



Progressing  
National  
SDGs  
Implementation

# Annexes



# ANNEXES

## ANNEX 1. VNR REPORTS REVIEWED

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

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

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



Louis Leeson / Save The Children

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

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

<sup>1</sup> According to UN classifications.<sup>2</sup> According to UN classifications.<sup>3</sup> According to World Bank classifications for the 2020 fiscal year.

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

## ANNEX 2. METHODOLOGY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



TABLE A2. ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

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

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

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
		Unclear from the VNR report.
		Not articulated in the VNR report.
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.
Non-state actor official engagement in governance arrangements	Refers to if and how non-state actors are included in official SDG implementation governing structures.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.
Regional coordination on the SDGs	The extent to which the country is engaged in coordinating efforts at the regional level. Must refer to specific SDG related activities.	Participates. Does not participate. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Activities at the 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.
Engagement in special country groupings on the SDG	Description of the grouping to which the country belongs (for example, landlocked, a small island, least developed, etc.) and the activities it is pursuing, as noted in the VNR report. Must refer to specific SDG related activities.	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 concerning the SDGs.	An assessment carried out for all SDGs. An assessment carried out for some SDGs. Assessment planned.



SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
		No assessment carried out.
		Not articulated in the VNR report.
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 policies and data.
		No assessment carried out.
		Not articulated in the VNR report.
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	This refers to the composition of SDGs examined in the VNR report.	All SDGs examined.
		SDGs covered by the HLPF theme examined.
		A limited set of country-selected SDGs examined.
		SDGs not examined.
Specific SDGs examined by the VNR	This refers to the specific SDGs examined in the VNR report.	All 17 SDGs.
		List the specific SDGs examined.
		No specific goal-by-goal analysis but rather analysis based on people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership.
		No specific goal-by-goal analysis but rather analysis based on country priorities.
Detailed analysis	This refers to the level of detail in which the VNR report examines the SDGs.	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.
		No detailed examination or summary of the goals, targets and indicators mentioned in the report.

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

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

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

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Efforts to leave no migrants/refugees behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no people in poverty behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no ethnic group behind	Efforts specifically targeted to this group as outlined in the VNR report.	
Efforts to leave no one behind - other groups	Efforts specifically geared towards any other group not captured by the categories above, as outlined in the VNR report.	
Realizing gender equality	Efforts specifically geared towards realizing gender equality as outlined in the VNR report.	
Reducing domestic inequalities	Efforts specifically geared towards reducing domestic inequalities as outlined in the VNR report.	
Results of efforts to leave no one behind	The results of efforts to leave no one behind as outlined in the report.	
RAISING AWARENESS AND CREATING OWNERSHIP OF SDGS		
Awareness-raising efforts carried out by the government	Whether the government took efforts, including working in partnership with others, to raise awareness about the SDGs at the country level.	Yes; Include what efforts were taken in the notes section. No. Not articulated in the VNR report.
Nationalization of the SDG agenda at country	Does the VNR report indicate that the country has identified national priorities within the context of the SDGs?	National priorities selected. No national priorities selected.
Preparation of national targets and indicators	Has the country defined its national targets and indicators?	National targets only; Indicate whether the report states that the national targets are aligned to the global targets. National indicators only; Indicate whether the report states that the national indicators are aligned to the global indicators and/or if the country has developed proxy indicators for the global indicators.

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
		Unclear from the VNR report.
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.
Localization of the SDG agenda at country level	The extent to which the VNR report outlines how the SDGs are being implemented at the local level.	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.
Consultation on SDG priorities	Articulation of how non-state actors were involved in the definition 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.
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.
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 a link. No.

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

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



SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Parliamentarians	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> parliamentarians are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	<p>Two options for all sub-components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary.</li> <li>• Not specifically mentioned regarding multi-stakeholder implementation efforts in the VNR report.</li> </ul>
Civil society	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> national civil society actors are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	
Private sector	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> national private sector actors are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	
Academia/experts	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> national academia or experts are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	
Multi-stakeholder implementation of the SDGs – other	Articulation of <i>how and which</i> other national actors not belonging to the stakeholder groups of civil society, the private sector, parliament or academia/experts, are involved in the implementation of the SDGs beyond participation in consultations, governance or institutional mechanisms. The report must articulate specific activities or actions.	

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Priority areas for development partner support	Key areas in which the government requires additional support to realize the SDGs. This should be the 'what' or 'priority goals' for help, whereas the role of development partners below looks at how – technical assistance, capacity development, etc.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. ..... If not applicable (high-income country), state Not applicable. .....
The role of development partners	Type of support required from development partners, as indicated in the VNR report. This refers to the 'how' of the support provided- i.e. what is being asked for (technical assistance, capacity development, etc.), whereas priority areas above are about the policy goals/areas for support.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. ..... If not applicable (high-income country), state Not applicable. .....
Support provided to the government to carry out the VNR	Meant to provide some indication of country capacity to participate in the VNR process.	Provide direct text from the VNR report if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. ..... If not applicable (HIC), state Not applicable. .....
MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING		
Data availability	Description of the percentage of SDG indicators for which data is available (existing indicators and proxy indicators combined).	0% ..... 1-10% ..... 11-20% ..... 21-30% ..... 31-40% ..... 41-50% ..... 51-60% ..... 61-70% ..... 71-80% ..... 81-90% ..... 91-100% ..... Unclear from the VNR report. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report. .....

SUB-COMPONENT	DESCRIPTION	OPTIONS
Availability of disaggregated data	Description of the availability of disaggregated data.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
Efforts to improve data availability	Description of how the government plans to improve the availability of good quality data for SDG monitoring.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
National reporting on the SDGs	How the government plans to report on the SDGs.	Provide direct text from the VNR report or, if longer than 200 words, provide a summary. ..... Not articulated in the VNR report.
Presentation of progress since the last VNR report	Whether the country presented progress since a previous VNR report in some way.	Yes. ..... No. ..... Not applicable.
Approach to repeat VNR reporting	Description of how the country reported on progress (for example, use of traffic light system, through their statistical annex, description of progress made since last VNR, verification of completion of 'next steps' as identified in first VNR, etc.)	Provide direct text from the VNR as needed and include a summary description of the approach taken. ..... Not applicable.

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

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

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

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

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

## ANNEX 3. COUNTRY PROFILES

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

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



Jiro Ose / Save The Children



# AFRICA





## ALGERIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Two assessments have been carried out. In 2016, a United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment was carried out to examine alignment between the 169 SDG targets and national policies. Roughly 60% were found to align. In 2017, a more detailed policy area assessment was carried out, finding that 140 SDG targets (83%) were directly tied to the National Strategy for Development and Integration.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Algeria included the SDGs in various sector strategies and the National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development (2019–2035), a consensual national vision for sustainable development. The strategy brings together 19 recently adopted sectoral thematic strategies, plans and programs and can serve as a frame of reference for operationalizing a large number of SDGs.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

Algeria provided a goal by goal analysis in its report. The focus on one goal more than another depended on the availability of data covering the 71 indicators produced from national sources, representing 30% of the total indicators needed for achieving the SDG targets. As the priority areas are not yet defined, no linkages between them were highlighted. Policy coherence for sustainable development was not mentioned. The report showed fewer details on environmental dimensions of sustainable development compared to economic and social. The SDGs are linked to relevant international frameworks and agreements like the Paris Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework and the Addis Ababa Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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


### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

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


### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



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

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





## BURKINA FASO

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## CAMEROON

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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





## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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



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

#### BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



CHAD

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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## CONGO

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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

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



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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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





## ESWATINI

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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



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

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda.

The report highlights engagement with local levels of government on the SDGs and showcases the efforts by local governments to incorporate the SDGs into planning

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## GHANA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## LESOTHO

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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

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



## MAURITANIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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





## MAURITIUS

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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



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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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

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



## RWANDA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

#### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## SIERRA LEONE

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

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

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## SOUTH AFRICA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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

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





## TANZANIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

of development partners in supporting technological capabilities.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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

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



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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

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

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

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

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

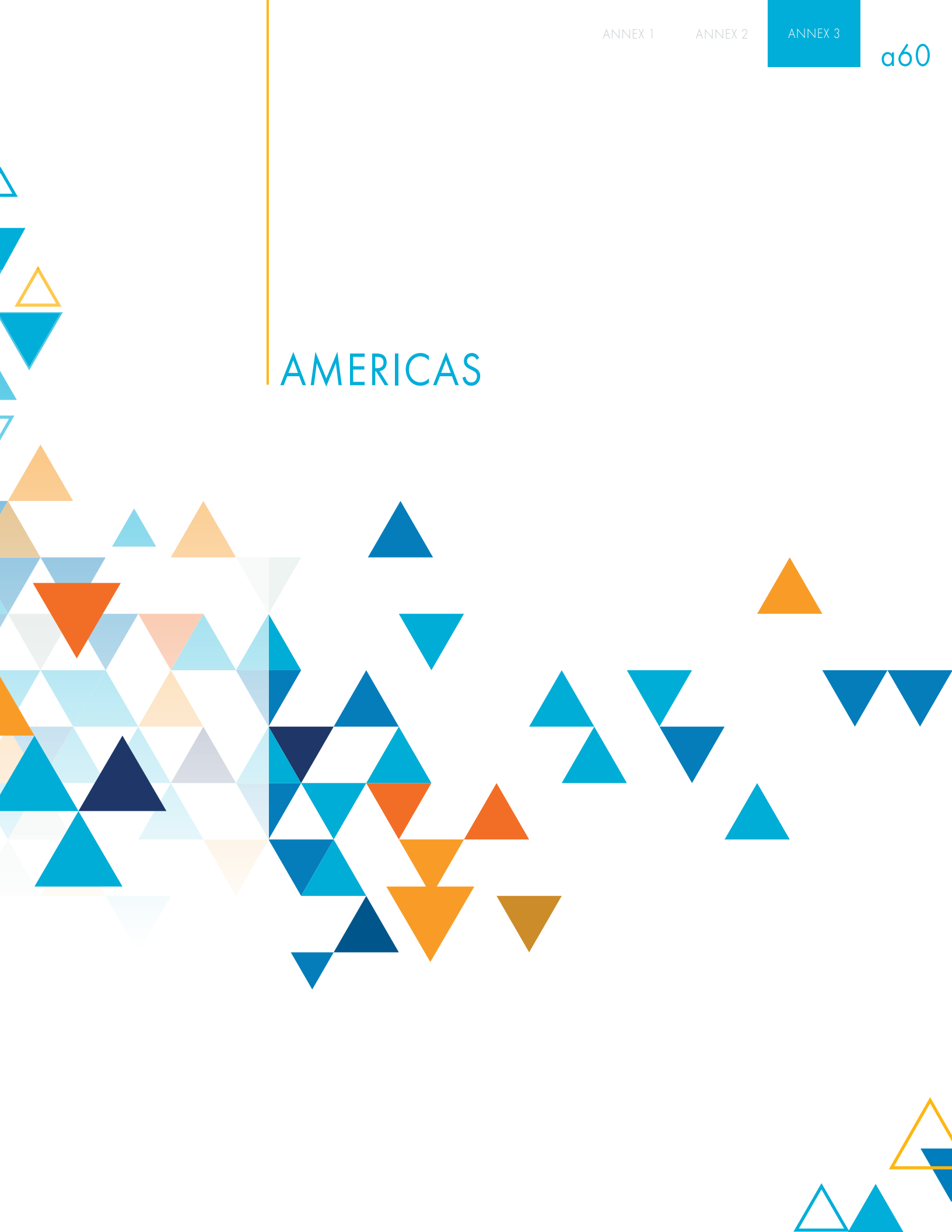
The report included a range of good practice pointing to multi-stakeholder technical working groups and progress in the water sector and on sexual and reproductive health.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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

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

# AMERICAS





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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

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

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

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

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

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

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



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







GUYANA

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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

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

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

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

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

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

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

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

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

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

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

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

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

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

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



## GUATEMALA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

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

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

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

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

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

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

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

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

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

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

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

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

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

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Ten national priorities were selected, and a Methodological Guide for Municipal Development and Territorial Planning aligned to National Priorities was recently published. A comparison exercise was carried out between the targets and indicators of the National Development Plan of Guatemala, the 2030 Agenda, and the global framework of indicators for monitoring the SDGs, resulting in the national prioritization of 129 targets and 244 indicators, 44 of these were nationally designed.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report is organized through the study of ten national development priorities, linking each of them with SDGs sets. As a result, all SDGs are analyzed, but not through the typical goal-by-goal analysis. The VNR provides equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The need to improve policy coherence at the national level for sustainable development is noted. The fight against climate change is linked with the SDGs and the report underlines some commitments made by Guatemala at the international level though the Paris Agreement on Climate Change is not explicitly mentioned. The report also includes the presentation of linkages between SDGs, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the aid and development effectiveness agendas.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report includes a chapter on leaving no one behind (LNOB) and notes that the principle guides policy implementation. LNOB is a cross-cutting issue in the report. People living in poverty, Indigenous people, women, elderly, people with disabilities, inhabitants of rural areas, youth and migrants are targeted as left behind. A broad assessment of social policies aimed to support these specific groups is outlined.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The government of Guatemala carried out 2030 Agenda awareness-raising efforts. A dissemination strategy was developed for the national development plan and a website ([www.pnd.gt](http://www.pnd.gt)) was created. The website presents the national development priorities and goals. According to the report, the permanent dissemination of the K'atun plan is a continual challenge given the investment of time and resources it consumes. As noted above, the report points to the creation of a methodology guide to support local governments in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Partners are supporting implementation at the national level by providing knowledge, technical support and human and financial capabilities. Local governments, parliament, civil society, academia, the private sector and the General Comptroller's Office are mentioned as partners, and activities carried out by each of them are outlined in the report.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is no clear identification of lessons learned in implementing the 2030 Agenda at the national level, but some challenges are highlighted, such as strengthening human capacities in public institutions and access to financing resources. Internal private flows are deemed necessary to fund implementation. The report analyzes budget allocations for each of the ten national development priorities, outlining that the incorporation of the K'atun plan guidelines has been sought for budget programming.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

According to the Guatemalan VNR, the country has complete information to measure 51% of the indicators concerning its National Development Plan prioritized objectives, representing 120 indicators. The country has incomplete information for 24% of those indicators and no data is available for the remaining 25%. Data production and management challenges are pointed out in the report. Data disaggregation by income, sex, age, ethnicity, immigration status, disability, area and geographic location or other characteristics, is still insufficient and understood as essential to LNOB. To improve Guatemala's statistical capacities, the National Statistics Institute drafted a General Strategy for the generation of statistics that seeks to strengthen its role as the governing body of the national statistical system, as well as clarify and facilitate the production and use of statistics for other governmental institutions.



## SAINT LUCIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

In early 2017, Saint Lucia's Cabinet of Ministers endorsed the establishment of the national coordination mechanism for the planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It consists of a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Cabinet Sub Committee of Ministers and a Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee, which is the governing committee tasked to guide the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report does not outline formal ongoing stakeholder engagement, however, it details engagement by non-state actors in the VNR and during the incorporation of the SDGs into the national agenda. In November 2016, civil society organizations led by the Saint Lucia National Trust organized a consultation under the theme "National Views on the Sustainable Development Goals and the Small Islands Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway." The consultation provided the opportunity for civil society participants to discuss and analyze the goals and targets to assess their applicability to civil society. The outcome of the consultations was a ranking of the SDGs in order of importance to (and impact on) the work of civil society organizations in the country. In addition, focus groups were conducted with a representative sample of civil society groups and the private sector, faith-based organizations, people with disabilities, women's organizations and other relevant organizations. National consultations were coordinated by the Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Following the establishment of the coordination mechanism in the country, a Rapid Integrated Assessment was conducted in May 2018. The assessment reviewed the country's 32 planning documents, which together made up a national planning framework, to assess coverage and alignment of the SDGs and their targets. In addition, a performance audit of Saint Lucia's readiness to implement the SDGs was completed. These activities identified gaps in capacity, reviews of implementation at national, regional and international levels, baselines, national targets and means of measurement, and data collection.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

In April 2018, Saint Lucia embarked on an inclusive and strategic process to develop the country's Medium-Term Development Strategy 2019–2022. The strategy incorporates the 2030 Agenda.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

A pivotal part of the process to develop the medium-term strategy was the identification of the six key result areas including healthcare, education, citizen security, agriculture, infrastructure and tourism, and the iterative process of issue prioritization—along with developing solutions to help implement programs within these areas. The SDGs were linked to these key result areas.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers a subset of SDGs selected by the country. These include SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy), SDG 8 (decent work and

economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The report gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is weak in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas. Realizing policy coherence for sustainable development is one of the ongoing activities. Several relevant international frameworks including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, are integrated into the report.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides details on current strategies and programs to support the following vulnerable groups: children, women, LGBTQ and people with disabilities. There are also poverty reduction efforts at the family level to reduce the number of children living in poverty.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country held specific awareness-raising activities to address the relevance of specific SDGs. A high-level VNR workshop was also hosted in March 2019 that sought to improve awareness, understanding and ownership of the SDG targets, facilitate technical group discussions on indicators and, ultimately, accelerate the data collection process required to prepare the VNR.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report refers to the importance of non-state actor participation, it does not provide specific examples.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report outlines major challenges for implementation including inadequate financing, insufficient educational outcomes and inadequate data to support planning and policy formulation which impairs the ability of the government to craft and target interventions. To date, Saint Lucia's SDG implementation has been primarily resourced through support from international development partners through loans, grants and technical assistance.

The private sector and civil society organizations are also valuable partners, but their contribution to financing SDG implementation has been limited thus far.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Several steps were defined to improve data gathering. These include developing an in-depth understanding of some of the SDG targets in the country context and self-assessment of the relevance of existing data and indicators of the SDGs to the country context. It also requires setting planning priorities that include the results areas as well as developing new indicators based on existing datasets that match the country's needs. Identifying areas of future focus for planning should be made a priority.



ASIA





## AZERBAIJAN

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The President issued a Decree in October 2016 to establish the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan is tasked with ensuring the integration and alignment of priorities and relevant indicators in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets. Four thematic working groups were established under the umbrella of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan to address specific SDG policy and implementation challenges.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

According to the report, the national council led an extensive stakeholder engagement process. This was done through discussions on SDG priorities for the country, aligning the country's socioeconomic programs and strategies with the SDGs and identifying projects and initiatives to support implementation in the country.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An analysis reviewed both integration and gaps in the country's strategies in terms of their ability to address the SDGs. The results showed that there is, for example, full alignment with SDG 5 (gender equality), along with a 90% integration for SDG 4 (quality education) and 75% integration with SDGs 2 (zero hunger) and 6 (clean water

and sanitation). Also, the process made it possible to identify data availability for the analyzed SDGs and national strategies.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government reported on the extent to which the SDGs align with existing national strategies, covering four critical areas: economic development and decent employment, social issues, environmental issues and monitoring and evaluation. The report refers to the principles of universality and leaving no one behind. While it includes a strong focus on human rights, it does not refer to a human rights-based approach.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet selected national priorities for the SDGs. The report noted ongoing discussion on the nationalization of the SDGs and the planning of comprehensive coordination procedures for implementation.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews the SDGs relevant for the 2019 reporting period. They include SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace and justice strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships to achieve the goal). For the selected SDGs, the report provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas but presents the linkages between them inconsistently. There is no mention of policy coherence. The report also refers to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind, stressing the importance of creating opportunities and resources for overcoming the inequality that affects vulnerable groups. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, the poor, people with disabilities and migrants. Data is presented throughout with an assessment of current legislation, policies and programs, as well as where additional efforts are needed. This section also focuses strongly on reducing domestic violence, violence against children, child marriage and ensuring access to quality early childhood development, childcare and pre-primary education to prepare children for primary education. The report notes that improving social inclusion (including promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights) is a key priority for the government.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report emphasizes the importance of effective cooperation between public and private institutions (including civil society) to mobilize their capacities for meeting the SDG targets. Localization efforts are being led by the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development with assistance to local governments in developing local implementation gaps and actions needed to achieve relevant SDGs. The report stresses that additional awareness-raising efforts are needed.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on multi-stakeholder partnerships and specific contributions by non-state actors. It appears that partnerships are yet to be developed, though civil society organizations did partner with the government on a panel discussion regarding the role of civil society in realizing the SDGs. The report notes that the government, while acting as coordinator for the attainment of nationalized SDGs, will be facilitating and supporting SDG-focused initiatives of civil society institutions, academia, business and professional associations, other stakeholders and partners.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan leads SDG implementation in the country. This includes preparation of the implementation plans and coordinating with subnational governments and stakeholders to develop local implementation plans. The report notes that realizing the SDGs requires stepping up the development and diversification of the national economy, strengthening export capacity and increasing exports, improving healthcare and social services and strengthening environmental protection. The country believes that international partners will also support its activities in these areas.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. The report includes a commitment to strengthen statistical capacities, including strengthening data collection and technical and administrative capacities. As part of these efforts, a Department for Sustainable Development Statistics has been established within the State Statistical Committee.



## CAMBODIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Following the endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in late 2015, the country started its work to adapt the goals to its national context. An interdepartmental group of senior officials has been established to advise on how to implement the SDGs best domestically and internationally. It is chaired by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Trade. According to the report, there has been collaboration with non-state actors and local governments. However, the report does not detail how this collaboration is occurring.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report details engagement by non-state actors in the identification of national priorities for the VNR, including in terms of reviewing a draft version of the report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that Cambodia has done an assessment of the goals and data in the context of the country's policies and monitoring the SDGs. Details about the assessment are not provided, but the report states that it identified gaps in awareness-raising and capacities in implementing the SDGs at the local level.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report details the integration of the SDGs into national strategies and plans, such as the country's vision and

development plans. The report has a strong human rights focus. It stresses the importance of securing equitable development and leaving no one behind and preserving Cambodia's natural resource endowment, while also addressing the threats posed by climate change. These are fully embedded within the policy documents. The report also underscores the importance of intergenerational equity by emphasizing the challenges facing both the younger and older generation and promoting sound intergenerational relationships.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country strongly focused on the integration of the SDGs into the country's priorities by crafting a fully localized framework—the Cambodian SDGs. In addition to the 17 goals adjusted to the country's conditions, an 18th goal requiring the clearance of landmines and unexploded ordinance was added. The final framework comprises 18 Cambodia SDGs, 88 nationally relevant targets and 148 globally and locally defined indicators.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report pays limited attention to linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the analysis of goals, targets and indicators. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. However, the report made linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. The country sees climate change as an overarching threat, which challenges its progress in meeting many of the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides details about some of the vulnerable groups and lists current policies and programs. For example, the report notes that the government developed a five-year Action Plan to Prevent and Respond to Violence against Children over 2017–2021. Insights gathered from disaggregated data have enabled the government to create programs to address gender disparity in the education system, develop a broad National Social Protection Policy Framework for 2016–2025 and facilitate citizens' access to land.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country has focused on addressing inequality in terms of access to land under SDG 10 (reduced inequality). The report states that progress has been made in issuing land titles to Cambodian citizens. Registration of land of Indigenous peoples occurred in 24 communities. This is the equivalent to 2,558 families having their lands registered.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs and that ongoing efforts are needed. Civil society and business sectors have helped raise awareness of the SDGs.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The process began with an assessment of Cambodia's Millennial Development Goals and their priorities, targets and indicators. Once complete the assessment was complete, priority was given to the coordination of the planning and implementation of the SDGs with local development agencies.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report highlights the importance of the country's recognition that partnerships for sustainable development are multi-stakeholder initiatives that should be undertaken by governments, intergovernmental organizations, major

civil society groups and other stakeholders. In Cambodia, these types of partnerships are already contributing to the implementation of agreed-upon development goals and commitments. These partnerships are included in Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Declaration, the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) and the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country stresses the importance of economic growth, private sector investment and public revenues as the basis for ensuring effective implementation of the SDGs. The report underscores the fact that the impacts of climate change pose a significant threat to achieving the SDGs. The current budgetary allocations linked to national planning documents are aligned with the SDGs. The report emphasizes capacity gaps within the country, such as capacities needed for strategic development and implementation, through improved planning, budgeting and financial management systems and—most importantly—capacity to collect and analyze data and indicators for the SDGs.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

The localization process revealed that more efforts are needed to support local governments in mainstreaming the SDGs into their plans and strategies. This should be addressed at both the implementation and monitoring levels.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Data collection is a priority for the country. According to the report, the country has increased the budget for national surveys and the conducting of the 2019 General Population Census of Cambodia. The census is in keeping with international recommendations and standards. The country also engages stakeholders in dialogues on SDG indicators and data availability.



## INDONESIA

In 2019, Indonesia submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Indonesia's first report was presented in 2017.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The President of Indonesia leads Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation, as stated in the presidential decree on the SDGs. In addition, the National Coordination Team that facilitates the day-to-day planning and implementation efforts is chaired by the President. The Steering Committee consists of seven key ministers relevant to the implementation of the SDGs in Indonesia. Four Coordinating Ministers of the Cabinet, namely the Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs, and Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs are also assigned as Vice-Chairs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. The report notes that through the VNR consultation, civil society organizations identified priorities for the national plan, along with data and indicators to track progress.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap and baseline analysis was conducted to identify available datasets and set baselines to enable monitoring of progress towards the SDGs.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs have been aligned with the country's national development vision. This document brings together the development policies, strategies and programs of the National Medium-Term Development Plan (2015–2019), and it is translated into the Government Work Plan with its associated budget. The National Medium-Term Development Plan was developed at the same time as the SDGs were being prepared.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs beyond its existing priorities, as outlined in the National Medium-Term Development Plan. These are aligned mostly with SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 13 (climate change) and SDG 16 (peace and justice and strong institutions).

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). It provides a detailed analysis of applicable linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions of specific goals, targets and indicators. Policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed in the report in terms of social inclusion and economic policies. The report references other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country reported on some of the critical issues to address vulnerable populations noted in the previous VNR report submitted in 2017. The current report again emphasizes the importance of addressing the needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants and people with disabilities.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Indonesia has prioritized the development of national strategies on the SDGs and also considers it important to equip subnational governments with the capacity to implement them. The country is preparing national and subnational action plans for 2017–2019. Indonesia also plans to formulate a 15 year SDG roadmap along with regional SDG action plans. A technical guideline for formulating national and subnational action plans has been completed to guide SDG implementation.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

To address SDG implementation at the subnational level, Indonesia has developed significant institutional support for local and regional governments to advance SDG implementation. The country undertook a number of awareness-raising activities for specific SDGs such as SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 13 (climate action). Activities were also carried out to raise awareness on the overall SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report notes that the country will collaborate with civil society and other stakeholders through projects to assist in achieving the SDGs. Such project-based collaboration is the most frequent form of cooperation between government bodies and local and regional governments. The government also works with civil society organizations for awareness-raising and implementing public policies or solving priority social issues. For collaboration with the business sector, internal consolidation and coordination were achieved by establishing a platform called

Philanthropy and Business Indonesia for SDGs. The platform currently consists of 11 associations with more than 700 companies as members.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation, including addressing domestic inequality in terms of inequality between income groups (including poverty reduction and social security for workers) and regional inequality (including the acceleration of development of underdeveloped regions and villages). Addressing these challenges requires support from other SDGs such as SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality) and SDG 13 (climate action) to create jobs, develop infrastructure and address climate impacts and vulnerabilities. The report provides an overview of domestic financing options to support SDG implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

A baseline assessment of data collection and identification of data gaps was completed. The validation of statistical data for different government institutions still requires Statistics Indonesia's support. This issue is the focus of Statistics Indonesia, and it aims to appoint a coordinator of the National Statistic System. The country is now developing a national one-data policy, appointing Statistics Indonesia, to be its coordinator and centre. Indonesia is committed to regularly monitoring achievements and conducting continuous improvements. The annual reporting mechanism reflects a bottom-up, participatory and inclusive process. However it is not clear from the report how national reporting is actually being conducted.



## IRAQ

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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country adopted a series of measures to begin integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national commitments and strategies. The Ministry of Planning took significant steps in leading the process of coordinating, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs in the country. A national committee for sustainable development was set up to coordinate with all ministries and institutions to ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the integration of the SDGs into national strategies with the strong cooperation of the private sector, civil society and local and international community organizations. So far, civil society members and other stakeholders were engaged through meetings and conferences to gather insights on nationalizing the SDGs.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report indicates that a gap analysis was conducted. The analysis identified a few gaps, such as limited links between data availability and monitoring needs to track progress.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government reported on the extent to which the SDGs align with existing national strategies. The country incorporates the leave no one behind (LNOB) principle. The report emphasizes that achieving the national SDGs

represents an opportunity to empower a wider group of national actors, enhance national dialogue and strengthen cooperation opportunities on a broader scale on the sustainable development path.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country developed a national framework to connect SDGs with national priorities through this framework. SDGs are grouped and prioritized according to the national framework covering five areas.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country developed a detailed framework to link the SDGs to national priorities. It covers critical areas such as i) People: Build generations who are capable of innovation, creation and achievement; ii) Planet: Create a clean, safe and sustainable environment for current and future generations by incorporating the environment in development plans and policies; iii) Prosperity and Partnership – A diversified social market economy iv) Good Governance, Justice and Peace – Active administrative institutions that ensure respect for political, civil and human rights, justice and equality for all citizens and v) Peaceful Safe Society – A safe society in which all enjoy peace.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report included selected SDGs: SDG 1 (no poverty); SDG 3 (good health and well-being); SDG 4 (quality education); SDG 5 (gender equality); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 10 (reduced inequalities); SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities); and SDG 13 (climate action). The report



provides a detailed overview of the selected SDGs and pays equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report refers to other relevant international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind. The three principles of sustainable development (inclusiveness, indivisibility, and leaving no one behind) are key pillars in the country's SDG vision. The vulnerable groups have been identified as people with disabilities, the elderly, orphans, female heads of households, widows and the poor (multidimensional poverty). The report lists social policies, plans, strategies and programs that have been developed to meet challenges and to ensure that vulnerable groups do not fall behind despite the challenges and problems created by crisis conditions.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred mostly within civil society and the private sector. Localization has begun in three regions of the country and these regions are working on their reports on local plans and programs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report provides cost estimates for specific projects and activities needed to achieve specific SDGs. The report identifies several implementation capacity needs, such as those required for good governance, including designing, implementing and evaluating sustainable development policies, improving the effectiveness of government institutions and accelerating institutional reform. Other aspects include improving planning capacities for sustainable development so that the goals become a guide for national development policies and plans.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of gaps in terms of addressing data. The data gap reaches 69.9%

of the total 230 indicators distributed to the 17 SDGs. In other words, the available data covers only 67 indicators. Addressing this will require improved cooperation between relevant ministries, building local and national statistical capacities and establishing sustainable and participatory mechanisms to collect data on SDG indicators. These data collection efforts should also include disaggregated data on gender and vulnerable groups.





ISRAEL

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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country developed institutional arrangements to begin integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national policies and strategies. The 2030 Agenda was presented at the Senior Professional Forum for Strategic Planning. Furthermore, Israel's parliament is exploring means of integrating the SDGs (including the thought process and terminology) into legislation by parliamentary committees. Preparations are currently underway to continue integrating the SDGs into the government's strategic planning efforts. These efforts to integrate the SDGs into the national agenda are coordinated by the National Economic Council, which serves as a coordinating body for the prime minister on topics that require comprehensive and methodical economic thinking.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's strong commitment to the broadest possible involvement of civil society and the business community. The report provides a detailed overview of the specific activities that civil society and business community contribute to achieving the SDGs as well as their engagement in the VNR. Annexes by non-state actors are included in the report.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report provides the outcomes of a gap analysis that was performed at the level of each SDG to highlight challenges, gaps and actions needed to address specific goals.

## INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The government is actively working on the integration of the SDGs into national priorities. The report points to the systemic use of innovation and technology to inform policy decisions as an approach that ensures the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development. The report has a strong human rights focus and notes that the country takes an explicit human rights-based approach to address SDG 1 (no poverty). The report also mentions the importance of intergenerational equity when designing national approaches to implement the SDGs.

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Each SDG's specific national relevance is discussed in the report. Detailed national targets are not specified. However, priorities are listed in terms of SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 13 (climate action).

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews policy priority areas for the country and refers to relevant SDGs in that context. It provides a detailed goal-by-goal analysis with information on past trends, projects and programs, along with challenges and priorities for implementation. The report pays equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is mentioned in the report and is linked to the achievement of SDG 17. The report also links the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind, the specific challenges of vulnerable groups and the issue of social inclusion. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, people in remote areas, poor people and the elderly. Data is presented throughout with an in-depth assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and where additional efforts are needed going forward. The report notes that improving social inclusion—including promoting gender equality and the protection of human rights—are key priorities for the government.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

There is a strong emphasis on the role of non-state actors in helping to raise awareness of the SDGs and mobilizing efforts towards implementation.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report discusses the integration of environmental and climate issues into the education system from early education to university through targeted activities promoting awareness, behavioural change, environmental protection and community engagement. There is an accreditation program to ensure the quality of the program.

Currently, local-level involvement in the SDGs is through dedicated programs focused on specific goals. Specific activities at this level include, for example, opportunities to foster data-driven innovation in the public sector as well as improving infrastructure and the accessibility of state and local government services to the population. Other areas include a focus on the SDGs on transportation, waste treatment, housing and energy. The report also mentions that the low level of public interest in local governance compared to the national government is a particular challenge.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it specifically emphasizes non-state actors such as civil society, the business community and academia. The report includes specific examples of contributions by non-state actors throughout, including in the goal-by-goal analysis. The report noted a large number of activities that contribute to SDGs done by non-state actors.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report lists important aspects of the implementation efforts such as the role of technology, capacity needs and gaps and potential modes of financing. The report also provides a detailed overview of the country's contribution to support SDG implementation in developing countries through official development assistance and other means of implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides a detailed assessment of data collection and processing efforts to develop the SDG indicator set for the country presented. The report stresses that a mapping activity was conducted to identify agencies with relevant datasets. A total of 123 indicators are included in the report and 31 indicators include disaggregated data. Further efforts will be made to improve data availability, including disaggregated data, but the development of the VNR report provided a strong contribution to this process.



## KAZAKHSTAN

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Chaired by the Prime Minister, the Coordination Board on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) coordinates the integration and implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. The report is unclear in terms of what stakeholder engagement entails. Nevertheless, it notes stakeholder engagement involves all stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society to contribute to achieving the national development priorities.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Kazakhstan assessed the level to which the SDGs and targets have been integrated into national planning documents and identified gaps using the Rapid Integrated Assessment tool.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

According to the report, the 2030 Agenda coincides with the country's priorities as identified in the Strategy Kazakhstan–2050, and the following medium-term development plans such as the 2025 Strategic Development Plan, the Plan of the Nation, “100 Concrete Steps to Implement Five Institutional Reforms,” the Five Social

Initiatives of the Head of State and the National Identity Program. These programs and initiatives are aimed at creating a sustainable economy, improving quality of life and strengthening human capital in all segments of the population. The report focuses on the no one left behind principle. It stresses as a central theme that the principle should be integrated into national policy and implementation to improve the quality of life of the entire population, especially the most vulnerable citizens.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs (beyond its existing priorities as outlined in the national strategies and development plans). The current focus of the country will be on the process of nationalization of the SDGs and on developing implementation mechanisms.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs. It provides an in-depth overview of past trends supported by data, relevant national policies, along with initiatives and additional activities needed to achieve the SDGs. The report provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas, but presents the linkages between them inconsistently, with a greater focus on economic dimensions of sustainable development. Policy coherence for sustainable development is mentioned. The report makes references linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements, such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report strongly emphasizes the principle of leaving no one behind and the issues of social inclusion and protection. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, the poor and people with disabilities, migrants and poverty in rural areas across a range of areas such as income, education, employment and health. For each SDG, the report provides current trends, a detailed assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and where additional efforts are needed. The report notes the importance of improving social protection and addressing the challenges facing children and women. It also stresses that poverty in rural areas is a serious issue and enlists the country's effort to combat this challenge.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, mostly focusing on specific aspects of the goals, such as on SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation) and SDG 13 (climate change). The report stresses that localization is an emerging activity, one that will be critical to leave no one behind.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Preparing data for the SDGs was led by an interagency working group with members from the government agencies, civil society, international organizations, the private sector and independent experts. The process was overseen by the Committee on Statistics of the Ministry of National Economy. Data were collected from several sources such as government bodies, interagency working groups, civil society organizations and international organizations.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on multi-stakeholder partnerships and specific contributions by non-state actors.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report provides limited information about the planned implementation of the SDGs. It stresses the integration of the SDGs into national planning documents. It emphasizes the importance of stakeholder involvement during the implementation. While the report does not provide details on financial allocations and budgeting in the country, it provides details on the country's contribution to promote sustainable development and the SDGs in other countries through development assistance.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides a detailed overview of the current status of data availability, data collection and preparation for the VNR and gaps in data availability and levels of disaggregation. The national SDG monitoring and reporting system consists of two main elements: the incorporation of identified SDG indicators into national planning system documents and official statistics. The data are published on the official websites of state bodies in the form of statistics and conclusions based on monitoring and evaluation of strategic documents and programs.



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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country established the National Sustainable Development Committee and National Observatory on Sustainable Development to lead and coordinate the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national frameworks and lead the implementation process. Representation from civil society such as the Society for the Protection of the Environment, Kuwait Society of Engineers and Kuwait Economic Society, as well as the private sector such as the Chamber of Commerce and a number of national companies are involved in planning and implementation of SDGs. The National Sustainable Development Committee has devised a working method and a coordination mechanism and has been meeting on a regular basis, following up on the respective SDGs goals and targets and providing advisory input on implementation and integration as relevant and required.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report stresses that engaging government entities, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders at both the policy and institutional levels is important for SDG integration and nationalization. It also mentions the need for allocating resources for advocacy and consensus building. Also, discussions with civil society, the private sector and academia were conducted to assist with institutionalization efforts to align national development plans with the SDGs and inform implementation.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not provide details about whether a gap analysis for SDGs was carried out in the country.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country officially adopted the SDGs in September 2015 and integrated them into its first national development plan, Kuwait Vision 2035. This process was followed by more in-depth integration into the national institutional development framework, budget and national governance structure. The country also linked the core principles of sustainability such as economic, social and environmental sustainability with the seven pillars of the country's vision.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country integrated the SDGs and nationalized the 2030 Agenda into national planning documents and the budget. The SDGs were linked to the 5 Ps—People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnership—as presented in the country's development plans. Within these principles, seven pillars guided the SDG nationalization and implementation processes. This allows the country to create concrete linkages between SDGs and national and subnational strategies as well as guide their implementation.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has nationalized the 2030 Agenda based on the principles articulated in the country's development framework. Priorities are situated around the themes of people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnership.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides a detailed examination of the SDGs, paying equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. For each SDG, current policy and efforts to address the goal are included as well. The report does not refer to policy coherence for sustainable development but mentions several efforts to ensure coherence across different goal areas. The report explicitly links the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country provides a brief overview of the current situation of vulnerable groups in the country. It lists current policies and initiatives that the country has taken to improve the situation of vulnerable groups. It also stresses the importance of ensuring access to jobs and education, especially on technology-related issues, to help people get jobs.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country has invested significantly in raising awareness among all national partners regarding the transformative aspects of the 2030 Agenda. These awareness-raising efforts were targeted to work together with civil society through specific projects and the ultimate purpose of leaving no one behind.

In terms of localization, the report describes projects targeting specific SDGs implemented at the local level. The report stresses the need for further collaboration with local governments to assist with the development of local industries and with the promotion of small and medium enterprises in the country.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

There was limited information on the role of parliamentarians in the formation of partnerships. The report mentions that the government works together with civil society through projects to assist in achieving the SDGs. For example, Kuwaiti civil society supports the organization

of the Kuwait Food Bank, which assists thousands of families, the elderly, and orphans in need. The report noted the role of the Kuwait Policy Centre in building partnerships around research and academic institutions, civil society organizations and regional and international institutions.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country has begun to prepare the process for SDG implementation. National-level costing needs have been identified. The report also presents the country's involvement in supporting development initiatives on the SDGs in other countries with financial support. The country does not list future commitments for overseas development assistance in the context of the SDGs.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report provides information on the current status of data availability, efforts to improve data availability and national reporting on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It acknowledges that the country faces challenges in terms of the limited availability of statistics and data. This presents a challenge in reporting progress on the performance of all SDGs. The country is planning to address this by issuing a policy on institutional information sharing and dissemination at all levels to improve access to existing data.



## MONGOLIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Strengthening the institutional framework for the planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of the country's key priorities. Political instability as a result of frequent changes in the government has been a major obstacle in ensuring institutional support to SDG implementation. A working group headed by the National Development Agency has been established. This working group consists of representatives from the government, civil society, academia and the private sector. Also, an advocacy team created within the working group was mandated to raise public awareness of the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The VNR process was used as a vehicle to engage stakeholders on the relevance of the SDGs for the country. The process also informed stakeholders about implementation. National consultations occurred in 2018 and 2019 convening over 100 participants to determine the content and scope of the report and to provide feedback on the draft report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not include any reference to a gap analysis.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs are incorporated into national strategies. In line with the SDGs, the Parliament of Mongolia adopted its Sustainable Development Vision-2030 in 2016. This

document is a strategic policy document outlining the country's development priorities for the next 15 years. This document is aligned with the SDGs.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

The civil society report stresses that the integration of the SDGs into national frameworks is advanced. It states implementing the SDGs requires broad inclusion in the development policies and defining targets and indicators. It also recommends proper measurement of implementation and the establishment of a multi-stakeholder consultation mechanism for solving policy conflicts and contradictions within and between sectors.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs are being developed. The country has already selected priorities for specific SDGs, such as SDG 1 on poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger and SDG 3 on health. These SDGs are highly relevant to the country's strategies.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. For each SDGs, it lists available data and limited information on policy interventions and challenges to achieve the SDGs in the country. The report has a limited focus on identifying linkages between goal areas but includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs. It details the identification of these linkages as a challenge to



achieving a shared understanding of the interdependent nature of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the SDGs and related national priorities. Policy coherence for sustainable development is advancing as a result of a review of the coherence and integration of short-term and medium-term policy documents for consistency. The report makes linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report focuses on the following vulnerable groups: children, people with disabilities, youths between the ages of 15 and 24, herders, internal migrants living in impoverished areas of the city and the elderly. It provides an overview of data and trends with limited information on efforts and policies to improve the situation of vulnerable people in the country.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country organized a number of awareness-raising events. For example, at the first national-level discussion organized in October of 2018, over 100 participants together discuss the relevance of the SDGs for the country as well as determined the content and scope of the VNR report. There were additional events to address specific SDGs, approaches to policy coherence and monitoring as well as a review of the VNR report.

The report notes that the localization of the SDGs is an emerging and important activity.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report highlights the importance of working with civil society and private sectors in achieving the SDGs. The report also notes the importance of the participation of civil society organizations in public advocacy on the SDGs and the independent evaluation of SDG implementation. It stresses the critical nature of promoting private sector participation (as well as that of the business community)

through economic activities that help achieve the SDGs on employment and ensure more inclusive growth. It also emphasizes that private financing should be much better aligned with sustainable development and that mainstreaming sustainable development in the operations of entrepreneurs should be encouraged.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country considers it critical to ensure the coherence of the SDGs with short and medium-term plans at national and local levels. Engagement of local government officials with this process has already begun. The report also stresses the need to undertake reforms to improve the country's institutional framework further.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies policy and planning efforts that the country will build on to begin the implementation of the SDGs. The report also outlines the potential sources of domestic and foreign resources to finance the SDGs and the role of technology, trade and non-state actors in assisting with the implementation.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not comprehensive enough to be able to track progress with the SDGs. The report specifically focuses on the changes needed in terms of gender-disaggregated data. It stresses that the policy and legal frameworks for ensuring gender equality are adequate, but implementation is weak. This is mainly due to a lack of gender sensitivity in policies and programs, weak governance capacity, a lack of gender-disaggregated data or poor use of gender-related data. Addressing the data gaps in this area is a priority for the future.





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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A National Committee for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals was formed as a high-level committee including members from ministries and government bodies, private sector and civil society to integrate the goals of the 2030 Agenda into the national agenda. The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning leads this committee work.

The country also participates in regional coordination on the SDGs and in hosting the Gulf Cooperation Council Statistics Centre, which issued its first report on progress within its members.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes that in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the sultanate has held panel discussions, workshops and dialogue sessions with various development partners representing the government, the private sector, civil society, youth, parliamentary and academic entities, and international organizations with a view of ensuring community ownership of the development agenda. An initiative entitled “All of Oman” was adopted by the sultanate, aiming to heed the priorities and future aspirations of local communities during the elaboration of the vision document.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report indicates that an assessment was carried out for all SDGs. The report indicated a lack of data for 144 indicators and 87 targets.

## INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs are incorporated into the strategic development plans (2016–2020) and 2040 Oman Vision, aiming that SDGs become part of the 2040 Vision. The report has references to human rights, universality, the leave no one behind principle and planetary boundaries.

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities identified by Oman include: i) the governance of the administrative apparatus; ii) resources; iii) projects; iv) legislative; v) judicial and oversight system; and vi) partnership and integration of roles. National target indicators were also developed by the National Center for Statistics and Information. The centre computed 100 SDG indicators, representing approximately 41% of the total number of indicators to be measured. These indicators correspond to 72 targets available, which represent 43% of the total.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs. Yet, there is no mention of linkages between economic, social and environmental dimensions in the analysis of goals, targets and indicators. Instead, an overall commitment is given to achieve these three dimensions. Similarly, no reference is made to policy coherence for development, but the report notes coherence at the level of incorporation of the SDGs into Oman’s 2040 Vision. The report explicitly links climate change and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change to the SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report notes that Oman’s determination to achieve the goals and targets set out in the 2030 Agenda constitutes a natural extension of the values and principles of

sustainability, equality, justice, peace engagement and leaving no one behind. Women, people with disabilities, children, elderly and low-income individuals are listed among the targets for leaving no one behind. Gender-disaggregated data is mostly available. Programs such as social protection are presented to leave no one behind.

## AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising was done through dialogue and debate sessions with all development partners such as government, private sector, civil society organizations, youth and international organizations to ensure collective ownership of the agenda. In terms of localization, the report refers to the leaving no one behind principle and promoting the role of governorates and local communities throughout the development process, starting with the formulation of strategies and plans through to the phases of implementation, follow-up and review.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report is limited in terms of the examples it provides of direct partnerships and contributions from non-state actors. Some limited examples of contributions by civil society organizations are available. The report also notes the importance of the private sector in contributing to a productive and diversified economy. Finally, the report highlights the importance of technical partners in assisting Oman with its development priorities.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report discusses the implementation of all SDGs. The main challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are world and regional economic variations and diversification of the economy. The report notes the need for a strong private sector to complete and optimize resources. The report notes the shift towards the application of program and performance budgets. In addition, 13 government bodies have budgets to implement the SDGs.

Measurement and reporting

The report highlights preparations for the 2020 E-Census for Population, Housing and Establishments which will provide data that meet the SDG computation requirements. The report also advises the country aims to build an integrated

dashboard-based system to monitor progress indicators at the level of the 2030 Agenda's goals and targets while aligning achievements with national targets.



## PAKISTAN

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country established federal and provincial Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) units to assist with implementation at all administrative levels. Pakistan has also instituted monitoring and evaluation processes that are critical for supporting the implementation of the SDGs, ensuring horizontal and vertical coordination, and strengthening collaborations with development partners. Parliamentary taskforces are operating in national and provincial assemblies.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report outlines a broad-based stakeholder engagement process. This process has already involved all stakeholders who can contribute to achieving national development priorities, including the private sector, academia and civil society. Several advocacy and awareness interventions were conducted across the country. Finally, a wide range of stakeholders participated in VNR consultations at the federal, provincial and federally administered-area levels.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap assessment was carried out for some SDGs. A strategic foresight workshop in Balochistan brought together a wide range of stakeholders, including senior government officials, to participate in innovative strategic planning and gap analysis to identify needed policies and solutions. A multi-stakeholder workshop in the province highlighted the need to integrate the SDGs into agriculture

and natural resource management for effective public planning.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The 12th Five-Year Plan and provincial medium-term development strategies were adjusted to incorporate the SDGs. These plans are currently all aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

While all goals will be worked on simultaneously in the country, Pakistan has identified national priorities. Category 1 goals require immediate attention to achieve results that will catalyze the way for achieving the remaining goals. The framework has three categories.

Category 1: SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Category 2 goals are: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

Finally, category 3 includes the following SDGs: SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), and SDG 15 (life on land).

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country prioritizes and nationalizes the SDGs using a pragmatic framework based on consultations held in 2017. In terms of specific priorities, the report emphasizes the importance of reducing poverty and child stunting, improve transparency and accountability, and promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers a subset of goals. It gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development but provides limited reference to linkages between goals. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed in the report. However, it does make linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The state of available data to leave no one behind is unclear from the report. The report notes that several initiatives and programs are being implemented in the country. It also specifically outlines vulnerable groups such as people affected by poverty, the elderly, women, children and people with disabilities. Information on the results of efforts to leave no one behind is not available.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Starting from the Local Government Summit in 2017, several events have been arranged to raise awareness among grassroots-level public officials and parliamentarians about prioritizing the SDGs in response to local needs. The report states that civil society organizations and academia fully support SDG implementation.

The provinces have established technical committees and thematic clusters to assist in contextualizing the goals to local situations. The nomination of focal persons to lead SDG localization and implementation at all levels of government helps district authorities link their priorities

with the 2030 Agenda. This institutional arrangement has been key in guiding the alignment of federal and provincial national policies, sectoral plans and growth strategies with the 2030 Agenda.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Pakistan's parliament created the first SDG Task Force in the world. The Pakistan Institute of Parliamentary Services organized multiple sessions on the goals of parliamentary taskforces. Pakistan's academic community is increasingly involved with the SDGs and efforts are underway to involve the research community in the monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies several challenges the country is facing. It stresses that the country is committed to ensuring that institutional arrangements and policies promote growth and sustainable development. The country will work through innovative financing models. It will also develop synergies and clearly define roles and responsibilities at the federal, provincial and local levels. Pakistan will also build robust partnerships among all stakeholders and seek technology transfers from developed economies.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics is the country's focal institution responsible for collecting data, coordinating with federal and provincial agencies on data collection and reporting progress on the SDGs. The availability of disaggregated data is one of the important responsibilities of the Bureau. Four technical subcommittees were established to review and finalize data collection instruments and the calculation of indicators based on an internationally accepted methodology. The priority areas for data collection and trend analyses are those related to education, health, nutrition and gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty and labour and employment. Through a broad consultative process, these subcommittees have approved data collection and survey methodologies to improve the validity and reliability of data.



## PHILIPPINES

In 2019, the Philippines submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The country submitted its first report in 2016.

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Philippine government has been setting up the policy and enabling environment for its implementation, as well as compiling and analyzing data for monitoring the country's conditions on the SDGs. The National Economic and Development Authority is the cabinet-level agency responsible for development and planning in the country.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders. The report states that, based on the critical role of non-government and private organizations in the attainment of the SDGs, the subcommittee on the SDGs shall hold stakeholder chambers to bring together non-governmental and private sector initiatives and direct these projects to current development gaps.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Two assessments have been carried out. The analyses mostly focused on gaps in financing, governance and some gaps in achieving specific SDGs. These included gaps in the use of development assistance to address subnational development gaps and gaps in information about the activities of civil society organizations and private sector projects. The gap analysis also measured the overall

engagement in SDG implementation and gaps in the capacities of localities and community members to plan and implement the SDGs.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country's long-term development aspirations are presented in the National Development Long-Term Plan 2040, which is based on inputs from a nationwide survey conducted in late 2015. At the same time, as the SDGs were adopted, the country crafted the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022. The priorities and actions listed in the Philippine Development Plan incorporate the SDGs. Executive Order No. 27 s. 2017 mandated the integration of the plan across government agencies, including local-level agencies.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected national priorities for the SDGs. National targets were selected that set the pathway and the required pace of progress. These targets are included in the results matrices, a companion document of the country's development plans.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides a review of a limited set of SDGs. These include: SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land), SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The report includes a detailed examination of those in the report and pays equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, though there are limited references to linkages

between the goals. For the SDGs examined, the report reviews priority policy areas, current initiatives and gaps and needed actions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed and the report focuses on linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements such as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country's development plan is strongly focused on enhancing the social fabric and reducing inequality. This requires bringing together several SDGs including SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities). The identified vulnerable groups include farmers and landless rural workers, artisanal fisherfolk, migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, women, people with disabilities, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children and the urban poor. The report provides an overview of social programs and legislation focused on some of the vulnerable groups such as women, people with disabilities and children. It also provides a detailed overview of the country's policies and legislation.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The VNR consultations of the country provided input from different stakeholders and created demand for information on the national implementation of the SDGs and spaces for participation.

The report provides information on the specific role of local governments in realizing the SDGs. It states that the priorities and actions listed in the national plan incorporate the SDGs and were integrated across the local level government agencies.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The government is planning pledging sessions where non-governmental and private sector organizations signify

their commitment to achieving specific SDGs. The VNR described the role of civil society and the private sector in implementing the SDGs. Examples of partnerships include youth training programs, heritage projects, domestic private investment and the exploration of new business models. More companies are interested in participating in hiring programs and collaborating with government, civil society and other organizations. There was no information on the partnerships involving parliamentarians or academia.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

Civil society is calling for consistent and reliable data from the government through the cooperation and cross-checking of data from different government agencies. Civil society strongly recommends the development of disaggregated data for each of the different sectors to allow consideration of the different situations of each group when implementing the SDGs.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country focused on identifying potential sources of financing to implement the SDGs. Some of the costs for the implementation at the country-level have been attributed. The report states that domestic resources dominate the Philippines' financing landscape, with domestic public financing and domestic private investment each accounting for over a third of all resources. It also mentions that the country is the largest recipient of remittances in the region and directing these funds to SDG-supportive activities is imperative. Finally, in terms of the allocation of overseas development assistance, the overall budget is decreasing. At the same time, a study on Total Official Support for Sustainable Development undertaken by the country in 2017 as a pilot, states that, for the Philippines, overseas development assistance remains a vital financing source for investing in the SDGs.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report states that the Philippine Statistics Authority monitors the Tier 1 indicators through its SDG Watch. It also stresses that priority should be placed on building out an appropriate data monitoring system to support the accountability mechanism. The mechanisms must be responsive to the demand for disaggregated data and ensure the timeliness of data collection so that policy and program designs benefit from up-to-date information. The country will use the SDGs Annex of the Philippines Annual Socioeconomic Report to report on the progress on the SDGs as well as on the country's development plan. The report is currently being developed.



## TIMOR-LESTE

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country fully endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and integrated them into its development plan. A Strategic Development Plan Working Group was set up to lead the planning and implementation of the SDGs.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country made efforts to engage citizens in the development of the national strategy and to improve understanding of the SDGs. During these engagement efforts, issues such as financing, monitoring and accelerating progress on sustainable development in the country were discussed. Additional efforts were made to consult a wide group of stakeholders and individuals in the process of developing the VNR report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Based on the VNR report, no information is available about whether the gap or baseline analysis was carried out.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The Strategic Development Plan internalizes the SDGs and sets out priorities for sustainable and inclusive development in the country. The plan's primary focus is to promote the development of institutions, support economic growth and increase social inclusion. The Strategic Development Plan also outlines a set of interventions aimed at building social capital and investing in infrastructure and economic development.

The report refers to the principle of leaving no one behind as core to national values and the basis of the national strategic development plan.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country set out the basic framework with critical priorities for nationalizing the 2030 Agenda. The Strategic Development Plan identifies three core areas, which include the development of institutions, support for economic growth and increased social inclusion. Of these three areas, building human capital is considered most crucial. Thus, SDGs that address this aspect are the most relevant for the country. They include SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews current data and trends, policy priority areas and ongoing initiatives in the country in the context of relevant SDGs. It provides a goal-by-goal analysis with an annex listing the data for available indicators. The report provides equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, but with limited reference to linkages between the dimensions in the analysis of goals and targets. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. While the report does not include the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, it stresses the importance of addressing climate change since the country is a small island and vulnerable to natural and climate hazards. Climate change will affect all coastal communities and key sectors, such as agriculture. The report strongly stresses that climate-proofing investments and infrastructure while at the same time promoting climate adaptation are critical for environmental sustainability and resilience. It also makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.



## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has a strong emphasis on leaving no one behind and addresses the issue of human capital development and social inclusion. The country adopted key legal instruments to promote inclusion, representation and the participation of women, youth and the elderly. Poverty reduction efforts were prioritized and implemented early on by the government, including cash transfers to veterans and vulnerable groups. The report stressed the importance of continuing to resource and extend programs to support remote rural areas, people and children with disabilities, informal workers and young mothers. These groups were identified as being the furthest behind. Greater effort is needed to mitigate disparities between municipalities and rural and urban areas, to ensure remote health services are fully equipped and to increase investments in infrastructure.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report does not provide information on the specific role of local governments in realizing the SDGs, though it does note that future monitoring frameworks would need to be linked to subnational entities to integrate local data. In terms of awareness-raising, engagement on the national strategy contributed to awareness of the SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report provides information on partnerships between civil society and government. It also stated the government launched a Social Audit Initiative to help civil society organizations monitor investments in social services. The report noted the critical stage of Timor-Leste's development and the need for continued partnerships to leverage access to domestic and international resources.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report stresses that the country has limited institutional capacity. Weak human resources remain key obstacles in building accountable, transparent and effective institutions and thus hinder the country's efforts to implement the SDGs. Nevertheless, a budgetary governance roadmap was developed to support the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The budgetary governance roadmap supports the implementation of the Strategic Development Plan and, thus, the SDGs in the country. The roadmap connects the Strategic Development Plan by linking the targets of the plan to budget structures and funds for the annual budget cycle. All future government programs will be aligned with the Strategic Development Plan and therefore the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report emphasizes that progress has been made to disaggregate data. However, more investment is needed to ensure all survey data can be disaggregated by income, gender, age, migratory status, disability, social grouping and geographical location.



In 2019, Turkey submitted its second voluntary national review (VNR) report to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Turkey's first report was submitted in 2016.

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The planning and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are led by an existing agency, the Presidency of Strategy and Budget, which is also in charge of preparing national development plans. The process of SDG integration began with the president's call for all government entities to participate. Currently, however, there is no regularly managed institutional structure in place that is associated with the SDGs.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for SDG implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. Through broad-based stakeholder engagement, this process has involved all stakeholders, including the private sector, academia and civil society. Through the VNR consultation, civil society organizations identified ways to improve engagement going forward. The report does not present details in this regard.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

An assessment has been carried out for some SDGs. The current situation and gap assessment were identified as being under the supervision of the Presidency of Strategy and Budget with the Presidency as the coordinating institution. Future steps and recommendations were elicited in a transparent procedure by local administrations, private sector, civil society organizations and academia as part of preparing the VNR report.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In Turkey's VNR report, the outcomes of the gap analysis are summarized in a heat map. Turkey's SDG heat map reveals that in terms of policy-strategy, more than half of the SDGs have been reached to a medium-advanced level and the rest are at the medium level. In terms of legislation, the number of medium-advanced level SDGs has reached 10.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Turkey prefers implementing and monitoring the SDGs using a holistic approach by integrating them into national development plans and sectoral strategies. The process of integrating the SDGs into national strategies and development plans is complete but further efforts are needed on the sectoral and subnational levels.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has yet to select national priorities for the SDGs beyond its existing priorities, as outlined in the National Strategy for Development.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is weak in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas. The report includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs, particularly in terms of Turkey's role in hosting refugees. Indeed, policy coherence for sustainable development is discussed in terms of the country's role in the migration crisis in Europe. The report makes linkages to several relevant international

frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, aid effectiveness and development effectiveness agendas, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report has an emphasis on leaving no one behind with identified vulnerable groups such as women, children, migrants, refugees, the poor and informal workers. Data is presented with an assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and areas where additional efforts are needed going forward. The report discusses the importance of addressing the poverty gap in the country. Significant progress has been achieved over the past 10 years, with several policies and social programs, wage subsidies and social security premium incentives being provided to women, young people and minimum-wage earners. There is still a need to implement policies to improve income distribution. The report also mentions that more data disaggregation concerning the poorest groups is needed to assist with designing policy.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The country has conducted a training program on SDGs for all public agencies, academics and private sector representatives to improve their understanding of the 2030 Agenda and to gather ideas for better integration of the goals into the development approach and policy choices. A workshop under the theme “Results-Oriented Management for Agenda 2030” was also held in 2018 to introduce innovative and holistic tools and methods for planning, monitoring and reporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In addition, many activities are undertaken by public agencies, the private sector, local governments and their unions, universities and civil society organizations to create awareness on the SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

Turkey’s report provided detailed information on partnerships with civil society organizations, the private

sector and academia and experts. Turkey explained how it created an SDG best practices database. In the first phase of the database, more than 400 examples of best practices from civil society, the private sector, academia and municipalities were collected.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation, including limited global and national data availability and monitoring efforts, unclear governance structures and limited resources domestically and internationally. The report provides an overview of current projects and initiatives that contribute to achieving the SDGs. It also provides a detailed discussion about the country’s support of the development efforts of developing countries, including particularly the least developed countries, through official development assistance. The report notes that the country plans to prepare an SDG roadmap that will include references to cost implications.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. It stresses the importance of collecting disaggregated data to better target policies to the needs of the vulnerable groups. The country is also developing a database that will be operational throughout the 2030 Agenda implementation period to provide information about the activities contributing to the SDGs and allow continuous evaluation of progress.



## TURKMENISTAN

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A working group comprised of the deputy heads of ministries, agencies, public organizations and academic and research institutions has been established to oversee the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The coordinating body is the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan has been defined as an agency responsible for monitoring implementation progress and the preparation of reporting.

At the regional level, Turkmenistan leads cooperation on the elaboration of the Regional Environmental Programme for Sustainable Development of Central Asia. Turkmenistan also leads the Action Programme which improves the ecological, social and economic situation on the Aral Sea basin.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Turkmenistan developed a mechanism for stakeholder engagement that provides a platform for interaction between stakeholders and the state. Seventeen Young Ambassadors of the SDGs representing different regions of the country were identified to promote the ideas of sustainable development among the younger generation. The Young Ambassadors are tasked to bring the vision and voice of youth in the implementation of the SDGs and provided inputs in the preparation of the VNR.

Stakeholder consultations were held to discuss each of the SDGs to identify the country's priorities. Stakeholders, including the private sector, non-government organizations,

academia, youth and United Nations agencies, were also involved in the VNR preparation process.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Two assessments were carried out, for which no dates are specified. An assessment of SDG data gaps was carried out to understand the current status of data availability in Turkmenistan. A United Nations Rapid Integrated Assessment of Turkmenistan's programs and strategies revealed the level of integration at 47% for the SDGs (8 out of 17 SDGs) and 84% for targets (124 out of 148 targets). The assessment also indicated 88 SDG indicators (50.3%) out of all SDG indicators adopted in Turkmenistan had been achieved.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report notes the level of each SDG's integration in policies, plans for further integration of the SDGs and targets in national, sectoral and regional programs, strategies and development and financial plans. The report places significant emphasis on the principle of leaving no one behind. While the report does not refer to a human rights-based approach, it has a strong human rights focus. There is no mention of the principle of universality. While the report contains no mention of planetary boundaries or intergenerational responsibility, it does address climate action.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Turkmenistan has formally adopted the 17 SDGs, 148 targets (of which 121 remained unchanged and 27 were adjusted according to national priorities) and 187 indicators (of 241 global indicators). The report notes that activities are

underway to establish the national system of indicators and SDGs monitoring. The country prioritizes maintaining peace and security in the region.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

While not explicitly stated as a priority, the report places a strong emphasis on the social component of sustainable development by focusing on seven SDGs: SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequality), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace and justice strong institutions) and SDG 17 (partnerships for achieving the goal). According to the Programme of the President on Social and Economic Development for the period 2019–2025, the share of budget expenditures in the social sphere is 70%. The VNR analyzes some of the targets under the selected SDGs and includes data on these targets and related indicators in a Statistical Appendix. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides data on Turkmenistan's efforts to leave no youth, children, people with disabilities, women, elderly people living alone and migrants behind. It highlights existing specialized programs for specific groups as well as universal programs such as social assistance. The country pursues an active gender-oriented national policy.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

According to the report, the government prioritizes raising public awareness and changing attitudes towards sustainable development and gender equality as well as fostering of a culture of peace and non-violence. This means ensuring public access to information and information and communication technology as well as assisting all learners to acquire better knowledge on sustainable development, climate change and human rights issues are Turkmenistan's priorities. The government relies on the support of all stakeholders to achieve sustainable development following the leave no one behind principle.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While Turkmenistan developed a stakeholder engagement mechanism (17 Young Ambassadors of the SDGs), the report suggests that the involvement of stakeholders other than youth is limited. Aside from efforts by civil society organizations to assist undocumented people in ensuring their legal stay in Turkmenistan, the report does not specifically reference efforts by parliamentarians, the private sector or academia. Concerning support provided for the preparation of the VNR, the report mentions financial and human resources allocated within the framework of a joint project of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and United Nations Development Programme.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

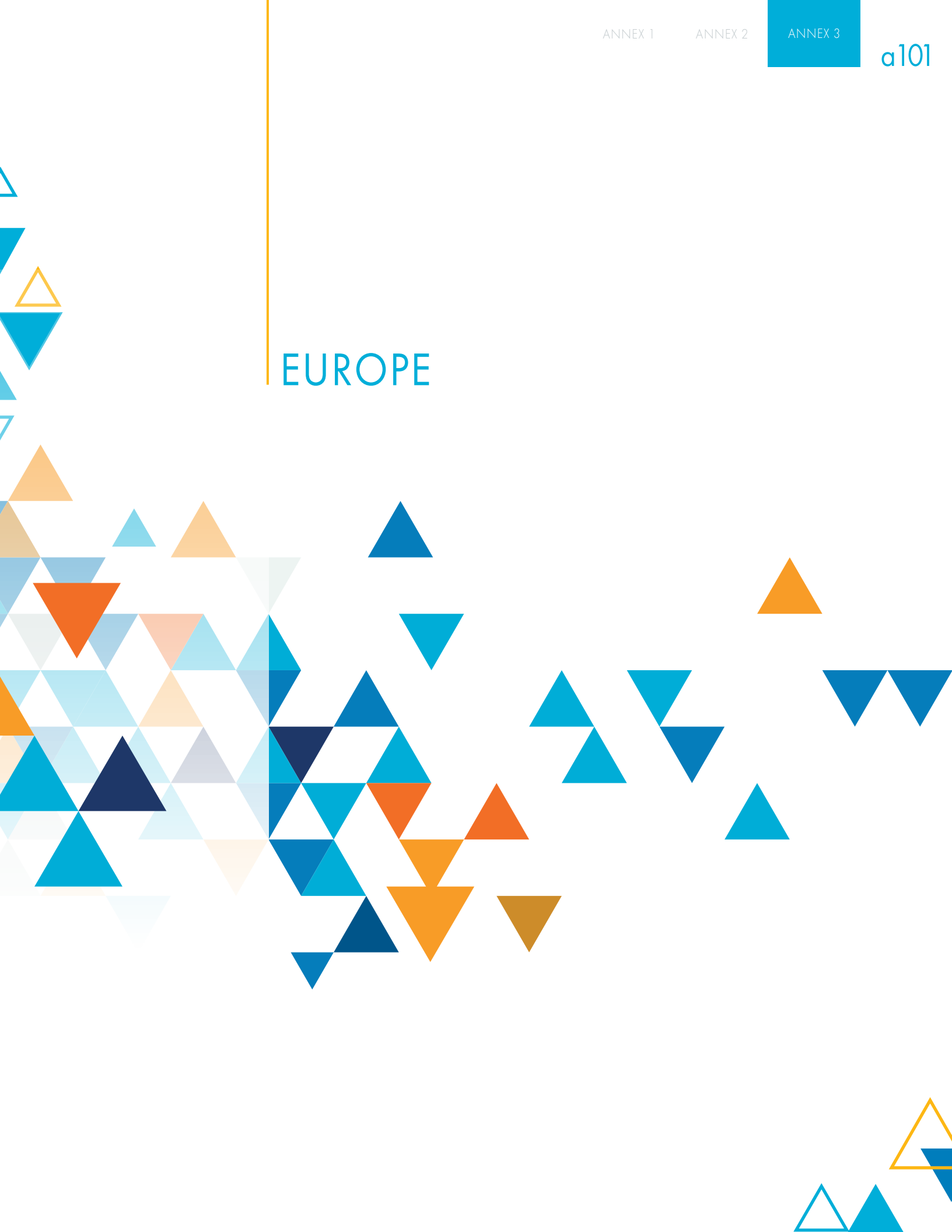
While the report does not articulate challenges in SDG implementation, it highlights the need for continuing the work on improvement of national statistical capacity as a key lesson learned.

While it is recognized that domestic public financial resources should be the main source of financing the 2030 Agenda and Turkmenistan budgets at the national level for SDG implementation, the report underscores that international financing and private sector resources are needed to achieve the SDGs. Turkmenistan is transitioning the national budgeting process to the principles of mid-term planning and program-targeted financing. This will ensure greater integration of the SDGs into the country's financial plans and targeted use of public funds for SDG implementation.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of the availability of data. It notes that Turkmenistan will continue its activities focused on the development of a national system of SDG indicators, collection of comprehensive, reliable and disaggregated data and the creation of an SDG database. Activities are underway to draw up a list of national indicators to establish the national system of indicators and SDG monitoring. The initiative involves Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys and a project on the development of the national monitoring system of well-being.

# EUROPE





## BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country has made progress in developing the governance structure to begin integrating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national and subnational systems. However, the SDGs have not yet been incorporated through a national strategy or into national development plans. The strategic framework for achieving the SDGs is being developed and will be linked to the country's institutions based on the scope of their responsibilities. The report emphasizes that the country has a very complex institutional structure and integrating the SDGs into that framework is a complex task that will continue in 2019 and beyond.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report provides little information on this topic. To date, stakeholder engagement efforts have taken place under the "Imagine2030" initiative. Subsequent consultations on the relevance of the SDGs for the country took place in May 2018. The report notes that extensive consultations and engagement with civil society and other stakeholders will be done in the coming years.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Bosnia and Herzegovina deployed the United Nations Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support and Rapid Integrated Assessment tools to assess the alignment of the SDGs with the country's priorities. A comprehensive

gap assessment and policy review was performed. It assessed the relevance of current policies and plans and preparedness for implementing and monitoring the SDGs. The reviewed policies and strategies demonstrated a significant overlap with the SDGs. The assessment identified a few gaps in national efforts to achieve the SDGs, such as SDG 5 on gender equality. Overall, the assessment revealed 93% coverage of the SDGs by current strategies and policies.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country conducted a Rapid Integrated Assessment to assist in mainstreaming the SDGs into planning across levels of government. The assessment determined SDG relevance in terms of the country context, different levels of governance and interlinkages across targets. The country developed several visuals to provide a simple and easy way to understand the overlap between SDGs and national policies and strategies, presented in the VNR report. The visuals were also used to show economic, social and environmental priorities.

The assessment also considered the SDG targets linked to the "5 Ps" (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership) of the 2030 Agenda. In total, 69 strategic documents showed a score of 93% alignment for people, 51% for the planet, 87% for prosperity, 58% for peace and 67% for partnership. The Rapid Integrated Assessment analysis and recommendations were advantageous, given the timing of the initiation of the new cycle of strategic planning at different levels of government in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the preparation of an SDG Framework document in the

country. Bottlenecks will be addressed during the creation of the country's SDG Framework.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

As noted above, Bosnia and Herzegovina is in the process of integrating the SDGs into national policies and plans following the country's assessment of priorities against the SDGs.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The SDG Framework document in Bosnia and Herzegovina will define key priority areas for reaching the 2030 Agenda. As such, the report does not contain specific mechanisms for their practical operationalization.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs, giving equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. It is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development is a planned activity. The report makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report lists the key vulnerable groups in the country and reviews current policies and efforts to reduce their vulnerability. These groups include women, migrants, disabled people, children, the LGBTQ community and single parents. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to be inclusive. Generally, information on the results of these efforts is not available.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising efforts have been focused on specific SDGs and related efforts needed to implement them. However, several local administrations have started to consider the localization of the 2030 Agenda into their

everyday work and strategic planning.

Partnership to realize the SDGs

The report briefly highlights the importance of recognizing that the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires a whole-of-government approach and working with stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country is currently preparing its implementation plans. The report highlights a recognition that the country needs to take a whole-of-government approach and ensure the effective engagement of stakeholders in government, civil society and the private sector. Financing has been identified for specific projects needed to advance the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not articulated in the report. According to the report, gender-disaggregated data is available and presented for SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 5 (gender equality). The focus of the next steps in SDG implementation will be to provide reliable and quality data that will be used to create public policies and monitor the effects of their implementation.





## CROATIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Major efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation process began in January 2018 when the Government of the Republic of Croatia established the National Council for Sustainable Development. The Council focused on developing the 2030 National Development Strategy. The country's parliament will adopt this document in the first half of 2020.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder consultations and awareness-raising were critical to the development of the 2030 National Development Strategy. This included reaching out to civil society, the business community and students, as well as the broader public. According to the report, the process involved improving the knowledge of both citizens and experts about the SDGs, informing them of critical aspects of their implementation and gathering their input on defining an appropriate implementation mechanism to advance sustainable development in Croatia.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report does not provide details about a conducted gap analysis or baseline assessment, but the SDGs were aligned to national priorities presented in the 2030 National Development Strategy.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The 2030 National Development Strategy provides the basis for SDG implementation in the country by connecting

national priorities and policy documents with those outlined in the SDGs as well as providing the foundation for the engagement of and collaboration with stakeholders. It is a key strategic document of Croatia for the period up to 2030 and will form the foundation for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and sub-national levels. The report refers human rights-based approaches. Human rights are emphasized under SDG 1 (no poverty) as a core principle since non-discrimination and respect for human rights forms the baseline strategic approach to solving the problem of poverty and social exclusion in Croatia.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected national priorities for the SDGs (beyond the existing themes outlined in the 2030 National Development Strategy). The strategy groups SDGs into seven priorities—Recognizable Croatia, Economically Efficient Croatia, Competitive, Entrepreneurial and Innovative Croatia, Safe Croatia, Connected Croatia, Green Croatia, inclusive Croatia, Croatia—Land of Advanced Regions. These priorities present the core sustainability challenges for the future of the country. They also provide a basis for shaping and implementing all public policies at the national and subnational levels. Subnational priorities framed by the 2030 National Development Strategy and local priorities are being identified.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report provides an in-depth assessment of all the SDGs, and it reviews the policy priorities for Croatia for each one. It provides a detailed assessment of the priority areas, with consistent presentations of the linkages between them. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report is also limited in terms of linking the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and

agreements beyond referring to the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. Climate change issues are integrated into several SDGs through specific projects. This includes projects on energy conservation (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy), emission-reduction efforts in production processes (SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production) and creating national inventories and data (SDG 13 on climate action). The report also emphasizes cross-cutting climate mitigation and adaptation actions in the transportation sector.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report underscores the importance of both leaving no one behind and the issue of social inclusion. It provides a detailed overview of the challenges facing women, children, poor and homeless people, people with disabilities, Roma people and migrants. The focus is on poverty reduction and reducing exclusion through the Strategy for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion in the Republic of Croatia for the period 2014–2020. The strategy also focuses on the following: i) reducing social inequalities; ii) preventing the emergence of new categories of poor citizens (as well as reducing the number of poor and socially excluded people); and iii) establishing a coordinated support system for groups at risk of poverty and social exclusion. Data is presented throughout with an in-depth assessment of current legislation, policies and programs and where additional efforts are needed going forward.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The awareness-raising process included workshops, conferences and roundtable meetings on the topic of “Croatia 2030: Croatia We Want” aimed at different stakeholders. This included the public sector, civil society organizations, the academic community, private sector, children and young people.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

While the report recognizes that SDG implementation requires contributions from a wide range of stakeholders, it is limited in terms of information on stakeholder

partnerships and specific contributions by non-state actors. It stresses collaboration with the European Union and its Member States to build on shared capacities and experience to advance the SDGs.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The report stresses the significant engagement of the country in assisting other countries in achieving the SDGs. It provides a detailed overview of the specific projects and initiatives, grouped by SDG.

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation in terms of achieving specific SDGs. For example, the country faces challenges changing the country’s economy to create long-term employment opportunities and improving the implementation of sustainable production and consumption practices at a larger scale. Private sector engagement was also noted. The institutional framework for SDG implementation (including planning and management of national budget resources) is being prepared.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report does not provide an overall indication of data availability. It includes a commitment to strengthen statistical capacities, including bolstering data collection as well as technical and administrative capacities.



## ICELAND

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

An inter-ministerial working group leads the work of the Icelandic government in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The working group aims to integrate the SDGs into policies and programs based on the outcomes of a prioritization assessment for the country.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country strongly believes that the SDG implementation cannot be achieved without cooperation between national and local authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and individuals around the world. The Icelandic government is committed to stakeholder engagement during the selection of SDG priorities for the country as well as to ensuring the successful implementation of the goals. Stakeholder engagement was mostly achieved through collaborative projects already undertaken with the involvement of the government. These included online and in-person consultations, workshops, conferences and one-on-one meetings.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap analysis was conducted to assess the relevance of the SDG goals and targets for the country's strategic planning documents and policies. Based on the assessment, Iceland prioritized 65 priority targets (from a total of 169) that will guide the country's authorities in implementing the goals.

Key gaps were summarized and used to guide strategy development and implementation in the country.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

According to the report, Iceland has used strategies, policies and programs to advance SDG implementation. The country fully endorsed the SDGs and enlisted its high-level ambition in its VNR report. In terms of key principles for SDG implementation, the report refers to the principles of human rights and leaving no one behind. While it includes a strong focus on human rights, it does not refer to a human rights-based approach. In the assessment of the relevance of the SDGs for the country, a specific focus was directed at individuals and groups that are or may be at risk of being marginalized.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country has selected 65 priority targets that are being implemented across all ministries. The remaining SDGs were considered less relevant for the country and no action has been taken to implement them.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews policy priority areas for Iceland and refers to relevant SDGs in that context, providing a goal-by-goal analysis. The report provides a detailed assessment noting recent past trends, implications of the goals for the country and examples of potential actions. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The SDGs are linked to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

For 10 consecutive years, Iceland has been ranked both the world's most peaceful country and the one with the greatest degree of gender equality. Despite real success in many areas, Iceland still faces a variety of challenges and has a way to go before achieving some of the SDG targets, especially those relevant for vulnerable populations. Vulnerable groups include children, women, LGBTQ, immigrants and people with disabilities. Major activities include current policies, targeted programs, consultations and awareness-raising on issues specific to marginalized groups.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Iceland also considers itself as a global leader in gender equality and would like to focus on capacity building on this issue in other countries. In its national policies and SDG implementation efforts, the country managed to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue across all the SDGs. The country sees "gender equality is both a prerequisite and a driving force for sustainable development and peace."

### AWARENESS RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

In March 2018, a promotional campaign was launched on all the country's main media about the SDGs under the title "Let's Have Good News to Tell in 2030." The campaign identified potential good news for Iceland and the world should the SDGs be met. The objective of the campaign was to draw attention to the SDGs to promote public participation in their implementation. Short videos were shown on television, social media and in cinemas along with online advertising banners.

The implementation of the SDGs by the Icelandic authorities is the task of both national and local authorities. The Association of Local Authorities has a representative in the government's SDG working group. With the involvement of this association, the introduction of SDGs is approached as a joint project of the state and municipalities, as they have

an essential role in the successful implementation of the SDGs. The country estimated approximately 65% of the SDG targets could not be implemented without the involvement of local authorities.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report stresses that the implementation of SDGs cannot be achieved without cooperation between national and local authorities, the private sector, civil society, academia, youth and individuals around the world. The Icelandic government is committed to stakeholder engagement to ensure the successful implementation of the goals. It mentioned that the government works together with civil society through projects to assist in achieving the SDGs. Iceland provided limited information on partnerships with the private sector and youth. In terms of the private sector, Iceland noted the government's SDG working group entered a one-year partnership with Festa. Festa is the Icelandic Centre for Corporate Social Responsibility. The report also stated a Youth Council meets six times yearly, including once with the government.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes that the government has linked the SDGs to a five-year fiscal strategy. This has allowed for mapping of SDG targets to areas of operation, facilitating targeted efforts and estimations of funding required to implement the goals. The report also highlights Iceland's commitment the United Nations target for official development assistance and efforts to bring issues related to gender equality to World Trade Organisation negotiations.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Following a data assessment, the report stressed that the country should develop indicators that are relevant to the country's context. It mentions that Nordic countries are considering defining Nordic statistical indicators in areas where the United Nations indicators have not been adequately defined, such as on SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production).



## LIECHTENSTEIN

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

Liechtenstein's government chose a systematic approach to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into national frameworks. To facilitate this process, the government established an interdisciplinary working group led by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture. The working group was tasked with conducting a gap analysis, identifying areas that require action and leading a review of data availability.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report does not outline how stakeholder engagement is occurring. It does, however, mention engagement by non-state actors in the VNR, including in terms of reviewing a draft version of the report.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country used a systematic approach in performing the gap analysis. This approach included a detailed analytic process under the leadership of the interdisciplinary working group to work through individual SDGs and their targets, assess their relevance for the country and its national strategies and evaluate data availability. At the same time, the public was involved through various events around the SDGs and discussions were held with stakeholder groups to provide input to the analysis.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

In light of the systemic approach to integrate the SDGs into national frameworks, the report highlights a number of sectoral policies. Coherence with the SDGs is important for the country's policies in the areas of education, energy, mobility and gender equality for example. The report stresses the importance of intergenerational equity by addressing current and future employment challenges. Since 2008, the country has been working on mobility challenges and one of its core focuses is sustainability. In this context, the interests of society, the economy and the environment should be considered equally to ensure opportunities for future generations.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country embarked on the initiatives to integrate climate change across the SDGs resulting in an effort called "Liechtenstein as Climate Pioneer." The report stresses that climate protection and sustainability will become even more important in the future. Thus, the country started integrating climate change issues into the school system from kindergarten to primary and secondary schools. Business associations have endorsed the initiatives.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs are not articulated in the report. The country has not developed national targets or indicators.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of

sustainable development. The review of each SDG lists the current situation and challenges in the country, past data and current and planned programs to achieve that SDG. Policy coherence for sustainable development is listed as a challenge in the country because of conflicting objectives of various SDGs. To address this challenge, the government will increasingly look for suitable instruments to ensure a reasonable balance when prioritizing individual SDGs.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report identifies vulnerable groups. It provides an overview of current initiatives focused on improving the situation of children in the country by providing quality afterschool care. The report provides a set of policies and measures to tackle gender inequality. It also includes several examples of the country's efforts to reduce poverty (SDG 1 on no poverty), implement SDG 5 (gender equality), and improvements in gender gaps in the labour market (SDG 10 on reduced inequality). Finally, the most heavily emphasized improvements are focused on the overall institutional setting by adhering to the European Union standards in creating responsible and effective institutions (SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions). The report does not list information on the results of efforts to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs and that ongoing efforts are needed. Non-state actors in civil society, academia and business sectors have played a prominent role in raising awareness on the SDGs. A civil society "Network for Development Cooperation" has also launched a mapping process within civil society, which should raise awareness and provide a better overview of existing commitments towards the SDGs.

Efforts related to localization are not articulated in the report.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report provides limited examples of partnerships to

realize the SDGs. The report recognizes that members of the Network for Development Cooperation contribute to the implementation of the SDGs in developing countries. In terms of the means of implementation, the report stressed the importance of the commitment of the private sector in achieving specific SDGs on education (SDG 4) and climate change (SDG 13). It also notes the role of charitable foundations. Annually, they contribute some CHF 200 million to philanthropic projects. The report includes a promise to continue expanding cooperation between the public and private sector.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies strengths in several areas concerning SDG implementation. The most relevant is the development of effective, responsible and transparent institutions on all levels summarized in the Strategy for the Development of Public Administration 2015–2020. An action plan has been adopted. While the report refers to the role of Liechtenstein in supporting the implementation of the SDGs in developing countries, it provides limited information on other means of implementation such as trade and those related to systemic issues.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

In the report, existing data was used to evaluate the development of individual SDGs in Liechtenstein. A total of 62 indicators were assigned to the individual SDGs. The report states that Liechtenstein's national indicator system covers a few of the United Nations' SDG indicators. The report emphasizes that the government will study options to improve data and indicators in the future and aim to align them with the SDGs.



## SERBIA

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The government established an Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in late 2015. This working group leads the national monitoring, review and reporting mechanism as well as the reporting process, including the 2019 VNR.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report confirms stakeholder engagement in the building a Development Partnership Framework. This included consultation with specific stakeholder groups such as civil society, the private sector, schools and others, including advocacy groups for the vulnerable. The inputs were used to collect information relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the country.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Identifying the relevance of current policies for achieving the SDGs required a gap assessment covering the existing legislative framework, the planning and strategic milestones and their implementation, as well as the costs of implementation and budgeting. A whole-of-government gap assessment was performed. All ministries, services and agencies, including provincial, municipal and city governments, were required to identify potential policy measures and program activities. The assessment identified successes, challenges and emerging problems.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

Serbia has incorporated the SDGs into national development plans and related policies and frameworks. In 2017, the country initiated the Development Partnership Framework for the period 2016 to 2020. The framework is fully integrated within national development priorities and the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. According to the gap analysis, key changes are needed in national policies. Many of these changes are being prepared. The report has a strong focus on human rights and refers to leaving no one behind.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The SDGs are a priority for the country. Serbia's report also noted priority of European Union membership.

#### Integration and policy coherence

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

### IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

#### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report lists the key vulnerable groups in the country and provides an overview of current policies and efforts that aim to reduce their vulnerability. The vulnerable groups include: women, migrants, people with disabilities, children, LGBTQ and single parents. The report outlines a wide



range of existing initiatives and gaps, including advanced health services (SDG 3 on good health and well-being) and educational programs for children and people affected by disabilities (SDG 4 on quality education).

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The awareness-raising efforts were focused on specific SDGs and the efforts needed to implement them. The country has made significant efforts to localize the SDGs. This includes a detailed assessment of local-level strategies and policies as well as capacities at the local level to assist with SDG implementation.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The country developed a detailed assessment of the role of policies and initiatives at the local government level to assist in achieving the SDGs. This assessment also looked at policy and implementation gaps such as lack of capacity, technological or financial resources that hinder local governments from implementing the specific SDG targets.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The country sees partnerships among different stakeholders as critical to achieving the SDGs by establishing local collaborations to assist with data collection, knowledge sharing, acquiring technologies and sources of funds. The report includes information on the role of the National Assembly in advancing the 2030 Agenda. It points to a Regional Seminar on the SDGs for Parliaments of Central and Eastern Europe and Central Asia that occurred in 2018 and the creation of a parliamentary hub in the form of a Focus Group in the National Assembly that aims to ensure oversight and implement activities of the parliament. In addition, the positions of children and youth were integrated throughout the VNR report, making it a “children and youth focused VNR.” Information under the SDGs includes inputs from youth. Finally, the report pointed to areas where assistance is needed for Serbia to continue to grow sustainably, particularly in the fields of investments, knowledge and skills and technology.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The country has begun preparing its implementation plans. The report emphasizes the importance of technology in advancing implementation. This includes examples of the role of technology in addressing schooling challenges by improving technological skills (SDG 4 on quality education), using modern farming technology (SDG 2 on zero hunger), new technology in new energy sources (SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy) and efforts to reduce emissions (SDG 13 on climate action). The previously mentioned working group has also assessed the financial system and mobilization of sources of funding.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data, is not articulated in the report. According to the report, indicators are crucial contributors to SDG achievement. The development of the VNR report brought agencies and stakeholders together and helped accelerate the development of the national indicators framework to monitor achievement.





## UNITED KINGDOM

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The Secretary of State for International Development has overall responsibility for policy oversight of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Minister for Implementation in the Cabinet Office ensures a coordinated approach across the government for the delivery of the SDGs. Officials in the UK government's Department for International Development and the Cabinet Office co-chair a cross-governmental group that provides a platform for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs, integrating them into departmental activity and reviewing the progress of their implementation.

In addition, the UK civil society report emphasizes that there is a need for civil society and other stakeholders to engage with the planning, budgeting and accountability processes. It stresses that the approach presently used by the government for SDG planning and implementation has limited support for stakeholder engagement. The report stresses that the government could do more to help civil society and other stakeholders to engage with government planning in line with the 2030 Agenda and as part of its capacity-building approach. The VNR report includes a recommendation that reflects this call noting the need to develop a stakeholder engagement mechanism.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report includes several specific stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising activities regarding SDG implementation. Stakeholders participated in the development of the VNR report.

#### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

While there is a Minister for Implementation, the SDGs are currently not publicly listed as part of their responsibilities.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

Boosting financing and investment for the SDGs was a major focus of the UK's gap analysis.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDGs have been incorporated into national development plans and related policies and frameworks. In 2017, the UK government published the 2030 Agenda: Delivering the Global Goals to provide details on UK government activity to support SDG delivery both domestically and internationally. Departments have identified where alignment with the SDGs exists through Single Departmental Plans.

## NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

In the UK, national frameworks capture government priorities in the context of the SDGs. The approach recognizes and respects the devolution settlements with Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Each is responsible for implementing its policies in areas of devolved competence, resulting in approaches that respond to national and local needs in the country. In the UK, national frameworks capture government priorities concerning the SDGs, with work taking place on multiple levels to strengthen delivery across the country.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

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

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report presents a detailed narrative on those left behind and efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. Vulnerable groups include women, children, people with disabilities, youth, isolated older people and the LGBTQ community. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind. The report also states that the government collaborates with the private sector and civil society to address the “leave no one behind” principle, which will include ensuring access to services and opportunities for the most vulnerable. The country will support disaggregated data and increased research into the causes and consequences of extreme poverty, exclusion, violence and discrimination.

### CIVIL SOCIETY VALIDITY CHECK

To ensure proper cross-government mainstreaming of “leave no one behind,” gender awareness and sensitivity, and improved conflict analysis across all policies and programming, the UK government should develop and provide practical tools, guidance and resources for all UK government staff and implementing partners working internationally. From a policy coherence perspective, the UK government should do more to ensure that other international actions (for example trade and economic growth strategies) promote inclusion and do not lead to people being left behind.

## AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Awareness-raising activities have been carried out according to the report. Their aim was to improve knowledge and capacities and learn from civil society organizations, the private sector and others. Local authorities are often responsible for the services and environments people interact with daily. For a range of goals, local authorities are vital to implementation. The report states that local authorities are well placed to provide the vital link between local communities and businesses and local priorities in the context of SDGs. In addition, information from local governments was included in the report.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The UK's report provided information on partnerships with civil society organizations and noted that market opportunities exist for private sector actors that contribute to the goals. Among other examples, the report cited Changemakers, a global citizenship project. The project has been delivered since 2012 by a range of civil society partners.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies gaps in terms of financial needs to implement the SDGs. It also discusses the role of official development assistance and the country's contributions to

support the delivery of the SDGs. The UK government plans to continue strengthening existing means and mechanisms to oversee its contribution to the domestic delivery of the SDGs and build on the Single Departmental Plan process.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

Open SDG is a free, reusable and customizable national reporting platform. It is a reporting tool developed to manage and publish data and statistics to track progress on SDGs. The open-sourced platform will be used as a library of SDG activities of countries and non-state actors. The Open SDG platform is the result of a collaboration between the United States government, the UK Office for National Statistics and the non-profit Center for Open Data Enterprise.

#### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The UK listed 180 indicators in its report. Of those indicators, 70% have disaggregated data available. The country is strongly focused on filling data gaps by providing data disaggregated by age, sex, disability status, ethnicity, income, geography and immigration status wherever possible. The planned activities to address data gaps are outlined in the Inclusive Data Action Plan (2018). The current gaps, particularly concerning the extent to which data can be disaggregated, can make it difficult to identify those most at risk of being left behind.



# OCEANIA



FIJI

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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Economy is the central government agency responsible for national development planning and thus, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The ministry convenes the SDG Taskforce charged with overseeing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation. The report does not include information on formal non-state actor participation in the SDG Taskforce.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Fiji carried out an unprecedented, inclusive consultation process to identify national priorities. Fiji's VNR process was strengthened by a comprehensive national consultation that featured several national events and gatherings.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

In order to integrate the SDGs, over 800 public forums all over Fiji were undertaken since 2015, including two rounds of public consultations. Consultations provided feedback from Fijians on where the government's development focus should be and validation of government plans to ensure they meet the needs and aspirations of the people. In addition, the government engages in rounds of in-person and online public consultations during the preparation of national budgets. The government believes that it is important to bring people together to provide their input for development, growth and prosperity.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country has done a gap and baseline assessment of the goals and data needs for monitoring the SDGs. The assessment considered the SDG targets linked to the "5 Ps" (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership) of the 2030 Agenda. The recommendations fed into the national development planning cycle.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The report provides details on the integration of the SDGs into national development plans. Fiji uses a Five-Year and a 20-Year National Development Plan to prioritize development goals and integrate the SDGs. The report has a human rights focus and notes the universal nature of the agenda and the importance of leaving no one behind. The report does not refer to the environment-related principles of the 2030 Agenda.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

Fiji's development plans recognize that gender equality (SDG 5 on gender equality), strong institutions (SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions), partnerships (SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals), as well as sustainable physical infrastructure and innovation (SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure) are major prerequisites for improving basic services (SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation and SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy) and protecting ecosystem integrity (SDG 14 on life below water and SDG 15 on life on land). Actions to deliver against these goals will improve long-term well-being,

economic resilience and sustainability (SDG 3 on good health and well-being, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities and SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production), which will ultimately enable the reduction of societal inequality (SDG 10).

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goals and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. The report makes linkages to the relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The state of available data to leave no one behind is unclear from the report. The report lists a range of policies and programs that have been put in place to improve the situation of vulnerable people. They include social, economic and infrastructure development programs to ensure prosperity, particularly for those who are most vulnerable. For example, the government introduced a free education scheme, transport assistance and free textbooks as part of the reform initiatives to make education accessible and protect the most vulnerable.

#### Awareness-raising and localization

The country will continue its extensive efforts to involve stakeholders in SDG implementation and awareness-raising as was done during the development of the national strategy. This also included a comprehensive and inclusive national stakeholder consultation during the development of the VNR report. Localization is not discussed in the report.

## PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report highlights the importance of partnerships. Fiji's parliament has been playing an active role in implementation. The report highlights the creation of a guidance note for integrating the SDGs into committee work and the role of the parliament in promoting initiatives to ensure progress on 2030 Agenda implementation such as capacity development for members of parliament and their staff, the creation of a gender analysis toolkit and public engagement.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report stresses that to achieve SDG ambitions through development plans, the country needs to mobilize both public and private sector finance. It is estimated that over FJD 20 billion is required from Fiji's public and private sector during the period between 2016 and 2021 to implement the Five-Year National Development Plan. The financial resources could originate from domestic and foreign sources. The country has also developed plans to integrate the SDGs into sectoral plans and connect SDG implementation with resources accordingly.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

Baseline data collection efforts were conducted to gather data and begin assessment and trend analyses. The report highlighted qualitative and quantitative secondary data available within government agencies, civil society organizations and academia. The country's approach to national reporting was not included in the report.



NAURU

In 2019, Nauru submitted key messages to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development for the first time.

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A National Planning and Development Committee was established to improve the monitoring and evaluation policy. Chaired by the Minister of Finance and consisting of key heads of government departments, the committee is responsible for the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Planning and Aid Division within the National Bureau of Statistics provides technical support to the committee to assist with data and monitoring as well as coordination of financial allocations.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The country conducted consultations to engage diverse groups of stakeholders including elders, youth and people with disabilities. These included sector-specific consultations, district open forums and the use of a questionnaire. The consultation focused on how to advance implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) effectively.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The document indicates the National Sustainable Development Strategy was reviewed but is unclear as to whether a formal baseline or gap analysis occurred.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The main messages stress that the government demonstrated its commitment to achieving the SDGs

through the review of its National Sustainable Development Strategy and the integration of the SDGs into it.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country conducted a review of the current status of milestones in the National Sustainable Development Strategy, finding that only 26% had been met. The main messages refer to challenges related to specific SDGs that need to be addressed going forward.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The main messages do not capture progress against specific SDGs. The document does, however, refer to the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The main messages do not provide information on leaving no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

Beyond the previously mentioned consultation processes, the main messages did not refer to awareness-raising and localization efforts.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The main messages highlight the importance of the extensive consultations that were completed for the integration of SDGs into the national strategy but does not provide information on specific partnerships.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Nauru pointed to factors affecting national-level implementation in its main messages. These include lack of funding, limited staff capacity, weak coordination, land issues, unclear goals and specific SDG-relevant challenges in areas such as health, education sector and the impacts of climate change, for example.

To accelerate SDG implementation at the national level, Nauru plans to implement the national priorities identified in the Three-Year Medium-Term Strategic Framework for 2019–2023. Additional support includes improving national statistical systems, strengthening institutions, improving the monitoring and evaluation framework and building the national capacities of the Ministry of Finance to support agencies in these regards. Continued support from development partners is an important component in helping achieve the SDGs.

## MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The document lists improving the national statistical systems and using monitoring and evaluation frameworks to track SDG implementation progress, though does not provide further detail. Monitoring will occur through the Three-Year Medium-Term Strategic Framework which is linked to a multi-year budget.





## NEW ZEALAND

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

From the country's perspective, addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a whole-of-government effort, working alongside the private sector and civil society to integrate the SDGs into current policies and frameworks.

#### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report outlines consultations on New Zealand's Living Standards Framework that links the SDGs to national priorities. It notes that consultations informed the set of indicators the country is using to track progress. The report also highlights the first SDG Summit in 2018, carried out in partnership by New Zealand's eight universities.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report notes that the country assessed data for monitoring the SDGs linked to the high-level Living Standards Framework, which emphasizes a diversity of outcomes meaningful for people.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country has incorporated the SDGs into the Living Standards Framework. The framework helps with allocation of financial resources and to measure and compare outcomes through the comprehensive (and evolving) set of indicators. The report has a strong human right focus and notes that the human rights are critical for sustainable development, addressing the "leave no one behind" principle and intergenerational equity in the country.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

The Living Standards Framework links the SDGs to national priorities. It has 12 domains reflecting current and future well-being. The elements of the framework include four capitals—natural, human, social, and financial/physical—defined as the assets that generate well-being now and into the future. The SDGs are adjusted and prioritized according to their relevance to the framework. A structured database of indicators to support policy development to increase intergenerational well-being was developed linked to the priorities in the framework.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The Living Standards Framework includes priorities that connect to all 17 SDGs.

#### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs, giving equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic and foreign policies that support the realization of the SDGs. The report makes linkages to assessing aspects of policy coherence for specific SDGs as part of activities using the Living Standards Framework. In addition, several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change are integrated into the report.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides details on poverty-reduction efforts at the family level as well as plans to reduce the number of children living in poverty. While the report notes that the production of disaggregated data is a challenge for the country, it also presents a detailed narrative on those left behind, along with efforts to improve social inclusion and reduce inequality. The goals most prominently related to the social sectors include a subsection on leaving no one behind. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

SDG Summits bring together stakeholders to accelerate SDG implementation and facilitate cross-sectoral engagement. Summit participants in 2018 included stakeholder groups such as civil society groups, health boards, schools, ministries and business councils and networks.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The report highlights the localization of specific SDGs in cases where local, national and regional governments must work together. This includes SDGs such as those that focus on water and environmental management.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report recognizes a whole-of-society approach to implementation. Specific partnerships with the private sector are highlighted as well as efforts by universities to facilitate the annual SDG Summit. The report does not offer a significant number of examples of partnerships with non-state actors.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report highlights domestic action, international leadership and support for developing countries as part of New Zealand's approach to implementation. The report identifies strengths in several areas where the country aims to advance implementation in collaboration with local stakeholders as well as with the organizations in the Pacific region. New Zealand is particularly focused on supporting

small island developing states and least developed countries. In terms of specific activities, the country has prioritized its support to sustainable agriculture, clean energy and education.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The Living Standards Framework will be used to monitor the implementation of the SDGs in the country. To the extent possible, the well-being indicators will be disaggregated to track the progress of different groups within the population. The indicators will be used to track progress on implementation as well as the allocation of the financial resources. An online portal has been developed as part of monitoring efforts and the report notes that further efforts are needed to develop national reporting processes.



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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The country has developed a strong institutional framework and process to plan for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the context of the country's strategies and policies. Eight intersectoral working groups, led by government ministries, were established to lead the process. The working groups include representatives from civil society and semi-private organizations. The outcome of this work was the national SDG framework strategy that informed the initial VNR.

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

To date, two national SDG consultations have been conducted. The report also details engagement on the VNR by non-state actors, which included reviewing a draft version of the report. Specific groups of stakeholders include civil society, state governments, traditional leaders and the private sector.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

The report outlines a mapping process to identify relevance and overlaps between the SDGs and national priorities. This assessment also included the identification of gaps and needs for SDG implementation.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The SDG framework strategy includes ways to incorporate the SDGs into national strategies. The country led a mapping process to compare the SDG goals and targets

with national targets or indicators. This process helped identify areas in which the country is already aligned with the SDGs and gaps that require further attention.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

National priorities for the SDGs are articulated in the report. The country grouped the SDGs into four interlocking pillars: people, prosperity, planet and partnerships and governance. Under the people pillar, Palau envisages happy, healthy and purposeful lives supported by the prosperity pillar, which is characterized by equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth in harmony with nature, which in turn is the planet pillar. The fourth pillar, partnerships and governance, reflects the interdependence of all pillars and the ongoing need for effective governance and partnerships both domestically and internationally. After mapping global targets and indicators against domestic priorities, Palau identified 95 targets that comprise the national SDGs framework.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report provides a detailed examination of the goals, but it pays limited attention to the linkages between the goals. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not discussed. However, the report makes linkages to several relevant international frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The country focuses on four critical SDGs include SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 3 on good health and well-being and SDG 4 on quality education as the most relevant to improving the situation of vulnerable groups in the country. Vulnerable groups include children, poor people, women, people with disabilities and those living in remote and rural locations. The report outlines a wide range of existing initiatives, including specialized and universal programs that support efforts to leave no one behind.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that the VNR process helped to raise awareness of the SDGs and that ongoing efforts are needed. Non-state actors in civil society, academia and business sectors have played a prominent role in raising awareness on the SDGs according to the report.

Steps have been taken to localize the 2030 Agenda. The report highlights engagement with local levels of government on the SDGs and stresses that the national targets are being incorporated into local plans and programs to develop implementation plans.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report emphasizes that the government will continue the dialogue between government agencies, civil society, the business community, international organizations and other stakeholders to ensure their full engagement in SDG implementation to maximize outcomes. The report highlights the role of the national coordinating body for civil society in engaging with the SDG coordinating unit and through the working group structure. Information on the specific contributions by other types of non-state actors was not included in the report.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report identifies strengths and weaknesses in key sectors and institutions of the country in terms of SDG implementation. It stresses that the country's reliance on tourism creates challenges due to tourism's susceptibility to external economic volatility. Tourism activities raise demand

for fuel and food imports, thereby increasing Palau's vulnerability to global commodity price fluctuations and currency rates. Other risks to implementation and achieving the SDGs are related to climate change, as the risk of increased frequency and severity of inclement weather conditions resulting from climate change and sea level rise could further erode tourism and growth prospects. The Palau government, through the Ministry of State, engages in ongoing dialogue with the country's development partners to identify partnership opportunities for programs and specific projects to achieve the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

While significant progress is being made on developing gender-disaggregated data in the country, there is still missing data on access to credit and land for women and issues related to childcare. The report stresses that a family health survey is needed, but it must be conducted systematically, with regular data-collection activities. One current challenge is the lack of time-series datasets on many indicators, which hinders the country's ability to monitor its progress on the SDGs. The report does not include an overview of national reporting processes.



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

## GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

The report highlights the National Planning Division of the Prime Minister's Office as responsible for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report confirms stakeholder engagement in the development of the country's national development framework. This included consultation with specific stakeholder groups such as civil society, the private sector, schools and other groups such as advocacy organizations for vulnerable populations. The report notes that there is a need to improve collaboration across and within government and with civil society stakeholders.

## POLICIES

### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

In November 2015, Tonga undertook a process to assess gaps and align the 17 SDGs to the seven national outcomes of the country's national development framework. Using the Rapid Integrated Assessment method, the assessment reviewed the country's readiness to implement the SDGs. The process allowed for stakeholder consultation and consideration of SDG priorities in a Tongan context.

### INCORPORATING THE SDGS NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The country's national development plan, Tonga Strategic Development Framework II 2015–2025, is results-focused and

underscores Tonga's approach to sustainable and inclusive growth. The framework is aligned to the 2030 Agenda, the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action Pathway and several global conventions and agreements. These global initiatives have been integrated as appropriate into the country's sectoral policies, strategies and national budget measures at all levels of the national planning process.

### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The effort of the country to incorporate SDGs into its national planning systems included engagement with stakeholders to discuss and confirm relevant SDG targets and indicators that could be used to track the implementation of national and sectoral priorities. In this process, Tonga started by adapting 69 SDG indicators and integrated relevant aspects in applicable documents, adding more indicators following data validation.

### INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report covers all 17 SDGs and gives equal attention to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The report is strong in terms of identifying linkages between goal areas and includes a discussion of domestic policies that support the realization of the SDGs. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. However, the report makes linkages to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda Convention on Biological Diversity and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Tonga prioritizes social protection and human rights with a focus on vulnerable groups in its approach to SDG implementation. To fully inform policy changes and interventions, Tonga has used advanced statistical techniques to enable poverty reporting that is inclusive of smaller island communities and developed a robust multidimensional poverty measure that is reliable, valid and contextually appropriate. The report lists the key vulnerable groups in the country and provides an overview of current policies and efforts to reduce their vulnerability. The vulnerable groups include women, the elderly, children, people with disabilities, people in remote communities and people with diverse sexual orientations.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The awareness-raising efforts were focused on specific SDGs and related efforts needed to implement them. Community development plans have been developed through consultative processes that integrate the SDGs.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The country sees partnerships among different stakeholders as a critical part of achieving the SDGs. It considers the importance of engaging stakeholders by establishing local partnerships to assist with data collection, knowledge sharing and acquiring technologies and sources of funds.

### MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report stresses the country's commitment to improving the links between national plans and budgets to ensure that development priorities are resourced for implementation as planned. In this context, a customized tool (called One Process) has been developed to assist with better allocation of resources for targeted outputs. It also lists the importance of evaluation and budgeting.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report discusses the current status of available data for SDG implementation, including disaggregated data. The country developed a national strategy (the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics 2019–2023) to

address immediate data challenges and set the framework for the development of additional datasets for the SDG indicators. The strategy also seeks to advance data collection and presentation for users while guiding planning and implementation.

A tracking database system was created to establish a monitoring and evaluation framework. It is located within the National Planning Division of the Prime Minister's Office.

### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

An ongoing challenge for the country is the disaggregation of all datasets. The Statistics Department of the country has developed some innovative approaches to data disaggregation. For example, it used the "small area estimation" technique to disaggregate information not just on the main island and all rural islands together, but also by village, district and constituency. In addition, the multidimensional poverty report has been disaggregated according to these geographical locations.



## VANUATU

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

### GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

#### LEADERSHIP, GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

A core group was formed to guide the development of a National Sustainable Development Plan, with the Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination of the Prime Minister's Office acting as the secretariat. The group consisted of high-level government officials, technical officers in their respective fields and members of civil society organizations.

#### GOOD PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT

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

### STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The report notes the government's commitment to the creation of an enabling environment for Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation that facilitates contributions from all stakeholders in society. The report is unclear in terms of what formal processes for stakeholder engagement entail. Nevertheless, it provides a detailed overview of the extensive consultation processes carried out in the country in identifying national priorities. Through VNR consultations, civil society organizations also identified ways to improve engagement going forward.

### POLICIES

#### BASELINE OR GAP ANALYSIS

A gap analysis was conducted to identify gaps in planning and implementation for the SDGs, including data gaps. The analysis involved collaboration with stakeholder groups.

#### INCORPORATING THE SDGS

The country's National Sustainable Development Plan, Vanuatu 2030: The Peoples Plan, covers 2016 to 2030. The plan builds on the progress made and lessons learned through previous development efforts between 2006 and 2015, along with the Millennium Development Goals. It integrates and guides the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

#### NATIONALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA

The VNR report is unclear on the status of national priorities. It appears the country is still in the process of selecting national priorities for the SDGs.

## INTEGRATION AND POLICY COHERENCE

The report reviews all 17 SDGs and provides an overview of current trends, policies and initiatives as well as needs, activities and gaps. The report gives equal attention to economic, social and environmental dimensions, although with limited reference to linkages between the dimensions in the analysis of goals and targets. Policy coherence for sustainable development is not mentioned. The report connects the SDGs to other relevant international frameworks and agreements, referring to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA

### LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The report provides a detailed overview of vulnerable groups in terms of current trends, policies, projects, needs and challenges to improve their situation. Vulnerable groups include women, the elderly, children, youth, people with disabilities, people in remote communities and those affected by poverty. The report also emphasizes that the country must contextualize poverty, especially for youth, for whom providing educational opportunities can improve future well-being.

### AWARENESS-RAISING AND LOCALIZATION

The report notes that awareness-raising on the SDGs has occurred, including through the VNR, but does not provide specific details. The report discusses the localization of the SDGs, mostly through consultations in provincial centres that are a priority for local government staff and provincial civil society representatives. The meetings will provide valuable information to help identify specific subnational priorities.

### PARTNERSHIP TO REALIZE THE SDGS

The report lists the contributions of civil society organizations in assisting with challenges in implementation such as through addressing the lack of access to education leading to low literacy rates and lack of employment opportunities. Shared implementation between the government and civil society is discussed for the other SDGs as well.

## MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The report notes several challenges for SDG implementation focused on limited financial resources and institutional challenges in terms of monitoring and evaluating resource allocation. To advance SDG implementation, the country will continue to improve the alignment of planning with resource allocation. This includes the continued development of a Medium-Term Expenditure Framework that links to the priorities outlined in the national development plan to the budget process. The country's Aid Management Policy provides the general direction of the government's development cooperation framework. These strategies provide opportunities to align activities and expenditures with the SDGs.

### MEASUREMENT AND REPORTING

The report stresses the challenges of ensuring the availability of data as well as data used for effective monitoring and evaluation. It notes that the country is committed to publishing an annual development report as a broad high-level report to provide stakeholders with further details and information on activities. A monitoring and evaluation framework will inform these efforts.



