated data have enabled the government to create programs to address gender disparity in the education system, develop a broad National Social Protection Policy Framework for 2016–2025 and facilitate citizens' access to land.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country has focused on addressing inequality in terms of access to land under SDG 10 (reduced inequality). The report states that progress has been made in issuing land titles to Cambodian citizens. Registration of land of Indigenous peoples occurred in 24 communities. This is the equivalent to 2,558 families having their lands registered.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs and that ongoing efforts are needed. Civil society and business sectors have helped raise awareness of the SDGs.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The process began with an assessment of Cambodia's Millennial Development Goals and their priorities, targets and indicators. Once complete the assessment was complete, priority was given to the coordination of the planning and implementation of the SDGs with local development agencies.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report highlights the importance of the country's recognition that partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives that should be undertaken by governments, intergovernmental organizations, major

civil society groups and other stakeholders. In Cambodia, these types of partnerships are already contributing to the implementation of agreed-upon development goals and commitments. These partnerships are included in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country stresses the importance of economic growth, private sector investment and public revenues as the basis for ensuring effective implementation of the SDGs. The report underscores the fact that the impacts of climate change pose a significant threat to achieving the SDGs. The current budgetary allocations linked to national planning documents are aligned with the SDGs. The report emphasizes capacity gaps within the country, such as capacities needed for strategic development and implementation, through improved planning, budgeting and financial management systems and—most importantly—capacity to collect and analyze data and indicators for the SDGs.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

The localization process revealed that more efforts are needed to support local governments in mainstreaming the SDGs into their plans and strategies. This should be addressed at both the implementation and monitoring levels.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Data collection is a priority for the country. According to the report, the country has increased the budget for national surveys and the conducting of the 2019 General Population Census of Cambodia. The census is in keeping with international recommendations and standards. The country also engages stakeholders in dialogues on SDG indicators and data availability.



## INDONESIA

In 2019, Indonesia submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Indonesia's first report was presented in 2017.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The President of Indonesia leads Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation, as stated in the presidential decree on the SDGs. In addition, the National Coordination Team that facilitates the day-to-day planning and implementation efforts is chaired by the President. The Steering Committee consists of seven key ministers relevant to the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia. Four Coordinating Ministers of the Cabinet, namely the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, and Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs are also assigned as Vice-Chairs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. The report notes that through the VNR consultation, civil society organizations identified priorities for the national plan, along with data and indicators to track progress.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap and baseline analysis was conducted to identify available datasets and set baselines to enable monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs have been aligned with the country's national development vision. This document brings together the development policies, strategies and programs of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (2015–2019), and it is translated into the Government Work Plan with its associated budget. The National Medium-Term Development Plan was developed at the same time as the SDGs were being prepared.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs beyond its existing priorities, as outlined in the National Medium-Term Development Plan. These are aligned mostly with SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 13 (climate change) and SDG 16 (peace and justice and strong institutions).

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). It provides a detailed analysis of applicable linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions of specific goals, targets and indicators. Policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed in the report in terms of social inclusion and economic policies. The report references other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country reported on some of the critical issues to address vulnerable populations noted in the previous VNR report submitted in 2017. The current report again emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants and people with disabilities.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Indonesia has prioritized the development of national strategies on the SDGs and also considers it important to equip subnational governments with the capacity to implement them. The country is preparing national and subnational action plans for 2017–2019. Indonesia also plans to formulate a 15 year SDG roadmap along with regional SDG action plans. A technical guideline for formulating national and subnational action plans has been completed to guide SDG implementation.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

To address SDG implementation at the subnational level, Indonesia has developed significant institutional support for local and regional governments to advance SDG implementation. The country undertook a number of awareness-raising activities for specific SDGs such as SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 13 (climate action). Activities were also carried out to raise awareness on the overall SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report notes that the country will collaborate with civil society and other stakeholders through projects to assist in achieving the SDGs. Such project-based collaboration is the most frequent form of cooperation between government bodies and local and regional governments. The government also works with civil society organizations for awareness-raising and implementing public policies or solving priority social issues. For collaboration with the business sector, internal consolidation and coordination were achieved by establishing a platform called

Philanthropy and Business Indonesia for SDGs. The platform currently consists of 11 associations with more than 700 companies as members.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation, including addressing domestic inequality in terms of inequality between income groups (including poverty reduction and social security for workers) and regional inequality (including the acceleration of development of underdeveloped regions and villages). Addressing these challenges requires support from other SDGs such as SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality) and SDG 13 (climate action) to create jobs, develop infrastructure and address climate impacts and vulnerabilities. The report provides an overview of domestic financing options to support SDG implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

A baseline assessment of data collection and identification of data gaps was completed. The validation of statistical data for different government institutions still requires Statistics Indonesia's support. This issue is the focus of Statistics Indonesia, and it aims to appoint a coordinator of the National Statistic System. The country is now developing a national one-data policy, appointing Statistics Indonesia, to be its coordinator and centre. Indonesia is committed to regularly monitoring achievements and conducting continuous improvements. The annual reporting mechanism reflects a bottom-up, participatory and inclusive process. However it is not clear from the report how national reporting is actually being conducted.



## IRAQ

In 2019, Iraq 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

The country adopted a series of measures to begin integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national commitments and strategies. The Ministry of Planning took significant steps in leading the process of coordinating, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs in the country. A national committee for sustainable development was set up to coordinate with all ministries and institutions to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the integration of the SDGs into national strategies with the strong cooperation of the private sector, civil society and local and international community organizations. So far, civil society members and other stakeholders were engaged through meetings and conferences to gather insights on nationalizing the SDGs.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report indicates that a gap analysis was conducted. The analysis identified a few gaps, such as limited links between data availability and monitoring needs to track progress.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government reported on the extent to which the SDGs align with existing national strategies. The country incorporates the leave no one behind (LNOB) principle. The report emphasizes that achieving the national SDGs

represents an opportunity to empower a wider group of national actors, enhance national dialogue and strengthen cooperation opportunities on a broader scale on the sustainable development path.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country developed a national framework to connect SDGs with national priorities through this framework. SDGs are grouped and prioritized according to the national framework covering five areas.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country developed a detailed framework to link the SDGs to national priorities. It covers critical areas such as i) People: Build generations who are capable of innovation, creation and achievement; ii) Planet: Create a clean, safe and sustainable environment for current and future generations by incorporating the environment in development plans and policies; iii) Prosperity and Partnership – A diversified social market economy iv) Good Governance, Justice and Peace – Active administrative institutions that ensure respect for political, civil and human rights, justice and equality for all citizens and v) Peaceful Safe Society – A safe society in which all enjoy peace.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report included selected SDGs: SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 3 (good health and well-being); SDG 4 (quality education); SDG 5 (gender equality); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 10 (reduced inequalities); SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and SDG 13 (climate action). The report

provides a detailed overview of the selected SDGs and pays equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report refers to other relevant international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind. The three principles of sustainable development (inclusiveness, indivisibility, and leaving no one behind) are key pillars in the country's SDG vision. The vulnerable groups have been identified as people with disabilities, the elderly, orphans, female heads of households, widows and the poor (multidimensional poverty). The report lists social policies, plans, strategies and programs that have been developed to meet challenges and to ensure that vulnerable groups do not fall behind despite the challenges and problems created by crisis conditions.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred mostly within civil society and the private sector. Localization has begun in three regions of the country and these regions are working on their reports on local plans and programs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report provides cost estimates for specific projects and activities needed to achieve specific SDGs. The report identifies several implementation capacity needs, such as those required for good governance, including designing, implementing and evaluating sustainable development policies, improving the effectiveness of government institutions and accelerating institutional reform. Other aspects include improving planning capacities for sustainable development so that the goals become a guide for national development policies and plans.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of gaps in terms of addressing data. The data gap reaches 69.9%

of the total 230 indicators distributed to the 17 SDGs. In other words, the available data covers only 67 indicators. Addressing this will require improved cooperation between relevant ministries, building local and national statistical capacities and establishing sustainable and participatory mechanisms to collect data on SDG indicators. These data collection efforts should also include disaggregated data on gender and vulnerable groups.



## ISRAEL

In 2019, Israel 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

The country developed institutional arrangements to begin integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national policies and strategies. The 2030 Agenda was presented at the Senior Professional Forum for Strategic Planning. Furthermore, Israel's parliament is exploring means of integrating the SDGs (including the thought process and terminology) into legislation by parliamentary committees. Preparations are currently underway to continue integrating the SDGs into the government's strategic planning efforts. These efforts to integrate the SDGs into the national agenda are coordinated by the National Economic Council, which serves as a coordinating body for the prime minister on topics that require comprehensive and methodical economic thinking.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's strong commitment to the broadest possible involvement of civil society and the business community. The report provides a detailed overview of the specific activities that civil society and business community contribute to achieving the SDGs as well as their engagement in the VNR. Annexes by non-state actors are included in the report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report provides the outcomes of a gap analysis that was performed at the level of each SDG to highlight challenges, gaps and actions needed to address specific goals.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government is actively working on the integration of the SDGs into national priorities. The report points to the systemic use of innovation and technology to inform policy decisions as an approach that ensures the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The report has a strong human rights focus and notes that the country takes an explicit human rights-based approach to address SDG 1 (no poverty). The report also mentions the importance of intergenerational equity when designing national approaches to implement the SDGs.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Each SDG's specific national relevance is discussed in the report. Detailed national targets are not specified. However, priorities are listed in terms of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 13 (climate action).

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews policy priority areas for the country and refers to relevant SDGs in that context. It provides a detailed goal-by-goal analysis with information on past trends, projects and programs, along with challenges and priorities for implementation. The report pays equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is mentioned in the report and is linked to the achievement of SDG 17. The report also links the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind, the specific challenges of vulnerable groups and the issue of social inclusion. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, people in remote areas, poor people and the elderly. Data is presented throughout with an in-depth assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and where additional efforts are needed going forward. The report notes that improving social inclusion—including promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights—are key priorities for the government.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

There is a strong emphasis on the role of non-state actors in helping to raise awareness of the SDGs and mobilizing efforts towards implementation.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report discusses the integration of environmental and climate issues into the education system from early education to university through targeted activities promoting awareness, behavioural change, environmental protection and community engagement. There is an accreditation program to ensure the quality of the program.

Currently, local-level involvement in the SDGs is through dedicated programs focused on specific goals. Specific activities at this level include, for example, opportunities to foster data-driven innovation in the public sector as well as improving infrastructure and the accessibility of state and local government services to the population. Other areas include a focus on the SDGs on transportation, waste treatment, housing and energy. The report also mentions that the low level of public interest in local governance compared to the national government is a particular challenge.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

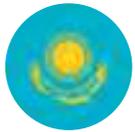
While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it specifically emphasizes non-state actors such as civil society, the business community and academia. The report includes specific examples of contributions by non-state actors throughout, including in the goal-by-goal analysis. The report noted a large number of activities that contribute to SDGs done by non-state actors.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report lists important aspects of the implementation efforts such as the role of technology, capacity needs and gaps and potential modes of financing. The report also provides a detailed overview of the country's contribution to support SDG implementation in developing countries through official development assistance and other means of implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides a detailed assessment of data collection and processing efforts to develop the SDG indicator set for the country presented. The report stresses that a mapping activity was conducted to identify agencies with relevant datasets. A total of 123 indicators are included in the report and 31 indicators include disaggregated data. Further efforts will be made to improve data availability, including disaggregated data, but the development of the VNR report provided a strong contribution to this process.



## KAZAKHSTAN

In 2019, Kazakhstan 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

Chaired by the Prime Minister, the Coordination Board on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) coordinates the integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. The report is unclear in terms of what stakeholder engagement entails. Nevertheless, it notes stakeholder engagement involves all stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society to contribute to achieving the national development priorities.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Kazakhstan assessed the level to which the SDGs and targets have been integrated into national planning documents and identified gaps using the Rapid Integrated Assessment tool.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

According to the report, the 2030 Agenda coincides with the country's priorities as identified in the Strategy Kazakhstan–2050, and the following medium-term development plans such as the 2025 Strategic Development Plan, the Plan of the Nation, "100 Concrete Steps to Implement Five Institutional Reforms," the Five Social

Initiatives of the Head of State and the National Identity Program. These programs and initiatives are aimed at creating a sustainable economy, improving quality of life and strengthening human capital in all segments of the population. The report focuses on the no one left behind principle. It stresses as a central theme that the principle should be integrated into national policy and implementation to improve the quality of life of the entire population, especially the most vulnerable citizens.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs (beyond its existing priorities as outlined in the national strategies and development plans). The current focus of the country will be on the process of nationalization of the SDGs and on developing implementation mechanisms.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs. It provides an in-depth overview of past trends supported by data, relevant national policies, along with initiatives and additional activities needed to achieve the SDGs. The report provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas, but presents the linkages between them inconsistently, with a greater focus on economic dimensions of sustainable development. Policy coherence for sustainable development is mentioned. The report makes references linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report strongly emphasizes the principle of leaving no one behind and the issues of social inclusion and protection. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, the poor and people with disabilities, migrants and poverty in rural areas across a range of areas such as income, education, employment and health. For each SDG, the report provides current trends, a detailed assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and where additional efforts are needed. The report notes the importance of improving social protection and addressing the challenges facing children and women. It also stresses that poverty in rural areas is a serious issue and enlists the country's effort to combat this challenge.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, mostly focusing on specific aspects of the goals, such as on SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 13 (climate change). The report stresses that localization is an emerging activity, one that will be critical to leave no one behind.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Preparing data for the SDGs was led by an interagency working group with members from the government agencies, civil society, international organizations, the private sector and independent experts. The process was overseen by the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy. Data were collected from several sources such as government bodies, interagency working groups, civil society organizations and international organizations.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on multi-stakeholder partnerships and specific contributions by non-state actors.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report provides limited information about the planned implementation of the SDGs. It stresses the integration of the SDGs into national planning documents. It emphasizes the importance of stakeholder involvement during the implementation. While the report does not provide details on financial allocations and budgeting in the country, it provides details on the country's contribution to promote sustainable development and the SDGs in other countries through development assistance.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides a detailed overview of the current status of data availability, data collection and preparation for the VNR and gaps in data availability and levels of disaggregation. The national SDG monitoring and reporting system consists of two main elements: the incorporation of identified SDG indicators into national planning system documents and official statistics. The data are published on the official websites of state bodies in the form of statistics and conclusions based on monitoring and evaluation of strategic documents and programs.



## KUWAIT

In 2019, Kuwait 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

The country established the National Sustainable Development Committee and National Observatory on Sustainable Development to lead and coordinate the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national frameworks and lead the implementation process. Representation from civil society such as the Society for the Protection of the Environment, Kuwait Society of Engineers and Kuwait Economic Society, as well as the private sector such as the Chamber of Commerce and a number of national companies are involved in planning and implementation of SDGs. The National Sustainable Development Committee has devised a working method and a coordination mechanism and has been meeting on a regular basis, following up on the respective SDGs goals and targets and providing advisory input on implementation and integration as relevant and required.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report stresses that engaging government entities, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders at both the policy and institutional levels is important for SDG integration and nationalization. It also mentions the need for allocating resources for advocacy and consensus building. Also, discussions with civil society, the private sector and academia were conducted to assist with institutionalization efforts to align national development plans with the SDGs and inform implementation.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not provide details about whether a gap analysis for SDGs was carried out in the country.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country officially adopted the SDGs in September 2015 and integrated them into its first national development plan, Kuwait Vision 2035. This process was followed by more in-depth integration into the national institutional development framework, budget and national governance structure. The country also linked the core principles of sustainability such as economic, social and environmental sustainability with the seven pillars of the country's vision.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country integrated the SDGs and nationalized the 2030 Agenda into national planning documents and the budget. The SDGs were linked to the 5 Ps—People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership—as presented in the country's development plans. Within these principles, seven pillars guided the SDG nationalization and implementation processes. This allows the country to create concrete linkages between SDGs and national and subnational strategies as well as guide their implementation.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has nationalized the 2030 Agenda based on the principles articulated in the country's development framework. Priorities are situated around the themes of people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides a detailed examination of the SDGs, paying equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. For each SDG, current policy and efforts to address the goal are included as well. The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development but mentions several efforts to ensure coherence across different goal areas. The report explicitly links the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country provides a brief overview of the current situation of vulnerable groups in the country. It lists current policies and initiatives that the country has taken to improve the situation of vulnerable groups. It also stresses the importance of ensuring access to jobs and education, especially on technology-related issues, to help people get jobs.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country has invested significantly in raising awareness among all national partners regarding the transformative aspects of the 2030 Agenda. These awareness-raising efforts were targeted to work together with civil society through specific projects and the ultimate purpose of leaving no one behind.

In terms of localization, the report describes projects targeting specific SDGs implemented at the local level. The report stresses the need for further collaboration with local governments to assist with the development of local industries and with the promotion of small and medium enterprises in the country.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

There was limited information on the role of parliamentarians in the formation of partnerships. The report mentions that the government works together with civil society through projects to assist in achieving the SDGs. For example, Kuwaiti civil society supports the organization

of the Kuwait Food Bank, which assists thousands of families, the elderly, and orphans in need. The report noted the role of the Kuwait Policy Centre in building partnerships around research and academic institutions, civil society organizations and regional and international institutions.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country has begun to prepare the process for SDG implementation. National-level costing needs have been identified. The report also presents the country's involvement in supporting development initiatives on the SDGs in other countries with financial support. The country does not list future commitments for overseas development assistance in the context of the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides information on the current status of data availability, efforts to improve data availability and national reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It acknowledges that the country faces challenges in terms of the limited availability of statistics and data. This presents a challenge in reporting progress on the performance of all SDGs. The country is planning to address this by issuing a policy on institutional information sharing and dissemination at all levels to improve access to existing data.



## MONGOLIA

In 2019, Mongolia 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

Strengthening the institutional framework for the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of the country's key priorities. Political instability as a result of frequent changes in the government has been a major obstacle in ensuring institutional support to SDG implementation. A working group headed by the National Development Agency has been established. This working group consists of representatives from the government, civil society, academia and the private sector. Also, an advocacy team created within the working group was mandated to raise public awareness of the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The VNR process was used as a vehicle to engage stakeholders on the relevance of the SDGs for the country. The process also informed stakeholders about implementation. National consultations occurred in 2018 and 2019 convening over 100 participants to determine the content and scope of the report and to provide feedback on the draft report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not include any reference to a gap analysis.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs are incorporated into national strategies. In line with the SDGs, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted its Sustainable Development Vision-2030 in 2016. This

document is a strategic policy document outlining the country's development priorities for the next 15 years. This document is aligned with the SDGs.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

The civil society report stresses that the integration of the SDGs into national frameworks is advanced. It states implementing the SDGs requires broad inclusion in the development policies and defining targets and indicators. It also recommends proper measurement of implementation and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder consultation mechanism for solving policy conflicts and contradictions within and between sectors.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs are being developed. The country has already selected priorities for specific SDGs, such as SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 3 on health. These SDGs are highly relevant to the country's strategies.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. For each SDGs, it lists available data and limited information on policy interventions and challenges to achieve the SDGs in the country. The report has a limited focus on identifying linkages between goal areas but includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs. It details the identification of these linkages as a challenge to

achieving a shared understanding of the interdependent nature of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs and related national priorities. Policy coherence for sustainable development is advancing as a result of a review of the coherence and integration of short-term and medium-term policy documents for consistency. The report makes linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report focuses on the following vulnerable groups: children, people with disabilities, youths between the ages of 15 and 24, herders, internal migrants living in impoverished areas of the city and the elderly. It provides an overview of data and trends with limited information on efforts and policies to improve the situation of vulnerable people in the country.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country organized a number of awareness-raising events. For example, at the first national-level discussion organized in October of 2018, over 100 participants together discuss the relevance of the SDGs for the country as well as determined the content and scope of the VNR report. There were additional events to address specific SDGs, approaches to policy coherence and monitoring as well as a review of the VNR report.

The report notes that the localization of the SDGs is an emerging and important activity.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report highlights the importance of working with civil society and private sectors in achieving the SDGs. The report also notes the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in public advocacy on the SDGs and the independent evaluation of SDG implementation. It stresses the critical nature of promoting private sector participation (as well as that of the business community)

through economic activities that help achieve the SDGs on employment and ensure more inclusive growth. It also emphasizes that private financing should be much better aligned with sustainable development and that mainstreaming sustainable development in the operations of entrepreneurs should be encouraged.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country considers it critical to ensure the coherence of the SDGs with short and medium-term plans at national and local levels. Engagement of local government officials with this process has already begun. The report also stresses the need to undertake reforms to improve the country's institutional framework further.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies policy and planning efforts that the country will build on to begin the implementation of the SDGs. The report also outlines the potential sources of domestic and foreign resources to finance the SDGs and the role of technology, trade and non-state actors in assisting with the implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not comprehensive enough to be able to track progress with the SDGs. The report specifically focuses on the changes needed in terms of gender-disaggregated data. It stresses that the policy and legal frameworks for ensuring gender equality are adequate, but implementation is weak. This is mainly due to a lack of gender sensitivity in policies and programs, weak governance capacity, a lack of gender-disaggregated data or poor use of gender-related data. Addressing the data gaps in this area is a priority for the future.



In 2019, the Sultanate of Oman 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

A National Committee for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was formed as a high-level committee including members from ministries and government bodies, private sector and civil society to integrate the goals of the 2030 Agenda into the national agenda. The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning leads this committee work.

The country also participates in regional coordination on the SDGs and in hosting the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistics Centre, which issued its first report on progress within its members.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes that in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the sultanate has held panel discussions, workshops and dialogue sessions with various development partners representing the government, the private sector, civil society, youth, parliamentary and academic entities, and international organizations with a view of ensuring community ownership of the development agenda. An initiative entitled “All of Oman” was adopted by the sultanate, aiming to heed the priorities and future aspirations of local communities during the elaboration of the vision document.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report indicates that an assessment was carried out for all SDGs. The report indicated a lack of data for 144 indicators and 87 targets.

## INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs are incorporated into the strategic development plans (2016–2020) and 2040 Oman Vision, aiming that SDGs become part of the 2040 Vision. The report has references to human rights, universality, the leave no one behind principle and planetary boundaries.

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities identified by Oman include: i) the governance of the administrative apparatus; ii) resources; iii) projects; iv) legislative; v) judicial and oversight system; and vi) partnership and integration of roles. National target indicators were also developed by the National Center for Statistics and Information. The centre computed 100 SDG indicators, representing approximately 41% of the total number of indicators to be measured. These indicators correspond to 72 targets available, which represent 43% of the total.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs. Yet, there is no mention of linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the analysis of goals, targets and indicators. Instead, an overall commitment is given to achieve these three dimensions. Similarly, no reference is made to policy coherence for development, but the report notes coherence at the level of incorporation of the SDGs into Oman’s 2040 Vision. The report explicitly links climate change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report notes that Oman’s determination to achieve the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda constitutes a natural extension of the values and principles of

sustainability, equality, justice, peace engagement and leaving no one behind. Women, people with disabilities, children, elderly and low-income individuals are listed among the targets for leaving no one behind. Gender-disaggregated data is mostly available. Programs such as social protection are presented to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising was done through dialogue and debate sessions with all development partners such as government, private sector, civil society organizations, youth and international organizations to ensure collective ownership of the agenda. In terms of localization, the report refers to the leaving no one behind principle and promoting the role of governorates and local communities throughout the development process, starting with the formulation of strategies and plans through to the phases of implementation, follow-up and review.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report is limited in terms of the examples it provides of direct partnerships and contributions from non-state actors. Some limited examples of contributions by civil society organizations are available. The report also notes the importance of the private sector in contributing to a productive and diversified economy. Finally, the report highlights the importance of technical partners in assisting Oman with its development priorities.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report discusses the implementation of all SDGs. The main challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are world and regional economic variations and diversification of the economy. The report notes the need for a strong private sector to complete and optimize resources. The report notes the shift towards the application of program and performance budgets. In addition, 13 government bodies have budgets to implement the SDGs.

Measurement and reporting

The report highlights preparations for the 2020 E-Census for Population, Housing and Establishments which will provide data that meet the SDG computation requirements. The report also advises the country aims to build an integrated

dashboard-based system to monitor progress indicators at the level of the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets while aligning achievements with national targets.



## PAKISTAN

In 2019, Pakistan 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

The country established federal and provincial Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) units to assist with implementation at all administrative levels. Pakistan has also instituted monitoring and evaluation processes that are critical for supporting the implementation of the SDGs, ensuring horizontal and vertical coordination, and strengthening collaborations with development partners. Parliamentary taskforces are operating in national and provincial assemblies.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report outlines a broad-based stakeholder engagement process. This process has already involved all stakeholders who can contribute to achieving national development priorities, including the private sector, academia and civil society. Several advocacy and awareness interventions were conducted across the country. Finally, a wide range of stakeholders participated in VNR consultations at the federal, provincial and federally administered-area levels.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap assessment was carried out for some SDGs. A strategic foresight workshop in Balochistan brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including senior government officials, to participate in innovative strategic planning and gap analysis to identify needed policies and solutions. A multi-stakeholder workshop in the province highlighted the need to integrate the SDGs into agriculture

and natural resource management for effective public planning.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The 12th Five-Year Plan and provincial medium-term development strategies were adjusted to incorporate the SDGs. These plans are currently all aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

While all goals will be worked on simultaneously in the country, Pakistan has identified national priorities. Category 1 goals require immediate attention to achieve results that will catalyze the way for achieving the remaining goals. The framework has three categories.

Category 1: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Category 2 goals are: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

Finally, category 3 includes the following SDGs: SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 15 (life on land).

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country prioritizes and nationalizes the SDGs using a pragmatic framework based on consultations held in 2017. In terms of specific priorities, the report emphasizes the importance of reducing poverty and child stunting, improve transparency and accountability, and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers a subset of goals. It gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development but provides limited reference to linkages between goals. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed in the report. However, it does make linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The state of available data to leave no one behind is unclear from the report. The report notes that several initiatives and programs are being implemented in the country. It also specifically outlines vulnerable groups such as people affected by poverty, the elderly, women, children and people with disabilities. Information on the results of efforts to leave no one behind is not available.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Starting from the Local Government Summit in 2017, several events have been arranged to raise awareness among grassroots-level public officials and parliamentarians about prioritizing the SDGs in response to local needs. The report states that civil society organizations and academia fully support SDG implementation.

The provinces have established technical committees and thematic clusters to assist in contextualizing the goals to local situations. The nomination of focal persons to lead SDG localization and implementation at all levels of government helps district authorities link their priorities

with the 2030 Agenda. This institutional arrangement has been key in guiding the alignment of federal and provincial national policies, sectoral plans and growth strategies with the 2030 Agenda.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Pakistan's parliament created the first SDG Task Force in the world. The Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services organized multiple sessions on the goals of parliamentary taskforces. Pakistan's academic community is increasingly involved with the SDGs and efforts are underway to involve the research community in the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies several challenges the country is facing. It stresses that the country is committed to ensuring that institutional arrangements and policies promote growth and sustainable development. The country will work through innovative financing models. It will also develop synergies and clearly define roles and responsibilities at the federal, provincial and local levels. Pakistan will also build robust partnerships among all stakeholders and seek technology transfers from developed economies.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is the country's focal institution responsible for collecting data, coordinating with federal and provincial agencies on data collection and reporting progress on the SDGs. The availability of disaggregated data is one of the important responsibilities of the Bureau. Four technical subcommittees were established to review and finalize data collection instruments and the calculation of indicators based on an internationally accepted methodology. The priority areas for data collection and trend analyses are those related to education, health, nutrition and gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty and labour and employment. Through a broad consultative process, these subcommittees have approved data collection and survey methodologies to improve the validity and reliability of data.



## PHILIPPINES

In 2019, the Philippines submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The country submitted its first report in 2016.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Philippine government has been setting up the policy and enabling environment for its implementation, as well as compiling and analyzing data for monitoring the country's conditions on the SDGs. The National Economic and Development Authority is the cabinet-level agency responsible for development and planning in the country.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders. The report states that, based on the critical role of non-government and private organizations in the attainment of the SDGs, the subcommittee on the SDGs shall hold stakeholder chambers to bring together non-governmental and private sector initiatives and direct these projects to current development gaps.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Two assessments have been carried out. The analyses mostly focused on gaps in financing, governance and some gaps in achieving specific SDGs. These included gaps in the use of development assistance to address subnational development gaps and gaps in information about the activities of civil society organizations and private sector projects. The gap analysis also measured the overall

engagement in SDG implementation and gaps in the capacities of localities and community members to plan and implement the SDGs.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country's long-term development aspirations are presented in the National Development Long-Term Plan 2040, which is based on inputs from a nationwide survey conducted in late 2015. At the same time, as the SDGs were adopted, the country crafted the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022. The priorities and actions listed in the Philippine Development Plan incorporate the SDGs. Executive Order No. 27 s. 2017 mandated the integration of the plan across government agencies, including local-level agencies.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected national priorities for the SDGs. National targets were selected that set the pathway and the required pace of progress. These targets are included in the results matrices, a companion document of the country's development plans.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides a review of a limited set of SDGs. These include: SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The report includes a detailed examination of those in the report and pays equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, though there are limited references to linkages

between the goals. For the SDGs examined, the report reviews priority policy areas, current initiatives and gaps and needed actions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed and the report focuses on linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country's development plan is strongly focused on enhancing the social fabric and reducing inequality. This requires bringing together several SDGs including SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities). The identified vulnerable groups include farmers and landless rural workers, artisanal fisherfolk, migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, women, people with disabilities, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children and the urban poor. The report provides an overview of social programs and legislation focused on some of the vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities and children. It also provides a detailed overview of the country's policies and legislation.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The VNR consultations of the country provided input from different stakeholders and created demand for information on the national implementation of the SDGs and spaces for participation.

The report provides information on the specific role of local governments in realizing the SDGs. It states that the priorities and actions listed in the national plan incorporate the SDGs and were integrated across the local level government agencies.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The government is planning pledging sessions where non-governmental and private sector organizations signify

their commitment to achieving specific SDGs. The VNR described the role of civil society and the private sector in implementing the SDGs. Examples of partnerships include youth training programs, heritage projects, domestic private investment and the exploration of new business models. More companies are interested in participating in hiring programs and collaborating with government, civil society and other organizations. There was no information on the partnerships involving parliamentarians or academia.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

Civil society is calling for consistent and reliable data from the government through the cooperation and cross-checking of data from different government agencies. Civil society strongly recommends the development of disaggregated data for each of the different sectors to allow consideration of the different situations of each group when implementing the SDGs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country focused on identifying potential sources of financing to implement the SDGs. Some of the costs for the implementation at the country-level have been attributed. The report states that domestic resources dominate the Philippines' financing landscape, with domestic public financing and domestic private investment each accounting for over a third of all resources. It also mentions that the country is the largest recipient of remittances in the region and directing these funds to SDG-supportive activities is imperative. Finally, in terms of the allocation of overseas development assistance, the overall budget is decreasing. At the same time, a study on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development undertaken by the country in 2017 as a pilot, states that, for the Philippines, overseas development assistance remains a vital financing source for investing in the SDGs.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report states that the Philippine Statistics Authority monitors the Tier 1 indicators through its SDG Watch. It also stresses that priority should be placed on building out an appropriate data monitoring system to support the accountability mechanism. The mechanisms must be responsive to the demand for disaggregated data and ensure the timeliness of data collection so that policy and program designs benefit from up-to-date information. The country will use the SDGs Annex of the Philippines Annual Socioeconomic Report to report on the progress on the SDGs as well as on the country's development plan. The report is currently being developed.



## TIMOR-LESTE

In 2019, Timor-Leste 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

The country fully endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integrated them into its development plan. A Strategic Development Plan Working Group was set up to lead the planning and implementation of the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country made efforts to engage citizens in the development of the national strategy and to improve understanding of the SDGs. During these engagement efforts, issues such as financing, monitoring and accelerating progress on sustainable development in the country were discussed. Additional efforts were made to consult a wide group of stakeholders and individuals in the process of developing the VNR report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Based on the VNR report, no information is available about whether the gap or baseline analysis was carried out.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The Strategic Development Plan internalizes the SDGs and sets out priorities for sustainable and inclusive development in the country. The plan's primary focus is to promote the development of institutions, support economic growth and increase social inclusion. The Strategic Development Plan also outlines a set of interventions aimed at building social capital and investing in infrastructure and economic development.

The report refers to the principle of leaving no one behind as core to national values and the basis of the national strategic development plan.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country set out the basic framework with critical priorities for nationalizing the 2030 Agenda. The Strategic Development Plan identifies three core areas, which include the development of institutions, support for economic growth and increased social inclusion. Of these three areas, building human capital is considered most crucial. Thus, SDGs that address this aspect are the most relevant for the country. They include SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews current data and trends, policy priority areas and ongoing initiatives in the country in the context of relevant SDGs. It provides a goal-by-goal analysis with an annex listing the data for available indicators. The report provides equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, but with limited reference to linkages between the dimensions in the analysis of goals and targets. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. While the report does not include the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, it stresses the importance of addressing climate change since the country is a small island and vulnerable to natural and climate hazards. Climate change will affect all coastal communities and key sectors, such as agriculture. The report strongly stresses that climate-proofing investments and infrastructure while at the same time promoting climate adaptation are critical for environmental sustainability and resilience. It also makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind and addresses the issue of human capital development and social inclusion. The country adopted key legal instruments to promote inclusion, representation and the participation of women, youth and the elderly. Poverty reduction efforts were prioritized and implemented early on by the government, including cash transfers to veterans and vulnerable groups. The report stressed the importance of continuing to resource and extend programs to support remote rural areas, people and children with disabilities, informal workers and young mothers. These groups were identified as being the furthest behind. Greater effort is needed to mitigate disparities between municipalities and rural and urban areas, to ensure remote health services are fully equipped and to increase investments in infrastructure.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report does not provide information on the specific role of local governments in realizing the SDGs, though it does note that future monitoring frameworks would need to be linked to subnational entities to integrate local data. In terms of awareness-raising, engagement on the national strategy contributed to awareness of the SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report provides information on partnerships between civil society and government. It also stated the government launched a Social Audit Initiative to help civil society organizations monitor investments in social services. The report noted the critical stage of Timor-Leste's development and the need for continued partnerships to leverage access to domestic and international resources.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report stresses that the country has limited institutional capacity. Weak human resources remain key obstacles in building accountable, transparent and effective institutions and thus hinder the country's efforts to implement the SDGs. Nevertheless, a budgetary governance roadmap was developed to support the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The budgetary governance roadmap supports the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan and, thus, the SDGs in the country. The roadmap connects the Strategic Development Plan by linking the targets of the plan to budget structures and funds for the annual budget cycle. All future government programs will be aligned with the Strategic Development Plan and therefore the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report emphasizes that progress has been made to disaggregate data. However, more investment is needed to ensure all survey data can be disaggregated by income, gender, age, migratory status, disability, social grouping and geographical location.



## TURKEY

In 2019, Turkey submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Turkey's first report was submitted in 2016.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are led by an existing agency, the Presidency of Strategy and Budget, which is also in charge of preparing national development plans. The process of SDG integration began with the president's call for all government entities to participate. Currently, however, there is no regularly managed institutional structure in place that is associated with the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. Through broad-based stakeholder engagement, this process has involved all stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society. Through the VNR consultation, civil society organizations identified ways to improve engagement going forward. The report does not present details in this regard.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An assessment has been carried out for some SDGs. The current situation and gap assessment were identified as being under the supervision of the Presidency of Strategy and Budget with the Presidency as the coordinating institution. Future steps and recommendations were elicited in a transparent procedure by local administrations, private sector, civil society organizations and academia as part of preparing the VNR report.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In Turkey's VNR report, the outcomes of the gap analysis are summarized in a heat map. Turkey's SDG heat map reveals that in terms of policy–strategy, more than half of the SDGs have been reached to a medium-advanced level and the rest are at the medium level. In terms of legislation, the number of medium-advanced level SDGs has reached 10.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Turkey prefers implementing and monitoring the SDGs using a holistic approach by integrating them into national development plans and sectoral strategies. The process of integrating the SDGs into national strategies and development plans is complete but further efforts are needed on the sectoral and subnational levels.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs beyond its existing priorities, as outlined in the National Strategy for Development.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is weak in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas. The report includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs, particularly in terms of Turkey's role in hosting refugees. Indeed, policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed in terms of the country's role in the migration crisis in Europe. The report makes linkages to several relevant international

frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, aid effectiveness and development effectiveness agendas, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has an emphasis on leaving no one behind with identified vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, refugees, the poor and informal workers. Data is presented with an assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and areas where additional efforts are needed going forward. The report discusses the importance of addressing the poverty gap in the country. Significant progress has been achieved over the past 10 years, with several policies and social programs, wage subsidies and social security premium incentives being provided to women, young people and minimum-wage earners. There is still a need to implement policies to improve income distribution. The report also mentions that more data disaggregation concerning the poorest groups is needed to assist with designing policy.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country has conducted a training program on SDGs for all public agencies, academics and private sector representatives to improve their understanding of the 2030 Agenda and to gather ideas for better integration of the goals into the development approach and policy choices. A workshop under the theme “Results-Oriented Management for Agenda 2030” was also held in 2018 to introduce innovative and holistic tools and methods for planning, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, many activities are undertaken by public agencies, the private sector, local governments and their unions, universities and civil society organizations to create awareness on the SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Turkey’s report provided detailed information on partnerships with civil society organizations, the private

sector and academia and experts. Turkey explained how it created an SDG best practices database. In the first phase of the database, more than 400 examples of best practices from civil society, the private sector, academia and municipalities were collected.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation, including limited global and national data availability and monitoring efforts, unclear governance structures and limited resources domestically and internationally. The report provides an overview of current projects and initiatives that contribute to achieving the SDGs. It also provides a detailed discussion about the country’s support of the development efforts of developing countries, including particularly the least developed countries, through official development assistance. The report notes that the country plans to prepare an SDG roadmap that will include references to cost implications.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. It stresses the importance of collecting disaggregated data to better target policies to the needs of the vulnerable groups. The country is also developing a database that will be operational throughout the 2030 Agenda implementation period to provide information about the activities contributing to the SDGs and allow continuous evaluation of progress.



## TURKMENISTAN

In 2019, Turkmenistan submitted its first voluntary national review (VNR) report to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A working group comprised of the deputy heads of ministries, agencies, public organizations and academic and research institutions has been established to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The coordinating body is the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan has been defined as an agency responsible for monitoring implementation progress and the preparation of reporting.

At the regional level, Turkmenistan leads cooperation on the elaboration of the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development of Central Asia. Turkmenistan also leads the Action Programme which improves the ecological, social and economic situation on the Aral Sea basin.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Turkmenistan developed a mechanism for stakeholder engagement that provides a platform for interaction between stakeholders and the state. Seventeen Young Ambassadors of the SDGs representing different regions of the country were identified to promote the ideas of sustainable development among the younger generation. The Young Ambassadors are tasked to bring the vision and voice of youth in the implementation of the SDGs and provided inputs in the preparation of the VNR.

Stakeholder consultations were held to discuss each of the SDGs to identify the country's priorities. Stakeholders, including the private sector, non-government organizations,

academia, youth and United Nations agencies, were also involved in the VNR preparation process.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Two assessments were carried out, for which no dates are specified. An assessment of SDG data gaps was carried out to understand the current status of data availability in Turkmenistan. A United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment of Turkmenistan's programs and strategies revealed the level of integration at 47% for the SDGs (8 out of 17 SDGs) and 84% for targets (124 out of 148 targets). The assessment also indicated 88 SDG indicators (50.3%) out of all SDG indicators adopted in Turkmenistan had been achieved.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report notes the level of each SDG's integration in policies, plans for further integration of the SDGs and targets in national, sectoral and regional programs, strategies and development and financial plans. The report places significant emphasis on the principle of leaving no one behind. While the report does not refer to a human rights-based approach, it has a strong human rights focus. There is no mention of the principle of universality. While the report contains no mention of planetary boundaries or intergenerational responsibility, it does address climate action.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Turkmenistan has formally adopted the 17 SDGs, 148 targets (of which 121 remained unchanged and 27 were adjusted according to national priorities) and 187 indicators (of 241 global indicators). The report notes that activities are

underway to establish the national system of indicators and SDGs monitoring. The country prioritizes maintaining peace and security in the region.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

While not explicitly stated as a priority, the report places a strong emphasis on the social component of sustainable development by focusing on seven SDGs: SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace and justice strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for achieving the goal). According to the Programme of the President on Social and Economic Development for the period 2019–2025, the share of budget expenditures in the social sphere is 70%. The VNR analyzes some of the targets under the selected SDGs and includes data on these targets and related indicators in a Statistical Appendix. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides data on Turkmenistan's efforts to leave no youth, children, people with disabilities, women, elderly people living alone and migrants behind. It highlights existing specialized programs for specific groups as well as universal programs such as social assistance. The country pursues an active gender-oriented national policy.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

According to the report, the government prioritizes raising public awareness and changing attitudes towards sustainable development and gender equality as well as fostering of a culture of peace and non-violence. This means ensuring public access to information and information and communication technology as well as assisting all learners to acquire better knowledge on sustainable development, climate change and human rights issues are Turkmenistan's priorities. The government relies on the support of all stakeholders to achieve sustainable development following the leave no one behind principle.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While Turkmenistan developed a stakeholder engagement mechanism (17 Young Ambassadors of the SDGs), the report suggests that the involvement of stakeholders other than youth is limited. Aside from efforts by civil society organizations to assist undocumented people in ensuring their legal stay in Turkmenistan, the report does not specifically reference efforts by parliamentarians, the private sector or academia. Concerning support provided for the preparation of the VNR, the report mentions financial and human resources allocated within the framework of a joint project of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and United Nations Development Programme.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

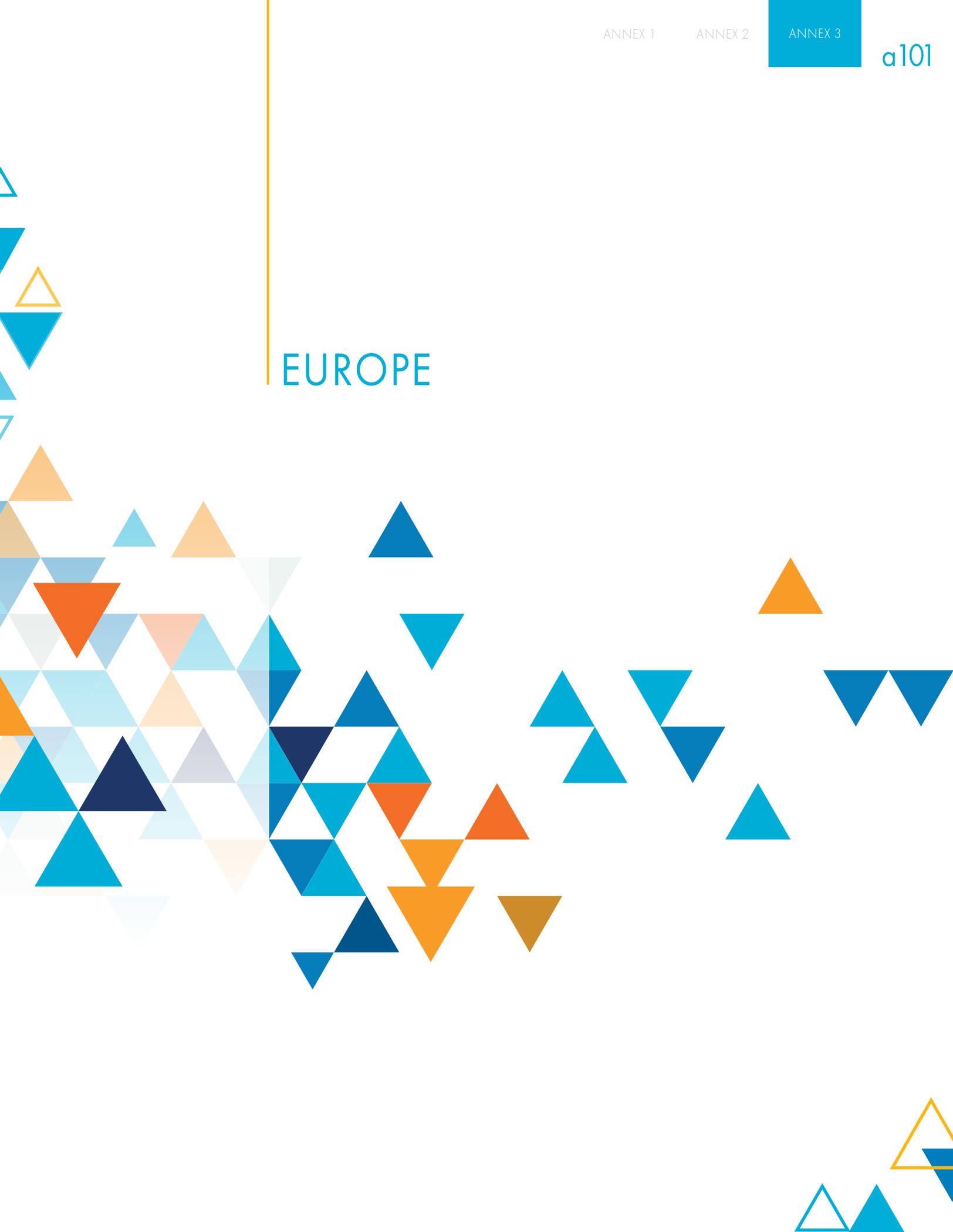
While the report does not articulate challenges in SDG implementation, it highlights the need for continuing the work on improvement of national statistical capacity as a key lesson learned.

While it is recognized that domestic public financial resources should be the main source of financing the 2030 Agenda and Turkmenistan budgets at the national level for SDG implementation, the report underscores that international financing and private sector resources are needed to achieve the SDGs. Turkmenistan is transitioning the national budgeting process to the principles of mid-term planning and program-targeted financing. This will ensure greater integration of the SDGs into the country's financial plans and targeted use of public funds for SDG implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. It notes that Turkmenistan will continue its activities focused on the development of a national system of SDG indicators, collection of comprehensive, reliable and disaggregated data and the creation of an SDG database. Activities are underway to draw up a list of national indicators to establish the national system of indicators and SDG monitoring. The initiative involves Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and a project on the development of the national monitoring system of well-being.

EUROPE





## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

In 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted its first voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country has made progress in developing the governance structure to begin integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national and subnational systems. However, the SDGs have not yet been incorporated through a national strategy or into national development plans. The strategic framework for achieving the SDGs is being developed and will be linked to the country's institutions based on the scope of their responsibilities. The report emphasizes that the country has a very complex institutional structure and integrating the SDGs into that framework is a complex task that will continue in 2019 and beyond.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report provides little information on this topic. To date, stakeholder engagement efforts have taken place under the "Imagine2030" initiative. Subsequent consultations on the relevance of the SDGs for the country took place in May 2018. The report notes that extensive consultations and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders will be done in the coming years.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Bosnia and Herzegovina deployed the United Nations Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support and Rapid Integrated Assessment tools to assess the alignment of the SDGs with the country's priorities. A comprehensive

gap assessment and policy review was performed. It assessed the relevance of current policies and plans and preparedness for implementing and monitoring the SDGs. The reviewed policies and strategies demonstrated a significant overlap with the SDGs. The assessment identified a few gaps in national efforts to achieve the SDGs, such as SDG 5 on gender equality. Overall, the assessment revealed 93% coverage of the SDGs by current strategies and policies.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country conducted a Rapid Integrated Assessment to assist in mainstreaming the SDGs into planning across levels of government. The assessment determined SDG relevance in terms of the country context, different levels of governance and interlinkages across targets. The country developed several visuals to provide a simple and easy way to understand the overlap between SDGs and national policies and strategies, presented in the VNR report. The visuals were also used to show economic, social and environmental priorities.

The assessment also considered the SDG targets linked to the "5 Ps" (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership) of the 2030 Agenda. In total, 69 strategic documents showed a score of 93% alignment for people, 51% for the planet, 87% for prosperity, 58% for peace and 67% for partnership. The Rapid Integrated Assessment analysis and recommendations were advantageous, given the timing of the initiation of the new cycle of strategic planning at different levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the preparation of an SDG Framework document in the

country. Bottlenecks will be addressed during the creation of the country's SDG Framework.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

As noted above, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of integrating the SDGs into national policies and plans following the country's assessment of priorities against the SDGs.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The SDG Framework document in Bosnia and Herzegovina will define key priority areas for reaching the 2030 Agenda. As such, the report does not contain specific mechanisms for their practical operationalization.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs, giving equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development is a planned activity. The report makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report lists the key vulnerable groups in the country and reviews current policies and efforts to reduce their vulnerability. These groups include women, migrants, disabled people, children, the LGBTQ community and single parents. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to be inclusive. Generally, information on the results of these efforts is not available.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising efforts have been focused on specific SDGs and related efforts needed to implement them. However, several local administrations have started to consider the localization of the 2030 Agenda into their

everyday work and strategic planning.

Partnership to realize the SDGs

The report briefly highlights the importance of recognizing that the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a whole-of-government approach and working with stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country is currently preparing its implementation plans. The report highlights a recognition that the country needs to take a whole-of-government approach and ensure the effective engagement of stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector. Financing has been identified for specific projects needed to advance the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not articulated in the report. According to the report, gender-disaggregated data is available and presented for SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 5 (gender equality). The focus of the next steps in SDG implementation will be to provide reliable and quality data that will be used to create public policies and monitor the effects of their implementation.



## CROATIA

In 2019, Croatia 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

Major efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation process began in January 2018 when the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the National Council for Sustainable Development. The Council focused on developing the 2030 National Development Strategy. The country's parliament will adopt this document in the first half of 2020.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder consultations and awareness-raising were critical to the development of the 2030 National Development Strategy. This included reaching out to civil society, the business community and students, as well as the broader public. According to the report, the process involved improving the knowledge of both citizens and experts about the SDGs, informing them of critical aspects of their implementation and gathering their input on defining an appropriate implementation mechanism to advance sustainable development in Croatia.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not provide details about a conducted gap analysis or baseline assessment, but the SDGs were aligned to national priorities presented in the 2030 National Development Strategy.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The 2030 National Development Strategy provides the basis for SDG implementation in the country by connecting

national priorities and policy documents with those outlined in the SDGs as well as providing the foundation for the engagement of and collaboration with stakeholders. It is a key strategic document of Croatia for the period up to 2030 and will form the foundation for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and sub-national levels. The report refers human rights-based approaches. Human rights are emphasized under SDG 1 (no poverty) as a core principle since non-discrimination and respect for human rights forms the baseline strategic approach to solving the problem of poverty and social exclusion in Croatia.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected national priorities for the SDGs (beyond the existing themes outlined in the 2030 National Development Strategy). The strategy groups SDGs into seven priorities—Recognizable Croatia, Economically Efficient Croatia, Competitive, Entrepreneurial and Innovative Croatia, Safe Croatia, Connected Croatia, Green Croatia, inclusive Croatia, Croatia—Land of Advanced Regions. These priorities present the core sustainability challenges for the future of the country. They also provide a basis for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and subnational levels. Subnational priorities framed by the 2030 National Development Strategy and local priorities are being identified.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides an in-depth assessment of all the SDGs, and it reviews the policy priorities for Croatia for each one. It provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas, with consistent presentations of the linkages between them. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report is also limited in terms of linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and

agreements beyond referring to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Climate change issues are integrated into several SDGs through specific projects. This includes projects on energy conservation (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy), emission-reduction efforts in production processes (SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production) and creating national inventories and data (SDG 13 on climate action). The report also emphasizes cross-cutting climate mitigation and adaptation actions in the transportation sector.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report underscores the importance of both leaving no one behind and the issue of social inclusion. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, poor and homeless people, people with disabilities, Roma people and migrants. The focus is on poverty reduction and reducing exclusion through the Strategy for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014–2020. The strategy also focuses on the following: i) reducing social inequalities; ii) preventing the emergence of new categories of poor citizens (as well as reducing the number of poor and socially excluded people); and iii) establishing a coordinated support system for groups at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Data is presented throughout with an in-depth assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and where additional efforts are needed going forward.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The awareness-raising process included workshops, conferences and roundtable meetings on the topic of “Croatia 2030: Croatia We Want” aimed at different stakeholders. This included the public sector, civil society organizations, the academic community, private sector, children and young people.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on stakeholder

partnerships and specific contributions by non-state actors. It stresses collaboration with the European Union and its Member States to build on shared capacities and experience to advance the SDGs.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report stresses the significant engagement of the country in assisting other countries in achieving the SDGs. It provides a detailed overview of the specific projects and initiatives, grouped by SDG.

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation in terms of achieving specific SDGs. For example, the country faces challenges changing the country’s economy to create long-term employment opportunities and improving the implementation of sustainable production and consumption practices at a larger scale. Private sector engagement was also noted. The institutional framework for SDG implementation (including planning and management of national budget resources) is being prepared.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of data availability. It includes a commitment to strengthen statistical capacities, including bolstering data collection as well as technical and administrative capacities.



## ICELAND

In 2019, Iceland 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 working group leads the work of the Icelandic government in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The working group aims to integrate the SDGs into policies and programs based on the outcomes of a prioritization assessment for the country.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country strongly believes that the SDG implementation cannot be achieved without cooperation between national and local authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and individuals around the world. The Icelandic government is committed to stakeholder engagement during the selection of SDG priorities for the country as well as to ensuring the successful implementation of the goals. Stakeholder engagement was mostly achieved through collaborative projects already undertaken with the involvement of the government. These included online and in-person consultations, workshops, conferences and one-on-one meetings.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap analysis was conducted to assess the relevance of the SDG goals and targets for the country's strategic planning documents and policies. Based on the assessment, Iceland prioritized 65 priority targets (from a total of 169) that will guide the country's authorities in implementing the goals.

Key gaps were summarized and used to guide strategy development and implementation in the country.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

According to the report, Iceland has used strategies, policies and programs to advance SDG implementation. The country fully endorsed the SDGs and enlisted its high-level ambition in its VNR report. In terms of key principles for SDG implementation, the report refers to the principles of human rights and leaving no one behind. While it includes a strong focus on human rights, it does not refer to a human rights-based approach. In the assessment of the relevance of the SDGs for the country, a specific focus was directed at individuals and groups that are or may be at risk of being marginalized.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected 65 priority targets that are being implemented across all ministries. The remaining SDGs were considered less relevant for the country and no action has been taken to implement them.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews policy priority areas for Iceland and refers to relevant SDGs in that context, providing a goal-by-goal analysis. The report provides a detailed assessment noting recent past trends, implications of the goals for the country and examples of potential actions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The SDGs are linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

For 10 consecutive years, Iceland has been ranked both the world's most peaceful country and the one with the greatest degree of gender equality. Despite real success in many areas, Iceland still faces a variety of challenges and has a way to go before achieving some of the SDG targets, especially those relevant for vulnerable populations. Vulnerable groups include children, women, LGBTQ, immigrants and people with disabilities. Major activities include current policies, targeted programs, consultations and awareness-raising on issues specific to marginalized groups.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Iceland also considers itself as a global leader in gender equality and would like to focus on capacity building on this issue in other countries. In its national policies and SDG implementation efforts, the country managed to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across all the SDGs. The country sees "gender equality is both a prerequisite and a driving force for sustainable development and peace."

### AWARENESS RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

In March 2018, a promotional campaign was launched on all the country's main media about the SDGs under the title "Let's Have Good News to Tell in 2030." The campaign identified potential good news for Iceland and the world should the SDGs be met. The objective of the campaign was to draw attention to the SDGs to promote public participation in their implementation. Short videos were shown on television, social media and in cinemas along with online advertising banners.

The implementation of the SDGs by the Icelandic authorities is the task of both national and local authorities. The Association of Local Authorities has a representative in the government's SDG working group. With the involvement of this association, the introduction of SDGs is approached as a joint project of the state and municipalities, as they have

an essential role in the successful implementation of the SDGs. The country estimated approximately 65% of the SDG targets could not be implemented without the involvement of local authorities.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report stresses that the implementation of SDGs cannot be achieved without cooperation between national and local authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and individuals around the world. The Icelandic government is committed to stakeholder engagement to ensure the successful implementation of the goals. It mentioned that the government works together with civil society through projects to assist in achieving the SDGs. Iceland provided limited information on partnerships with the private sector and youth. In terms of the private sector, Iceland noted the government's SDG working group entered a one-year partnership with Festa. Festa is the Icelandic Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility. The report also stated a Youth Council meets six times yearly, including once with the government.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes that the government has linked the SDGs to a five-year fiscal strategy. This has allowed for mapping of SDG targets to areas of operation, facilitating targeted efforts and estimations of funding required to implement the goals. The report also highlights Iceland's commitment the United Nations target for official development assistance and efforts to bring issues related to gender equality to World Trade Organisation negotiations.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Following a data assessment, the report stressed that the country should develop indicators that are relevant to the country's context. It mentions that Nordic countries are considering defining Nordic statistical indicators in areas where the United Nations indicators have not been adequately defined, such as on SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).



## LIECHTENSTEIN

In 2019, Liechtenstein 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

Liechtenstein's government chose a systematic approach to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national frameworks. To facilitate this process, the government established an interdisciplinary working group led by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture. The working group was tasked with conducting a gap analysis, identifying areas that require action and leading a review of data availability.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report does not outline how stakeholder engagement is occurring. It does, however, mention engagement by non-state actors in the VNR, including in terms of reviewing a draft version of the report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country used a systematic approach in performing the gap analysis. This approach included a detailed analytic process under the leadership of the interdisciplinary working group to work through individual SDGs and their targets, assess their relevance for the country and its national strategies and evaluate data availability. At the same time, the public was involved through various events around the SDGs and discussions were held with stakeholder groups to provide input to the analysis.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

In light of the systemic approach to integrate the SDGs into national frameworks, the report highlights a number of sectoral policies. Coherence with the SDGs is important for the country's policies in the areas of education, energy, mobility and gender equality for example. The report stresses the importance of intergenerational equity by addressing current and future employment challenges. Since 2008, the country has been working on mobility challenges and one of its core focuses is sustainability. In this context, the interests of society, the economy and the environment should be considered equally to ensure opportunities for future generations.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country embarked on the initiatives to integrate climate change across the SDGs resulting in an effort called "Liechtenstein as Climate Pioneer." The report stresses that climate protection and sustainability will become even more important in the future. Thus, the country started integrating climate change issues into the school system from kindergarten to primary and secondary schools. Business associations have endorsed the initiatives.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs are not articulated in the report. The country has not developed national targets or indicators.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of

sustainable development. The review of each SDG lists the current situation and challenges in the country, past data and current and planned programs to achieve that SDG. Policy coherence for sustainable development is listed as a challenge in the country because of conflicting objectives of various SDGs. To address this challenge, the government will increasingly look for suitable instruments to ensure a reasonable balance when prioritizing individual SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report identifies vulnerable groups. It provides an overview of current initiatives focused on improving the situation of children in the country by providing quality afterschool care. The report provides a set of policies and measures to tackle gender inequality. It also includes several examples of the country's efforts to reduce poverty (SDG 1 on no poverty), implement SDG 5 (gender equality), and improvements in gender gaps in the labour market (SDG 10 on reduced inequality). Finally, the most heavily emphasized improvements are focused on the overall institutional setting by adhering to the European Union standards in creating responsible and effective institutions (SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions). The report does not list information on the results of efforts to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs and that ongoing efforts are needed. Non-state actors in civil society, academia and business sectors have played a prominent role in raising awareness on the SDGs. A civil society "Network for Development Cooperation" has also launched a mapping process within civil society, which should raise awareness and provide a better overview of existing commitments towards the SDGs.

Efforts related to localization are not articulated in the report.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report provides limited examples of partnerships to

realize the SDGs. The report recognizes that members of the Network for Development Cooperation contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in developing countries. In terms of the means of implementation, the report stressed the importance of the commitment of the private sector in achieving specific SDGs on education (SDG 4) and climate change (SDG 13). It also notes the role of charitable foundations. Annually, they contribute some CHF 200 million to philanthropic projects. The report includes a promise to continue expanding cooperation between the public and private sector.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies strengths in several areas concerning SDG implementation. The most relevant is the development of effective, responsible and transparent institutions on all levels summarized in the Strategy for the Development of Public Administration 2015–2020. An action plan has been adopted. While the report refers to the role of Liechtenstein in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in developing countries, it provides limited information on other means of implementation such as trade and those related to systemic issues.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

In the report, existing data was used to evaluate the development of individual SDGs in Liechtenstein. A total of 62 indicators were assigned to the individual SDGs. The report states that Liechtenstein's national indicator system covers a few of the United Nations' SDG indicators. The report emphasizes that the government will study options to improve data and indicators in the future and aim to align them with the SDGs.



## SERBIA

In 2019, Serbia 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

The government established an Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in late 2015. This working group leads the national monitoring, review and reporting mechanism as well as the reporting process, including the 2019 VNR.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report confirms stakeholder engagement in the building a Development Partnership Framework. This included consultation with specific stakeholder groups such as civil society, the private sector, schools and others, including advocacy groups for the vulnerable. The inputs were used to collect information relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the country.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Identifying the relevance of current policies for achieving the SDGs required a gap assessment covering the existing legislative framework, the planning and strategic milestones and their implementation, as well as the costs of implementation and budgeting. A whole-of-government gap assessment was performed. All ministries, services and agencies, including provincial, municipal and city governments, were required to identify potential policy measures and program activities. The assessment identified successes, challenges and emerging problems.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Serbia has incorporated the SDGs into national development plans and related policies and frameworks. In 2017, the country initiated the Development Partnership Framework for the period 2016 to 2020. The framework is fully integrated within national development priorities and the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. According to the gap analysis, key changes are needed in national policies. Many of these changes are being prepared. The report has a strong focus on human rights and refers to leaving no one behind.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The SDGs are a priority for the country. Serbia's report also noted priority of European Union membership.

##### Integration and policy coherence

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. The report makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

#### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report lists the key vulnerable groups in the country and provides an overview of current policies and efforts that aim to reduce their vulnerability. The vulnerable groups include: women, migrants, people with disabilities, children, LGBTQ and single parents. The report outlines a wide

range of existing initiatives and gaps, including advanced health services (SDG 3 on good health and well-being) and educational programs for children and people affected by disabilities (SDG 4 on quality education).

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The awareness-raising efforts were focused on specific SDGs and the efforts needed to implement them. The country has made significant efforts to localize the SDGs. This includes a detailed assessment of local-level strategies and policies as well as capacities at the local level to assist with SDG implementation.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country developed a detailed assessment of the role of policies and initiatives at the local government level to assist in achieving the SDGs. This assessment also looked at policy and implementation gaps such as lack of capacity, technological or financial resources that hinder local governments from implementing the specific SDG targets.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The country sees partnerships among different stakeholders as critical to achieving the SDGs by establishing local collaborations to assist with data collection, knowledge sharing, acquiring technologies and sources of funds. The report includes information on the role of the National Assembly in advancing the 2030 Agenda. It points to a Regional Seminar on the SDGs for Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia that occurred in 2018 and the creation of a parliamentary hub in the form of a Focus Group in the National Assembly that aims to ensure oversight and implement activities of the parliament. In addition, the positions of children and youth were integrated throughout the VNR report, making it a “children and youth focused VNR.” Information under the SDGs includes inputs from youth. Finally, the report pointed to areas where assistance is needed for Serbia to continue to grow sustainably, particularly in the fields of investments, knowledge and skills and technology.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country has begun preparing its implementation plans. The report emphasizes the importance of technology in advancing implementation. This includes examples of the role of technology in addressing schooling challenges by improving technological skills (SDG 4 on quality education), using modern farming technology (SDG 2 on zero hunger), new technology in new energy sources (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy) and efforts to reduce emissions (SDG 13 on climate action). The previously mentioned working group has also assessed the financial system and mobilization of sources of funding.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not articulated in the report. According to the report, indicators are crucial contributors to SDG achievement. The development of the VNR report brought agencies and stakeholders together and helped accelerate the development of the national indicators framework to monitor achievement.



## UNITED KINGDOM

In 2019, the United Kingdom (UK) 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

The Secretary of State for International Development has overall responsibility for policy oversight of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Minister for Implementation in the Cabinet Office ensures a coordinated approach across the government for the delivery of the SDGs. Officials in the UK government's Department for International Development and the Cabinet Office co-chair a cross-governmental group that provides a platform for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs, integrating them into departmental activity and reviewing the progress of their implementation.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report includes several specific stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising activities regarding SDG implementation. Stakeholders participated in the development of the VNR report.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

While there is a Minister for Implementation, the SDGs are currently not publicly listed as part of their responsibilities.

In addition, the UK civil society report emphasizes that there is a need for civil society and other stakeholders to engage with the planning, budgeting and accountability processes. It stresses that the approach presently used by the government for SDG planning and implementation has limited support for stakeholder engagement. The report stresses that the government could do more to help civil society and other stakeholders to engage with government planning in line with the 2030 Agenda and as part of its capacity-building approach. The VNR report includes a recommendation that reflects this call noting the need to develop a stakeholder engagement mechanism.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Boosting financing and investment for the SDGs was a major focus of the UK's gap analysis.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs have been incorporated into national development plans and related policies and frameworks. In 2017, the UK government published the 2030 Agenda: Delivering the Global Goals to provide details on UK government activity to support SDG delivery both domestically and internationally. Departments have identified where alignment with the SDGs exists through Single Departmental Plans.

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

In the UK, national frameworks capture government priorities in the context of the SDGs. The approach recognizes and respects the devolution settlements with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each is responsible for implementing its policies in areas of devolved competence, resulting in approaches that respond to national and local needs in the country. In the UK, national frameworks capture government priorities concerning the SDGs, with work taking place on multiple levels to strengthen delivery across the country.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs. The report makes linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report presents a detailed narrative on those left behind and efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. Vulnerable groups include women, children, people with disabilities, youth, isolated older people and the LGBTQ community. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind. The report also states that the government collaborates with the private sector and civil society to address the “leave no one behind” principle, which will include ensuring access to services and opportunities for the most vulnerable. The country will support disaggregated data and increased research into the causes and consequences of extreme poverty, exclusion, violence and discrimination.

### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

To ensure proper cross-government mainstreaming of “leave no one behind,” gender awareness and sensitivity, and improved conflict analysis across all policies and programming, the UK government should develop and provide practical tools, guidance and resources for all UK government staff and implementing partners working internationally. From a policy coherence perspective, the UK government should do more to ensure that other international actions (for example trade and economic growth strategies) promote inclusion and do not lead to people being left behind.

## AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising activities have been carried out according to the report. Their aim was to improve knowledge and capacities and learn from civil society organizations, the private sector and others. Local authorities are often responsible for the services and environments people interact with daily. For a range of goals, local authorities are vital to implementation. The report states that local authorities are well placed to provide the vital link between local communities and businesses and local priorities in the context of SDGs. In addition, information from local governments was included in the report.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The UK’s report provided information on partnerships with civil society organizations and noted that market opportunities exist for private sector actors that contribute to the goals. Among other examples, the report cited Changemakers, a global citizenship project. The project has been delivered since 2012 by a range of civil society partners.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies gaps in terms of financial needs to implement the SDGs. It also discusses the role of official development assistance and the country’s contributions to

support the delivery of the SDGs. The UK government plans to continue strengthening existing means and mechanisms to oversee its contribution to the domestic delivery of the SDGs and build on the Single Departmental Plan process.

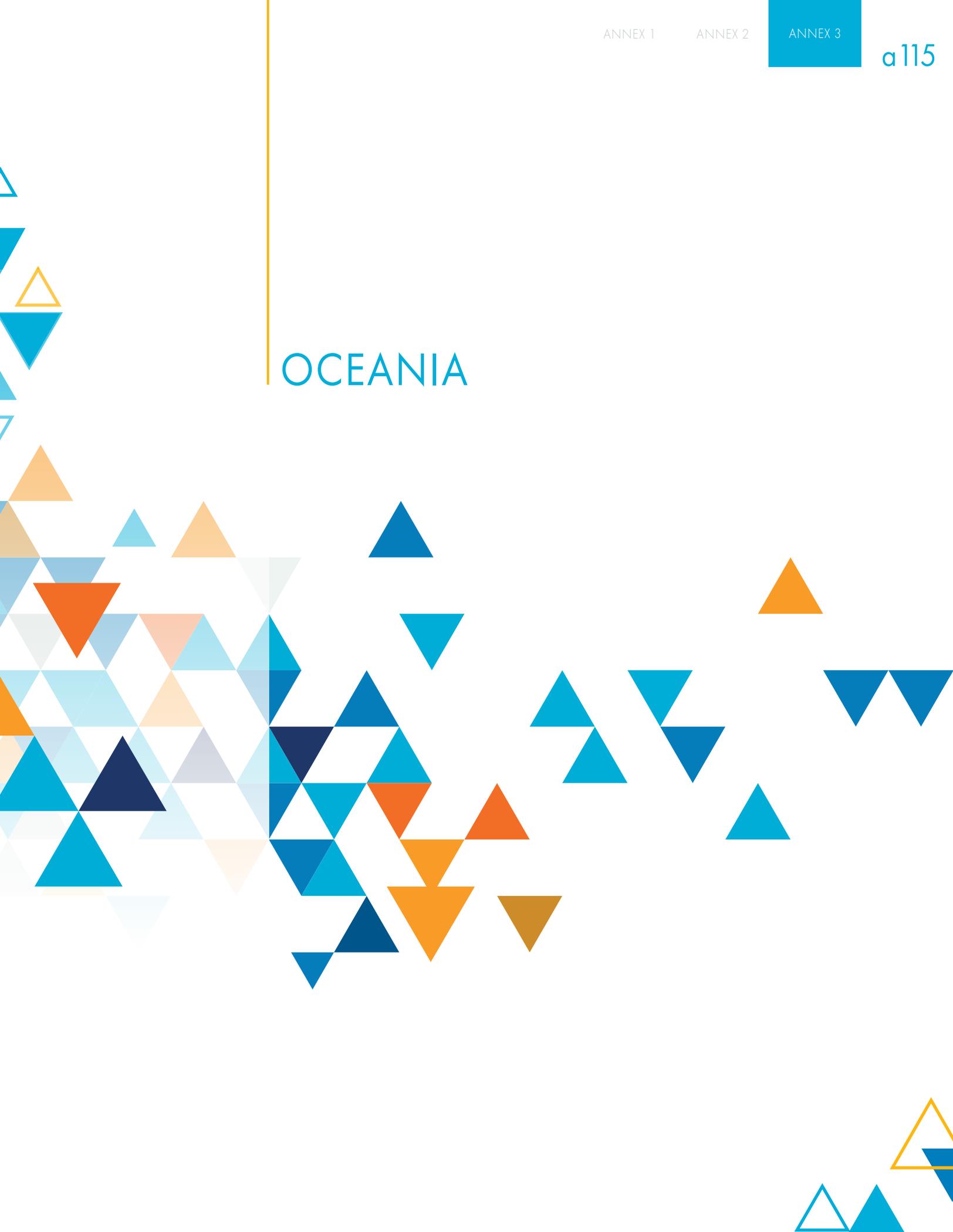
#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Open SDG is a free, reusable and customizable national reporting platform. It is a reporting tool developed to manage and publish data and statistics to track progress on SDGs. The open-sourced platform will be used as a library of SDG activities of countries and non-state actors. The Open SDG platform is the result of a collaboration between the United States government, the UK Office for National Statistics and the non-profit Center for Open Data Enterprise.

#### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The UK listed 180 indicators in its report. Of those indicators, 70% have disaggregated data available. The country is strongly focused on filling data gaps by providing data disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, ethnicity, income, geography and immigration status wherever possible. The planned activities to address data gaps are outlined in the Inclusive Data Action Plan (2018). The current gaps, particularly concerning the extent to which data can be disaggregated, can make it difficult to identify those most at risk of being left behind.

# OCEANIA





## FIJI

In 2019, Fiji 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

The Ministry of Economy is the central government agency responsible for national development planning and thus, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ministry convenes the SDG Taskforce charged with overseeing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. The report does not include information on formal non-state actor participation in the SDG Taskforce.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Fiji carried out an unprecedented, inclusive consultation process to identify national priorities. Fiji's VNR process was strengthened by a comprehensive national consultation that featured several national events and gatherings.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In order to integrate the SDGs, over 800 public forums all over Fiji were undertaken since 2015, including two rounds of public consultations. Consultations provided feedback from Fijians on where the government's development focus should be and validation of government plans to ensure they meet the needs and aspirations of the people. In addition, the government engages in rounds of in-person and online public consultations during the preparation of national budgets. The government believes that it is important to bring people together to provide their input for development, growth and prosperity.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country has done a gap and baseline assessment of the goals and data needs for monitoring the SDGs. The assessment considered the SDG targets linked to the "5 Ps" (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership) of the 2030 Agenda. The recommendations fed into the national development planning cycle.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report provides details on the integration of the SDGs into national development plans. Fiji uses a Five-Year and a 20-Year National Development Plan to prioritize development goals and integrate the SDGs. The report has a human rights focus and notes the universal nature of the agenda and the importance of leaving no one behind. The report does not refer to the environment-related principles of the 2030 Agenda.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Fiji's development plans recognize that gender equality (SDG 5 on gender equality), strong institutions (SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions), partnerships (SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals), as well as sustainable physical infrastructure and innovation (SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure) are major prerequisites for improving basic services (SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy) and protecting ecosystem integrity (SDG 14 on life below water and SDG 15 on life on land). Actions to deliver against these goals will improve long-term well-being,

economic resilience and sustainability (SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production), which will ultimately enable the reduction of societal inequality (SDG 10).

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goals and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. The report makes linkages to the relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The state of available data to leave no one behind is unclear from the report. The report lists a range of policies and programs that have been put in place to improve the situation of vulnerable people. They include social, economic and infrastructure development programs to ensure prosperity, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. For example, the government introduced a free education scheme, transport assistance and free textbooks as part of the reform initiatives to make education accessible and protect the most vulnerable.

#### Awareness-raising and localization

The country will continue its extensive efforts to involve stakeholders in SDG implementation and awareness-raising as was done during the development of the national strategy. This also included a comprehensive and inclusive national stakeholder consultation during the development of the VNR report. Localization is not discussed in the report.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report highlights the importance of partnerships. Fiji's parliament has been playing an active role in implementation. The report highlights the creation of a guidance note for integrating the SDGs into committee work and the role of the parliament in promoting initiatives to ensure progress on 2030 Agenda implementation such as capacity development for members of parliament and their staff, the creation of a gender analysis toolkit and public engagement.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report stresses that to achieve SDG ambitions through development plans, the country needs to mobilize both public and private sector finance. It is estimated that over FJD 20 billion is required from Fiji's public and private sector during the period between 2016 and 2021 to implement the Five-Year National Development Plan. The financial resources could originate from domestic and foreign sources. The country has also developed plans to integrate the SDGs into sectoral plans and connect SDG implementation with resources accordingly.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Baseline data collection efforts were conducted to gather data and begin assessment and trend analyses. The report highlighted qualitative and quantitative secondary data available within government agencies, civil society organizations and academia. The country's approach to national reporting was not included in the report.



## NAURU

In 2019, Nauru submitted key messages to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development for the first time.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A National Planning and Development Committee was established to improve the monitoring and evaluation policy. Chaired by the Minister of Finance and consisting of key heads of government departments, the committee is responsible for the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Planning and Aid Division within the National Bureau of Statistics provides technical support to the committee to assist with data and monitoring as well as coordination of financial allocations.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country conducted consultations to engage diverse groups of stakeholders including elders, youth and people with disabilities. These included sector-specific consultations, district open forums and the use of a questionnaire. The consultation focused on how to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) effectively.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The document indicates the National Sustainable Development Strategy was reviewed but is unclear as to whether a formal baseline or gap analysis occurred.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The main messages stress that the government demonstrated its commitment to achieving the SDGs

through the review of its National Sustainable Development Strategy and the integration of the SDGs into it.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country conducted a review of the current status of milestones in the National Sustainable Development Strategy, finding that only 26% had been met. The main messages refer to challenges related to specific SDGs that need to be addressed going forward.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The main messages do not capture progress against specific SDGs. The document does, however, refer to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway.

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

#### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The main messages do not provide information on leaving no one behind.

#### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Beyond the previously mentioned consultation processes, the main messages did not refer to awareness-raising and localization efforts.

#### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The main messages highlight the importance of the extensive consultations that were completed for the integration of SDGs into the national strategy but does not provide information on specific partnerships.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Nauru pointed to factors affecting national-level implementation in its main messages. These include lack of funding, limited staff capacity, weak coordination, land issues, unclear goals and specific SDG-relevant challenges in areas such as health, education sector and the impacts of climate change, for example.

To accelerate SDG implementation at the national level, Nauru plans to implement the national priorities identified in the Three-Year Medium-Term Strategic Framework for 2019–2023. Additional support includes improving national statistical systems, strengthening institutions, improving the monitoring and evaluation framework and building the national capacities of the Ministry of Finance to support agencies in these regards. Continued support from development partners is an important component in helping achieve the SDGs.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The document lists improving the national statistical systems and using monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track SDG implementation progress, though does not provide further detail. Monitoring will occur through the Three-Year Medium-Term Strategic Framework which is linked to a multi-year budget.



## NEW ZEALAND

In 2019, New Zealand 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

From the country's perspective, addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a whole-of-government effort, working alongside the private sector and civil society to integrate the SDGs into current policies and frameworks.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report outlines consultations on New Zealand's Living Standards Framework that links the SDGs to national priorities. It notes that consultations informed the set of indicators the country is using to track progress. The report also highlights the first SDG Summit in 2018, carried out in partnership by New Zealand's eight universities.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country assessed data for monitoring the SDGs linked to the high-level Living Standards Framework, which emphasizes a diversity of outcomes meaningful for people.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country has incorporated the SDGs into the Living Standards Framework. The framework helps with allocation of financial resources and to measure and compare outcomes through the comprehensive (and evolving) set of indicators. The report has a strong human right focus and notes that the human rights are critical for sustainable development, addressing the "leave no one behind" principle and intergenerational equity in the country.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The Living Standards Framework links the SDGs to national priorities. It has 12 domains reflecting current and future well-being. The elements of the framework include four capitals—natural, human, social, and financial/physical—defined as the assets that generate well-being now and into the future. The SDGs are adjusted and prioritized according to their relevance to the framework. A structured database of indicators to support policy development to increase intergenerational well-being was developed linked to the priorities in the framework.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The Living Standards Framework includes priorities that connect to all 17 SDGs.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs, giving equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs. The report makes linkages to assessing aspects of policy coherence for specific SDGs as part of activities using the Living Standards Framework. In addition, several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are integrated into the report.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides details on poverty-reduction efforts at the family level as well as plans to reduce the number of children living in poverty. While the report notes that the production of disaggregated data is a challenge for the country, it also presents a detailed narrative on those left behind, along with efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. The goals most prominently related to the social sectors include a subsection on leaving no one behind. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

SDG Summits bring together stakeholders to accelerate SDG implementation and facilitate cross-sectoral engagement. Summit participants in 2018 included stakeholder groups such as civil society groups, health boards, schools, ministries and business councils and networks.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The report highlights the localization of specific SDGs in cases where local, national and regional governments must work together. This includes SDGs such as those that focus on water and environmental management.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report recognizes a whole-of-society approach to implementation. Specific partnerships with the private sector are highlighted as well as efforts by universities to facilitate the annual SDG Summit. The report does not offer a significant number of examples of partnerships with non-state actors.

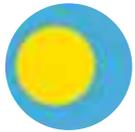
### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report highlights domestic action, international leadership and support for developing countries as part of New Zealand's approach to implementation. The report identifies strengths in several areas where the country aims to advance implementation in collaboration with local stakeholders as well as with the organizations in the Pacific region. New Zealand is particularly focused on supporting

small island developing states and least developed countries. In terms of specific activities, the country has prioritized its support to sustainable agriculture, clean energy and education.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Living Standards Framework will be used to monitor the implementation of the SDGs in the country. To the extent possible, the well-being indicators will be disaggregated to track the progress of different groups within the population. The indicators will be used to track progress on implementation as well as the allocation of the financial resources. An online portal has been developed as part of monitoring efforts and the report notes that further efforts are needed to develop national reporting processes.



## PALAU

In 2019, Palau 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

The country has developed a strong institutional framework and process to plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the country's strategies and policies. Eight intersectoral working groups, led by government ministries, were established to lead the process. The working groups include representatives from civil society and semi-private organizations. The outcome of this work was the national SDG framework strategy that informed the initial VNR.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

To date, two national SDG consultations have been conducted. The report also details engagement on the VNR by non-state actors, which included reviewing a draft version of the report. Specific groups of stakeholders include civil society, state governments, traditional leaders and the private sector.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report outlines a mapping process to identify relevance and overlaps between the SDGs and national priorities. This assessment also included the identification of gaps and needs for SDG implementation.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDG framework strategy includes ways to incorporate the SDGs into national strategies. The country led a mapping process to compare the SDG goals and targets

with national targets or indicators. This process helped identify areas in which the country is already aligned with the SDGs and gaps that require further attention.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs are articulated in the report. The country grouped the SDGs into four interlocking pillars: people, prosperity, planet and partnerships and governance. Under the people pillar, Palau envisages happy, healthy and purposeful lives supported by the prosperity pillar, which is characterized by equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth in harmony with nature, which in turn is the planet pillar. The fourth pillar, partnerships and governance, reflects the interdependence of all pillars and the ongoing need for effective governance and partnerships both domestically and internationally. After mapping global targets and indicators against domestic priorities, Palau identified 95 targets that comprise the national SDGs framework.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report provides a detailed examination of the goals, but it pays limited attention to the linkages between the goals. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. However, the report makes linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country focuses on four critical SDGs include SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 4 on quality education as the most relevant to improving the situation of vulnerable groups in the country. Vulnerable groups include children, poor people, women, people with disabilities and those living in remote and rural locations. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs and that ongoing efforts are needed. Non-state actors in civil society, academia and business sectors have played a prominent role in raising awareness on the SDGs according to the report.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The report highlights engagement with local levels of government on the SDGs and stresses that the national targets are being incorporated into local plans and programs to develop implementation plans.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report emphasizes that the government will continue the dialogue between government agencies, civil society, the business community, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure their full engagement in SDG implementation to maximize outcomes. The report highlights the role of the national coordinating body for civil society in engaging with the SDG coordinating unit and through the working group structure. Information on the specific contributions by other types of non-state actors was not included in the report.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies strengths and weaknesses in key sectors and institutions of the country in terms of SDG implementation. It stresses that the country's reliance on tourism creates challenges due to tourism's susceptibility to external economic volatility. Tourism activities raise demand

for fuel and food imports, thereby increasing Palau's vulnerability to global commodity price fluctuations and currency rates. Other risks to implementation and achieving the SDGs are related to climate change, as the risk of increased frequency and severity of inclement weather conditions resulting from climate change and sea level rise could further erode tourism and growth prospects. The Palau government, through the Ministry of State, engages in ongoing dialogue with the country's development partners to identify partnership opportunities for programs and specific projects to achieve the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

While significant progress is being made on developing gender-disaggregated data in the country, there is still missing data on access to credit and land for women and issues related to childcare. The report stresses that a family health survey is needed, but it must be conducted systematically, with regular data-collection activities. One current challenge is the lack of time-series datasets on many indicators, which hinders the country's ability to monitor its progress on the SDGs. The report does not include an overview of national reporting processes.



In 2019, Tonga 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

The report highlights the National Planning Division of the Prime Minister's Office as responsible for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report confirms stakeholder engagement in the development of the country's national development framework. This included consultation with specific stakeholder groups such as civil society, the private sector, schools and other groups such as advocacy organizations for vulnerable populations. The report notes that there is a need to improve collaboration across and within government and with civil society stakeholders.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

In November 2015, Tonga undertook a process to assess gaps and align the 17 SDGs to the seven national outcomes of the country's national development framework. Using the Rapid Integrated Assessment method, the assessment reviewed the country's readiness to implement the SDGs. The process allowed for stakeholder consultation and consideration of SDG priorities in a Tongan context.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country's national development plan, Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2015–2025, is results-focused and

underscores Tonga's approach to sustainable and inclusive growth. The framework is aligned to the 2030 Agenda, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway and several global conventions and agreements. These global initiatives have been integrated as appropriate into the country's sectoral policies, strategies and national budget measures at all levels of the national planning process.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The effort of the country to incorporate SDGs into its national planning systems included engagement with stakeholders to discuss and confirm relevant SDG targets and indicators that could be used to track the implementation of national and sectoral priorities. In this process, Tonga started by adapting 69 SDG indicators and integrated relevant aspects in applicable documents, adding more indicators following data validation.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. However, the report makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Tonga prioritizes social protection and human rights with a focus on vulnerable groups in its approach to SDG implementation. To fully inform policy changes and interventions, Tonga has used advanced statistical techniques to enable poverty reporting that is inclusive of smaller island communities and developed a robust multidimensional poverty measure that is reliable, valid and contextually appropriate. The report lists the key vulnerable groups in the country and provides an overview of current policies and efforts to reduce their vulnerability. The vulnerable groups include women, the elderly, children, people with disabilities, people in remote communities and people with diverse sexual orientations.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The awareness-raising efforts were focused on specific SDGs and related efforts needed to implement them. Community development plans have been developed through consultative processes that integrate the SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The country sees partnerships among different stakeholders as a critical part of achieving the SDGs. It considers the importance of engaging stakeholders by establishing local partnerships to assist with data collection, knowledge sharing and acquiring technologies and sources of funds.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report stresses the country's commitment to improving the links between national plans and budgets to ensure that development priorities are resourced for implementation as planned. In this context, a customized tool (called One Process) has been developed to assist with better allocation of resources for targeted outputs. It also lists the importance of evaluation and budgeting.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report discusses the current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data. The country developed a national strategy (the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2019–2023) to

address immediate data challenges and set the framework for the development of additional datasets for the SDG indicators. The strategy also seeks to advance data collection and presentation for users while guiding planning and implementation.

A tracking database system was created to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework. It is located within the National Planning Division of the Prime Minister's Office.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

An ongoing challenge for the country is the disaggregation of all datasets. The Statistics Department of the country has developed some innovative approaches to data disaggregation. For example, it used the "small area estimation" technique to disaggregate information not just on the main island and all rural islands together, but also by village, district and constituency. In addition, the multidimensional poverty report has been disaggregated according to these geographical locations.



## VANUATU

In 2019, Vanuatu 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

A core group was formed to guide the development of a National Sustainable Development Plan, with the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination of the Prime Minister's Office acting as the secretariat. The group consisted of high-level government officials, technical officers in their respective fields and members of civil society organizations.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Vanuatu organized a series of participatory discussions nationalize the 2030 Agenda. The drafting team was given explicit instructions to ensure their plan reflected the priorities of all the population, including children, youth, women, and marginalized and excluded people. In 2014, five-day public Forum was held at the Chief's Nakamal in Port Vila. On average, 75 to 100 people attended each day and the forum was aired live on radio and television. The information gathered was put into a feedback matrix which informed the national plan. In 2016, a consultation draft was prepared and circulated for additional comment. The report was translated into Bislama and further consultations were held. Over a six-month consultation process, hundreds of people gathered to provide feedback during one-day events in 15 locations. Where possible, the presentation of the draft plan was presented in the local language.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. The report is unclear in terms of what formal processes for stakeholder engagement entail. Nevertheless, it provides a detailed overview of the extensive consultation processes carried out in the country in identifying national priorities. Through VNR consultations, civil society organizations also identified ways to improve engagement going forward.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap analysis was conducted to identify gaps in planning and implementation for the SDGs, including data gaps. The analysis involved collaboration with stakeholder groups.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country's National Sustainable Development Plan, Vanuatu 2030: The Peoples Plan, covers 2016 to 2030. The plan builds on the progress made and lessons learned through previous development efforts between 2006 and 2015, along with the Millennium Development Goals. It integrates and guides the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The VNR report is unclear on the status of national priorities. It appears the country is still in the process of selecting national priorities for the SDGs.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs and provides an overview of current trends, policies and initiatives as well as needs, activities and gaps. The report gives equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, although with limited reference to linkages between the dimensions in the analysis of goals and targets. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report connects the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements, referring to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides a detailed overview of vulnerable groups in terms of current trends, policies, projects, needs and challenges to improve their situation. Vulnerable groups include women, the elderly, children, youth, people with disabilities, people in remote communities and those affected by poverty. The report also emphasizes that the country must contextualize poverty, especially for youth, for whom providing educational opportunities can improve future well-being.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, including through the VNR, but does not provide specific details. The report discusses the localization of the SDGs, mostly through consultations in provincial centres that are a priority for local government staff and provincial civil society representatives. The meetings will provide valuable information to help identify specific subnational priorities.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report lists the contributions of civil society organizations in assisting with challenges in implementation such as through addressing the lack of access to education leading to low literacy rates and lack of employment opportunities. Shared implementation between the government and civil society is discussed for the other SDGs as well.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation focused on limited financial resources and institutional challenges in terms of monitoring and evaluating resource allocation. To advance SDG implementation, the country will continue to improve the alignment of planning with resource allocation. This includes the continued development of a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework that links to the priorities outlined in the national development plan to the budget process. The country's Aid Management Policy provides the general direction of the government's development cooperation framework. These strategies provide opportunities to align activities and expenditures with the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report stresses the challenges of ensuring the availability of data as well as data used for effective monitoring and evaluation. It notes that the country is committed to publishing an annual development report as a broad high-level report to provide stakeholders with further details and information on activities. A monitoring and evaluation framework will inform these efforts.

