

SECRETARÍA TÉCNICA PLANIFICA ECUADOR

# Voluntary National Review

Ecuador 2020

Executive Summary

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## Executive Summary

In 2015, after the approval of the 2030 Agenda, Ecuador pledged to meet the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In 2017, the Executive Power ratified its willingness to align the 2017 – 2021 National Development Plan "Toda Una vida" to the global agenda. Meanwhile, the Legislative branch approved the obligation to work on the implementation and fulfillment of the SDGs. These two pillars have allowed more actors to become involved in the process and to align their work to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

In 2018, the country presented its first Voluntary National Review (VNR). Two years later, the Government of the Republic of Ecuador presents the 2020 Voluntary National Review, with several innovations in the regulatory field, the document construction process and the involvement of different actors.

The first part of the document addresses the main action that have been taken from the State functions (Executive, Legislative, Judicial, Transparency and Social Control) for compliance of the 2030 Agenda as well as the associative entities of the local governments.

In the second part, for the first time, a specific section is presented that shows an analysis of the advances and challenges and identification of critical knots regarding the achievement of the global agenda from an approach related to the means of implementation and the country's efforts, facing the so-called "Decade of Action". Additionally, main actions implemented facing the health emergency caused by COVID-19 and how this crisis accentuates the challenges to achieve sustainable development are shown.

The third part highlights the progress and challenges facing the 17 SDGs and reaffirms the vision of the country for each one of them; the performance of the indicators is included in the main topics addressed, as well as public policies and government management results aligned to each SDG. Finally, public policy evaluation exercises that have been implemented in Ecuador are incorporated.

The fourth part presents the conclusions which identify the main advances and challenges related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and each SDG.

To demonstrate the efforts generated by the different key actors to achieve the global agenda - and after a process of identifying initiatives by 2020 - the 345 initiatives that contribute to sustainable development are included (Annex I).

Finally, thanks to the institutional efforts of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) and the planning governing entity, 175 indicators have been identified with their respective disaggregations that allow monitoring of compliance with the 2030 Agenda (Annex II).

### SDG 1 - No poverty

One of the main advances was the consolidation and institutionalization of a social protection floor, prioritizing those in vulnerable conditions. Eradicate poverty by 2030 represents a real challenge; this requires redoubling efforts and mobilizing greater resources to maintain the social protection policy with a rights-based approach. In addition, it is necessary to promote a sustainable and inclusive economic growth that allows the development and well-being of the Ecuadorian population.

### SDG 2 - Zero Hunger

Important progress has been made in favor of sustainable production that guarantees food sovereignty, especially in the institutions of the popular and solidary economy. However, it is required to consolidate a production system with new technologies to have more efficient, dynamic and sustainable processes.

### OD3 – Good health and well-being

The guarantee of health coverage and quality, as well as the improvement of eating patterns from the first years of life are the main achievements that have reduced mortality. In order to prevent adolescent pregnancy, the Inter-sector Policy on Preventing Pregnancy in Girls and Adolescents was implemented; however, it is necessary to strengthen inter-institutional actions to protect the rights of women, girls and adolescents.

### SDG 4 - Quality education

With the purpose of guaranteeing free public education and improving quality, the Ecuadorian State has implemented actions aimed at ensuring access at all educational levels with an emphasis on the inclusion of peoples and nationalities, and on improving infrastructure and educational service, especially in rural areas of the country. Furthermore, it is important to promote technical and technological training in the country through the promotion of the Productive Technical Degree.

### SDG 5 - Gender equality

Progress has been registered in reducing the gender gap in educational access, as well as reducing the wage gap between men and women and in the institutionalization of the Law for the Prevention and Eradication of Gender Violence against Women. In addition, public policies have been implemented to guarantee the rights of boys, girls and adolescents orphaned by femicide.

### SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation

Efforts have been concentrated to achieve adequate management of water and sanitation services, as well as care and protection in the use of water resources, for which there are legal regulations that frame the actions of the central and local governments. However, it is important to continue with the prioritized support in the territory in order to increase the development of plans, programs and / or projects for the provision of basic services.

### SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy

Ecuador has oriented its efforts towards the use of clean renewable energies that generate energy efficiency and democratization of the service. Currently, the electrical infrastructure has been increasing its generation capacity, achieving self-sufficiency, reducing energy losses and improving service quality. However, it is important to continue reducing the gap in access to electricity service, especially in rural areas.

### SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth

In the presence of the generalized economic slowdown, the 2018 - 2021 Prosperity Plan has been implemented in order to move towards a sustainable economy. Although progress has been made in terms of inclusive employment, it is necessary to promote decent employment and guarantee the fulfillment of workers' rights through the commitment of public and private sectors to the generation of quality work, decent remuneration and social security.

### SDG 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure

Efforts have been focused on the development of sustainable and responsible production, generating added and technical value for the production of local goods and services. However, it is essential to boost specialized industries which requires greater investment in Research and Development (R&D) in all sectors.

### SDG10 - Reduced inequalities

In order to expand the social protection floors for the benefit of the vulnerable population, the 2018 - 2020 Prosperity Plan and several emblematic interventions have been implemented. In addition, to reduce inequality gaps, there are fiscal, social protection, salary and immigration policies. In this context, it is a challenge to generate actions regarding household income and youth unemployment, which have been affected in recent years by the complex economic situation.

### SDG11 - Sustainable cities and communities

With the purpose of providing quality services for all citizens, since 2016 the Habitat Policy and the National Urban Agenda have been promoted. Additionally, there are regulatory instruments focused on generating sustainable and resilient cities. Despite the efforts made, it is necessary to strengthen the territorial development processes in an articulated way between the various actors in society and the different government levels.

### SDG12 - Responsible consumption and production

The country promotes a productive development responsible with the environment, in that sense the gap between ecological footprint and bio-capacity shows a favorable behavior. However, it is necessary to have a greater commitment of the private sector aligned to the efficient use of resources, with rationalized production and focused on sustainable consumption.

### SDG 13 - Climate action

Regarding control and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions within the production processes, through the execution of projects for forest conservation and sustainable production, the national territory under conservation or environmental management has been increased. Although there are advances in environmental conservation, it is important to enhance the response capacity to any risk and / or disaster of natural origin.

### **SDG 14 – Life below water**

Progress is evident regarding the care of the continental mangrove surface and the conservation of the surface of the marine and coastal territory. For this purpose, there is a regulatory framework and public policies for the promotion and development of the rational use of hydro-biological resources. However, it is important to strengthen the coordination processes between the different actors involved in the coastal marine space in order to improve the management and final disposal of solid waste, the ordering of activities, the gathering of information, among others.

### **SDG 15 - Life on Land**

Conservation of ecosystems has been promoted through the integration and implementation of policies, strategies, programs and plans aimed at reducing deforestation, generation of greenhouse gas emissions, rapid urbanization, among others. Despite the achievements, the struggle against deforestation becomes a challenge for the conservation and protection of numerous ecosystems important to biodiversity for the benefit of current and future generations.

### **SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions**

Measures have been taken to confront violence in all its manifestations, managing to reduce the rate of intentional homicides. Additionally, peace, sovereignty and integration have been promoted with the neighboring countries, Peru and Colombia, through actions in favor of development in border areas. Although there are advances to guarantee that all citizens can live safe and protected, it is necessary to strengthen the inter-institutional coordination.

### **SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals**

There have been important advances in the universalization of telecommunications and the diversification of production. However, it is necessary to reduce the gap between urban and rural areas. In addition, better conditions must be generated to achieve a diversification of national production with added value. Faced with the effects caused by COVID-19, the 2030 Agenda becomes an opportunity to establish national and international alliances in order to achieve true sustainable development with the support of fraternal countries.

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