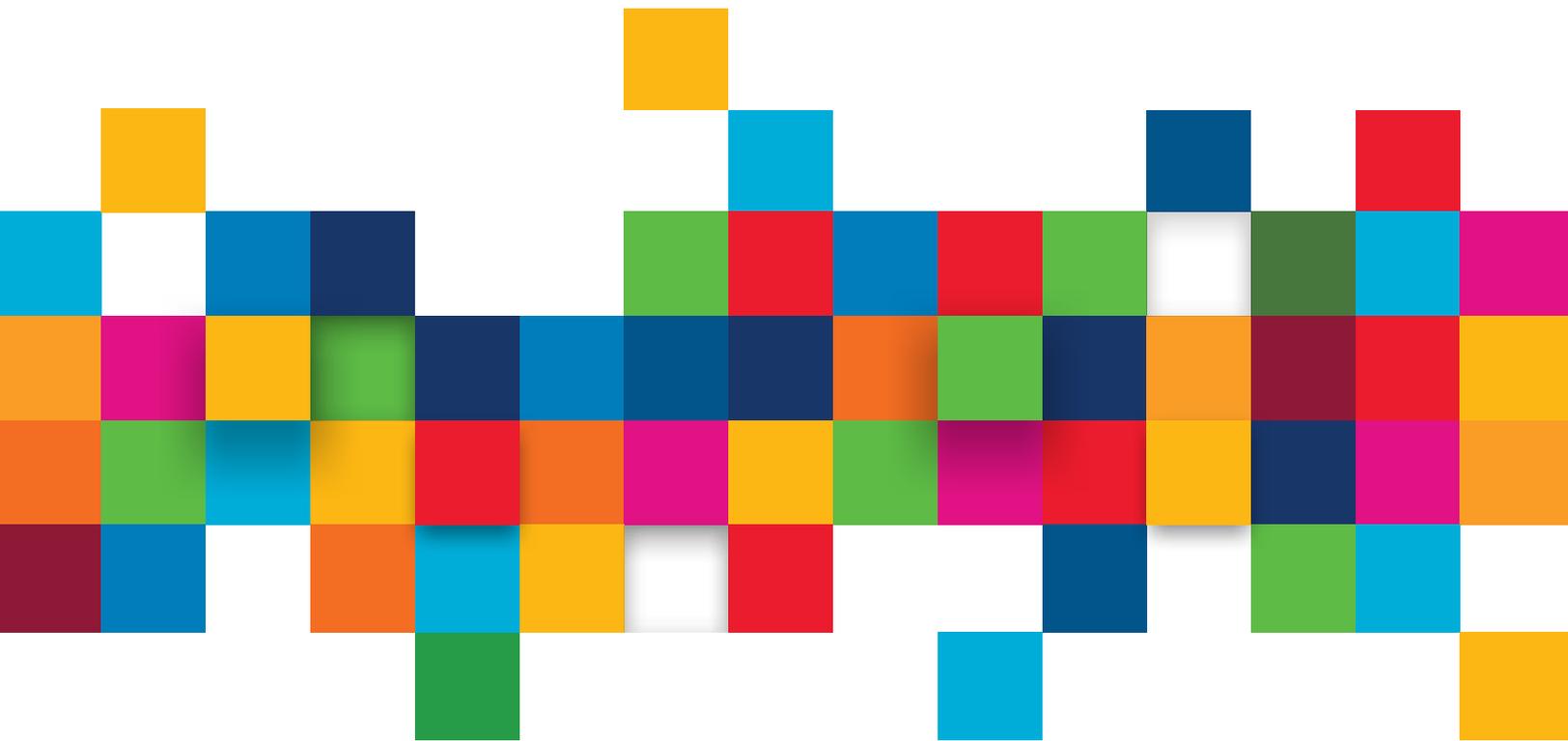


Annexes



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

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

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, the majority are high-income – 22 – according to World Bank country classifications. Six are low-income, nine lower-middle-income, and nine upper-middle-income.

Thirteen (13) countries from Europe, 12 from Asia, ten from Africa (all from sub-Saharan Africa with the exception of Egypt) and nine from Latin America and the Caribbean¹ reported according to United Nations classifications. Australia was the only country from the Oceania region reviewed.

¹ Three (3) of the 14 Latin America and Caribbean countries are from the Caribbean.

TABLE A1. COUNTRIES REVIEWED IN THE ANALYSIS OF 2017 VNR REPORTS

COUNTRY	REGION ²	SUB-REGION ³	INCOME LEVEL ⁴
Albania	Europe	Southern Europe	Upper-middle-income country
Andorra	Europe	Southern Europe	High-income country
Armenia	Asia	Western Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Australia	Oceania	Australia and New Zealand	High-income country
Bahamas	Americas	Caribbean	High-income country
Bahrain	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Benin	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
Bhutan	Asia	Southern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Cabo Verde	Africa	Western Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Canada	Americas	Northern America	High-income country
Colombia	Americas	South America	Upper-middle-income country
Dominican Republic	Americas	Caribbean	Upper-middle-income country
Ecuador	Americas	South America	Upper-middle-income country
Egypt	Africa	Northern Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Greece	Europe	Southern Europe	High-income country
Guinea	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
Hungary	Europe	Eastern Europe	High-income country
Ireland	Europe	Channel Islands	High-income country
Jamaica	Americas	Caribbean	Upper-middle-income country
Kiribati	Oceania	Micronesia	Lower-middle-income country
Lao People's Democratic Republic	Asia	South-eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
Latvia	Europe	Channel Islands	High-income country
Lebanon	Asia	Western Asia	Upper-middle-income country
Lithuania	Europe	Channel Islands	High-income country

Progressing national SDGs implementation: Annex 1. VNR reports reviewed



COUNTRY	REGION ²	SUB-REGION ³	INCOME LEVEL ⁴
Mali	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
Malta	Europe	Southern Europe	High-income country
Mexico	Americas	Central America	Upper-middle-income country
Namibia	Africa	Southern Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Niger	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
Paraguay	Americas	South America	Upper-middle-income country
Poland	Europe	Eastern Europe	High-income country
Qatar	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Romania	Europe	Eastern Europe	High-income country
Saudi Arabia	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Senegal	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
Singapore	Asia	South-eastern Asia	High-income country
Slovakia	Europe	Eastern Europe	High-income country
Spain	Europe	Southern Europe	High-income country
Sri Lanka	Asia	Southern Asia	Lower-middle-income country
State of Palestine	Asia	Western Asia	Not classified
Sudan	Africa	Northern Africa	Lower-middle-income country
Switzerland	Europe	Western Europe	High-income country
Togo	Africa	Western Africa	Low-income country
United Arab Emirates	Asia	Western Asia	High-income country
Uruguay	Americas	South America	High-income country
Viet Nam	Asia	South-eastern Asia	Lower-middle-income country

² According to UN classifications.

³ According to UN classifications.

⁴ According to World Bank classifications for the 2019 fiscal year.

Annex 2. Methodology

A2.1 Research team

The research was led by Shannon Kindornay, Independent Consultant and Adjunct Research Professor at Carleton University. Ms. Kindornay developed the framework for analysis for the 2017 review, building on the pillars of analysis in the 2016 review,⁵ and revised the framework for the 2018 review. Overall, the revisions are minor and included additional sub-categories for examination to capture issues that were not sufficiently addressed in the 2017 review including environmental dimensions, efforts to leave no one behind and budgeting for 2030 Agenda implementation. In addition, the revision included slight refinement of existing categories. This was done to improve the consistency and increase the depth of data collection with the research team required to provide additional information from VNR reports, particularly for set response sub-categories. The changes are detailed in table A2.1 below. Ms. Kindornay reviewed 30 of the English language reports and the main message for Kiribati and Sudan, managed contributions from other members of the research team and carried out the analysis that informs this review.

Javier Surasky, Governance for Development Research Area Coordinator from the Centro de Pensamiento Estratégico Internacional (CEPEI), reviewed eight VNR reports for Latin America and the Caribbean⁶ (Spanish and English reports) and available Spanish civil society reports; he also provided written inputs to the review, including good practice case studies for the region and country profiles, and commented on a draft version of the report. Nathalie Risse, Thematic expert on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), reviewed six French VNR reports for Andorra, Benin, Guinea, Mali, Niger, and Senegal and available French civil society reports; she also prepared country profiles and good practice case studies, and provided comments on a draft version of the report. Anas El Hasnaoui, Development Consultant, Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND), reviewed the one Arabic VNR report for Bahrain and prepared the country profile.

A2.2. Research approach

The research team examined all VNR reports to the HLPF in 2018, according to the framework outlined in Table A2.1. The framework includes ten pillars of analysis:



LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT



BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS



INCORPORATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA INTO NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS AND POLICIES



NATIONALISING THE 2030 AGENDA AWARENESS RAISING AND LOCALISATION



INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE



IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND



PARTNERSHIP TO REALISE THE 2030 AGENDA



MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

⁵ Cutter, 2016.

⁶ The Bahamas, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay.

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In addition to these pillars, the framework includes an assessment of the extent to which countries followed the Secretary General's voluntary common reporting guidelines. It has been updated to reflect the changes made to the Secretary General's voluntary common reporting guidelines in 2017 for the 2018 HLPF with major changes noted directly in the table.

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), text was drawn directly from the VNR reports to ensure the highest level of accuracy. In some cases, researchers paraphrased information when the text from VNR reports was more than 200 words. In addition, 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. To ensure consistency in the analysis, all data was reviewed by the lead researcher and clarifications were sought from the research team where necessary.

A2.3 Data sources

All [VNR reports](#) are available through the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. 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. This is a clear limitation of the findings.

Civil society reports are available for 17 of the countries reviewed in 2018. Reports for Bhutan, Canada, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Mexico, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine, Sudan, Switzerland, Togo, and Viet Nam can be found on the [Action for Sustainable Development website](#).

TABLE A2.1 FRAMEWORK FOR ASSESSING VNR REPORTING TO THE 2017 HLPF

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Country name	n/a	Provide country name	Short version, e.g. Ethiopia rather than Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.
Region	n/a	Based on United Nations Statistics Division classifications .	Region as stipulated in the classification.
Sub-Region	n/a	Based on United Nations Statistics Division classifications .	Intermediate region as stipulated in the classification.
Income level	n/a	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.
Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks and policies	Evidence of change to realise the SDGs	Refers to the extent to which the VNR report shows that steps are being taken to deliver the SDGs.	Provide summary assessment. Evidence of a change in approach could include: 1) changes to key policies and frameworks; and /or the 2) creation of particular initiatives to address a gap identified as a result of the SDGs. Where evidence of change is limited, ask whether the report appears to be business as usual with an SDG spin and provide your assessment.

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CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks and policies	Reference to principles of Agenda 2030 – human rights-based approach	Whether the VNR report refers to the use of a human rights-based approach in the implementation of the SDGs.	Yes; Indicate if report refers specifically to the human rights-based approach or has a strong human rights focus. Include description of how the human rights-based approach is defined if explained, otherwise indicate that it is referred to but not defined. No.
Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks and policies	Reference to principles of Agenda 2030 – universality	Whether the VNR report refers to the universality of Agenda 2030.	Yes. No.
Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks and policies	Reference to 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.
Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks and policies	Reference to principles of Agenda 2030 – planetary boundaries	Whether the VNR refers to planetary boundaries generally.	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 http://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries/planetary-boundaries/about-the-research/the-nine-planetary-boundaries.html . No.
Incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks and policies	Reference to 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.

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CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms	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 lead department.
			Existing council or committee with implementation through lead department.
			Creation of specialised office.
			Council or committee established with implementation through government institutions.
			Other.
			Unclear from the VNR report.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms	Leadership on SDG implementation	Refers to the key government actor responsible for leading on SDG implementation.	Head of government or state.
			Individual cabinet minister.
			Multiple cabinet ministers.
			Parliamentary committee.
			Specific SDG implementation body or committee outside parliament.
			Lead department.
			Other.
Not articulated in the VNR report.			
Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms	Non-state actor official engagement in SDG implementation 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.

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CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms	Regional coordination on the SDGs	Extent to which the country is engaged in coordinating efforts at the regional level. Must refer to specific SDG related activities – not just whether they are part of a particular regional body under climate change or trade e.g. – must be specifically about the SDGs.	Participates. Does not participate. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms	Activities at regional level	Description of how regional coordination on the SDGs is occurring.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. VNR makes no mention of regional activities.
Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms	Engagement in special country groupings on the SDG	Description of the grouping to which the country belongs (for example, land locked, small island, least developed, etc.) and the activities it is pursuing as noted in the VNR report. Must refer to specific SDG related activities – not just whether they are part of a particular regional body under climate change or trade e.g. – must be specifically about the SDGs.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. VNR report makes no mention of participation in country groupings.
Baseline or gap analysis	Gap analysis or baseline study carried out	Evidence that the country conducted a gap analysis or baseline study to assess existing policies in relation to the SDGs.	Assessment carried out for all SDGs. Assessment carried out for some SDGs. Assessment planned. No assessment carried out. Not articulated in the VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Baseline or gap analysis	Content of the gap analysis/baseline study	Description of the key elements examined through the gap analysis or baseline study conducted.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Note whether they looked at policies, data or polices and data.
			No assessment carried out.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Baseline or gap analysis	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).	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.
			No assessment carried out.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Integration and policy coherence	Overall SDG coverage by the VNR report	Refers to the composition of SDGs examined in the VNR report.	All SDGs examined.
			SDGs covered by the HLPF theme examined.
			Limited set of country selected SDGs examined.
			SDGs not examined.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Integration and policy coherence	Specific SDGs examined by the VNR	Refers to the specific SDGs examined in the VNR report.	All 17 SDGs.
			List the specific SDGs examined, by short title only and include their numbering, separated by semi-colons, no period at end of list. (1. No poverty; 2. Zero hunger; 3. Good health and well-being; 4. Quality education; 5. Gender equality; 6. Clean water and sanitation; 7. Affordable and clean energy; 8. Decent work and economic growth; 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure; 10. Reduced inequalities; 11. Sustainable cities and communities; 12. Responsible consumption and production; 13. Climate action; 14. Life below water; 15. Life on land; 16. Peace, justice and strong institutions; 17. Partnerships for the goals).
			No specific goal-by-goal analysis but rather analysis based on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.
Integration and policy coherence	Detailed analysis	Refers to the level of detail in which the VNR report examines the SDGs.	No specific goal-by-goal analysis but rather analysis based on country priorities.
			Detailed examination of all or most of the goals, targets and indicators mentioned in the report.
			Summary of examination of goals, targets and indicators provided with limited details.
Integration and policy coherence	Detailed analysis	Refers to the level of detail in which the VNR report examines the SDGs.	No detailed examination or summary of the goals, targets and indicators mentioned in the report.

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

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Integration and policy coherence	Assessment of domestic and foreign policies on SDG outcomes	Whether the report includes a systematic assessment of how domestic and foreign policies impact the realisation of the SDGs in country and globally.	<p>Assessment of domestic and foreign policies on realisation of SDGs globally.</p> <p>Assessment of domestic policies on realisation of SDGs globally.</p> <p>Assessment of foreign policies on realisation of SDG globally.</p> <p>No assessment of domestic or foreign policies on realisation of SDGs globally.</p>
Integration and policy coherence	Overall approach to policy coherence to sustainable development	Reviewer summary of how PCSD is understood if referenced. Clearly state if understood in terms of policy coherence within the country or in terms of the impacts of the impacts of domestic policies and foreign policies on SDG outcomes is addressed in the report. 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>
Integration and policy coherence	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>
Integration and policy coherence	Tackling climate change	How the reports 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>
Integration and policy coherence	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>

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Integration and policy coherence	Linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction	Whether the report links SDG implementation to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.	Yes.
			No.
Integration and policy coherence	Linkages to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda	Whether the report links SDG implementation to the Addis Ababa Action agenda.	Yes.
			No.
Integration and policy coherence	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.	Yes; Include which agreements are referenced in notes.
			No.
Leave no one behind	Data to leave no one behind	Availability of data and baselines to ensure no one is left behind.	Additional data required to leave no one behind.
			Efforts to leave no one behind informed by existing baselines/available data.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Leave no one behind	Targets of efforts to leave no one behind	Groups within society as mentioned by the VNR report that will be targeted in efforts to leave no one behind.	Provide list of groups mentioned by the VNR report (e.g. indigenous peoples, women; people with disabilities, etc.).
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Leave no one behind	Approaches to targeting those left behind	Type of programmes / approaches adopted to leave no one behind. List all that apply.	Existing specialised programmes for specific groups.
			New specialised programmes for specific groups.
			Universal programmes such as social assistance.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Leave no one behind	Efforts to leave no one behind	In addition to noting the efforts as listed (the specific programmes (existing, new or universal, following from above category)), provide an indication of whether the country has adopted an overarching approach to translate the commitment into guidance for policy, targets, goals, etc.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Leave no one behind	Reducing domestic inequalities	Efforts specifically geared towards reducing domestic inequalities as outlined in the VNR report.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Leave no one behind	Results of efforts to leave no one behind	The results of efforts to leave no one behind as outlined in the report.	Provide direct text from the VNR or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary Not articulated in the VNR report.
Raising awareness and creating ownership of SDGs	Awareness-raising efforts carried out by government	Whether the government took efforts, including working in partnership with others, to raise awareness about the SDGs at country level.	Yes; Include what efforts were taken in the notes section. No. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Raising awareness and creating ownership of SDGs	Nationalisation 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.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Raising awareness and creating ownership of SDGs	Preparation of national targets and indicators	Has the country defined its own national targets and indicators?	Yes; Indicate whether the report states that the national targets and indicators are aligned to the global targets and indicators and/or if the country has developed proxy indicators for the global indicators.
			No.
			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.
			Unclear from the VNR report.
Raising awareness and creating ownership of SDGs	National priorities under the SDGs	List the national priorities identified under the SDGs.	Provide direct text from the VNR report if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Raising awareness and creating ownership of SDGs	Localisation of the SDG agenda at country level	Extent to which the VNR report outlines how the SDGs are being implemented at the local level.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Stakeholder engagement	Process for stakeholder engagement	Whether a process for engagement has been set up and what it entails.	Provide direct text from the VNR or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Stakeholder engagement	Consultation with national stakeholders on SDG priorities	Articulation of how non-state actors were involved in the defining of national priorities under the SDGs.	Non-state actors engaged in identification of national priorities.
			Non-state actors were not engaged in the identification of national priorities.
			The VNR report does not set out national priorities.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Stakeholder engagement	Non-state actor engagement in the development of VNR reports	Whether non-state actors were engaged in the development of the VNR report.	Yes.
			No.
			Unclear from the VNR report.
Stakeholder engagement	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?	Yes; Indicate report author and provide link.
			No.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda – Experiences	Best practices as identified by the country	The Secretary General guidelines for the VNR report invite countries to outline 2-3 best practices.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.
			Not articulated in VNR report.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda - Experiences	Lessons learned in accelerating implementation	The Secretary General guidelines for the VNR report invite countries to outline 2-3 lessons learned in accelerating implementation of the SDGs.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda - Experiences	Challenges in implementing Agenda 2030	The Secretary General guidelines for the VNR report invite countries to outline 2-3 challenges they face in implementing the SDGs.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.
			Not articulated in the VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Implementing the 2030 Agenda - Capacity	Learning from peers	Areas in which the country would like to learn from others as identified in the VNR report.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda – Capacity	Means of implementation - technology	Whether the report refers to technology in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include description of the country's own efforts and gaps as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country).	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda - Capacity	Means of implementation - capacity development	Whether the report refers to capacity development in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include description of the country's own efforts and gaps as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country).	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Implementing the 2030 Agenda – Capacity	Means of implementation - systemic issues	Whether the report refers to systemic issues. Policy coherence and data issues are captured by different sub-categories. 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).	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda – Finance	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.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda -Finance	Reference to financing Agenda 2030 at country level	Whether the report references financing needs to realise the 2030 Agenda at country level and how efforts will be funded. Include in notes section description of efforts (domestic resource mobilisation, etc.)	Country level implementation has been costed and the country has identified sources of finance. Country level implementation has been costed but sources of finance are not identified. Costing for country level implementation not mentioned but sources of finance identified. Costing for country level implementation is planned and no sources of finance have been identified. Costing for country level implementation is planned and sources of finance have been identified. Not articulated in the VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Implementing the 2030 Agenda - Finance	Means of implementation - 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 description of the country's own 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 support they provide (or their views on these issues).	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Implementing the 2030 Agenda -Finance	Means of implementation - trade	Whether the report refers to trade in the discussion of the means of implementation and/or goal analysis. Include description of the country's own efforts as well as support by development partners (or support given if examining a high-income country).	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Local non-state actor participation in implementation	Whether non-state actors are engaged in implementation of the SDGs.	Yes; Indicate generic information on how broadly. No.
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – parliamentarians	Articulation of how and which parliamentarians are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. Report must articulate specific activities or actions.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – civil society	Articulation of how and which national civil society actors are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. Report must articulate specific activities or actions.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in VNR report.
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – private sector	Articulation of how and which national private sector actors are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. Report must articulate specific activities or actions.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in VNR report.
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – academia/experts	Articulation of how and which national academia or experts are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. Report must articulate specific activities or actions.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in VNR report.
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – other	Articulation of how and which 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. Report must articulate specific activities or actions	Provide direct text from the VNR report or if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in VNR report.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Priority areas for development partner support	Articulation of key areas in which the government requires additional support to realise 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.	<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> <p>If not applicable (high-income country), state Not applicable.</p>
Partnership to realise the SDGs	The role of development partners	Articulation of the 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 is about the policy goals/areas for support.	<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> <p>If not applicable (high income country), state Not applicable.</p>
Partnership to realise the SDGs	Support provided to government to carry out the VNR	Meant to provide some indication of country capacity to participate in the VNR process.	<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> <p>If not applicable (HIC), state Not applicable.</p>

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
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.
Measurement and reporting	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.
Measurement and reporting	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.
Measurement and reporting	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.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
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.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Highlights (previously Executive Summary)	One to two pages highlighting: review process, 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.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	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.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Methodology for review	This section may discuss the process for preparation of 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.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Creating ownership	Policy and Enabling Environment, Creating ownership of the SDGs. Refers to efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the SDGs.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Incorporation in national frameworks	Policy and Enabling Environment, Incorporation of the SDGs in 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. Can also refer to local governments.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Integration of three dimensions	Policy and Enabling Environment, Integration of the three dimensions. 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. Can include analysis related to the yearly HLPF theme.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	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 principle of leave no one behind is mainstreamed in implementation, including identification of vulnerable groups, data issues, and policies and programmes. Special attention on efforts for women and girls.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Institutional mechanisms	Policy and Enabling Environment, Institutional mechanisms: Refers to how the country has adapted its institutional framework in order to implement the 2030 Agenda. Can include information on institutions and non-state actors, coordination, review plans.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Structural issues	Policy and Enabling Environment, Structural issues: Refers to relevant structural issues or barriers, including possible external consequences of domestic policies. Can highlight transformative approaches to address barriers.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	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 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 first review.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Means of implementation	Description of how means of implementation are mobilised, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed based on review of challenges and trends. Can indicate how financial systems and resource allocation is being aligned with realising the 2030 agenda and cover their technology and capacity development needs including for data. Contributions of multi-stakeholder partnerships.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Next steps	Provides outline what steps the country is taking or planning to take to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Can also outline review plans for national and sub-national levels, including dissemination.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	Conclusion	A summary of the analysis, findings and policy implications. Can refer to new and emerging issues identified, and lessons learned from review process.	The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.
			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.
			The report does not address this component.

CATEGORY	SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Secretary General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines	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.	<p>The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>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.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>The report does not address this component.</p>

Annex 3. Country Profiles

A3. 1 Overview of country profiles

The review provides an aggregate analysis of the key findings for the 46 VNR reporting countries in 2018. With the exception of the best practice case studies, there are limited references to individual country progress against the pillars of analysis that make up the review.

This annex presents two-page profiles for all 46 countries according to the pillars of analysis of the review. The information presented summarises key information from the VNR reports into two-to-three pages. 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 best practice. Where available, country profiles include civil society validity check statements, which have been used selectively to indicate instances where information diverges between government and civil society reports.



Albania

In 2018, Albania 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 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been established to oversee SDG implementation, chaired by the deputy prime minister of Albania. The committee includes representation from government institutions, the private sector, civil society, academia and international organisations. It is supported by the Department of Development and Good Governance in the Prime Minister's Office and a SDG Inter-institutional Technical Working Group that includes representatives from relevant government institutions. A Government of Albania-United Nations SDG Task Force exists, as well as an Albanian Institute of Statistics-United Nations joint data group. The Inter-ministerial Committee provides overall guidance on SDG implementation.

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 that through the VNR consultation, civil society organisations identified ways to improve engagement going forward (though the report does not present details in this regard).

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, finding roughly 60% align. In 2017, a more detailed policy area assessment was carried out, finding that 140 SDG targets (83%) are directly tied to the National Strategy for Development and Integration.

Incorporating the SDGs

The government reported on the extent to which the SDGs align with the existing National Strategy for Development and Integration 2015–20 and noted that efforts will be taken to further integrate the SDGs into policies and plans going forward. The VNR 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. Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development principles related to planetary boundaries and intergenerational responsibility are not mentioned, though the report does give attention to water and land management, biodiversity and climate change.

Nationalising 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 and Integration which are most aligned with SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 on good jobs and economic growth and SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure). The government plans to establish a Strategic Vision for 2030 by 2020 through a "bottom-up" process that will include consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

Integration and policy coherence

The VNR report reviews policy priority areas for Albania and makes reference to relevant SDGs in that context. It does not provide a goal-by-goal analysis, though the annex includes a set of 30 indicators that cover most, though not all SDGs. The report provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas, but inconsistently presents the linkages between them, with a greater focus on economic dimensions of sustainable development. 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 Paris Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes a number of challenges for SDG implementation, including establishing a national vision, identifying gaps and ways to accelerate progress, further localising the SDGs, data availability and strengthening the institutional capacity of all stakeholders to effectively contribute to the SDGs. The report highlights Albania's success with urban transformation and justice reform, and notes its positive experience with the United Nations mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support (MAPS) programme. There is a detailed discussion of budgeting for the SDGs in the report that outlines the findings from an assessment of expenditures during 2015-17 in terms of allocations to the SDGs. The report notes that the country plans to prepare a SDG roadmap that will include reference to cost implications. It also states that "starting from the next strategic planning framework, Albania will work to fully incorporate the SDGs in the budget planning framework" (p. 74) which will support fund allocation.

Leave no one behind

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind and the issue of social inclusion. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) communities, Roma, Egyptians, the poor and persons with disabilities across a range of areas such as education, employment and health. Data is presented throughout with a frank assessment of current legislation, policies and programmes, 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 localisation

The report notes that awareness raising on the SDGs has occurred, including through the VNR, but does not provide specific details. The report does not provide information on the specific role of local governments in realising the SDGs, though it does note that future monitoring frameworks for efforts related to urban transformation will include SDG indicators.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

While the report recognises 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 notes that the parliament has endorsed the SDGs. The National Council of Civil Society has

discussed the SDGs and is set to present a statement on its support for the SDGs while some 25 Albanian universities have signed a declaration on their commitment to supporting SDG implementation. The report refers to the important role of United Nations agencies throughout, noting specific efforts and partnerships related to SDG implementation.

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.

The report notes that the government will institutionalise SDG reporting at national and local levels. However, it is unclear on how reporting will occur. The report also promises that reports will be regular and include consultation with parliament and civil society. The national statistical office is also planning to publish an annual report on the SDGs.



Andorra

In 2018, Andorra 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 Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development both seem to have an important role in leading 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. An inter-ministerial team, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was established to prepare the report, and all departments concerned contributed information for the report.

The report does not refer to any formal institutionalised structure for stakeholder engagement in implementation.

Stakeholder engagement

According to the report, the open Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) public consultation launched by the Government revealed that climate change, responsible consumption (reducing waste and packaging and promoting recycling), and renewable energies should be given more attention by the country. The report notes that measures proposed by participants to progress on sustainable development during the consultation have been analysed, and the most recurrent ones will be submitted to the Council of Ministers for consideration.

A draft of the report was shared with national stakeholders for comments, including the General Council, the Ombudsman, municipal officials, professional schools, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, NGOs and associations, and the National Youth Forum. No civil society report was prepared for the VNR.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report indicates that a gap analysis was carried out for some SDGs through an examination of policies and data. While most of the report focuses on what has been accomplished by the country to meet the SDGs, it outlines some gaps, including: the insufficient

representation of women at the highest decision-making levels, particularly in the private sector, and a lack of coordination between the private and public sectors on the SDGs. In addition, it calls for more attention on issues related to responsible consumption (reducing waste and packaging and promoting recycling) and renewable energies.

Incorporating the SDGs

In 2016, the Council of Ministers decided that all actions submitted to the council for approval should be associated with one or more SDGs so that the 2030 Agenda would become the basis for decisions by the Andorran executive. The report notes that this has resulted in an assessment of the conformity of national policies with the global SDG indicators. Also, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has revised its sectoral priorities for international cooperation in order to integrate the SDGs into its Master Plan for Development Cooperation.

Respect for human rights is stressed as an important priority for the country and is mentioned in several sections of the VNR report. Andorra has an Ombudsman with the mandate to control discrimination in both the public and private sectors, in particular relating to the rights of the child, persons with disabilities, racial discrimination and cross-cutting discrimination related to gender or sexual orientation.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

While the report has a strong environmental focus, it states that social policies and promotion of equality and non-discrimination, gender equality, children's rights, and education are transversal priorities of the government.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed analysis of eight SDGs, namely the six SDGs examined in-depth during the 2018 High-level Political Forum (SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 on life

on land, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals). It also assesses SDG 4 on quality education and SDG 13 on climate action, which are of particular importance for Andorra. It indicates that Andorra has chosen to focus its first national report on the SDGs which are mainly related to the environment, but that the government will subsequently present a second national report on the social SDGs.

The report discusses the SDGs at the domestic- and foreign-policy levels. It notes that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' priorities are in perfect coherence with the SDGs.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Considering the small size of the country, the report outlines a lack of capacity for monitoring all obligations arising from its international commitments. The report does not make reference to financing needs to realise the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at country level and to the different ways SDG implementation efforts will be funded.

The report specifies that children constitute one of the priority groups for development aid and that in 2017, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs allocated 24% of its development aid to international cooperation programmes aimed at improving the lives of children.

Leave no one behind

The report does not include a dedicated chapter on leaving no one behind, but puts emphasis on helping the most vulnerable, including children, women, and people with disabilities. It refers to a variety of existing and new programmes to leave no one behind, and states that a white paper on equality was developed in 2016–17 to assess the current situation in terms of inequalities and discrimination, following a decision by the Andorran parliament. According to the report, the white paper was prepared with the participation of civil society, in particular members of the most vulnerable communities.

Awareness raising and localisation

In April 2018, the Andorran government launched an open SDG public consultation on the Internet to raise SDG awareness, and used a survey to gather views of the population. In order to encourage participation in this consultation, the government conducted a major campaign through the media including newspapers and radio.

The report does not explicitly explain how the SDGs are implemented at the local level. However, it provides examples of actions taken at the community level to implement some of the SDGs, such as the Green School project.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In Andorra, education for sustainable development has been integrated into formal education and approximately 6,200 students participate each year in activities organised in schools by the Andorra Sostenible Center (Andorra Sustainability Centre) and the education teams of the Ministry of the Environment, Agriculture and Sustainable Development. Per the VNR report, the "Green School" project has become a key program in the field of formal education in the country: it has been implemented in 19 of the country's 29 schools (65%) and involves 7,237 students, which corresponds to 66% of the total number of students.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report points to initiatives of the private sector to make progress on the SDGs, and indicates that starting in 2019, the Ministry of the Environment will set up an advisory process for all the companies in the country, so as to better integrate sustainable development principles in their activities. It also notes that the 2016 Andorra University summer school was dedicated to the SDGs, and hosted experts and institutional representatives.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

MoraBanc, one of the five banks of the country, has divided the impact of its social responsibility into four sectors: customers, the "human team", the community and the environment. For each sector of activity, some SDGs were highlighted and concrete activities were associated with ten of the 17 SDGs. The Andorran Credit Bank has chosen to be associated with six SDGs, reflected in its corporate social responsibility policy. In order to participate "actively and locally in the SDGs", the bank made efforts to reduce the environmental impact of its physical activities. Compared to 2016, the company reduced its electricity consumption by 11.9%, fuel consumption (heating) by 15.9%, carbon dioxide emissions by 13.6%, water consumption by 46.6%, and paper use by 14%.

Measurement and reporting

The report cites the production of statistical data as a major challenge in view of the growing need for official statistics. It says the government approved the Statistical Plan 2018–21 in February 2018, “which is a fundamental tool for organising, regulating and systematizing Andorra’s statistical activity” (p. 91), and gender will be systematically introduced into national statistics related studies.



Armenia

In 2018, Armenia 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 2002, Armenia established a National Council of Sustainable Development. The council is under the leadership of the prime minister and includes representatives from government and civil society. The council coordinates activities to ensure Armenia meets its international commitments to sustainable development, and works to translate commitments into national strategies, laws and regulations. In addition to the council, the country has established a number of task teams related to sustainable development in the lead up to the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Most recently, an SDG Nationalization Inter-agency Task Force was established in 2017. The task force coordinates activities by government institutions and civil society and has four working groups, each responsible for different aspects of the nationalisation process. With support from the United Nations, an SDG Innovation Lab has also been established to accelerate SDG implementation by testing innovations, including in partnership with the private sector.

Stakeholder engagement

Beyond inclusion of civil society in governance structures for SDG implementation, the report does not cover processes for stakeholder engagement. However, the report notes that non-state actors were engaged in the VNR process, including discussions on a draft version of the report.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, Armenia examined its policies, laws and regulations in terms of their linkages to the SDGs as part of the VNR. It also examined data availability, including disaggregated data. The review found that many SDGs targets are reflected in existing policies, however, in vague terms. Corresponding indicators are often missing, available with insufficient detail or disaggregation, or not aligned with relevant SDG indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

While the SDGs have been incorporated into a number of social sector strategies, including through the use of SDG targets and indicators, Armenia is in the process of designing an overarching development strategy that will draw on the SDG framework. The report refers to the Agenda 2030 principles of a human rights-based approach and leaving no one behind, but does not reference the universal nature of the agenda, inter-generational responsibilities or planetary boundaries (though it does refer to issues related to water and land conservation, climate change and biological diversity).

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National SDG priorities have not been selected and will be defined through the development strategy, although existing priorities focus on poverty reduction, human development and mitigating regional disparities.

Integration and policy coherence

The report covers all SDGs except SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. The annex provides a detailed examination of the goals with equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The analysis also makes linkages between the three dimensions as relevant. The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development and only refers to the impact of domestic and foreign policies on the SDGs globally in the context of the country's support for Syrian refugees. The report refers to relevant climate- and environment-related conventions and frameworks but does not refer to those related to the means of implementation, namely the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and agreements related to aid and development effectiveness.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes a number of successful practices in SDG implementation, including the establishment of the SDG Innovation Lab, the creation of a comprehensive National SDG Statistical Platform and Armenia's experience with integrating the SDGs into

social policies and data collection processes. The key challenges facing the country for SDG implementation include financing for social programmes, improving governance, setting and prioritising realistic targets, allocating funds, changing behaviours, and promoting direct engagement on the SDGs by non-state actors.

The report does not refer to costing the SDGs for country-level implementation but does refer to domestic resource mobilisation, international public finance remittances, and domestic and foreign direct investment as sources of finance. The SDGs do not appear to have been linked to national budgets, however, the report notes that “it is critical to ensure that adequate funding is made available in the state budget, at national and sub-national levels, to finance activities towards achieving SDG-related targets” (p. 31). In the area of trade, the report points to unfriendly relationships with Turkey and Azerbaijan as undermining the country’s trading position and development opportunities.

Leave no one behind

The report does not include a chapter on leaving no one behind, however, the goal-by-goal analysis suggests that children with disabilities, women, refugees, stateless persons and other displaced populations are at the greatest risk of being left behind. The report notes that additional data is required to leave no one behind and that the creation of the new development strategy as well as specialised programmes are ways to improve social inclusion for vulnerable groups.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report highlights that the VNR process served as a means to localise the SDGs. Additional efforts to raise awareness are needed, including through the creation of educational materials. According to the report, Armenia would benefit from international support in this area.

The report is unclear on the role of local governments but does emphasize effective local community engagement for SDG implementation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

While the report notes that SDG implementation is only possible with active engagement by all public and private actors it does not provide details on specific actions being undertaken by parliament, civil society, businesses or academia. The report refers to the need to more proactively engage with diaspora to improve trade and investment linkages.

Measurement and reporting

The report does not outline the current status of data availability for SDG implementation, though it does note that some gaps exist and more efforts are needed to produce disaggregated data. To address data gaps, the report highlights the importance of enhancing institutional capacities and ensuring appropriate allocation of technical, financial and human resources. The report emphasizes a human rights-based approach to data with appropriate levels of disaggregation and a participatory and consultative approach.

The report does not outline national reporting provisions, however, it does note that the SDG Innovation Lab will establish a platform to visualise progress on the SDGs for all segments of society.



Australia

In 2018, Australia 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-departmental group of senior officials has been established to advise on how to best implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) domestically and internationally. The group is chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department 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 collaboration is occurring.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not outline how stakeholder engagement is occurring on SDG implementation. It does, however, detail 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 Australia has done an assessment of data for monitoring the SDGs. The assessment included efforts by the national statistical office and other government institutions. The report does not include information on data gaps, but does note that Australia, like other countries, faces the challenge of producing data for indicators for which there is still no agreed-upon methodology for data collection.

Incorporating the SDGs

The report does not include a discussion of how the SDGs have been formally incorporated into Australia's national plans or how they will be incorporated in the future. Rather, it points to the use of systems thinking to inform policy decisions as an approach that ensures integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The report has a strong human-rights focus and notes that Australia takes an explicit human rights-based approach to sustainable

development. The report notes the universal nature of the agenda and the importance of leaving no one behind. The report does not refer to environment-related principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Australia's VNR report has a strong focus on the 2030 Agenda principle of the human rights-based approach. It outlines what the human rights-based approach means to Australia: "ensuring human rights are respected and protected not only where it is obvious but when it is not – whether [...] working to alleviate poverty and inequality, tackling environmental problems or designing cities and infrastructure" (p. 10). Throughout the report, SDGs are linked to specific human rights commitments and frameworks.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities for the SDGs are not articulated in the report. Australia 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 report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goals areas and includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realisation of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed, however, the report makes linkages to a number of relevant international frameworks including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (repeatedly referred to throughout), the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report identifies strengths in a number of areas that Australia wishes to share its experiences with others: water management, trade, sustainability in mining, disaster risk preparedness, renewable energy and energy efficiency, and public financial management. Beyond generating disaggregated data, there is little information on the challenges the country faces in SDG implementation.

In terms of the means of implementation, the report focuses on Australia's global contributions in the areas of trade, technology and foreign assistance. It does not outline how the means of implementation relate to Australia's domestic implementation of the SDGs and no reference is made to linking the SDGs to national and sub-national budgeting processes.

Leave no one behind

The state of available data to leave no one behind is unclear from the report. While the report notes that the production of disaggregated data is a challenge for Australia, it also 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 sub-section on leaving no one behind. Vulnerable groups include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, those from culturally or linguistically-diverse backgrounds, women and girls, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons, youth, the elderly, people with disability and those living in remote and rural locations. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialised and universal programmes that support efforts to leave no one behind. Generally speaking, information on the results of efforts to leave no one behind is not available.

Awareness raising and localisation

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 localise 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.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report highlights the importance of a "whole-of-Australia" approach to SDG implementation. It sets out specific examples of the contributions being made by civil society, the volunteer sector, youth, Indigenous Peoples, the private sector and academia. The role of parliament is not discussed in the report. The report includes specific examples of contributions by non-state actors throughout, including in the goal-by-goal analysis. There is a strong emphasis on the role of non-state actors in helping to raise awareness of the SDGs and mobilising efforts towards implementation. The report noted that it is impossible to cover the full range of efforts being undertaken across Australian society that were highlighted during the VNR. As a result, the government plans to establish an online national platform to showcase efforts by non-state actors in partnership with civil society.

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, a SDG data platform has been established that provides data on SDG indicators and information on the status of data collection. Aside from the SDG data platform, the report provides no further information on Australia's plans to report on the 2030 Agenda domestically or at future High-level Political Forums.



Bahamas

In 2018, the Bahamas 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 Bahamas Government is in the process of establishing a Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Inter-Agency Technical Committee, with membership from government ministries and agencies, the private sector, civil society and academia. However, the report mentions that the country neither has a legislative framework for civil society development nor a formal policy on Civil Society engagement in 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation.

Stakeholder engagement

Although the report notes that the government has worked in collaboration with civil society, academia and the private sector and highlights academia involvement in a 2030 Agenda communication strategy, there is no further information on consultation during the VNR processes.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

No gap analysis or baseline study was carried out, but the report includes a mention to a planned capacity assessment of government ministries, departments, agencies and corporations to determine resource gaps for SDG implementation. A financial shortfall for funding SDGs implementation at the national level is also repeatedly highlighted.

Incorporating the SDGs

The government reported that it has incorporated the SDGs into national policies through its 25-year National Development Plan entitled Vision 2040, which was aligned to the 2030 Agenda, ensuring that the SDGs have been localised into its national development planning process and providing a roadmap for their implementation at national level. Nevertheless, the report lacks mentions to core principles of the 2030 Agenda, namely

human rights-based approach, universality and inter-generational responsibility. Environmental issues are presented without consideration of them as planetary boundaries. On the opposite, leave no one behind is pointed out as a critical principle to ensure achievement of the SDGs in the Bahamas.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The VNR report identifies six “priority areas” in SDGs implementation (1. Transparency, Accountability and Effectiveness in Government; 2. A Healthy, Productive Workforce for a Modern World; 3. Enduring Citizen Security; 4. Community Revitalisation; 5. Inclusive Economic Growth through Empowerment, Business Climate Improvement and Diversification; 6. A Sustainable and Resilient Environment) and 74 global SDG targets. A list of national priority targets is included as part of each SDG analysis.

Integration and policy coherence

The report covers all 17 SDGs, providing only a summary examination of goals, targets and indicators and showing limited information on progress. The main part of each SDG analysis is linked to introducing key governmental interventions aimed at its implementation. Challenges ahead are identified for each goal, but only in a general way.

Though the goals analysis presents limited references to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions, all three dimensions are addressed, but biased towards the economic one. Nevertheless, the Paris Agreement is explicitly linked to the SDGs. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda is not mentioned in the report. Policy coherence for sustainable development is addressed only under SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals, however, in a siloed approach.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The Bahamas National Development Plan identified and prioritised accelerators, understood as programs and actions that are a means of ‘jump starting’ the national implementation process, linked to

broad priority areas that are subsumed in the SDGs. At the same time, the Bahamas recognises that to achieve the SDGs, the country will need stronger institutions and access to increased resources.

The need for financial resources is considered critical to implement the SDGs, and the 2007-2008 financial crisis is mentioned as a systemic issue that adversely impacted vital sectors of the national economy. National public resources, foreign direct investment, and financial support from international financial institutions and development agencies are considered the primary sources for SDGs funding. However, the report notes national public financial constraints and highlights that the Bahamas has graduated from concessional financing and non-reimbursable financing due to its high per capita GDP.

Leave no one behind

The report includes a section dedicated to leaving no one behind. It mentions leaving no one behind in many instances but does not go into detail on existing inclusive approaches. With support from the United Nations Development Programme, the Government commissioned the production of a Thematic Report Ensuring Inclusive Development in the Bahamian Society which identifies and outlines the status and challenges experienced by those identified as marginalised. The report explicitly identifies persons living in poverty, persons living with disabilities, Family Island residents, the elderly, at-risk youth, youth who are falling behind academically, unemployed persons, migrants, children with obesity, single parents, women, and men with criminal records as vulnerable groups.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report mentions that through an integrated Communications Strategy prepared by the University of The Bahamas as part of the United Nations Development Programme technical cooperation grant, the government will continue to educate and inform the public about the 2030 Agenda. The need for enhancing the awareness of the SDGs is recognised as part of an inclusive approach, aimed to promote widespread acceptance and appropriate application of the 2030 Agenda implementation strategies, public policies and programmes in the long term.

The VNR report mentions that the government has ensured that the 2030 Agenda has been localised into its national development planning process but provides no further details.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report mentions a limited number of initiatives fostered by the private sector, civil society or academia, addressed in a general manner. The main references to partners are related to the United Nations System and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Measurement and reporting

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Nassau is an economically depressed area characterised by high unemployment levels, high crime rates, low income and infrastructure dilapidation.

The Bahamas government, in partnership with civil society, academia and the private sector, has developed a pilot project, Over the Hill, for a comprehensive poverty alleviation strategy focusing on social and economic empowerment, rejuvenation, smart and green technology, and programmes which focus on youth and the elderly.

Currently, SDG data is collected by the Department of Statistics as part of its mandate to produce social and economic data. The government has conducted a review to determine data availability of tier 1 indicators and current capacity gaps, focusing on the availability of disaggregated data. Special attention was given to identify existing or potential partnerships that could be developed to support national data availability.

As a result, the Bahamas identified that the country faces a data gap based on inadequate information for following-up SDGs indicators, insufficient data disaggregation, and lack of the necessary human resources and infrastructure. To further strengthen the production of high quality data and monitoring capacity, the government has embarked on an initiative to strengthen its national statistical capacity and develop a national statistical system. It is also considering to establish a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and review process for the implementation of the National Development Plan, that could work as a secondary monitoring checkpoint on the 2030 Agenda national implementation progress.



In 2018, Bahrain 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

Bahrain has established the National Information Committee led by the Ministry of State for Follow-up Affairs and with the membership of different, relevant government institutions. The committee, responsible for following-up the development agenda and linking it to the government work programme, is supported by the national information system and e-government.

Bahrain is engaging on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level. It hosted the second session of Arab Sustainable Development Forum and represented the Gulf Cooperation Council States in efforts to define the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

Stakeholder engagement

Non-state actors' official engagement in SDG implementation is not articulated in the report. The government organised a series of three workshops that brought together civil society, the private sector, academia, parliament and interested individuals to share results on implementation and in preparation of the report. The report does not mention the nature of the contributions made by consulted stakeholders.

Civil society validity check

Information received from members of the Arab Non-Government Organisation Network for Development in Bahrain highlighted that national consultations failed to provide an occasion to incorporate views of civil society organisations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Government institutions and others assessed the SDGs in relation to their mission and activities. The assessment looked at the relevance of the SDGs and their targets for Bahrain, including in terms of the extent to which progress is underway and where challenges exist. Baselines were established in relation to the targets of the government's 2015–18 programme (which, according to the report, aligns with the SDGs).

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Thanks to the role played by the National Commission of Information and the availability of data through the government's activity-monitoring system, Bahrain was able to set-up a database on the SDGs, gathering targets and indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

Bahrain does not have a specific action plan for the 2030 Agenda. The report tends to refer more to how existing policies are aligned with the SDGs, rather than how they have been incorporated into policies. Bahrain has developed a frame for monitoring and reporting based on its economic strategy, Vision 2030, which was designed in 2008. A government programme also exists for 2015–18 that aligns with the SDG targets. The report reflects the domains of priority by recognising the sustainable development pillars and principles.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Under the United Nations' The World We Want campaign, more than 6,000 Bahrainis identified their four main concerns for the 2030 Agenda, including high-quality education, decent work opportunities, better health care and protection against crime and violence. According to the report, ownership over the 2030 Agenda is high, and can be seen in the development of relevant laws, follow-up institutional mechanisms and the adaptation of the government programme 2015–18 to the SDGs.

Progressing national SDGs implementation: Annex 3. Country Profiles

The report sets out six priorities in terms of Bahrain's adaptation of the 2030 Agenda. These include cities, housing and urban development; environmental challenges; population and social services; education, scientific research and the values of productive work and citizenship; economic growth and diversification, sustainability and institutional change; and peace and security, including partnership and regional integration. Bahrain has selected national targets, adapting 78% of the global SDG targets according to the report.

Integration and policy coherence

The report does not provide a goal-by-goal analysis but rather focusses on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership based on country priorities. Nevertheless, all SDGs were discussed in the report, but not in equal depth. The environmental dimension of sustainable development was primarily analysed, with attention to links with social, economic and political dimensions.

The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development but includes several efforts to ensure coherence across different goal areas. The report explicitly links climate change and the Paris Agreement on climate change to the SDGs.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

For Bahrain, implementing the 2030 Agenda in a context of climate change requires a transfer to and national appropriation of adequate green technologies, mobilisation of necessary resources and raising societal awareness.

It also means sustainability of a thriving economy to ensure an attractive investment climate, and rewarding as well as equitable employment opportunities for citizens.

The report identifies the "fight against extremism, terrorism and conflict to ensure the unity and connection of the Bahraini people and the preservation of national unity" (pp. 5–6) as a main challenge for the political and governance environment.

Leave no one behind

According to the report, development in Bahrain has excluded no one and there are no marginalised people due to the level of social services provided by the government. Nevertheless, the report does note challenges for migrant workers. It highlights the availability of detailed data and indicators by sex, age, place of birth, standard of living, and nature and level of disability. This facilitates the identification of gaps and social groups with specific difficulties,

notably migrant workers in low-income occupations. Specialised programmes exist to support specific groups. For example, Bahrain reported on its efforts to cancel the Kafala (sponsorship) procedure for migrant workers.

Awareness raising and localisation

The National Commission of Information created a working group on communication. A 2030 Agenda communication digital platform is under construction and will include plans and actions by all levels of government, companies, and civil society. The platform will provide a way to mobilise media and all channels of communication in a consistent manner.

Examples of local implementation are rarely mentioned in the report and without specific articulation or detailed evidence.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report refers to the support provided by the United Nations agencies to carry out to VNR. Bahrain recognises the importance of international partnership to address gaps and assist in 2030 Agenda implementation. The report emphasises "solidarity of the international community with Bahrain by supporting stability and security" as a necessity to increase the level of human development and ensuring human welfare (p. 8). The report does not address parliamentarians, civil society or academics with regard to multi-stakeholder implementation efforts. It does note some efforts by the private sector to integrate sustainable development into strategic priorities and highlights a limited number of specific initiatives.

Measurement and reporting

The National Statistics Unit and e-government are the two mechanisms responsible for monitoring sustainable development indicators and coordinating data production, including disaggregated data.

The report does not provide information on the current status of data availability, efforts to improve data availability or national reporting on 2030 Agenda implementation.



In 2018, Benin submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). It previously reported to the HLPF in 2017.

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Leadership, governance and institutions

Since 2018, Benin has put in place a coordination and monitoring-evaluation mechanism to ensure that Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priority targets are taken into account in the country's planning system at both national and sectoral levels. In this context, it has established a Steering Committee (Comité d'Orientation), chaired by the Minister of State for Planning and Development and mandated to examine and report on SDG implementation at the national and sectoral levels. Benin has also established a Technical Steering Committee (Comité technique de pilotage) that operationalises guidance given by the Steering Committee.

Both the Steering Committee and the Technical Steering Committees are multi-stakeholders in nature, and the country has a framework for consultation of civil society organisations (Cadre de concertation des Organisations de la Société Civile), detailed below.

Stakeholder engagement

Benin established the framework for consultation of civil society organizations in September 2017 to serve as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue around the operationalisation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. The framework is composed of four thematic groups (social, economic, environmental and institutional working groups) and the secretariat of each group is provided by a representative of the federal government (General Directorate for the Coordination of the SDGs.)

According to the report, stakeholders were engaged in the identification of national priorities, and in the report's preparation.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the VNR report, an integrated rapid assessment found that a significant number of SDG targets were being addressed by national and sectoral development strategies, but an assessment of the alignment of Annual Work Plans of Ministries with the SDGs found that departments and ministries need to better align their actions with SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities and SDG 13 on climate action.

The report shows gaps at the national level across the SDGs, such as an increase in the poverty rate, which is mainly rural, from 36.19% to 40.08% from 2011–15, ongoing food insecurity, insufficient access to drinking water, and significant land degradation with 66% of the national territory degraded, but to varying degrees, affecting Benin's agro-ecological zones. The report also assesses progress and outlines gaps at the local level.

Incorporating the SDGs

The report notes that the SDGs have been integrated into the 2018-25 National Development Plan and the Growth Programme for Sustainable Development that operationalises the national plan. The Government's Action Programme 2016-2021 and Ministries' Annual Work Plans are also aligned with the SDGs. In addition, the government adopted a roadmap linked to the National Development Plan, which will operationalise the SDGs.

The report includes a dedicated chapter on leaving no one behind and the concept is also referred to throughout the report.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Per the VNR report, Benin has prioritised a set of 49 targets that cover the 17 SDGs, in addition to targets related to means of implementation for SDGs 1 to 16 and targets related to SDG 17. Benin has selected 168 indicators related to the priority targets.

Integration and policy coherence

The VNR report provides a summary assessment of progress and outlines commitments for the SDGs examined in-depth during the 2018 HLPF. It also assesses SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 13 on climate action, and links SDG implementation to the Paris Agreement on climate change, and to the Addis Ababa Action agenda. The report does not mention policy coherence for sustainable development, but refers to initiatives carried out to improve institutional coherence towards the SDGs, namely the use of an application (MeSODD) to assess the level of alignment between each ministry's activities and the SDGs.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In Benin, the MeSODD application was used to measure the relative "sensitivity of ministries' annual interventions" regarding the SDGs. The app focuses attention on actions that could lead to inter-sectoral synergies for achieving the SDGs, and outlines comprehensive, collaborative and specific measures that should be followed by ministries to make progress on the SDGs. The application revealed that all the 17 SDGs were addressed by at least four sectoral ministries, and nine SDGs were addressed by activities planned in the Annual Work Plans of at least ten sectoral ministries. The exercise thus revealed a significant need for coordination between ministries.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Benin refers to capacity development in several sections of the report, and notes that it is considering strengthening the statistical information system and capacities of human resources in charge of the implementation and coordination of development agendas. On budgeting for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Benin is planning to develop an online application (app) that will serve as an analytical framework for accurately assessing the proportion of budgetary resources devoted to achieving the SDGs within the government. On financing, the report indicates that the country launched a process for costing priority SDG targets, and plans to develop a resource mobilisation strategy that will focus on domestic resource mobilisation, innovative financing, and development cooperation as a "catalytic contribution."

Leave no one behind

Per the report, leaving no one behind in Benin includes all populations and all social levels, especially the most disadvantaged, the vulnerable and those most exposed to climate, economic or financial hazards. The country has adopted new special programmes, such as the insurance for strengthening human capital (Assurance pour le Renforcement du Capital Humain - ARCH), which seeks to ensure financial support to the poorest sections of the agricultural, trade, transport, craft, art and culture sectors, and to unemployed poor people. In 2017, Benin also adopted the Law on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and is implementing a pilot "social safety nets" programme targeting public interventions for the most disadvantaged, vulnerable or chronically vulnerable segments of the society.

The report does not include many references to gender equality, except in the context of facilitating access to land for the poorest, especially women.

Awareness raising and localisation

According to the report, the government organised, in 2018, approximately ten national workshops, involving nearly 300 different actors over a period of five months to mobilise people around sustainable development commitments in Benin.

On localising the SDGs, a benchmarking process in 15 municipalities and a process of capitalising on experiences in 22 municipalities was carried out to assess the implementation of the SDGs at the local level. The government organised technical workshops to support and train municipalities, in ten departments of the country, on integrating the SDGs into local development planning documents. The country also established the Joint Community-Government Coordination Framework on the SDGs (Cadre de coordination Commune-Gouvernement sur les ODD) where mayors and officials involved in the national coordination of the SDGs examine SDG implementation in municipalities.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report notes that the country has carried out a mapping of technical and financial partners' interventions for SDG implementation, finding that all SDGs benefited from technical and financial partners' interventions, but the level of intervention varies according to the SDG. The report does not provide information on other non-state actor partnerships and contributions.

Measurement and reporting

The report mentions that only 49% of Benin's 168 priority indicators were available in 2017. The country is considering strengthening the statistical information system (planning, monitoring and evaluation) as part of its upcoming activities for SDG implementation, but the report does not provide additional details on this initiative.

Benin has established a system of SDG reporting at the national level. The Technical Steering Committee reports periodically to the Steering Committee on progress related to SDG implementation. The Chair of the Steering Committee (Minister of State for Planning and Development) then reports to the Head of State in the Council of Ministers and receives instructions from the latter on how to improve the monitoring and evaluation of SDG implementation. A progress report on SDG implementation and monitoring is also drafted yearly by the Secretariat of the Technical Steering Committee.



Bhutan

In 2018, Bhutan 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

Bhutan's Gross National Happiness Commission serves as the High Level Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Committee. It is chaired by the prime minister and includes representation at the secretary level. The Commission is supported by a secretariat that is the main agency for planning and coordination of the country's socio-economic programmes. A SDG working committee was established to oversee the integration of the SDGs, implementation and report on progress. The VNR report does not mention formal inclusion of non-state actors in the SDG implementation institutional structures.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not outline the process for engagement by non-state actors in SDG implementation. A civil society report confirms that consultations on national priorities for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation and the VNR report occurred, however it makes no reference to a process for ongoing engagement.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, Bhutan examined policies and data availability to support the SDGs. The assessment examined alignment between SDG targets and Bhutan's policy frameworks, including with respect to the country's National Key Results Areas. The assessment showed a high degree of integration. With respect to data, the country examined alignment of the SDG indicators and data availability, finding that data is mostly available for social sectors but not for indicators related to energy, infrastructure and governance. The VNR report includes an assessment of the status of SDG implementation for each goal in terms of whether the country has achieved the goal, is on track to achieve the goal, or reaching the goal is at risk.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Bhutan conducted a Vulnerability Baseline Assessment in 2016 to understand who is being left behind and at risk of being left behind. The country identified 14 groups as at risk of being left behind and plans to use the assessment to inform its efforts going forward.

Incorporating the SDGs

According to the report, three SDGs were prioritised in the country's 11th Five Year Plan – SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 15 on life on land. At the time of the VNR, the country was in the process of preparing its 12th Five Year Plan (2018–23), which is set to further integrate the SDGs. In addition, the country's National Key Results Areas and Key Performance Indicators are strongly aligned with the SDGs, and will be further integrated at agency and local government levels. The report makes reference to the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts to leave no one behind. The human rights-based approach is referenced in relation to the role of civil society organisations in promoting the 2030 Agenda but not in relation to the overall agenda. The report does not refer to environment-related principles of the 2030 Agenda, though it has a strong focus on the environment given the country's stated SDG priorities.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

A nation-wide survey was also conducted to understand citizens' expectations and priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation by the government. The report notes the following SDG priorities: SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 13 on climate action and SDG 15 on life on land.

Integration and policy coherence

The report examines all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is particularly strong in terms of making references to applicable linkages between the dimensions of sustainable development in the goal-by-goal analysis, particularly as the government sees climate change as the single greatest threat to its development progress. The report does not mention policy coherence for sustainable development but does refer to the impact of Bhutan's domestic policies on the realisation of the goals globally in terms of its contributions to climate change and environmental sustainability.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

According to the report, Bhutan faces a number of challenges for 2030 Agenda implementation. These include harmonising policies, improving data and statistics management, raising awareness of the SDGs, preparing financing strategies, and improving stakeholder coordination. In terms of the goal-related challenges, the report notes the need for Bhutan to achieve economic diversification, realise last mile poverty reduction, improve the quality of education, address the rise in non-communicable diseases and continue to see development progress in light of the threats presented by climate change. In terms of the means of implementation, the report highlights the challenge of declining official development assistance in light of Bhutan's expected graduation from least developed country status in 2023. The report does not note specific budgeting for the SDGs, but rather that since the SDGs are highly connected to existing policies and plans, the resources allocated to existing plans are seen as SDG financing. Nevertheless, the country plans to prepare a costing for SDG implementation.

Leave no one behind

Bhutan requires additional data to meet the commitment to leave no one behind. Based on an assessment of vulnerabilities, the report identifies 14 vulnerable groups in Bhutan including the elderly in need of support, orphans, people with disabilities, children in particular social situations, such as out of school children, and others. The report outlines a range of existing specialised programmes to leave no one behind and universal programmes, policies and regulations. The country is taking steps to "reach the last mile" in terms of poverty reduction and wants to bring multi-dimensional poverty reduction and income poverty to under 5% through targeted interventions.

Awareness raising and localisation

According to the report, the government carried out awareness-raising activities for civil society, the private sector, government institutions and parliamentarians. It also developed a communications strategy about the SDGs. The report notes that more efforts will be needed to raise awareness and capacities for further localisation of the agenda.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report places an emphasis on the role of all stakeholders in 2030 Agenda implementation. The country's 12th Five Year Plan has a focus on the "Triple C", which refers to coordination, consolidation and cooperation – or in other words, the role of communities, civil society and the private sector in contributing to sustainable development progress. The report does not highlight specific partnerships for these stakeholder groups. It does, however, note the important role of parliamentary oversight in SDG implementation.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In 2017, the Bhutan National Assembly adopted a resolution to embed SDG oversight into parliamentary work, approving the creation of a standing committee to engage on the SDGs, allotting one day for SDG discussions per parliamentary session, affirming the role of parliament in ensuring the SDGs are effectively integrated into Bhutan's next five year plan and requiring parliamentarians that travel for SDG-related trips to report on their visits in plenary. The resolution also included a commitment to mobilise resources to facilitate the National Assembly's oversight role.

Measurement and reporting

Bhutan carried out a data assessment in partnership with the United Nations. It found that data is available for 84 indicators and partially available for another 66, meaning the Bhutan has data for roughly 61% of the global SDG indicators. The report notes that efforts are needed to collect more disaggregated data. Improving the national statistics system will require strengthening related policies and legislation, improving coordination and strengthening human capacities. In addition to the role of national parliament, the report notes that monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs shall be harmonised with country's existing systems. As noted above, the country is in the process of further integrating SDG indicators and targets into results areas and key performance indicators.



Cabo Verde

In 2018, Cabo Verde 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 is in the process of establishing a high-level implementation body that will include key government institutions, parliamentary representatives, municipalities, civil society, the private sector and academia. The body will be responsible for ensuring progress on the implementation of the national sustainable development strategy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A Technical Implementation Organization under the National Planning Directorate at the Ministry of Finance will support the implementation body. Currently, the National Planning Directorate at the Ministry of Finance is the focal point for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation.

Cabo Verde is active in engaging on the SDGs at the regional level and as a small island developing state. The report details efforts by the country to convene peer countries to discuss issues related to SDG implementation and to advocate internationally for the needs of small-island-developing states.

Stakeholder engagement

Stakeholder consultations on national priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation and the VNR report are detailed in the report. However, the report does not provide information on regular systems for stakeholder consultation beyond engagement in governance mechanisms for 2030 Agenda implementation.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report notes that an assessment of data availability was carried out for all SDGs. The assessment revealed that Cabo Verde has data for 66% of the global indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

The government has incorporated the SDGs into its Sustainable Development Strategic Plan (2017–21). It is in the process of further integrating SDG targets and indicators into sector strategies and local plans. A road map for SDG implementation was prepared in 2016 however the VNR report notes that the road map requires updates in light of more recent policies. The report refers to the 2030 Agenda principles of leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The national sustainable development strategy sets out four priorities: 1. To create a circular economy; 2. Ensuring economic and environmental sustainability; 3. Ensuring social inclusion and addressing inequalities; and 4. Strengthening sovereignty, creating value in democracy and orienting diplomacy towards development challenges. As a next step, the report also notes the need to establish a SDG prioritisation report.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides an overview of all 17 SDGs, providing equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, with references to linkages between goals. The report does not mention policy coherence for sustainable development, however, it makes linkages to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

A number of challenges are outlined in the report for 2030 Agenda implementation. These include creating a favourable implementation environment and building an economy characterised by high and inclusive growth. Development finance is noted as one of the greatest challenges as the country graduated to middle income status in 2007 but is characterised by high levels of indebtedness. The report calls on the international community to continue to support small island states. Cabo Verde also requires support to

better identify and make use of innovative sources of finance for its sustainable development plans.

The report provides information on a range of sources to finance the SDGs, including domestic resources, official development assistance, South-South and triangular cooperation, foreign direct investment and remittances. It does not, however, provide a costing for SDG implementation or indicate if allocations for the 2030 Agenda have been incorporated into the budget.

Leave no one behind

The report has a strong focus on leaving no one behind and ensuring that SDG implementation works to meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Additional data will be required for Cabo Verde to leave no one behind. Nevertheless, the report identifies a range of groups at risk of being left behind: women, people living in absolute or extreme poverty, people with disabilities, LGBT communities, unemployed, elderly people, people with dependents without income and immigrants. The report details a range of existing specialised and universal programmes to support the most vulnerable and address regional disparities and inequality. One example highlighted in the report is the creation of a single social registry. The registry maps vulnerable families and works to monitor their situation. It is the single reference used for social transfers. A national care system has also been developed to transfer incomes to elderly people and vulnerable people. Over the past 15 years, the country has seen a reduction in consumption expenditure inequality.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report details a range of efforts to raise awareness and consult on the SDGs including through in-person and online activities. The government plans to organise a “road show” to further increase awareness of the SDGs across the country’s islands.

The report has a strong emphasis on localising the SDGs, particularly in terms of leaving no one behind. A platform program has been developed to create local platforms to ensure implementation of national policies at the local level. There is a need to build capacities (including financial) for SDG implementation at the local level.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

While the report emphasizes the role of all stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda, it provides very few examples of partnerships with non-state actors. Efforts by civil society and academia are noted with respect to conservation efforts. The role of civil society organisations in delivering social services is also noted.

Measurement and reporting

According to an assessment by the national statistics office, 66% of the global SDG indicators are available. There is a need to improve the availability of disaggregated data, though the report does not provide details in terms of where gaps exist. The report calls on the international community to support the country’s efforts to improve statistical capacity, particularly through the implementation of 2017–21 National Strategy for the Development of Statistics.

The report does not provide details regarding national reporting on the 2030 Agenda or in relation to future High-level Political Forums. It does note, however, that the high-level body on 2030 Agenda implementation will have responsibility for preparing periodic implementation reports.



In 2018, Canada 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 Minister of Children, Families and Social Development is responsible for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. A Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Unit has been established to coordinate, monitor and report on activities. The SDG Unit is also responsible for engagement with other levels of government, indigenous peoples and other non-state actors. The minister is supported by six other ministers whose portfolios cover the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

Civil society validity check

According to a civil society report, Canada is not on track to meet the SDGs because the government has failed to establish governance, monitoring and reporting structures.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on a process for non-state actor engagement on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It makes no reference to consultations in the identification of the SDG priorities listed in the report or in the preparation of the report.

Civil society validity check

The British Columbia Council for International Cooperation submitted a petition to Canada's Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development asking for clarity on Canada's efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The petition found that there is no opportunity for consultation and input into the process through existing government processes. In addition, "the federal government declined the opportunity to co-create a VNR that incorporated civil society input in a meaningful way" (p. 10).

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report makes no reference to preparation of a gap or baseline analysis. Indeed, it notes that government institutions have been tasked with identifying gaps in relation to existing policies and programmes. Nevertheless, the report does offer a full statistical annex which shows data for all SDG indicators (or proxy indicators) where available and provides baselines.

Incorporating the SDGs

The Canadian government has yet to formally integrate the 2030 Agenda into its policies and plans. The report notes that Canada's policies are well aligned to the SDGs and that federal government institutions have been tasked with examining further how their policies and programmes contribute to the 2030 Agenda. As a next step, the government plans to prepare a national implementation strategy in collaboration with all levels of government, indigenous peoples, civil society and the private sector. The report does not refer to the human rights-based nature of the 2030 Agenda but does note that Canada's approach to foreign assistance is human rights based. The report also has a prominent focus on leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Notwithstanding the government's plan to establish a strategy for SDG implementation, the report notes that Canada's priorities include eliminating poverty, advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, growing the economy and narrowing the socio-economic gaps, advancing self-determination and improving relationships with indigenous peoples, fostering inclusion, and advancing action on climate change and clean growth. The government plans to define national indicators for SDG implementation going forward.

Integration and policy coherence

The report examines all 17 SDGs and has an exceptionally strong focus on the inter-linkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development. The report provides an assessment of Canada's domestic and international efforts to realise the SDGs in

the goal-by-goal analysis. The report also covers the contributions of domestic policies in energy and regarding life on land to the goals internationally. The report refers to most relevant international agreements: the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report refers to Canada's contributions globally with respect to 2030 Agenda implementation, noting its contributions through a progressive trade agenda, foreign assistance, capacity development and technology. There is no information regarding how the 2030 Agenda has been incorporated into budgets, costing and sources of finance for domestic implementation.

Leave no one behind

The report has a strong focus on leaving no one behind. There is a dedicated chapter and the goal-by-goal analysis either includes a dedicated section on leaving no one behind or incorporates the key issues facing those left behind in the broader analysis. While Canada has excellent data to leave no one behind, the report includes a commitment by the government to go further in terms of producing disaggregated data through the creation of the Centre for Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Statistics which will address disaggregated data gaps on gender, race and other intersecting identities. The report notes that the following groups are being left behind: indigenous peoples, women, LGBTQ2 communities, newcomers, people with disabilities, single people age 45–64 and lone parents who are more likely to live in poverty, and persons with disabilities. The report outlines a wide range of universal programmes such as progressive taxation and employment insurance as well as new and existing specialised programmes that target those left behind. Canada has a strong focus on gender equality in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report details efforts related to its Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) approach which includes an assessment of policies and plans in terms of their impact on gender equality as well as vulnerable groups, and provides a basis for gender-based budgeting. In addition, the report presents figures on progress made where available, including in terms of reducing inequality.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Canada's VNR report has a significant focus on leaving no one behind. It provides a frank assessment of the situation for those being left behind, how the government is responding and where it can do better. The inclusion of a chapter on leaving no one behind as well as an emphasis in the goal-by-goal analysis is an example of good practice in VNR reporting.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report does not provide information on the government's efforts to raise awareness of the SDGs, though it does note that the SDG Unit will have responsibility for this going forward.

The report provides limited information on how the 2030 Agenda is being localised though it does showcase the efforts of some provincial and territorial governments as well as municipalities that contribute to the 2030 Agenda.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report highlights the importance of all stakeholders in 2030 Agenda implementation, and provides examples of contributions from provincial and territorial governments, municipalities, civil society, academia and the private sector. The role of parliament is not mentioned.

Measurement and reporting

Canada's VNR report provides a full statistical annex that shows that the country is well positioned to report on the global SDG indicators, including through the use of proxy indicators in some instances. As noted above, the report highlights efforts to improve the availability of disaggregated data. In terms of reporting, the report notes the SDG Unit is responsible but does not lay out specifics in terms of substance of reporting and frequency. It also notes that a Sustainable Development Goals Data Hub was launched in 2018 which serves as the online resource for information on Canada's progress.



In 2018, Colombia 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 2016.

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Leadership, governance and institutions

Colombia was the first country in the world to establish a national governance structure aimed to implement and follow-up the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the national level: a High-Level Inter-institutional Commission for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs Commission) was created in early 2015 as a governmental body for policy coordination. As of the 2018 report, non-government actors such as academia and civil society are not included in that body.

Stakeholder engagement

The 2016 Colombia VNR addressed stakeholder engagement as a relevant issue. However, the 2018 VNR neither includes references to an ongoing process for stakeholder engagement nor information on consultation with national stakeholders on SDG priorities. However, the VNR refers to consultations with multiple actors as part of the process for its building.

A civil society spotlight report was edited by a number of organisations, namely WWF, Transforma, the Nature Conservancy, Cepei, Red de Ciudades and KPMG.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

There are no references to baselines or gap analysis in the Colombia 2018 VNR report. However, the country reported in 2016 that Colombia's national development plan is based on a closing-gaps approach, identifying a data gap. In 2018, the report does not include further information, but in the text, the urban-rural gap is repeatedly mentioned.

Incorporating the SDGs

The government adopted the SDGs as a guideline for leading its national development efforts. To that end, the goals were integrated into the National Development Plan 2014–18, called "Todos por un Nuevo País", Territorial Development Plans, and public policies. A governance structure was established and, in 2018, the national government adopted a high-level policy guide called Strategy for SDGs implementation in Colombia.

The leave no one behind principle is considered as a cross-cutting issue, and the report includes indirect references to inter-generational responsibility. However, human rights-based and universality principles are not thoughtfully analysed.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report includes many references to setting up national priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation, but they are not specified.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of the 2018 High-level Political Forum thematic goals: SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, and SDG 15 on life on land. The report provides limited references to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in its analysis and does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development.

The report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda as international agreements related to the 2030 Agenda implementation at national level.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report reflects good practices on community management for access to water and sanitation in rural zones, energy efficiency and the use of unconventional sources in non-interconnected zones, sustainability of cities, solid waste management, and income generation through forests protection.

Budgeting for the 2030 Agenda is one of the main issues analysed in the report. The National Planning Department developed a tool for tracking, collecting and systematising budget information, using data analytics to track, classify and quantify the resources that contribute to compliance with the SDGs for each source of public expenditure.

Several implementation challenges are also underlined, such as ensure SDGs and future National Development Plans, increase 2030 Agenda social ownership, launch new financing mechanisms for sustainable development, and continue innovating to advance in an accelerated way towards SDGs achievement.

Leave no one behind

The report does not include a chapter on leaving no one behind but underlines the importance of ensuring progress for children, indigenous people, Afro-Colombians, peasants, mothers as head of household and population with scarce resources. The main approach to reach those left behind is based on universal social programmes.

Adopted in 2018, the Strategy for SDGs Implementation in Colombia, establishes a long-term vision based on the prioritisation of a set of indicators and targets to measure the country's achievements against the agenda, considering the principle of leaving no one behind. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the National Planning Department of Colombia and the United Nations Development Programme to hire a consultant on strengthening the gender agenda in the measurement of SDGs indicators. An exercise aimed to create a budgetary classifier that allows the identification of National General Budget lines associated with gender equity was also developed.

Awareness raising and localisation

The 2016 Colombian VNR report stated that a working group on communications had been created within the national SDGs Commission, tasked with designing and implementing a pedagogical strategy of communication and mobilisation on the 2030 Agenda. The 2018 VNR, however, does not include references to awareness-raising activities. The report does not identify specific measures related to localising the 2030 Agenda, an issue that was part of its 2016 VNR.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

Civil society organisations, the private sector, academia and the United Nations Agencies in Colombia activities towards SDGs implementation are reflected in the report. The issue of local non-state actor participation in implementation was analysed in Colombia's 2016 VNR report.

Civil society validity check

The Colombian Civil Society Spotlight Report examines SDG implementation and follow-up in Colombia. The analysis includes relevant information and a strong focus on localisation of implementation, monitoring efforts and SDG integration. It does not contradict the national VNR report, but is much more critical, particularly on SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy and SDG 15 on life on land.

Measurement and reporting

Regarding data, Colombia reported in 2016 a lack of information to follow-up on 16% of the indicators. No new information was added in the 2018 VNR report. However, the new report highlights that the national SDGs implementation strategy incorporates a statistical strengthening plan, and includes reference to initiatives undertaken in partnerships with the private sector and civil society to promote dialogues between public and private data, aimed to strengthen SDGs monitoring and follow-up processes at national and local levels.



Dominican Republic

In 2018, Dominican Republic 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 institutional architecture coordinated by a High-level Inter-Institutional Commission for Sustainable Development has been launched, including non-government actors, such as private companies, academia, local governments, civil society and the legislative branch. The main political responsibility for guiding the Inter-institutional Commission was assigned to the national Minister of Economy, Planning and Development. Even though the Dominican Republic presents itself as part of the Small Island Developing States and the Least Developed Countries groups, there is no identification of activities carried-out within those groupings.

Stakeholder engagement

The VNR report does not outline a process for regular stakeholder engagement on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. It reports that in the process of writing the VNR report, consultations were held with civil society organisations, private sector organisations and companies, actors of the academy, local governments and parliamentarians. Meetings were also held with officials of the agencies of the United Nations System in the country.

A civil society report was prepared by Alianza ONG, a multisectoral network of 35 non-profit organisations, with the support of the Civil Society Organisations Alliance for Development Effectiveness.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

No assessment was carried out on baselines or gaps analysis. The report makes general references to existing gaps but does not identify concrete divides, contents, areas or groups involved.

Incorporating the SDGs

The government of the Dominican Republic has incorporated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national policies and frameworks through the use of a National Development Strategy, also considered as the national strategy for SDGs implementation.

The report identifies institutional advances, efforts regarding statistical improvement for the SDGs follow-up, steps to be taken with the aim of closing gaps in access to technologies, and vulnerable groups-oriented policies.

The principles of leaving no one behind and universality are considered in the VNR report. Environmental issues are referred to but not as planetary boundaries. Inter-generational responsibility is only taken into account by the report while analysing SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

To date, the country has not established SDGs implementation priorities, but the government has built a proposal of priorities based on its National Development Strategy that was submitted to consultation with interested national actors and the United Nations System offices at the Dominican Republic.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary examination of all SDGs with equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions and limited reference to fitting linkages between dimensions. There are no references to policy coherence for sustainable development even when climate change and the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are explicitly linked to the SDGs implementation at the national level.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report presents neither best practices nor lessons learned in implementing the SDGs nationally and refers to some means of implementation such as capacities development, systemic issues, national and international financing, and trade. The following negative impacts are highlighted: the financial world crisis, the insufficiency of cooperation resources, the importance of remittances for its national economy and the need to order the current global migration processes so that they do not affect development.

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Domestic resources are identified as the primary sources of financing the 2030 Agenda implementation process at the national level, particularly in advancing well-being-related goals and safeguarding natural resources.

Leave no one behind

The report identifies women, children, the elderly and migrants as those facing the risk of being left behind and it underlines that additional data is required for better identification of possible vulnerable groups. Gender-disaggregated data availability is not consistent across the 17 SDGs analysis and the country does not have a specific law against discrimination or on gender equality. However, it has a Ministry of Women, with the responsibility of establishing standards and coordinating the execution of policies, plans and programs aimed at eradicating inequalities that affect women and to follow-up on commitments assumed by the country at the international level concerning gender equity and women's rights. Additionally, the National Development Strategy 2030 establishes as one of its specific objectives to build a culture of equality and fairness between men and women.

Awareness raising and localisation

In order to raise awareness and increase ownership of the SDGs, the government is seeking to generate greater dissemination and knowledge of the 2030 Agenda at all government levels, in the private sector and civil society. It is implementing a gradual process of mainstreaming goals and objectives in national development budgets and planning instruments. Moreover, the government plans to develop a communication strategy and to include contents linked to the 2030 Agenda in higher education programs.

Civil society validity check

The Dominican Republic parallel report briefly analyses the High-level Political Forum theme goals for 2018. It does not show contradictions with the government VNR report, but points out weaknesses in each of the SDGs that do not appear in the national VNR report. It highlights that 57.5% of the consulted civil society organisations did not know that the Dominican Republic was going to present a VNR in 2018 and the limited knowledge of the population and civil society about the 2030 Agenda implementation process. The report recommends the development of an information system with a strengthened communication strategy, including the use of communication tools such as social networks and the inclusion of content on the 2030 Agenda in schools.

With respect to localisation, the VNR report only mentions that participation of local governments in the definition of national priorities and strategies related to the SDGs requires an appropriate institutional framework that ensures coherence between different government levels, and that successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda depends on the support of elected municipal authorities.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

There are references to efforts towards incorporating stakeholders such as civil society, the private sector, academia, local governments to the SDGs implementation and monitoring at national and local levels, but no specific measures to this end are identified. However, many examples of actions undertaken by non-state actors to achieve SDGs are underlined.

The United Nations system in the Dominican Republic supported the efforts made by the country to carry out its VNR.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The "Academy for the 2030 Agenda" agreement is an example of academy engagement in SDGs implementation. Pursuant to that agreement, signed by representatives of all the higher education institutions in the country, Dominican universities have committed themselves to contribute with the dissemination, research and inclusion of 2030 Agenda-related contents in their teaching programs and activities.

Measurement and reporting

There is information available to monitor 37% of the global SDG indicators. Improvements in existing sources are required for 19% of them, and the creation of new sources or significant changes in the existing sources is needed in another 45% of SDGs indicators. The country faces its main data availability shortcomings for SDGs related to the environment.



Ecuador

In 2018, Ecuador 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 Ecuador National Planning Secretariat coordinates the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the National Development Plan 2017–21 and is the main body responsible for monitoring and evaluating progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the country level. Non-state actor official engagement in SDG implementation governance arrangements is not addressed in the report.

Stakeholder engagement

Formal processes for stakeholder engagement are not articulated in the report. However, the report refers to the critical role played by civil society, the private sector, academia, local governments and international partners to achieve the SDGs. Broad consultations with stakeholders were held in the VNR report-drafting process.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

No assessment was carried out on baselines or gaps analysis. Nevertheless, some gaps are clearly identified while analysing each SDG in particular, such as rural-urban, income, gender and regional gaps. In addition, the country has carried out exercises to identify new data sources.

Incorporating the SDGs

Ecuador has aligned its development policies with the SDGs. The Executive Decree 371, adopted in April 2018, makes the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development a national public policy, establishing guidelines for the articulation and collection of pertinent information and guiding the process of its alignment with national planning and development. As a result, the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms of the National Development Plan, called “*Toda una vida*”, apply to the SDGs follow-up.

The report includes the leave no one behind principle as a cross-cutting issue and makes several references to the inter-generational responsibility arising from the sustainable development paradigm. It does not refer to planetary boundaries.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Nine national SDG priorities have been set, namely: 1) guarantee a dignified life with equal opportunities, 2) affirm interculturality and plurinationality, 3) guarantee the rights of nature, 4) consolidate the social and solidary economic system sustainably, 5) promote productivity and competitiveness for sustainable economic growth in a redistributive and supportive manner, 6) develop productive and environmental capacities to achieve food sovereignty and integral rural development, 7) encourage a participatory society, 8) promote transparency and co-responsibility, and 9) guarantee sovereignty and peace, and strategically position the country in the region and the world. With the purpose of achieving the national goals, 19 “Emblematic Interventions” were established, however, they are not specified in the report.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all the SDGs and most of their targets and indicators, giving equal attention to sustainable development economic, social and environmental dimensions, but providing a limited reference to linkages between them.

There are no references to policy coherence for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda implementation process is linked to the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Ecuador highlights national initiatives to fight against climate change in mobility and energy, risk management, resilience, adaptation, protection of biological diversity and the reduction of pollution areas. Ecuador considers nature as a rights holder, a legal entity constitutionally recognised and protected.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report identifies good practices carried out by different non-government actors in fields like renewable energy, awareness-raising, and accountability. It points out lessons learned on building long-term vision, SDGs-oriented planning and coordination of stakeholder efforts. Many implementation and follow-up challenges are identified for each SDG, without including general obstacles to the implementation process at the national level as a whole. Similarly, obstacles are not identified concerning the means of implementation included as part of each SDG analysis. During the 2018 General State Budget approval process, the funds allocated to SDG implementation were identified, showing that expenditures related to the SDGs represent 48.5% of the total budget amount.

Leave no one behind

Leaving no one behind is only mentioned broadly as a fundamental 2030 Agenda principle. However, women, youth, people with disabilities, people in situations of mobility, indigenous people, Afro-descendants and future generations are pointed out as vulnerable groups within the report. Without including references to data availability focused on leaving no one behind, the report lists a series of existing specialised programmes aimed to support vulnerable groups at risk of being left behind, stating that advancing towards equity requires promoting social, economic and political integration of all, regardless of age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin, religion, financial situation or other conditions.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report does not include references to awareness-raising efforts carried out by the Ecuadorian government. The report highlights the participation of local governments as key actors to achieve the SDGs, underlining that some local governments have already begun their processes of aligning domestic policies to the SDGs.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report points to broad participation of different non-state actors: civil society, the private sector, academia, international partners and United Nations agencies in Ecuador. Parliament involvement deserves special mention: in 2017, the National Assembly of Ecuador approved a binding resolution adopting the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a mandatory reference for its work and established a Parliamentary Group for the Eradication of Poverty and the fulfilment of the SDGs. The parliament also called for a forum aimed to debate SDG implementation challenges, and for a workshop on elements for drafting laws aimed to promote SDGs.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The Telefónica Movistar Responsible Business Plan incorporates the SDGs into a series of programmes, considering them as a fundamental elements to guide the response to social, economic and environmental challenges.

Measurement and reporting

The National Institute of Statistics and Censuses of Ecuador formulated a statistical development plan as an instrument that seeks to identify, articulate and manage information in a systematic way. Currently, work is being done to generate SDGs-related quantitative information. Ecuador has data for 53% of global indicators.



In 2018, Egypt 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 government established a National Committee for Monitoring the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under the Prime Minister's Office, the committee includes representation from government institutions. According to the report, a number of ministries have also established sustainable development units, working groups and focal points. The Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform operates as the rapporteur for the national committee. It is also the main government institution responsible for coordination and monitoring of Egypt's Vision 2030 strategy. The report does not outline how non-state actors participate in 2030 Agenda implementation structures.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not set out how non-state actors are being engaged on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation on a regular basis. Nevertheless, the report outlines stakeholder consultations on the development of national priorities and in the VNR process. According to the report, Vision 2030 is the first long-term strategy that Egypt developed through a participatory, open and transparent approach that aimed to include all relevant stakeholders

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, Egypt's statistics unit has mapped the global SDG indicators and those used in Vision 2030. A statistical report on the SDG indicators was launched in 2018, and included classification of the SDG indicators in terms of data availability and methodological development (according to the tier system used by the United Nations).

Incorporating the SDGs

The Egyptian government has established Vision 2030 as the guiding framework for its national sustainable development priorities and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A number of ministries have translated Vision 2030 into mid- and long-term strategies. The VNR report refers only to the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

While national SDG priorities have been selected, as outlined in Vision 2030, the report does not provide information on what they entail. National indicators have also been established. In the goal-by-goal analysis, the report notes the indicators that are used for Vision 2030 and the SDGs (as well as those that are used only for the SDGs or Vision 2030).

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary-level examination of all 17 SDGs, covering all dimensions of sustainable development with a greater focus on economic. The report does not cover the inter-linkages between the goal areas.

The report includes an assessment of the impact of Egypt's foreign policies on the goals internationally, notably in terms of peacekeeping efforts but does not reference policy coherence for sustainable development. The report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report highlights a lesson learned by Egypt from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. It notes the need to better collect data at the local level to ensure progress and better understand regional development disparities. The report notes that the Egyptian government can learn from the experiences

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of other countries but is not specific in terms of priority areas for learning.

The report points to the need for technical assistance and capacity development, particularly in the area of strengthening evaluation units in government institutions. The report highlights official development assistance commitments by provider countries and notes the importance of opportunities presented by trade, particularly with China. A number of systemic concerns are listed that could impact Egypt's sustainable development, including global and regional economic instability, nearby conflicts, and regional struggles related to water resources.

Leave no one behind

The report identifies the key groups in Egypt that are at risk of being left behind. These include: women, youth, people with disabilities, rural women, low income families and those impacted by regional disparities. More data is needed for Egypt to leave no one behind and the report rarely presents gender disaggregated data. Efforts to leave no one behind are guided by new and old specialised programmes such as conditional and unconditional cash transfer programmes with the number of beneficiaries of these programmes growing in recent years. The report is detailed in terms of outlining government initiatives.

In terms of promoting gender equality, the report highlights the establishment of a National Council for Women that was launched alongside the National Strategy for Women Empowerment 2030. "The strategy focuses on empowering women to accelerate the achievement of sustainable development, as well as promoting gender equality [... through ...] four pillars: political empowerment and leadership; economic empowerment; social empowerment; [and] protection" (p. 8; see also p.32). The report includes a description of specific programmes supported in this context.

Awareness raising and localisation

According to the report, Egypt carried out consultations on the SDGs. The government also launched an application aimed at allowing citizens to participate in the process of reviewing Vision 2030.

There is very little information presented in the report on localisation, though it notes that an initiative has been launched to collect data at the governate level.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In 2018, two years after Vision 2030 was launched, the government carried out a review process to update the strategy. To engage citizens, and in particular youth, the Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform launched an application called "Sharek" (participate) to serve as a digital platform for consultation. The application also served as a mechanism to raise awareness of sustainable development.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

In the report, the government recognises the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach to 2030 Agenda implementation. The report highlights examples of partnerships with civil society and the private sector, such as in the housing sector. Experts provided support for the development of the VNR report. The report also notes the role of youth, including the establishment of a Youth Sustainable Development Initiative that allows the government to liaise with youth representatives from universities across the country. With respect to development partners, the report notes that Egypt requires assistance to explore and make use of innovative sources of sustainable development finance such as green bonds.

Measurement and reporting

According to the report, Egypt has data for 45% of the global indicators. In this context, 35.7% of SDG indicators overall are classified as tier one (meaning that data is available, though not necessarily at needed levels of disaggregation). The country has roughly 87 indicators that are measurable and regularly updated. To improve data availability, the statistics unit is developing a strategy to update the national statistics system.

Egypt is making use of existing systems to monitor and evaluate progress towards the 2030 Agenda. For instance, the government's integrated electronic system links projects to Vision 2030 performance indicators. In addition to the statistics report launched in 2018, noted above, the government has also established an Egypt SDG Observatory working with United Nations Children's Fund that serves as a digital platform to track progress on the SDGs.



Greece

In 2018, Greece 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 details a range of institutional mechanisms that contribute to implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The General Secretariat of the government's Office of Coordination, Institutional, International and European Affairs is the focal point for SDG implementation. The office is part of the Prime Minister's Office and leads an Inter-ministerial Coordination Network for the SDGs. A General Secretariat for Coordination also exists that plans, organises and monitors the implementation of government efforts and assists in instances where implementation is the co-responsibility of multiple government institutions. The report also notes the role of the Governmental Economic Policy Council and the Governmental Social Policy Council, overseen by the vice president of the government, which include representation by relevant ministries and contribute to SDG implementation in their respective areas.

The Office of Coordination, Institutional, International and European Affairs is expected to consult with non-state actors and raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Stakeholder engagement

Greece has a formal mechanism for stakeholder engagement on the SDGs. The Economic and Social Committee of Greece is a constitutionally established institution that conducts social dialogue on general policies. The Committee includes employers, employees and other non-state actors and plays a role in facilitating structured dialogue on the 2030 Agenda. The report details participation by non-state actors in the selection of national priorities and the VNR process.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, the government assessed all 17 SDGs through a stocktaking exercise on progress. "The mapping focused on identifying missing policy instruments, areas of insufficient action and areas for cross-sectoral co-operation to ensure policy coherence and spread good practice, both domestically and through the country's bilateral and international partnerships" (p. 10). The report presents the key gaps identified through the analysis of progress on the SDGs.

Incorporating the SDGs

The government has established eight priority areas for SDG implementation that are in line with the country's National Growth Strategy. In 2019, the government plans to prepare a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs through a participatory process.

The report makes reference to the principle of leaving no one behind but does not mention other 2030 Agenda principles.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Greece's eight priorities for SDG implementation include:

- sustainable economic growth;
- full employment and decent work;
- addressing poverty and social exclusion;
- reducing social and regional inequalities;
- education;
- protection and sustainable management of natural resources;
- effective and accountable institutions; and
- democratic processes and partnerships.

The report links each national priority to specific SDGs.

Integration and policy coherence

The report covers eight thematic priorities identified by the country for SDG implementation. It does not include a goal-by-goal analysis per se, though the information provided is detailed and includes links to specific SDGs and specific SDG targets. The report covers all dimensions of sustainable development but has a greater focus on social dimensions, largely given the need for the country to focus on social inclusion in light of its recent experience with economic crises.

The report refers to policy coherence in terms of ensuring coherence horizontally across policy areas and vertically in terms of coherence from the national to the local level. The report refers to a wide range of relevant international agreements and consistently makes linkages to Greece's legal and voluntary commitments as they relate to progress on the SDGs.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report highlights Greece's whole-of-government approach to SDG implementation as a form of best practice. It does not detail lessons learned or where the country could learn from others.

In terms of means of implementation, the report notes sources of financing for the SDGs but does not present information on costing or incorporating the SDGs into national budgets.

Leave no one behind

The report does not include a dedicated chapter on leaving no one behind. However, social inclusion is a prominent theme and the report provides detailed information on new and existing specialised programmes, as well as universal programmes such as a minimum guaranteed income that contribute to leaving no one behind. The key groups identified in terms of social inclusion initiatives include women, people with disabilities, migrants (refugees, asylum seekers, others), Roma and those impacted by regional disparities.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report highlights the VNR as contributing to awareness raising on the 2030 Agenda as well as consultations, roundtables and other events. The Office of Coordination, Institutional, International and European Affairs is planning additional awareness-raising initiatives, including support for the Economic and Social Council, a body that represents non-state actors, and developing an online platform through which stakeholders can discuss the 2030 Agenda and share information and best practice.

Further efforts are needed to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda at the local level, however, the report details a number of efforts by local governments that are contributing to the SDGs.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report emphasizes Greece's whole-of-society approach to 2030 Agenda implementation. There is a detailed chapter on the contributions of local and regional governments, civil society, academia, the private sector and youth. A large number of specific examples are presented including awareness-raising activities, participation in policymaking, research initiatives, and projects and programmes. The report also notes the role of parliament in guiding SDG implementation and ensuring accountability for progress.

Measurement and reporting

While the report includes a statistical annex, the status of data, including disaggregated data, to monitor progress on the SDGs is unclear. According to the report, the Hellenic Statistical Authority has conducted three rounds to identify indicators, however the results of these efforts are not presented.

Parliament is responsible for the overall follow-up process. It will review the planned, regular progress reports from the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs and VNR reports before they are presented at future United Nations High Level Political Forum.



Guinea

In 2018, Guinea 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

Ministries in charge of planning and cooperation are responsible for coordinating and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. The Guinean government has set up an Institutional Monitoring and Evaluation Facility, whose mission is to facilitate dialogue with all stakeholders on the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20, and to serve as a monitoring mechanism for the SDGs.

The facility includes a consultation and coordination framework, a technical monitoring committee, eight thematic working groups, strategy and development offices of the ministries, and regional monitoring and evaluation units. The report notes that the consultation and coordination framework will serve as the National Working Group on the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-2020 and the SDGs. The thematic working groups will also play a key role in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level by considering social, economic, environmental, governance and partnership components, as well as cross-cutting areas such as data, awareness-raising, communication and financing. According to the report, Guinea plans to call upon non-state actors to actively contribute to the facility.

Stakeholder engagement

It is unclear if a process is in place to formally engage stakeholders in SDG implementation, and if they were involved in the preparation of the report. No civil society report was prepared for the review.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Guinea examined its national planning documents, mainly its National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20, to determine the extent to which SDG targets have been taken into account. The report reveals that the plan covers mostly SDG 2

targets on zero hunger, followed by SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production. It provides a baseline for each of the 17 SDGs, outlining the need for progress on most SDGs.

Incorporating the SDGs

According to the report, Guinea has initiated a process of aligning its Vision for an Emerging Guinea by 2040 and its National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20 (the instrument for the five-year implementation of the Vision) with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The report refers to the following 2030 Agenda principles: universality, leave no one behind, and inter-generational responsibility (understood in terms of intergenerational equity).

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report notes that 72 SDG targets were prioritised in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20, out of the 169 global targets. The annex of the report shows a list of national indicators for each SDG that seem to be aligned with the global SDG indicators.

Integration and policy coherence

The report covers all the SDGs. Policy coherence to sustainable development seems to be understood as “institutional coherence” within the government to deliver on its Vision 2040. It specifically links the SDGs to climate change and the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

To help reach its national priorities and the SDGs, the government of Guinea decided to implement a capacity-building programme structured around institutional capacity building and development; human resources qualification and professionalisation; promotion of

partnerships for employment and empowerment; and support to the public sector, private sector and civil society.

Drawing lessons from the Ebola epidemic and aware of the risks of disasters related to extreme natural phenomena, the Guinean authorities, with the support of the technical and financial partners, have also set up a national capacity-building programme on resilience, risk reduction and disaster management.

Per the report, in 2017, the government of Guinea organised, a donor meeting (Advisory Group) which raised pledges of US \$22 billion in funding to support the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20, the national framework to implement the SDGs. Implementation of the plan will be financed up to 30% by Guinea through the national budget, the report says. As part of the priority actions for the implementation of the SDGs in 2018, and within the framework of the national development plan, the report outlines reducing trade barriers across borders, developing trade in agricultural goods, and promoting trade in services.

Leave no one behind

The report targets poor and vulnerable populations, young people, women, children, and people with disabilities among those left behind.

As part of efforts made by Guinea to leave no one behind, in 2012, the country launched the Productive Social Nets project in collaboration with the World Bank to provide income support to vulnerable groups. The report indicates that in the same year, nearly 7,000 households received an unconditional cash transfer to be invested in income-generating activities, and 5076 households received payments in exchange for maintenance, sanitation and rehabilitation work in their locality. Guinea has also established a Social Development and Solidarity Fund for Women, Youth, Older Persons and the Disabled within the Ministry of Social Affairs, Women's Promotion and Children, and has adopted its first ever national social protection policy.

According to the report, several measures have been taken to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women, including the adoption of a national gender policy and of a strategic implementation plan, and the establishment of gender units in ministerial departments.

Awareness raising and localisation

Workshops to raise awareness on the SDGs in some regions of the country were organised in the context of the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20 and Vision 2040. The workshops sought to identify the best strategies for integrating the SDGs and fragility assessment outcomes into regional development plans and to collect proposals for the active participation of non-governmental organisations in the process of popularising and implementing the SDGs. They brought together, inter alia, participants from civil society organisations, the private sector and the United Nations Development Programme. Efforts to localise the 2030 Agenda are not articulated in the report.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report does not include a lot of information on partnerships to realise the SDGs. The United Nations Development Programme seems to have supported Guinea on various aspects of SDG implementation, including on the organisation of workshops to raise awareness on the SDGs in some regions of the country, and on data collection.

Measurement and reporting

The major constraint that hindered the process of developing the report was the availability, accessibility and quality of statistical data needed to analyse and monitor progress on the 2030 Agenda. To ensure better monitoring and evaluation of progress in the implementation of the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2016-20 and the achievement of the SDGs, the government plans to implement a series of measures, including: allocating financial and human resources to the national statistical system; producing fine and disaggregated data for monitoring the SDGs at national, regional and local levels; strengthening statistical coordination; ensuring the regularity of statistical production at the sectoral level; and expanding data dissemination, in particular in key economic sectors such as mining, trade, transport, tourism, industry, post and telecommunications, hotels and construction.



In 2018, Hungary 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

All government institutions are responsible for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An inter-ministerial coordination mechanism was set up in 2017 to oversee domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda while an Inter-Ministerial Coordinative Committee on International Development Cooperation is responsible for global contributions.

A platform has been set up to ensure engagement with non-state actors, however, the report does not provide significant details on how it operates. The report does note the role of the role of the National Council for Sustainable Development that was set up by parliament as a consultative and advisory body. The council includes 30 representatives from political parties, academia, the private sector, civil society organisations and church organisations.

Civil society validity check

According to the submission by civil society organisations that is included in the report, the National Council for Sustainable Development should be coupled with more active cooperation with non-state actors.

Stakeholder engagement

Beyond the National Council for Sustainable Development and the platform noted above, the report does not provide further details on ongoing stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation. It does however, detail consultation with non-state actors in the development of the National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development and the VNR.

Civil society validity check

Civil society organisations have called on the government to prioritise public participation in 2030 Agenda implementation. Public participation should be scaled up, assisted and supported through institutional and financial mechanisms, in line with SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Hungary assessed both policies and data with respect to 2030 Agenda implementation. The National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development was assessed in terms of compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Government institutions were also assessed in terms of responsibility for the goals. According to the report, the government identified data gaps and examined potential data owners to create a basic indicator list.

Incorporating the SDGs

Hungary adopted a National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development in 2013 that covers the 2012–24 period. According to the report, the existing strategy aligns well with the SDGs. The report places a strong emphasis on the principles of the 2030 Agenda, and refers to its human rights-based nature, leaving no one behind, universality, inter-generational responsibility (understood in terms of the rights of future generations) and planetary boundaries.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The National Framework Strategy on Sustainable Development focuses on health and demographic stability; sustainable culture including employment and values; biodiversity, protection of natural renewable resources and responsible management of non-renewable resources; entrepreneurial capital and innovation, employment, increasing capital investments and reducing foreign exposure.

Integration and policy coherence

The report covers all of the SDGs through a detailed analysis. While all dimensions of sustainable development are examined, the report tends to make limited references to the linkages between them in the goal-by-goal analysis. The report consistently refers to Hungary's existing legal and voluntary commitments as they relate to the SDGs (although it does not mention the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction or Addis Ababa Action Agenda). The report outlines the coordination mechanisms that have been established to ensure policy coherence for sustainable development within Hungary and externally.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report explicitly references a wide range of Hungary's national and international legal and voluntary commitments as they relate to each SDG. The analysis includes a discussion of how these commitments link to and support Hungary's overall approach to 2030 Agenda implementation.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report highlights the Ombudsman for Future Generations as a best practice. Founded in 2008, the ombudsman advocates for the rights of future generations, serving as a deputy to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Fundamental Rights. The ombudsman considers issues related to the environment, mental and physical health and cultural heritage in relation to their impact on future generations.

The report notes that merging various initiatives related to sustainable development is a short-term challenge for Hungary.

The discussion on means of implementation focuses on Hungary's external contributions, notably in the areas of technology, capacity development and official development assistance, the latter of which Hungary aims to increase to 0.33% official development assistance to gross national income.

Leave no one behind

The main groups identified as vulnerable in the report include Roma people, people living in poverty, people in disadvantaged situations (untrained employees, employees under the age of 25 or over the age of 55, permanent job-seekers and parents with young children). The report does not provide information on the status of data to leave no one behind. It highlights a range of new and existing

specialised programmes as well as universal programmes (such as laws and overarching policy frameworks) that support vulnerable groups. In the area of gender equality, there is a particular emphasis on enabling women to balance child care and career ambitions. Hungary has implemented a number of programmes that make it easier for women to re-enter the labour force after having a child or choose to stay home with children if that is preferred.

Awareness raising and localisation

As an initial step to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda, the government translated the agenda into Hungarian.

The report does not cover how the 2030 Agenda has been translated to the local level.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report includes a full chapter featuring submissions from the national statistics office, the Office of the Ombudsman for Future Generations, the business sector, civil society and youth. The contributions highlight awareness-raising efforts by the business sector and civil society. The contribution from civil society provides recommendations on how the government should engage with and support civil society in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Measurement and reporting

The report notes that Hungary has approximately 75% of the global SDG indicators available. Since 2007, the national statistics office has published reports on progress for available indicators in relation to the National Framework Strategy for Sustainable Development biennially. An interactive website has also been established. Monitoring progress on the 2030 Agenda is the responsibility of the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, linking it to existing human rights monitoring systems.



Ireland

In 2018, Ireland 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 Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment has overall responsibility for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. All government departments have responsibility for implementation with each government minister responsible for individual Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. Each SDG target was assigned to a minister to ensure ownership and clarity around responsibilities. Coordination occurs through a Senior Officials' Group on the SDGs comprised of assistant secretaries, chaired by the Department of the Taoiseach (Prime Minister). A SDG Interdepartmental Working Group also exists that has responsibility for developing national SDG-related policies, preparing VNR and other SDG reports, and establishing processes for stakeholder engagement. Non-state actors participate through a national SDG stakeholder forum that allows for ongoing engagement on national implementation. The forum includes civil society, the private sector, trade unions, the agricultural sector, youth, academia, the education sector, government institutions and the local government sector.

Civil society validity check

Coalition 2030, a civil society platform, argues that responsibility for SDG implementation should rest with the Prime Minister to provide strong leadership and ensure implementation across government institutions.

Stakeholder engagement

The SDG Stakeholder Platform had its first meeting in June 2018. The forum provides an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss national implementation and reporting as well as share their experiences in implementing the SDGs. The forum offers a space to discuss challenges and share relevant information across sectors. Non-state actors participated in the section of national sustainable

development priorities and the VNR. The report includes the summary from the VNR report validation workshop.

Civil society validity check

Non-state actors had little time to engage during the formulation of the SDG Implementation Plan and in advance of the VNR before the United Nations High-level Political Forum.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, the government assessed all 17 SDGs against its sectoral policies to identify linkages. The result of this process was a publicly available SDG Policy Map which outlines how relevant national policies link to the SDGs and notes responsible government departments according to SDG targets.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Ireland has developed an SDG Policy Map that provides public information on responsible ministries for SDG implementation and associated supportive policies. This transparent approach allows for the identification of inter-linkages between policies and makes clear government institutions that are responsible for implementation.

Incorporating the SDGs

Ireland has established a SDG National Implementation Plan 2018-2020. The plan focuses on a whole-of-government approach to 2030 Agenda implementation and sets out priorities in terms of awareness raising, meaningful stakeholder engagement, support for communities to contribute to the goals and alignment of national policies with the SDGs. A number of national policies have already included reference to the SDGs, notably in the areas of gender equality, biological diversity, corporate social responsibility and air pollution.

The report refers to the importance of leaving no one behind and inter-generational responsibility (meeting current needs without compromising the ability to meet the needs of future generations) but does not mention other 2030 Agenda principles.

Civil society validity check

According to Coalition 2030, a civil society umbrella group, the implementation plan lacks time-bound targets and is not sufficiently detailed regarding how Ireland will achieve its 2030 Agenda commitments. Coalition 2030 also notes that the principle of leaving no one behind has not been fully incorporated.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Ireland has a sustainable development strategy, "Our Sustainable Future," which sets out a number of priority areas related to the economy, satisfaction of human needs by the efficient use of resources, equity between generations, gender equality, respect for ecological integrity and biodiversity, social equity, respect for cultural heritage and diversity, and equity between countries and regions.

Integration and policy coherence

The report covers all 17 SDGs through a detailed examination. All three dimensions of sustainable development are addressed and the report makes reference to applicable linkages between them. The report notes that the SDGs set the stage for improving policy coherence between domestic and international work. Each SDG chapter includes a section on domestic and international contributions to the SDGs and the report notes a number of sectors in which there have been efforts to improve policy coherence in terms of the impacts of domestic policies on the 2030 Agenda globally.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report largely focuses on Ireland's support to SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. Aside from references to investments in research and development, and the goal of diversifying trade, the report does not discuss how Ireland will mobilise the means of implementation at the domestic level.

Rather, the report highlights Ireland's contributions in terms of capacity development with partner countries in taxation, statistics and for civil society. For example, support to partner countries to participate in international trade, and Ireland's contributions through official development assistance. In this context, the report notes the

importance of development effectiveness principles, making Ireland one of the three high-income countries to refer to such principles in their VNR report. The report promises that the government will continue to work towards the 0.7% official development assistance to gross national income target as possible.

Leave no one behind

The report does not have a strong focus on leaving no one behind. While it refers to the principle in an overarching way, there is no dedicated analysis. The discussions in SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities are the main sections that detail the experiences of socially excluded groups. People that are at risk of being left behind in Ireland include lone parents, women with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) persons, Roma, migrant women, and Traveller women. The report details a wide range of existing and new specialised programmes to assist vulnerable groups. It also refers to universal programmes and a National Action Plan for Social Inclusion. Specific policies include the National Strategy for Women and Girls, the National Disability Inclusion Strategy, the National Traveller and Roma Inclusion Strategy and Migrant Integration Strategy. The country is also developing strategies for LGBTI+ people, including youth.

Awareness raising and localisation

The VNR provided an opportunity for the government to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. Going forward, it will develop a national SDG communication plan, an online SDG platform that will serve as a "one stop shop" for information on the SDGs, and a programme of SDG Champions who will be asked to raise awareness of the SDGs and demonstrate their relevance to Ireland. Initiatives in the education sector will also be pursued.

The report does not provide significant details on how the 2030 Agenda is being supported at the local level. It notes that increasing local government engagement is a priority of the government's implementation plan.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

While the report highlights the importance of non-state actors in contributing to the SDGs, it provides very few examples of actual partnerships (though at least one partnership for each stakeholder group (civil society, academia and the private sector) is presented. Non-state actors called on the government to provide more examples of non-state actors' efforts in the report during the VNR report validation workshop. The limited reference to the contributions of non-state actors is surprising given the focus on

a “whole-of-society” approach to 2030 Agenda implementation articulated in the report.

Measurement and reporting

The report makes use of the European Union SDG dataset. The availability of data for global indicators is unclear. Nevertheless, the report highlights the creation of an online platform that allows citizens to explore and download nationally available data on the SDGs.

Civil society validity check

Coalition 2030 notes that the dedicated online portal does not cover all SDG indicators and that there is insufficient data to allow for trend analysis, particularly for the environmental goals. Data is also not sufficiently disaggregated for sectors including migrants and the LGBTQI+ community.

In terms of reporting, the government has prepared a timetable for national reporting on the SDGs and reporting to the High-level Political Forum. National reports will be produced every two years and Ireland will present to the High-level Political Forum a total of four times (including its 2018 submission).

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Ireland has presented a timetable for national and international reporting on the 2030 Agenda. This approach provides transparency and predictability for 2030 Agenda reporting.



In 2018, Jamaica 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 coordination mechanism for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation and follow-up is multi-tiered, comprising the National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee, the thematic Working Groups of Vision 2030, sectoral committees, and the 2030 Agenda Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Core Group. The National Development Plan, “Vision 2030 Jamaica”, and the SDGs secretariats are located in the Planning Institute of Jamaica, the lead government entity on policy formulation on economic and social issues and external cooperation management to achieve sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda SDGs Core Group is the main political body responsible for SDGs implementation at national level. It includes Planning Institute of Jamaica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and the Statistical Institute of Jamaica representatives. The National 2030 Agenda Oversight Committee, which reports to cabinet, was established in 2017 as a technical body comprising high-level representatives from government, civil society groups, the private sector, academia, trade unions, political directorate and youth.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not outline a formal process for stakeholder engagement beyond what is noted above. Ownership of the 2030 Agenda began in 2014 with national and sector-specific consultations with stakeholders and major groups to highlight the country’s development priorities. Stakeholders were also engaged through exhibitions, promotional events, community outreach programmes, billboards and radio interviews. The process of sensitisation regarding the SDGs and consultation on the VNR began in July 2017, engaging civil society organisations, the private sector, academia, philanthropic organisations, international development partners and representatives from sub-groups of the population. In 2018, fifty national prioritisation-related meetings gathered over 480 stakeholders.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

A Rapid Integration Assessment and Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support Mission were conducted through the United Nations Development Programme, identifying data gaps for SDGs related to the environment and partnership. Gaps in Jamaica’s capacity to measure the progress towards the SDGs and in the country’s ability to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development are also underlined. Some other divides are identified while analysing each SDG such as rural-urban, income, gender and regional gaps.

Incorporating the SDGs

Since the SDGs adoption, the Jamaican government has made deliberate effort to localise and mainstream the SDGs in its national policies and planning frameworks, establishing as a new national approach to development.

Jamaica’s long-term National Development Plan, “Vision 2030” was adopted in 2009, and is implemented through triennial medium-term socio-economic policy frameworks. The fourth framework for the period 2018–21 is being designed for alignment with the SDGs and is considered as the primary mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the National Development Plan and the SDGs. The Jamaican cabinet approved a roadmap for SDGs implementation in June 2017.

The 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind is presented as essential for Jamaica and repeatedly mentioned in the report. The report makes no mentions to other 2030 Agenda principles.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report emphasizes that the Roadmap for SDGs Implementation in Jamaica aligns the SDGs with the national priorities established as part of the Medium-Term Framework 2018–21. Nevertheless, Jamaica’s development priorities are not named in the report.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary examination of the 17 SDGs, with limited references to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions. Even if the three dimensions of sustainable development are considered, greater focus is given to economic.

Policy coherence for sustainable development is considered under a twofold approach: first, referring to strengthening national policies coordination; second, recognising links between the SDGs and other international documents such as the Samoa Pathway for Small Island Developing States, the Sendai Framework, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the New Urban Agenda, and the Paris Agreement on climate change. The Convention on Biological Diversity is also linked to the 2030 Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report highlights two best practices: a case study on SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy analysing Jamaica Public Service Company Limited efforts to modernise Jamaica's energy sector, and a case study on SDG 5 on gender equality considering the "Groots Jamaica-Sistren Theatre Collective" work.

The central challenge identified to SDGs achievement in Jamaica is the context of limited fiscal resources that impact national efforts for funding social policies, considering that the government primarily resources Jamaica's SDGs implementation. For the 2017–18 fiscal year, 66.4% of the national budget was financed from domestic resources. Besides domestic and international finance, means of implementation such as technology, capacity building and trade are part of the VNR analysis.

Leave no one behind

The report includes analysis of data requirements for monitoring actions aimed to leave no one behind and identifies vulnerable groups, namely children living in poverty, unemployed youth, persons with disabilities, rural residents, the elderly, fisherfolks, informal settlers, farmers, pregnant and lactating women, and adolescents and youth. The Social Protection Strategy adopted in 2014 is the primary tool to address the issues of vulnerability and social protection. Special programmes were created to support vulnerable groups such as the National Food and Nutrition Security Policy and Action Plan, the 10-year National Strategic Action Plan to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence (2016–26), and the National Policy for Senior Citizens 2018 green paper. Moreover, Jamaica's budget for the financial year 2016–17 is focused on providing safety nets for

the most vulnerable groups. The report includes a subchapter under SDG 5 on gender equality referring to men, pointing out that a male desk was re-established in the Bureau of Gender Affairs in 2016. The Institute for Gender and Development Studies of the Institute of the West Indies teaches the course "Men and Masculinities in the Caribbean."

Awareness raising and localisation

Effective communication and public education campaigns were carried out to increase the level of awareness of all stakeholders and to develop partnerships around the importance of the SDGs and its alignment with Vision 2030 Jamaica. A "Dialogue for Development Series" was also carried out from October to December 2017, concluding with the launch of the national SDGs public education campaign. The VNR report highlights the role of social media in awareness-raising. Finally, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, a SDGs Communications and Advocacy Roadmap 2019–22 was developed.

The adoption of local sustainable development plans provides a mechanism for localising the SDGs. Five of the 14 municipal corporations have developed such plans, and preparation of the remaining ones will start by 2019.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report underlines that Jamaica has a well-established tradition of designing solutions to issues of development through participatory governance. Jamaica's whole-of-society, planning-for-development approach has led to a wide range of stakeholder involvement in the national implementation process: civil society, the private sector, academia, parliament, local governments, external partners and the United Nations Systems are part of the SDGs-achievement efforts in Jamaica.

BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) is an integrated electric utility company and the sole distributor of electricity in the country. Recognizing the changing face of the global energy landscape globally, JPS embraced its role of "leading the energy revolution," establishing a new energy strategy founded on pillars: fuel diversification, smart grid technology, tailored solutions for customers, nation-building through energy efficiency, customer empowerment and energy education. As a result, the company is

supporting Jamaica's National Energy Policy target of reaching a 30% renewable energy use by 2030, expanding its renewable facilities, facilitating the addition of approximately 78MW of renewable energy in 2016 (almost doubling the renewable energy on the grid in a single year). In 2017, JPS signed an agreement with Eight Rivers Energy Company for the purchase of power from a new 37MW solar power plant, being built in Western Jamaica, that will be the largest solar facility on the island. The plant will contribute to substantial reductions in Jamaica's carbon emissions.

Measurement and reporting

Jamaica can currently produce 66 global SDGs indicators, exposing gaps in national capacities to measure the progress towards the SDGs. The environmental dimension suffers more significant data gaps than others. In the same way, the lack of data disaggregated by sex, age and other characteristics needs to be improved.



In 2018, Kiribati presented the findings from its first voluntary national review (VNR) to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Kiribati submitted only key messages and no formal report. The information provided below draws from that key messages. As no report was submitted, there are significant information gaps for each of the pillars of analysis below.

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Leadership, governance and institutions

Kiribati established a Special Task Force for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from members of the Development Coordinating Committee, which serves as the main governing body on development activities in the country. The main messages do not provide information on how non-state actors are engaging in governance mechanisms for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation.

Stakeholder engagement

The main messages indicate that non-state actors were engaged in the creation of the national development plan, however there are no details presented. According to the main messages, non-state actors were engaged in the VNR.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The main messages note that a policy review was carried out for the country's overarching vision document, Kiribati Vision 20, the Kiribati Development Plan and the SDG indicators. The review showed inconsistency between indicators. In addition, Kiribati does not have the capacity to effectively measure and report on progress.

Incorporating the SDGs

According to the main messages, Kiribati has incorporated the SDGs into its policy frameworks. The government established the Kiribati Development Plan (2016–19) and a set of national indicators. The main messages refer only to the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The SDG indicators were issued to government departments, community groups and the private sector following their adoption. According to the main messages, this process led to the adoption of the Kiribati Development Plan. No further details are provided on this process. The main messages note that while national priorities and indicators exist, following the VNR process, the national goals and indicators will be “realigned” for the final two years of the Kiribati Development Plan.

Integration and policy coherence

The main messages do not include a goal-by-goal analysis. Summary-level information is provided on progress, capturing all three dimensions of sustainable development, though with a limited focus on environmental issues beyond the impacts of climate change. The main messages do not refer to other international agreements that are relevant for 2030 Agenda implementation or policy coherence for sustainable development.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The main messages highlight capacity constraints related to prioritisation; improving stakeholder engagement; limited alignment between national, regional and global indicators; insufficient resources; lack of baseline data and poor statistical capacity. Kiribati invites international development partners to continue to provide the country with support to address these constraints and implement the 2030 Agenda as it works towards least developed country graduation.

Leave no one behind

Beyond reference to the principle, there is no dedicated analysis to leaving no one behind in the main messages.

Awareness raising and localisation

There is no information on awareness-raising and localisation in the main messages.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The main messages offer no information on partnerships to implement the 2030 Agenda beyond the role of development partners noted above.

Measurement and reporting

While there is no information presented on overall data availability such as disaggregated data, the main messages consistently point to statistical capacity constraints. Support from development partners in this area will be critical to facilitating monitoring of the 2030 Agenda.



Lao People's Democratic Republic

In 2018, Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) 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

Political responsibility for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation sits with the prime minister. Lao PDR established a National Steering Committee for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. Members include representatives from government institutions and mass organisations (quasi-governmental party organisations that often fulfil civil society roles such as organising community-level activities). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Planning and Investment lead a National SDG Secretariat. Focal points have also been established in relevant government institutions. The report does not provide additional information on how non-state actors participate in 2030 Agenda implementation mechanisms.

Stakeholder engagement

According to the report, Lao PDR "has made significant advances in enlarging the space for stakeholders" using culturally sensitive approaches (p. 8). The report does not provide information regarding actual mechanisms for engagement but rather refers to the existence of various channels and forums for participation. The report outlines consultation efforts related to the establishment of national priorities in the context of the VNR. VNR consultations occurred over 2017–18 with stakeholders from the government, parliament, private sector, academia, civil society, United Nations agencies, and other development partners.

Civil society validity check

According to a civil society report prepared by the Lao PDR Civil Society Organisation Coordination Office, consultation on national priorities and the VNR was limited.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report notes that Lao PDR plans to carry out an assessment to establish baselines for all SDGs.

Incorporating the SDGs

Lao PDR has incorporated the SDGs into its Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan. According to the report, nearly 60% of the plan's indicators are linked to SDG indicators. In addition, the country is preparing a national SDG roadmap that will emphasize institutional strengthening, partnerships, awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder consultations and dialogue, policy coherence, budgeting, and monitoring and reporting.

In terms of 2030 Agenda principles, the report refers only to leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities and indicators have been established for 2030 Agenda implementation. The country's planning frameworks prioritise green growth and sustainable development, poverty reduction and graduation from least developed country status, in addition to the priority of addressing unexploded ordnances.

Integration and policy coherence

The report examines all 17 SDGs and an additional SDG 18 on lives safe from unexploded ordnance. Lao PDR was heavily bombed during the second Indochina War (1964–73). The clean-up of unexploded ordnance is a major priority for the government. The report provides a summary-level examination of the goals, with equal attention to all three dimensions of sustainable development, though it makes limited references to the linkages between the goals.

The report refers to policy coherence, understood in terms of vertical and horizontal policy coherence. The report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda

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and aid and development effectiveness principles. Lao PDR has an overarching framework for effective development co-operation, the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016–25) that aligns with the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, the 2014 Mexico High Level Meeting Communiqué, the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the SDGs.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The main challenges facing Lao PDR in 2030 Agenda implementation include targeting those left behind, strengthening administrative data, and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public expenditure. The report also highlights specific challenges in the context of each SDG.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The Lao PDR report includes information on specific challenges to 2030 Agenda implementation as well as in the context of each SDG. The report also presents next steps for each goal and priorities for realising progress.

Lao PDR plans to cost implementation of the 2030 Agenda under the SDG roadmap and the report outlines a number of sources of finance, including public and private finance, as well as official development assistance. Predictability and sustainability of external support is a challenge for SDG-focused programmes. The government plans to harness new sources of support where possible, including through South-South Co-operation.

Leave no one behind

Lao PDR requires additional data to address the leave no one behind principle with inconsistent disaggregation by sex and age. The report does not have a chapter on leaving no one behind, however, it does highlight a number of vulnerable groups including those living in high and remote areas, women and adolescent girls, children, elderly, people with disabilities, farmers with limited access to land, migrants, unskilled and unemployed workers, and unpaid workers. Poverty reduction strategies are being used to address vulnerabilities and a poverty-monitoring system has been set up. However, budget and capacity constraints mean that progress is slow. The report also outlines specific initiatives for target populations, such as the

establishment of a National Commission for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly and strategies and investments to promote gender equality.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report highlights awareness-raising activities through regular multi-stakeholder meetings and meetings with students and academia. The government plans additional awareness-raising, public education and stakeholder consultation as next steps over 2018–20.

In terms of localisation of the 2030 Agenda, the government has supported institutional administration to implement and monitor progress on the Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan and selected SDG targets.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report notes the importance of “issue-based” partnerships for 2030 Agenda implementation (i.e. partnerships grounded in issues rather than centrally planned). The report includes reference to a limited number of partnerships by the volunteer sector. Lao PDR received support by United Nations agencies to carry out the VNR.

Measurement and reporting

The status of data for SDG monitoring is unclear from the report, however, additional efforts are needed to improve data availability including disaggregated data. Efforts to improve statistical capacity will be included in the SDG roadmap.

The National Steering Committee has responsibility for monitoring and evaluation of implementation results. Relevant government institutions submitted progress reports in February 2018, which served as inputs into the VNR process and report.



In 2018, Latvia 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

According to the VNR report, the Cross-Sectoral Coordination Centre is responsible for development planning. Directly under the authority of the prime minister, the centre has served as the focal point for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation since 2015. The prime minister receives opinions on implementation from the National Development Council which includes government institutions and social partners.

Stakeholder engagement

Latvia has a well-established system for stakeholder engagement that is now being used in the context of 2030 Agenda implementation (see good practice box). There are a variety of ways for stakeholders to engage throughout policymaking and implementation.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In Latvia, the public can participate in the policymaking stage by providing inputs into problem identification, preparation of planning documents and supporting policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Public consultations offer an opportunity for the public (individuals and organisations) to join informal and formal working groups, advisory councils and other forums. They can also send written opinions to the government. Citizens have the right to comment on draft documents. Latvia considers its procedure for achieving consensus on development planning as best practice.

Non-state actors were engaged in the VNR and in selection of national sustainable development priorities. An informal working group was established for the VNR that included

government institutions and social partners. A draft version of the report was published on the cabinet website for debate and parliament was kept informed of progress on the VNR.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Latvia assessed policies and data availability to inform 2030 Agenda implementation. SDG targets were mapped in terms of their relevance to the country, against Latvian policies and in terms of respective government institutions responsible for their implementation. An impact assessment of the government's current national development plan was also carried out. The targets were also mapped against existing indicators. The VNR report includes gaps that were identified for each SDG as well as plans to address them.

Incorporating the SDGs

The VNR report focuses on existing policies and their linkages to the SDGs, indicating that the SDGs have not been formally incorporated into national development plans. The country's long-term planning document, Latvia's Sustainable Development Strategy until 2030 (Latvia 2030) was drafted before the establishment of the 2030 Agenda. Seven-year national development plans are used to operationalise the priorities in Latvia 2030.

The VNR report refers to the principles of leaving no one behind and inter-generational responsibility.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Latvia's national priorities include the development of cultural space, long term investments in human capital, education, establishing an innovative and eco-efficient economy, the environment, regional development (referred to as the spatial development perspective), innovative government and public participation. According to the VNR report, these priorities capture all SDGs. Latvia has compared the SDG targets and indicators against those that already exist in national policies. The country does not appear to have developed national SDG-

specific targets and indicators, however the VNR report notes that 136 targets are relevant for Latvia, 44 of which are included in Latvia 2030, 66 in the National Development Plan 2020 and 108 in sectoral policies. Thirty-three targets are not relevant for Latvia.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to all dimensions of sustainable development. However, limited references are made to the linkages between the SDGs.

The VNR report refers to policy coherence for sustainable development, which Latvia sees as entailing coherence and public participation through planning processes and as vertical and horizontal integration. The report details how the country ensures policy coherence for sustainable development through a series of steps in the policy process. The VNR refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and aid-effectiveness principles.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes that Latvia's procedure for development planning is a form of best practice. In terms of a lesson learned for accelerating 2030 Agenda implementation, the VNR report points to the introduction of individual plans to address vulnerable populations, including through the provision of coordinated support (such as health care, social skills and training). Latvia faces a number of structural challenges to 2030 Agenda implementation including insufficient productivity, emigration, an ageing population and territorial inequality.

The VNR report notes that "linking budget and planning processes is crucial to achieving sustainable development goals" (p. 31). Investments are set out in the National Development Plan with funding needs broken down according to sources, including the national budget and other sources of financing.

Latvia's contributions in terms of official development assistance, capacity development and technology transfers are also highlighted in the VNR report.

Leave no one behind

Efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data in Latvia. Families with three or more children, employed persons in poverty, elderly (especially those living alone) and single-parent families are at risk of being left behind. Reducing inequality is an overarching goal for Latvia. Policies are developed with particular

attention to high-risk groups. The VNR report points to range of specialised government programmes to support vulnerable groups, including guaranteed minimum income benefits.

Awareness raising and localisation

The VNR report does not provide a lot of information on awareness raising, beyond an education initiative, the World's Largest Lesson, that includes the development of lesson plans on the 2030 Agenda.

The VNR report outlines efforts by local government, noting that territorial development planning documents consider policies by the United Nations and the European Union. Sustainable development strategies have been adopted by all local governments, based on Latvia 2030 and regional priorities. A number of initiatives have been carried out by local governments to raise awareness and exchange best practices. The Latvian Association of Local and Regional Governments is playing a leading role in this context.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report provides examples of contributions to 2030 Agenda implementation from a range of stakeholders. Parliament has a Sustainable Development Commission that reviews proposals on sustainable development and promotes initiatives working with other stakeholders. Civil society organisations are working on all SDGs and representing citizens at local, national, regional and global levels. The Latvian Corporate Social Responsibility Platform has carried out research on the impacts of businesses on the SDGs and is encouraging companies to assess their impacts on sustainable development. The report highlights the inclusion of the SDGs into university activities research platforms at Riga Technical University.

Measurement and reporting

Data is presented in the annex of the report but the indicators are drawn from a range of sources (global, regional and national), making the status of data availability unclear. There is no mention of the status of disaggregated data or efforts to improve data availability in the report. In 2019, the prime minister will report to Latvian parliament on progress on national development plans. No further details on 2030 Agenda reporting are provided.



Lebanon

In 2018, Lebanon 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

According to the report, the government established a national committee in 2017 to oversee 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. Chaired by the prime minister, the committee includes government institutions, civil society, and the private sector. Sub-committees were established for people, planet, prosperity and peace, with partnership mainstreamed. A dedicated statistical taskforce also exists. The Office of the Prime Minister serves as secretariat for the committee.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on a formal process for stakeholder engagement. Consultations occurred for the development of the VNR report, including interviews and workshops with civil society, the private sector, academia and government. A civil society report was prepared by the Arab Non-government Organization Network for Development and the American University in Beirut Policy Institute.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report makes no mention of a gap or baseline analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda has not been incorporated into national policies. The report notes that Lebanon's policies incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) without naming them. The VNR process has socialised the importance of integrating the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda principles into planning across government departments. Some departments have begun to integrate the 2030 Agenda, however, most policies still need to be adapted.

Civil society validity check

According to the civil society report, there was no progress on 2030 Agenda implementation immediately following its adoption in 2015. A number of initiatives to promote the achievement of the SDGs occurred in 2017, including the establishment of the National Committee for SDGs.

The report refers to the principles of universality, leaving no one behind and the human rights-based nature of the 2030 Agenda.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Lebanon has not selected national priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation or established national targets and indicators.

Civil society validity check

A consultation carried out by civil society for the VNR identified a number of priorities including poverty eradication, education, reducing unemployment, infrastructure, natural resource conservation, sustainable cities and addressing the impacts of the Syrian crisis on sustainable development.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary examination of all SDGs with equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. However, it makes limited references to linkages between the dimensions. While the report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development, it does provide an assessment of domestic and foreign policies in terms of Lebanon's contributions in light of the Syrian refugee crisis. The report refers only to the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report highlights best practices in a number of goal areas including reducing out-of-pocket spending, improvements in education, the development of industrial zones and the preservation of cultural heritage. Key challenges for 2030 Agenda implementation include high fiscal deficits and debt ratios and the need to develop the national statistical system.

The impact of the conflict in Syria is highlighted as a key constraint to Lebanon's sustainable development trajectory. The VNR report highlights that commitments by development partners have not fully materialised. Lebanon has taken steps to improve its trade position, however, the conflict in Syria has impacted relationships with trade partners and trading routes.

Leave no one behind

The report identifies women, displaced people, the elderly, non-public sector retirees, people with disabilities, the unemployed, blue-collar self-employed and the extreme poor as at risk of being left behind. The status of data to leave no one behind is not articulated. The report highlights the Lebanon Crisis Response Plan as one means to leave no one behind. It also notes that social protection policies are being enhanced and points to tax policies. A Minister for Women's Affairs was also recently appointed. Legislation to combat domestic violence has also been passed and a number of laws have been enacted or revised to address discrimination against women.

Awareness raising and localisation

The government conducted three workshops with the government, civil society and the private sector to launch the VNR and raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. Civil society organisations held regional consultations and created a website on the SDGs.

The report includes some examples of local initiatives that contribute to the SDGs, however, the report does not provide an overview of the status of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The VNR report was prepared with support from the United Nations Country Team. The VNR report includes a chapter on specific contributions from civil society and the private sector. It highlights the role of civil society in conducting consultations, awareness-raising, and follow-up and review. The Global Compact Network Lebanon is working to mobilise the private sector (and other stakeholders) to support 2030 Agenda implementation and

has carried out a study on private sector SDG priorities. Academic institutions are carrying out research in support of the SDGs. To follow-up on progress towards the SDGs, a legislative institutional mechanism was established and parliament's SDG committee has started mapping legislation against the 2030 Agenda.

Measurement and reporting

While data availability is unclear, Lebanon intends to start producing data. According to the report, support from the international community is needed in this area and the government plans to invest in the capacity of the national statistical system.

Beyond the legislative institutional mechanisms for follow-up on 2030 Agenda implementation noted above, the report does not include additional information on reporting in terms of content or frequency.



Lithuania

In 2018, Lithuania 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

According to the report, Lithuania established a National Commission for Sustainable Development under the leadership of the prime minister. The commission includes representation by government, civil society, the private sector and research institutions. It is responsible for assessing progress on sustainable development and making proposals to the government regarding priorities. The Ministry of the Environment coordinates implementation of the country's National Strategy for Sustainable Development and has established a working group of experts that assists in the preparation of reviews of the national strategy.

Stakeholder engagement

Beyond engagement in formal governance arrangements, the report does not provide information on formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement. Non-state actors were consulted on national priorities for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation through the VNR and a group of experts from government, civil society and municipalities assisted in preparing the VNR report.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Lithuania examined policies and data for 2030 Agenda implementation. The government compared the 2030 Agenda with national strategic planning documents, finding that most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets were reflected. In terms of data, Statistics Lithuania set up a working group to analyse the availability of SDG indicators and prepare a list of the national indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

The report notes that existing policies, particularly the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, align with the 2030 Agenda. The government is in the process of establishing a new general plan

for the country for 2021 that will integrate the SDGs. The country's Progress Strategy, "Lithuania 2030", will also be updated, including goals until 2030 and a vision for 2050.

The report refers to the 2030 Agenda principles of universality and inter-generational responsibility.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report indicates that Lithuania selected the following priority areas for 2030 Agenda implementation: reduction of poverty, social exclusion and income inequality, promotion of employment, strengthening of public health, increasing the quality of health care and accessibility of health services, development of an innovative economy and smart energy, quality education and development cooperation. As noted above, national indicators have been selected.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to the three dimensions of sustainable development, albeit with limited references to the linkages between them. It includes an assessment of Lithuania's contributions to the SDGs globally through development co-operation and notes the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development in the drafting of domestic policies. Overarching frameworks and policies, such as Lithuania 2030, are used to ensure coherence and integrated solutions in policy documents. The report does not include significant references to relevant international agreements and frameworks that support 2030 Agenda implementation, noting only the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report does not provide information on best practices, lessons learned, challenges in implementation (though challenges are noted for specific goals) or where Lithuania would like to learn from other countries. There are no references to budgeting, costing or financial resources for 2030 Agenda implementation. The report notes Lithuania's contributions through official development assistance

and that the country will strive to achieve the target of 0.33% official development assistance to gross national income by 2030. The report also notes the country's contributions to addressing illicit financial flows.

Leave no one behind

Efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data in Lithuania. Although the report does not specifically refer to leaving no one behind, it notes that single persons, single adult households with one or more children, disabled and elderly people are at greatest risk of poverty. The report notes a number of existing and specialised programmes that target specific groups, in addition to universal programmes such as legal frameworks, particularly in support of gender equality. Lithuania is promoting employment, applying measures to reduce income inequality, and ensuring equal access to social, health care, education, cultural and legal services. Social security benefits are guided by minimum consumption needs based on an indicator that sets amounts for social security benefits and is revised annually.

Awareness raising and localisation

According to the report, Lithuania has taken a number of steps to socialise the 2030 Agenda among the public through varied events and media.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

To raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda, Lithuania organised documentary film festivals, photography exhibitions, interactive events, "brain fights" and discussions. The government disseminated information through television, radio and social media. Awareness-raising projects have been implemented with civil society, and the education, academic and private sectors.

The report outlines contributions from local levels of government in the VNR, but does not provide details on the status of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report calls for participation by all stakeholders in 2030 Agenda implementation, however, it tends to outline engagement in the VNR rather than other contributions and activities more generally. In the context of development co-operation, the report highlights the role civil society and the private sector in policy formation and as partners in the delivery.

Measurement and reporting

The report notes that data was published for 61% of the global SDG indicators at the start of 2018. The report stated that 16% of the global indicators have been deemed not relevant for Lithuania. The government plans to improve the accessibility of indicators for users going forward. A prototype of the national reporting platform has been established, however, the report makes no mention of regular reporting processes beyond this.



In 2018, Mali 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

According to the report, Mali has plans to establish institutional structures to work on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. These would comprise a National Steering Committee chaired by the prime minister (head of government) and composed of ministerial departments, the parliament, high-level officials from regions, the National Council of Civil Society, trade unions, technical and financial partners and business. The secretariat of this committee would be provided by an SDG National Coordination Unit.

At the sectoral level, five result groups would be set up that address the social, economic, environmental, partnership and governance dimensions of the SDGs, each composed of ministerial departments and development actors, and coordinated by a lead ministerial department.

At the regional, local and communal level, the coordination mechanism for monitoring SDG implementation would be provided by the existing regional, local and communal steering, coordination and monitoring committees for development actions, with some minor adjustments in their composition.

Stakeholder engagement

The VNR report does not include information on a formal process for stakeholder engagement. As part of a United Nations SDG action campaign, the government of Mali, with the support of civil society organisations, launched the My World 2030 survey in May 2018 to ensure that concerns of ordinary citizens were effectively taken into account in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The survey was released in all regions of Mali, and targeted 100,000 Malians from different sectors and demographic profiles. According to the report, 23% of respondents identified SDG 3 on good health and well-being as a priority, and the other top goals identified by participants included SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG

6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, and SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth.

Moreover, the report indicates that various stakeholders including representatives from sectoral departments, civil society, the private sector and parliament participated in a scoping meeting organised in February 2018 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in preparation for Mali's VNR.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report indicates that a rapid integrated assessment was carried out to assess the alignment of Mali's sectoral policies, plans, programmes and other strategic documents with the 17 SDGs. Based on the results of that assessment, it notes that the SDGs were well taken into account in the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development 2016–18 and other sectoral documents. It also outlines "significant" gaps, particularly in the full consideration of SDG 4 on quality education SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Incorporating the SDGs

At the time of the publication of the report, Mali had not yet integrated the SDGs into its planning documents. The report states, however, that actions and initiatives were underway to integrate the SDGs in documents such as the Vision Etude Nationale Prospective 2025, the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development 2016–18), and the National Decentralization Policy Framework Document. According to the report, Mali is also planning to implement an SDG roadmap.

The report does not refer specifically to a human rights-based approach to 2030 Agenda implementation, but makes several references to human rights and to actions taken by Mali to protect these rights. It also includes a dedicated section on leave no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Mali identified 106 priority targets, and categorised them as urgent, to be achieved in the medium term, or to be taken into account in the longer term. Urgent targets, as outlined in the annex of the report, are aligned with the SDG global targets. The report notes that priority targets will be integrated into municipal, local and regional development policies.

Integration and policy coherence

The report examines progress on all SDGs, except SDG 14 on life below water. It does not refer specifically to policy coherence for sustainable development, but notes that the government of Mali intends to coordinate implementation of national, regional and municipal development programmes towards sustainable development in a coherent manner. It links SDG implementation to climate change and the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction; and to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report includes sections on good practices, lessons learned and challenges faced for SDG implementation. On challenges, it notes capacity building, availability of reliable statistical data, communication, programme coordination, and mobilisation of adequate resources (internal and external) for financing SDG implementation. Costing for SDG implementation does not appear in the report.

Mali indicates that access to information and communication technologies is expanding, and outlines initiatives it undertook in this regard, including the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation, the “Digital Mali 2020” policy that seeks to boost the digital sector, and the establishment of the Agency for Information Technology and Communication, which is mandated to modernise public administration, and provide Internet access in schools and municipalities. On international public finance, the report states that the government has begun the process of developing a national development cooperation policy, which aims to make Mali an emerging country that will progressively not require financial assistance to support its development.

Leave no one behind

The report lists as “excluded people” the elderly, people living with HIV/AIDS, the poor, people with disabilities, and children. The country

has existing specialised programmes and policies for specific groups and universal programmes, including the National Social Protection Policy, the National Solidarity Policy, the National Solidarity Fund, the National Humanitarian Action Policy and the Strategy for the Economic Promotion of People with Disabilities. Moreover, Mali has mandatory health insurance that had 1,056,441 people registered (33.88% of its target) in 2016, and the “Jigisèmèjiri Program”, a social nets programme that provided cash transfers to 251,643 of the poorest households in 2016. The country also celebrates the month of solidarity and fight against exclusion.

Mali has taken various actions towards gender equality, such as the implementation of a national gender policy, the adoption of gender-responsive planning and budgeting, and the adoption of texts aimed at strengthening women’s economic rights.

Awareness raising and localisation

A national workshop seeking to strengthen the leadership capacity of stakeholders in prioritising and integrating the SDGs into development policies in Mali was organised in November 2016 under the chairmanship of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. It brought together stakeholders from the public sector, civil society, local authorities and the private sector. Workshops seeking to train officials, increase ownership, and identify priority targets were also organised in several regions of the country.

A session presenting the outcomes of these workshops was organised for members of the national assembly to help them understand their responsibility in the process. Furthermore, the Malian government, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme is considering translating a brochure on the SDGs into local languages.

According to the report, Mali plans to have institutional structures at the regional, local and communal level work on SDG implementation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

With the support of partners, civil society organised several consultations at the community level, workshops at the regional level and a roundtable on the SDGs. The report indicates that the National Assembly of Mali adopted a resolution for the monitoring of the SDGs, and set up a SDG-monitoring committee, in accordance with a decision of February 2016.

Mali notes that the preparation of its VNR report benefited from the support of United Nations agencies in the country, and of the Institut de la Francophonie pour le Développement Durable.

Measurement and reporting

The report does not provide an indication of the percentage of SDG indicators for which data are available, but notes that structural problems encountered for SDG implementation include the lack of statistical data in several areas. It also calls for financial support to improve data collection and to ensure the production of reliable statistics, as well as plans to revise its Statistical Master Plan to advance SDG implementation.



In 2018, Malta 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 Sustainable Development Act (2012), a Focal Point Network was established that is supporting 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. The Ministry for the Environment, Sustainable Development & Climate Change is responsible for the network, which includes participation by senior representatives from across government and provides a forum to share information on progress on sustainable development. Malta also has a Guardian of Future Generations organisation, which safeguards inter-generational and intra-generational sustainable development. A National Commission for Sustainable Development was established in 2002 with the responsibility of advocating for sustainable development, reviewing progress and achieving further progress. The VNR emphasizes Malta's role in terms of participation in regional (European Union) and Commonwealth institutions, and initiatives related to the 2030 Agenda.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal processes for stakeholder engagement. It notes that as part of the VNR, government institutions were responsible for liaising with stakeholders to provide their inputs into the efforts of the task force responsible for the VNR. Consultations were also held. The report includes a chapter by civil society.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report provides no information on baseline or gap analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

Malta is in the process of developing Vision 2050, which will incorporate the 2030 Agenda. A national strategy and action plan will also be prepared to guide implementation. The report refers

to the 2030 Agenda principles of universality, inter-generational responsibility and leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Malta has yet to establish national priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation. However, the report notes that Vision 2050 will include more efficient use of resources, and long-term management and investment in human, social and material resources. Vision 2050 will be grounded in the concept of a sustainable society (understood in terms of all dimensions of sustainable development). Malta is making use of the European Union set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and working towards compliance on the global indicator set.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to the three dimensions of sustainable development and references to the linkages between them. The report does not address policy coherence for sustainable development but does note Malta's contributions to the 2030 Agenda globally through foreign policies. The report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report does not refer to best practices, lessons learned, challenges in implementation or learning from peers. There is also no information on budgeting and costing for 2030 Agenda implementation. The report highlights the establishment of the Malta Development Bank, which has the objective of addressing market failures and will include projects with small- and medium-sized enterprises and investments in infrastructure. Malta is committed to reaching 0.33% of official development assistance to gross national income by 2030. Malta supports preferential trade for least developed countries.

Leave no one behind

Malta's efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data. Children, elderly people, unemployed persons and the working poor are identified as at risk of being left behind. Malta uses existing specialised and universal programmes to support vulnerable populations. Malta has a national poverty reduction and social inclusion strategy as well as policies, strategies and initiatives for persons with disabilities, anti-discrimination laws, and institutions and programmes to support gender equality. A non-binary gender marker has also been rolled out for identification cards and passports that will benefit trans and intersex people who will no longer have to identify themselves as male or female.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report refers to the role of the Focal Network in raising awareness across government but does not provide information on broader awareness-raising activities. There is no information provided on the status of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report provides limited examples of contributions from non-state actors to 2030 Agenda implementation. Nevertheless, it notes that parliament has a requirement to hold annual discussions on the country's Sustainable Development Report, which highlights commitments to sustainable development. The report includes a chapter by civil society that outlines a range of initiatives and working groups that are supporting implementation. A public-private initiative, "Making Malta Green and Clean," is also highlighted in the report. The initiative encourages citizens to keep their communities clean.

Measurement and reporting

The status of data availability is unclear from the report as only the European Union indicator set is provided. The report makes no mention of the status of disaggregated data or efforts to improve data availability.

The Sustainable Development Act requires an annual discussion on the Sustainable Development Report by parliament as noted above. The report does not include information on when Malta will report to the High-level Political Forum next.



In 2018, Mexico 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 2016.

Governance and institutional arrangements

Leadership, governance and institutions

The report describes the bodies that support implementation and follow-up for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development National Council, as a leading national implementation institution that gathers federal and local governments; the private sector; civil society and academia; the Specialized Technical Committee of the Sustainable Development Goals; the Working Group for the SDGs Legislative Follow-up; and local-level institutions. Mexico's president is the main political actor responsible for implementing the SDGs.

Mexico is promoting the establishment of a Network for the Strengthening of National Capacities for 2030 Agenda implementation and follow-up in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Stakeholder engagement

The report clearly shows the broad participation of multiple actors engaged in the institutional framework and the 2030 Agenda implementation and follow-up process in Mexico. With this group, a process is underway to build a national strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda that should define national SDGs priorities and roles for different national development actors.

The 2018 report highlights contributions of different sectors to its drafting process, including consultations with civil society, the private sector, the academic and scientific community, United Nations System agencies in Mexico and representatives of vulnerable groups.

A civil society spotlight report was written by "Espacio de Articulación de la Sociedad Civil para el Seguimiento de la Agenda 2030 en México," a group composed of 26 civil society organisations.

Civil society validity check

The civil society report focuses on the establishment of a framework for following-up and implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level. It does not contradict the national report, but highlights that some relevant processes linked to civil society participation are not progressing at a desirable speed.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

In its 2016 report, Mexico pointed out the need for establishing national baselines. No references to this issue are included in the 2018 report, but the statistical annex indicates national baselines for each SDG indicator.

Similarly, the 2018 report repeatedly refers to the need to close national gaps, but there is no identification of what those gaps are. However, gender divides are mentioned.

Incorporating the SDGs

During the 2017–18 electoral process, the main political parties incorporated the 2030 Agenda in their electoral platforms. Currently, the national consultation is underway to adopt a national strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The planning law was reformed in 2018 to guarantee the incorporation of the 2030 Agenda in the national planning framework. This reform introduces binding references to the three dimensions of sustainable development including the principles of equity, inclusion and non-discrimination as guides to long-term planning. Leaving no one behind is cross-cutting in the report, and a human rights-based approach is mentioned as its basis.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

As noted above, the country is in the process of developing a national strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary examination of the 17 SDGs, with limited references to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions, though the three sustainable development dimensions receive balanced attention across the report.

Policy coherence for sustainable development is rarely addressed in the analysis of domestic implementation and ensuring consistency in Mexico's public policies is still a challenge. Nevertheless, the country co-authored the publication "2018 Coherence of Policies for Sustainable Development" edited by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. As part of the first round of the Voluntary Peer Learning Mechanism on 2030 Agenda national implementation, Mexico, Germany and China participated a working group focused on policy coherence for SDGs implementation.

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Agreement on climate change and efforts to fight climate change are linked to the SDG national-implementation process. The Mexican General Law on Climate Change was reformed and aligned with the 2030 Agenda in April 2018.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Neither best practices nor lessons learned are included in the report. Some challenges are identified in the text in a general way, including the need to strengthen capacities in all areas to eliminate asymmetries, work towards the achievement of a shared vision for the future and promote the adoption of the 2030 Agenda by all stakeholders. Each SDG analysis includes particular challenges to achievement.

Budgetary issues receive special attention: the report highlights an analysis of links between the budgetary programmes of the Federal Public Administration and the SDG targets. The analysis identified that 80.7% of budgetary programmes in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget addressed topics related to 2030 Agenda commitments. However, there are almost no mention to means of implementation beyond this.

Leave no one behind

Mexico is among the top 25% of countries with the highest levels of inequality. For this reason, Mexico considers it crucial to reduce inequalities and modify all the structures that contribute to the maintenance and reproduction of disparities. In this perspective, the Mexican government understands the leave no one behind principle as the central axis of the 2030 Agenda. The Multi-disciplinary Working

Committees of the 2030 Agenda National Council are mandated to consider the leave no one behind principle in their work.

A number of groups are identified as at risk of being left behind: farmers, indigenous peoples, afro-descendant, elderly, children, adolescents, youth, people with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex, migrants and refugees. To support these groups, specific and universal social programmes are in place.

Regarding data, in a general way, the report affirms that SDGs progress should not be measured only with national averages but with disaggregated data. In recent years, Mexico has approved a set of laws aimed to promote gender equity. Mexico is financing programmes for urban and rural women entrepreneurs, and labels budgetary resources considering gender equality.

Awareness raising and localisation

The 2016 report pointed out that awareness-raising campaigns should be undertaken targeting all social actors, aimed to improve citizens' knowledge of 2030 Agenda contents and to highlight that its implementation is a shared responsibility. However, no mentions to awareness-raising or information campaigns are part of the 2018 report.

By June 2018, 31 Mexican states established the legal basis of their Monitoring and Instrumentation Body, and 29 of them formally installed it.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report shows high levels of participation among partners such as civil society, the private sector, academia, parliament, subnational governments, United Nations System agencies in Mexico and international cooperation partners for the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The parliament has formed a Working Group for the SDGs Legislative Follow-up.

Measurement and reporting

The National Institute of Statistics and Geography mapped the data availability of global indicators, concluding that the country is ready to follow-up on 169 of the 232 indicators. However, the report does not provide details related to the level of disaggregation of the available data. Information on national reporting is also not included.



Namibia

In 2018, Namibia 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

According to the report, the Development Partners Forum provides the highest level of oversight for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. A National Steering Committee is responsible for tracking implementation and includes senior representatives from government and development partners. The National Planning Commission serves as the secretariat and is responsible for coordination.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not set out a process for ongoing stakeholder engagement on the 2030 Agenda. However, non-state actors were engaged in the identification of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) priorities through national and sub-national-level consultations on the country's national development plan. Under the VNR, the government engaged with the public sector, private sector, civil society, development partners, the United Nations, academia and other interest groups according to the report.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Namibia prepared baselines for all SDGs. Specific gaps are presented in the goal-by-goal analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

Namibia has incorporated the SDGs into its Fifth National Development Plan and its acceleration tool, the Harambee Prosperity Plan 2016–20. Sectoral plans are beginning to integrate the SDGs. A roadmap for implementation was also prepared for internal use.

The report refers only to the 2030 Agenda principle to leave no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Namibia's Fifth National Development Plan focuses on economic progression, social transformation, environmental sustainability and good governance. National targets have been selected. According to the report, 2030 Agenda indicators and targets have been incorporated into national development planning documents.

Integration and policy coherence

The report examines all SDGs with the exception of SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production. It provides a detailed examination with attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, though with a limited focus on environmental dimensions. References are made to applicable linkages between the dimensions of sustainable development. The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development nor does it refer to international agreements that are relevant to 2030 Agenda implementation, with the exception of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report does not identify best practice or lessons learned for Namibia. It does, however, highlight a range of challenges to 2030 Agenda implementation. These challenges include limited financial and human resource; poor quality, disaggregated data and low trust in data within society; insufficient coordination across government; and ongoing social and economic inequalities. Challenges are also presented for each goal area.

The report does not refer to how the 2030 Agenda has been integrated into budgetary processes. It notes the importance of the private sector, including foreign investments, domestic resources and international support to support 2030 Agenda implementation. The report also highlights non-financial forms of South-South and North-South cooperation, including knowledge and technology transfer as important means of implementation.

Leave no one behind

Additional data is required to leave no one behind in Namibia. The report identifies the following groups as at risk of being left behind: rural populations, including rural women and minority groups, elderly people, orphans and vulnerable children, people with disabilities, war veterans, school children and uneducated youth, marginalised communities and populations affected by hunger. According to the report, social safety nets have been key to reducing poverty and the country's social protection system is one of the most comprehensive in sub-Saharan Africa in terms of coverage. Nevertheless, efforts are needed to improve targeting and monitoring to improve efficiency in delivery. Laws, policies and programmes have been established to support gender equality. As a result of its efforts to support vulnerable groups, Namibia has seen a reduction in inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report states that an extensive campaign was carried out to raise awareness of the SDGs and Namibia's Agenda 2063. National and sub-national consultations on the Fifth National Development Plan were used to sensitise stakeholders on the broader agenda. Community radio stations were also used. The government plans to translate the SDGs into local languages and continue awareness-raising efforts.

The report does not provide information on localisation efforts.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report emphasizes the role of all stakeholders in 2030 Agenda implementation, however, it does not provide specific examples of efforts by non-state actors.

Measurement and reporting

Namibia is developing a national indicator framework. A baseline report was developed to serve as the basis for monitoring progress. However, strengthening the statistical systems is a key challenge for monitoring implementation going forward. The report notes that the government will continue to commit resources to this effort to ensure regular data collection and monitoring of progress.

The National Monitoring Evaluation Office is responsible for reviewing progress on the SDGs as embedded in the Fifth National Development Plan. The office works in collaboration with the United Nations Development System's Coordination Unit.



In 2018, Niger 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 says Niger uses the institutional mechanisms defined for its Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy, Niger 2035, and its Economic and Social Development Plan 2017–21 for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. It has started to review its governance arrangements towards the SDGs. For instance, a division for the follow-up of the SDGs has been established within the Ministry of Planning that ensures the technical coordination of the Economic and Social Development Plan 2017–21 and the SDGs.

Some of the governance arrangements put in place for the Economic and Social Development Plan 2017–21 and the SDGs include non-state actors, such as the National Coordination Committee that promotes synergy between sectors, and brings together various ministerial departments, technical and financial partners, civil society and the private sector.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on stakeholder engagement, and no civil society report was provided for the review.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Niger assessed the alignment of the SDGs with its Economic and Social Development Plan 2017–21 through a rapid integrated assessment. It also assessed SDG progress on most of the goals. For some of the SDGs, the report outlines the baseline for the SDGs, taking into account global SDG targets and indicators selected by Niger. For instance, on SDG 2 on zero hunger, the report says that severe food insecurity affects on average 5.6% of the population and chronic food insecurity affects about 14% of the population per year. On SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, it states that only 1.25% of the rural population has access to optimal drinking water services.

Incorporating the SDGs

The report notes that the Sustainable Development and Inclusive Growth Strategy, Niger 2035, and the Economic and Social Development Plan 2017–21 are integrating the SDGs to some extent and represent the strategic reference frameworks for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It proposes to develop a comprehensive strategic framework that will cover each SDG and will be completed with a long-term action plan that takes into account SDG targets and indicators.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report indicates that Niger selected 43 targets among 100 that it prioritised, and more than 50 targets related to means of implementation and partnership. There have been 137 indicators identified for the targets selected, and both the targets and indicators seem to be aligned to the global targets and indicators.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of the six SDGs reviewed in-depth during the 2018 High-level Political Forum (SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 on life on land, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals), and includes a summary examination of all the goals, except SDG 14 on life below water, which the report notes is not relevant for Niger. It does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development, and links SDG implementation to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes that a training of trainers workshop, supported by the United Nations Population Fund, was organised on the integration of the SDGs into sectoral strategic frameworks for 12 sectoral ministries and the National Institute of Statistics. The report suggests to elaborate a long-term plan for SDG implementation that would be translated into a three-year work and financing

programme to be integrated into the country's Multi-Year Economic Budgetary Programming Document.

On international public finance, the report outlines the existence of a State-Technical and Financial Partners Committee, chaired by the minister of planning. The committee seeks to ensure synergy, coordination and harmonisation of all public interventions for the implementation of the Economic and Social Development Plan 2017–21 and, consequently, the SDGs. The committee will also facilitate resource mobilisation and monitoring of the effectiveness of official development assistance.

Leave no one behind

Although the report does not clearly refer to the principle of leaving no one behind, it notes the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups, vulnerable people, the most vulnerable populations, and vulnerable people affected by disasters or food crises.

The report also mentions the adoption, in 2011, of Niger's National Social Protection Policy, that seeks to, inter alia, strengthen the National Food Crisis Prevention and Management System, intensify the fight against poverty and hunger by strengthening the gender approach and paying particular attention to the most vulnerable populations, and establish social safety nets. Per the report, Niger has also adopted several laws and documents promoting gender equality, including the 2006 law on reproductive health, the 2003 law prohibiting female genital mutilation and the strategy for women's economic empowerment.

Awareness raising and localisation

Based on the report, Niger does not seem to have invested a lot on raising awareness on the SDGs to date. However, the government plans to launch a series of initiatives to strengthen stakeholder understanding of challenges to be met in order to achieve 2030 Agenda, and to develop an information and communication plan for the entire population on the SDGs.

According to the report, the Ministry in charge of Planning, in conjunction with the Ministry of Community Development and Spatial Planning, plans to propose a guide for SDG planning and monitoring that will support the integration of the SDGs into the Municipal and Regional Development Plans.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The VNR was carried out with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and involved the collaboration of other agencies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Children's Fund. In addition to supporting the VNR, United Nations Development Programme also helped Niger prioritise SDG targets and supported the National Institute of Statistics in developing a document on metadata for indicators related to prioritised targets.

The report underlines the important role of volunteers in the implementation of the SDGs and in development actions, particularly among vulnerable groups and local authorities. It outlines a series of initiatives undertaken by volunteers to implement the SDGs, such as a feasibility study for the construction of a solar hybrid power plant in the Commune of Agadez (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy).

Measurement and reporting

The report notes that information is unavailable for 43% of the 137 indicators identified by the country. According to the report, the situation is most critical for SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, where information is available for less than 25% of the indicators.

The report outlines a lack of disaggregated data for most SDG indicators prioritised for the country. It adds that Niger developed a National Statistical Development Strategy document in 2008, and it is in its third phase of implementation (2016–18). According to the report, Niger plans to clarify the division of labor in the collection, processing and management of data on the SDGs within the national statistical system, and to update and complete "within one year at most" the baseline situation on the targets and indicators included in its Economic and Social Development Plan. The report also suggests preparing annual implementation reports on the Economic and Social Development Plan that would focus on the SDGs.



In 2018, Paraguay 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-institutional Coordination Commission for the Implementation, Monitoring and Follow-up of International Commitments assumed by the country within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (SDGs Inter-Institutional Commission) has been created. It includes the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the SDGs Inter-Institutional Commission coordinator, and the Ministry of Finance, the Technical Planning Secretariat and the Social Cabinet of the Presidency of the Republic. The Paraguay 2030 SDGs Inter-Institutional Commission will include three working groups aimed to coordinate the implementation of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, led by the Ministry of Finance, the Social Action Secretariat and the Environment Secretariat respectively. According to the report, these working groups are set to functioning in the second half of 2018.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal processes for stakeholder engagement, including in relation to governance arrangements. Preparations for the National Development Plan included inputs from the central government, sub-national governments, civil society, the private sector and academia. The VNR gathered stakeholders coordinated by SDGs Inter-Institutional Commission, enabling civil society organisations, the private sector and “strategic allies” to collaborate in defining the scope of the report.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report does not address baseline or gap analysis. The only gap identified as part of the national situation analysis is gender inequality.

Incorporating the SDGs

The SDGs were incorporated in sectoral plans, such as the Paraguay National Housing and Habitat Policy, explicitly aimed at achieving

SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. The National Development Plan of Paraguay, called Paraguay 2030, was aligned with the SDGs, and efforts were established to contribute to follow-up at the national level.

The human rights-based approach and leave no one behind principles of the 2030 Agenda are cross-cutting in the report.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report states that development priorities established in its National Development Plan will guide SDG implementation. Although they are not identified in the report, the statistical annex shows links between National Development Plan goals and SDGs.

Integration and policy coherence

The report does not carry out a goal-by-goal analysis but conducts a review on the Paraguayan process of policy alignment to the SDGs and the institutional developments for implementation. The three dimensions of sustainable development are addressed, but a greater focus is given to the economic area.

There are no references to policy coherence to sustainable development. However, the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda are explicitly linked to implementation at the national level.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

There is no identification of lessons learned in accelerating national implementation, but many challenges are identified related to reinforcing alignment between the National Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda, ensuring federal government institutions’ ownership of the SDGs, strengthening national and local governments coordination, and supporting participatory processes for public policies planning.

Technology, trade, international public finance and systemic issues are mentioned. The effect of Paraguay’s “graduation” in terms of criteria for the provision of official development assistance is

considered an obstacle in the implementation of the SDGs and criticised in the report for being based on an economic criterion that ignores development complexity. National budgetary issues are not addressed in the report.

Leave no one behind

The National Human Rights Plan of Paraguay is mentioned as the key policy guide document aimed to leave no one behind, reinforced by other legal documents such as national plans for equal opportunities for men and women and national policies on children. Currently, a National Plan for Indigenous Peoples is being developed. The country has a National Gender Strategy for Climate Change, a National Plan for Equal Opportunities between Men and Women, a law of comprehensive protection for women against all forms of gender violence and public policies aimed at addressing the needs of women deprived of liberty. Efforts are in place to guide government action towards promoting equal opportunities for men and women.

As part of national efforts to ensure that no one is left behind, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, women, children and youth are expressly identified as vulnerable groups, supported by specialised and universal social policy programmes. For instance, the Tekoporã programme of monetary transfers to vulnerable families has been in operation since 2005. In 2015, a protocol promoting the inclusion of indigenous families in Tekoporã was adopted, and its coverage was extended to people with severe disabilities.

BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Paraguay has developed strong systems of accountability to children and adolescents over the past ten years. Recognising the human rights of girls, boys and adolescents, Paraguay seeks to foster a culture of accountability from childhood. A National Secretariat exists for children and adolescents. Administrative, political and pedagogical processes facilitate the provision of information on the use of public resources for projects that benefit young people to children and adolescents in accessible ways. Methodologies are used that promote protagonist participation (participation that enables individuals to have power over outcomes), the right to public information and the right to petition authorities.

Awareness raising and localisation

Local governments design local development plans aligned with the National Development Plan and the SDGs and have established multistakeholder district and departmental development councils. So far, 244 district councils and 17 departmental councils have been created.

These works are complemented by awareness-raising activities like SDGs socialisation seminars, stakeholders' forums of debate and workshops with public institutions.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

District and departmental development councils are the main bodies responsible for SDGs implementation at the local level and must bring together government and non-government stakeholders. In 2017, presidents of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Paraguay signed a joint declaration on working together to implement and follow-up the 2030 Agenda. The Paraguay Global Compact is mentioned as an implementation partner, contributing to business strategies and SDG alignment, supporting public policies and mobilising financial resources.

The United Nations Development Programme recruited a consultant team to support the VNR and report preparation, while the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations supported the design of national indicators. United Nations Women contributed a gender-perspective to the VNR.

Measurement and reporting

Twenty percent of the global SDGs indicators are produced at the national level, and another 19% could be built with information already available. The possibility of disaggregating available indicators has been evaluated, concluding that most of them can be followed at territorial level (national-local and urban-rural disaggregation). However, Paraguay lacks data disaggregation capacities, affecting national implementation follow-up.

To overcome this obstacle, a report annex presents an SDG Inter-institutional Commission Road Map, identifying five steps to be taken from July 2018–23 to strengthen national statistical capacities such as the preparation of national SDG indicators and continuous updating; technical training; capacity improvement efforts; coordination of international efforts related to statistics; strengthening the General Directorate of Statistics, Surveys and Censuses of Paraguay capacities; and the establishment of a national statistical system and a National Statistics Institute. Information on national reporting is not presented.

 Poland

In 2018, Poland 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 Entrepreneurship and Technology is responsible for coordination of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. Overall development objectives are defined by the Council of Ministers under the leadership of the prime minister. In preparing for the VNR, Poland established a task force for the Coherence of the Strategy for Responsible Development by 2020 with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Task force members include government institutions, local and regional governments, social organisations, civil society, academia, youth, public statistics, trade unions and employers' organisations, United Nations agencies and others. The task force is responsible for selecting national priorities, ensuring a participatory VNR, information exchange and monitoring progress on implementation. The task force is part of the Coordination Committee for Development Policy, which serves as the central platform for monitoring implementation of Poland's development strategy. Ministerial coordinators also exist, responsible for specific SDGs.

Stakeholder engagement

Poland has a National Stakeholder Forum for the implementation of the SDGs. Non-state actors have been engaged in the selection of national priorities and the VNR, notably through the task force outlined above. A draft version of the report was also made available for public consultation.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In addition to the creation of a task force with non-state actor representation to facilitate the VNR, Poland's VNR included a number of opportunities for broad public consultation. Over a three-week period in April 2018, the VNR report underwent inter-ministerial and public consultations. The public consultations included online and offline elements. A dedicated

form was available for stakeholders to submit comments through the government website that hosted a draft version of the report. The government also purposefully submitted the draft report to social partners to solicit their feedback. A draft version of the report was also submitted to local government institutions as well as a Social Dialogue Council for review. Selected parliamentary committees also reviewed the draft report.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report includes a review of how Poland fares against a number of international SDG rankings. A national analysis was also carried out with experts assessing Poland's starting point for 2030 Agenda implementation, alignment between national policies and the 2030 Agenda, and data constraints. Areas where alignment is the greatest between the SDGs and Poland's Strategy for Responsible Development include education, participation, social inclusion, economic growth and innovation, financial services, infrastructure, research and development, entrepreneurship (including small- and medium-sized enterprises), employment, sustainable agriculture, industry, adaptation to climate change, and pollution. The review found that there is less coherence on development cooperation, global cooperation for sustainable development and marine ecosystems. Data constraints are most present for SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

Incorporating the SDGs

Adopted in 2017, the Strategy for Responsible Development outlines Poland's priorities for social and economic development by 2020 with a view to 2030. The strategy supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The report refers to the 2030 Agenda principles of leaving no one behind and inter-generational responsibility.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report indicates that Poland's priorities include the reduction of social exclusion, poverty and social inequalities; improvements in quality of life; education and improvement of competences; and improved health care. Partnerships across stakeholders is also important. The report sums up Poland's three priorities as sustainable economic growth driven by knowledge, data and organisational excellence; socially sensitive and territorially sustainable development; and effective institutions contributing to growth. Poland has selected national indicators as part of its Strategy for Responsible Development.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary examination of all SDGs. While all dimensions of sustainable development are noted, there is less of a focus on the environment and limited references to linkages between goals. Poland works to avoid actions that will have a negative effect on global development in its approach to policy coherence for sustainable development. The government also plans to jointly establish development cooperation policies with national development strategies after 2020. In terms of relevant international agreements and frameworks that support 2030 Agenda implementation, only the Paris Agreement on climate change is mentioned.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes Poland's approach to partnership (see good practice box) is a form of best practice. It does not refer to lessons learned, overall challenges to implementation or learning from peers. The Strategy for Responsible Development includes a cost estimate and sources of finance have been identified, namely, national and European Union public funds, other foreign sources of finance and private funds. The report highlights Poland's increasing commitment to official development assistance, efforts to address illicit financial flows and efforts to improve the export position of the country's small- and medium-sized enterprises.

Leave no one behind

The Strategy for Responsible Development identifies families with many children, single-parent families, children and youth (in particular those with disabilities) and families where at least one caregiver is unemployed as at risk of poverty. The status of data to leave no one behind is unclear from the report. Poland uses existing specialised and universal programmes to support vulnerable

populations, including minimum wage increases, support for accessible living and provisions for families such as early childhood education and efforts to combat violence in the family. Poland has a National Action Programme for Equal Treatment to support gender equality and a National Strategy for Regional Development to address regional inequalities.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report does not provide information on awareness-raising beyond the partnership initiative noted below. It states that inclusion of local and regional levels of government (and their associations) in the task force guiding 2030 Agenda implementation has helped to embed the SDGs at the local level.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

In 2017, the Partnership for the Implementation of the SDGs in Poland was launched with the aim of encouraging commitments and efforts by stakeholders across sectors. The partnership works to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the need for cooperation across sectors. Signatories to the partnership showcase their efforts as a means to inspire others.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report emphasizes inclusive policy-making and the creation of spaces for systemic exchange of knowledge, information and good practices. The country also takes a project approach to implementing 2030 Agenda initiatives. The approach sets milestones and makes use of participatory models of cooperation.

Measurement and reporting

There is little information on monitoring and reporting in the report. An assessment of data availability, including disaggregated data, is not included though the main SDGs for which data constraints exist are noted. The government plans to refine SDG indicators going forward. No information is presented on plans for national reporting on 2030 Agenda implementation.



In 2018, Qatar submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Qatar submitted its first report in 2017.

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Leadership, governance and institutions

The 2018 report provides a diagram of the institutional mechanisms for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation with very little text. Reviewing the 2018 report in isolation, leadership and implementation mechanisms are unclear. However, the 2017 report noted the creation of a supervisory committee representing all ministries, an advisory committee representing government, non-governmental organisations and the private sector, and eight national task teams that were created to develop sector strategies representing ministries, other government institutions, the private sector, civil society organisations and others. The 2018 report includes the Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics, Department for Follow-up (monitoring) of the National Development Strategy and Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 Implementation, and departments of planning and quality control at various ministries as part of implementation mechanisms.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide details on stakeholder engagement. According to the 2017 report, non-state actors were engaged in identifying priorities through the national task teams. The 2018 report was prepared by a working group that included representation by government and civil society organisations.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report does not include baseline or gap analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

According to the report, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been incorporated into the second National Development Strategy for the 2018–22 period. Qatar adopted sustainable

development as a strategic choice in Qatar National Vision 2030. The report makes no mention of 2030 Agenda principles.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities include improving the lives of all social groups of citizens and expatriates including in areas such as education, employment, health, housing and transport. The National Development Strategy also works to advance issues related to social inclusion. Performance indicators for the National Development Strategy have been established and will be used for monitoring going forward.

Integration and policy coherence

The report includes a detailed review of the 2018 High-level Political Forum theme goals: SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. All dimensions of sustainable development are captured, however, there is a greater focus on the environment (which is in contrast to 2017 when the report had a limited focus on environmental dimensions). References are also made to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the goal-by-goal analysis, unlike in the 2017 report. The 2018 report also mentions the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda while the 2017 report did not.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Unlike in 2017, the 2018 report does not include information on best practices and general challenges for 2030 Agenda implementation (though the report does include specific challenges related to the goals examined).

The report highlights efforts to build science and technology infrastructure and invest in human capital. With respect to capacity

Progressing national SDGs implementation: Annex 3. Country Profiles

development, the report notes investments in education to support the capacity of citizens to engage in 2030 Agenda implementation.

Qatar's official development assistance amounted to US \$2 billion in 2017. The country also promotes international trade within the context of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development approach.

The report does not include information on costing domestic implementation and budgeting. It does, however, note that government institutions are expected to allocate necessary resources in accordance with an agreed timeline.

Leave no one behind

The report does not refer to the principle of leaving no one behind. However, it consistently mentions women, children, elderly and people with disabilities as part of social inclusion efforts. The report refers to strengthened social protection systems and efforts in housing that benefit all people. According to the report, "the promotion and protection of the rights of persons with disabilities is a top priority for Qatar through its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities" (p. 38).

Awareness raising and localisation

The report does not mention awareness-raising activities or efforts to localise the 2030 Agenda.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

While the report mentions the importance of the private sector, civil society and higher education institutions in 2030 Agenda implementation, it provides very few examples of concrete partnerships. One example of a research partnership in the energy sector is provided. With respect to civil society, the report outlines efforts by civil society and United Nations agencies to host the 2016 Arab Conference on the Role of Civil Society in the Implementation of the Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Measurement and reporting

The report does not provide an overview of data gaps, though it notes that gaps in renewable energy data exist. A roadmap has been prepared to strengthen the national statistical system. It includes an evaluation of existing capacities, a data-availability assessment, preparation of a national plan (and sectoral plans) to produce indicators for 2030 Agenda monitoring, and preparation of a national database, to be updated periodically.

According to the report, dashboards will be used for reporting as well as periodic annual, semi-annual and quarterly reports. Periodic reports will be submitted to the Council of Ministers.



Romania

In 2018, Romania 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 responsibility for sustainable development is shared between the Inter-ministerial Committee for the Coordination of the Integration of Environmental Protection into Sectoral Policies and Strategies at the National Level and the Department for Sustainable Development. The committee is under the leadership of the Minister of Environment while the Department for Sustainable Development is led by a State Counsellor under the Prime Minister's Office.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement. It does, however, note that non-state actors are involved in efforts to revise the national sustainable development strategy. Non-state actors were engaged in the VNR through a working group that included government institutions, civil society representatives and academia.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report makes no mention of baseline or gap analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

Romania is in the process of revising its National Sustainable Development Strategy. The revision will further incorporate sustainability issues to directly or indirectly support realising the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The report refers to the universal, human rights-based nature of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the need to ensure inter-generational responsibility and leave no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities have not yet been selected in light of the ongoing revision to the National Sustainable Development Strategy. However,

Romania is updating its sustainable development indicator set and is in the process of selecting indicators to address Romania's specific needs and priorities.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Romania is working to include nationally relevant indicators in SDG monitoring. The government is carrying out a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization project, "Culture for Development Indicators," which contributes to implementation of the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The project includes design and analysis of 22 indicators that reflect the contributions of culture to development. The indicators assess the contribution of culture to sustainable development in a number of policy areas including the economy, education, governance, social participation, gender equality, communication and heritage. The 22 indicators correlate with nine SDGs and 36 targets.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of the six SDGs reviewed in-depth during the 2018 High-level Political Forum (SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals). The report gives equal attention to all dimensions of sustainable development and refers to linkages between them. To ensure policy coherence in implementation, Romania aims to maintain political commitment, provide appropriate strategic direction, establish effective coordination and dedicated groups of experts at all levels of government and inspire efforts by stakeholders across society. Romania's report refers to the Paris

Agreement on climate change as well as the 2011 Busan agreement on effective development cooperation.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Romania highlights its use of multi-disciplinary approaches to addressing policy issues as a form of best practice, particularly in terms of drawing on expert advice and supporting collaboration among experts. Working with experts to incorporate sustainable development into policies is also a lesson learned. Ensuring broad participation in implementation and effective monitoring are also highlighted as lessons learned. Budgeting, costing and financing for the 2030 Agenda are not articulated in the report. Romania highlighted its commitment to reach 0.33% official development assistance to gross national income by 2030 and efforts in terms of technology transfer and capacity development for partner countries.

Leave no one behind

Romania's efforts to leave no one behind appear to be informed by existing data and baselines. According to the report, people living in rural areas, Roma communities, children, the elderly and people with disabilities are most at risk of being left behind. The report showcases specific strategies and initiatives to support vulnerable groups and notes that Romania has a goal of reducing the number of people at risk of poverty by 580,000 by 2020 under the country's National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction 2015–20 and corresponding Strategic Action Plan. The report refers largely to legal frameworks in support of gender equality.

Awareness raising and localisation

Romania has raised awareness of the 2030 Agenda through national, multi-stakeholder conferences and regional seminars. The Department for Sustainable Development also organised a competition to hear students' feedback on sustainable development.

The report does not provide information on the status of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report notes the importance of multi-stakeholder contributions to 2030 Agenda implementation and provides some examples. In 2015, Romania's parliament created a Sub-committee for Sustainable Development. In 2016, a declaration was adopted by the parliament showing its support for the 2030 Agenda. A similar sub-committee also exists in the lower house of the parliament. The report includes reference to a range of initiatives and partnerships

with civil society, though it does not provide examples of contributions from the private sector and academia.

Measurement and reporting

The report does not provide information on data availability or efforts to improve data availability. National reporting is not presented, however, the report includes reference to future reports to the High-level Political Forum.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Romania's report includes a presentation of when the country will report to the High-level Political Forum. VNRs are planned for 2023 and 2029.



Saudi Arabia

In 2018, Saudi Arabia 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 and Planning is responsible for follow-up on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The ministry supports government institutions and other stakeholders in strategic planning, policy alignment and implementation. A national commission was set up to support implementation of SDG 4 on quality education.

The report notes Saudi Arabia's engagement on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the G20 and the League of Arab States.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement. According to the report, the VNR was conducted through a participatory approach, including engagement with government institutions, the private sector, and charitable societies and associations.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

Saudi Arabia made use of the United Nations Development Programme's Rapid Integrated Assessment Tool to examine alignment between the country's overarching strategy, Vision 2030, and the SDGs. The report notes that there is significant alignment between the national strategy and the SDGs.

Incorporating the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda has been incorporated into some policies and strategies, including the Water Strategy, Environment Strategy and National Spatial Strategy. The SDGs are also being integrated into education curricula. The report notes that incorporation of the 2030 Agenda into policies and strategies is an ongoing process and that SDG targets and indicators will be incorporated into detailed action plans and programmes.

The report does not refer to any principles of the 2030 Agenda.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Saudi Arabia's national priorities include a vibrant society, a thriving economy and an ambitious nation. A vibrant society includes living in accordance with the Islamic principle of moderation, cherishing national identity and the country's cultural heritage, and a strong family system supported by health and social care. To support the economy, the report notes priorities including creating opportunities in different economic sectors, raising the quality of development and economic services through privatisation, and attracting international investments and expertise. The report highlights efforts to improve the effectiveness of government and cultivate responsible citizens to build an ambitious nation. Saudi Arabia has aligned its performance indicators with the SDGs and plans to establish proxy indicators.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with a greater focus on economic dimensions of sustainable development and limited references to the linkages between the dimensions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is provided by the long-term vision for the country. The report mentions the Paris Agreement on climate change.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes the importance of taking into account national priorities and realities, early collaboration on policies with appropriate means of implementation and having a clear long-term vision as lessons learned in 2030 Agenda implementation. Economic diversification is noted as a means to support a range of SDGs. Efforts to improve public-sector performance are also highlighted.

Challenges to 2030 Agenda implementation include data availability, statistical system strengthening, coordination across public and private sectors, building from existing institutional frameworks and localisation.

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In terms of supporting the SDGs globally, the report emphasizes Saudi Arabia's generosity as a provider of concessionary aid and favourable development assistance having surpassed the 0.7% of official development assistance to gross national income ratio. Saudi Arabia also ranks second in terms of labour cash transfers (remittances) in the world.

plans to strengthen systems for monitoring and reporting regularly, particularly at the local level.

Leave no one behind

Although the report does not clearly refer to the principle of leaving no one behind, it identifies persons with disabilities, women and children as vulnerable groups. Efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data.

Saudi Arabia provides financial support to low- and middle-income households that may be at risk due to economic policies pursued by the government. The government has established a number of policies, programmes and institutions to support persons with disabilities. Cash assistance is provided to families of persons with disabilities, a national strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities is being developed, and an umbrella commission for persons with disabilities is being established. The government is planning a social protection strategy, is working to increase women's participation in the labour market as well as protect women and children from all forms of abuse.

Awareness raising and localisation

Efforts to raise awareness of the SDGs and localise implementation are not included in the report.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report notes that the Ministry of Economy and Planning promotes participation in 2030 Agenda implementation by the private sector, charitable societies and associations. It provides examples of specific projects supported by charitable organisations, the private sector, foundations and academia.

Measurement and reporting

The report does not provide information on data availability, including disaggregated data. Nevertheless, it does note that data availability has improved and that there is a need to improve methodologies and data collection systems, build capacity in the statistical system, better coordination between data producers and users, develop administrative records, boost statistical knowledge in society and improve dissemination.

The report promises regular reviews of implementation with a focus on identifying good practices and challenges. The government



Senegal

In 2018, Senegal 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 indicates that an ad hoc technical committee under the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning was established to oversee the VNR technical process and to ensure Senegal's effective participation in the 2018 High-level Political Forum. It is unclear, however, if this committee has an official role to play regarding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. The report also states that the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning will have to ensure coherence between the SDGs and Phase II of the Plan for an Emerging Senegal (2019–23).

Stakeholder engagement

The report notes that the Civil Society Working Group under the Council of Non-Governmental Organisations for Development Support conducted consultations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in several regions and collaborative workshops were organised. The Platform of Civil Society Organisations for Monitoring the SDGs also produced a civil society report related to SDG implementation. Outcomes of these initiatives were included in Senegal's report to the High-level Political Forum, the report says. Furthermore, stakeholders were invited to review the draft of the report, and amendments and recommendations resulting from the workshop were incorporated.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

An assessment was carried out to examine the alignment between the Plan for an Emerging Senegal 2014–18 and the SDGs. The report also assesses in detail the 17 SDGs and identifies baselines as well as gaps for each of the goals based on SDG targets and indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

Per the report, the Plan for an Emerging Senegal 2014–18, which serves as a frame of reference for economic and social policy, integrates about 77% of the SDG targets and 62% of the SDG indicators.

The report notes that the second phase of Plan (2019–23) should address all the SDG national priorities. The report refers to “intra- and intergenerational solidarity” and “ethics of the future,” but does not include a dedicated chapter on leaving no one behind. However, the principle is mentioned a few times in the text.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report identifies SDG priorities for all the 17 SDGs, except SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production. Priorities are defined through national targets, with the most targets being related to SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals.

Integration and policy coherence

The report makes limited reference to linkages between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development in its analysis of SDG progress. However, the Ecovillages programme that it refers to offers a good example of integration.

BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In Senegal, the “Ecovillages” Programme is testing innovative participatory approaches for natural resource management, biodiversity conservation and renewable energy development, combined with a reduction in carbon emissions and an increase in carbon sequestration. According to the report, Senegal has about 500 Ecovillages overseen by the National Ecovillages Agency, whose mission is to oversee the transition process of 14,000 traditional villages to Ecovillages by 2020, with support from development partners.

The civil society report notes that the programme generated more than 3,000 direct jobs in 2016, two-thirds of which benefited women.

A harmonised framework for the monitoring and evaluation of public policies, chaired by the head of state, has been put in place to

ensure coherence for sustainable development. The report links SDG implementation to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, as well as aid effectiveness and development effectiveness agreements.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Implementation challenges identified by Senegal include strengthening SDG capacity of governmental study and planning units, and of all stakeholders to implement and monitor the SDGs; strengthening national systems for data production and analysis; mobilising financial resources, including internal resources; and coordinating and strengthening dialogue with development actors.

In a discussion on trade, the report notes that the objective of the Plan for an Emerging Senegal is to increase the share of Senegal's exports. The report also notes that efforts to finance the plan will be used to finance the SDGs. The report points to the fact that developed countries committed to devote at least 0.7% of their gross national income to financing development in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. It also adds that measures will have to be taken to diversify funding sources, including through South-South cooperation, foreign direct investment and public-private partnerships.

Leave no one behind

The report notes that young people, women, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS and the elderly are amongst the most vulnerable people. It outlines universal and existing specialised programmes to leave no one behind as well as initiatives that aim to combat social inequalities and improve the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable households. Those include, for example, the National Family Security Grant Programme, the Universal Health Coverage Programme and the Equal Opportunities Card, inter alia.

On reducing domestic inequalities and realising gender equality, the report indicates the existence of the National Strategy for Gender Equity and Equality, and of a Ministry of Women, the Family and Children. The country's 2001 constitution affirms equal access to land for men and women, and the government has created "Gender Cells," that serve as focal points of the Ministry of Women in other sectoral ministries. It calls for the identification of people left behind through quantitative and perception surveys.

Awareness raising and localisation

According to the report, Senegal commits to encourage participation of grassroots community organisations, involve community radio stations in supporting communication during the formulation and implementation of public policies integrating the SDGs, and translate all the SDGs into its national languages. The report also indicates that the SDGs will be aligned with local development plans, adding that Senegal has set up a national platform for local planning that should work on converting the SDGs into a local planning guide.

BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The civil society report notes that the Association of Mayors of Senegal mandated experts, in 2017, to carry out studies on various themes related to the SDGs. The studies sought to help local elected officials make the most appropriate decisions, ensure coherence in local development policies and increase SDG ownership with a view to promote local development.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report includes limited information related to partnerships. It calls on development partners to provide financial support and more technical assistance.

Measurement and reporting

According to the report, nearly 62% of the SDG global indicators "comply" with Senegal's current indicators system and the country is able to provide information on 68.5% of the SDG indicators. The report specifies that socio-economic indicators that were used to follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals are the ones for which there is more data, while governance and environment indicators are the least well documented.

According to the report, a main constraint for SDG implementation is data availability. Senegal plans to produce more data through household surveys, and to train managers and technicians in statistics.

On reporting, Senegal indicates that the institutional framework for SDG monitoring is linked to the harmonised framework for the monitoring and evaluation of public policies, which comprises the production of annual synthesis reports by a Joint Annual Review of Economic and Social Policy, and sectoral, regional and thematic reports. Per the report, a report focusing specifically on progress made in the implementation of the SDGs will be prepared in addition to thematic reports. The report also calls for the contribution of all levels (state and sub-national levels) to monitor progress.



Singapore

In 2018, Singapore 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 VNR report is not clear on leadership for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. An inter-ministry committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was established for the VNR and thereafter. At the regional level, the report highlights Singapore's contributions to the 2030 Agenda through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement. Non-state actors were engaged in the VNR through regular meetings and non-state actors hosted events on the 2030 Agenda, in which government representatives participated.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report makes no mention of baseline or gap analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

The report does not provide information on how the 2030 Agenda has been incorporated into national policies and approaches. It refers to 2030 Agenda principles of inter-generational responsibility and leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation are not listed in the report. The report indicates that Singapore is using the global indicators and has not developed national targets and indicators.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to all dimensions of sustainable development and the inter-linkages between them. While the report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development, it does emphasize

a whole-of-government approach to addressing challenges. Government institutions assess challenges from multiple perspectives with the aim of understanding the impact of their policies on other policy areas. The report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The key challenges to 2030 Agenda implementation include Singapore's aging population, the need for continuous skills upgrading in light of technological advances and addressing competing priorities for sustainable development given the limited size of the country. The report highlights Singapore's contributions through the Singapore Cooperation Programme which provides technical assistance. Singapore also participates in triangular cooperation and offers a range of capacity development programmes.

Leave no one behind

People with disabilities, and low-income families and individuals are at risk of being left behind in Singapore. Efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data. The report points to social safety nets as the key means to leave no one behind, with supports for elderly people, low-wage workers, public housing, special needs education and affordable health care (with subsidies for lower income individuals). The report emphasizes legal means to ensure gender equality, including leave for new parents, as well as efforts to improve women's representation on boards and women's health. The report also included information on the results of efforts to improve equality.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Singapore reported on income inequality. The country has seen impressive income growth for those in the lowest 10%. Their real per capita household income increased 30.2% between 2007 and 2017. The 20th percentile of full-time employed residents saw income growth of 4.2% per annum in real terms over 2012–17.

Awareness raising and localisation

Singapore has made use of public education initiatives to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. The government is making use of individual champions and word-of-mouth to sensitise the public on SDG issues. A challenge identified in the report is raising awareness to support behavioural change and promote individual and collective actions on the 2030 Agenda.

The report does not provide information on the status of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

Specific examples of partnerships with non-state actors to support 2030 Agenda implementation are highlighted throughout the report. Singapore launched a Sustainable Development Programme in 2015 to support partner countries' implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The programme works in partnership with civil society and United Nations agencies. The report also highlights projects with the private sector, academia and the United Nations.

Measurement and reporting

The report provides no information on measurement, reporting and follow-up for the 2030 Agenda.



In 2018, Slovakia 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

Slovakia established a Government Council of the Slovak Republic for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to coordinate implementation. Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization, the council includes government institutions, regional administration, cities and municipalities, employers, trade unions, academia, non-governmental organisations and government advisory bodies. The council is responsible for policy development at national and regional levels, and for monitoring progress. While the Deputy Prime Minister for Investments and Informatization is responsible for national dimensions of 2030 Agenda implementation, the deputy chairman, a position held by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, is responsible for international dimensions. The council is supported by a Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the preparation of the National Investment Plan of the Slovak Republic for 2018–30. The working group has two chambers: the Government Chamber includes representatives from government while the Chamber of Stakeholders includes non-governmental actors.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Slovakia has included a wide range of stakeholders in the governance structures for 2030 Agenda implementation, including at the oversight and working levels.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement beyond governance structures. It notes that non-state actors contributed to the selection of national priorities and the VNR.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The government made use of analysis by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development to assess baselines. Through the VNR, existing data and indicators were also assessed. The report includes a discussion of gaps throughout. The main outcome of the analysis was contributing to the selection of national priorities.

Incorporating the SDGs

Slovakia has a roadmap for 2030 Agenda implementation. Adopted in 2017, the roadmap sets out the steps to fully integrate the 2030 Agenda into policies, planning and governance frameworks. The report refers to the 2030 Agenda principles of universality and leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Slovakia has selected the following priorities and noted related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 Agenda implementation:

- education (incorporating SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities);
- environmentally sustainable and knowledge-based economy (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities and SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production);
- poverty reduction and social inclusion (SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities);
- sustainability of settlements, regions and countryside in the context of climate change (SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 15 on life on land);

- rule of law, democracy and security (SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions); and
- good health (SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities).

The report lists developing targets and indicators based on these priorities as a next step.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary analysis of country priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation. There is no goal-by-goal analysis, though the report pays equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The central tool to achieve policy coherence for sustainable development will be a national development strategy. The report does not refer to international agreements or frameworks that support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report highlights best practices for each of the country's national priorities in the form of government initiatives. Slovakia noted that it would like to learn about approaches and tools used by other countries to implement the SDGs.

Slovakia has not integrated the SDGs into investment plans, however, the country plans to establish a national investment plan that will be directly linked to its six national priorities. With respect to working with partner countries, the report notes efforts by Slovakia to build capacity in the energy sector in Afghanistan.

Leave no one behind

Roma people, persons with disabilities and the elderly are at risk of social exclusion in Slovakia. Efforts to leave no one behind require additional data, particularly to understand income inequality. According to the report, Slovakia is focusing on opportunities for positive social mobility through education, employment and health-related initiatives. Efforts to reduce gender equality are not articulated in the report.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report outlines the comprehensive approach to selecting national priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation and the use of business awards to raise awareness. There is no information on the status of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report emphasizes the importance placed on partnership by the government. "Slovakia is therefore dedicated to sustain an enabling environment for the creation of partnerships" (p. 9). The government plans to increase involvement by parliament and civil society. It will also carry out a microgranting scheme that will support microprojects implemented by local communities, schools and civil society as a means to encourage voluntary actions by citizens. The government is also making use of awards for volunteers and business.

Measurement and reporting

While the report does not provide information on overall data availability, it does note that additional disaggregated data is needed to better understand inequality. In terms of reporting on progress, Slovakia plans to use a biannual monitoring scheme to ensure continuous reporting and evaluation. A report will be issued in mid-2020.



Spain

In 2018, Spain 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

Spain has set up a number of structures to support 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. These include a high commissioner for the 2030 Agenda who is supported by a directorate general and reports directly to the president and the High Commissioner for Child Poverty. Inter-ministerial coordination occurs through a high-level group that includes all ministries, and regional and local entities. The High Level Group is a working group of the Delegate Commission for Economic Affairs, which has authority on issues related to the economic sphere and is chaired by the President. The High-Level Group is supported by a Standing Working Group that provides technical and operational support. According to the report, the government will establish a Sustainable Development Council to ensure consultation with non-state actors including representatives from universities, civil society, the private sector, trade unions and experts.

Stakeholder engagement

The main mechanisms for stakeholder engagement outlined in the report include the Sustainable Development Council, noted above, and the creation of a platform for knowledge and information sharing, learning and mobilization of stakeholders across Spain. Stakeholders will be able to share their 2030 Agenda commitments. Information on stakeholder consultation and the identification of national priorities are provided in the report. A civil society report was prepared by Futuro en Común, a civil society umbrella platform.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, the VNR prompted an assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in terms of policies and data. The mapping examined efforts by ministries, diagnosed progress and baselines for each SDG target, identified challenges and constraints, and examined the main stakeholders involved. A public

access database was created from this assessment that shows how the SDGs match to government ministries and policies. Non-state actors also prepared position papers. In terms of progress on the SDGs, Spain has identified “accelerator priorities” to address gaps, discussed below.

Incorporating the SDGs

Spain has developed an action plan for 2030 Agenda implementation. According to the report, the government plans to establish a Sustainable Development Strategy 2020–30. The report refers only to the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities and indicators have been developed. The report identifies national SDG implementation “accelerator” policies and areas: preventing and combating poverty, inequality and social exclusion; the Equality of Opportunities Strategic Plan; Spain’s Urban Agenda; the circular economy; the Climate Change and Energy Transition Act; Scientific and Technical Research for the SDGs; The Social Economy Strategy 2017–20; the Open Government Plan; and efforts to bolster Spanish Cooperation to support the SDGs.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions and reference to applicable linkages between dimensions.

The report stresses the importance of policy coherence for sustainable development. The report defines policy coherence for sustainable development according to the definition provided by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development: “Alignment of public policies with the SDGs—that is, [policy coherence for sustainable development]—takes place in three areas: in domestic actions, to advance the SDGs in Spain; through the international cooperation that Spain undertakes to support third countries in their own efforts; and by ensuring that domestic efforts do not have negative external impacts on other countries or on achievement of global public goods” (p. 87). To realise policy

coherence for sustainable development, the government proposes to have an SDG impact analysis for legislative initiatives, to increase the impacts of Spanish foreign policy, and include analysis of policy coherence for sustainable development in the Spanish parliament's accountability mechanism and progress reports on the 2030 Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report notes difficulties in relation to realising progress on SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. In particular, challenges include ensuring comprehensive application of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, developing a system for 2030 Agenda monitoring, preparing an integrated framework on the means of implementation, and improving the institutional architecture to realise policy coherence for sustainable development.

The SDGs are currently not included in the national budget, however, as a next step, Spain plans to pilot a methodology by 2019 to align the general state budget with the SDGs for implementation in 2020.

Leave no one behind

The report consistently provides data on vulnerable groups, including disaggregation according to multiple characteristics, such as ability and sex. The report does not provide one list of those at risk of being left behind, but does refer to a range of groups throughout the goal-by-goal analysis and in the chapter on leaving no one behind. These include children with disabilities, migrant women, women and girls with disabilities, the gypsy population, those with a higher risk of falling into poverty, non-European Union immigrants, unemployed people and people under the age of 18. The report also notes that a significant rural-urban gap exists with those in rural locations more likely to experience a lower standard of living. The report has a significant emphasis on legislation and specialised policies to leave no one behind, improve gender equality and reduce domestic inequalities.

Awareness raising and localisation

According to the report, "there has been no need to make a special effort to inform and involve [non-state] stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda, because they were already fully engaged" (p. 21). Nevertheless, the report notes that the private sector has called on the government to launch an awareness-raising campaign on the 2030 Agenda with the private sector. Going forward, the government has developed a 2030 Communication Plan and the High-Level Group created a working group on communication. The report also notes the creation of a "2030 Agenda Communication Pact" that would include plans and actions by all levels of government, companies and civil society, providing a way to mobilise media and channels of communication in a consistent manner.

The report notes that efforts to localise the 2030 Agenda are fairly advanced. A number of local governments have already mapped the SDGs against their work and incorporated them into plans and policies.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report includes a dedicated chapter on localisation that outlines the key initiatives of local governments to implement the 2030 Agenda. The chapter includes reference to commitments, progress made, awareness-raising and specific partnerships at the local level.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report has a strong emphasis on the roles of non-state actors in SDG implementation include the private sector, academia, civil society, professional associations and trade unions. Numerous examples of non-state actor contributions are presented, including at the local level. In addition to the main report, position papers and reports prepared by non-state actors (universities, civil society, the business sector and professional associations) were included in the documents submitted to the High-level Political Forum.

Measurement and reporting

According to the report, Spain is reporting against global, regional (European Union) and national SDG targets. The country has 134 global indicators available, or nearly 55%.

The report has a strong emphasis on accountability for 2030 Agenda implementation. It highlights regular reporting to parliament and discussions therein, evaluation of the action plan, and planned reporting to the High-level Political Forum (2020–21, 2025 and 2030).

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report provides an overview of how Spain will monitor the SDGs including through the use of global, regional and national indicators. Data will be presented through a publicly available scorecard. In addition, the country will prepare an annual report to parliament. The key institutions responsible for implementation, especially the High Commission for the 2030 Agenda, will present a report on their contributions. The action plan will also be evaluated in 2020 with the aim of identifying outcomes and lessons learned. Finally, the report presents a time table for reporting to the High-level Political Forum.



Sri Lanka

In 2018, Sri Lanka 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 primary ministry responsible for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation is the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Wildlife. The 2030 Agenda is also being mainstreamed into institutional plans across government ministries and levels of government. The Sustainable Development Council, established in 2017, has a coordination role and includes members appointed by the president, including from provincial councils. A ministerial sub-committee also exists and will appoint an advisory board to prepare a vision for 2030 and to formulate the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Office of Strategic Development Evaluation will ensure oversight for progress on implementation. A Parliamentary Select Committee for Sustainable Development was established to provide political leadership for the implementation of the SDGs.

Civil society validity check

According to a civil society report, the decision-making structure for 2030 Agenda implementation is unclear, there is limited political leadership and efforts are uncoordinated across government.

The government established a Consultative Committee on Sustainable Development that includes representatives from government, civil society, the private sector and academia.

Stakeholder engagement

As the first step, a Stakeholder Engagement Plan was developed. The Ministry of National and Provincial Sustainable Development has established engagement platforms to convene representatives from central and local government, civil society, academia, private sector and development agencies. Stakeholders were consulted in the preparation of the report.

Civil society validity check

According to the civil society report prepared by the Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform, the VNR was government-led, lacking leadership and direction. Consultations, albeit imperfect, occurred as a result of advocacy from civil society.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

According to the report, Sri Lanka assessed policies in terms of their alignment with the SDGs, including through a rapid integrated assessment of the Public Investment Programme 2017–20 by the United Nations Development Programme. An assessment of statistics was also carried out to understand the current state of progress. An assessment of national capacities was also carried out to monitor and evaluate progress on 2030 Agenda implementation. The report includes details in terms of overall alignment between national policies and the 2030 Agenda according to the various assessments carried out by government and the United Nations Development Programme.

Incorporating the SDGs

Sri Lanka's overarching policy document is Vision 2025: A Country Enriched. This is complemented by the Public Investment Programme 2017–20, which incorporates the SDGs. A national policy and strategy for sustainable development is planned. Once approved, government institutions, including at the sub-national level, will be required to prepare sustainable development strategies.

The report refers only to the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report refers to a number of national priorities as outlined in the government's policy statement, Blue-Green Budget and Public Investment Programme. The policy statement includes five priorities: employment opportunities, increasing income levels, developing rural economies, ensuring land ownership and creating a wide and strong middle class. The budget focuses on making better use of ocean

resources. The Public Investment Programme includes priorities related to human resource development, agriculture, industry, investment, trade and tourism, infrastructure, good governance, environmental management, social protection and regional development. As a next step, the government plans to establish national indicators to support the incorporation of SDG targets into national plans and policies.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the linkages between them. It does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development, and links SDG implementation to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The main challenges to 2030 Agenda implementation include financing, technological development, capacity constraints, trade and investment, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, and measurement and accountability.

Sri Lanka plans to make use of existing budgetary processes to incorporate the SDGs into budgets. The country has also identified sources of finance for implementation, including national resources, and domestic and foreign borrowing. Sri Lanka has seen a decline in official development assistance.

Leave no one behind

The elderly, internally displaced people, persons with disabilities, women and children are at risk of falling behind. The report details legal guarantees, welfare policies and programmes, social protection and rural development to leave no one behind. Information presented in the report is detailed, highlighting initiatives in health, education, social protection, nutrition, child safety and women's empowerment.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report notes efforts to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda with public officials.

Civil society validity check

Public awareness of the SDGs is low and most awareness-raising activities have happened within the capital city and among a select group of stakeholders. A key challenge for implementation is low levels of awareness among senior public officials.

With respect to localisation, efforts have been made to identify roles and responsibilities for 2030 Agenda implementation. Focal points from provincial councils also coordinate with the national government. Sri Lanka plans to mainstream the SDGs at the sub-national level. Civil society organisations note that capacity development for local authorities to contribute to 2030 Agenda implementation has not progressed quickly enough, among other challenges in the localisation process.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report provides specific examples of initiatives by parliament, the private sector and United Nations agencies. Sri Lanka was supported by the United Nations to carry out the VNR. The country requires technical assistance and capacity development from development partners, particularly with respect to data collection.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Sri Lanka established the Select Committee of Parliament on the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to review and provide advice on 2030 Agenda implementation, and coordinate activities with the parliament and respective ministries. The committee includes 15 members of parliament, and will make recommendations on the formulation of national policies and laws; allocation of domestic and international resources; coordination among government institutions; networking at national, provincial and local levels; engagement with non-state actors; and follow-up and review. The committee also has a mandate to share expertise and experiences at regional and international levels.

Civil society organisations have noted that despite these efforts, levels of awareness on the SDGs remain low among parliamentarians.

Measurement and reporting

A report and website were launched in 2017 on the status of SDG implementation. The status of data availability is unclear from the report, however, additional disaggregated data is needed in terms of gender, disability and migrant status. The need to strengthen statistical capacities is highlighted. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms have been established including plans to establish a web-based monitoring information system. The Auditor General's Department has initiated steps to include the SDGs in auditing processes.

Civil society validity check

According to a civil society report, data are compiled for 46 of the SDG indicators and an additional 29 indicators could be compiled by adding new modules to existing data collection. Other government institutions need to take the lead for 131 indicators. Civil society organisations have called for the establishment of a national sustainable development data and information portal (as promised by the National SDG Action Plan). They also call for the development of baselines, noting that the VNR report was prepared without an evaluation of the current implementation of the SDGs.



State of Palestine

In 2018, the State of Palestine 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 points to the establishment of a national team that includes government, civil society and the private sector to coordinate national implementation and follow-up. The team is led by the Prime Minister's Office and has responsibility for identifying national priorities and integrating them into planning and budgeting processes. The institutional structure for implementation also includes 12 working groups with representatives from civil society groups, the United Nations, private sector, government, workers unions, academic and research organisations as well as organisations dedicated to women, youth and persons with disabilities.

Stakeholder engagement

The report does not provide information on formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement. However, non-state actors were involved in the selection of national priorities and the VNR, both of which included consultations.

A report about civil society's contribution to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation in the State of Palestine was prepared for the 2018 Social Watch Report by Social and Economic Policies Monitor.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The State of Palestine carried out a data assessment, finding that data is available for 109 Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda has been incorporated into the State of Palestine's National Policy Agenda 2017–22, Putting Citizens First, according to the report. The government also plans to prepare a roadmap for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and

ministries have been mandated to include the SDGs with their efforts supported by a guidebook.

The report refers to the universal nature of the 2030 Agenda and the importance of leaving no one behind.

Civil society validity check

The government does not see the 2030 Agenda as a fundamental framework for planning, but rather a complementary tool. Though the SDGs have been incorporated, the efforts by the national team and the government are seen as reproducing existing policies and practices with no major changes in approach.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

Sustainable development priorities set out in the National Policy Agenda include independence, quality public services and enhanced efforts towards sustainable development with social justice as central to the overarching agenda. More specifically, the report refers to poverty reduction, social protection, access to justice, gender equality, a secure future for youth, inclusive and quality education including early childhood education, healthcare, safety and security, rule of law, agriculture and rural communities, environmental sustainability and protection of Palestinian identity and cultural heritage. National targets have been identified.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to all three dimensions of sustainable development, though limited references to the linkages between them. The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development and refers only to the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The inclusion of non-state actors in the governance mechanism for 2030 Agenda implementation is noted as a result of lessons learned during the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The key challenges to implementation presented in the report include occupation in key areas, lack of control of natural resources, high population growth, the need to strengthen institutional capacities for follow-up and implementation based on human rights and partnership (an area the State of Palestine would like to learn from others), and data availability.

The report indicates that the SDGs will be included in national budgets. In addition to domestic public resources, international aid is important for supporting implementation. The State of Palestine has seen a decline in official development assistance since 2011 and urges international partners to fulfill their obligations and commitments. The report also notes that Israel holds veto power over the State of Palestine's ability to trade in practice, and that the government hopes to join the World Trade Organization and trade without restrictions.

Leave no one behind

Efforts to leave no one behind appear to be informed by existing data, and gender disaggregated data is available in the report most of the time. Persons with disabilities, especially women, people living in the West Bank and Gaza, youth, women, and ex-prisoners are identified as those at risk of being left behind. The report also points to the need to address geographical inequalities.

Efforts to leave no one behind focus predominantly on persons with disabilities. The report outlines legal and legislative efforts, policies and programmes, such as support transfers, micro-loans and employment quota systems. The report focuses on international agreements and progress on legislation to address gender inequality.

Awareness raising and localisation

There is no information presented on awareness-raising activities in the report, however it is noted as needed. Localisation is understood in terms of setting priorities and integrating them into planning, policy and budgeting processes. Information on implementation at the local level is not presented.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report makes a number of references to partnerships to support 2030 Agenda implementation but does not provide specific

examples. Moving beyond finance, the government calls on the international community to support the State of Palestine's "struggle for sovereignty and the numerous condemnations of illegal Israeli practices under international law" (p. 80).

Civil society validity check

The government does not see the 2030 Agenda as a fundamental framework for planning, but rather a complementary tool. Though the SDGs have been incorporated, the efforts by the national team and the government are seen as reproducing existing policies and practices with no major changes in approach.

The report by civil society notes that the space for civil society is shrinking and that the government is taking control of the judiciary and affiliating with the private sector.

Measurement and reporting

The State of Palestine has 109 SDG indicators available, though some lack disaggregation by region, gender or age. The national statistics office is working to improve data management, particularly to make use of administrative data. The government plans to make a public database available and has established an internal task force related to the provision of SDG indicators.

The report notes that establishing a monitoring and reporting structure for 2030 Agenda implementation is a next step. The government is planning for annual reviews, with participation by non-state actors, to be presented at the National Forum on Sustainable Development.



In 2018, Sudan presented the findings from its first voluntary national review (VNR) to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Sudan submitted only key messages and no formal report. The information provided below draws from the key messages. As no report was submitted, there a significant information gaps for each of the pillars of analysis below.

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Leadership, governance and institutions

The main messages do not include detailed information on leadership, governance or institutions, though they note a commitment by the government to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation. They refer to the High-level National Mechanism and the role of the National Population Council as the secretariat but no further details are provided.

Civil society validity check

According to a civil society report, the government established a Higher Committee for Sustainable Development in 2015 chaired by the vice president and secretary general of the National Population Council. The National Population Council is the focal point and secretariat for the council. Civil society and the private sector are not included on the council.

Stakeholder engagement

The main messages do not provide information on formal processes for stakeholder engagement, though they note that non-state actors were engaged in the VNR. Africa Working Group-Sudan prepared a civil society report for the VNR. The report recommends enhancing dialogue and partnerships between the government, civil society and international partners.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

There is no information in the main messages on baseline or gap analysis.

Incorporating the SDGs

The VNR contributed to the preparation of a national framework to integrate the 2030 Agenda according to the main messages. Harmonisation of national plans with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is an ongoing process. The main messages refer to the principle of leaving no one behind.

Civil society validity check

According to the civil society report, policies and implementation plans have not been transformed to comply with the SDGs, including their indicators.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The main messages from the VNR suggest that Sudan is in the process of preparing a national development plan and indicators framework. The VNR is referred to as a tool for selecting national priorities.

Civil society validity check

According to the civil society report, Sudan's main SDG objectives are prosperity and economic development, social development, peace and security, and conservation of the environment.

Integration and policy coherence

The main messages do not provide an examination of the SDGs and focus only on social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. There is no mention of relevant international frameworks and agreements that support 2030 Agenda implementation.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The main messages note a need to develop technical capacity and knowledge on the 2030 Agenda for all stakeholders including government, civil society and the private sector. They also highlight that the continued unwillingness to admit Sudan to the group of Heavily Indebted Poor Countries is unjustifiable.

Civil society validity check

The civil society report highlights a wide range of challenges for 2030 Agenda implementation. These include a lack of financial resources; limited data availability and capacity to monitor; poor technical capacity, especially at the states' level; lack of baselines; outdated laws and legislation; lack of integration of plans in line with the national strategy; poor coordination within and across sectors (government, civil society, the private sector and development partners); limited trust between government and civil society; overlapping and conflicting mandates across government; and misunderstandings of the SDGs.

Civil society validity check

According to the civil society report, the Central Bureau of Statistics established a special unit to prepare indicators to monitor progress on the SDGs. A special questionnaire was developed for use in the Multi-Indicator Cluster Survey and report planned for 2019.

Leave no one behind

The main messages provide no information on efforts to leave no one behind.

Awareness raising and localisation

The VNR served as a means to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. The main messages do not comment on the state of localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The main messages do not provide information on partnerships to implement the 2030 Agenda. The civil society report noted efforts by civil society networks, the private sector and academia.

Measurement and reporting

The main messages highlight the need to invest in information and data on the SDGs, including working with academic and research institutions. There is no information on national-level reporting.

Switzerland

In 2018, Switzerland submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Switzerland presented its first report in 2016.

Governance and institutional mechanisms

Leadership, governance and institutions

The report points to the Forum Nachhaltige Entwicklung ("Sustainable Development Forum") as the main mechanisms for engagement between different levels of government in Switzerland. A 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Advisory Group also exists that includes representation by civil society, the private sector and academia.

Civil society validity check

Civil society organisations argue that a high-level, central institutional unit should be established, spanning government departments and economic sectors. Such a unit could ensure coherence and monitor 2030 Agenda implementation. In addition to creating a central contact point at the federal level, there is also a need to build capacity at the local level for 2030 Agenda implementation and coordination.

Stakeholder engagement

According to the report, the 2020 Dialogue for Sustainable Development Platform offers an opportunity for engagement by civil society. The government plans to strengthen engagement and coordination with non-state actors going forward. While non-state actors participated in the VNR, however, no information is available on their engagement in the selection of national priorities for 2030 Agenda implementation. The civil society report prepared by Platform 2030 Agenda, has called for new forms and mechanisms for participation.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

An assessment was carried out to establish baselines for 2030 Agenda implementation. Switzerland examined current progress, existing measures and challenges according the report.

Incorporating the SDGs

Switzerland's Sustainable Development Strategy (2017–19) and its Dispatch on Switzerland's International Cooperation are based on the 2030 Agenda.

Civil society validity check

There is a need for governments at all levels in Switzerland to align political strategies with the 2030 Agenda, including by filling legislative gaps.

The report refers to planetary boundaries, inter-generational responsibility and leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities were selected for 2030 Agenda implementation but the report does not outline what they are. Existing national targets and indicators on sustainable development are being used and expanded to monitor the 2030 Agenda. Switzerland is making use of 85 indicators.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary level examination of all Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with equal attention to all dimensions of sustainable development though limited references to the linkages between them. Switzerland ensures policy coherence through procedures that ensure high quality legislation, consultation with key stakeholder groups, impact assessments and joint reporting. The VNR report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The report does not refer to best practices, lessons learned, challenges in implementation, learning from peers or financing domestic implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Switzerland's

contributions through foreign assistance and support for a universal, rule-based, multilateral trading system are noted. The report also highlights support for partner countries to participate in and benefit from international trade. With respect to systemic issues, Switzerland is working to combat money laundering, exchange information in tax matters and reinforce financial stability in the banking sector.

Leave no one behind

The report points primarily to persons with disabilities as at risk of being left behind. Efforts appear to be informed by existing data, though very little data is actually presented in the report. Switzerland will work to leave no one behind through existing policies (that are not described in detail in the report). Gender equality is a priority for Switzerland, enshrined in and supported by legislation, programmes and initiatives.

Civil society validity check

The civil society report points to a much wider range of people at risk of being left behind, including people affected by poverty, women, migrants, children and young adults, people with disabilities, the elderly, people in unstable employment situations and other marginalised social groups. The civil society report provides a comprehensive critique of Switzerland's efforts on the leave no one behind agenda, noting that more work is needed to combat inequality at national and international levels, support gender equality and improve the lives of persons with disabilities.

Awareness raising and localisation

The report does not refer to awareness-raising activities. At the local level, many governments have established their own sustainable development strategies. The federal government plans to intensify engagement with them going forward.

Civil society validity check

There is a need for the federal government take greater steps to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda, including through education initiatives.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report suggests that non-state actors are participating in 2030 Agenda implementation, however, it does not provide any examples.

Measurement and reporting

Information is provided on progress (in terms of the direction of trends) for Switzerland's chosen SDG indicators. The review of the country's 85 indicators showed that 39 are moving in the right direction, 12 have had no change and 14 show a negative trend. An assessment was not possible for an additional 20 indicators. The status of data availability for the global SDG indicators is not clear from the report.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Presenting progress on national targets in reports.

The report does not refer to national reporting, but notes that Switzerland will report on implementation every four years.



Togo

In 2018, Togo submitted its third 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 three mechanisms for 2030 Agenda implementation. The National Development Council provides support for strategic orientations and monitors results. The Strategic Secretariat supports the council and is responsible for coordination of monitoring implementation. The Operational Secretariat facilitates an integrated monitoring mechanism on a daily basis. The report notes that civil society and the private sector are an integral part of implementation mechanisms, however, it does not stipulate how they are involved.

Stakeholder engagement

The report refers to consultation processes with non-state actors on national priorities and the VNR. A civil society report was prepared by "Groupe de Travail des OSC sur les ODD."

Civil society validity check

According to the civil society report prepared by the Working Group of Civil Society Organizations for the SDGs (Groupe de Travail des OSC sur les ODD - GTOSC-ODD), there has been an improvement in the collaboration between the government and civil society since 2017. Civil society was involved in all phases of preparation of the 2018 VNR, including the launch phase of the process, information gathering and validation of the report. Civil society organisations were also involved in the drafting phase of the 2018 VNR through a drafting retreat in May 2018.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The report does not refer to a baseline or gap assessment per se. Rather, it notes that efforts to prioritise the SDGs included an assessment to prioritise SDG targets. This led to the prioritisation of 60 targets.

Incorporating the SDGs

The report highlights Togo's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ownership over the goals through its National Development Plan for the 2018–22 period. The plan integrates the goals based on their associated targets, 60 of which have been prioritised by the country as noted above. The report makes no reference to any of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development principles.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The National Development Plan includes five priorities: improve the well-being of the people and enable them to fulfil their potential; improve the productivity and competitiveness of growth sectors; strengthen infrastructure that supports growth; ensure sustainable management of the territory, the environment and living conditions; and strengthen governance and consolidate peace. In addition to these, three "strategic axes" have been set out including the establishment of a logistics hub of excellence and a world-class business centre in the sub-region; development of poles for agricultural processing, manufacturers and extractive industries; and consolidation of social development and strengthened inclusion mechanisms.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a summary examination of the SDGs under the 2018 High-level Political Form theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies," specifically SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 15 on life on land and SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals. It gives attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, however, linkages to the environment, in particular, are limited in the goal-by-goal analysis, particularly given the goals assessed. For example, there is no reference to climate change in the discussion on SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy. The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development or international agreements that relate to and support implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Similar to its 2017 report, Togo's 2018 report highlights the need for Togo to optimise its resource and partner mobilisation strategies for the realisation of its development objectives. The government has embarked on the implementation of reforms geared at mobilising both domestic and external resources for economic emergence. The report highlights the creation of the Togolese Revenue Authority that has increased tax revenues and points to the approval of a US \$35 million support programme from the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Challenges to implementation include "land tenure rights, decentralisation, digitisation of the economy, setting a national statistical system, strengthening of human resource capacities and financing of the economy" (p. 12).

Leave no one behind

The report does not include a chapter on leaving no one behind. The principle is not mentioned, and the goal-by-goal analysis does not place an emphasis on vulnerable populations. The report does not articulate the populations that are being left behind. The 2017 report identified young people, women, people with disabilities, people living with HIV, people living in rural areas, farmers and the elderly as at risk of being left behind.

Awareness raising and localisation

The 2018 report does not refer to awareness-raising activities. However, the 2017 version detailed several awareness and outreach activities dedicated to the SDGs to ensure a shared vision at all levels.

The report does not identify specific measures related to localising the 2030 Agenda.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The report points to a small number of specific partnerships with the private sector and civil society that support 2030 Agenda implementation. The role of the private sector in supporting implementation is stressed. Civil society organisations have formed a working group on the SDGs and are working towards the formulation of a charter to establish a Civil Society Organisation Forum on Sustainable Development. The report also has a strong emphasis on the role of development partners, particularly in terms of providing financial support.

Measurement and reporting

Data availability for SDG monitoring is not mentioned in the report. Nevertheless, the report notes that setting up the national statistical system is a challenge for SDG implementation. In 2017, the report noted that Togo aimed to strengthen statistical production by operationalising the National Institute of Statistics, Economic and Demographic Studies. Progress in this area is not presented.

According to the 2017 report, a unit was established at the Presidency of the Republic to monitor sustainable development and international agreements. The 2018 report refers only to the "special monitoring and enforcement units under the auspices of the Presidency of the Republic" (p. 18). It also notes the roles of the National Development Council and its associated structures in monitoring. The report does not include information on the content and timing of reports.



United Arab Emirates

In 2018, the United Arab Emirates 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 United Arab Emirates established a National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The committee is chaired by the Minister of State for International Cooperation and Chairwomen of the Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority and includes 12 other federal government institutions. The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Authority serves as the secretariat. The committee is responsible for policy alignment, implementation, monitoring, reporting on progress and stakeholder engagement. Other stakeholders are invited to observe the committee where relevant on an ad hoc basis.

Stakeholder engagement

While there is no formal mechanism for stakeholder engagement articulated in the report, the National Committee on SDGs has developed an engagement strategy. The committee's communication strategy focuses on raising awareness, engagement and maintaining engagement. The national committee also hosts an annual event to bring together non-state actors for dialogue and coordination on implementation. Non-state actors were engaged in the selection of national priorities and the VNR.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The United Arab Emirates carried out an assessment of policies vis-à-vis the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by mapping SDG targets against federal and local development plans. This assessment was part of the country's process of selecting national priorities.

Incorporating the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda has been incorporated into the work of government institutions through the country's development frameworks Vision 2021 and Vision 2071. A strategy has been prepared to progress on

the SDGs and the country's Vision 2021 concurrently. The SDGs are also central to the government's aid policy.

The report refers to 2030 Agenda principles of leaving no one behind and inter-generational responsibility.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The United Arab Emirates's national priorities include a cohesive society and preserved identity, safety and a fair judiciary, a competitive knowledge economy driven by innovation, education, healthcare, environmental sustainability and infrastructure. The report also notes that happiness and well-being are priorities. The national priorities are supported by 52 key performance indicators and national targets are presented for some of the goals examined.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs, though with a more limited focus on environmental dimensions of sustainable development. Policy coherence is ensured through mechanisms that create alignment between national and sub-national policies.

The report refers to the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

The United Arab Emirates highlights its governance-excellence model as an example of best practice. The model focusses on innovation in the public sector, achievement of key objectives, services, smart government and performance management, inter alia. The United Arab Emirates is investing in technology and capacity-development at the national level. There is a strong focus on the role of the private sector with respect to technology, as well as in terms of promoting trade and investment in partner countries. The United Arab Emirates was the largest donor in terms of official development assistance to gross national income in 2016 reaching 1.12%, surpassing the United Nations target of 0.7%.

Leave no one behind

The elderly, orphans, women including widows, unemployed people, persons with disabilities, families of imprisoned people and those in ill health are at risk of being left behind in the United Arab Emirates. Efforts to leave no one behind are informed by existing data and include the provision of a range of social welfare programmes. The report notes that there is an absence of poverty in the country. Programmes target specific groups that have been identified as vulnerable and categories of people who may benefit from such programmes are reviewed regularly. The report highlights policies and initiatives to benefit persons with disabilities and women.

Awareness raising and localisation

As noted, the National Committee on SDGs has prepared a national engagement strategy. The report notes that widespread efforts have been launched to raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda.

Each Emirate has its own sustainable development plan, however, localisation occurs through the use of key performance indicators at the local level and joint efforts by the national and local governments to deliver public services. The report also includes examples of initiatives at the local level that contribute to the SDGs.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

The government works with civil society organisations such as the Emirates Red Crescent to deliver social services and through international cooperation. The United Nations Global Compact Network United Arab Emirates has raised awareness of the SDGs, is engaging youth in academic institutions and is facilitating multi-stakeholder initiatives that bring together a range of businesses to support sustainable development outcomes. Local youth councils have been providing their inputs into SDG priorities for their communities and carrying out projects.

Measurement and reporting

The report does not provide information on the status of data availability. However, it does note that the United Arab Emirates will improve capacities and available data to inform decision-making on the SDGs. A plan will be developed for SDG monitoring and the government is exploring public-private partnerships.

In terms of reporting, the federal government uses a government performance monitor to manage strategic plans and report on key performance indicators. Progress is audited by the Prime Minister's Office. National key performance indicators are periodically uploaded to a dashboard system on a regular basis.



Uruguay

In 2018, Uruguay 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

An already existing Office of Planning and Budget of the Presidency of the Republic was designated as the national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) institution responsible for leading implementation in Uruguay. The position of the SDGs coordinator was created as part of its structure, but the main political body responsible for implementing and following-up on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the president. There is no direct participation of non-governmental actors in the Office of Planning and Budget.

Stakeholder engagement

The main tool to promote dialogue with stakeholders has been the “Social Dialogue: Uruguay to the future,” discussed in detail at the 2017 report. There are also several thematic areas linked to the SDGs in which the report calls for institutional stakeholder participation, such as the Regional Irrigation Advisory Boards, participatory budgets, the Uruguay Integra Programme and the Rural Development Dialogues.

The social dialogue provided inputs to the VNR. The Office of Management and Evaluation within the Office of Planning and Budget prepared an initial SDGs stakeholder-mapping exercise and meetings were held between the identified actors, the Uruguayan government and United Nations system agencies based in the country.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

The VNR is underlined as a positive experience for the country, allowing it to establish baselines for several indicators. However, the report does not describe any baselines definition or gaps identification process carried out by Uruguay and the report’s statistical annex does not show information related to existing baselines.

Incorporating the SDGs

Uruguay has aligned its national policies with the 2030 Agenda. The leave no one behind principle is considered cross-cutting. The human rights-based approach, explicitly linked with the human-centred perspective of sustainable development, is also introduced as a core element to be taken into account while implementing the SDGs at the national level.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

National priorities are not articulated in the report. However, when analysing some goals, references are made to national targets arising from general policies adopted by Uruguay, such as the National Strategy for the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity 2016–20, linked to SDG 15 on life on land.

Integration and policy coherence

The report only analyses the SDGs covered by the High-level Political Forum theme examined, namely SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation; SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy; SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities; SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production; and SDG 15 on life on land. Each goal receives a detailed examination and equal attention is given to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development while considering interlinkages between goals and targets. However, no reference to policy coherence for sustainable development is made.

Climate change and the Paris Agreement on climate change, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and many other international frameworks are referred to in the report.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

No best practices or lessons learned are identified by Uruguay. On the contrary, many challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda are highlighted such as improving data availability, increasing the

Progressing national SDGs implementation: Annex 3. Country Profiles

availability of funds to support activities and actions aimed to SDGs implementation, improving sub-national management, and mainstreaming the environmental dimension across social-policies planning.

There are references to technology, capacity development, international public finance and systemic issues as means of implementation. Regarding systemic issues, the report notes that since January 1, 2018, Uruguay is not part of the list of official development assistance-eligible countries, affecting its chances to comply with the commitments set out as part of the 2030 Agenda. Nevertheless, domestic and international public financing are underlined as the major sources of funding for national implementation. Concerning domestic public finance, a budget transparency portal has been created, exhibiting links between the national budget and SDGs implementation and follow-up plans and programmes.

Leave no one behind

Similar to the 2017 report, the leave no one behind principle is barely considered in the 2018 Uruguay report. Vulnerable groups are not identified. However, some references are made to supporting vulnerable groups. The report states that the costs of liquefied petroleum gas are subsidised by the government to keep prices lower due to the importance of this energy for the population. However, in the future, only vulnerable sectors will benefit from this subsidy. It is not clear from the report when or how this will happen.

Awareness raising and localisation

In each national region and municipality, public exhibitions about the SDGs were organised, as well as workshops with the local government cabinets and consultative dialogues with civil society aimed at explaining and aligning national and local policies with the SDGs. Regarding dissemination, an open-access portal has been created to show SDG-related initiatives carried out by civil society, public bodies and the business sector.

The report also refers to a process called “SDGs localisation in Uruguay” with the goal of raising awareness and disseminating activities linked to the 2030 Agenda, identifying implementation priorities and designing roadmaps for the SDGs localisation that considers particular subnational contexts in the 2030 Agenda implementation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

There are several references to civil society involvement in governmental institutions in charge of designing and planning public policies. Nevertheless, civil society organisations’ 2030 Agenda

implementation activities are not mentioned explicitly in the report, and neither are activities regarding the private sector.

Academia is identified as a source of accurate and rigorous information related to SDGs implementation progress. Parliamentary support through the national budget and adoption of laws is expressly mentioned as well.

Remarks on the financial and technical support provided by international cooperation counterparts, the Inter-American Development Bank and the United Nations System in Uruguay are included with respect to programmes aimed to achieve each goal. In the report, the Uruguayan government expresses its gratitude for the support provided by the United Nations system, especially United Nations Development Programme, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and United Nations Environment Programme to national efforts to carry out the VNR.

Measurement and reporting

A working group on SDGs indicators was created as part of the national statistical system of Uruguay. As a result of its work, the country produces 123 of the global indicators in a conceptually clear way, through established methodologies and available standards, in a regular basis and using data provided by country’s official sources (Tier 1). Another group of 65 indicators have conceptually clear indicators, an established methodology and available standards, but rely on data not regularly produced, generated by an international organisation based on unofficial sources or based in existing but insufficient data (Tier 2). Finally, the remaining 55 global indicators lack established methodology or standards or are based on unofficial data that have not been validated by the country’s statistical authorities (Tier 3). The report includes information on the status of data availability for each goal but does not provide information on disaggregated data.



Viet Nam

In 2018, Viet Nam 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

Viet Nam is making use of its existing National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Improvement to provide advice to the prime minister on sustainable development. The lead government institution for 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development implementation is the Ministry of Planning and Investment with planning-finance departments in other government departments and provincial departments of planning and investment serving as focal points. How non-state actors are included in governance and institutional mechanisms for 2030 Agenda implementation is unclear from the report.

Stakeholder engagement

The report refers to meetings and conferences that are organised annually to engage stakeholders, including the National Conference on Sustainable Development, Business Forum on Sustainable Development and Viet Nam Development Partnership Forum. Non-state actors were engaged in the VNR and civil society organisations prepared an input into the process.

Civil society validity check

Civil society organisations recommend that the government take further steps to engage civil society and representatives of marginalised groups.

Policies

Baseline or gap analysis

With support from the United Nations Statistics Division, Viet Nam carried out a review of data for all of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators.

Incorporating the SDGs

The SDGs have been incorporated into a national action plan to implement the 2030 Agenda. According to the report, sustainable development principles are also mainstreamed in the 2011–20 Social and Economic Development Strategy and the 2016–20 Social and Economic Development Plan. The government plans to fully integrate the SDGs into its plans going forward. The report refers only to the 2030 Agenda principle of leaving no one behind.

Nationalising the 2030 Agenda

The report notes that national priorities were selected but does not articulate what they are. Viet Nam has selected 115 national targets based on the country's priorities and experiences with the Millennium Development Goals.

Integration and policy coherence

The report provides a detailed examination of all SDGs with equal attention to all dimensions of sustainable development and references to linkages between them. It does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development and refers only to the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Means of implementation

Implementing the 2030 Agenda

Viet Nam reported on best practices, lessons learned, challenges and where the country would like to learn from others. A socio-economic development programme was highlighted as best practice. Key lessons to accelerate implementation include strong government commitment, stakeholder involvement in implementation including the combined use of bottom-up and top-down approaches, and combining domestic potential with international co-operation. Challenges for 2030 Agenda implementation include climate change and natural disasters, global economic downturns, financial demands in light of limited national resources, coordination across government given the inter-sectoral nature of the SDGs and lack of data. Viet Nam would like to learn from countries that are more advanced in terms of science and technology.

The SDGs have been incorporated into budgets. They have been costed and sources of finance have been identified.

GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Viet Nam's report includes an estimate for funding the country's Medium-term Public Investment Plan (2016–20) that supports 2030 Agenda implementation. The plan totals VND 2,000,000 billion. The government envisions that the plan will be financed by national public finance and foreign sources of finance.

Leave no one behind

Viet Nam requires additional data to leave no one behind. Those at risk of being left behind include the poor, persons with disabilities, women, children (including orphans, abandoned children and children without nurturing care), ethnic minorities, elderly, people with HIV/AIDS from poor households and single-parent households.

The report notes a number of initiatives to leave no one behind, including specific policies that set targets to improve the lives of specific groups, social security programmes and access to free services for vulnerable groups such as education. Legal mechanisms that benefit specific groups are also mentioned. Viet Nam saw a decrease in the expenditure-based poverty rate for 40% of the population with the lowest income. The poverty rate reduced by nearly 7% annually over 1993–2014 for this population.

Awareness raising and localisation

The VNR helped raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, the government works to raise awareness on sustainable development through regular planning processes. Nevertheless, the report notes that there is a need to further raise awareness, particularly for local communities and young people. The report does not present information on localisation.

Partnership to realise the SDGs

Viet Nam's National Action Plan includes provisions on the tasks and responsibilities of stakeholders at national and local levels. The national assembly has been promoting the 2030 Agenda through the International Parliamentary Union. The report notes that civil society organisations are carrying out various activities to support 2030 Agenda implementation, though it provides limited concrete examples. The Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development is encouraging engagement within the business community to share and encourage good practices on sustainable

development. With respect to development partners, Viet Nam is looking for support in terms of human and technical resources, finance, strengthened co-operation and knowledge exchange. A key area where support is needed is on sustainable production and consumption models.

Measurement and reporting

Based on the country's assessment of available data, Viet Nam can report on 60% of the global SDG indicators, primarily in education, health and poverty. The country is in the process of establishing a roadmap and indicator system to support monitoring and evaluation. A statistical working group exists with the mandate to oversee monitoring and evaluation. Investments are being made in institutional capacities and Viet Nam is working to mobilise financial and technical resources for regular data collection on the SDGs. The report also notes efforts to establish a way for the government to make use of data produced by non-state actors.

National reporting on 2030 Agenda implementation will occur with the oversight of the national assembly. The Ministry of Planning and Investment will prepare annual reports for this purpose. Annual reports will be made available for review by a wide range of stakeholders.

