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Compilation of main messages for the 2020 voluntary national reviews

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat transmits herewith the main messages of voluntary national reviews presented by 48 States members of the high-level political forum on sustainable development at its 2020 meeting, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#) and [70/1 1/](#).

* E/HLPF/2020/1.

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Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

Introducción

La Argentina asume la Agenda 2030 luego de un sostenido compromiso con lo establecido en la Cumbre del Milenio. En 2003, el Presidente Kirchner, retomó los Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio (ODM) como parte de su agenda de gobierno estableciendo al Consejo Nacional de Coordinación de Políticas Sociales (CNCPS) como punto focal, habiendo participado desde 2013 en los diálogos y consultas sobre la Agenda post 2015 y los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS). En septiembre de 2015, durante la presidencia de Cristina Fernández, la Argentina asumió el compromiso con la Agenda 2030. En diciembre de 2015 el Gobierno de Macri le dio continuidad al CNCPS como organismo rector y articulador.

Logros

En 2016, la Argentina conformó la Comisión Nacional Interinstitucional de Implementación y Seguimiento de los ODS, conducida por el CNCPS. Desde ese ámbito se estableció la matriz de seguimiento de los progresos que incluye los indicadores, las políticas públicas y la inversión presupuestaria vinculada a las metas de los ODS. La alianza con el Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Censos permitió combinar las dimensiones política y técnica que la Agenda 2030 plantea. El compromiso con “No dejar a nadie atrás”, sustentado en las obligaciones de los Estados con los derechos humanos, requirió abordajes múltiples: la revisión de las metas internacionales para garantizar la inclusión de aquellas que explicitan alguna situación de vulnerabilidad; la revisión de las fichas técnicas de los indicadores desde la perspectiva de derechos; la vinculación de las metas de los ODS de Argentina con el Plan Nacional de Acción en Derechos Humanos; capacitaciones en enfoque de derechos humanos; la publicación de documentos accesibles sobre la Agenda 2030, entre otros. Los procesos de localización se nutrieron de los aprendizajes desarrollados en este transcurrir de la implementación y seguimiento en el nivel nacional promoviendo articulación y retroalimentación. La participación del Foro de los Países de América Latina y el Caribe y del Foro Político de Alto Nivel sobre el Desarrollo Sostenible han sido ámbitos prioritarios de participación para nuestro país.

Desafíos

En 2020, el contexto político, económico y social es completamente distinto al de la presentación del primer Informe Voluntario Nacional. En 2017, Argentina había iniciado un ciclo político de reinstalación neoliberal. En diciembre de 2019, comienza una nueva gestión de gobierno centrado en el liderazgo del Estado, la democracia y la justicia social, pero en un escenario de vulnerabilidades sociales y fragilidades económicas condicionadas por una deuda externa insostenible. Este gobierno, reafirmó su adhesión a la Agenda 2030 focalizando en el Programa Argentina contra el Hambre. A lo que se sumó el combate a la pandemia del COVID-19.

La Argentina implementó tempranamente medidas de aislamiento social preventivo obligatorio para evitar la propagación del COVID19; comenzó la construcción de 12 Hospitales Modulares de Emergencia y creó un fondo especial para adquirir equipamiento e insumos a laboratorios y hospitales. Brindó apoyo para los trabajadores y la economía real. Entre las medidas adoptadas figuran: el incremento en las partidas para comedores escolares y comunitarios; el otorgamiento de un bono extraordinario para jubilados, pensionados, titulares de la Asignación Universal por Hijo y de la Asignación Universal por Embarazo; la eximición de las cargas patronales a los sectores afectados por la pandemia; el refuerzo del seguro de desempleo; la fijación de precios máximos para alimentos de la canasta básica; el Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia; la prohibición de cortes de servicios por falta de pago; la provisión de créditos a Pequeñas y Mediana Empresas (PyMES); facilidades para créditos hipotecarios; congelamiento temporario de alquileres y suspensión de desalojos; la creación del Fondo de Garantía para las PyMES y del Programa de Asistencia de Emergencia al Trabajo y la Producción; la prohibición de despidos y suspensiones por 60 días; entre otras. Tales medidas permitieron mitigar las consecuencias de la enfermedad y el colapso del sistema sanitario y aliviaron las negativas consecuencias económicas y sociales. En el mundo pospandémico, la Argentina deberá fortalecer su aparato productivo y continuar eliminando las inequidades sociales heredadas y las agravadas por el COVID-19. Poner a la Argentina

de pie requiere restablecer prioridades para, empezando por los últimos, llegar a todos. Alcanzar los objetivos que plantea la Agenda 2030 sigue siendo un desafío y un horizonte para nuestro país.

Armenia

[Original: English]

Institutional Arrangement

The Republic of Armenia has been firmly committed to the implementation of the “Agenda 2030” for sustainable development.

Beginning with 2015 the established Intergovernmental Council has actively worked on creating the necessary infrastructure for the implementation of SDGs as a matter of institutional and systemic approach towards the SDGs policy.

The renewed Intergovernmental Council for SDG headed by Deputy Prime Minister has been recently established with broader representation and mandate to coordinate and monitor the SDG implementation and nationalization processes. This is an inclusive and collaborative endeavor between the Government and wider participatory networks, including civil society, academia, the UN country team, etc. that correspond to the “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach.

National Ownership

The Government of Armenia is in the process of incorporating the 2030 Agenda into the national reform agenda and strategies. Currently the Government is developing the “Armenia Transformation Strategy 2050” which includes 16 megagoals with their own targets, indicators, tasks and solutions. The Strategy is considered as a framework of implementation of the SDGs and the mega goals mainly correspond with them.

Successful Path for Development

Armenia was named “Country of the year 2018” by “The Economist” indicating the country's remarkable improvement in 2018. That was a year of fundamental democratic transformation manifested by the peaceful Velvet Revolution, which has demonstrated the considerably high degree of political maturity and legal literacy of the Armenian public.

Since 2018, the Government has been implementing a wide range of reforms to ensure full and unimpeded realization of civil and political rights, including rule of law, independent judiciary, campaign against corruption and strengthening the democratic institutions, which has widely contributed to the successful implementation of especially SDG16. This progress has been asserted also by reports of reputable international organizations, such as Freedom House, Gallup Institute, etc.

Armenian democratic transition has been manifested by “Democratic Index 2019” (Economist Intelligence Unit). Armenia managed to show the notable improvement and made substantial steps towards democracy upgrading its position by 17 points (ranking 86th) despite the fall in average global score of democratic index.

Another important achievement was the considerable improvement of the position of Armenia in the Corruption Perception Index conducted by Transparency International. Armenia has progressed by 28 points (ranking 77th), which became possible due to the high political will and the elimination of “systemic corruption”.

The Government has launched nationwide economic reforms targeting specifically on modernizing Armenia’s economy with particular emphasis on advancing high tech industry, developing the innovation ecosystem.

In 2019 the GDP growth rate in Armenia was 7.6 % which was the highest among the Eurasian Economic Union member states, neighboring countries and the European countries. The poverty rate continued to

decline reaching 23.5% in comparison with 29.8% in 2015. The extreme poverty rate decline has been diminished twice since 2015 reaching 1%. The Government aims to eliminate the extreme poverty until 2023.

Underlining “leaving no one behind” principle the Government initiated a number of reforms targeting vulnerable groups, gender inequality reduction, accessibility and quality of health services, like adopted law on tobacco-control, launched air ambulance services for health emergencies, accessible education, like transition to universal inclusive general education until 2023, revision of state educational standards, fostering labor-market oriented skills.

Overcoming Challenges

There are still gaps in the process of SDG implementation. The efforts need to be doubled to overcome the general challenges revealed during the review process, such as:

- legislation concerning equality;
- mitigation and adaptation to climate change;
- energy diversification and sustainable use of natural resources;
- judicial reform.

COVID-19

The continued spread of COVID-19 pandemic is expected to considerably weaken the progress of the implementation of SDGs in many countries, including in Armenia. The Government undertakes substantial measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and to ensure the proper functioning and preparedness of health system. To mitigate the foreseen socio-economic slowdown, the Government initiated an assistance package amounted \$300 million (2% of GDP), including:

- direct grants to SMEs and microentrepreneurs;
- state-sponsored targeted loans;
- compensation for utility payments;
- financial support to vulnerable groups;
- tuition fee support.

The spread of COVID-19 has also negatively influenced the VNR preparation process with cancellation of planned meetings, workshops, replacing them with online tools.

Austria

[Original: English]

- For decades, Austria has been implementing sustainable development principles in ecological, social and economic dimensions.
- Sustainable development is a constitutional state goal.
- Austria promotes competitiveness and innovation while safeguarding the diversity of natural resources, ecosystem services and social progress.

- Austria has successfully implemented numerous SDGs and continues this commitment.

Governance

- Following the mainstreaming approach, all Federal Ministries have been integrating the SDGs in their strategies and programmes since 2016 and have been devising corresponding action plans and measures.
- The inter-ministerial working-group on the 2030 Agenda (IMAG) handles the general coordination and communication of essential measures in implementing SDGs.
- SDGs are anchored in nationwide Austrian strategy documents: Climate and Energy Strategy, Three-Year-Programme on Development Policy, Health Targets, Youth Strategy, and Foreign Trade Strategy. SDGs-References are also included in federal states'-strategies.
- Following a multi-stakeholder approach, representatives of federal states, cities, municipalities, social partners, stakeholders from civil society, business and scientific community are interacting with IMAG and committed to SDG-implementation.
- Austria's activities in the EU, International Organisations (IO) and in projects of Development Cooperation serve SDG-implementation.
- As seat of several IOs, we promote sustainable development.

The Government Programme 2020–2024 further strengthens a targeted coordination in implementing the 2030 Agenda by systematically involving relevant stakeholders.

Digitalisation

Digitalisation is an Austrian priority, also in implementing the 2030 Agenda:

- In order to allow the partake of everyone, expansion and promotion of broadband and 5G, digital skills and applications, digitalisation in the health sector and in citizen-orientated public services;
- Use of digitalisation to cut resources and energy consumption and reduce CO₂-emissions;
- Holistic approach for sustainable use of digital transformation, e.g. smart cities;
- Use of digitalisation in communication and management of crises and pandemics.

Austria will strengthen digital governance drawing on all stakeholders' knowledge to enable digital technologies being used in all SDG-areas.

Women, young people and “Leaving no one behind”

Austria's well-developed social and health-care system is key in combating poverty and social exclusion, ensuring high-quality health-care to everybody, including disadvantaged and highly vulnerable groups.

- Targeted measures improve the living conditions of, among others, persons with disabilities, older persons, young people and children.

Along with strengthening primary healthcare, promoting women's health and assuring quality care, Austria will put special emphasis on fighting poverty among children, women and older persons.

Involvement of young people in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is key:

- Extension of voting rights to 16-year-olds opened up democratic participation to young people;

- Youth empowerment is central in decision-making and participatory processes regarding SDGs and in implementing the Austrian Youth Strategy.

Equality of women and men is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda:

- Vital to systematically integrate a gender-specific perspective into the implementation of all 17 goals;
- As a cross-cutting issue, gender equality builds on the commitment of actors from all fields and on cooperation with NGOs and civil society;
- Challenges include eliminating gender stereotypes, closing the gender pay gap, promoting women in leading positions, expanding childcare services, especially in rural areas, fighting violence against women, and integration.

Climate action

Austria aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2040. To this end, we are determined to:

- implement an eco-social tax reform;
- draw up a mobility-master-plan for 2030;
- introduce an affordable, nationwide annual pass for public transport;
- present a plan for phasing-out oil, coal and fossil natural gas for room heating; and
- massively increase renewable energy.

At EU-level, Austria supports carbon border adjustments and the earliest possible phasing-out of financing and subsidising fossil infrastructures.

Austria advocates the decarbonisation of energy systems without nuclear power, the latter not being a viable option for combatting climate change.

Indicators measuring advances in achieving SDGs since 2017

SDGs have seen positive developments:

- Concerning nutrition and food production, a high percentage of land being organically farmed makes Austria an EU leader in this regard;
- A rising educational level and an above EU average in lifelong learning;
- Renewable energy accounts for one third of total energy consumption (as of 2018). The ratio of CO₂-emissions by industry and gross value added declined in 2010-2017;
- Austria ranking among the top countries in digital public services.

However, significant challenges remain and action is needed in several areas, such as:

- women performing considerably more unpaid work than men and a substantial, although narrowing, gender pay gap still persisting;
- energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions from traffic and land use having risen (2010-2018).

Bangladesh

[Original: English]

Bangladesh has adopted a people-centred development approach under the visionary and dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Since assuming office in 2009 with a landslide popular mandate, the Government has invested heavily to build a human-centred inclusive modern democracy as envisioned by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Bangladesh has achieved the highest cumulative GDP growth globally in the last ten years and maintained strong macroeconomic stability, resulting in impressive socio-economic development, increased per capita income, and reduced poverty. Bangladesh fulfilled all three criteria for graduation to a developing country in March 2018.

The government adopted a comprehensive response plan embracing health and socio-economic recovery measures to control and contain the COVID-19 pandemic. Hon'ble Prime Minister announced stimulus packages of around US\$ 11.6 billion (3.3% of GDP) to be implemented in three phases- immediate, short and medium, until FY 2023-24.

The VNR process of Bangladesh is led by the "SDGs Implementation and Review Committee". Our Whole-of-Society approach in implementing the SDGs has integrated the views of relevant stakeholders from central to the local levels.

The initiatives taken by the Government after VNR 2017 are as follows: (i) Preparing SDGs Action Plan with new projects and programmes, (ii) Launching SDGs Tracker to monitor implementation in terms of indicator-wise data updating, (iii) Finalizing SDGs Financing Strategy which included updating of the financing needs with an estimated additional amount of US\$ 928.5 billion being required for the FY 2017 to FY 2030, (iv) Convening the 1st National Conference on SDGs Implementation Review participated by representatives from the government, NGOs, CSOs, private sector, and DPs, (v) Forming National Data Coordination Committee to harmonize data generation, (vi) Developing a framework of collaboration between the Government and the UN agencies in Bangladesh, (vii) Approving 40 priority indicators for localizing SDGs; 39 of them will reinforce the implementation of the other indicators. The additional (+1) local indicator is to reflect the "Leaving no one behind", the vulnerable issue where each District and Sub-District is lagging behind.

Under-five mortality and neonatal mortality have reached the target set for 2020. Prevalence of current tobacco use, family planning needs and reduction rates of poverty and hunger are on-track. The Government's commitment to social protection is evident in the enhanced budgetary allocation and extensive coverage. Gender parity in primary and secondary education has been achieved. The annual growth rate of real GDP per employed person and manufacturing value-added as a proportion of GDP has crossed the target set for 2020. Access to electricity is 96% on track with the commitment to provide electricity to every household by 2021. Numerous initiatives have been taken to ensure the safety, well-being, and security of vulnerable sections of the society including women and children.

However, the VNR 2020 has identified some challenges. Sustained GDP growth has not resulted in reducing income inequality. Although the health sector has shown notable success, attaining Universal Health Coverage remains a challenge. Same is true for ensuring quality education at multilevel educational streams. Ensuring sustainable urbanization remains a challenge. The climate vulnerability will continue to be a threat to our economy. More target-oriented efforts are needed to facilitate domestic resource mobilization at the desired level.

The VNR of Bangladesh incorporates several good, innovative and collaborative practices that other countries can benefit from. We are also interested to learn from the experiences of others to address our challenges.

We attach much importance to meaningful international cooperation for attaining the SDGs. The global partnership is required in the form of finance and technology to implement National Social Security Strategy, Health Financing Strategy, and Introduction of the national voluntary pension scheme, integrated water resources management, innovative domestic resources mobilization, and introduction of modern and commercial agriculture focusing on smallholder farmers. We also need to allocate resources for human capital development

and institution building. While enormous efforts are being made to transform Bangladesh digitally to ensure good governance, enhance efficiency, reduce wastage, we need greater cooperation in technology transfer to seize the opportunities created by the 4IR phenomenon.

Our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda complement our endeavours to achieve our national aspiration of becoming an upper middle income country by 2031 and a developed country by 2041.

Barbados

[Original: English]

In 2018, the Government of Barbados announced and began implementation of the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan to restore macroeconomic stability and place the economy on a path of strong, sustainable and inclusive growth, while safeguarding the financial and social sectors. The BERT Plan outlines the policies that reflect the Government's alignment of its anti-poverty and sectoral strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in the areas of fiscal policy to achieve greater equality; increased social protection access and social spending floors; improved financial innovation, regulation and inclusion and; climate-resilient, carbon neutral and marine-conscious public and private investment for growth.

On the basis of the BERT plan, Barbados signed an Extended Fund Facility (EFF) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in October, 2018. The BERT Plan and EFF are perhaps unprecedented as a series of fiscal adjustment and structural reform measures that managed to shift the burden of the adjustment away from labour and the most vulnerable towards capital and the visitor economy. A successfully completed domestic and external debt restructuring, changes to the revenue and expenditure models and ring-fencing and even increases in health, education and social protection investments have led to significant improvements in key social and economic indicators included in the SDG Framework.

This was the environment in the first quarter of 2020 in which the Government of Barbados was preparing to deliver its VNR. It was also the moment in which the global community was called upon to completely reprioritize and reorganize expenditure, global supply chains and economic structures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Overnight, we have seen the sharpest, deepest and most far-reaching economic recession since the Great Depression, presenting, beyond the disease itself, a further threat to lives and livelihoods. Entire industries have halted activity, millions find themselves unemployed, and decades of global, human development progress are at immediate risk of being reversed. Small, vulnerable, highly-indebted, tourism-dependent states like Barbados are among the hardest hit. The tourism-dependent islands of the Caribbean see on average an over 45% contribution of their GDP from this sector, with comparable levels of employment. As of May 8, 2020. The National Insurance Scheme, the Government's national social security programme, had received over 35,000 unemployment claims, representing a quarter of the workforce.

For this reason, and as this event has served to reset every development baseline, we propose to present the Barbados VNR 2020 in the context of the country's broad-based, COVID-19 response, which has not only seen a sharp scaling up of social protection investment and fiscal/financial inclusion policies, but also has implications for the achievement of other targets on which we will report. This VNR will discuss the ways in which the BERT Plan and the COVID-19 response are likely to impact SDG achievement, as well as the opportunities they create to fast-track progress in the goals and targets outlined below. Finally, the Barbados VNR will discuss the perennial challenge of country capacity to monitor achievement, as well as address Goal 17 on the global partnership for development, which has perhaps never been more relevant than it is today, as the world battles a global pandemic, with countries' having varying levels of access to the key resources needed in this fight.

Goal	Target	Indicator
1	Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all including floors Increase access to economic resources and basic services Reduce vulnerability to disaster and climate crisis	
3	Reduce mortality from NCDs through prevention and treatment	

	Improve health coverage	
4	Increase youth and adult access to tech. voc. skills for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship	
6	Increase water-use efficiency and reduce water scarcity	
7	Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix	
8	Promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products	
10	Adopt fiscal, wage and social protection policies that progressively achieve greater equality	
13	Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters	
17	Global coordination to partner with developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted developing countries to reduce debt distress	

Benin

[Original: French]

Thème central : « Action accélérée et voies transformatrices : réaliser la décennie d'action et de mise en œuvre pour le développement durable » avec un examen approfondi sur tous les ODD

Le Bénin participe au Forum Politique de Haut Niveau 2020 après les éditions 2017 et 2018 pour partager avec la communauté internationale, les progrès, les bonnes pratiques, les expériences réalisées et sa vision future dans le cadre de la mise en œuvre de l'agenda 2030 et de ses ODD. Pour cette édition, le Bénin articule sa Contribution Nationale Volontaire (CNV) autour des messages clés ci-après :

1. Spatialisation des cibles prioritaires des ODD pour renforcer l'action locale en vue d'accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'Agenda 2030

A la suite de la priorisation des cibles des ODD et de leur intégration dans le cadre national de planification, le Bénin a réussi le processus de spatialisation desdites cibles qui a permis de retenir les dix plus importantes pour chacune des 77 communes que compte le pays.

2. Initiative spéciale « ne laisser personne de côté » en vue d'éradiquer la pauvreté et renforcer le capital humain

Cette initiative est conçue autour de neuf (09) points d'entrée critiques retenus à partir de l'analyse intersectorielle des besoins et des effets d'entraînement ainsi que des synergies des cibles prioritaires des ODD.

3. Evaluation sommaire pour une mise en œuvre plus efficace des ODD

Il s'est agi pour le Bénin à travers cette évaluation d'apprécier les résultats obtenus après quatre années et d'opérer les ajustements appropriés pour accélérer la mise en œuvre de l'agenda 2030.

4. Concrétisation de la déclaration politique des Chefs d'Etat et de Gouvernement au sommet sur les ODD de septembre 2019 : élaboration du Cadre Décennal d'Actions pour l'accélération de la mise œuvre des ODD (CDA-ODD)

Le Gouvernement s'est engagé à faire de la prochaine décennie, une décennie d'actions ambitieuses et accélérées, en redoublant d'efforts pour des progrès plus remarquables à travers l'élaboration d'un CDA-ODD.

5. Investissement dans les données et les statistiques dans la perspective de ne laisser personne de côté

Le Bénin s'est doté d'une 3^{ème} Stratégie Nationale de Développement de la Statistique et d'une task force en vue d'améliorer le niveau de renseignement des indicateurs. La nécessité d'avoir des données désagrégées impose au pays de confronter ses approches à celles des autres.

6. Amélioration des conditions de vie des populations à travers la réalisation d'actions phares

Le Bénin s'est investi dans la réalisation d'actions novatrices se traduisant par le pavage, le bitumage, l'assainissement, l'éclairage des rues de plusieurs villes du pays, l'accès à l'eau potable et à l'énergie ainsi que l'adoption de profondes réformes visant à mettre la transformation digitale au cœur du développement.

7. Foras et tables rondes pour mobiliser un financement adéquat et bien dirigé

Le costing des ODD réalisé en 2018 a révélé des besoins en ressources financières et technologiques qui représentent environ 60,8% du PIB alors que les ressources fiscales domestiques peinent à atteindre 18% du PIB l'an. Dès lors, le pays s'est investi dans l'organisation des tables rondes sectorielles et fora pour identifier les voies et moyens nécessaires à la mobilisation des ressources.

8. Défis et enjeux majeurs

Le processus de préparation du rapport de la CNV a mis en exergue plusieurs défis et enjeux majeurs notamment :

- le renforcement de l'intégration des cibles dans les politiques et stratégies de développement à tous les niveaux;
- la poursuite du renforcement du système d'informations statistiques;
- la poursuite de la mobilisation des ressources pour l'accélération des progrès vers l'atteinte des ODD;
- la prise en compte des effets d'entraînement et de synergies dans les interventions en faveur des ODD;
- La mise en œuvre réussie des ODD au niveau local.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]

Brunei Darussalam strives to build on its Millennium Development Goals achievements to take greater strides towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda complements Brunei Darussalam's national vision, *Wawasan Brunei 2035*, which aims to achieve a population with high quality of life and build a dynamic and sustainable economy with an educated, highly skilled and accomplished work force by 2035. The country's nation building efforts are supported by a strong sense of community spirit and high regard for family values, whilst upholding the country's rich traditions and cultures. The Government makes it a priority to continue in guaranteeing the welfare of the people at all levels, thus ensuring that no one is left behind.

Our Voluntary National Review (VNR) outlined our SDGs journey, challenges and accomplishments thus far and the further progress that we aspire to achieve. In preparation for the VNR, an inter-ministerial Special Committee spearheaded by the Ministry of Finance and Economy and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was established, comprising of relevant Government Ministries, with active engagement with relevant stakeholders, including non-government organisations and civil societies. These inclusive and transparent engagements ensure greater awareness and ownership of the report which truly reflects a holistic and comprehensive perspective of our SDGs efforts. The VNR also provided an opportunity to review our strategies, policies and institutional mechanisms and identify the implementation gaps.

Today, Brunei Darussalam enjoys one of the highest standards of living in Asia where its people continue to prosper and live in a safe, and harmonious environment, with access to universal healthcare, quality education and infrastructure. The education and health standards in Brunei Darussalam are amongst the highest in the developing countries. The high level of enrolment contributed to the high literacy rate of over 95%.

Brunei Darussalam has been certified free from infectious diseases namely polio, malaria, measles and recently rubella; low maternal mortality rates; and has achieved the SDG targets for neonatal and child mortality rates. 100% of the population has access to clean drinking water, while 92% enjoy access to improved sanitation systems.

Brunei Darussalam is continuously providing affordable and sustainable housing, as well as adequate financial support for the poor, elderly, and differently-abled persons. It has made significant progress in deepening connectivity, both physical and virtual, where 97.54% of the country is connected by roads, and mobile penetration has consistently exceeded 100% since 2012.

The World Economic Forum recognises Brunei Darussalam's significant progress towards gender equality in key areas such as education, health and economic participation. Brunei Darussalam ranks highly in girls' enrolment in secondary and tertiary education, wage equality for similar work and for employing women legislators, senior officials and managers. Brunei Darussalam is proud to be among carbon neutral countries and the Brunei National Climate Policy aims to make further progress in safeguarding its environment and natural resources.

Our country's resilience and unity are best observed in our rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic which significantly contained the outbreak. The Government has mobilised resources to ensure adequate capacity of the health system, including by establishing quarantine centres and building a new *virology laboratory*. *To mitigate the negative impacts to businesses, employment and to ensure swift economic recovery post COVID-19, the Government intervened with tax allowances, deferment of payments of loans, and re-skilling and up-skilling for affected workers. The education institutions too swiftly responded by retrofitting to home online-learning.*

Brunei Darussalam appreciates the importance of global partnership to successfully achieve the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, the country welcomes technical assistance and capacity building programmes towards strengthening its capacity and will continue to support efforts of regional and international organisations particularly the work of the ASEAN Centre for Sustainable Development Studies and Dialogue, the Commonwealth and the United Nations.

Brunei Darussalam's VNR report reflects the country's commitment towards the 2030 Agenda. The challenge now is to make, sustain and monitor further progress and ensure that achievements are inclusive and all encompassing. The VNR also serves as a reminder that Brunei Darussalam has to not only continue but further deepen its efforts, as a country and as a partner in the global community, towards a sustainable future for all.

Bulgaria

[Original: English]

Sustainable development is an important priority for the Government of Bulgaria. Bulgaria is committed to doing its part for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals both nationally and internationally.

Bulgaria is a staunch supporter of multilateralism and a rules-based international order, with the United Nations at its center. We took active part in the negotiation process that resulted in the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and supported a review mechanism that would allow for a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the SDGs. Voluntary national reviews (VNRs) offer such analysis.

Bulgaria's first VNR has presented a valuable opportunity to take stock of the progress made, to identify challenges and to map out future steps for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It covers all 17 Goals.

Advancement of the 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved by governments alone. It requires the commitment and active participation of all sectors of society. During the drafting process multiple stakeholders were involved: youth, NGOs, the private sector, academia, the local level, vulnerable groups. The VNR outlines some of the initiatives they have undertaken in Bulgaria towards the achievement of the SDGs. Wider public feedback was sought through an online consultation process via the government public consultation portal.

Bulgaria attributes equal importance to the three dimensions of sustainable development. Our policies are guided by the respect for human rights, gender equality and the principle of leaving no one behind. This principle is at the heart of the most important strategic documents aimed at the inclusion of persons with disabilities, vulnerable groups, Roma, young people, the elderly, disadvantaged children, etc.

Bulgaria holds a leading position in Europe in the number of women working in the IT sector – 27%. 53% of the scientists and engineers in our country are women. We are working towards reducing the gender pay gap, promoting equality in decision-making processes, combating gender-based violence.

Bulgaria is a strong advocate for the rights of the child and promotes their integration in all aspects of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Bulgaria is among the few countries that has a UN Youth Delegate program since 2007, as part of the country's effort to empower youth to meet global challenges.

Sound public finances and the conducive macroeconomic environment have ensured consistent economic growth in the last years: 3.8% of GDP per capita in 2018.

Bulgaria has already achieved a 20.53% share of renewable energy in gross final energy consumption and plans to raise that share to 27% by 2030.

Bulgaria recognizes the crucial importance of data to measure progress in sustainable development. As an EU Member State, Bulgaria strives to meet EU targets for the SDGs. Last December, the National Statistical Institute launched Monitorstat – a web-based platform for tracking SDG progress. It contains all indicators of the Eurostat SDG framework and multiple indicators from the global SDG framework.

However, key challenges to SDG implementation persist. Reversing the negative demographic trend is among the main objectives. Poverty and inequality, including between regions, pose an obstacle to SDG implementation. Underperformance in reading, mathematics and science mean that more effort is needed to provide quality education for all.

We have ambitious plans for the future. The Council of Ministers will adopt by the end of 2020 the National Development Programme BULGARIA 2030, which will address three main strategic goals: accelerated economic development, demographic upswing and reduction of inequalities. The Programme will outline 13 national priorities in five development areas: Innovative and Intelligent Bulgaria, Green and Sustainable Bulgaria, Connected and Integrated Bulgaria, Responsive and Just Bulgaria, Spirited and Vital Bulgaria. All 13 national priorities are explicitly linked to certain SDGs and will have indicator frameworks specifically developed for them. The Programme reflects the whole-of-government approach to sustainable development and takes into account the interlinkages between SDGs.

One of the most important tasks ahead is the creation of a national mechanism for coordination and implementation of the SDGs. Such mechanism should be located within the executive power. Among its main objectives will be monitoring SDG implementation, ensuring coordinated dialogue and designing sustainable development policies. Raising awareness about the 2030 Agenda and communicating with stakeholders will also be among the main goals of the government.

Burundi

[Original: French]

En s'inscrivant dans la dynamique mondiale d'adoption et d'appropriation de l'agenda 2030, le Burundi s'est engagé à intégrer les Objectifs du Développement Durable (ODD) dans son Plan National de Développement du Burundi (PND Burundi 2018-2027), dans les stratégies sectorielles et dans les Plans communaux de développement Communautaire (PCDC).

Sur le Plan opérationnel, le Burundi a procédé à la contextualisation des ODD en suivant une approche participative et inclusive impliquant toutes les parties prenantes. Ce processus a conduit à la priorisation d'un ensemble de 49 cibles et 101 indicateurs nationaux que le Burundi s'est engagé à atteindre et à suivre.

A travers la mise en œuvre des ODD et du PNB Burundi 2018-2027, il s'est engagé à transformer structurellement l'économie, pour une croissance forte, durable, résiliente, inclusive, créatrice d'emplois décents pour tous et induisant l'amélioration du bien-être social pour une nation solidaire, démocratique et prospère.

Le Burundi reste confronté à plusieurs défis, mais résolu à réduire, notamment la pauvreté et éliminer la faim à travers des politiques et des stratégies sectorielles portant sur des investissements publics structurants. D'autres défis à lever sont entre autres i) la disponibilité des données pertinentes, globales et désagrégées constamment actualisées pour refléter les réalités du moment, ii) la mobilisation des financements internes et externes, et iii) l'adaptation aux changements climatiques et respect des normes environnementales internationales.

Au niveau de la protection sociale, le Burundi compte aujourd'hui à son actif d'importantes réalisations saluables comme i) la mise en œuvre du Projet « Filets Sociaux » qui vise à fournir des transferts monétaires pour des ménages pauvres et ii) la création d'un Fonds d'Appui à la Protection sociale pour le financement de ces programmes.

En matière de la santé le Gouvernement a fait l'accès des populations, notamment celles les plus vulnérables, aux soins de santé, une priorité. Dans cette perspective, la mise en œuvre de la Politique Nationale de la santé d'une population projetée à 90 % vivant à moins de 5 km d'un centre de santé, en est un exemple éloquent. En outre, la gratuite ciblée des actes médicaux pour les femmes enceintes et les enfants de 0-5 ans est aujourd'hui une réalité.

Quant à l'éducation, la politique volontariste de l'Etat consistant à envoyer à l'école tous les enfants en âge de scolarité a permis d'atteindre la presque parité au niveau de l'école fondamentale et un taux brut de scolarisation de 111 % en 2019. L'augmentation de la part de ce secteur dans les dépenses budgétaires courantes passée de 34 % en 2016 à 36 % en 2020 est un signe manifeste de l'importance y accordée, qui s'est traduit par le renforcement du système éducatif et de l'offre d'éducation formelle.

S'agissant de l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles, en vue de contribuer à l'éradication de la pauvreté, il a été mis en place un Fonds de garantie pour leur faciliter l'accès aux crédits en vue de leur autonomisation économique.

Concernant la couverture en eau potable, le Gouvernement a accompli des avancées significatives, en témoigne le taux de desserte passée de 75 % en 2010 à 83 % en 2019 en milieu urbain et, de 60% à 63 % en 2019 au cours de la même période.

Pour faire face aux changements climatiques, le Gouvernement entend renforcer la résilience, créer des opportunités d'investissements résilients au climat et faire de l'économie verte une source de création d'emplois décents à travers la mise en œuvre de la stratégie nationale de gestion des risques des catastrophes. Dans la phase de reconstruction et des urgences, le projet Gestion communautaire des risques de catastrophes liées aux changements climatiques et en cours de réalisation.

Tout en réitérant son engagement en faveur des ODD, le Gouvernement va s'atteler à mettre en œuvre les grandes actions et recommandations formulées à travers la feuille de route d'accélération des ODD et continuer à prendre des dispositions pour poursuivre leur contextualisation dans les différents plans sectoriels et locaux.

Comoros

[Original: French]

PREPARATION DU RAPPORT NATIONAL VOLONTAIRE DE L'UNION DES COMORES AU FORUM POLITIQUE DE HAUT NIVEAU SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT DURABLE, EDITION 2020

I. Introduction

L'Union des Comores s'est engagée dans la mise en œuvre des ODD dès leur adoption en 2015. Avec l'appui du Système des Nations Unies, à travers le PNUD, le pays a réalisé la contextualisation et la priorisation des cibles des ODD en impliquant les institutions publiques, la société civile, le secteur privé et les partenaires au développement. Il en est ressorti 68 cibles ODD assortis d'indicateurs arrimés aux priorités, aux défis spécifiques et aux capacités statistiques du pays.

Le Plan Comores Émergent (PCE) à l'horizon 2030 constitue le document de référence pour la mise en œuvre des ODD. Adopté en 2019, sous l'impulsion du Président de l'Union des Comores, le PCE prône une mise en œuvre conjugée de l'Agenda 2030 de l'ONU et de l'Agenda 2063 de l'Union Africaine. Il est articulé en cinq socles stratégiques et cinq catalyseurs permettant de mieux prendre en compte les intersectorialités, pour une mise en œuvre cohérente et efficace des politiques et programmes de développement.

II. État de réalisation des ODD

Capital social

La proportion de la population privée des services a diminué de près de 10% en espace de 10 ans. 23.5% vivent en dessous du seuil national de pauvreté et 18% sous le seuil international (moins de 1.25\$/jour). L'électricité couvre 33% de la population, l'accès à l'eau potable 18% et l'assainissement 36%. Le gouvernement vise à ramener ces taux à 100% d'ici 2030.

Le système de santé présente de nombreuses carences face à un profil épidémiologique marqué par de nombreuses maladies, sévissant à l'état endémo-épidémique et autres maladies non transmissibles émergentes dont le diabète et les maladies cardiovasculaires. La population fait face à une situation de précarité sanitaire. L'arrivée du COVID-19 rend les défis à relever encore plus colossaux.

Capital humain

La parité fille-garçon est effective dans le primaire et le secondaire. Pour l'enseignement supérieur, l'Université des Comores compte environ 16000 étudiants (2018-2019), soit 16 fois son effectif de départ (2003-2004). Les efforts sont à consentir sur la qualité de l'enseignement et le placement des jeunes diplômés. Le taux brut de préscolarisation et le taux d'alphabétisation sont en progression depuis 10 ans, mais certaines disparités s'observent notamment entre milieu urbain et rural.

Capital économique

Le PCE reconnaît l'économie bleue comme moteur de l'émergence. La pêche contribue pour 6,7% à la richesse nationale. Le secteur agricole emploie 57% de la population active et fournit environ 90% des revenus d'exportation essentiellement liés aux produits de rente. Le gouvernement prévoit développer plusieurs secteurs dont le tourisme et l'exploitation minière des fonds marins. Il met en place un programme de développement urbain et d'infrastructures. Les Comores se classent au rang des pays à revenu intermédiaire.

Capital naturel

L'enjeu climatique constitue un facteur majeur de l'émergence, transcendant l'ensemble du secteur environnemental. Le gouvernement prévoit l'expansion du système national des aires protégées à plus de 25% du territoire national, l'augmentation de la capacité des énergies renouvelables de 0.6% à 40% d'ici 2030, le renforcement de la résilience aux catastrophes, l'adaptation de l'agriculture, la restauration des bassins versants et le renforcement des capacités en gestion des risques de catastrophes.

III. Mécanismes de coordination, de mobilisation des ressources et du partenariat

Sous l'égide du Chef de l'État, la coordination est assurée par le Secrétaire Général du Gouvernement, appuyé par le Commissariat Général au Plan. Le dispositif institutionnel de suivi de la mise en œuvre des ODD, le même que celui du PCE, est structuré autour des 5P, incluant l'ensemble des parties prenantes. Le défi actuel est de rendre ce dispositif opérationnel.

Par ailleurs, le gouvernement s'emploie à mobiliser les ressources et le partenariat pour la mise en œuvre du PCE. L'augmentation des investissements publics de 50% entre 2016 et 2018 et la mobilisation de 4.3 Milliards d'Euro, lors de la conférence des partenaires au développement à Paris en 2019, s'inscrivent dans cette dynamique. Le gouvernement procède aussi à des réformes administratives, juridiques et institutionnelles permettant de renforcer la compétitivité, notamment par les nouvelles technologies.

IV. Besoins d'appui

Les Comores auraient besoin d'un appui technique et financier dans les secteurs suivants:

- Économie bleue;
- Agroalimentaire;
- Transformation numérique;
- Capacités de programmation et budgétisation;
- Mobilisation des ressources;
- Production, analyse et publication de données;
- Enseignement supérieur professionnel et technique.

Costa Rica

[Original: Spanish]

Creando apropiación de los ODS

Los puntos de entrada para la implementación de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible (ODS) son: Combate a la pobreza y desigualdad; Producción y consumo sostenible; Infraestructura resiliente y Comunidades Sostenibles; definidos en función del enfoque multidimensional, la Constitución Política y las prioridades nacionales a través del uso de estadísticas.

El país cuenta con indicadores nacionales para todos los 17 ODS y desagregaciones como sexo, territorio, condición de actividad, edad, discapacidad y otras; según cada caso. El avance en la producción de indicadores muestra que de 2017 a 2019 se pasó de 117 a 136 indicadores disponibles y de 32 a 14 no disponibles.

El Plan Nacional de Desarrollo e Inversiones Públicas 2019-2022 (PNDIP) incorpora en diversas formas los ODS. Del total de sus indicadores, un 60% muestran vinculación con los indicadores ODS. El seguimiento al PNDIP actualmente se realiza cada semestre. Además se cuenta con la Política Nacional de Evaluación 2018-2030 y el país es hub regional de evaluación en ODS con el programa FOCELAC.

El Consenso de Montevideo (CdM) sobre Población y Desarrollo ha permitido complementar los ODS ya que sus Medidas Prioritarias permiten incorporar las poblaciones y no dejar a nadie atrás; además que 42 indicadores de los ODS se utilizan para el seguimiento del CdM.

El Poder Judicial ha establecido una gobernanza institucional, contribuyendo a 94 de las 169 metas globales; destacando que incluyen los ODS en sus planes y presupuestos, así como en la Jurisprudencia de la

Corte Suprema de Justicia. Desde 2017, ha elaborado 3 informes anuales sobre la implementación de la Agenda 2030.

No dejar a nadie atrás

Costa Rica cuenta con políticas públicas específicas para Niñez, Adolescencia y Juventud; población adulta mayor; mujeres; migrantes; población con discapacidad; pueblos indígenas y afrodescendientes; incorporando el enfoque de Desarrollo Sostenible y Población. Además el diseño de política pública ha innovado en la toma de decisiones con enfoque multidimensional de la pobreza y uso de herramientas como el Expediente Digital Único de Salud; para la atención de población vulnerable o ante epidemias.

En materia de cambio climático, destaca el Plan Nacional de Descarbonización 2018-2050, la nueva Contribución Nacionalmente Determinados y el Protocolo Nacional de Análisis del Riesgo; con metas y objetivos medibles, alcanzables y con impacto en la población.

Se efectuó la alineación entre recomendaciones del EPU aceptadas por el país y los indicadores de los ODS y Poblaciones; siendo en su mayoría en orden descendente los ODS vinculados el 16, 5, 10, 4, 8, 1 y 3. También, se están abordando aspectos transfronterizos como acceso a la justicia transnacional, migración y cambio climático.

Como mecanismo de participación en el contexto del COVID-19, se efectuó una encuesta en línea para que los distintos miembros del Comité Consultivo reporten su avance en los 17 ODS para este informe.

El 59% de los indicadores de ODS analizados, han mostrado una tendencia positiva, mejor desarrollo; mientras que el 13% poseen un comportamiento estable o regular y solo un 28% de los indicadores presentaron una tendencia negativa. Los ODS con mayor avance en sus indicadores son: 1, 2, 12, 13 y 15; mientras que con mayor reto en sus cifras se encuentran 16, 8, 6 y 11.

Sobre los **Medios de implementación**, actualmente no se tiene certeza a nivel internacional del apoyo total a los países en desarrollo para cumplir los ODS, por ello el TOSSD busca proporcionar una imagen completa de los bienes públicos internacionales; brindando una visión global antes que nacional y mostrar las brechas de financiamiento entre regiones. Por ello, se requiere el compromiso para promover su implementación global.

El país es de ingresos medio altos y ha sido graduado, por ello cuenta con un rol dual en la cooperación internacional (receptor y oferente de cooperación técnica). La mayoría de proyectos de cooperación contribuyen a los ODS 13, 17 y 11; mientras que los ODS 14, 9, 5, y 1 son los que menos reportan; por lo que se requiere ajustar las prioridades país con las prioridades de los cooperantes procurando la eficacia.

Se encuentra en construcción del Plan Estratégico Nacional 2020-2050 (PEN), la estrategia de desarrollo a largo plazo, basada en una economía descarbonizada, resiliente, intensiva en I+D+I e inclusiva.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]

Faisant suite à l'adoption des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD), la RDC a procédé, à partir de 2016, à la création de l'Observatoire Congolais du Développement Durable, une structure susceptible de suivre, évaluer et rendre compte de la mise en œuvre des ODD. Par son entremise et sur fond d'une approche largement participative et inclusive, le pays a réalisé les activités ci-après:

- Contextualisation et priorisation des cibles des ODD;
- Localisation des ODD au niveau infranational;

- Alignement du Plan National Stratégique de Développement ainsi que des Stratégies sectorielles et provinciales sur les cibles priorisées des ODD.

Parallèlement, la RDC a étoffé son cadre d'indicateurs d'ODD. *Primo*, elle a entrepris la cartographie statistique pour inventorier les sources des données statistiques susceptibles de renseigner les différents indicateurs et dégager le gap en termes des données statistiques. *Secundo*, le pays a développé un programme pluriannuel de collecte des données statistiques à travers une enquête-ménage, qui devra nourrir les indicateurs ODD. *Tertio*, la RDC a innové en organisant une enquête de perception de la population sur les ODD, conduisant à l'estimation d'un Indice de Perception du Développement Durable.

Par ailleurs, la RDC a conduit, d'une part, la sensibilisation des parties prenantes et d'autre part, la mise en œuvre des politiques publiques pour l'atteinte des ODD. Ainsi, dès le lancement des ODD, la société civile a été sensibilisée, à côté des Ministères. D'ailleurs, c'est dans ce cadre que la société civile a posé aussi bien des actions allant dans le sens des ODD que des réflexions qui devront informer les politiques publiques. Au sujet des politiques publiques mises en place, il y a lieu de noter sommairement les résultats et les défis ci-après.

Sur le plan social, des réformes ont été menées pour, entre autres, élargir la couverture de la protection sociale. Les ressources budgétaires allouées au secteur de la santé ont connu une hausse continue et des mesures courageuses sont prises pour mettre en place une couverture sanitaire universelle. Par ailleurs, le Gouvernement a pris une nouvelle orientation stratégique pour lutter efficacement contre la faim et la malnutrition. Des efforts additionnels sont entrepris pour réduire le niveau de l'extrême pauvreté et des inégalités.

Dans le but de privilégier l'accès à tous à l'éducation, le Gouvernement a rendu effective la gratuité de l'enseignement de base. Un dispositif d'assurance qualité a été aussi institué et le système de recrutement des enseignants réformé. L'égalité entre le sexe constitue l'une des priorités de la RDC. Des réformes du cadre juridique relatif aux droits de la femme ont été menées conduisant notamment à la révision du Code de la famille. Toutefois, des efforts restent encore à fournir, notamment pour annihiler certaines pesanteurs culturelles.

Par ailleurs, le recul significatif de la croissance a accru les inégalités et privé le gouvernement des ressources, notamment pour offrir les services sociaux de base. Nonobstant une offre appréciable, l'accès à l'eau constitue un défi tout comme l'accès à l'électricité. L'offre énergétique est très déficitaire, en dépit du potentiel énorme. La libéralisation du secteur n'a pas eu jusque-là les effets attendus. Toutefois, plusieurs projets en cours devraient accroître l'offre électrique.

Sur le plan environnemental, plusieurs projets d'atténuation et d'adaptation au changement climatique ont été initiés mais cela requiert davantage des synergies sectorielles. En outre, un investissement important dans la collecte d'informations et données environnementales est requis pour mieux cerner le secteur. Par ailleurs, plusieurs programmes de conservation et protection de la biodiversité, dont les parcs et réserves naturels, sont régulièrement entrepris.

En tant qu'un pays post-conflit, la RDC reste encore confrontée à des problèmes sécuritaires ponctuels. Néanmoins, des opérations militaires d'envergure ont permis de réduire le nombre des groupes armés. Le pays a entrepris des actions courageuses pour endiguer la corruption et permettre à tous d'accéder à la justice. Le respect des droits de l'homme a connu aussi des progrès très appréciables.

Globalement, la mise en œuvre des ODD se fait sur fond d'un partenariat multipartite. Cependant des efforts additionnels sont requis. Un cadre d'accélération de la mise en œuvre des ODD est envisagé. Mais, le défi important reste la mobilisation des ressources.

Ecuador

[Original: Spanish]

Con la promesa de no dejar a nadie atrás, Ecuador ratifica su compromiso con la Agenda 2030 y sus Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible al presentar por segunda ocasión su Examen Nacional Voluntario.

La situación del mundo ha cambiado y así los niveles de implementación de los ODS. El combate al COVID 19 y los efectos indirectos del aislamiento hacen que la reactivación económica constituya un mecanismo conducente a la implementación de la Agenda 2030. Los desafíos de la comunidad internacional solo podrán ser superados en el marco de los principios de cooperación y solidaridad, sin visiones aisladas del desarrollo y orientadas a fortalecer el sistema multilateral.

Los retos para el Ecuador como consecuencia del COVID 19 se acentuaron con la dramática caída del precio del petróleo y la disminución de ingresos de divisas provenientes de la exportación de otros productos y servicios. Con una economía dolarizada se requiere de mayores flexibilidades de los organismos financieros multilaterales para que el Ecuador atienda sus compromisos en mejores condiciones; y, que se revea la situación de los países de renta media. Con estas flexibilidades, se facilitaría la aplicación de políticas que reduzcan la pobreza, objetivo principal de la Agenda 2030. De acuerdo a la CEPAL¹, la pobreza en la región de América Latina y el Caribe podría aumentar en un 3,5 % y la pobreza extrema en 2,3 %, debido a la pandemia.

Aun cuando la movilización de recursos para implementar los ODS ha sido un desafío global, Ecuador ha incorporado en su política económica y financiera el fortalecimiento de alianzas público privadas, orientadas a ser eficientes en las finanzas públicas. Se han consolidado políticas y estrategias de cooperación internacional no reembolsable con las que se fomenta la cooperación sur – sur en particular.

Ecuador ve en la Agenda 2030 una oportunidad para generar sinergias entre diversos actores en pro de un verdadero desarrollo sostenible a nivel económico, social y ambiental. Se emitieron dos Decretos Ejecutivos y un Acuerdo Ministerial que permiten la incorporación de la Agenda 2030 en las políticas públicas y que sientan las bases hacia la gobernanza de este instrumento.

Al año 2020 el país ha alineado de manera directa cada ODS con los objetivos, políticas y metas del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo, así se ha conseguido identificar actores responsables, priorizar y focalizar recursos, además de fortalecer los ejercicios de planificación nacional, seguimiento y evaluación.

Si bien el decenio de acción es asumido como una prioridad nacional, se requiere ajustar las políticas con enfoque en gestión de riesgos y contar con una respuesta ágil y coordinada de los organismos financieros internacionales. El fortalecimiento de los sistemas de salud pública y la provisión de servicios esenciales deben prevalecer para que la recuperación frente al COVID 19 no ponga en riesgo la consecución de la Agenda 2030.

Se definieron guías y lineamientos en la actualización de planes de desarrollo y ordenamiento territorial (PDOT) para que se articulen con la Agenda 2030. La apropiación de los ODS fuera de las grandes ciudades es un pilar donde se debe trabajar de manera progresiva, ya que el rol que desempeñan los gobiernos locales requiere ser fortalecido y adaptarse a las políticas en función de las necesidades de cada territorio para crear canales entre los diferentes niveles de gobierno y promover alianzas a favor de la implementación de este instrumento.

Poner fin a la pobreza, proteger el planeta y mejorar las condiciones de vida de la población, constituyen elementos de un llamado universal.

Ecuador considera fundamental el fomentar mecanismos de vinculación y articulación entre actores claves, tales como representantes de la academia, sociedad civil, empresas públicas y privadas, gobiernos locales, entre otros. La participación de estos actores ha contribuido en la identificación de 350 iniciativas a nivel nacional al 2020, los que aportan en la construcción de la Agenda 2030 en el país. Estos procesos se han convertido en mecanismos de identificación de oportunidades que promueven la transparencia y la rendición de cuentas.

Ecuador cree firmemente en los 17 ODS de la Agenda 2030 y está seguro de contar con el apoyo de aliados y amigos que reconocen la acción colectiva como la mejor medida de caminar hacia la creación de óptimas condiciones de vida de la humanidad, mediante una transformación profunda enmarcada en el desarrollo sostenible.

¹ Informe CEPAL "América Latina ante la pandemia del COVID-19: efectos económicos y sociales", abril 2020.

Estonia

[Original: English]

Estonia is devoted to the UN Agenda 2030 both domestically and internationally. In addition to the 17 SDGs, Estonia is also focusing on maintaining the viability of the Estonian cultural space pursuant to the “Sustainable Estonia 21” strategy. The SDGs are the basis for the “Estonia 2035” strategy that lays down Estonia’s long-term strategic objectives and relevant policy measures. The SDGs are also implemented by integrating them into government level development plans.

Process

This is the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) since adopting the UN Agenda 2030. The preparation of the VNR was coordinated by the Government Office in cooperation with the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development, the Commission for Sustainable Development, and several non-governmental organisations. It is based on the Government’s activity reports, data collected from non-governmental organisations and enterprises, and proposals from ministries and the Commission for Sustainable Development.

The implementation of SDGs is monitored through a mechanism based on Estonian sustainable development indicators and a regular data based reviews compiled by Statistics Estonia in co-operation with the Government Office and various ministries. The list of indicators was renewed in 2017 to harmonise it with global SDGs. All central governmental indicators are available in the online data-driven “Tree of Truth”² that illustrates the status of the goals by governance areas.

Main conclusions

Estonia is generally successful in implementing the SDGs. In the past four years, results in several areas have been maintained or improved. In 2019, Estonia was tenth in the global Sustainable Development Report³.

Mapping the actions and indicator-based analyses indicate that Estonia is successful in several SDG-s. Our strengths are accessible and quality education, effective healthcare organisation, high employment rate with minimal long-term unemployment, and a high proportion of renewable energy in overall energy consumption.

Nevertheless, several SDG areas still require work. We need to focus on establishing gender equality (although decreased, the wage gap still remains among the highest in Europe), decreasing the risk of poverty for women and disabled people, including families with disabled children, establishing effective waste management and recycling, decreasing greenhouse emissions, and maintaining natural diversity. We also want to improve the health of our citizens, including mental health, and decrease the number of preventable deaths.

The global COVID-19 pandemic in the beginning of 2020 affects the implementation of SDGs in several areas – economy, employment, healthcare, education, culture, innovation, etc. Specific impacts can be evaluated in future reviews.

The principles for Estonian development cooperation and humanitarian aid are established in the Strategy for Estonian Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid 2016–2020. As of 2020, Estonian development cooperation follows the new development plan for foreign policy and a separate strategy for development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Pursuant to Estonian foreign policy objectives and international agreements to direct more resources into vulnerable countries, Estonia will continue to react flexibly to the needs of less developed and post-conflict countries, developing island states, and landlocked developing countries in areas where Estonia can offer clear added value (for example, healthcare or improving the availability and quality of education).

² The Tree of Truth of Statistics Estonia – the standard for important governmental indicators: <https://tamm.stat.ee/>

³ Sustainable Development Report 2019. Transformations to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, 2019: https://s3.amazonaws.com/sustainabledevelopment.report/2019/2019_sustainable_development_report.pdf

Next steps

The most recent important milestone in strategic planning is establishing the Estonian long-term strategy “Estonia 2035” that helps to integrate SDGs into sectoral strategies in a stronger and more systemised manner. We will continue to incorporate sustainable development into different policy fields.

Estonia and other European Union (EU) Member States agreed to integrate SDGs into European Semester, the EU instrument for economic coordination. This enables a centralised assessment of the SDGs on the EU level to increase the significance of the goals in Estonia and the whole EU.

We will also continue raising awareness on SDGs. This year we are going to participate in the EU Sustainable Development Week, discuss SDGs at the Estonian Opinion Festival and having Sustainable Development Forum. We are supporting and expanding the Coalition for Sustainable Development and creating a platform for sustainable development to enable the government and private sector, non-governmental organisations, and citizens to gain knowledge, take accountability and action in achieving the SDGs.

Finland

[Original: English]

VNR Process

Finland’s second VNR focuses on the progress achieved between 2016 and 2020. The VNR builds on existing institutional, follow-up and monitoring mechanisms and relies on data, evaluations, research and reports.

The VNR was prepared by the Prime Minister’s Office in close cooperation with all ministries, Finnish civil society and other stakeholders, such as municipalities and businesses. The VNR includes chapters written by stakeholders and institutions. The assessment of the progress in each SDG consists of two independent assessments: one by Government officials and one by civil society actors.

The Governments of Mozambique and Switzerland supported Finland in the preparation of the VNR by reviewing the draft report and sharing their views.

SDG Progress 2016–2020

Finland is at the forefront of many international sustainability comparisons and studies. Finland is close to reaching many of the SDGs related to social and economic sustainability.

Finland’s key challenges are related to consumption and production patterns, climate action and the state of biodiversity. Obesity is an increasing problem. Gender equality challenges, such as gender-based violence and labour market disparities, including a gender pay gap, still remain.

Finland bears global responsibility by, for example, contributing to international crisis management and supporting developing countries. However, Finland has not been able to restore ODA to the level preceding the cuts in 2016. Spillovers need more attention.

Leaving No One Behind

Universal social security and service systems, as well as good educational opportunities for the entire population, have prevented exclusion.

Persons belonging to visible minorities and persons with disabilities continue to experience discrimination. National legislation and policy actions promoting equality and preventing exclusion aim to ensure equal opportunities for all.

Finland pursues a human rights-based foreign and security policy. Finland has achieved good results in strengthening the rights of women and girls, promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights, advancing the

rights of persons with disabilities and enabling developing economies to create jobs and livelihoods. The role of civil society is essential in reaching people in vulnerable positions at home and abroad.

Incorporation of the SDGs into national processes and policies

National implementation plans are submitted to the Parliament as Government Reports. The aim of the current Government is to transform Finland into a socially, economically and ecologically sustainable society by 2030.

A sustainability assessment has been integrated into annual cycle of policy planning, budgeting and reporting. Since 2018, Finland has taken notable steps in sustainable development budgeting. The integration of environmental sustainability into policy has proven easier than the integration of social sustainability. The 2030 Agenda has also been integrated into national research programmes and innovation ecosystems.

Policy coherence and trade-offs pose a significant challenge. Trade-offs are often very difficult to reconcile even when identified. Discussion on the importance of interlinkages has increased.

Tools and Innovations for Implementation

A multi-stakeholder approach is highly valued in Finland. Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development is one of Finland's key instruments for engaging the whole of society: the public sector, businesses, civil society and private individuals.

The previous Government commissioned an independent evaluation of national sustainable development policy, which provided input for the current Government's programme. The next evaluation will take place in 2023.

Innovative institutional mechanisms support national implementation. The Expert Panel for Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda Youth Group have taken on a prominent role. The national monitoring system includes innovative participatory elements.

Finland hosts the UN Technology Innovation Lab (UNTIL Finland), the Sustainable Infrastructure Impact Investments programme and the UNOPS Global Innovation and Technology programme. Finland supports taxation capacity building along with the development of local innovation ecosystems in developing countries.

Governance for Sustainable Development

The Government and Parliament engage in regular dialogue on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the National Audit Office has integrated the 2030 Agenda into its audit programmes.

The engagement of youth, the private sector and cities in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has further increased. Three cities have prepared Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The region of Åland has integrated the SDGs into its core strategies.

A systemic, long-term approach is needed to achieve transformations in sustainability. The preparation of a national 2030 Agenda roadmap in 2021 will support this approach.

Gambia

[Original: English]

Delivering good governance, accountability and a revitalized economy for sustainable development in The Gambia

Introduction

The Gambia has demonstrated its commitment to the implementation of Agenda 2030 by mainstreaming the SDGs into the National Development Plan (NDP 2018 – 2021); providing an opportunity to implement the SDGs. The Government continues to engage the private sector, civil society, and development partners in the implementation of the Agenda 2030. While there is need to increase awareness around the SDGs, the participation of stakeholders has increased ownership of the Agenda 2030.

Partnerships & Institutional Arrangements - The Government has aligned the SDGs and NDP institutional arrangements to enhance coordination. These include Ministerial Steering Committee, technical Sector Working Groups. The multistakeholder VNR Coordinating Committee will be maintained and transformed for overall SDG coordination.

Peace - On governance, a new draft constitution has been completed which espouses respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, and rule of law. It strongly advocates gender balance and fair representation of women, youth and persons with disability in parliament, other statutory bodies and State Owned Enterprises. In the judiciary, a balance in gender representation was achieved and there is a Gambian female judge at the Supreme Court; and the President of the Court of Appeal is also a female. At the political level, a female was elected as the Mayoress of the capital city. The Truth Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC) established to conduct research and investigations into human rights violations of the previous regime with a view to facilitate community and national reconciliation has submitted its interim report to Government.

Prosperity - GDP grew steadily but erratically in the past 3 years; 6.5% in 2018, 4.8% in 2017 and 1.9% in 2016 mainly driven by tourism, rain-dependent agriculture and remittances, and is vulnerable to external shocks. The collapse of Thomas Cook in late 2019 and the COVID-19 outbreak dealt a heavy blow to tourism leading to loss of revenue and jobs with initial estimates indicating GDP growth slowing from projected 6% to 3.2%. On the fiscal front, the COVID-19 pandemic will widen the fiscal deficit from projected 1.5% to 2.1% of GDP in 2020.

Overall, 48.6% of the population are poor with variation between urban (32.6%) and rural (69.5 %) areas.

On agriculture and food security, about 75% of the population depends on crops and livestock for livelihood. The sector witnessed a slight revival in 2018 and grew by 0.9% compared to the sharp contraction of 4.4% in 2017. However, erratic rainfall in the 2019/2020 cropping season reduced agricultural production by about 23%. The country is therefore not on target to achieving food and nutritional security, which is being further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Rural dwellers who are mainly subsistence farmers will require support for the next cropping season mainly in forms of farming inputs and implements.

People - In the social sector significant progress has been recorded with respect to access to education, water, and nutrition. Gains were registered with respect to: school enrollment and retention, proportion of the population with access to safe drinking water, prevalence of underweight and wasting among children under 5, prevalence of stunting among children; pregnant women with anemia; and prevalence of underweight non-pregnant women.

Planet - With respect to environmental resilience and climate change, The Gambia is rated among the world's two most ambitious developing countries; it's Nationally Determined Contribution has ambitious conditional and unconditional targets that meet the 1.5°C Paris Agreement Commitment.

The key long-term development challenges facing The Gambia are related to its undiversified economy, small private sector and internal market, limited access to resources, high public debt, high population growth rate, and inadequate skills necessary to create jobs for the youthful population. Data for Development remains a challenge and government has developed a National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and is exploring its innovative financing. The country's current vision 2020 is being evaluated to guide the formulation of subsequent long-term vision.

To accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and the NDP, the Government has initiated the Programme for Accelerated Community Development (PACD) which factors the synergies between the SDGs and aims to reduce the gap between the urban and rural areas.

Georgia

[Original: English]

Georgia is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and fulfilling the core pledge – “to leave no one behind”- that underpins the Agenda. The Government’s policies and priorities are well-aligned to the SDGs – making them a very solid basis of the country’s reform agenda. The level of integration of nationalized SDGs into Georgia’s development planning, in line with its EU integration aspirations, is very high - 36 sector strategies and the EU-Georgia Association Agreement jointly incorporate 96% of the country’s nationalized SDGs targets.

As Georgia presents its second VNR, it is important to mention that overall country has progressively advanced towards achieving the nationally set targets. Analysis of the review shows that Georgia has made significant progress - making itself well-on-track of the Agenda 2030 but also marking need for acceleration in some areas. The VNR provides in-depth review of three priority areas (**economic growth; human capital development and social welfare; governance**). The report highlights main achievements, challenges, best-practices and identifies areas where further work is needed.

Notwithstanding several challenges and keeping in mind that 20% of the Georgian territory is under Russia’s occupation, the country managed to sustain the stable **economic growth** in 2019 with annual real GDP growth rate of 5.1% and over the past years has been shifted from lower middle to upper middle income countries by the World Bank classification. However, inclusive growth remains a major challenge for the Georgian economy. The Government has prioritized knowledge based and innovation driven economic development and actively supports increase of innovative activities of the micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, including startups, and individuals and their participation in the digital economy. Over the past 5 years Georgia also took active steps towards responsible production and consumption. The country pursues reforms within all of its environmental sector policies – including water resource, forestry, air quality and waste management systems.

Quality of and accessibility to **knowledge, education and healthcare and social services** are key elements for sustainable development of the society. Georgia, in line with the pledge to “Leave No One Behind”, has introduced Universal Health Care (UNC) program enabling full access to healthcare services to each citizen. Education has been selected as one of the key priorities of the country’s development agenda. Georgia’s education system underwent considerable reforms in the education making it more accessible for everyone, updating and enhancing national curriculums, improving infrastructure of the education institutions, and popularizing vocational education to overcome skills and/or education mismatch problem on the Georgian labor market. In order to accelerate societal cohesion, the government has redesigned existing social programs – making them more effective and targeted. Overall, proportion of total government spending on essential services such as education, healthcare and social protection is increased.

Georgia has achieved the tangible progress in **democratic governance** by building effective, transparent, inclusive and accountable state institutions. It is committed to furthering public administration and open governance reforms, increasing transparency and accountability of state institutions. The country continues further development of its already robust public service delivery bringing innovation and technology for increased efficiency. Georgia has made significant progress in putting in place the legal framework to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on any possible ground. While streamlining the Georgian Government’s efforts in order to leave no one behind, people residing inside the Russia’s occupied regions of Georgia are deprived of benefits of development and continue to suffer from persistent violations of their fundamental rights, including rights to life, health and freedom of movement, the right to receive education in the native language, illegal detentions and kidnappings of the local population.

Despite significant progress challenges still remain for which future steps are being designed and applied, as the country entered into the Decade of Action. Nevertheless, it is abundantly clear that the ongoing pandemic, with its anticipated outcomes, in the long-term perspective will have a complex negative impact for the whole world. Addressing these lifetime challenges require more concerted, innovative, complex and resolute solutions by the strong leadership of the member states, development partners, international organizations and civil society. Georgia remains fully dedicated to this purpose.

Honduras

[Original: Spanish]

Honduras se dispone a presentar su II Informe Nacional Voluntario (INV), bajo la premisa que los esfuerzos hechos hasta ahora, no siempre se corresponden con los resultados esperados, pero el reto del país es permear la Agenda Nacional de los ODS (AN-ODS) en las agendas pública y no pública. El INV destacarán los aspectos de apropiamiento de la AN-ODS, como una oportunidad para redireccionar las prioridades de desarrollo nacional, y cómo el país enfrenta el presente y después de la pandemia del Covid-19.

- (a) **La AN-ODS incluyente y participativa.** La definición de AN-ODS, dio como resultado la adopción de los 17 objetivos y la priorización de 68 metas y 99 indicadores, lo cual se realizó en el marco de un proceso participativo, que incluyó a diversos actores: gobierno central, instituciones descentralizadas, municipalidades, consejos regionales de desarrollo, academia, ONGs, sector privado, sectores productivos, iglesias, mujeres organizadas, entre otros.
- (b) **La AN-ODS inserta en el sistema de planificación y presupuesto.** Los objetivos, indicadores y metas de la AN-ODS se articulan con los instrumentos del Sistema Nacional de Planificación del Desarrollo: la Ley de Visión de País y el Plan de Nación (2010-2022) y el Plan Estratégico de Gobierno (2018-2022), incorporando las metas de la AN-ODS en los marcos presupuestarios e instrumentos de planificación operativa, tanto en el Gobierno Central como municipal.
- (c) **Gobernanza de la Agenda.** Se emite la ley que crea la CN-ODS, como máxima instancia de gobernanza de la AN-ODS, con participación de actores claves de la sociedad hondureña: gobierno; academia, empresa privada, obreros, campesinos, sociedad civil organizada y gobiernos locales, todo lo cual, apoyado en instancias técnicas para garantizar la implementación de la AN-ODS.
- (d) **Monitoreo y evaluación de la AN-ODS.** El monitoreo de los indicadores de la AN-ODS, se realizará a través de la Plataforma del Sistema Presidencial de Gestión por Resultados de la SCGG; fundamentada en un Sistema Nacional de Estadísticas fortalecido.
- (e) **Desafíos estructurales del país y la implementación de estrategias y acciones.** El objetivo es crear condiciones favorables para avanzar con las metas de la AN-ODS. Además, se ha identificado iniciativas nacionales relevantes para la implementación de los ODS, por parte de diferentes actores, que reúnen los principios universales de integralidad, multiescalaridad y de no dejar a nadie atrás.
- (f) **Viabilizando la movilización de recursos para la AN-ODS.** Se han realizado ejercicios orientados a la vinculación del Plan de Inversión Pública (PIP) y de recursos presupuestarios, en general. No obstante, esta es un área que requiere mayor desarrollo, tanto a nivel del gobierno central como a nivel descentralizado, especialmente de las municipalidades. Las agendas de cooperación internacional, sector privado y sociedad civil, alineadas con la AN-ODS.
- (g) Los procesos de implementación y seguimiento de la AN-ODS, se han encontrado con logros importantes y buenas prácticas, pero más se han identificado **desafíos relacionados con la gobernanza de la AN-ODS**, como la adecuación de la Agenda al modelo de gestión por resultados, disponibilidad de datos oportunos y de calidad y disponibilidad de recursos para la implementación, entre otros; lo afecta el cierre de brechas sociales, económicas y ambientales.
- (h) En general, la elaboración del II INV **constituye una gran oportunidad** para afianzar y ampliar la apropiación de la AN-ODS, por parte de los diferentes actores de la sociedad hondureña, como elemento de suma utilidad, para replantear y reorientar las políticas públicas, programas y acciones, para mover indicadores y avanzar en las metas de la AN-ODS.
- (i) El apropiamiento y adopción de la AN-ODS, será acompañado por una **estrategia de comunicación a nivel gubernamental**, con mensajes claros sobre el papel que les corresponde jugar a cada actor, en el cumplimiento de los 17 ODS. Asimismo, Honduras espera que el marco de la presentación de su II INV, sea un espacio que facilite el **diálogo e intercambio de experiencias y conocimiento sobre la implementación de la Agenda 2030**.

- (j) **La implementación de la AN-ODS frente a la pandemia del Covid-19.** En el INV se hará un esfuerzo por abordar este aspecto en dos sentidos: primero, las intervenciones inmediatas para enfrentar la crisis, que ya contemplaba la Agenda 2030, como son, atención a poblaciones pobres y vulnerables y, segundo, las medidas a implementar después de la crisis, para promover la sostenibilidad del crecimiento, la protección social, entre otras.

India

[Original: English]

India, home to one-sixth of all humanity, holds the key to the success of the 2030 Agenda. India in its second VNR has made a paradigm shift to a **“whole-of-society” approach** with Government of India engaging sub-national and local governments, civil society organizations, local communities, people in vulnerable situations and the private sector.

India’s commitment to the SDGs is reflected in its convergence with the national development agenda as reflected in the motto of ***Sabka Saath Sabka Vikaas*** (*Collective Efforts for Inclusive Growth*). Based on the evidence from the **SDG India Index**, which measures progress at the subnational level, the country has developed a robust SDG localization model centered on adoption, implementation and monitoring at the State and district levels.

The following narrative further encapsulates India’s progress across the SDGs.

Sashakt Bharat - Sabal Bharat (Empowered and Resilient India): India has successfully lifted more than 271 million people out of multidimensional poverty through economic growth and empowerment. Enhanced access to nutrition, child health, education, sanitation, drinking water, electricity and housing, has led to reduced inequalities especially among people in vulnerable situations.

Swachh Bharat - Swasth Bharat (Clean and Healthy India): Through a nationwide initiative triggered by the *Clean India Campaign* and the *National Nutrition Mission*, India achieved 100% rural sanitation and sharp reduction in stunting and child and maternal mortality rates. Universal health coverage has been institutionalized through *Ayushman Bharat*, the world’s largest health protection scheme which provides an annual cover of USD 7,000 to 100 million families, covering nearly 500 million individuals.

India is at the forefront in the call for joint global action to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The country has extended medical assistance to several countries and has operationalized the SAARC COVID-19 Emergency Fund with an initial contribution of USD 10 million. Domestically, India’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic includes an initial USD 22.5 billion economic stimulus package, comprehensive health coverage for front-line workers and direct cash transfers for the most vulnerable.

Samagra Bharat - Saksham Bharat (Inclusive and Entrepreneurial India): Social inclusion is pursued through universalizing access to nutrition, health, education, social protection, and developing capabilities for entrepreneurship and employment. Financial inclusion through Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM) trinity – near universal access to bank accounts aided by the *Jan Dhan Yojana* (National Financial Inclusion Scheme); *Aadhaar* card (National unique identity number) for over 90% of the population; and expansive access to mobile phones, has propelled new avenues of credit, insurance, and Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT) to the poor, including to over 200 million women, thereby accelerating their economic empowerment.

Satāt Bharat – Sanatan Bharat (Sustainable India): India’s climate action strategies call for clean and efficient energy systems, disaster resilient infrastructure, and planned eco-restoration. Acting on its nationally-determined contributions, India has electrified 100% of its villages, reduced 38 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions annually through energy-efficient appliances, provided clean cooking fuel to 80 million poor households, and set a target to install 450GW of renewable energy and restore 26 million hectares of degraded land by 2030. Globally, India stands third in renewable power, fourth in wind power, and fifth in solar power. India launched the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and the International Solar Alliance to leverage global partnerships for climate action and disaster resilience.

Sampanna Bharat- Samriddh Bharat (Prosperous and Vibrant India): India is one of the fastest growing emerging market economies with a young population and burgeoning innovation and business ecosystem. With a GDP of USD 2.72 trillion in 2018-19, India strives to become a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, and pursue an inclusive and sustainable growth trajectory by stimulating manufacturing, building infrastructure, spurring investments, fostering technological innovation, and boosting entrepreneurship.

In the spirit of South-South Cooperation, for realizing the 2030 Agenda, India supports developing countries through the USD 150 million India-UN Development Partnership Fund. In this spirit of regional and global partnerships, and the country's commitment to 'leave no one behind', India steps into the Decade of Action, drawing confidence from its experience in addressing challenges. Government of India will continue to work collaboratively with all domestic and global stakeholders to accelerate efforts for a sustainable planet for future generations.

Kenya

[Original: English]

Kenya's long-term development blueprint Vision 2030 is implemented through five-year Medium Term Plans (MTPs). The current and third MTP 2018 -2022 that aim to achieve accelerated, high, inclusive, broad based, sustainable economic growth, social economic transformation and development mainstreamed the SDGs and Africa Union Agenda 2063. Further, mainstreaming of SDGs in performance contracting, actions plans and sub-national County Integrated Development Plans, 2018 -2022, position Kenya to better implement the SDGs and Agenda 2063.

Achievements

- A policy gaps analysis in 2018 assessed the country's preparedness to implement the 2030 Agenda by elaborating how SDGs targets align with the national planning frameworks. It recommended enhancement of national policy framework, which informed the need to review the existing and development of new policies.
- Government and partners use targeted awareness creation and sensitization strategies through focus group discussions, sensitization forums, workshops and discussion panels. Similarly, social media communication platforms are continuously used to disseminate SDGs to the public. The 2017 VNR identified low level of awareness on SDGs and a countrywide assessment was undertaken in 2019. This informs awareness campaign strategies, development and distribution of targeted IEC materials including translating SDGs into local languages.
- The multi-stakeholder Inter Agency Technical Committee set up in 2016 and chaired by the government to coordinate SDGs activities is now co-chaired by government, Private sector and the CSO and a subcommittee established as the secretariat. Sub national governments have appointed and trained SDGs Champions to steer SDGs process.
- Kenya follows "whole of government" and "whole of society" approach and has institutionalized stakeholder engagement in implementation, monitoring and awareness through their umbrella bodies. These are Parliamentary Caucus on SDGs and Business, Kenya Private Sector Alliance, Council of Governors for the sub national governments and National Youth Council. A multi-stakeholder engagement framework developed through consultation strengthens engagements, institutional and coordination mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda.
- To continuously strengthen capacities to mainstream SDGs in policies, planning, budgeting, implementation and review, training of trainers and 150 officers at national and sub national level respectively has been undertaken. SDGs curriculum has been developed in collaboration with Kenya School of Government for use during training sessions in their institution.

- To empower the vulnerable, policies and strategies focusing on education, health, employment, social protection, financial inclusion, gender, agricultural productivity, special funds for youth, women and persons with disabilities are in place. Regional disparities are addressed through targeted funds from national government to regions being left behind.
- Kenya prioritized Special Needs Education by increasing financial allocation to learners in special and integrated schools.
- High level political commitment to eliminate FGM by 2022. Kenya signed Regional Declaration and costed action plan on ending cross border FGM in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Somalia.
- Kenya through Water Sector Trust Fund was awarded prestigious 2019 United Nations Public Service Awards for Up-scaling Basic Sanitation for the Urban Poor programme under the “*Delivering Inclusive and Equitable Services to Leave No one Behind*” category being the only institution from Africa.
- Services to plastic recycling plants including machinery and equipment used in construction are exempted from VAT to promote plastic waste management.
- Mobile money has led to near complete financial inclusions across the country, increased credit availability to small traders further facilitating business across distant physical locations.
- Government prioritized the “Big 4 Agenda” focusing on Food and Nutrition Security, Healthcare, Manufacturing and Affordable Housing that accelerates SDGs 2,3, 8, and 11.
- SDGs monitoring is institutionalized with a comprehensive progress report prepared biennially. On pilot basis, five sub national governments (Kwale, Kisumu, Busia, Marsabit and TaitaTaveta) have developed Local Voluntary Reports on SDGs. This will be scaled up.
- In response to COVID-19 pandemic, the government established National Co-ordination Committee to evaluate the evolving risks, advice on appropriate measures for preparedness, prevention and response. COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund for response activities has been established. Some containment measures, includes cancelling public gatherings, 7 p.m. to 5 a.m. curfew, closing learning institutions and non-essential social spaces; encouraging social distancing and teleworking. The government has earmarked Ksh 40 billion for surveillance, laboratory services, isolation units, equipment, PPEs, supplies, and communication; social protection and cash transfers; food relief; and expediting payments of existing obligations to maintain cash flow for businesses during the crisis. Other measures are in the main report.
- The VNR report will be disseminated, action plan to address the gaps and challenges developed and SDGs acceleration strategy in line with the decade of action developed.

Kyrgyzstan

[Original: Russian]

по Национальному добровольному обзору (НДО) достижения Целей устойчивого развития (ЦУР) в Кыргызской Республике

Введение

Кыргызская Республика привержена осуществлению Повестки дня ООН в области устойчивого развития на период до 2030 года. Цели устойчивого развития (ЦУР) включены в государственную политику и отражены в Национальной стратегии развития (2018-2040), Программе «Единство. Доверие. Созидание» (2018-2022), в основу которых был поставлен человекоцентрический подход. Концептуальной идеей Стратегии до 2040 года является обеспечение высокого качества и достойного уровня жизни Человека, через призму концепции устойчивого экономического роста. Кыргызская Республика

придерживается глобального обязательства «не оставить никого позади», с особым акцентом и приоритетным вниманием к наиболее уязвимым группам населения.

Процесс подготовки НДО был многосторонним и многосекторальным, основан на партнерстве со всеми заинтересованными сторонами. В НДО отражены базовые и практические подходы страны к достижению ЦУР, проблемы и успехи, а также сферы, где необходима дальнейшая работа. Первый НДО Кыргызской Республики охватывает 16 целей в области устойчивого развития (ЦУР 14 не рассматривалась). Обзор охватил ситуацию, связанную с коронавирусной инфекцией (COVID 19), и в доклад включена информация о мерах, предпринятых страной для борьбы с пандемией.

Реализация обязательства «не оставить никого позади»

Реализация данного обязательства в Кыргызской Республике подразумевает необходимость расстановки приоритетов для повышения качества жизни и реализации фундаментальных прав тех групп общества, которые являются наиболее не вовлеченными в процесс развития. При этом учитывается, что в стране существуют структурные проблемы и нехватка ресурсов для реализации ключевых направлений устойчивого человеческого развития.

Использование многоаспектного подхода к оценке продемонстрировало сложность этой задачи - «не оставить никого позади», с учетом всего спектра выявленных рисков и уязвимостей. Процесс оценки включал тематические консультации с государственными органами, организациями гражданского общества и партнерами по развитию. Работа была сфокусирована на взаимосвязанности основных элементов: дискриминация, географическое местоположение, социально-экономический статус и показатели жизни и смерти, а также уязвимость.

Проведенная работа и методология, использованная в мониторинге достижения ЦУР и оценке подхода «не оставить никого позади», позволила выйти за пределы средних национальных показателей и определить многообразие конкретных ситуаций в наиболее уязвимых группах, пересекающиеся и ключевые факторы дискриминации, неравенства и изолированности, риски для усугубления лишений.

Достижения

Для достижения ЦУР к 2030 году Кыргызская Республика установила ключевой приоритет: ориентированность политики, нацеленной на развитие человека. Для этого реализуются национальные планы по обеспечению гарантий правовой и судебной защиты прав и свобод человека и гражданина, сокращению неравенства, искоренению бедности, смягчению последствий изменения климата, снижению риска бедствий, инвестированию в человеческое развитие, формированию навыков и знаний для всех слоев общества, созданию рабочих мест и поддержке здорового образа жизни, продвижению гендерного равенства.

В стране практически ликвидирована нищета. Общее образование бесплатно, общедоступно и обязательно. Кыргызская Республика одной из первых полностью решила проблему безгражданства. Это касается отдельных лиц и общества в целом, позволяет применять всеобъемлющий и преобразующий характер ЦУР для обеспечения политического участия, расширения экономических прав и возможностей и социального развития всех слоев общества.

Национальная стратегия развития страны до 2040 года обеспечивает возможности для устойчивого экономического и социального развития, в том числе для развития цифровизации, предпринимательства, внедрения инновационных и экологически чистых технологий для нынешнего и будущих поколений. В 2019 году Кыргызская Республика заняла лидирующую позицию в группе и сегменте стран Центральной Азии со средним доходом/ с доходами ниже среднего, с точки зрения реализации ЦУР и достигнутого прогресса, оцененного по шести взаимозависимым преобразованиям.

С начала реализации ЦУР Кыргызская Республика ратифицировала ряд важных международных соглашений, среди которых Конвенция ООН о правах инвалидов и Парижское соглашение об изменении климата, обеспечивающие дополнительные возможности для ускорения прогресса в достижении ЦУР.

Трудности

Несмотря на достижения, уровень национальной многомерной бедности является весьма высоким и вызывает большую озабоченность.

Относительно стабильные темпы роста экономики, в среднем 5,3 %, недостаточны для обеспечения значительного повышения благосостояния населения. Все еще слабое внедрение инноваций и неразвитая инфраструктура усложняют экономическое развитие страны и уменьшают возможности выравнивания уровня жизни населения как в городе, так и в сельской местности. Остаются актуальными вопросы обеспечения занятости и роста производительности труда.

Заключение

Кыргызская Республика продолжит активную работу, направленную на достижение ЦУР, создание среды для развития человека, раскрытие потенциала каждого и обеспечение благополучия путем защиты его здоровья, свободы, прав, более полное обеспечение гендерного равенства, занятости и стабильных доходов.

Кыргызская Республика будет активно проводить реформы, направленные на создание конкурентоспособной цифровой экономики, формируя привлекательные условия для предпринимателей и инвесторов, а также применения инновационных и природосберегающих технологий. Кыргызская Республика будет добиваться того, чтобы каждый регион вносил достойный вклад в экономическое развитие страны, в каждом регионе были созданы благоприятные условия для жизни населения и доступ к качественным услугам.

Liberia

[Original: English]

Liberia's Pro-Poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development 2018 - 2023 is second in the series of 5-year National Plans under the Liberia Vision 2030 framework, and follows the Agenda for Transformation (2012-2017). The PAPD aligns with the African Union Agenda 2063 and SDGs, particularly its **three dimensions**—economic, social, and environmental with special emphasis on human rights and peace. Established technical groups, with a diverse membership from government, CSOs, bilateral and multilateral partners, and business representatives, are leading and advising the process of implementation of the national plan to achieve the SDGs.

Despite many years of conflict followed by the Ebola outbreak, Liberia has made remarkable progress on key national aggregate indicators - such as per capita income growth (550.00 USD), the Human Development Index (0.465), life expectancy at birth (63.7), and mean years of schooling (9.6%). Since the new national plan began in 2018, the education sector has better access to the internet along with free education in all public schools and universities. The health sector has seen upgradation of equipment and doctors' qualifications in specialized medical fields. Additionally, over 75km of primary roads and 43km of urban roads have been constructed, and 65km of water pipeline has been laid. More than 40 institutions have now graduated to e-governance platform to improve performance. However, absolute poverty has been on the rise since 2014. The legacy of entrenched inequality, widespread infrastructure deficits, and economic deprivation remain barriers to sustainable peace, growth, and sustainable development, which may be further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, the government and its development partners are now focusing more on accelerating economic growth. To this end, roads and other infrastructure development are prioritized to create physical corridors along with the implementation of a new integrated and multi-sectoral approach to spatial development. This, along with increased social spending in the neglected regions of the country will lift large majorities out of extreme poverty and food insecurity, strengthen local value chains, create local markets where they do not exist, raise labor productivity in agriculture and forestry, artisanal mining, and fishing, and increase access to basic social services across the country.

Now, the decade of Action towards achieving the SDGs has commenced with the Covid-19 pandemic, which is exposing structural fragilities in countries across the world and Liberia is no exception. This emergency calls for both an immediate health response and a longer-term socio-economic recovery response. Liberia brings to this challenge its long-

term partnerships with regional and inter-governmental bodies - such as the Economic Community of West African States, the African Union, Economic Commission for Africa, and the Manu River Union. A robust national response mechanism is currently in place structured around key pillars, particularly case management and investigation, infection prevention and control, laboratory testing, vigorous contact tracing, and psychosocial support, etc.

Despite the economic shocks caused by COVID-19, Liberia remains deeply committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda and achieving the SDGs. Therefore, the post-COVID-19 recovery engagements will play out in a major way in accelerating actions to achieve the SDGs. The focus will be on sub-national development, human capital development, protection of children's rights, and reduction of systemic biases against women in the social and political arena with greater emphasis on social cohesion and sustaining the peace. Moreover, Liberia will continue to build a nation based on the principles of inclusion, harnessing its human capital of young people who comprise more than half the population, towards equitable distribution of revenues generated from natural resources, and on a rights-based approach to development. The eradication of extreme poverty, which is central to the SDG agenda, will be most urgent.

As per the philosophy, "Leaving No One Behind", the Social Cohesion and Reconciliation Index will be a key measurement. To monitor impact in the remotest areas, statistical systems will be ramped up to capture citizens' feedback. To measure inclusion and inequality, the HDI will be used. Subnational disaggregation on access to health, education, and opportunities to make a decent living will be measured through the Multidimensional Poverty Index. Surveys, censuses, sector assessments, and project evaluations conducted with development partners, will be used to generate evidence of outcomes and impact across various regions of the country.

Libya

[Original: Arabic]

الرسائل الرئيسية

2020 التقرير الإستعراضي الطوعي الأول حول أهداف التنمية المستدامة

الرسائل الرئيسية

يهدف الإستعراض الطوعي الأول لليبيا بشأن أهداف التنمية المستدامة 2030 إلى إعطاء صورة حقيقية عن الجهود التنموية التي تبذلها الدولة الليبية بغية بناء دولة عصرية ذات تنمية إقتصادية وإجتماعية وبيئية مستدامة ومتكاملة لبناء مستقبل أفضل لحياة الليبيين وذلك من خلال رصد مستوى الإنجاز الذي تحققي لمجموعة الأهداف التي تم إختيارها وفقاً لأولويات المرحلة في الدولة الليبية مثل قطاعات التعليم والصحة والطاقة وغيرها، وما تم وضعه من إستراتيجيات وخطط وطنية لإستدامة التنمية، كما يبين التقرير التحديات التي تواجه تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة في ليبيا.

إنتهجت ليبيا في تنفيذ برنامج التنمية المستدامة نهجاً يقوم على أساس تجربتها في العمل على أهداف التنمية للألفية، وحيث أن وزارة التخطيط هي المختصة بوضع سياسات وخطط التنمية الوطنية لذلك سعت الوزارة لتهيئة إطار مؤسسي لمتابعة تنفيذ أهداف التنمية المستدامة من خلال تشكيل لجنة التنمية المستدامة والتي تضم في عضويتها عدد من الخبراء والمختصين من القطاعات والجهات ذات العلاقة، وقد أسند إليها مجموعة من المهام من أهمها مواءمة وإدماج أهداف التنمية المستدامة في الإستراتيجيات وخطط التنمية الوطنية بالتنسيق مع القطاعات المختلفة، ومتابعة التقدم المحرز في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة، وإعداد التقارير الطوعية وإستعراضها.

وقد تم إعداد التقرير الوطني الطوعي لليبييا (2020) وفقاً لخطة تنفيذية وضعت لهذا الغرض تضمنت آلية للتنفيذ وفقاً لبرنامج زمني، حيث تم تكوين فريق عمل لكل هدف من الأهداف التي تم اختيارها وقد تم تشكيل فريق مصغر لتجميع التقارير من مختلف فرق العمل للأهداف المختلفة لصياغتها في التقرير النهائي.

جاء إعداد التقرير الوطني الطوعي لليبييا لأهداف التنمية المستدامة في إطار مشاركة مجتمعية واسعة بقيادة وزارة التخطيط وذلك من خلال المنتدى الليبي للتنمية المستدامة كمنصة للحوار والتفاعل وتبادل الخبرات وتنسيق الجهود وإلى إدماج وتعزيز مشاركة كافة أصحاب المصلحة، حيث كان هذا المنتدى رافداً وداعماً أساسياً لعمل لجنة التنمية المستدامة من أجل تحقيق أجندة 2030 وذلك من خلال الندوات وورش العمل واللقاءات التي عقدت بهذا الخصوص.

أعدت ليبييا من خلال وزارة التخطيط العديد من الإستراتيجيات والخطط الوطنية التي تعزز تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة وقد حرصت على موائمة إستراتيجياتها الوطنية في مختلف المجالات مع أهداف التنمية المستدامة، مثل الإستراتيجية الوطنية للطاقت المتجددة وكفاءة الطاقة (2030)، وكذلك خطة النهوض بقطاع الموارد المائية في ليبييا (2020-2022)، وغيرها. كما تبنت وزارة التخطيط في إطار تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة خطة تنمية ثلاثية لكافة قطاعات الدولة للأعوام (2020-2021-2022) تتضمن على وجه الخصوص إدماج أهداف التنمية المستدامة في مقترح الخطة الوطنية للتنمية المشار إليها.

إيماناً من دولة ليبييا بأن التنمية المستدامة شأن وطني يتطلب مساهمة جميع الفئات المعنية بأهداف التنمية المستدامة في تحقيقها فقد قامت بتشجيع منظمات المجتمع المدني والقطاع الخاص لتبني مفهوم الإستدامة، وذلك من خلال رعاية وزارة التخطيط لإنطلاق الوكالة الليبية للتنمية كمؤسسة غير حكومية بمشاركة المجتمع المدني والقطاع الخاص للمساهمة في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة بما يضمن إستدامة نمو الإقتصاد الوطني.

كما تم تشجيع رواد الأعمال الشباب وكذلك المرأة على المشاركة في الأنشطة الإقتصادية بطريقة مستدامة من خلال التشجيع على ريادة الأعمال في المشروعات الصغرى والمتوسطة، وفي هذا الإطار فقد تم عقد عدة ملتقيات وورش عمل بهذا الخصوص، وكذلك إنشاء منصة وطنية لريادة الأعمال لتعزيز مساهمة رواد الأعمال الشباب وسيدات الأعمال لتحفيز النمو الإقتصادي. وفي إطار تحقيق اللامركزية وتعزيز دور البلديات والسلطات المحلية في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة تم نقل العديد من إختصاصات الوزارات إلى المستوى المحلي للبلديات.

يبين التقرير أن هناك العديد من التحديات التي تواجه ليبييا في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة من أهمها عدم الإستقرار السياسي وهشاشة الوضع الأمني، وكذلك الهجرة غير الشرعية، وأعداد النازحين والمهجرين تشكل تحدياً حقيقياً على طريق تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة بحلول عام 2030، بالإضافة إلى طبيعة الإقتصاد الليبي من حيث أنه إقتصاد ريعي يعتمد على النفط والغاز وفي حال توقف إمدادات هذه الثروة تتوقف الموارد المالية اللازمة لبرامج التنمية وإعادة الإعمار، كما أن الضعف والإفتقار للبيانات والمعلومات والمؤشرات المطلوبة للقياس والتقييم نتيجة للظروف الراهنة تؤثر بشكل سلبي على تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة.

وفي الختام فإن ليبييا وهي تعرض التقرير الوطني الطوعي الأول على المنتدى السياسي رفيع المستوى فإنها تأمل أن تبرز من خلاله جهودها في تحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة، وهي تعي تماماً في الوقت نفسه أن الطريق مايزال طويلاً، وأن تحقيق الإلتزامات المطلوبة مرهون بالقدرة على مواجهة التحديات الموجودة، وهو ما يتطلب جهداً دولياً وإقليمياً مشتركاً لمواجهةها دعماً للجهود الوطنية، كما يجدر التأكيد على الإلتزام بأهداف التنمية المستدامة لتحقيق رفاه الليبيين وإستدامة الموارد للأجيال القادمة .

Malawi

[Original: English]

I. Introduction

Government of Malawi integrated the SDGs into its national development planning framework, the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS III). This process cascaded to the local development planning process including the indicator frameworks in order to customise the global indicators. Progress reporting on SDGs hence happens in the context of district and national plans.

II. Country ownership

The development planning process in Malawi is highly participatory. The Post 2015 consultation process helped Malawi to effectively input into the formulation of the SDGs. SDGs were translated into 3 main local languages to increase awareness at subnational level;

In reviewing SDGs progress for the VNR, Malawi engaged a multi-stakeholder technical and steering committee that comprised state, non-state actors and umbrella bodies. These met and harnessed inputs from their constituents, mostly employing virtual means amidst COVID-19.

III. Leaving no one behind

Malawi is implementing the National Social Support Programme II (2018-2023) which has seen the expansion of social support provision nationwide with mechanism for scaling-up during disasters/epidemics/pandemics;

Malawi implements the Agenda 2030 through promoting human rights standards in a manner consistent with its commitments under international law. Malawi ensures protection and fulfilment of rights of everyone in its jurisdiction, with a focus on the most vulnerable;

Malawi prioritizes collection of disaggregated data in order to better identify the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups of people. These include the multidimensional poverty analyses, integrated HH surveys, and Population and Housing Census;

Malawi has increased efforts towards the elimination of violence against women and children through such interventions as the Spotlight Initiative whereby girls and women that are at risk of violence are able to access essential services including sexual and reproductive health and there is accountability for perpetrators of violence.

IV. Institutional mechanisms

Malawi has recently established the National Planning Commission that domesticates SDGs in the national vision and medium-term development plans that ensue at all levels as well as overseeing their implementation;

Malawi is strengthening Sector Working Groups to facilitate quick realisation of development objectives through sector-wide approaches to planning, implementation and monitoring of various development policies.

V. Progress on Goals and Targets

Malawi is making significant progress on 29 of the 169 targets especially around SDG 3 and SDG4 (on health and education respectively); moderate and poor progress is being made on 59 and 81 of the targets respectively; the 29 targets that are progressing well include significant decline on under-five mortality rates; Gender parity in primary schools already equal to parity; Net Enrolment in Primary Schools is close to target;

Malawi is experiencing insufficient long-term progress on SDG 1 relating to poverty eradication whose targets are showing negative trends due to recurring disasters and insufficient investment in empowerment activities. However, even though over half of the population lives below the poverty line, the rate of extreme poverty has significantly improved. Relatedly, child marriage remains high affecting 42% of girls.

VI. Means of implementation

Malawi's partners have rallied their support towards national development objectives through alignment of their country assistance strategies. However, an increase in support towards productive sectors is required;

Malawi encourages stakeholder engagement and support for predictable financing mechanisms and enhanced M&E on SDGs, and ensuring that CSOs are particularly empowered in this direction.

Malawi is committed to increase coordination, accountability and transparency in resource use among stakeholders through utilisation of the Aid Management Platform (AMP).

VII. Data management

Malawi has developed a National Statistical System Strategic Plan (2020-2023) to ensure evidence-based planning and timely availability of official statistics for monitoring and evaluation of MGDS III and SDGs.

VIII. Key challenges

Largely, social inequalities and ineffective monitoring and evaluation systems for accountability are posing a challenge in realising the SDGs targets;

A prolonged global and national economic slow-down caused by COVID-19 will adversely impact progress in implementation of SDGs since there is diversion of focus and resources from national development priorities towards containing the spread of the pandemic.

IX. Way forward to accelerate SDG implementation

Guiding external support towards building domestic capacity for revenue mobilization including for containing COVID-19, specific priority sector implementation capacity support, and fighting corruption which erodes implementation resources.

Micronesia

[Original: English]

Striving towards Self Reliance and Maintaining Sustainability

Introduction

The Constitution of the FSM – ratified in 1978 at the dawn of the Federation’s young nationhood – states: “We affirm our common wish to live together in peace and harmony, to preserve the heritage of the past, and to protect the promise of the future...to become the proud guardian of our own islands, now and forever.”

This nation of 607 islands, atolls and islets, spread across 2.6M square kilometers of the Western Pacific Ocean is fully committed to implementing Agenda 2030, at the National level and within the four island States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap. FSM identified 89 SDG targets, with an accompanying 90 SDG indicators, linked to the FSM Strategic Development Plan, 2004-2023 (SDP).

The current implications of the COVID19 crisis must now also be factored into our efforts to implement the SDGs, where the Federation has been redirecting resources to proactively implement measures to prevent this virus from entering our shores to protect and maintain sustainable communities.

Implementing the SDGs into the State and National Processes

The SDP is a national strategy that seeks to achieve sustainable economic growth and self-reliance. It prioritizes sustainable development through the sectors of Health, Education, Agriculture, Fisheries, Private Sector Development, Transportation, Communication and the cross-cutting sector of Energy, many having their own policies that align to the SDP and SDGs. In addition:

- In July 2016, the FSM established the SDG Working Group (WG). This internal coordination mechanism draws from Departments and associated agencies within the government soliciting input from civil society actors and the chambers of commerce. A critical component of the SDG WG is the establishment of State Focal Points (SFPs) for effective implementation and reporting; and

- FSM has prioritized the production and use of data to monitor SDGs and inform national policies and programming, through the upcoming 2020 Census of Population & Housing, the Household Income and Expenditure Survey (HIES), including a multi-dimensional Poverty Index, National Social Indicators Survey, a draft Strategy for Development of Statistics (SDS) 2020-2024, a national SDG dashboard developed based on assessment of the SDGs in 2017, and a comprehensive performance audit of the implementation of the SDGs.

Challenges and Potential Areas of Support

- Although the UN has agreed in principle to the request to set up a Multi-Country Office (MCO) in Micronesia, the accelerated establishment of this entity is a critical step needed for the on-the-ground support and expertise to achieve our national sustainable development goals and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs, including strategic support to human rights frameworks, such as CEDAW, CRC, CRPD and the ICPD25 Nairobi commitments.
- Though negotiations are forthcoming, the termination of the funding provisions (Title II of US Public Law 108-188) of the Amended Compact of Free Association Treaty with the United States, which provides major support to key sectors in supporting public infrastructure and socio-economic prerogatives, looms. Coupled with limited human resource capacity in priority sectors such as education and health, delivery of necessary services to FSM citizens will be impacted.
- Our livelihood as a Big Ocean State is threatened by the existential threat of climate change, overfishing and vulnerability to natural disasters and sudden shocks like COVID-19. More support for developing social protection and preparedness and recovery will be needed, particularly in the areas of health, sanitation, waste management, education, gender, and critical water and food security.
- Data related complexities remain a significant challenge in defining targets for the prioritized indicators for monitoring SDGs in the FSM.

Conclusion

The year 2020 has been coined the Decade of Action because we have only 10 years to accelerate our efforts to implement the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. To stand up and be counted among the nations of the world, a country must have something of value. The FSM has value in its proud history, its vibrant cultures, its progressive values, its vaunted ecosystems, and a heritage of living in peace and harmony with our environment. FSM values its people as a fundamental resource to progress the 2030 Agenda, and will therefore continue to pursue gender equality, universal access to health, including sexual and reproductive health and rights of all citizens, and ensuring safe and dignified lives, particularly women, girls and adolescents.

Morocco

[Original: French]

Sous les Hautes Directives de Sa Majesté Le Roi Mohammed VI et avec Son engagement actif, le Royaume du Maroc en souscrivant en 2015, avec la communauté internationale, au programme des Objectifs de Développement Durable, a d'emblée considéré ces objectifs comme une des dimensions structurantes de son modèle national de développement dont la rénovation est aujourd'hui soumise à un vaste débat national.

La mise en œuvre des ODD pour le Maroc s'est, en fait, inscrite dans un cadre d'un vaste effort d'investissement, amorcé depuis le début des années 2000, pour lequel a été mobilisé le tiers de son PIB dans les domaines d'infrastructures économiques et sociales, de lutte contre la pauvreté et les inégalités sociales et de valorisation de ses ressources naturelles, avec une sensibilité particulière aux effets des changements climatiques.

Ces efforts ont permis au pays de renforcer son accumulation de capital physique, de promouvoir son capital humain, d'accélérer sa transition vers le développement propre et améliorer ainsi le contenu de sa croissance économique en termes d'emploi, de baisse de la pauvreté, des inégalités sociales et territoriales et de

réduction de la dépendance aux énergies fossiles, et ce dans un contexte marqué par la crise financière internationale de 2008 et trois années de sécheresse au cours de la dernière décennie.

C'est ainsi que la croissance économique a atteint une moyenne de 4,2% sur la période 2000-2018, le chômage a baissé à 9%, la pauvreté est passée de 8,9% en 2007 à 2,9% en 2018, et les inégalités ont été infléchies avec une valorisation du potentiel de toutes les régions du pays. Par l'investissement dans les énergies renouvelables, le Maroc dispose aujourd'hui d'une capacité électrique de sources renouvelables représentant 34% de la capacité nationale du mix électrique. Des efforts ont été aussi déployés dans la réhabilitation des villes, l'assainissement hydraulique et l'extension de l'espace forestier.

Dans le sillage de la consolidation de son modèle de développement, plusieurs réformes institutionnelles ont été déployées en application des dispositions de la Constitution de 2011 du Royaume. C'est ainsi que s'est mis en place des institutions de consultation et de délibération comme celles de la promotion de la femme, de la protection de l'enfance ou d'assistance aux personnes en situation de handicap. De même, une Charte Nationale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable a été adoptée.

Soucieux d'assurer la coordination des ODD et d'en assurer le suivi-évaluation, une Commission Nationale de Développement Durable a été instituée auprès du Chef de Gouvernement avec la participation des différents départements ministériels et du Haut-Commissariat au Plan, institution chargée de la statistique. Dans ce cadre, une plateforme statistique dédiée aux ODD a été élaborée et un modèle d'équilibre général calculable a été élaboré pour faire le suivi-évaluation des ODD d'une manière périodique.

Dans ces conditions, la pandémie du COVID19 est venue, cependant, perturber les efforts de développement engagés par le pays suite à ses effets négatifs directs sur l'ensemble de l'économie et indirects à travers ses conséquences sur les principaux partenaires du Maroc. Le Maroc a été rapidement réactif dans l'atténuation des effets de cette pandémie. Il a eu recours très tôt au confinement, ce qui a permis de maîtriser la pression sur son système sanitaire. Au même moment, il a entrepris un ensemble d'actions pour garantir la continuité des services sociaux publics de base, en particulier dans le domaine de l'éducation et de la formation, notamment par le télétravail et la numérisation. De même, un fonds spécial pour la gestion de la pandémie a été créé, bénéficiant de ressources budgétaires consistantes et de contributions financières de la part de l'ensemble des acteurs, aussi bien entreprises et ménages que la société civile.

Il n'en reste pas moins, cependant, que sur le plan économique, malgré le soutien apporté aux ménages et aux entreprises, cette pandémie aurait causé une perte globale potentielle de 8,9 points de croissance économique au deuxième trimestre 2020.

Par ailleurs, et dans le cadre de son engagement dans la réalisation de l'agenda ODD à l'échelle internationale, le Maroc érige le partenariat mondial, notamment la coopération Sud-Sud en axe stratégique de sa politique étrangère et accorde, dans ce cadre, à l'Afrique, une place centrale.

Mozambique

[Original: English]

1. Mozambique is inspired by the 2030 Agenda as it induces rapid sustainable economic growth as well as accelerated and inclusive development to reduce poverty in the world. In effect, the country aligned the 2030 Agenda with the national instruments of economic and social management, to ensure the integrated implementation of national public policies.
2. To ensure sustainable economic growth, Mozambique is committed to increasing production, productivity and employment through the implementation of structuring projects: (i) Exploration of oil and gas in the Rovuma Basin with prospects of placing on the market more than 17 million tons per year of Liquefied Natural Gas, starting in 2023; (ii) Modernization of agriculture to increase productivity and consolidate the foundations of family farming, driven by the allocation of 10% of the State Budget for Agriculture; (iii) Industrialization to induce entrepreneurship and employment for young people, ensuring the improvement of the business environment with a view to attracting national and foreign investment.

3. In order not to leave anyone behind, Mozambique continues to reinforce the provision of basic social services for more than 22% (608 thousand families) of the most vulnerable population living below the poverty line; create more jobs for young people (2 million in 2019). Furthermore, women's empowerment and gender equality has continued, including the strengthening of women's participation in decision-making bodies (47.6% of Government Members and 37.6% of Members of Parliament are women), stressing that the Speaker of the Parliament is a woman.
4. In the provision of quality primary health services for all, Mozambique prioritizes the expansion of infrastructures and modern equipment, resulting in an increase in the coverage rate for institutional deliveries from 71% (2015) to 87% (2019), - reduction of in-hospital maternal deaths from 87 (2015) to 59 (2019) per 100,000 live births and in the reduction of Maternal Mortality from 500.1 (2007) to 451.6 (2017), 2017 Census.
5. In relation to access to drinking water, the opening of sources and construction of water supply systems have been prioritized, resulting in the increase of households with access to safe water from 34.5% (2007) to 48.7% (2017). In terms of sanitation, efforts are focused on building improved latrines and septic tanks, resulting in an increase in households with access to improved sanitation from 15.1% (2007) to 39.6% (2017) (2017 Census).
6. With regard to quality inclusive education for all, efforts are focused on building and equipping new classrooms, training teachers, updating the curriculum and engaging girls in teaching. As a result, the Net Schooling Rate increased from 86.4% (2016) to 93.5% (2019); the distribution/allocation of more than 58 million student books for primary education and the construction of 3,618 classrooms, benefiting more than 434 thousand primary and secondary school students.
7. Mozambicans are aware that transparency, accountability, good governance and the effectiveness of institutions, peace, justice, human rights and the fight against corruption are essential elements for inducing rapid sustainable development. In these terms, the Government ensures the systematic improvement and publication of its management, control and accountability instruments, informed by the inputs from civil society and development partners.
8. Given the limited resources for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, it is necessary to engage development partners and reinforce the mobilization of domestic resources, such as the involvement of the private sector, the widening and modernization of the tax base, tax incentives as a way of attracting more investment and implement technological reforms.
9. The geographical location of Mozambique places the country in a situation of cyclical vulnerability to the effects of Climate Change, which requires redoubling efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in building resilient socio-economic infrastructures.
10. Despite the adversities imposed by climate vulnerability, Covid-19, as well as the armed attacks in Cabo Delgado, Manica and Sofala provinces, which affect the normal course of implementation of the national and 2030 agendas, the Country continues to record progress and the Mozambicans' life expectancy is improved from 49.4 (2007) to 53.7 (2017) (2017 Census).

Nepal

[Original: English]

The SDGs have been well-integrated into Nepal's national development frameworks. Nepal has developed the SDGs Status and Roadmap 2016-2030, SDGs Needs Assessment, Costing and Financing Strategy, and SDGs Localization Guidelines that spell out baselines, targets and implementation and financing strategies for each SDG. Necessary institutional set-ups are also in place for effective implementation.

Guided by the overarching national aspiration of 'Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali', the 15th Development Plan (2019/20-2023/24) has mainstreamed the SDGs. The 25 Year Long-Term Vision 2100 also internalizes the goals, targets and milestones of the 2030 agenda. Specific SDGs codes are assigned for all national development programmes through Medium Term Expenditure Framework. Furthermore, SDGs have been integrated in the Sub-National Governments' periodic plans with effective monitoring and evaluation guidelines.

Assessment of the SDGs implementation over the last four years exhibits some encouraging results. As of FY 2017/18, the incidence of poverty has been reduced to 18.7 (SDG1). Similarly, prevalence of underweight, stunting and wasting among children under 5 years of age has decreased significantly (SDG2). In health sector, infant mortality, maternal mortality, and child mortality rates have been reduced (SDG3). The gross enrolments in basic and secondary level education stood at 93% and 46% against the 2019 targets of 98.5% and 72% respectively (SDG4).

The Constitution guarantees 33% of women representation in the national and provincial parliaments. Currently, women's representation in the local level governments is about 41%. The gender parity index in enrollment for secondary level (Grades 9-12) set for 2019 has been achieved (SDG5).

Similarly, over 90% of the population has access to drinking water and about 99% has access to basic sanitation facilities (SDG6). Over 88% of the population has access to electricity and the target of per capita electricity consumption set for 2019 has been achieved (SDG7). In 2019, annual economic growth rate was 6.9% and per capita income increased to USD 1,051 (SDG8). In infrastructure sector, the road density is 0.54 against the 2019 target of 1.3. Manufacturing employment as a proportion of total employment has increased to 15.1% against the target of 8.3 for 2019. However, share of industry in GDP is only about 15.1% against the target of 17.7 (SDG9).

This shows that 2019 targets of social, economic and political empowerment have been achieved. However, reducing the income and consumption inequality remains a challenge (SDG10). The households living in safe houses reached 40% against the 2019 target of 37.8%. Against the target of 23 planned new cities; 27 have been established by 2019 (SDG11). The target for the use of plastics (per capita in gram per day) and land use for agricultural production (cereal as percentage of cultivated land) set for 2019 has also been achieved (SDG12).

Likewise, the 2019 targets related to preparation of local and community level adaptation plan have been achieved (SDG13). The forest under community-based management has reached 42.7% against the target of 39.8% for 2019. The target for protected areas which was set at 23.3% has also been achieved (SDG15). The Rule of Law and Voice and Accountability indicators for Nepal show better performance compared to the previous years (SDG16). Internet density (per 100 person) reached 65.9% in 2019 exceeding the target of 65% (SDG17).

Given this scenario, additional support in finance, technology, and capacity building are vital for achieving the SDGs. Currently, though the total government revenue as a proportion of GDP has increased and the target set for 2019 has been achieved, there still lies a huge gap to finance the achievement of the SDGs.

Moreover, the socio-economic shock of COVID-19 has caused unprecedented disruption in transportation, service sector, tourism, hospitality industry, revenue, and remittances. The fallout will be in the areas of income, poverty, employment, and economic growth, while the existing financing gap widens. This is sure to have a bearing on Nepal's ambition for smooth and sustainable graduation from LDC category.

Other prominent challenges include localization of SDGs, lack of adequate data, and coordination and follow up. Therefore, closer cooperation, coherence and coordination among governments, development partners, civil society, business community, volunteers, and people will be critical. Enhanced level of global partnership is equally important.

Niger

[Original: French]

- I. Le présent rapport, issu de larges consultations malgré la pandémie du Covid-19, **couvre tous les ODD, sauf l'ODD 14.**
- II. S'agissant du principe de ne laisser personne de côté, **les efforts sont engagés à travers la mise en œuvre de la politique de protection sociale** qui cible les femmes, enfants vulnérables, jeunes sans emploi, personnes handicapées, personnes âgées, populations rurales, personnes occupant un emploi précaire et personnes vivant dans des zones d'insécurité. Aussi, un programme de travail décent intégrant l'entrepreneuriat des jeunes est en cours.
- III. Des progrès sont accomplis dans la réalisation des ODD.

ODD1 et 2: le taux de pauvreté est passé de 45,4% en 2014 à 40,3%⁴ en 2018, induit entre autres par la mise en œuvre de la politique en matière de sécurité alimentaire et nutritionnelle sous l'Initiative les Nigériens Nourrissent les Nigériens. Toutefois, **le nombre de pauvres a augmenté d'environ 451.000** due essentiellement à la poussée démographique. La pauvreté s'aggravera avec la pandémie du COVID-19 notamment la **perte d'emploi de 4,3% et environ 1 million de personnes supplémentaires en insécurité alimentaire**.

ODD3: Les taux de mortalité infanto-juvénile et maternelle ont substantiellement baissé passant respectivement de 318 décès pour 1000 naissances vivantes en 1992 à 126 décès pour 1000 naissances vivantes en 2015, soit une baisse de 8,6 points en moyenne par an et de 700 décès pour cent mille naissances vivantes en 1990, à 520 décès pour cent mille naissances vivantes en 2015, soit une baisse de 7,2 points en moyenne par an. **Ces progrès sont en partie liés à la politique de la gratuité des soins pour les femmes enceintes et les enfants de moins de 5 ans, représentant environ 28% de la population totale.** Cependant, seulement 40 % des femmes enceintes sont prises en charge par des agents de santé qualifiés en 2018.

ODD4 et 5: Les Taux Bruts de Scolarisation restent modestes en s'établissant en 2018 à 70,6% au cycle primaire et 33,4% au cycle de base 2, malgré l'accroissement régulier des effectifs. Pour la réduction des inégalités de sexe, des réformes importantes sont engagées pour endiguer les mariages et grossesses précoces à travers la scolarisation de la jeune fille. **Cependant, il persiste des disparités entre les milieux, les sexes et le défi de la qualité.** En effet, les enfants en milieu urbain ont respectivement 1,5 et 5 fois plus de chances d'être scolarisés au cycle de base 1 et base 2 que ceux en milieu rural et 2,6 millions d'enfants et adolescents sont hors de l'école.

ODD8: Avec les effets de l'initiative 3N et l'exploitation du pétrole, **le taux de croissance annuel moyen du PIB est de 5,7% sur la période 2016-2019, contre un taux d'accroissement démographique de 3,7%.** Toutefois, avec la pandémie du COVID-19, la croissance économique serait de 1% en 2020.

ODD10, le Niger enregistre un indice de Gini de 0,340 en 2018, **plus faible que celui des pays voisins.**

ODD13 et 15: l'implémentation de la politique nationale de l'environnement et du développement durable se poursuit. Ainsi, pour une cible annuelle de 213.000 hectares de terres à récupérer, **le taux de réalisation de la cible est progressivement passé de 36% en 2016 à 45% en 2017 et 68% en 2018.**

ODD16: la gouvernance s'est améliorée. L'indice Mo Ibrahim s'est établi à 51,2, au-delà de la moyenne africaine. Toutefois des défis majeurs demeurent en termes d'efficacité de l'administration publique et de sécurité frontalière.

ODD17: la mobilisation des ressources internes s'est accrue avec nonobstant de nombreux défis dans le recouvrement des recettes fiscales. En effet, le taux de pression fiscale a évolué de 9,6% du PIB (base 2015) en 2017 à 11,1% en 2018. Les envois de fonds des migrants sont estimés à 2,4% du PIB en 2017.

- IV. La décennie d'actions 2020-2030 pour l'accélération des ODD, sera contrariée par la pandémie COVID-19 qui annihile nos efforts et compromet nos objectifs de développement définis dans la SDDCI Niger 2035. Cela justifie le plan global de réponse élaboré par le Gouvernement pour un montant de 2,6 milliards de dollars US sur deux ans avec ses trois volets sanitaire, économique et social.

Nigeria

[Original: English]

Nigeria's 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on the key issues of poverty (SDG-1) and an inclusive economy (SDG-8), health and wellbeing (SDG-3), Education (SDG-4), Gender equality (SDG-5), and the enabling environment of peace and security (SDG-16), and partnerships (SDG-17). This focus is based on Nigeria's current development priorities and the development objectives of President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. This VNR is being developed while facing huge challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic

⁴ Données provisoires susceptibles de changer selon les enquêtes sur la pauvreté conduites par l'INS

testing Nigeria's public health systems, and of the collapse in oil prices, for an economy still getting 86% of public revenue from oil and gas.

Nigeria's 2017 VNR outlined the institutional dimensions for creating an enabling policy environment for the implementation of the SDGs through its Economic and Recovery Growth Plan (ERGP) (2017-2020). The ERGP's focus on economic, social and environmental dimensions of development makes it consistent with the aspirations of the SDGs.

SDG3-Health and Wellbeing: While Nigeria has some poor health outcomes, such as high rates of maternal mortality, there have been improvements in the under-five mortality rates (from 157 to 132). COVID-19 has challenged our public health system. A key lesson in protecting the public in times of such pandemics is hygiene and the need to prioritize universal access to clean water and soap. Nigeria's current access to basic drinking water stands at 64%. ***There must be more investment in public health and to ensure the most vulnerable are reached through universal access to essential services.***

SDG4-Education: A key challenge confronting the country has to do with Out-of-School-Children, a demographic challenge that relates to an interplay between employment (SDG-8), education (SDG-4), poverty (SDG-1) and the digital economy (SDG-17). With a population of approximately 200 million people, *regional disparities are significant*, with 78% of South Western children able to read full or part sentences, while only 17% of North Eastern children can. ***With only 1.6% of GDP devoted to education, the country needs to increase the resources to provide quality education.***

SDG8-Inclusive Economy: In terms of inclusive economy (SDG-8), Nigeria's informal economy is one of the largest on the continent - estimated at 53% of the Labour force and accounting for 65% of GDP. It is estimated that 75% of all new jobs are informal. Youth have a combined ***unemployment and under-employment rate of 55.4%*** or 24.5 million⁵. This is the youth bulge that needs to be building the required skills to move into secure and less precarious forms of employment. Ensuring youth are well-educated and able to transition to productive employment through the digital economy can help reduce poverty (SDG-1) and help diversify growth beyond dependence on oil and gas. ***The Generation Unlimited*** intervention, which targets employment for 20 million youth is another good example. ***The banking sector can play an important role in supporting the country's efforts to leverage greater private sector-led growth by providing access to finance, particularly for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).*** In addition, the Nigerian government can dramatically shift to digitization and strengthening its transition to e-government to facilitate its social protection to the poor and vulnerable population.

Alignment of national planning to SDGs: ***Good strides have been made in the domestication process of the SDGs in Nigeria.*** First, there is an ongoing re-alignment of the National Statistical System (NSS) with the requirements and Indicators of the SDGs. Second, Nigeria has developed its home-grown '***Integrated Sustainable Development Goals (iSDG Model)***' - an analytical framework for assessing how policy making can better address the indivisible nature of the SDGs. Third, the Nigeria's 2020 VNR report has drawn on past evaluations across the Seven priority SDGs and has an ongoing evaluation of the country's performance in SDG 3&4. This attempt to systematically use evaluations is an innovation in the VNR context. ***Nigeria should strengthen the evidence-based planning and accountability mechanisms at State level for accelerating the SDG decade of action.*** The post-ERGP National Development Plan (2021-2030) will be pivotal in advancing the achievement of the SDGs in Nigeria.

North Macedonia

[Original: English]

North Macedonia is fully committed to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the EU integration process; this commitment is demonstrated through the government reform agenda that focuses on key development objectives meant for all the citizens. In line with this, the National Council for Sustainable Development identified SDG 1, SDG4, SDG8, SDG 13 and SDG16 as five priority goals for the period 2018-2020. North Macedonia's existing policy framework addresses a number of aspects of sustainable development while the Rapid Integrated Assessment conducted in 2019 assessed the alignment of 83 percent with the overall Agenda.

⁵ 13.1 million unemployed and another 11.3 million under-employed

The Macedonian National Voluntary Review was prepared with a participatory approach of various stakeholder groups. The following are North Macedonia's main achievements and challenges in each of the 5 areas of Agenda 2030:

People

Poverty has been reduced among the poorest sections of society by 21.9%. The Gini coefficient has decreased from 37% in 2013 to 31.9% in 2018. In December 2019, the average paid financial assistance per household, under the new law compared to the old law, has increased by 142%. Within the de-institutionalization process, all children under the age of 18 accommodated within care institutions were resettled in the community homes.

The country faces serious challenges dealing with non-communicable diseases and high mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases and cancer. The outmigration of medical personnel remains strong challenge for the health sector. On a positive note, the negative trend of infant mortality decreased from 11.9 in 2016 to 5.7 in 2018 and immunization coverage for all vaccines is below the recommended 95%.

North Macedonia aims at providing an environment for inclusive education. The country's PISA ranking showed improvement in the last review in 2019, especially in the area of science, however remains low, which makes the investments in education a key priority for the government.

Prosperity

Before the COVID-19 crisis, active employment measures put in place through the Operational Plan for Employment led to the lowest unemployment rate ever of 16.6%. Contract enforcement, informal economy, skills mismatch continue to pose challenges for the business environment.

North Macedonia is small economy strongly integrated with the EU and CEFTA markets. Through the Plan for Economic Growth, it managed to attract foreign investments and largely diversify exports towards higher-value products.

The energy policy and legislation are now fully aligned with the EU Energy Community prioritising energy efficiency and renewable energy; however coal still accounts for 60% of the electricity production.

Planet

The country is highly vulnerable to climate-induced natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, heat waves and forest fires. At the Paris climate summit in December 2015, the Government committed to reducing emissions from fossil fuels by as much as 36% by 2030 compared with the baseline scenario. In terms of nature protection, the process of identification and designation of NATURA 2000 sites in the country, as obligation from the EU acquis, so far has resulted in nine potential future NATURA 2000 sites and is still ongoing.

Partnership

As a generational commitment, North Macedonia's strategic decisions have been made while focusing on becoming a NATO and EU member-state and being responsible member of the United Nations. This year we have witnessed the accomplishment of two key foreign policy priorities in March North Macedonia became the 30th member state of NATO - the strongest political and military alliance in the world, and will start negotiations for accession to the European Union.

Peace

North Macedonia's legal framework for the protection of human rights is largely in line with European standards and the principle of gender equality is enshrined in the national legislation, although implementation remains a challenge. The climate for media freedom and freedom of expression has improved as a result of amendments to the Law on Audio and Audio-visual Media Services.

The Government has achieved significant progress in enhancing the regulatory framework to address corruption and ensure the impartiality and efficiency of the judiciary.

In order to achieve the Agenda 2030 and address challenges such as COVID-19 in the coming years, the Government of Republic of North Macedonia will remain fully committed to the development of the institutions and partnerships that will enable sustainability for the present and future generations.

Panama

[Original: Spanish]

Agenda 2030, Los ODS

Panamá: Libre de Pobreza Y Desigualdad, La Sexta Frontera

En el año 2015, Panamá asumió el compromiso con la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible y los ODS y en 2017 el país presentó su Primer Informe Voluntario. Desde el primer momento, mediante el Plan Estratégico Nacional con Visión de Estado, Panamá 2030, se han impulsado estrategias basadas en las 5 Esferas: Personas, Planeta, Prosperidad, Paz y Alianzas, considerando las dimensiones del desarrollo sostenible, con la finalidad de que nadie se quede atrás.

El Gobierno Nacional, mediante el Plan Estratégico de Gobierno 2020-2024, “Unidos lo hacemos”, tiene presente múltiples desafíos que se sintetizan en las desigualdades que afectan a la población, especialmente a los más vulnerables, a los que se agregan los efectos sistémicos generados de la emergencia sanitaria del COVID 19. El gobierno se ha propuesto desarrollar las estrategias económica y social, para erradicar la pobreza extrema y el hambre. Además, se plantea la necesidad de aumentar las inversiones públicas con el propósito de mejorar la infraestructura y lograr un mayor desarrollo tecnológico, que se reflejen en la educación, la salud y el sector social para mejorar la calidad de vida de la población, sin dejar de lado la protección del medio ambiente, la biodiversidad, la lucha contra el cambio climático, lo que permitirá contar con los recursos naturales necesarios para el desarrollo del país y el bienestar de la población y cumplir el compromiso asumido con la Agenda 2030 y los ODS.

En este contexto, el Gobierno Nacional lidera la lucha contra la pobreza y la desigualdad mediante la **“Estrategia Colmena: Panamá libre de pobreza y desigualdad, la Sexta Frontera”**⁶, la cual tiene como misión promover la justicia social, la equidad, las oportunidades; con prioridad en la primera infancia procurando no dejar a nadie atrás. Colmena está relacionada con los 17 ODS, sus metas e indicadores, mediante la promoción de la inclusión social a través de alianzas entre instituciones públicas, sociedad civil, la empresa privada, la academia y la comunidad y está focalizada en mejorar los servicios que el Estado ofrece. También, desarrollar prestaciones y servicios con modelos de atención que protejan los derechos y brinden satisfacción a los ciudadanos; incentivar actividades generadoras de ingreso para mejorar la calidad de vida, con la inclusión productiva y financiera de las poblaciones con mayores carencias. Bajo los principios de la intersectorialidad, la descentralización, la participación ciudadana, la igualdad de oportunidades, la interculturalidad y la sostenibilidad, la acción apunta a la territorialización de la Agenda 2030; integrando equipos, alineando y articulando el Gobierno Central con los gobiernos locales y contando con un sistema de información permanente, priorizando a los que se nos han quedado atrás.

La **Educación inclusiva, permanente, equitativa y de calidad**, es la estrella de la propuesta del Gobierno, que implica fomentar una educación articulada al interés nacional, en la que toda la población goce de la posibilidad de ejercer el derecho al acceso gratuito, en igualdad de oportunidades, alineada a la Agenda 2030 y al progreso científico y tecnológico para mejorar la calidad del sistema educativo, con inclusión, equidad e innovación y formar un ciudadano integral. Se da especial interés a la educación desde la primera infancia, a la formación continua tanto de estudiantes como docentes, en un marco de atención inclusiva y profesional.

⁶ Plan Estratégico de Gobierno 2020-2024, “Unidos lo hacemos”

El desafío para el **Mejoramiento del Sistema de Salud**, es fortalecer la atención primaria, ampliar la cobertura en áreas apartadas y lograr la gestión automatizada del sistema por tratarse de un elemento básico del bienestar. Esta estrategia va dirigida a que todos los hogares, a las familias que viven en las peores condiciones de pobreza, cuenten con los servicios básicos de agua potable y saneamiento, que dispongan de servicios de salud de calidad, atendidos por el personal idóneo y que se cuente con los insumos y los medicamentos que requiere la población.

Atender el desafío de robustecer los **Sistemas de Información** para la toma de decisiones y la reorientación de las políticas públicas, es un tema que puede ser objeto de cooperación internacional e intercambio de experiencias y conocimientos entre países.

Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]

Introduction

Papua New Guinea (PNG) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA Pathway) to achieve the country's Vision 2050. The SDGs were integrated into the Medium-Term Development Plan III (2018-2022) with other national policies, legislative and budgets. Progress has been good and challenging for thematic areas of some key sectors due to internal/external pressures. This first Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) provides progress of implementation and rejuvenate ownerships of SDGs.

SDG Progress

Since 2000, notable progress was made in Health (Goal 4), Education (Goal 5), Climate Action (SDG 13), and Partnership for the Goals (SDG 17):

- maternal mortality rate decreased from 220 (2015) to 145 (2017) per 100,000 live births;
- immunization coverage improved from 60 per cent (2016) to 80 per cent (2019);
- net enrollment ratio in primary education improved from 68 per cent (2014) to 87.7 percent (2017).

Positive trends are expected in other SDGs due to significant policy shifts and innovative financing and implementation modalities for Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7), Zero Hunger (SDG 2), Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11), Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6), and Gender Equality (SDG 5).

While key enablers are in place for most SDGs, internal/external pressures continue to hinder progress in Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8), Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12), Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (SDG 16), and Life Below Water (SDG 14).

National Ownership and Institutional Arrangements

In 2015, PNG took strong ownership and integrated SDGs into national planning frameworks and introduced National Strategy for Responsible Sustainable Development (StaRS) and legislated National Responsible Planning and Monitoring Act in 2016. The VNR process have been driven through the proposed SDG-MTDP Governance Mechanism (national steering committee, inter-ministerial committee and multi-sectoral SDG Council and sectoral technical working groups).

Means of Implementation

The MTDP III is first of the three national delivery mechanisms of the SDGs. The National Development Budget is a significant tool to fund SDGs and MTDP III through the Capital Investment Programme. The Development Cooperation Policy 2018-2022 provides protocol for development partners to align to national priorities.

Multi-Sectoral Stakeholder Engagement

The meaningful partnerships between the government and Development Partners are evident in their active engagements in the localisation of SDGs and the development of MTDP III. The partnerships were through Development Cooperation Policy 2018-2022, Public-Private Partnership, CSO Partnership Policy, Open Government Partnership and through the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council.

A proposed SDG Multi Stakeholder Engagement Strategy focuses in improving Whole of Government institutional arrangement and Coordination and Society Wide Approaches to leave no one behind.

Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)

Disparities in income and access to basic services are hampered by rugged terrain and remote and isolated rural population, gender disparities amongst women and girls, vast youth population, and migration patterns. Often forgotten are the marginalised and most vulnerable groups of people.

For service delivery at the districts, wards and communities' levels, the National Government has put in place District Development Authority Act (2014) to manage the Service Improvement Programme to fund their own sector development priorities apart from health and education.

Challenges

Major challenges hampering the progress of SDG include; limited technical and financial capacities, lack of coordination, poor accountability and governance in development and LNOB. Specific challenges include:

COVID-19 also affected 2020 budget and revenue generation from the major drop in commodity prices and reduction of domestic business activities in PNG. As such significant policy and fiscal trade-offs were made on the limited available budget in its reprioritization to other critical, life-saving basic services with COVID-19 stimulus package of K4.4 Billion in funding preventative measures in PNG.

Innovative Financing for Development from Development Partners is yet to be explored from off shore creative financing sources for development financing then from both the domestic sources and from the traditional donor funding modalities.

The **data and evidence ecosystem** are being challenged to track the progress of SDG due to rugged topography, limited capacity throughout the country, lack of coordination and lack of funding. Recent success of Demographic and Health Survey and preparation of 2021 Census. The periodic reporting platform of SDG will improve good governance.

Peru

[Original: Spanish]

I. Introducción

Este documento sintetiza los asuntos principales sobre la formulación del Plan Estratégico de Desarrollo Nacional (PEDN) en el contexto de la emergencia COVID-19, como principal mecanismo para implementar

objetivos nacionales en el marco de las Políticas Nacionales, la Visión de largo plazo, la Política General de Gobierno y la Agenda 2030.

II. La formulación del Plan Estratégico de Desarrollo Nacional (PEDN), en condiciones adversas severas

El 2017 se informó la importancia de la formulación del Plan de Desarrollo Nacional de largo plazo en el marco del Sistema Nacional de Planeamiento Estratégico.

El 2018 se estableció un marco más exigente para las políticas nacionales incluyendo la definición de objetivos y su implementación.

En 2019 el Foro del Acuerdo Nacional, después de dos años, aprobó la Visión del Perú. Es el acuerdo sociedad - Estado por consenso.

La Visión y la política General de Gobierno (2018) incluyen las cinco esferas de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible: personas, planeta, prosperidad, paz y alianzas; y junto con las Políticas de Estado dan el marco para los objetivos de desarrollo específicos para el país.

El Plan de Desarrollo Nacional es la herramienta para la implementación de la Agenda 2030 e incluye planes de desarrollo, provinciales y departamentales, cuyo proceso de formulación está severamente afectado por el COVID-19.

III. Integración de políticas económicas, sociales, ambientales e institucionales desde lo local. El desafío de la diversidad.

La formulación del PEDN en condiciones normales integra procesos dialogados de políticas y planes desde el nivel local, pasando al distrital, al provincial, al departamental mediante planes de desarrollo concertados establecidos en la Constitución del Perú desde 2002. Desde el nivel distrital, se cuenta con mecanismos de participación que aún son débiles. Los planes en cada territorio incluyen lo privado y lo público en contextos locales complejos y diversos. La formulación se detuvo con la Emergencia Nacional por COVID 19.

Entre los avances en el marco de desarrollo sostenible se puede resaltar:

- (a) La aprobación de la universalización de la salud (2019). Perú enfrenta brechas en los servicios y en cobertura de atención básica.
- (b) El inicio de formulación de planes de desarrollo concertado en los 26 departamentos (2019) con orientaciones de largo plazo.
- (c) La aprobación formal e inicio de implementación de la Política General de Gobierno el 2018, con énfasis en mejora de políticas nacionales centradas en objetivos nacionales y el Plan de Desarrollo,

IV. Desafíos y próximos pasos

El principal desafío actual de la sociedad y el Estado peruano es evitar muertes y daños debido al COVID-19 y empezar a recuperar capacidad productiva en productos prioritarios enfocados en el bienestar de las personas en sus comunidades en realidades complejas con un enfoque preventivo.

Para ello, es necesario:

- (a) Lograr acuerdos inmediatos en las prioridades para enfrentar la emergencia y transitar a una nueva normalidad. Se iniciará la discusión para añadir a las políticas las actividades en condiciones adversas extremas (en la Política General de Gobierno al 2021 y las Políticas de Estado del Acuerdo Nacional). Se

está retomando ese trabajo de manera digital tomando en cuenta la situación extraordinaria nacional y mundial.

- (b) Focalizar actividades asociadas a condiciones y productos prioritarios para la población. Creciente atención merece la inocuidad, higiene y prevención en sectores como agricultura, pesca, forestal, ganadero, comercio, transportes y turismo. La prevención y el evitar daños son transversales para asegurar la vida de las personas hacia una nueva normalidad en actividades públicas y privadas, incluyendo progresivamente mejora continua de servicios y previsión social en los plazos más cortos posibles.
- (c) En los meses que quedan de 2020 las prioridades nacionales revisadas permitirán elaborar simplificada los planes de desarrollo en un mayor número de provincias posibles y utilizando, aún de manera virtual, mecanismos institucionales de participación nacional y local. La integración de ellos a nivel departamental dará lugar a 26, aún muy imperfectos, planes de desarrollo de los departamentos, que a su vez servirán de insumo para el PEDN en condiciones adversas severas e inciertas.
- (d) El Plan de desarrollo nacional permitirá acelerar la implementación de la Agenda 2030 teniendo al centro a las personas, hogares y comunidades e integra alrededor de sus vidas los objetivos de políticas económicas, sociales, ambientales e institucionales.

Republic of Moldova

[Original: English]

Republic of Moldova and the 2030 Agenda

The country is committed to implement the 2030 Agenda through combined efforts of key stakeholders to eliminate all forms of poverty, combat inequalities and tackle environmental and climate change, ensuring that *no one is left behind*.

Besides the focus on fulfilling the commitments under the Association Agreement with the EU, the country registered noteworthy progress since its commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda. **Significant progress was registered in achieving SDG 1, 8, 13 and 17, while the results obtained in achieving SDG 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 and 11 are moderate. Although efforts were undertaken to develop all the social areas, their impact on achieving the SDG 4, 6, 10, 12, 15 and 16 was to a lesser extent noticeable.**

Key Challenges

In its ambition to achieve SDGs, the country is facing a myriad of challenges.

People and their capabilities represent the main wealth of the country. But demographic decline is a key challenge. Emigration, especially of young and skilled people, low fertility issues, reduced life expectancy and an ageing population are cumulatively generating an annual decrease of population by over 1.7%.

Inequalities persist and the risks of food poverty and energy poverty are high. Prompt measures are necessary to ensure inclusion of the most vulnerable and reduce income and non-income inequalities.

The high **vulnerability of the health system** to global epidemics, for instance that of COVID-19 virus, has demonstrated the need for reform to ensure universal access to essential services, safe, qualitative and affordable medicines and vaccines.

The country's **dependence on external energy sources** point to the need of promoting energy efficiency and undertaking relevant measures, intensifying and diversifying (including industrially) the available resources of renewable energy, as this is an essential condition for the economy's sustainable development.

The reduced use of **innovation and research** in solving societal problems limits the competitiveness and the capacity of the state to respond to the multiple problems influencing negatively the sustainable development. Over the last years, only one fifth of all the enterprises have reported innovation activities.

The area of **environment protection** is faced with limited institutional capacities and insufficient financing from the national public budget, as the volume of financial resources annually allocated for this area is well below the existing challenges.

The implementation of SDGs is conditioned by the level of **financing**. Underfinancing in different social areas persists.

The peaceful settlement of the **Transnistrian conflict** is imperative. At present, this conflict remains a challenge to territorial integrity and impedes the implementation of systemic structural reforms across the entire territory of the country, which would ensure broad sustainable and inclusive development, assumed by the country. The Moldovan authorities are deeply committed to a peaceful, sustainable, and all-encompassing settlement of the conflict, while observing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova, within the limits of internationally recognized borders.

The **monitoring and evaluation system** of the SDGs implementation is impacted by the lack of data for about one fourth of the nationalized SDGs or insufficient disaggregated data for over 30% of the indicators.

Conclusions

The country is committed to accelerated achievement of the SDGs through the implementation of the Association Agreement with the EU, implicitly the 2030 Agenda. Mainstreaming of SDGs in the main strategic document of the country is an important step, but it is not enough. The SDGs' targets and indicators, especially measuring vulnerabilities, need to be encompassed in all policies, the efficient implementation of which would be secured by allocation of sufficient financial resources.

It is also essential to enhance the system for SDGs implementation monitoring and evaluation. The implementation of SDGs requires a joint effort, through the development of comprehensive and sustainable partnerships. It is important to ensure that all people participate in implementing the SDGs, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, religion, nationality, or financial situation.

Russian Federation

[Original: Russian]

Основные сообщения Российской Федерации

Российская Федерация привержена задачам, определенным международным сообществом в «Повестке-2030». На национальном уровне предпринимаем последовательные усилия по достижению Целей устойчивого развития (ЦУР). Работа в данном направлении стала прямым продолжением деятельности в рамках достижения Целей развития тысячелетия, а концепция устойчивого развития была сформулирована и интегрирована в концепцию национального развития России еще в 1996 году.

Российская Федерация является многонациональным социальным государством, в центре политики которого стоит человек, его права, свободы, благосостояние, качество жизни. Претворение данных принципов в жизнь основывается на устойчивом человеческом развитии через реализацию государственных и частных инициатив, направленных на развитие систем образования, здравоохранения, социального обеспечения, инфраструктуры (транспортной, цифровой, энергетической), экономики в целом и сохранение окружающей среды. Все указанные приоритеты соответствуют ЦУР и являются основой для международной деятельности России на соответствующих направлениях.

Реализация ЦУР в Российской Федерации осуществляется отраслевыми органами государственной власти в рамках национальной повестки развития на период до 2024 года. Эта работа ведется в русле 12 национальных проектов и комплексного плана модернизации и расширения магистральной инфраструктуры. Данными документами прямо или косвенно охвачены более 100 задач в рамках ЦУР.

Российская Федерация впервые представляет Добровольный национальный обзор (ДНО) о ходе осуществления Повестки-2030. Для его подготовки были созданы 17 тематических рабочих групп для каждой из 17 ЦУР, в состав которых вошли представители законодательной власти, федеральных и региональных органов исполнительной власти, органов муниципального самоуправления, Банка России, институтов развития, организаций гражданского общества, исследовательских организаций, а также бизнес-сообщества. Непосредственно в подготовке ДНО приняли участие более 200 экспертов и более 100 организаций. Проект Обзора, как и каждая отдельная глава, прошел через открытые публичные экспертные обсуждения.

Таким образом, в ходе подготовки ДНО удалось:

- добиться вовлечения широкого круга заинтересованных сторон в процесс подготовки и обсуждения документа;
- наладить диалог между представителями государства, общества, бизнеса и науки;
- изучить и учесть различные мнения по проблематике ЦУР, обеспечить широкий общественный интерес к реализации «Повестки-2030» и ЦУР;
- провести глубокий анализ соответствия национальных целей и задач «Повестке-2030» и ЦУР и оценить промежуточные результаты работы по их осуществлению.

Результаты проведенного анализа следующие:

- Россия успешно реализует политику развития человеческого потенциала в части охвата образованием всех уровней, здравоохранения, обеспечения занятости;
- в рамках принципа «никого не оставить позади» Россия фокусирует свои усилия на четырех аспектах: поддержка малообеспеченных слоев населения (экономический аспект), поддержка людей с ограниченными возможностями (социальный аспект), ликвидация пространственного неравенства между регионами (территориальный аспект) и поддержка коренных и малых народов (национальный аспект);
- Россия продолжает улучшать качество жизни граждан, в том числе путем развития социальной поддержки, транспортной инфраструктуры, городской среды, цифровизации государственных услуг, повышения доступности для населения финансовых услуг, возможностей трудоустройства, введения и реализации более совершенных экологических норм и стандартов;
- Россия добросовестно выполняет свои обязательства в области борьбы с глобальным изменением климата, внедряет современные стандарты экологической безопасности, работает над повышением энергоэффективности и сохранением биоразнообразия и уникального природного капитала;
- Россия активно участвует в международном сотрудничестве в области устойчивого развития, оказывает помощь странам, в том числе пострадавшим от чрезвычайных ситуаций, предпринимает шаги, направленные на укрепление многосторонних институтов развития, реализует проекты и инициативы по интеграции и сотрудничеству на евразийском пространстве и за его пределами.

Таким образом, долгосрочная политика развития России строится на основе баланса трех ключевых элементов устойчивого развития – экономического, социального и экологического, а также ориентирована на широкое партнерство в реализации задач развития.

По каждой из отдельных ЦУР Российская Федерация в последние годы показывала определенные позитивные результаты, среди наиболее успешных можно выделить ЦУР 1 «Ликвидация нищеты», ЦУР 4 «Качественное образование», ЦУР 8 «Достойная работа и экономический рост». В то же время целый ряд задач по отдельным направлениям еще предстоит решить совместными усилиями государства, бизнеса и общества.

Реализация Повестки-2030 не останавливается в нашей стране даже при чрезвычайных ситуациях. Так, в условиях пандемии коронавируса Россия активно работает над предотвращением распространения инфекции и оказанием помощи тем, кто нуждается в лечении и наблюдении-как внутри страны, так и за рубежом. Реализуется также комплекс мер по снижению негативных последствий для населения и бизнеса от ограничительных мер по борьбе с распространением вируса.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

[Original: English]

Introduction

St. Vincent and the Grenadines focuses its development plans on being a country that is diverse, modern, internationally competitive and committed to the social development of its people and environmental sustainability. The country's vision of "Improving the Quality of Life for All Vincentians" is built on the principle of putting people at the centre of its development and this is aligned with the SDGs and elaborated in the country's National Economic and Social Development Plan (2013-2025).

The country's vision is further elaborated through five interrelated development goals that place emphasis on ensuring a better quality of life for all through the re-engineering economic growth; enabling increased human and social development; promoting good governance and increasing the effectiveness of public administration; improving physical infrastructure, preserving the environment and building resilience to climate change; and building national pride, identity and culture.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Development Pathway in the Context of the SDGs

The commitment to the SDGs is operationalized through the National Economic and Social Development Plan, which aligns the country's development objectives with related global sustainable development goals and targets. This integration represents a first and critical step to localizing the SDGs. A Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) of the country's planning framework highlights that this Small Island Developing State currently has 62 per cent of all planning/policy documents aligned with the SDGs and accompanying targets.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' Governance and Institutional Framework for the Implementation of SDGs

The Government recognizes that an institutional mechanism is necessary to facilitate the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. Government ministries and agencies are responsible for the alignment of all policies and key programmes with the Agenda 2030 framework. These policies facilitate integrated assessment of the pace of the progress in realizing the SDGs, alongside local development objectives.

In regard to the 113 SDG targets that were found to be applicable to St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the Statistical Office was tasked with creating mechanisms for data mining of these indicators so that the monitoring and evaluation framework for SDG implementation can be completed to facilitate better tracking, reporting and analysis of progress.

The advancement of Agenda 2030 will be underpinned by extensive stakeholder consultations and involvement. Although political commitment to the SDGs is high, it is recognized that SDG implementation requires a holistic approach involving the public and private sector, NGOs, CSOs, the media and, importantly, the involvement of youth – as future leaders. A focus has therefore been placed on continuing to strengthen mechanisms to enhance participation of all stakeholders to achieving the SDGs.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' First Voluntary National Review

The VNR illustrates how national processes are shaping the advancement of the SDGs in the country as well as the challenges being faced – including financing gaps – in implementing these goals, how these challenges are being addressed, and how progress is being tracked towards achievement of the SDG targets. The preparation of the report, at the time of a global pandemic emphasizes how not only current known vulnerabilities but also new and emerging global issues can suddenly impact the development trajectory of countries, and further

highlights the challenges and opportunities that must be considered for the achievement of Agenda 2030. As a country with a strong ethos on inclusiveness, the VNR preparation required innovative solutions as the country battles issues related to mitigating mechanisms as a result of the covid 19 pandemic – heightening the role of technology in accomplishing these goals.

The concept of “leaving no one behind” fully resonates with the country’s development pathway as it targets issues related to reducing inequalities, eliminating all forms of poverty and empowering women and youth. While notable strides have been made, it is also recognised that there is much to be accomplished. Agenda 2030 provides a clear guide to enabling the advancement of development around the five principles of the Agenda (5Ps) – people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership. Prior to the adoption of Agenda 2030, St. Vincent and the Grenadines had already began a cohesive process of implementing measures to build a sustainable society through environmental, economic and social improvements underpinned by good governance and, despite challenges, the country remains fully committed to this task for the benefit of future generations.

Samoa

[Original: English]

An Improved Quality of Life For All

Samoa’s second VNR will assess progress on all SDGs with a focus on **People Goals** to tell our story. We have since the first report improved integration of SDGs into national processes for better data collection, M&E and linking to budget and planning processes, development assistance and other international obligations. Stakeholder engagement improved using existing platforms.

- Overall, Samoa has shown resilience to multiple and frequent natural hazards and disasters and external shocks from the Global Economic Crisis, the 2009 Tsunami, 2012 Cyclone Evan and 2018 Cyclone Gita. Despite steady economic growth with peak growth of 7.1% in 2015/2016 following the recovery from these disasters and external shocks; there was the increase of the basic needs poverty from 18.8% in 2013 to 22.7% in 2018 and declining economic growth mainly due to industry slowdown with the Yazaki Samoa manufacturing plant closure in August 2017. There was also a rise in unemployment rates from 8.7% in 2012 to 14.5% in 2017.
- Whilst resilience in terms of governance, coordinated response and recovery has strengthened, the recent tragic results of the Measles Epidemic in 2019 highlighted significant gaps in our health system; albeit the lessons learned have placed Samoa in a better state of preparedness towards national response to the COVID19 pandemic. Samoa as of May 1st 2020 remains COVID19 free. Steps taken to prevent the spread of measles and now COVID19 are impacting the economy with a decline in GDP per capita and expanding budget deficits due to decreasing visitor numbers and earnings from tourism for the first time since June 2018 quarter.
- Investing in human capital has always been at the top of the national agenda. So far, there are mixed results on the global maternal and child health targets but improved primary health care service access. High morbidity and mortality rates are reported from NCDs. Despite this, there is good progress in addressing the risk factors of NCDs with alcohol and tobacco use declining and levels of physical exercise and healthy eating increasing over the past 10 years. The recent Measles outbreak revealed gaps that are being addressed with a thorough review of the vaccinations and health information management systems.
- Universal access to education especially in primary and secondary levels are positive, with the assistance of the School Fee Grants Scheme. Challenges remain with declining literacy and numeracy rates, poor results in Science and Maths and very poor quality results for boys. Responding to the school closures from the State of Emergencies for the Measles Epidemic and Covid19 Pandemic, the Education system has innovated and are delivering school lessons online and the use of e-learning materials.
- Gender equality and empowerment is key in Samoa’s national development approach. While there is overall positive progress in the participation of women in decision making at all levels, there is high prevalence of gender-based violence and domestic violence.

- There is near universal access of the population to essential services such as safe drinking water, sanitation and electricity services. Efforts for digital transformation are resulting in increased access to mobile technology and internet and enabling such services as financial inclusion. The challenge is to maintain and improve the quality of water and sanitation, ensure affordable ICT and more clean energy consumption.
- Samoa continues to invest in climate resilient infrastructure and ensures the integration of climate change across all sectors. Forest cover remains stable, however, there have been no major improvements in the status of threatened species for Samoa.
- There are established institutions and mechanisms to enhance a ‘human rights-based approach to development and to link implementation and review of human rights obligations with SDGs.
- The reports on means of implementation have been positive. Despite progress in many areas there remains key gaps. With the current COVID19 situation, sustainability of any gains are now in question.

Key take-aways include the importance of strong and decisive leadership, systems and capacities; constructive partnerships at all levels; use of country systems; effective management of significant amounts of national data and reports supported by data analysis capabilities.

Challenges highlighted are the limited capacity including for implementation, data analysis and management at all levels; uncoordinated partner SDG support efforts; increased vulnerability to external shocks, disasters and emerging threats including health crises.

“Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”

Seychelles

[Original: English]

A resilient, responsible and prosperous nation of healthy, educated and empowered Seychellois living together in harmony with nature and engaged with the wider world. The vision of a nation celebrating its 250 years.

Seychelles remains committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for it changes the way we perceive development and forces us to move beyond measuring progress purely in economic terms. The country’s first voluntary national review covers all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

Sustainable Development Goals in the National Strategic Planning Framework

For Seychelles, the VNR process immediately followed the launching its Vision 2033 and National Development Strategy (NDS) 2019 – 2023. Developed by means of broad public consultations the two national documents stipulates the medium to long-term pathway to sustainable development for the country based on the national priorities. It also allowed for the mapping of the SDG’s onto the six thematic pillars thus ensuring that the enabling environment which is imperative for implementation is provided for.

Leaving No one behind

The preamble of the Constitution of Seychelles, states that Seychelles will “develop a democratic system which will ensure the creation of an adequate and progressive social order guaranteeing food, clothing, shelter, education, health and a steadily rising standard of living for all Seychellois”. It is against this background that the sustainable development goals are being implemented.

Seychelles has in place an extensive social protection system, which makes provision both in the form of cash transfers and in-kind assistance. These include a universal retirement pension for citizens aged 63 years and above and statutory disability benefits (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 10) amongst others.

With an Exclusive Economic Zone of 1.4 million km² Seychelles has embraced the Blue Economy concept, which adopts an integrated approach to ocean-based sustainable development. In October 2018, Seychelles launched the World's First Sovereign Blue Bond aimed at mobilizing resources for empowering local communities and businesses, in transitioning to sustainable fisheries and safeguarding our oceans while the blue economy is sustainably developed. (SDG 8,12,13,14).

Seychelles is currently ranked 43rd in the world human capital index and is also the only country in the African region and the Indian Ocean to have attained the Very High Development Index category in 2019. This is testimony of the continued investment in health and education and a people centred development model. The country boasts a 10 year free and compulsory education and free primary health care system (SDG 3,4).

As a small island state we remain committed towards environment sustainability and resilience (SDG 13,14). In the face of growing threats such as coastal erosion, flooding due to climate change, the Government is adopting an integrated approach by placing more emphasis on the various adaptation strategies and has recently launched its coastal management plan. The Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) is another significant commitment and Seychelles has in March 2020 legally designated 30 percent of its territorial waters as marine protected areas 10 years ahead of international targets.

Partnerships

The Sustainable Development Goals is interrelated and cannot be achieved by Government alone which is why the partnership domestically with the private sector and civil society is of utmost importance.

Global partnership equally has an important role to play with synergies across the broader global agenda such as Agenda 2063 and SAMOA pathway. Some of our greater successes have been in instances where we have joined forces.

Challenges

Being a small island states and given its geographical locations Seychelles remains highly vulnerable to external factors. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought to fore the risk that a health outbreak can have on an economy like ours highly dependent on tourism and whereby we import most of what we consume. The effects of climate change have been further exacerbated with recent events of coastal erosions. Other key challenges to address are: increasing financial resources mobilization, the strengthening of the national statistical system and an ageing population which cannot be ignored. There is also a lack of awareness on SDG's which can further impede implementation.

Conclusion

The VNR review process has allowed us to take stock on how sustainable our policies are. What are the gaps and what can we do better. In this decade of action more than ever we recognise that there is no room for complacency and COVID-19 has further highlighted that.

As we all rebuild our economies we must build back better -'Towards a Sustainable and Inclusive Future'.

Slovenia

[Original: English]

Slovenia recognizes the importance of sustainable development both locally and globally and reaffirms its commitment to deliver on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2017, Slovenia adopted Slovenian Development Strategy 2030. With the overarching objective of ensuring 'a high quality of life for

all”, the document builds around five strategic orientations and 12 interlinked development goals and incorporates into this framework the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Strategy strives to balance economic, societal and environmental development.

Slovenia’s commitment to balanced and fair development across the globe is reflected through its contribution to development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Slovenia shares global responsibility for eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and achieving the SDGs. National Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid Strategy by 2030 puts two cross-cutting themes at the heart of Slovenia's action: environmental protection and gender equality.

In 2018, Slovenia committed itself to conducting the second voluntary national review in 2020 and reporting on the progress towards SDGs. An all-inclusive process bringing together government departments, public institutions, NGOs, academic institutions, private sector, youth organizations and local stakeholders kicked off. Majority of vulnerable groups were included in the report development. A series of regional consultations and thematic workshops helped stakeholders identify Slovenia's challenges and best practices in achieving SDGs at the national and regional level.

At risk of poverty and social exclusion rates have seen a steady, persistent drop as many integration and social activation programs are provided to vulnerable groups. Besides supporting disease prevention programs, Slovenia advocates health promotion, raising awareness about health risk factors such as lifestyle choices and diet. This contributes to improved health outcomes for alcohol use, unhealthy eating habits and communicable diseases. Mental health programs are among key priorities of public health due to high suicide and self-harm rates. Educational institutions record high participation rate and extremely low early school leaving rate. According to PISA, Slovenia ranks as a high-performing education system. Nevertheless, gaps still exist between knowledge and skills, particularly in people with low education and older citizens who participate less often in lifelong learning.

Between 2017 and 2020, Slovenia recorded stable economic growth coupled with steady reduction in long-term unemployment and involuntary temporary employment. Quality of life of all citizens and stable economic development depend on how well the labor market mechanisms are adjusted to the demographic change. Helping youth find quality jobs early and adopting strategic migration policies are essential in this context. Slovenia needs to improve its flexicurity systems to increase employment levels, reduce labor market segmentation and optimize workforce allocation. It is important that catching up with most advanced economies takes place in a sustainable and steady manner. Slovenia recognizes that shift to low-carbon economy is key but acknowledges that the latter is a systemic challenge requiring well-thought-out action. Transition to circular economy will ride on RDI, which can open up countless opportunities in industry, infrastructure, mobility etc. Digitalization and available technological solutions will help accelerate the shift to circular economy.

Slovenia prides itself on abundant water resources providing clean and safe water. In 2017, groundwater provided drinking water for most of Slovenian population. The right to drinking water was enshrined in the Slovenian Constitution in 2016. In the sector of clean and available energy, Slovenian Government adopted the National Energy and Climate Plan 2030 which paves the way towards climate neutrality by 2050. A set of carefully planned measures ensures balance between the three pillars of energy policy: sustainability, security of supply and competitiveness. Slovenia must take more action in the transport sector to reach the national emission reduction targets. Green procurement, which aims to promote local and organic food production, is another crucial mechanism underlying the shift to climate neutrality. Slovenia has put in place measures to preserve sustainable farming practices and family farms, to protect and promote traditional cuisine, to foster sustainable forest management and to preserve farmed landscape.

Amid COVID-19 pandemic, Slovenia is facing challenges that call for a coordinated action of all stakeholders in healthcare, economy, social care and humanitarian protection. Well-thought-out measures will mitigate the socio-economic impact of the crisis, ensuring that it does not disproportionately affect the most vulnerable population groups.

Solomon Islands

[Original: English]

The National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016 – 2035 is the blueprint for sustainable development in Solomon Islands. It sets out the vision and priorities for advancing human and economic development, ensuring peace and security and the protection of the natural environment. Relevant elements of the 2030 Development Agenda, the SAMOA Pathway, the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries and other relevant international and regional frameworks have been integrated into the NDS, through the five long-term objectives of: inclusive economic growth; poverty reduction; access to quality health and education; resilient and environmentally sustainable development; and effective governance. The NDS 2016-2035 sets the targets and benchmarks for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) at the national level.

The NDS preparations, and localisation of the SDG's, have been a consultative and inclusive effort. Similarly, the VNR process captures broad stakeholder views, facilitated through a dedicated national Coordinating Committee. The VNR provides an opportunity to share Solomon Island's national development priorities and related SDG implementation progress.

The Solomon Islands is the third largest archipelago in the South Pacific, comprising a total of 997 islands spread over an exclusive economic zone of 1,340,000km². The population is 639,157 and predominantly rural. There is also a very large informal sector. The level of biodiversity in the Solomon Islands is globally recognised. While such complexity and diversity provide opportunities, they also pose significant challenges in our efforts to achieve the SDGs.

Implementing the 2030 Development Agenda and the SDG's

Solomon Islands has promoted economic growth through investments in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism and mining sectors. The Government, with development partners, has provided technical and financial support to programmes aimed at achieving sustained growth and employment.

Ensuring access to basic education and improving the quality of education remain important priorities for Solomon Islands. The Government has implemented free education, and other targeted policy measures which have increased primary and secondary school enrolment rates, and improved gender parity with more girls starting, and remaining, in school. Solomon Islands continues to maintain high levels of proficiency in literacy and numeracy, scoring higher than the regional proficiency levels for years four and six.

Solomon Islands has made impressive gains in health outcomes over the last two decades and is progressing towards achieving universal health coverage. Current priorities include: detection and treatment of non-communicable diseases; addressing shortages of health workers; and increasing the availability of treatment facilities across all health centres. While there is no discrimination in access to basic health care, disparities remain, largely owing to population spread over a difficult terrain. The COVID-19 pandemic underscores the threat of infectious diseases, given limited containment capacity and adverse impact. Solomon Islanders remain vulnerable to health risks due to natural disasters, as well as, malaria, tuberculosis, dengue fever and measles outbreaks.

Human rights, gender issues, peace building and security concerns remain policy priorities, which are being addressed. Reducing domestic violence remains a challenge, and mechanisms have been established to help affected women and children. Employment opportunities for women in senior management roles have improved, although more progress is needed.

Solomon Islands remains vulnerable to climate change and natural disasters. Policy frameworks such as the National Climate Change Policy, Nationally Determined Contributions and the National Disaster Management Plan underpin measures currently in place. The effective implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures is dependent on timely availability of financial and technical resources.

Principles of good governance and transparency remain important national priorities. The Government has recently passed the Whistle-blowers Act, Anti-Corruption Act and has established an Independent Anti-Corruption Commission. Ongoing good governance programmes at national, provincial and community levels aim to empower civil society, address corruption and strengthen the judicial system and law enforcement capacity.

Moving Ahead

A major challenge in achieving the SDG's lies in institutional capacity and effectiveness to manage the rapidly changing development context, including through population growth, socio-cultural and environmental change and global economic systems. A deeper integration of legislation, policies, plans, budgets and activities for transformative change is necessary. Underpinning a sustainable pathway for Solomon Islands requires unlocking the needed means of implementation, and ensuring durable and genuine partnerships to enable the full and effective implementation of the SDG's.

Syrian Arab Republic

[Original: Arabic]

من إيمانها بأهمية التعاون الدولي المتعدد الأطراف للارتقاء بالتنمية وتحقيق الرفاه، والتزامها بالإجماع الدولي بخصوص هذه الأهداف، إضافة إلى قناعتها بأن العالم بحاجة إلى خطة عمل شاملة للقضاء على الفقر وضمان التنمية المستدامة بصورة متكاملة ومتوازنة. ولأن هذه الأجندة تنطبق على جميع البلدان، وتأخذ في الحسبان "الحقائق والقدرات ومستويات التنمية الوطنية المختلفة واحترام السياسات والأولويات الوطنية".

لقد حققت بلادنا خلال الألفية الماضية معدلات نمو اقتصادي جيدة ومستقرة، ونفذت خططاً طموحة للإصلاح تتماشى مع الإمكانيات المتاحة في جميع المجالات. وانخفض نسبياً اعتماد الاقتصاد على قطاع النفط، في مقابل تحسن في تركيبه الهيكلي، وفي مساهمة العوامل النوعية في النمو. وحُقق كذلك نجاحات كبيرة في التنمية الإنسانية، وخاصةً المتصلة بالصحة والتعليم وخدمات الإسكان وتمكين المرأة؛ وهذا ما جعل سورية من الدول التي صنفت سابقاً بأنها تسير على الطريق الصحيح لتحقيق أهداف التنمية الألفية.

غير أن هذا الوضع تغير جذرياً بعد 2011، حين اندلعت حرب مركبة دمرت جزءاً كبيراً من مقدراتنا، إضافة إلى تسببها بنزوح أو تهجير أو لجوء أعداد كبيرة من السوريين. وقد ساهمت في اندلاع هذه الحرب عوامل مختلفة، أهمها الإرهاب والتدخلات العسكرية الخارجية التي انخرطت فيها دول فاعلة في القرار الدولي وفي التأثير على المنظمات الأممية والدولية. هذه التدخلات المخالفة للقانون الدولي، إضافة إلى التدابير القسرية الاقتصادية الأحادية الجانب المفروضة على بلادنا، تتسبب اليوم في إطالة أمد الحرب وما يرتبط بها من أزمات، وفي موجات نزوح ولجوء جديدة؛ بل إن بعض ما يحصل يرقى إلى مصاف الابتزاز والضغط السياسي والمالي الدولي، الذي تمارسه بعض الدول في عملية اتجار بالبشر واستغلال اللاجئين السوريين، بعدة وسائل بما في ذلك، استخدامهم كوسيلة للحصول على منافع من دول أخرى.

استمرار هذا الوضع هو انتهاك للقانون الدولي ومبادئ ومقاصد الأمم المتحدة، وانتهاك لحق الشعوب في التنمية، سواء أكان الحق في السيادة، أم الحق في اختيار مسارات التنمية، والسيادة على الموارد التي هي شرط أساسي لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة.

لقد سعت الجمهورية السورية دوماً لأن تكون عضواً فاعلاً في الجماعة الدولية، ملتزماً بالقانون الدولي، اقتناعاً منها بأن الشراكة الدولية لأجل التنمية والسلم هي الطريق لرفاه البشرية. غير إننا لا نشعر أن سعينا للشراكة يلاقي الاستجابة المطلوبة من أطراف كثيرة قوية في المنظومة الدولية، لا بل نقابل بالتدخل العسكري والحصار السياسي والاقتصادي، وتعطيل جهود إعادة الإعمار. إن شعار خطة التنمية المستدامة لعام 2030 بـ"ألا يتخلف أحد عن الركب"، يعني الإقلاع عن استبعاد دول بكاملها من مسار التنمية، هو ما نعاني منه في سورية، بسبب الحصار الذي يضر بشعبنا وبجهود التنمية لدينا.

وهذه رسائلنا الموجهة إلى المجتمع الدولي، وإلى أنفسنا، لتحقيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة 2030، وتحقيق مبدأ "ألا يتخلف أحد عن الركب":

- 1- تحقيق السلم والأمان في بلدنا، مع بذل الجهود لإيقاف أعمال العدوان والإرهاب والانتهاكات الجسيمة للقانون الدولي ولسيادة سورية، بغية التوصل إلى حل سياسي يستند إلى الإرادة الوطنية، ويحاصر الإرهاب، ويحقق المصالحة الوطنية، ويعيد اللاجئين والنازحين، ويضمن الأمن والاستقرار.
- 2- إدانة التدابير القسرية الاقتصادية الأحادية الجانب المخالفة لميثاق الأمم المتحدة والقانون الدولي، التي تنتهك الحق في التنمية، وتعيق تحسين مستوى المعيشة، والمطالبة بإنهاءها؛ مع تمكين السلطات الشرعية من السيادة على الموارد الطبيعية المؤثرة في إطلاق عجلة الاقتصاد وإعادة الإعمار.
- 3- وقف حرمان سورية من عضويتها في المنظمات الدولية والإقليمية، وتجميد أصولها، ومنع المؤسسات السورية، من القيام بدورها في توفير مستلزمات عيش المواطنين.
- 4- تقديم مساعدة دولية، كافية وغير مشروطة، بغية إعادة الإعمار، وبناء الاقتصاد السوري على أسس مستدامة، والاندماج في الاقتصاد العالمي.
- 5- تتعهد الحكومة السورية بوضع السياسات الوطنية المتكاملة لإطلاق عجلة التنمية، انطلاقاً من تنفيذ الخطة التنموية لسورية في ما بعد الحرب، وهي الترجمة الوطنية لأهداف التنمية المستدامة.
- 6- توسيع ومأسسة قاعدة المشاركة في تنفيذ الخطط التنموية، ولاسيما مع القطاع الخاص والوسط الأكاديمي والمجتمع الأهلي والإعلام، إضافة إلى تعزيز التعاون مع منظومة الأمم المتحدة في سورية، والمنظمات الدولية والإقليمية الأخرى؛ وذلك لضمان الاستخدام الأمثل للموارد.
- 7- التزام الحكومة السورية بوضع الآليات التي تكفل تنفيذ الأنشطة التي تضمن مشاركة مختلف مكونات الشعب السوري، على امتداد الأراضي السورية، في تحقيق أهداف التنمية.
- 8- تطّلع الحكومة السورية لإقامة شراكة دولية عادلة، والتزامها بالقانون الدولي ومبادئ حقوق الإنسان والعدالة والمساواة، وسعيها لتحقيق التنمية التي لا تغفل أحداً؛ ودعوة جميع أطراف الدولية والإقليمية لأن يكونوا شركائنا في تحقيق ذلك.
- 9- مطالبة حكومات بعض الدول بالعدول عن سياسة فرض "اللاءات" على رفع التدابير القسرية الاقتصادية أحادية الجانب، والتطبيع مع الحكومة السورية، ودعم جهودها التنموية، بغية تعزيز البيئة المناسبة وتوفير الخدمات الأساسية اللازمة لعودة اللاجئين والمهجرين بأمان وكرامة.
- 10- ضمان مشاركة فاعلة للدول النامية في إدارة المؤسسات الاقتصادية العالمية، وبخاصة البنك الدولي وصندوق النقد الدولي، التزاماً بالهدف العاشر من أهداف التنمية المستدامة لعام 2030.

Trinidad and Tobago

[Original: XXXX]

Uganda

[Original: English]

Uganda's development journey has been guided by a deliberate and well-planned effort to transform it from a peasant to a modern, industrial and prosperous society. Since adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development in 2015, Uganda has been steadfast in its efforts to realise the aspirations of her people. Since 2018, the economy registered strong recovery and was projected to grow at 6.0 percent in 2019/20, before the COVID 19 outbreak. Income per capita increased from USD 833 in 2016/17 to USD 891 in 2018/19, and Ugandans are living longer with an average life expectancy of 63.7 years. Gains have been registered in the education sector as manifested in improved literacy levels and increased enrollment at all levels.

Government recognises the need for high-quality and inclusive development planning to consolidate gains and advance achievement SDGs. The 3rd National Development Plan (2020/21-2024/25) underwent a wide consultative process and will be a vehicle for accelerating SDGs and Vision 2040. Using integrated SDG modeling approaches, the Government has fully mainstreamed the SDGs, identifying key accelerators based on their relative return on investment. In addition, Sectoral and Local Government plans and policies will also be enhanced to address inclusiveness, a key principle of the 2030 Agenda.

The Government has continued to strengthen institutional coordination for SDGs implementation. As part of efforts to operationalise the national SDG Coordination Framework, the President appointed the Minister in charge of General Duties in the Office of the Prime Minister as Cabinet Focal Point Minister in charge of SDGs. A fully-fledged national SDG Secretariat has been established to support the SDG Coordination architecture to ensure that Uganda stays on track in implementing the SDGs. While Government is enhancing statistical capacity to monitor and report progress, it is also building strong institutions at subnational level to accelerate the implementation of SDGs through localisation and voluntary local reviews.

To strengthen efficient development planning, resource utilisation, and enhance cross-sectoral synergies, Programme Based Budgeting (PBB) was adopted during NDPII and advanced further in NDPIII. Uganda has developed a comprehensive Public Finance Management (PFM) Reform Strategy (2018-2023) that acknowledges several financial management challenges and presents recommendations to address them. A Domestic Revenue Mobilization Strategy (2019/20-2023/24) was completed and efforts are under way to prepare an Integrated National Financing Framework in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda--this will boost innovative mobilization and utilization of resources.

As Uganda advances the implementation of its plans, it is committed to ensure no one is left behind. Government has put in place laws and policies to support inclusion of vulnerable persons. For instance, the PFM Act (2017) ensures gender and equity responsive budgeting. The Government increased funding to livelihood and special grants for youth and women. The Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment program has improved social security and reduced vulnerabilities for older persons aged 65 years. Uganda continues to support over 1.4 million refugees through a globally acclaimed programme Refugee model.

As the Government fast-tracks progress on the 2030 Agenda, it has embraced the global wave of digital transformation which presents significant opportunities. This is through strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation as well as the National Information Technology Authority to minimize possible exclusions that could be posed to some population segments with limited capacity to embrace it. Whereas the 2030 Agenda is strongly anchored on environmental integrity and sustainability, there are increasing effects of climate change reducing Uganda's natural capital. Therefore, the NDPIII sets out ambitious climate actions through the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted Uganda's progress in some sectors but has also given impetus to the country's industrialization drive. As a result, growth projections are down to 3.9 percent for fiscal year 2019/20. The toll that the pandemic has had on jobs, hitherto promising sectors could significantly impact on efforts to reduce poverty, vulnerability, and inequality. However, it has awakened the discourse on how Uganda build its systems to generate the required resilience to withstand such shocks.

Moving forward, the Government will sustain and strengthen collaboration with all actors and commits to the regional integration agenda as a means of accelerating efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Ukraine

[Original: Russian]

Политическая приверженность, институциональная готовность

Украина подтверждает приверженность ценностям и целям, определенным в Повестке дня в области устойчивого развития на период до 2030 года. С 2015 года в Украине реализуются реформы, направленные на осуществление социально-экономических и демократических преобразований. Цели устойчивого развития (ЦУР) интегрированы в государственную политику на принципах «никого не оставить в стороне».

ЦУР в Украине

Результатом инклюзивного процесса адаптации ЦУР для Украины с учетом специфики национального развития стала система ЦУР, состоящая из 86 заданий с 183 показателями для мониторинга. По инициативе Минэкономики Правительством была создана Межведомственная рабочая группа по вопросам ЦУР для координации работы по достижению целей. Ответственность за ЦУР была распределена между соответствующими министерствами в разрезе заданий, Президент Украины принял Указ, которым закрепил ЦУР как ориентир для разработки прогнозных и программных документов, разработана система мониторинга, осуществлен анализ степени инкорпорации ЦУР в действующие государственные стратегии и программы (охвачено 162 нормативно-правовых акта и 4,3 тыс. мероприятий). В марте 2020 года новый Кабинет Министров принял собственную политическую программу, которой подтвердил приверженность ЦУР.

ЦУР: календарь событий

2016: адаптация ЦУР;

2017: установление национальных заданий ЦУР (86) с целевыми ориентирами и национальными показателями ЦУР (183);

2017: первый базовый национальный доклад «ЦУР. Украина»;

2018: введение ежегодного мониторинга ЦУР;

2019: первый мониторинговый отчет по ЦУР (статистические данные), тематический отчет «ЦУР для детей» и национальный доклад «ЦУР8».

Прогресс по ЦУР: достижения и вызовы

По итогам 2019 года Украина в целом достигла прогресса по 15-ти из 17-ти целей. Основным достижением является сокращение масштабов бедности: с 58,3% в 2015 г. до 43,2% в 2018 г. Заметный прогресс был достигнут благодаря повышению стандартов оплаты труда и увеличению уровня охвата населения жилищной субсидией (с 12% в 2014 г. до 64% в 2017 г.). Украина внедряет концепцию образовательной реформы «Новая Украинская школа» и присоединилась к международному исследованию качества образования PISA-2018. С 2019 г. в Украине введен розничный рынок электрической энергии и полномасштабный рынок электрической энергии. Вследствие улучшения условий для развития малого и среднего бизнеса за 2016-2019 гг. в 2,5 раза увеличилось положительное сальдо внешней торговли ИКТ услугами, внедрила высокоскоростной интернет 4G. С 2015 года в Украине создано 1029 объединенных территориальных общин, в 41,5 раза выросла государственная поддержка местного и регионального развития. Основными препятствиями на пути развития остаются: продолжающаяся вооруженная агрессия, изношенность инфраструктуры, неэффективность государственного управления, недостаточное ресурсное обеспечение и финансирование. Также новые вызовы, появившиеся в связи с пандемией COVID-19, усложняют ситуацию. В рамках ответа на эти вызовы была подчеркнута необходимость: обновления реформирования системы здравоохранения, усиления координации и профессионализации власти, восстановления полного цикла производства отдельных товаров (химическая, фармацевтическая промышленности), реформирования системы социальной помощи, модернизации социальной защиты наиболее уязвимых групп населения, прежде всего детей, в сочетании с интегрированными социальными услугами, цифровизации процессов администрирования, внедрения дистанционного образования.

Видение трансформационных процессов в Украине в течение следующего десятилетия

Экономическое измерение: предполагается стимулирование развития науки и внедрение инноваций, развитие циркулярной экономики; реализация инфраструктурных проектов; быстрый рост производительности аграрно-промышленного комплекса; содействие развитию предпринимательской

деятельности; цифровизация экономики и создание новых достойных рабочих мест с учетом структурных изменений.

Социальное измерение: последовательные действия в рамках реформ (реформы образования, системы здравоохранения и децентрализации) должны повысить уровень жизни населения и уменьшить неравенство во всех его проявлениях. Первоочередной задачей является уменьшение многомерной бедности.

Экологическое измерение: предусматривается изменения в экологической политике, обновление обращения с отходами, прекращение нерационального использования земельных, лесных и водных ресурсов.

Эффективное управление: усилия будут направлены на установление верховенства права, повышение эффективности действий органов государственной власти и местного самоуправления. Для Украины важно обеспечить соблюдение прав человека, прав детей и обеспечение гендерного равенства.

Проблемы, решение которых требует поддержки

Попытка аннексии Крыма и вооруженная агрессия на востоке страны, которая началась в 2014 году, являются угрозой миру, безопасности и сотрудничеству в Восточной Европе. Активные боевые действия привели к значительным человеческим (более 13 тыс. человек) и экономическим потерям, вызвали широкомасштабное внутреннее перемещение (около 1,4 млн. человек). Деструктивные последствия от вооруженной агрессии остаются критичными. Решение связанных с конфликтом проблем путем политического урегулирования и реинтеграции части временно оккупированной территории Украины станет значительным вкладом в достижение целей.

Выводы

Залогом успешного достижения целей в течение декады может быть только последовательная реализация и мониторинг ЦУР-ориентированной политики и ЦУР-финансирование. Наш приоритет – достижение ЦУР путем приближения стандартов жизни людей к среднеевропейскому уровню. От этого зависит благополучие как всей страны в целом, так и каждой семьи, каждого человека, каждого ребенка.

Uzbekistan

[Original: English]

In 2015, the Government of Uzbekistan committed to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2018, 16 national Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 125 corresponding targets were adopted. Simultaneously, an inter-agency Coordination Council for implementing the national SDG Roadmap was established. A web-portal was launched with data on about 100 indicators (at <http://nsdg.stat.uz>) and work is underway to establish data collection on the remaining 100 indicators.

The bicameral Parliamentary Commission on SDGs, civil society, youth and leading national NGOs are actively involved in SDGs promotion and implementation, including the preparation of this first VNR.

The implementation of the SDGs in Uzbekistan coincided with large-scale reforms in the framework of the national Action Strategy for 2017-2021. This strategy and its five priority areas have been confirmed as a pathway to achieving the SDGs. Work is underway to integrate the SDGs into national and regional development strategies and programs, including the Concept of Comprehensive Socio-economic Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030. The government is assessing the results of the reforms through monitoring 23 global ratings (indexes), including the global SDG Index, where Uzbekistan is currently ranked 52nd.

The country's long-term objective is to become a high middle-income country by 2030, therein doubling per capita income, as well as reducing poverty and inequality (SDG1 and SDG10). To achieve this, Uzbekistan is implementing structural reforms to strengthen the market economy, alongside currency and tax reforms, and systemic agricultural reforms (SDG2). A range of measures have been taken to improve the business climate,

stimulate entrepreneurship and formal employment, including among youth and women (SDG5 and SDG8), as well as to attract investment and promote innovation (SDG9). Current challenges include ensuring sustainable employment for youth and women, as well as improving the effectiveness of the social protection system.

In healthcare (SDG3), measures are being taken to improve the quality and accessibility of services through improving the financing and insurance system, stimulating private investment, improving the training and professional development of medical personnel, as well as developing medical science and the widespread introduction of e-health. Current priorities in the field of education (SDG4) include improving the quality and coverage of education at all levels, as well as encouraging increasing public and private investments.

The reforms in Uzbekistan are guided by one principle: “Human Interests Are Above All,” which is closely aligned with the fundamental principle of Agenda 2030, “Leaving No-one Behind.” Since the adoption of the SDGs, Uzbekistan has made significant progress in improving the protection of human rights and strengthening rule of law. The country has established a system of People’s Receptions of the President, administrative reform is ongoing, e-government is being improved, and reforms are being implemented to ensure the independence of the media and bloggers as well as to enhance the role of civil society.

The country has also prioritized strengthening the role and protecting the rights of women. Recently, laws have been adopted on gender equality and the protection of women from violence, the proportion of women in parliament has doubled (up to 32%), and women have been promoted to leadership positions at all levels of state and local authorities (SDGs 5 and 16).

Uzbekistan pursues a foreign policy of openness, cooperation, and peace. In recent years, the country has opened borders and is deepening cooperation with the Central Asian countries in the areas of rational use of trans-boundary resources and trade. Collaboration with UN agencies and international financial institutions (SDG17) is being strengthened. Following the liberalization of the visa regime, the annual tourist arrivals exceeded 6.7 million people in 2019 (compared to 2.5 million in 2017).

In environment area, Uzbekistan prioritizes mitigation and adaptation to climate change (including under the Paris Agreement) with a special focus on the Aral Sea region, conservation and the efficient use of water, land and energy resources, as well as biodiversity conservation (SDG 13, 14 and 15).

The COVID-19 pandemic threatens to slow down Uzbekistan’s progress on the SDGs. The Government is taking decisive measures to curb the spread of the pandemic and mitigate its socio-economic consequences. An Anti-Crisis Program has been adopted along with a US\$1bln Fund to support businesses and employment, and to expand social assistance to the vulnerable.

Zambia

[Original: English]

The Government of the Republic of Zambia is strongly committed to the implementation of the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The country’s first Voluntary National Review (VNR) underscores this commitment. Integrating the SDGs into the National Planning Framework and putting in place strong coordination and reporting mechanisms, further demonstrate the country’s resolve to anchoring its development trajectory on the 2030 Agenda.

This VNR is an outcome of participatory and inclusive consultations based on a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches.

Achievements

- **Integration of the SDG into the National Development Planning Framework:** Zambia’s current National Development Plan (7NDP) has embraced an integrated multisectoral approach. The country has domesticated the SDGs, the AU Agenda 2063, among others, into its 7NDP. The 7NDP has mainstreamed 86% of SDGs goals and targets. Consequently, implementation and reporting on SDGs are coordinated through the institutional structures at national and sub-national levels using the Cluster

approach. This approach has fostered doing more with less and has strengthened synergies and partnerships resulting into multi-sectoral responses to development challenges whose achievements include:

- **Reducing Poverty and Vulnerability:** The Government has been providing half of households in extreme poverty by expanding Social Cash Transfers (SCTs) programme from 38 districts in 2014 to all the 116 districts in 2019. Households not covered under the SCT programme, are being supported through other social protection programmes which include, support to vulnerable farmers, women, girls and school children. The integrated nature of the response coupled with enhanced coordination has contributed to the reduction in multi-dimensional poverty index from 50% in 2016 to 44% in 2019.
- **Creating a Conducive Environment for Sustainable Economic Growth:** Zambia being a landlocked country, connectivity within and to its 8 neighbouring countries is essential to facilitate trade and access to markets, promote tourism and improve service delivery. To this end, the Government has significantly invested in infrastructure, including roads, airports, energy, health and education facilities, thus creating a conducive environment for sustainable development.
- **Environment and climate change:** In line with the Paris Agreement, Zambia has pledged to reduce its emissions by 38,000 Gg CO₂ eq by 2030. So far, cumulative emissions reduced by 39% (14,846.9 Gg CO₂ eq) between 2015 to 2019. Zambia is promoting sustainable initiatives such as renewable energy which has seen the country diversify its energy mix from 99% reliance on hydro power production in 2011 to 80.6% in 2019. Solar energy currently accounts for about 90MW (3% of the total energy). Climate smart agriculture, water harvesting techniques and green infrastructure, are part of the climate change adaptation interventions being promoted. Zambia, however, is seeking strategic partnerships in accelerating its adaptation agenda.
- **Human Development:** human capital is key to responding to development challenges of the 21st century especially gender equality, health, new technology, innovations and skills development. Noticeable achievements include:
 - An enabling legislation to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and girls providing for gender equity and equality in all spheres of life has been enacted;
 - Maternal mortality ratio declined from 398 per 100,000 live births in 2014 to 252 in 2018. Child Mortality Rate (CMR) declined from 31 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2014 to 19 deaths in 2018. Immunization coverage increased from 68% in 2014 to 75 % in 2018; and
 - In 2018, completion rate for primary education stood at 97.3%, while at junior and senior secondary stood at 87.7% and 36%, respectively.

Challenges and areas of support

- Data limitations continue to be a huge constraint on SDG monitoring and evidence-based planning. Notwithstanding, Zambia has enacted the Zambia Statistics Act of 2018, with the view to address data challenges.
- The expansionary fiscal policy driven by the need to invest in infrastructure development has resulted in a significant resource gap which has hampered SDG financing and threatened the country's debt sustainability.
- Adverse effects of climate change and the recent Covid-19 pandemic pose major threats to achieving the SDG targets in Zambia.
- In line with SDG 17, Zambia seeks strong partnerships to help promote the green growth agenda and deal with constrained fiscal position while addressing the adverse effects of climate change and COVID-19.

Zimbabwe
