Progressing National SDGs Implementation: Fourth Edition

An independent assessment of the Voluntary National Review reports submitted to the High-level Political Forum in 2019
A review of emerging best and practice in 2030 Agenda implementation

Civil society initiative

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

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

ALGERIA

In 2021, Algeria made a national voluntary review (VNR) against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations General Assembly. This report highlights the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Algeria.

**GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS**

EXECUTIVE GOVERNANCE AND INSTITUTIONS

- In 2021, Algeria designated the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development as the lead institution for the implementation of the SDGs.

SECRETARY-GENERAL’S REPORTING GUIDELINES

- The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.

CASE STUDY IN GOOD PRACTICE

- The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.

COUNTRY PROFILES

- The report does not address this component.

**BEST PRACTICE SPOTLIGHT**

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

**FIGURE 1. THE EXTENT TO WHICH COUNTRIES INCORPORATE ELEMENTS OF THE SG COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES, 2019**

The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines.

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

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

Source: Except adapted from Fiji’s VNR report.
Progressing National SDGs Implementation can help you!

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

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Percentage of countries including component in 2019

Percentage of countries including component in 2018

Direction of change over previous year
Leaving no one behind is becoming a defining feature

- Most countries reporting on LNOB
  - 81% of countries provided information on LNOB in 2019 up from 61% in 2018
  - LNOB a challenge for 21%

- Need for disaggregated data by gender, age and other disaggregation

- 36% highlighted embedding LNOB or efforts to address inequality and social exclusion as part of overarching development plans
It is standard practice to include non-state actors in governance arrangements

• 70% of countries noted non-state actors are included in high-level or working-level institutional arrangements

• Greater focus on technical working groups may present fewer opportunities for non-state actor input into overall strategic direction

• Academia, civil society and private sector actors saw increases in participation in technical groups
Formal mechanisms for stakeholder engagement are emerging while civil society organizations continue to emphasize quality

- Increased reporting on formal processes of stakeholder engagement
  - 60% in 2019 versus 39% in 2018

- Direct engagement in the drafting of VNRs increased to 53% in 2019 vs 29% in 2018

- Quality of engagement still matters
  - Principles for Effective Multi-Stakeholder Engagement
Countries are presenting national VNR reports that showcase contributions by non-state actors and partnerships

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

- Limited reporting on the creation of enabling policies for non-state actors
- No VNR report included closing of civic space
- Civil society reports continue to point to the need to improve interactions between the government and civil society for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
Informed by assessments of policies and/or data, the SDGs have been integrated into policies and monitoring and evaluation processes

- Countries noted an assessment of policies, data or both to inform implementation
  - 17 countries mapped policies against SDGs
  - 14 countries conducted policy and data assessments
  - 6 countries performed assessments of data availability or baselines

- In 2019, 79% of countries reported integrating the SDGs into national policies

- Most countries (76%) provided information on data availability
  - Significant increase from previous years
But Member States continue to focus less on other elements of the 2030 Agenda
Member States do not consistently emphasize all elements of sustainable development.
While countries have not costed implementation, most have identified sources of finance and 2019 saw greater reporting on budgeting processes over previous years

- Increased integration of the 2030 Agenda into budgeting processes
  - 64% of countries referred to budgeting processes versus 46% in 2018

- 70% of countries have identified sources of finance vs 57% in 2018 and 49% in 2017
  - Finance and resource mobilization most commonly cited challenge

- Countries have not costed the 2030 Agenda
  - In 2019, 26 countries did not mention costing but did identify sources of finance
    - Up from 21 countries in 2018 and 16 countries in 2017
Reporting on some means of implementation declined though improvements seen in reporting on challenges and good practice

- Declines seen in reporting on international public finance, trade and systemic issues
- Mixed improvements and declines in reporting on learning elements of HLPF
While countries reported on follow-up and review processes, VNR reports lack reference to accountability mechanisms

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

- VNR reports lack reference to accountability mechanisms at national level
  - Only 5 countries noted involvement of parliamentarians in follow-up and review process

- Limited information on regional and global review processes
Thank you! Questions?