



# II VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS COSTA RICA 2020

“Sustainable Development in Action:  
The Route to Sustainability”



SECRETARÍA TÉCNICA  
COSTA RICA



SECOND VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW,  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS,  
COSTA RICA 2020

“Sustainable Development in Action: The Route  
to Sustainability”

julio 2020



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## CONTENTS

|   |    |
|---|----|
| PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW.....  | 4  |
| ABBREVIATIONS .....   | 5  |
| II. INTRODUCTION .....  | 8  |
| III. MILESTONES IN COSTA RICA'S 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS..                                  | 10 |
| IV. ACHIEVEMENTS AND GOOD PRACTICES .....   | 12 |
| V. VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS.....   | 14 |
| VI. NATIONAL OWNERSHIP MECHANISMS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA .....                     | 16 |
| a. Governance Structure of the Sustainable Development Goals .....                                    | 16 |
| b. Entry points: A cross-cutting proposal for SDG implementation in Costa Rica .....                  | 17 |
| VII. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING.....                                  | 21 |
| a. The SDGs in the National Development and Public Investment Plan 2019-2022: Bicentennial Plan ..... | 21 |
| b. Modeling of the PNDIP 2019-2022 National Targets .....   | 26 |
| c. Sustainable Development Goals in Public Policymaking.....  | 27 |
| c.1 Principle of Comprehensiveness in Public Policy .....   | 29 |
| d. Climate change and the National Decarbonization Plan.....  | 31 |
| d.1 Climate Change .....  | 31 |
| d.2 National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050.....  | 32 |
| d.3. Clean Energy as a Basis for Decarbonization .....  | 35 |
| e. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.....  | 35 |
| VIII. LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND.....  | 39 |
| a. A National Development Plan for Populations .....  | 39 |
| b. Public Policies to Leave No One Behind .....   | 40 |
| b.1. Childhood, Adolescence and Youth.....  | 40 |
| b.2. Senior Citizen Population .....  | 40 |
| b.3. Women.....   | 41 |
| b.4. Indigenous Peoples and Territories and Afro-descendant Populations.....                          | 41 |
| b.5. People with Disabilities.....  | 42 |
| c. Montevideo Consensus and UPR .....   | 42 |
| c.1 Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.....   | 42 |
| c.2 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) .....   | 44 |
| d. Gender.....  | 48 |

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| e. Migration and Refuge .....  | 50         |
| <b>IX. THE 2030 AGENDA AS A COUNTRY COMMITMENT: THE NATIONAL PACT AND STAKEHOLDER CONTRIBUTIONS .....</b>                  | <b>52</b>  |
| a. Multi-stakeholder survey on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2018) .....                              | 53         |
| b. Business Sector .....   | 58         |
| c. The Judiciary .....   | 65         |
| d. Legislative Assembly .....  | 72         |
| e. Platform of Civil Society Organizations .....   | 76         |
| f. Faith-Based Organizations (FBO).....  | 78         |
| g. The United Nations Funds and Specialized Agencies and Programs accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda ..... | 79         |
| h. National Commission of University Deans: Representation of the public universities on the advisory committee.....       | 87         |
| i. Local governments .....   | 88         |
| <b>X. EVALUATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS .....</b>   | <b>93</b>  |
| a. National Evaluation Agenda .....  | 93         |
| b. Costa Rica as a regional evaluation hub .....   | 98         |
| c. Control body: audits on implementing the SDGs.....  | 99         |
| <b>XI. STRUCTURAL CHALLENGES .....</b>   | <b>100</b> |
| a. OECD .....  | 100        |
| b. From domestic to transnational.....   | 100        |
| c. Financial growth strategy .....   | 101        |
| f. COVID-19 .....  | 101        |
| <b>XII. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION .....</b>  | <b>107</b> |
| a. Public investments .....  | 107        |
| b. Dual role of cooperation in Costa Rica .....  | 111        |
| c. Total official support to sustainable development (TOSSD).....  | 115        |
| <b>XII. STATISTICAL CAPACITY BUILDING .....</b>  | <b>117</b> |
| <b>XIV. SDG PROGRESS: GOALS AND INDICATORS.....</b>  | <b>122</b> |
| Analysis of national indicators for the SDGs monitoring .....  | 122        |
| <b>XV. CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED.....</b>  | <b>134</b> |
| <b>XVI. COSTA RICA FACING THE DECADE OF ACTION .....</b>   | <b>136</b> |
| <b>CONSULTED SOURCES .....</b>   | <b>138</b> |
| <b>ANNEXES .....</b>   | <b>140</b> |

# PRESENTATION OF THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Preparing a roadmap for Costa Rica's development is a long-standing tradition of sustainable development whereby national leaders help guide important decisions. The 2030 Agenda development strategy is deeply rooted in tradition and is constantly regenerated.

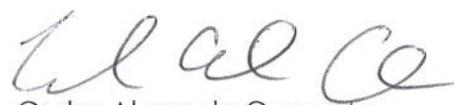
This evolutionary dynamic has led to great successes in Costa Rica's history, as we understand that our country must provide for all its population. It is like an ecosystem, where we face the same challenges and are united by our strengths.

For this reason, we are committed to inclusive dialogue, with the sincere conviction that all stakeholders have the capacity to contribute and above all the responsibility to do so. Encouraged by the historical ambition we have had as a nation to meet global demands within the framework of democratic institutions, we submitted our first Voluntary National Review in 2017.

Just two years after the 2030 Agenda was adopted, we were actively enhancing efforts to advance on this commitment through robust governance. This second VNR confirms our commitment with specific results. We offer the global community an honest proposal for a Costa Rican roadmap to build integrity based on shared experiences and common virtues.

As a country, we have understood that sustainable development requires engagement beyond our borders. The current state of affairs reminds us that challenges are global, and so solutions must also be global. Our commitment continues to focus on and progress towards a sustainable, inclusive, and fair future. We take today's challenges seriously and at the same time find inspiration in them. We have learned that good results are attained through inclusive and sustainable proposals.

Thus, we hope this Second National Review on the fulfillment of the Sustainable Development Goals serves to reaffirm our conviction that, as a country, we must accelerate progress towards sustainable development. May it also be a sign of national commitment, based on a collaborative and enthusiastic will to contribute to a sustainable planet.



Carlos Alvarado Quesada  
Presidente de la República de Costa Rica

## ABBREVIATIONS

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| OHCHR     | Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights                           |
| UNHCR     | United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees                              |
| AED       | Business Association for Development                                       |
| AFP       | United Nations Agencies, Funds, and Programs                               |
| AL        | Legislative Assembly (Costa Rican Congress)                                |
| AYA       | Costa Rican Institute of Water and Sewage                                  |
| ANE       | National Assessment Agenda   |
| BPIP      | Public Investment Project Database   |
| CCSS      | Costa Rican Social Security Fund   |
| CdM       | Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development                         |
| CEDAW     | Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CEN-CINAI | Education and Nutrition Centers and Holistic Child Care Centers            |
| CONAPDIS  | National Council for People with Disabilities                              |
| CONICIT   | National Council for Scientific and Technological Investigations           |
| ECLAC     | Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean                    |
| HR        | Human rights   |
| UPR       | Universal Periodic Review  |
| FAO       | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations                    |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| IDS           | Index of Social Development   |
| IMAS          | Joint Institute of Social Aid   |
| INA           | National Learning Institute   |
| INAMU         | National Women's Institute  |
| INEC          | National Institute of Statistics and Census                                 |
| LGTBI         | Lesbian, Gay, Transsexual, Bisexual, Intersexual                            |
| MEP           | Ministry of Public Education  |
| MICITT        | Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications                      |
| Mideplan      | Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy                           |
| MINAE         | Ministry of Environment and Energy  |
| MOPT          | Ministry of Public Works and Transport                                      |
| FBOs          | Faith-Based Organizations   |
| SDG           | Sustainable Development Goals   |
| IOM           | International Organization for Migration                                    |
| ILO           | International Labour Organization   |
| OLACEFS       | Latin American and Caribbean Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions     |
| OECD          | Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development                       |
| UN            | Organization of the United Nations  |
| UN Women      | United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women      |
| PAHO/WHO      | Pan-American Health Organization/World Health Organization                  |
| CSOs          | Civil Society Organizations   |
| PEN 2018-2022 | National Statistics Plan of the National Institute of Statistics and Census |
| UNDP          | United Nations Development Programme  |

|         |   |
|---------|---|
| PNDIP   | National Development and Public Investment Plan                                     |
| POLCI   | International Cooperation Policy (POLCI)  |
| PONADIS | National Policy on Disabilities   |
| PLANOVI | National Policy to prevent and address violence against women of all ages 2017-2032 |
| PIEG    | National Policy for Effective Equality among Women and Men 2018-2030                |
| PIAG    | Water Supply Program for Guanacaste - North Pacific                                 |
| SEN     | National Statistics System  |
| UNS     | United Nations System   |
| UNESCO  | United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization                    |
| UNFPA   | United Nations Population Fund  |
| UNICEF  | United Nations Children's Fund  |
| UNOPS   | United Nations Office for Project Services  |
| UPU     | Universal Postal Union  |



## II. Introduction

Costa Rica submits to the global community the Second Voluntary National Review 2020 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, made possible by the coordination of the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (Mideplan), acting as Technical Secretariat for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as per Executive Decree 40203 PLAN-RE-MINAE-MDHIS, and the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC), as statistical advisory body, with the support of the Advisory Committee stakeholders.

In 2015, 193 member countries of the United Nations made a commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the promise of *leaving no one behind*. In 2016, Costa Rica became the first country in the world to sign the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs, a multi-stakeholder arrangement that envisions the 2030 Agenda as a country agenda, involving various stakeholders from the Costa Rican social sphere. In 2017, the governance structure for the implementation of the SDGs was established in Executive Decree 40203 PLAN-RE-MINAE-MDHIS. That same year, Costa Rica produced its first Voluntary National Review<sup>1</sup>.

In addition to presenting initial milestones in the implementation of the SDGs in Costa Rica, this first reporting process describes next steps: stronger measurement of indicators and national targets; creating specific working groups; progress in human rights dimensions for sustainable development, inclusive economic growth, and environmental protection; continued multisectoral and participatory dialogues to build common agendas; continued training and information efforts; advice for National Pact signatory entities; consolidating an Advisory Committee to ensure sustainability of the 2030 Agenda implementation process in Costa Rica.

In an effort to make the country's progress in the last three years more visible and with these commitments as a benchmark, Costa Rica now submits its Second Voluntary National Review. The purpose of this Review is to highlight Costa Rica's state of progress in indicators and targets towards the implementation of the SDGs as the result of national ownership efforts, processes, and mechanisms of the various stakeholders beyond institutions.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/informepaisods\\_costa\\_rica.pdf](http://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/informepaisods_costa_rica.pdf)

In that context, the Review is the outcome of dialogue and consultation with different stakeholders represented in the SDG Advisory Committee, providing a broad and transparent view on the national state of progress towards the 2030 Agenda. It is a national rather than a government vision. As any report should, it provides non-biased, balanced, and transparent information to showcase progress and good practices. At the same time, it recognizes the challenges and lessons learned that will lay the foundations for the Costa Rican roadmap in promoting the Decade of Action.

The global community is invited to consider this report as a window into the Costa Rican experience regarding efforts to place sustainable development as a priority for the country's progress. This Review provides enough detail for readers to analyze aspects of their greatest interest.

In the current globalized context, voluntary reviews serve as meeting places for national stakeholders committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as stakeholders in the global community. The advances and challenges presented in this report intend to encourage virtuous cooperation and partnerships between various partners, honoring the 2030 Agenda's principle of universality to move together to fulfill the promise of leaving no one behind.



# III. Milestones in Costa Rica`s 2030 Agenda implementation process

2016

- The National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs is signed and a governance model is created including the participation of the highest levels of central government and various sectors: Civil Society Organizations, local governments, the private sector, the Judiciary, the Legislative Assembly, Faith Based Organizations, universities, and unions, among others.
- First list of validated SDG Indicators, with the corresponding methodological guides by INEC.

2017

- Entry points for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are defined as follows: Fight against poverty and inequality; Sustainable production and consumption; Resilient infrastructure and Sustainable Communities. They are defined based on the multidimensional approach, the Political Constitution and national priorities using statistics.
- First Voluntary National Review.
- Unions adhere to the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs.
- Information System of indicators on the Sustainable Development Goals is launched.
- First Report on Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

2018

- National Development and Public Investment Plan incorporating SDGs as key elements of design and implementation.
- INEC Institutional Technical Commission created to monitor SDG indicators.

2019

- National Decarbonization Plan 2018 - 2050
- Evaluation of financing for development
- Ministry of Human Development included in High Level Council

2020

- Second Voluntary National Review
- Second Report on Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development



# IV. Achievements and Good Practices

- Different stakeholders represented in the Advisory Committee took part in the information-gathering process through computer platforms. Therefore, the review was completed despite COVID-19-related health measures.
  - The National Statistics System improved recording, measuring, and progress-monitoring capacities regarding SDGs. A working group to monitor indicators for the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development was created.
  - Enhanced statistical capacities allowed Costa Rica to have national indicators for all 17 SDGs disaggregated by sex, territory, activity status, age, disability status and others as appropriate. Improved production of indicators is evidenced by a change from 117 indicators available (32 not available) in 2017 to 136 available (14 not available) in 2019.
  - 59% of the SDG indicators analyzed have shown a positive trend and better development, while 13% have a stable or regular behavior and only 28% of the indicators showed a negative trend. The SDGs with the greatest progress in terms of indicators are: 1, 2, 12, 13, and 15, while the least progress is found in 16, 8, 6, and 11.
  - Inter-institutional group for statistical monitoring of the SDGs comprised of INEC, United Nations and Mideplan.
  - Efforts to reach vulnerable populations and meet the goal of *leaving no one behind*. A focus on population and development is evident in different interventions, such as public policies, plans, programs and projects directed specifically towards these populations or their inclusion. Institutional strategies and guidelines to address this topic, such as the alignment to recommendations of the Universal Periodic Review or the priority measures of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.
  - The Judiciary offers guidance and governance tools to facilitate a focus on sustainable development throughout the State in preparing annual reports since 2017.
  - Aware of the financing challenges for an upper-middle income country like Costa Rica a Development Finance Assessment was conducted with the support of the United Nations System. Costa Rica, together with Honduras, became the first country in Latin America to perform this type
- 

of exercise. This new methodological approach provides an opportunity to develop a broader and more holistic vision for SDG financing.

- From 2017 to date, there has been noticeable progress in governance and instruments by the different stakeholders committed to the 2030 Agenda, aimed at promoting consistent public policies and evidence-based decisions.
- The SDG Trust Fund has approved two Joint Programs proposed by Costa Rica: *Strengthening Puente al Desarrollo to break the cycle of poverty at the local level with a gender and environmental perspective*, and the project for *Strengthening the SDG financing architecture in Costa Rica by aligning resources with national objectives and improving public spending in the education sector*. This means that Costa Rica is capable of proposing multidimensional and integrated programs with innovative solutions for sustainable development and a people-centered vision.



# V. Voluntary National Review Methodology and Process

The Second Voluntary National Review was prepared in accordance with the guidelines defined by the Secretary General of the United Nations<sup>2</sup> and the Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews<sup>3</sup>. Likewise, special consideration was given to the expectations expressed in the different regional meetings sponsored by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) towards the preparation of a Second-Generation Review. The report design shows the structure and suggested contents.

The structure design and contents of this VNR are aimed at giving a Costa Rican context to the fundamental principles for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: universality, inclusiveness and leaving no one behind.

## a. Role of the SDG Technical Secretariat

In response to the mandate under Governance Decree 40203 PLAN-RE-MINAE-MDHIS to Prepare SDG reports to be submitted by Costa Rica to the United Nations and other international and national organizations, the SDG Technical Secretariat is in charge of coordinating the information-gathering process with national institutions and other actors and members of the SDG Advisory Committee.

The information provided has been compiled through the SDG Technical Secretariat's monitoring and coordination mechanisms with public institutions of the Executive Branch, as well as public institutions of other Branches of Government, using the National Planning System and subsystems and 2030 Agenda coordination mechanisms.

## b. The VNR as a multi-stakeholder product: stakeholder participation

Following the principle of the 2030 Agenda as a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder implementation effort, a series of consultations were held with

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<sup>2</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated\\_Voluntary\\_Guidelines.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated_Voluntary_Guidelines.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25827Handbook\\_2020\\_SP.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25827Handbook_2020_SP.pdf)

signatories of the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs represented in the Advisory Committee. In the context of this dialogue mechanism, a collective roadmap was agreed for information-gathering and stakeholder engagement, including modifications in the methodology regarding the need to virtualize the process given the impact of COVID-19 health measures.

An online consultation was conducted for members of the Advisory Committee. Information was compiled from reports prepared by different social actors and the United Nations System in the last three years. Specifically, for the VNR, the business sector representation distributed an extended questionnaire to its organizations, conducted in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat.

Furthermore, to ensure that stakeholder information was incorporated and to faithfully reflect each actor's input, the Technical Secretariat distributed a draft version of the VNR document for revision and held specific meetings with key sectors. Thus, the final version of the VNR has been prepared jointly and with representation of various actors in Costa Rican society on their way to implement the 2030 Agenda.

On the other hand, as part of the VNR outreach strategies, the SDG website ([ods.cr](http://ods.cr)) will be updated to ensure information, transparency, and accountability for the general public in Costa Rica. Complementary materials to this report will be provided, including greater detail.

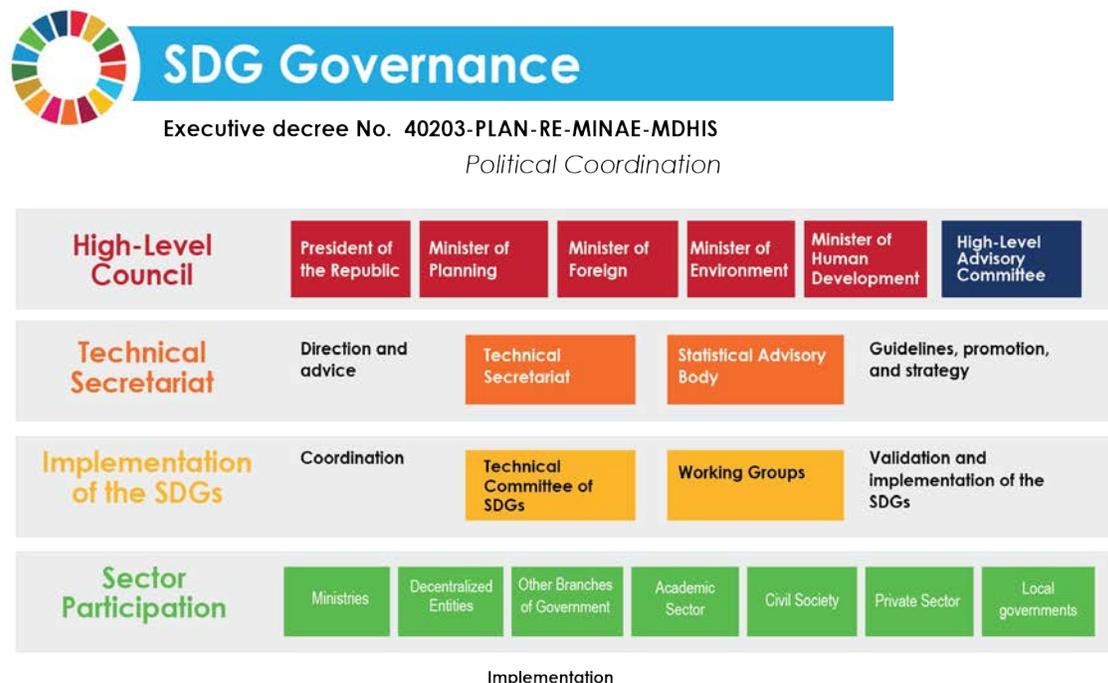


# VI. National ownership mechanisms for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

## a. Governance Structure of the Sustainable Development Goals

Executive Decree 40203-PLAN-RE-MINAE of 2016 defined the Governance of the Sustainable Development Goals with the purpose of establishing an institutional scheme to organize, articulate, plan, implement, finance, and monitor the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica. In 2019, the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion was incorporated into the High-Level Council. The governance structure is as follows (Figure 1):

Figure 1. SDG Governance Model in Costa Rica, 2019

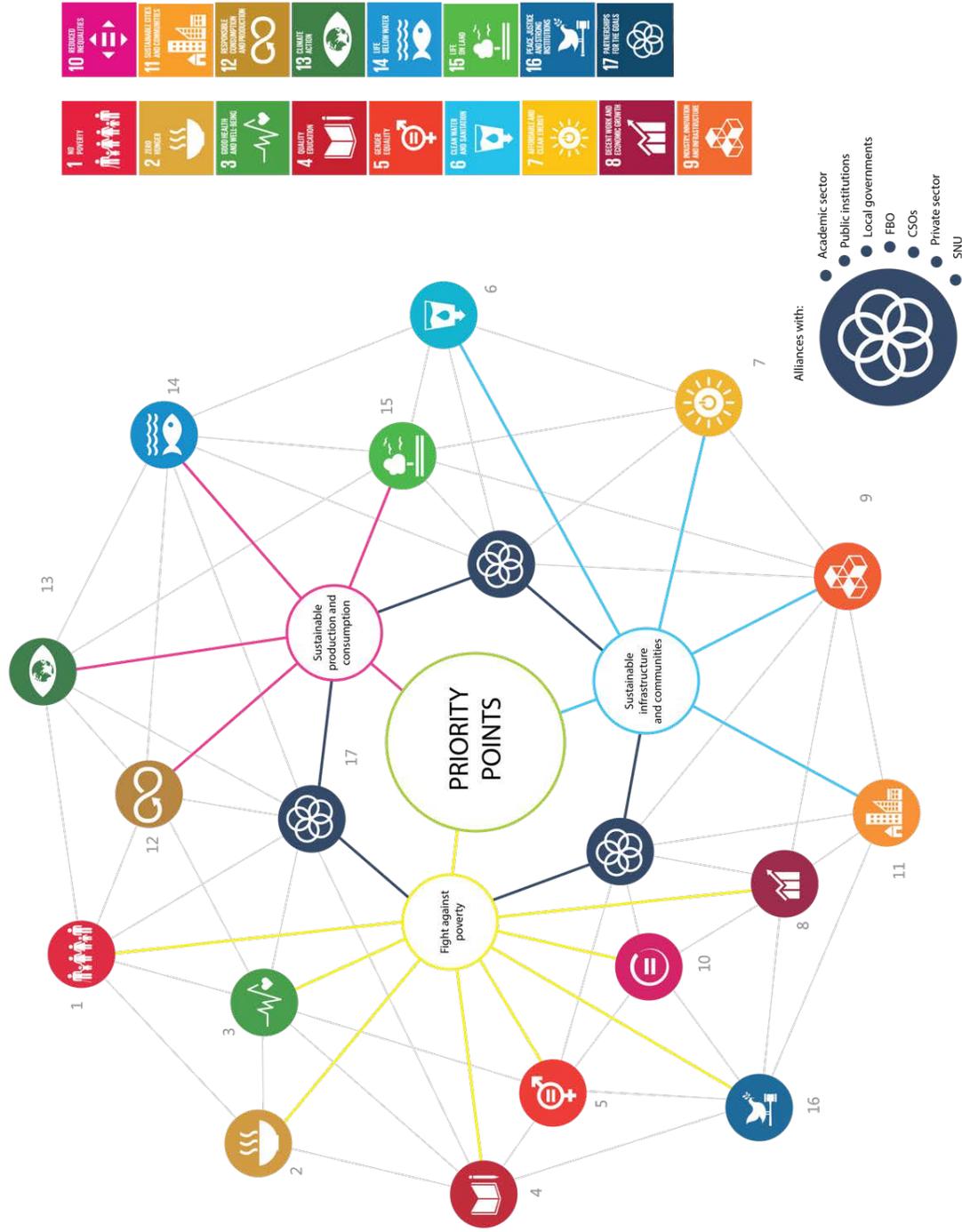


Source: United Nations in Costa Rica (2020), based on *La Gobernanza de los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible*, MIDEPLAN (2017).

### b. Entry points: A cross-cutting proposal for SDG implementation in Costa Rica

The principles of the 2030 Agenda are based on an integrated approach, which takes into account the environmental, social and economic dimensions of sustainable development. Following this approach, in 2017 Costa Rica defined three entry points for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: *Fight against poverty; sustainable production and consumption; and sustainable infrastructure and communities* (Figure 2). The entry points were established to facilitate connections, exchanges, and synergies between the SDGs and interlinkages with various social actors.

Figure 2. Entry Points and Linkages Between the SDGs



Source: Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy.

Defining these entry points as an ownership mechanism provides a strategic line in the implementation of the SDGs and has served as input to develop the process via intersectoral strategies. The synergy in intervention design between different government sectors follows a multi-stakeholder approach, with active involvement of strategic actors outside the central government.

The fight against poverty has been one of the main pillars of state work before and after ratifying the 2030 Agenda, because it has elements that must be addressed within a multidimensional approach that includes a diversity of needs beyond income. To tackle poverty, information processing has been enhanced by the Multidimensional Poverty Index, used in Costa Rica since 2015<sup>4</sup>.

Sustainable production and consumption is the second entry point, defined on the basis of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Costa Rica (1949), article 50, which stipulates: "The State shall seek the greatest well-being of all the country's population, organizing and stimulating production and the most appropriate distribution of wealth. Everyone has the right to a healthy and ecologically balanced environment. Therefore, they are entitled to denounce acts that infringe this right and to claim compensation for any damages caused."

The third entry point, sustainable infrastructure and communities, is based on Costa Rica's challenges in urban planning and the potential to determine an integrated development proposal. Additionally, this point involves actions on the effects of climate change and a reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In this period, the use of secondary or combustion energy amounted to 72% of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with transport and industry as the main generators.

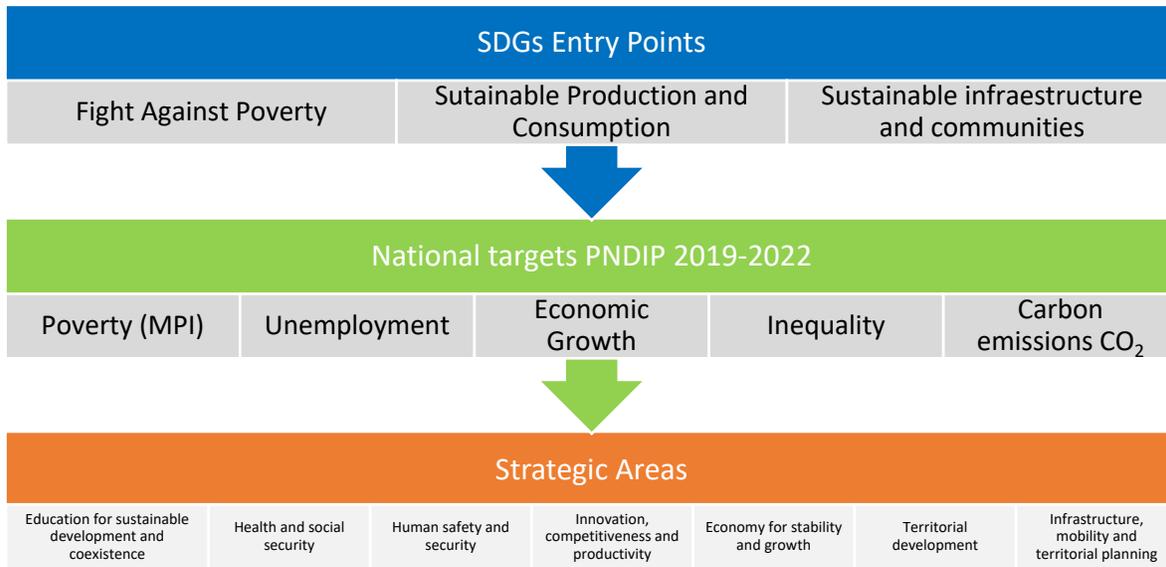
This entry point also intends to reverse the vulnerable conditions of existing infrastructure and ensure that such conditions are not reproduced in future infrastructure, in order to contribute to its sustainability and reduce losses and damages. Investments required --mainly in infrastructure-- to face the risks to which the country is exposed must meet quality standards regarding effective life and projected services. Investment should ensure resilience and sustainability of social, economic, and productive structures considering the national context of multiple natural disaster hazards.

With this framework as reference, entry points were integrated into the targets (impact) and goals of the National Plan for Development and Public Investments (PNDIP) strategic areas. Bicentennial Independence Plan 2019-2022 (Figure 3).

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.inec.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/pobreza\\_y\\_presupuesto\\_de\\_hogares/pobreza/metodologias/mepobrezaenaho2015-01.pdf](https://www.inec.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/pobreza_y_presupuesto_de_hogares/pobreza/metodologias/mepobrezaenaho2015-01.pdf)

Figure 3. Connection of Entry Points with PNDIP 2019-2022



Source: Mideplan, SDG Technical Secretariat with information from PNDIP 2019-2020.



# VII. Institutional frameworks for implementation and monitoring

## a. The SDGs in the National Development and Public Investment Plan 2019-2022: Bicentennial Plan

In December 2018, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy (Mideplan), the governing body of the National Planning System, submitted the 2019-2022 National Plan for Development and Public Investment (PNDIP). For the first time, the development of the PNDIP incorporated strategic public investment programming through fixed capital public investment projects at the national level. This allows combining development goals and targets with public investment interventions or projects. Thus, national public investment planning will be under development planning for the next four-year period.

The 2019-2022 PNDIP methodology incorporated the main agreements on sustainable development and population and development, in full consideration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (CdM); the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change - Paris Agreement COP 21; and the commitments undertaken by Costa Rica in its accession process to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Aware of the importance of citizens in planning processes, for the first time the PNDIP included citizen participation through public consultation as an innovative element. The opinions of individuals and organizations of various kinds helped Government and other decision-makers match their actions over the next four years to the population's real needs.

The 2019-2022 PNDIP contemplates a general assessment; the country vision materialized in a set of national goals and targets; and objectives in strategic coordination areas in terms of effects and public interventions (public policy, plan,

program or project). All the components are disaggregated regionally if information is available.

The PNDIP 2019-2022 includes more than 300 indicators related to national strategic interventions by area. There are five impact indicators (1.6%); 27 effect indicators (8.7%); and 278 product indicators (89.7%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4. Structure of the National Development and Public Investment Plan 2019-2022

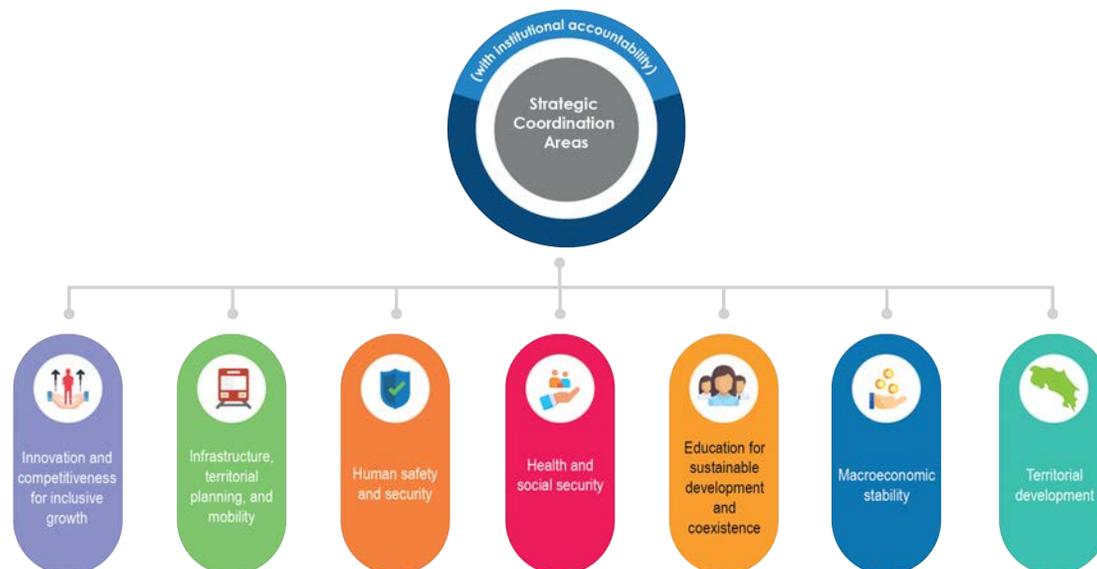


Source: Mideplan, with information from the PNDIP 2019-2022.

The PNDIP 2019-2022 has five major impact targets. The indicators for these national targets are related to the SDG targets and indicators and to priority measures and indicators of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (CdM).

The PNDIP 2019-2022 is connected to the SDGs at the level of strategic interventions (Figure 5) and indicators. Indicators under each intervention in the plan are linked to indicators of the 2030 Agenda monitoring: 60% of PNDIP - SDG indicators are linked, of which 8% are directly linked (the plan indicator is the same as the SDG monitoring indicator in Costa Rica) and 52% have an indirect link (the plan indicator is derived from or added to the SDG monitoring indicator in Costa Rica).

Figure 5. Strategic Coordination Areas, PNDIP 2019-2022



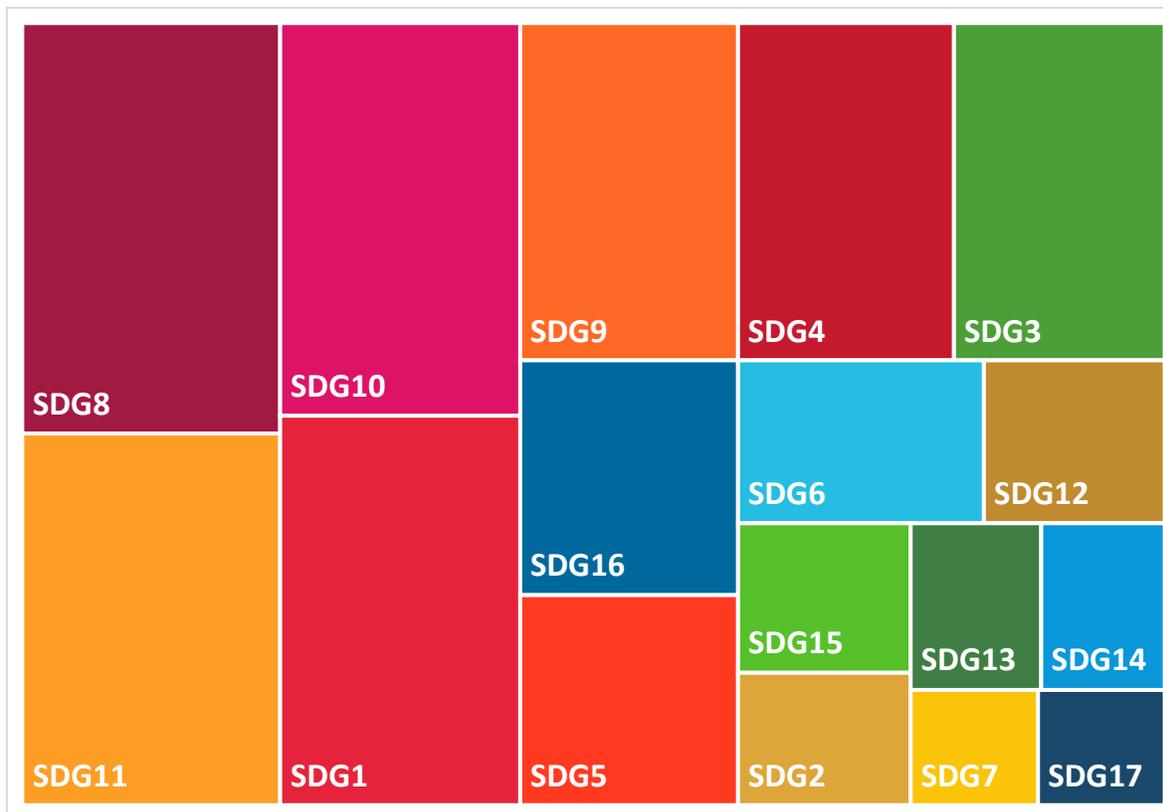
Source: Mideplan, with information from the PNDIP 2019-2022.

These linkages represented a great challenge, given that 100% of PNDIP 2019-2022 indicators are efficiency indicators, distributed in: impact (2.0%), effect (9.0%) and product (89.0%), while the SDG monitoring indicators are approximately 70.7% effectiveness indicators, mainly impact and 29.7% efficiency.

The implementation of the SDGs in the PNDIP was challenging due to the definition of targets in strategic areas (effect) and plan interventions (product). When comparing the SDGs and all the plan intervention goals, 97% are linked. A large number of strategic interventions in the plan are connected, mainly to SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 10 and SDG 1 (Graph 1):

This shows the linkage of the plan's strategic interventions to the SDGs, it only addresses one dimension: each SDG separately. There is an opportunity to assess inter-connections and multiplying effects between the SDGs (trade-offs).

Graph 1. Distribution of Strategic Interventions According to Connection to Goals by SDG, 2020



Source: Mideplan, with information from the PNDIP 2019-2022<sup>5</sup>.

According to the first PNDIP monitoring report in 2019, there has been progress in the interventions linked to SDG indicators. The illustration below shows each SDG indicator followed by the number of interventions. Green boxes display interventions that are progressing as scheduled (64%); yellow boxes display partial completion (21%) and red boxes display low completion (15%) (Figure 6).

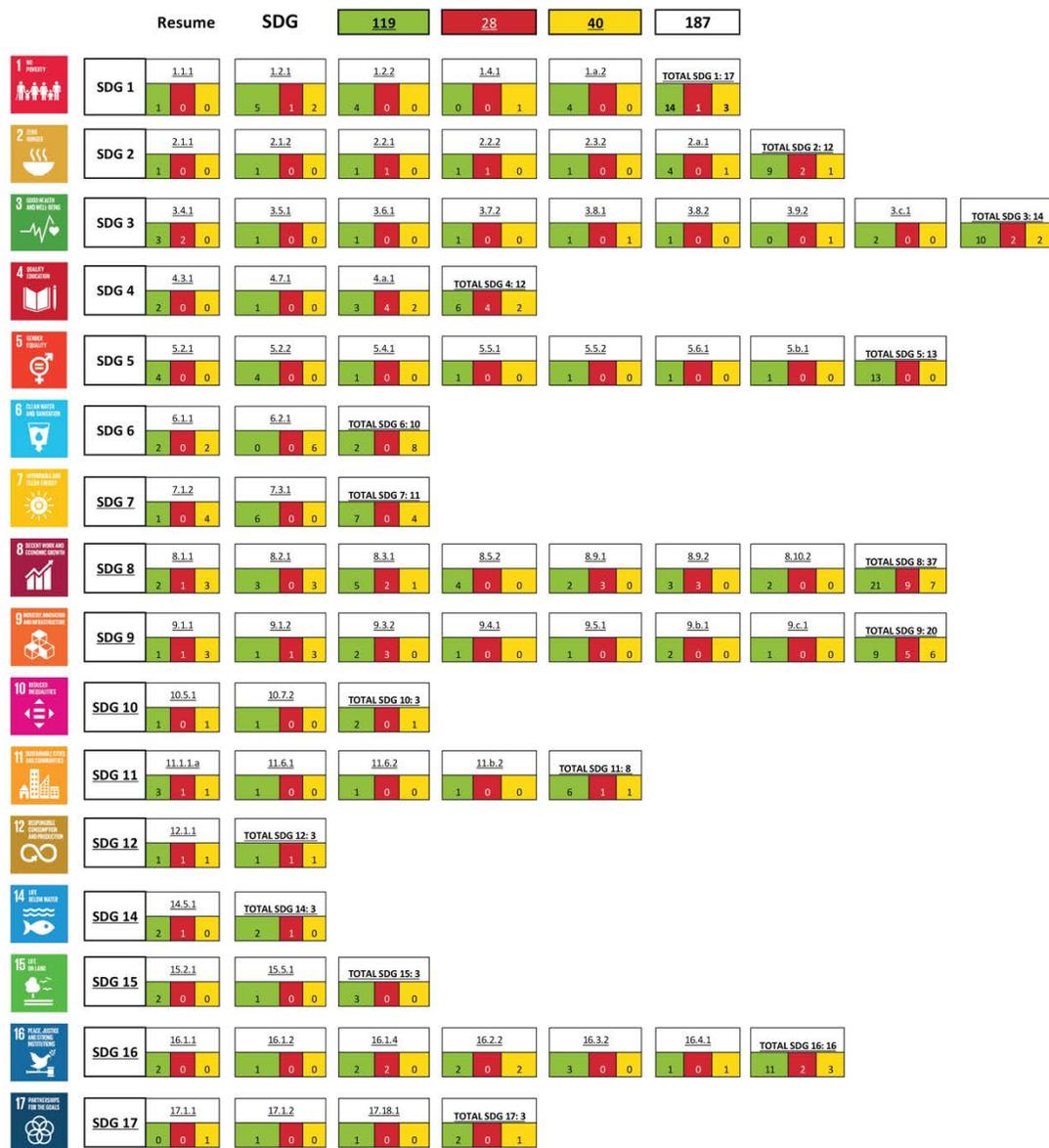
Currently, Mideplan has an online monitoring platform<sup>6</sup>, an open consultation mechanism to show progress of interventions linked to the SDG indicators incorporated in the Plan<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>5</sup> See details in Annex page 121.

<sup>6</sup> <https://sites.google.com/expedientesmideplan.go.cr/pndip-2019-2022/seguimiento>

<sup>7</sup> The following link also has dashboards available to display progress towards goals: [https://mideplan5-n.mideplan.go.cr/DelphosPortal\\_PNDIP/Analizer/wfrmContenedora.aspx?navegador=Netscape&First=1?width=1280&height=620&ANCHO=1271&ALTO=630](https://mideplan5-n.mideplan.go.cr/DelphosPortal_PNDIP/Analizer/wfrmContenedora.aspx?navegador=Netscape&First=1?width=1280&height=620&ANCHO=1271&ALTO=630); progress related to SDGs can be found at: [https://mideplan5-n.mideplan.go.cr/DelphosPortal\\_PNDIP/Analizer/wfrmContenedora.aspx?navegador=Netscape&First=1?width=1280&height=620&ANCHO=1271&ALTO=630](https://mideplan5-n.mideplan.go.cr/DelphosPortal_PNDIP/Analizer/wfrmContenedora.aspx?navegador=Netscape&First=1?width=1280&height=620&ANCHO=1271&ALTO=630)

Figure 6. Results of Strategic Intervention Monitoring by SDG, 2019



Source: Mideplan, with information from the PNDIP 2019-2022, 2019 monitoring report.

### b. Modeling of the PNDIP 2019-2022 National Targets

The 2030 Agenda innovates international commitments for sustainable development since it includes the recognition of the responsibility of other actors beyond the State to achieve sustainable development. The PNDIP 2019-2022 used econometric models to define national targets based on available resources.

The PNDIP 2019-2022 establishes a national goal: *To promote national and regional inclusive economic growth, in harmony with the environment, creating quality jobs, reducing poverty and inequality, based on the sustainable development approach and responding to the priorities defined by the government in office.* Five national targets are defined under this goal, based on different economic and social models, which refer to the effect of the PNDIP public policy interventions during its effective period, as well as collective efforts with various institutions and actors.

Mideplan, in collaboration with the Central Bank of Costa Rica, the National Institute of Statistics and Census, the University of Costa Rica and the Ministry of Finance, was in charge of preparing future development scenarios for the country with statistical simulation models to estimate data and define the targets set in the PNDIP 2019-2022.

Optimistic and pessimistic scenarios were established to include the expected compliance range for the proposed target (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of National Impact Targets, PNDIP 2019-2022, 2020

| Variable                       | PNDIP Indicator 2019-2022                               | Target set in the PNDIP for the indicator by 2022 | SDG (Target – Indicator)   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|
| Economic Growth                | Real GDP growth (%)                                     | 3,3   | 8.1 – 8.1.1<br>8.2 – 8.2.1 |
| Unemployment                   | Rate of open unemployment (%)                           | 7,3 – 8,4   | 8.5 – 8.5.2                |
| Multidimensional Poverty Index | Percentage of poor households according to MPI          | 16,1 – 16,5                                       | 1.2 – 1.2.2                |
| Decarbonization                | Variation rate of CO <sub>2</sub> fossil-fuel emissions | -0,9  | 9.4 – 9.4.1                |
| Inequality                     | Gini coefficient  | 0,511   | 10.2<br>10.3               |

Source: Mideplan, with information from the PNDIP 2019-2022.

According to the PNDIP 2019-2022 Annual Report of 2019<sup>8</sup>, the first target was 3.4% GDP growth. The actual recorded GDP growth was 2.1% in 2018-2019, 0.6 pp less than the previous year results. This difference was due to external factors (less increase in trading partners) and internal factors (tax reform effects). As a result, Costa Rica's possibilities of economic growth were diminished.

The second target is open unemployment rate reduction. This rate actually increased 2.7 pp to 11.8%, affecting labor force growth and informal employment. It especially impacted young people, women, and people with low educational levels, who generally have informal and poor-quality employment.

The third target is reducing the percentage of poor households, measured according to the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). For the 2019 period, the MPI was 16.6%, the lowest level both nationally and by area. Government measures and interventions helped solve deficiencies of households in various dimensions, particularly the percentage of households with internet access.

The fourth PNDIP target is decarbonization. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions had a variation rate of 1.5%, amounting to 1.4%. Actions that contributed to achieving the target of reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are related to two strategic areas: sustainable agricultural, fishing and rural development and infrastructure, mobility, and territorial planning. For the fifth target of maintaining the Gini Index at 0.511 nationwide, results were 0.508 per household, mainly due to a relative improvement in total household income.

### c. Sustainable Development Goals in Public Policymaking

The SDG Technical Secretariat supports public policymaking (instruments other than programs, plans, and projects) to institutions that provide political and technical leadership within their planning sector and therefore are responsible for directing the implementation of public policies.

This is a crucial function, providing advice for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of public policy. This includes defining intervention priorities, strategic guidelines, goals, expected results, monitoring indicators, actions, and targets of individual or joint responsibility, to ensure more effective compliance with action plans or roadmaps. Responsibilities are shared between policy coordinators and implementers, in the context of a management model that allows for monitoring of actions and future evaluation.

The end goal is that more and more institutions value the basic structure of public policies, which provides a management model with a long-term time horizon (ten years at minimum) aimed at achieving results for populations, international

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<sup>8</sup> <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/bqe-UTtESRmu6Uqsu1KgCA>

commitments and the country's development. For this, it is necessary to guarantee citizen participation in decision-making.

Thus, from the second semester of 2017 to the first semester of 2020, the SDG Technical Secretariat has provided advice on more than 20 public policies, promoting the linkage of public interventions to the 2030 Agenda. There are the policies:



### Public Policies advised by Mideplan

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Biodiversity Strategy 2016-2025 - From the National Biodiversity Policy 2015-2030</li> <li>Migrant Population Integration Plan, 2018-2022</li> <li>National Strategic Plan for the Health of Adolescents 2019-2022</li> <li>National Rural Development Plan (INDER) 2017-2022</li> <li>Mideplan Institutional Policy on Disability and Accessibility</li> <li>Judiciary's Institutional Policy on Indigenous Peoples</li> <li>National Drinking Water Policy 2017-2030</li> <li>Costa Rican National Productive Development Policy 2018-2050</li> <li>National Policy on Social Solidarity Economy</li> <li>National Evaluation Policy 2018-2030</li> <li>National Wetland Policy 2017-2030</li> <li>National Sustainable Production and Consumption Policy 2017-2030</li> <li>National Social Responsibility Policy 2017-2030</li> <li>National Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Policy*</li> <li>National Policy to prevent and address violence against women of all ages, (PLANOVI) 2017-2032.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Policy for Effective Equality among Women and Men, (PIEG) 2018-2030</li> <li>National Policy for the equality of women and men in job training and use of the products of Science, Technology and Telecommunications</li> <li>National Policy on Indigenous Peoples*</li> <li>National Policy on people of African descent*</li> <li>General Securities Superintendence Policy for the growth of the stock market</li> <li>Higher Council of Education Policy for guaranteeing the right to inclusive education of people with disabilities</li> <li>Policy on Adolescence 2018-2022</li> <li>Policy on School-Age Children 2018-2022</li> <li>Public Policy on Young Adults 2020-2024</li> <li>Child Friendly Canton Program (CAI)</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

\* Public Policies soon to be made official.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) may be linked to other international agreements or conventions in different ways. The main linkage is in terms of public policy structure. In greater detail, some interventions manage to relate strategic actions to expected results.

Examples of good practices on linking the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda are the National Policy to Prevent and Address Violence against Women of all Ages (PLANOVI) 2017-2032<sup>9</sup> and the National Policy for Effective Equality among Women

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.inamu.go.cr/documents/10179/967660/PLANOVI+2017-2032/fcb84a5b-cb73-4ce0-a08c-a1b886180b02>

and Men (PIEG) 2018-2030<sup>10</sup>. Their interventions chart the Costa Rican State’s roadmap to progress towards equality between women and men in the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The pillars of the National Policy on Sustainable Production and Consumption 2018 - 2030<sup>11</sup> are also linked to the SDGs. In addition to the SDGs, this policy is linked to the main OECD legal instruments and other conventions, treaties, and laws related to Costa Rica’s sustainable production and consumption.

Finally, another good practice is the linkage of the National Biodiversity Strategy 2016-2025<sup>12</sup>. This intervention provides implementation input for the National Biodiversity Policy 2015-2030<sup>13</sup>. The strategy’s indicators are linked to the SDGs and the Aichi Targets.

### c.1 Principle of Comprehensiveness in Public Policy

Costa Rica has tried to incorporate a public intervention design to make better use of existing evidence and technologies, with a human-centered approach to all institutional work. Goods and services are to be provided considering each person’s specificities and optimizing existing resources. In this sense, two good practices in poverty reduction and one in the optimization of health care services can be highlighted.

One of these tools is the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), which is an aggregated measurement to identify multiple deficiencies at the household and individual levels in the areas of health, education, housing, work, and social protection. It reflects all deprivations people may be suffering at the same time. It also acts as a valuable complement to income-based poverty measurement tools. Combining the MPI with the National Household Survey (ENAHO), additional characteristics may be derived from the index, such as territorial expression, type of deprivation per household, and monitoring data to reveal whether it is successful or not. In 2017, the government determined the MPI be used by fourteen institutions; in 2019, a national target to reduce multidimensional poverty was contemplated in the PNDIP.

Additionally, the MPI provided an opportunity to define a poverty reduction strategy integrating public policy based on the population’s particular needs. That strategy is called Puente al Desarrollo “Bridge to Development”.

10 <https://www.inamu.go.cr/documents/10179/401246/INAMU+PIEG+2018-2030+NEW.pdf/f8333d70-df04-417e-bbe9-c48c412a3cfb>

11 <http://www.digeca.go.cr/documentos/politica-nacional-de-produccion-y-consumo-sostenibles-0>

12 <https://enbcr.go.cr/>

13 <https://www.conagebio.go.cr/Conagebio/public/documentos/POLITICA-NACIONAL-DE-BIODIVERSIDAD-2015.pdf>

### Puente al Desarrollo: National Strategy for the Reduction of Extreme Poverty

Puente al Desarrollo brings together representatives of social sector institutions to address selective social policy. This strategy is innovative due to the model used in recent years to promote the consolidation of four fundamental pillars:

- Creation and use of social maps<sup>14</sup>, which provide geo-referenced demographic and socioeconomic information, such as the geographical distribution of poverty.
- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) for the preparation of investment budgets in selective public policy.
- Creation of innovative Social Co-Management Partners (PCGS) to tackle poverty by eliminating the former “on-demand” system, bringing services to the door of each family involved in the strategy.
- Creation of the National System for Single Registry of Beneficiaries (SINIRUBE), that seeks to unify information systems to serve the national population.

In the 2018-2022 government term of President Carlos Alvarado Quesada, new components are incorporated<sup>15</sup> to the strategy (Figure 7).

Figure 7. Components of Puente al Desarrollo



Source: Presidency of the Republic of Costa Rica.

There are challenges in the implementation of the Strategy, such as improving Strategy deadlines and meeting the basic needs of beneficiaries in Family Plans.

In 2019, through coordinated efforts between the Ministry of Human Development and Social Inclusion (MDHIS) and the United Nations System in Costa Rica, financing is approved for the Joint Program to Strengthen Puente al Desarrollo and break the cycle of poverty at the local level, with a gender and environmental perspective, by the Joint Fund for the SDGs. The Joint Program will be executed between 2020-2022 and will articulate institutional efforts in partnership with FAO, ILO, UN Women, and the UNDP with the aim of strengthening the economic autonomy of women who are part of Puente al Desarrollo.

<sup>14</sup> <http://mapasociales.inec.cr/mapnew.php>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.imas.go.cr/sites/default/files/docs/Libro%20Puente.pdf>

## Single Digital Health Record (EDUS)

The Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), a public institution in charge of providing healthcare services, has released the Single Digital Health Record (EDUS), with digital patient data that are safely stored and can be exchanged and accessed by multiple authorized users in health care centers. Considering present circumstances, this has greatly helped respond to the country's public health needs under the COVID-19 pandemic. It has simplified procedures to process appointments and provide patient care, while allowing the consolidation of personal, demographic, social, economic, and health-related data.<sup>16</sup> This virtual platform is present in health care services nationwide, implemented 100% at all levels of care within the CCSS.

## d. Climate change and the National Decarbonization Plan

### d.1 Climate Change

Costa Rica has a National Policy for Climate Change Adaptation<sup>17</sup> since 2018, which brought together the country's efforts to address the impacts suffered by the population in different parts of the territory.

This population approach is managed through categories: mitigation of greenhouse gases and adaptation and resilience processes. Under the first one, programs to transform productivity are being carried out. Additionally, projects are being implemented with local governments by introducing the environmental variable into regulatory, land use, and territorial plans. As part of the adaptation and mitigation processes the Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINA E) has created an adaptation fund for the "Climate Projects" program aimed at improving community resilience. Several of these efforts have been supported through international cooperation. A "Green Fund" to finance climate change adaptation programs in the most vulnerable municipalities in the country has been established.

Moreover, Costa Rica is building new instruments to improve climate change management, such as the new Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)<sup>18</sup> in 6 key areas: 1. Transport and mobility, with the National Transport Plan 2011-2035; the Comprehensive Plan for Sustainable Urban Mobility (PIMUS); and the Law on Incentives for and Promotion of Electric Transport; 2. Energy, with the Plan of Expansion of Power Generation 2016-2035; the National Energy Plan 2015-2030; the Law Regulating the Rational Use of Energy; the Law on Biofuels; 3. Waste management and more sustainable use of materials, with the Law on Integrated Waste Management; the National Plan for the Integrated Management of Solid Waste 2016-2021; the National Policy on Sustainable Production and Consumption;

<sup>16</sup> The innovative contribution of the EDUS to the country has been granted international recognition. The Costa Rican Social Security Fund received the United Nations Public Service Award 2019 in the category of "Promoting digital transformation in public sector institutions."

<sup>17</sup> <https://cambioclimatico.go.cr/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/final-politica-adaptacion-24-abril.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Taken from MINAE. Analysis of the Nationally Determined Contribution: Benefits and connection to Sustainable Development Goals in Costa Rica; NDC and SDG, the Case of CR. December 2018 <https://cambioclimatico.go.cr/metad/politicas/contribucion-nacionalmente-determinada/>

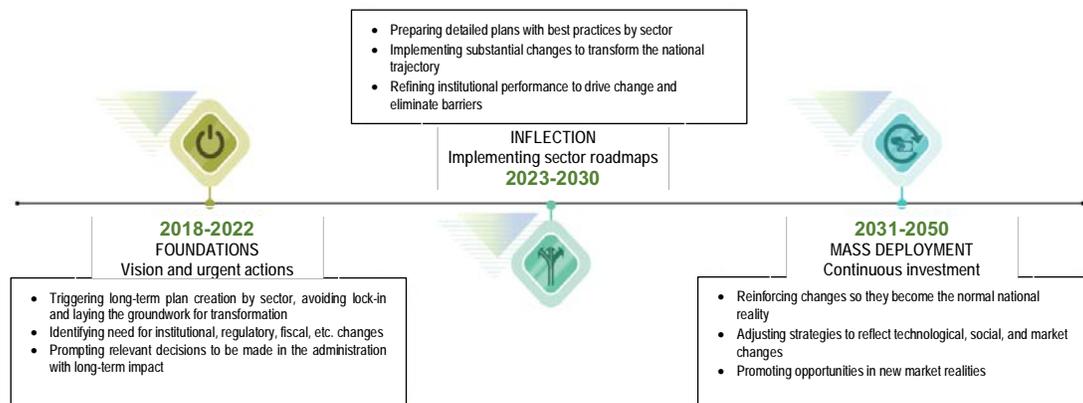
4. Agriculture, with the State Policy for Territorial Rural Development; the National Climate Change Strategy; the Carbon Neutral Country Program; the National Adaptation Plan; Livestock NAMA; REDD+ Strategy; 5. Forestry and conservation, with the National Biodiversity Strategy 2016-2025; the National Forest Development Plan; the National Climate Change Strategy; the Plan for the Implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy; 6. Water resources, with the National Policy on Drinking Water; the National Adaptation Plan; the National Plan for Investments in Sanitation 2016-2045; the National Policy for Wastewater Sanitation 2016-2045.

More than just an environmental concern, it is a multi-holistic approach that encompasses the Sustainable Development Goals and seeks to address the problem of climate change by transforming public policy and providing a “win-win” solution under the component of Climate Change Adaptation in its contribution, with clear commitments for 2030. Additionally, preparations are underway for a National Risk Analysis Protocol to be used in infrastructure when facing extreme weather events, including nature-based solutions and measurable, achievable goals and targets that impact the population. These efforts are monitored by the National Climate Change Metrics System (SINAMECC).

*d.2 National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050<sup>19</sup>*

In 2018 Costa Rica committed to decarbonizing its economy, taking one step further in strengthening its environmentally friendly course. The National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050 includes actions in three stages: initial stage (2018-2022); inflection point (2023-2030); and massive deployment (2031-2050). The Plan is divided into 10 decarbonization elements (Figure 8).

Figure 8. Stages of the National Decarbonization Plan 2018-2050



Source: Taken from the Climate Change Directorate<sup>20</sup>.

This Plan is one of the inputs to the National Development and Public Investment Plan (PNDIP), and it incorporates a national decarbonization target, which seeks to measure variations in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the use of fossil fuels. Clearly, a low-carbon economy requires reducing fossil fuel consumption and creating a sustainable and

<sup>19</sup> <https://minae.go.cr/images/pdf/Plan-de-Descarbonizacion-1.pdf>  
<sup>20</sup> <https://cambioclimatico.go.cr/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/PLAN.pdf>

self-sufficient renewable energy system. Therefore, policies in this field are vital to ensure decarbonization, understanding that their impact may not be evident in the short term. The implementation of the Decarbonization Plan and the strategic intervention measures included in the PNDIP can lead to a decline in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the medium and long term.

Hence, as the Decarbonization Plan is in its initial stage, it is supported by the actions incorporated in the PNDIP, which have already led to significant progress, e.g. the achievement of the national target proposed for 2019, giving very good signs of advancing in the right direction. There are two vital projects for decarbonization: the High-Speed Passenger Train and the Rehabilitation of the Electric Freight Train (TELCA). Pre-investment processes for both are moving forward at a good pace. Furthermore, electric vehicle recharge centers in operation have reached 77% of 2019 proposals. Projects executed with mixed agroforestry systems reached 56% of the goal for 2019. The increase in smart devices exceeded the goal by 115%. As for the National Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Program, the goal was exceeded by 125%, going from 115 million proposed to 142 million executed.

Undoubtedly, the main challenges Costa Rica faces to achieve decarbonization are related to the continued implementation of actions in the two sectors that most contribute to carbonization in the Costa Rican economy -transport and agriculture-, as well as developing the proposals included in the PNDIP 2019-2022 targets, especially those related to the commissioning of the Electric Passenger Train and the Rehabilitation of the Freight Train. Actions must be taken to replace light fossil-fuel-powered vehicles with more efficient ones (electric and hybrid vehicles), applying at least 5% of total purchases to new purchases of private light vehicles and the same for public transport. Energy efficiency of equipment should be increased in all sectors (commercial, residential, industrial, agricultural, and transport). NAMAS for coffee and cement should be applied. Above all, it is necessary to continue developing and implementing the 2018-2050 National Decarbonization Plan.

The Climate Change Adaptation policies that include the new NDC, as well as the implementation of the Decarbonization Plan and the actions that will be taken in the context of the PNDIP will be key to help accelerate and enhance compliance with the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda in order to have an impact on the quality of life of the largest number of people. Thus, goals are a clear example of the cross-cutting nature of co-benefits, sometimes also called multi-benefits, in seeking synergies that positively leverage concrete actions to integrate different strategic areas, the pillars of the plan and cross-cutting strategies (Figure 9).

Figure 9. Coordination of Strategic Areas, Pillars and Cross-Cutting Strategies

| Area of Presidential Coordination   | Plan Pillar   | Cross-Cutting Strategy   |
|---|---|--|
| Innovation and Competitiveness: Aims to propose and coordinate policies for the promotion of innovation as a means to revitalize national productivity and create quality employment at central, regional and international levels, as well as transfer of knowledge.                             | 4: Renewable electricity at competitive costs<br>5: Sustainable construction<br>6: Low-Emission Industry  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge-based digitization</li> <li>• Investment attraction strategy</li> </ul> |
| Infrastructure, Mobility and Territorial Planning: Aims to create conditions for urban planning, territorial ordering, infrastructure and mobility to achieve resilient, sustainable, and inclusive urban and rural spaces.   | 1: Mobility and sustainable public transport<br>2: Zero-emission light transport<br>3: Freight transport and sustainable logistics<br>Linked to Pillar 10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information and transparency and open data</li> </ul>                             |
| Human Safety and Security: Aims to conceive and develop policies and strategies to create conditions that foster human development and the construction and preservation of protective environments.  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusion, human rights and gender equality</li> </ul>                            |
| Health and Social Security: Aims to establish a comprehensive prevention and healthcare strategy, as well as to consolidate an equitable and sustainable social security system.  | 7: Comprehensive waste management   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fair labor transitions</li> </ul>   |
| Education for Sustainable Development and Coexistence: Aims to determine coordination strategies to promote capacity building for people's effective coexistence in society and their incorporation into the labor market, as well as to face the challenges of the fourth industrial revolution. |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education and culture for the Bicentennial</li> </ul>                             |
| Economy for Stability and Inclusive Growth: Aims to define, coordinate and monitor macroeconomic policies for economic stability, production promotion, public investment and the reduction of inequality.  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Tax Reform</li> <li>• Financing for transformation</li> </ul>               |
| Territorial Development: Aims to articulate, coordinate and monitor projects to foster inclusive growth and sources of employment, based on each territory's features.  | 8: Low emission agriculture<br>9: Eco-competitive livestock farming<br>10: Territorial management with nature-based solutions                             |  |
| Commission of Notables on State Reform  |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive institutional reform</li> </ul>                                     |

Source: Taken from the Climate Change Directorate.

### *d.3. Clean Energy as a Basis for Decarbonization*

The National Electric System (SEN) is an interconnected system, comprised of power generation, transmission, and distribution systems. It responds to the policies and guidelines of the PNDIP 2019 - 2022 and the VII National Energy Plan 2015-2030 (PNE)<sup>21</sup>, which are included in the 2018-2034 Power Generation Expansion Plan (PEG)<sup>22</sup> over a short- and long-term planning horizon.

Power generation is provided by public utilities (state-owned, cooperatives, and municipal enterprises) and private companies under the BOT partnership scheme.<sup>23</sup>The Costa Rican Institute of Electricity (ICE) is the main market agent, with a market share of 63.7%. Its installed capacity as of December 2019 was 3,556 MW: 65.7% hydroelectric power plants; 13.3% thermal plants; 7.3% geothermal plants; 11.5% wind farms; 1.9% biomass; and 0.15% solar. Hydroelectricity is the main source of power in the country (67.9%), followed by wind power (20.6%), and geothermal (11.3%), constituting a robust, safe, diversified, flexible, and resilient system.

Its national electricity coverage index as of 2019 is 99.4%, guaranteeing universal access to electricity and promoting social welfare and economic development in the country. Renewable sources account for 99.16% of electricity production (for 312 days, it reached 100%). It has a greenhouse gas emission factor of 33.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e/GWh, considered one of the cleanest in America<sup>24</sup>.

In the path towards the decarbonization of the economy, electricity has become a primary source of power to drive the energy transition in the transport and industry sectors, increasing competitiveness and sustainability for the country’s sustainable development in the short, medium and long term.

### **e. Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The National Law on Risk Prevention and Emergency Response, Law 8488, in force since 2006, describes the National Risk Management Plan (PNGR), which defines commitments and targets for institutions to reduce risk and ensure emergency preparedness and response and disaster recovery. Since 2010, risk management has been key in the National Development Plan. The Law defines it as a public policy concept inherent to all development practices. Based on the Law’s mandate, all public institutions are required to include, in their regular budgets, resources for emergency prevention and response. The PNGR is the guiding instrument for any actions they plan and develop.

In 2015 the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals were approved, and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change were adopted. That same year, Costa Rica updated and approved its national

<sup>21</sup> <https://minae.go.cr/recursos/2015/pdf/VII-PNE.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.grupoice.com/wps/wcm/connect/d91d6f4f-6619-4a2f-834f-6f5890eebb64/PLAN+DE+EXPANSION+DE+LA+GENERACION+2018-2034.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CVID=mleNZKV>

<sup>23</sup> BOT: Build, Operate, Transfer

<sup>24</sup> Greenhouse Gas Inventory, SEN 2019.

policy instrument on risk management, effective for 15 years, between 2016 and 2030, i.e. the same effective period as the international policy instruments. In the same sense, the update responded to an effort and a willingness to link national commitments in these fields to the same international strategic horizon. Costa Rica was the first country in the world to align its national policy with the commitments of the Sendai Framework.

The National Risk Management Policy 2016 -2020<sup>25</sup> provides a conceptual framework that links risk issues to development issues. It recognizes that there are “underlying factors” of development where the causes of vulnerability and aggravation of hazards are found. Therefore, its goal is to: “Contribute to achieving national development and the well-being of the Costa Rican population safely and sustainably by evidencing risk factors and conducting prospective management to build capacities in different sectors of society and encourage a culture of prevention that reduces vulnerability, prevents losses, and fosters effective recovery from potential disaster events. ”

The instrument includes five lines of action, related to priority actions under the Sendai Framework:

- Creating resilience and social inclusion
- Participation and deconcentration of risk management
- Education, knowledge management and innovation
- Sustainable financial investment, infrastructure, and services
- Risk reduction planning, regulatory mechanisms and instruments

The Policy includes a National Risk Management Plan as its shortest term action plan instrument, defined for three five-year periods in the Policy. It sets forth actions, targets, and outcomes for various state and private actors that contribute to achieving the expected Policy results. In this sense, Costa Rica adds a significant amount of actions by various stakeholders, which are regularly monitored with different means of evidence to show progress in risk management practices. Some that are directly related to the SDG targets are:

1. Welfare programs that identify people in hazardous and vulnerable locations, who are integrated into social assistance programs, including the possibility of accessing housing bonds or housing projects in safe locations.
2. All local governments (municipalities) in Costa Rica have an emergency committee. Almost all the municipalities use risk information created by different research centers to decide whether to grant permits and to issue land-use guidelines. In cases where urban regulatory plans have been updated, they have fragility maps to guide potential land use.
3. The organization of entities coordinated under the National Risk Management System defined by Law 8488 has been consolidated. These entities include regional, municipal, and community emergency committees, as well as technical advisory committees that bring together the scientific and academic community to support research, decision-making, and

<sup>25</sup>[https://www.cne.go.cr/transparencia/planes\\_institucionales/politica%20y%20plan%20nacional%20de%20gestion%20del%20riesgo/PNGR%202016%20-2030.pdf](https://www.cne.go.cr/transparencia/planes_institucionales/politica%20y%20plan%20nacional%20de%20gestion%20del%20riesgo/PNGR%202016%20-2030.pdf)

- knowledge generation. Additionally, risk management offices have been integrated in at least ten institutions and 14 municipalities.
4. At least 14 public policy instruments related to issues such as territorial planning, climate change adaptation, housing, protection of wetlands, marine resources, public investment, urban development, and rural development consider risk management as a cross-cutting theme and set risk analysis commitments and the adoption of control measures.
  5. Costa Rica invests an annual approximate of 4 million dollars in investigating risk factors, by financing research centers of public universities and central Government institutes. Additional contributions of a smaller amount come from international cooperation, in general terms developed jointly with other countries in the Central American region and managed by the Center for Disaster Prevention in Central America (CEPREDENAC). Research has advanced and is no longer limited to pinpointing threats. It is beginning to address the construction of scenarios and risk profiles relevant to land-use planning and public investment.
  6. Primary and secondary education programs include the subject of risk management and, more recently, climate change. There are also undergraduate and postgraduate risk management programs at public and private universities.
  7. Regulations regarding construction and public investment have been improved by adding more technical criteria, specifying the need to identify risk factors and estimated potential loss in a gradual process of increasingly stringent provisions for the evaluation and transfer of risk reduction measures to the financial flow of investment projects, particularly in the case of public investment works. Project formulation guides have also been prepared, establishing work requirements that incorporate the risk variable; tools for financial estimation of the effect of incorporating or not incorporating the risk variable in a public investment project; a methodology for the analysis of natural hazards in public investment projects in the profile stage; and the database on the impact of natural events in Costa Rica.
  8. There are some financial instruments for disaster protection, including an insurance market that contemplates catastrophic risks; a National Emergency Fund; and experience in managing contingent loans. Additionally, a financial strategy for disaster response is being negotiated. It intends to increase the availability of instruments and measures to increase fiscal resilience in case of disaster.
  9. Costa Rica has been collecting information on disaster losses for thirty years<sup>26</sup>. This is used to conduct different economic impact studies and provide recommendations to reduce losses in the most vulnerable sectors. It also facilitates national communications in preparation of the Climate Change Summit. Furthermore, it has allowed Costa Rica to become one of the first countries to report the fulfillment of “Sendai Monitor” targets.
  10. Several efforts are currently being carried out under the “public-private partnership” modality to articulate initiatives between the State and representative bodies of private companies, related to business continuity

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.mideplan.go.cr/perdidas-ocasionadas-fenomenos-naturales>

and post-disaster recovery. Costa Rica participates in the Private Sector Alliance for risk-resilient investments (ARISE) led by the UNDRR. Meetings and seminars have been held to share good practices in the business sector, in terms of risk management and business continuity. State-owned enterprises have also participated in these activities and have started applying internal business continuity policies.

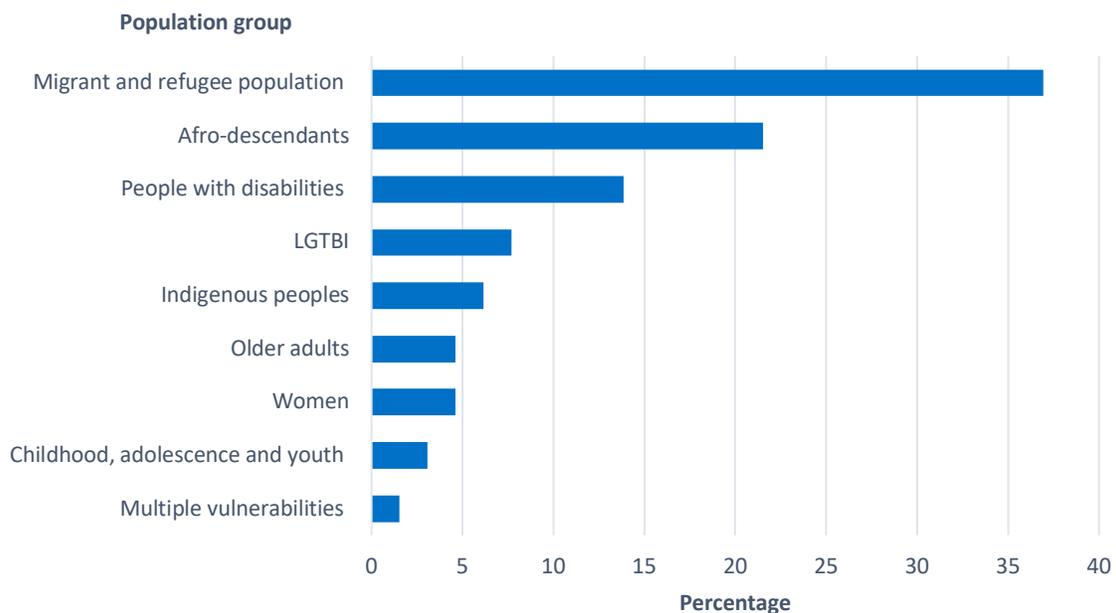
As mandated by law, the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE), operates as the institution governing risk management. The CNE is attached to the Presidency of the Republic and is led by a Board of Directors comprised of ministers. Thus, in order to comply with and give effect to the PNGR policy, the CNE is responsible for organizing and administrating the National Risk Management System, which includes representatives of government, the civil society and private companies through coordination bodies. The National System helps promote themes and monitor the fulfillment of commitments and progress towards the expected results. Once a year, the CNE convenes the National Risk Management Forum, with the participation of representatives from all created entities. The Forum reviews the CNE's performance and results obtained and redefines goals where appropriate.

# VIII. Leaving no one behind

## a. A National Development Plan for Populations

The PNDIP 2019-2022 also incorporates interventions aimed at specific populations in order to solve certain problems that affect them. It disaggregates information by sex or age groups to determine beneficiary populations. Overall, 47 strategic interventions and 72 targets specifically focused on populations or vulnerable groups have been identified. (Graph 2)<sup>27</sup>.

Graph 2. Distribution of PNDIP Strategic Interventions by Population Group



Source: Mideplan, with information from the PNDIP 2019-2022.

<sup>27</sup> For detailed strategic interventions, see Annex page 122.

## b. Public Policies to Leave No One Behind

The SDG Technical Secretariat provides public policy advice in its “Guide for the Preparation of Public Policies.”<sup>28</sup> One section of the Guide highlights the importance of citizen participation at all stages of policy development. The target population is vital throughout the process, to ensure actions are incorporated on the basis of demand. Moreover, when public policies are oriented towards specific populations, their participation guarantees their rights or gives rise to affirmative actions.

Public Policies that have been prepared after 2015 are linked to the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, thus introducing traceability and a differentiated approach in the context of Human Rights. Public policies related to the SDGs and created with the participation of specific populations are presented below.

### *b.1. Childhood, Adolescence and Youth*

This population group has public policies with a high degree of coverage in terms of enforcement of rights from early childhood to young adulthood. The institutions responsible for issuing guidelines are the National Children’s Board and the Ministry of Culture and Youth. However, the guidelines are developed in coordination with specialized United Nations agencies such as UNICEF and UNFPA and in conjunction with other institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector. The current public interventions in Childhood, Adolescence and Youth are: Early Childhood Policy (2015-2020)<sup>29</sup>, National Policy on Children and Adolescents 2009-2021<sup>30</sup>, National Agenda for Children and Adolescents 2016 - 2021<sup>31</sup>, National Action Plan to develop strategies for the prevention and eradication of violence against children and adolescents, Public Policy on Young People 2020-2024<sup>32</sup>.

Any actions carried out derived from these policies can have a positive impact on the scope of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the rights, needs, responsibilities, and demands of boys, girls, adolescents, and young people regarding the CdM and the SDGs.

### *b.2. Senior Citizen Population*

The National Council for Senior Citizens is the institution in charge of coordinating processes for this population, aged 65 and over. In addition, the Costa Rican Social Security Fund uses a life cycle approach that involves actions for healthy ageing. Interventions include the participation of the National Teacher’s Union, the United Nations Population Fund and the Presidency of the Republic. The public interventions in force for older persons are: National Policy on Ageing and Old Age

28 [https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/fp24S-RnTdWk007TA\\_likQ](https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/fp24S-RnTdWk007TA_likQ)

29 <https://pani.go.cr/descargas/politicas/833-politica-para-la-primera-infancia-2015-2020-1/file>

30 <https://pani.go.cr/descargas/bibliografia-recursos-humanos/563-politica-nacional-para-la-ninez-y-la-adolescencia-costa-rica-2009-2021/file>

31 <https://pani.go.cr/images/stories/documentos/Agenda-Nacional-de-la-Ninhez-y-la-Adolescencia.pdf>

32 <https://cpj.go.cr/archivos/35POLITICA%20PUBLICA%20Y%20PLAN%20DE%20ACCION%20VERSION%20FINAL%20IMPRESA%2051115.pdf>

2011-2021 (CONAPAM)<sup>33</sup> and the National Strategy for Healthy Ageing as a life cycle<sup>34</sup>.

These policies contribute to the Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons, the topic of ageing, social protection, and socioeconomic challenges of the CdM and to the initiatives promoted by the World Health Organization.

### *b.3. Women*

In Costa Rica, since 2007, the National Women’s Institute (INAMU) has promoted equality and equity between women and men. These processes, although led by INAMU, require the involvement of the entire state apparatus, as well as the engagement of the Legislative Branch, the Judiciary and the Supreme Court of Elections, United Nations agencies, academia, and local governments. Current public interventions on gender are: National Policy to prevent and address violence against women of all ages, (PLANOVI) 2017-2032; National Policy for Effective Equality among Women and Men, (PIEG) 2018-2030, National Policy for the equality of women and men in job training and use of the products of Science, Technology, Telecommunications, and Innovation 2018-2017<sup>35</sup>.

The time horizons for the implementation of PIEG and PLANOVI respond to the SDGs and have been designed so that their action plans are updated as future National Development Plans are prepared. Both public policies include a System of Institutions comprised of Commissions or Secretariats with institutions and civil society organizations committed to providing monitoring.

This contributes to the frameworks of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence Against Women, “Convention of Belem Do Para;” the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); and Gender Equality under CdM and SDG 5.

### *b.4. Indigenous Peoples and Territories and Afro-descendant Populations*

Actions aimed at this population are included in the National Policy for a Society Free of Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Xenophobia, 2014-2025. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs leads this process, which is managed by the Inter-institutional Commission for the Follow-up and Implementation of International Human Rights Obligations (CIIDDHH). Its Subcommittee on Dialogue with the Civil Society carries out close consultations to enforce the rights of both populations. The current public intervention on Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendant Populations is the National Policy for a Society Free of Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Xenophobia, 2014-2025<sup>36</sup>.

In addition, the Executive Branch -through the Vice-Presidencies of the Republic-- is currently executing actions with the support of the United Nations System and its

<sup>33</sup> [https://fiapam.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Prestaciones\\_PolNac\\_EnvVejez2011-2021.pdf](https://fiapam.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Prestaciones_PolNac_EnvVejez2011-2021.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.ministeriodesalud.go.cr/index.php/biblioteca-de-archivos/sobre-el-ministerio/politicas-y-planos-en-salud/estrategias/3864-estrategia-nacional-para-un-envejecimiento-saludable-2018-2020/file>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.micit.go.cr/sites/default/files/pdf.pdf>

<sup>36</sup> <https://accesoalajusticia.poder-judicial.go.cr/index.php/politica-nacional-sociedad-libre-rde-acismo-afrodescendientes>

specialized agencies UNESCO, UNDP, OHCHR, ILO and FAO to create a National Policy on Indigenous Peoples and a National Policy on People of African Descent based on participatory processes. Both the policy in effect and those in the process of formulation seek to promote efforts to meet the specific needs of these populations in the context of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance.

#### *b.5. People with Disabilities*

Actions for the restitution of rights of people with disabilities in Costa Rica are led by the National Council for People with Disabilities (CONAPDIS). This institution enacted a public policy in 2011. In 2016, it updated the National Policy on Disability (PONADIS) 2030<sup>37</sup>, to relate it to the Sustainable Development Goals and promote processes in the rest of the institutions to fully enforce the rights of people with disabilities.

The creation of the public policy action plan involved the establishment of guidelines to act for the benefit of the target population efficiently and effectively. This is stated directly in Decree 40635 -MP-MDHIS-PLAN-MTSS “Harmonization of the National Policy on Disability (PONADIS) and establishment of its plan of action in accordance with the country’s commitments to fulfill the sustainable development goals.” Article 9 of this Decree states: “To advocate and encourage national, sectoral, and regional plans, and any other plans connected to the National Planning System, to integrate the Rights Approach for People with Disabilities, as well as strategic actions and resources necessary to promote the inclusive development of this population, in accordance with the 2030 Development Agenda.” This guideline requires all planning processes to be linked to the 2030 Agenda and to be developed considering the human rights of people with disabilities.

In its work for the population with disabilities, the State seeks to develop actions in favor of the Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities and the requirement of leaving no one behind in Costa Rica’s sustainable development, with a view to achieving the SDGs, mainly SDG 1 to fight poverty and the SDG on reduced inequalities.

### **c. Montevideo Consensus and UPR**

#### *c.1 Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development*

The Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development<sup>38</sup> is the result of the First Meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Montevideo in August 2013, the cornerstone of the process of reviewing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The CdM has 10 chapters (A to J) describing a

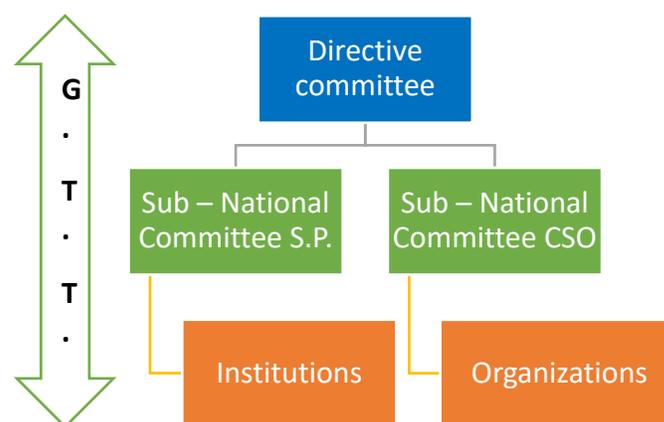
<sup>37</sup> [http://www.documentos.una.ac.cr/bitstream/handle/unadocs/4318/resumen\\_ponadis.pdf?sequence=1](http://www.documentos.una.ac.cr/bitstream/handle/unadocs/4318/resumen_ponadis.pdf?sequence=1)

<sup>38</sup> [https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21835/4/S20131037\\_es.pdf](https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/21835/4/S20131037_es.pdf)

population focus, with 108 Priority Actions that States must consider to integrate population issues in their approach to development, and 140 monitoring indicators.

In Costa Rica, the agenda of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development (CdM) is implemented through a High-Level Steering Committee, which is comprised of representatives of Mideplan’s ministerial office and representatives of about 44 Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), INEC and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), who provide essential technical support throughout the different processes. In addition, committees for the articulation and coordination between public institutions and CSOs were created (Figure 10).

Figure 10. Organizational Structure to Implement the Montevideo Consensus, 2017



TWG: Technical Working Group.

Source: Mideplan, with data from the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development, Country Report. 2017<sup>39</sup>.

The Technical Working Group (TWG) developed a methodological proposal for the selection of priority measures to report and a mechanism for documenting progress and any challenges related to these measures. This proposed methodology was agreed between the public sector and CSOs. After submitting the report, work focused on the creation of a CdM Indicator Monitoring System<sup>40</sup>, which is also tied to the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (2018). Additionally, awareness-raising processes were conducted, and technical inputs were developed on different populations, such as the “Montevideo Consensus and Long-term Thinking.” A roadmap was established for the preparation of the II 2020 Report with the participation of civil society, public institutions, United Nations agencies and INEC. The process involves reviewing the National Development and Public Investment Plan (PNDIP) 2019-2022, as well as the Human Rights Conventions and Charters.

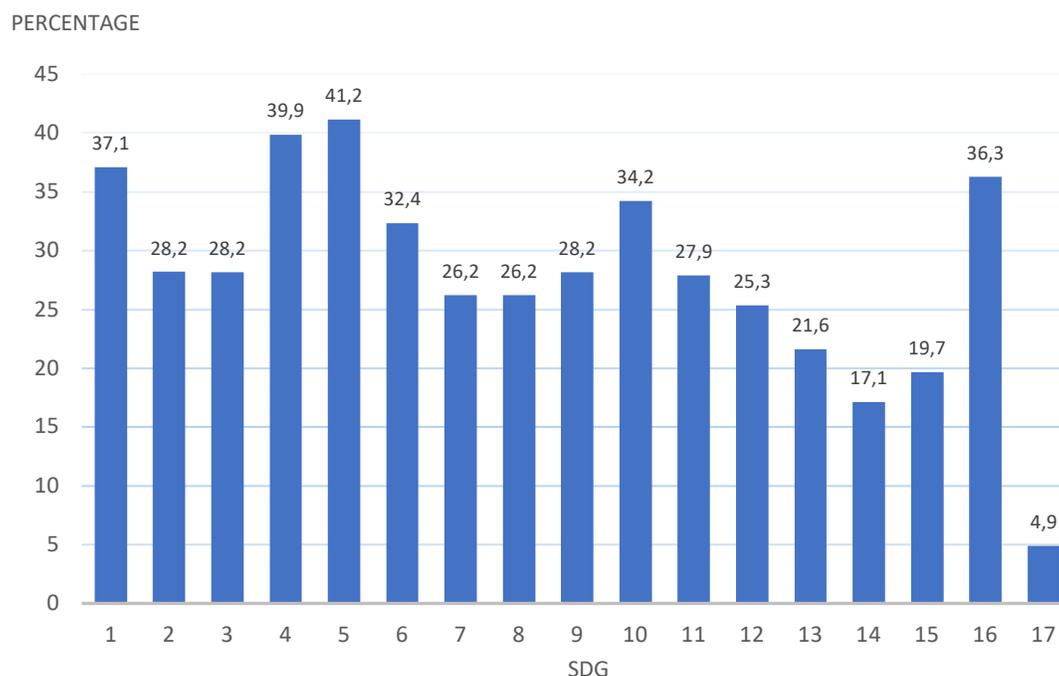
<sup>39</sup> Report available at [http://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/consenso\\_montevideo\\_0.pdf](http://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/consenso_montevideo_0.pdf)

<sup>40</sup> Indicators available at [https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/skUiq3vOT1qX0YL565Z\\_-g](https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/skUiq3vOT1qX0YL565Z_-g)

There is convergence between the monitoring indicators of the CDM and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), since 40 SDG indicators contribute to CDM monitoring and, in turn, compliance with the CDM Priority Actions contributes to the SDG principles in the context of leaving no one behind, whether it be indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants, children, adolescents or youth, older persons, people with disabilities, men, women, and other population categories.

Thus, when implementing these two major frameworks together, the strategic interventions of the PNDIP 2019-2022 separately contribute to the SDGs and the CDM, according to goals and chapters. For example, the plan interventions that have a general linkage to SDG 5 on Gender Equality have an average linkage of 41.2% to the chapters of the CDM (Graph 3).

Graph 3. Average Percentages of General Linkage of PNDIP 2019-2022 Strategic Interventions to the CDM by SDG



Source: Mideplan, with data from the Sub-Secretariat of Population.

Therefore, the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development is particularly relevant in the Latin American and Caribbean region as one of the international instruments on which the SDGs are based. This allows incorporating the specificities of the different populations in the SDGs.

## *c.2 Universal Periodic Review (UPR)*

There are several guidelines to provide monitoring of<sup>41</sup> Human Rights instruments. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) includes an analysis of the human rights records of

<sup>41</sup> <https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2019-12/UNDG-HRWG-Study-print.pdf>  
[https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR\\_PUB\\_16\\_1\\_NMRF\\_Study.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_Study.pdf)

all Member States of the United Nations. The UPR is a State-led process under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, offering each State the opportunity to report on the measures being taken to improve the human rights situation in the country and to fulfill its human rights obligations.

As one of the main tools of the Human Rights Council, the UPR was designed to ensure equal treatment of all countries when evaluating human rights situations. The UPR is one of the key elements of the Council. It reminds States of their responsibility to fully respect and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The ultimate goal of this mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and to address human rights violations wherever they occur. Currently, there is no other universal mechanism like it, and the Government of Costa Rica gives it a privileged place in its commitment to the observance of human rights and their enforcement. Each new cycle is comprised of three stages, namely:

- Review of the human rights situation of each of the Member States.
- Implementation, in the next five years, of the recommendations received and the voluntary pledges and commitments made by each member country.
- In the following review, each member State reports on the implementation of recommendations, pledges, and commitments and, in general, on the evolution of the state of human rights.

What human rights obligations are addressed?

The institutional-building text of the Human Rights Council, as set out in resolution A/HRC/RES/5/1 of June 18, 2007, indicates that the review shall assess to what extent States respect their human rights obligations contained in:

- The Charter of the United Nations
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- Human Rights instruments to which the State is party (human rights treaties ratified by the State)
- Voluntary pledges and commitments made by the State (including those undertaken when presenting the candidature for election to the Human Rights Council)
- International humanitarian law

Costa Rica submitted its third national report<sup>42</sup> on the human rights situation in the country during the 33rd session of the UPR Working Group, which took place on May 13, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. During the session, the Costa Rican delegation received a total of 212 recommendations from the countries present in the exercise.

Costa Rican institutions assessed and examined the 212 recommendations received. On September 20, 2019, the Government of Costa Rica decided to communicate to the UPR Working Group that the country had made the decision to accept 194, partially accept 3, take note of 12, and reject 3 of these

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42 During this period, the documentation sent to the UPR had the participation of 5 civil society organizations, 1 report from the Ombudsperson's Office, and 15 reports from non-governmental organizations, in addition to 3 reports from the United Nations System (United Nations Country Team, UNESCO, and UNHCR).

recommendations. This would enable the State to ensure effective implementation of the commitments made in the field of human rights until the next national review, scheduled for 2024.

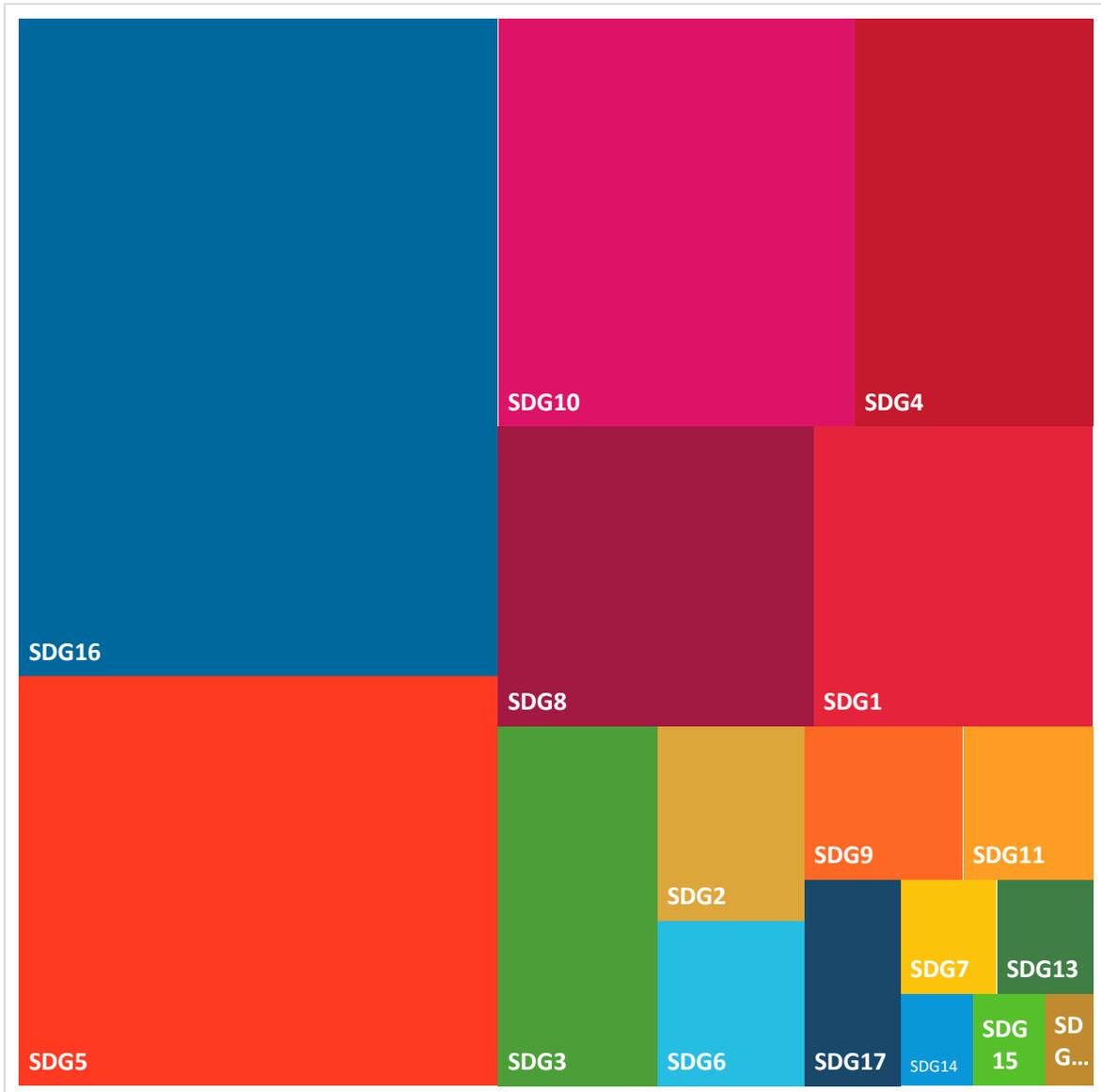
The 212 recommendations indicated are linked to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through their targets and indicators, in different ways:

- The recommendations were related to the SDGs to determine that recommendations matched at least one SDG.
- Recommendations were analyzed in order to link them to the different SDGs and to determine the amount or percentage of recommendations related to each of the SDGs.

The SDGs with the largest number of linked recommendations are: SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), which is connected to 65.5% of these recommendations; followed by SDG 5 (Gender Equality), with 24.8%; SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), with 31.1%; SDG 4 (Quality Education), with 20.8%; SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), with 20.3%; SDG 1 (No Poverty), with 17.9%; and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), among others (Graph 4).

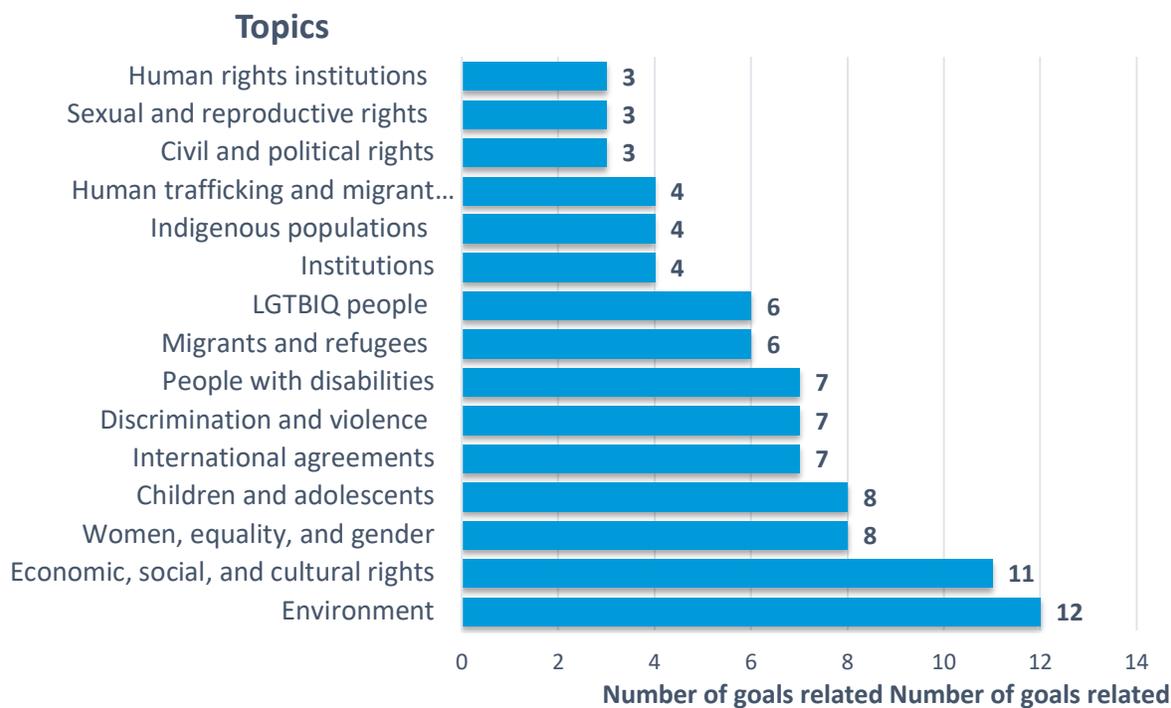
Likewise, recommendations are identified and grouped under similar topics. Once these aggregations were completed, the number of SDGs linked to each group of recommendations is obtained. The groups with the highest number of linked SDGs are "Environment", with 12; "Economic, social and cultural rights", with 11; "Women, equality, and gender" with 8; "Children and adolescents", "International agreements", "Discrimination and violence," and "People with disabilities" all with 7, among others (Graph 5).

Graph 4. Percentage Distribution of Accepted UPR Recommendations Linked to SDGs, 2020



Source: Mideplan, 2020. Information taken from the recommendations of civil society committees.

Graph 5. Main UPR Topics According to the Number of SDGs Linked



Source: Mideplan, with information taken from the recommendations of civil society committees, 2020.

This evidences the importance given by the State of Costa Rica and its society to issues such as institutions and justice and the elimination of inequality between men and women in most areas (whether referred to the difference between boys and girls, or racial, ethnic, or migrant discrimination or discrimination against LGBTBI people), as well as the importance of decent work, sustainable economic development and the education of its people.

#### d. Gender

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy and the National Women’s Institute prepared the 2020 Gender Equality Characterization Study<sup>43</sup>, with the aim of describing Costa Rica’s female inhabitants in terms of the main gender gaps and the way in which public investment is addressing the needs of that population to identify financial resource needs and institutional capacities.

The study stresses that there are more women than men with secondary and university education. Women are more affected than men by unemployment and that unemployed young people who neither study nor work are mostly women.

<sup>43</sup> Official letter MIDEPLAN-DM-OF-0368-2020/INAMU-PE-0219-2020, dated March 31, 2020, sent to the Office of the Comptroller General of the Republic.

Moreover, women received 10% less salary than men and female-headed households represent 39.3% of households considered as dimensional poor.

One of the most relevant aspects is evidenced when accounting for the contribution of unpaid domestic work (TDNR) in Costa Rica, which refers to domestic, personal, and care services provided and consumed inside the home, for which no direct financial remuneration is received. This measurement indicated that men spend less time on domestic work, 7.9%, compared to women who spend more than twice (18%).

Therefore, of the total hours required to complete household chores, women on average perform 71.8%, while men only 28.2%. This information poses a challenge for public policies to advance towards shared responsibility in the care of dependents and towards dividing these tasks equally among men and women. Women work double or triple the hours than men, which prevents them from accessing better jobs and enjoy time to improve their lives and their contribution to society.

As for access of women to elected office or decision-making positions, progress was made in the elections for the congress of the Republic: 45% of elected congress people were women in the last national elections. However, a gap persists in accessing leadership positions in the Central Government. Although 62% of job positions in the Central Government are held by women, only 32% of Direction and Management positions are held by women. In addition, fewer women (36.8%) than men (63.2%) own micro-enterprises, according to the National Survey of Household Micro-enterprises, 2017.

Regarding sexual and reproductive health, 68% of women have already had sexual relations before the age of 19, and 13.7% before the age of 15. Most women who had their first sexual intercourse before the age of 15 began their sexual life with a partner five years older than them, and 1 in 5 with a partner ten or more years older.

In terms of gender violence, Law 8589 on the Criminalization of Violence Against Women was enacted in 2007. In 2020, 5 confirmed femicides have been recorded by the Institutional Sub-committee on Femicide Prevention, out of a total of 24 deaths of women that have occurred to date. Of the 19 remaining deaths, one of them was the murder of a woman, but the Assistant Prosecutor's Office on Gender determined that, it is not classified as femicide. The other 18 are yet to be classified, pending the corresponding police or expert reports. The Gender Equality Study analyzed and sorted the gender interventions included in the 2019-2022 PNDIP based on 3 criteria:

1. Conditions for equality and enforcement of the human rights of women to eradicate gender discrimination: access to goods and services for women in their diversity as general conditions to guarantee their rights.

2. Contribution to the reduction of gender gaps: interventions whose indicators refer to the number of employed women for every 100,000 men who cannot increase working hours because they are attending to family or personal obligations; women employed in domestic service; economic inequalities in terms of salary and payment of wages below the established minimum; among others.

3. Affirmative actions to reverse the trend of gender gaps or inequalities.

There is a clear need to change the design of public interventions to incorporate more and more affirmative actions as an evolution of the guarantees of rights to transform the conditions and well-being of the women who live in Costa Rica. In general terms, the study illustrates how a public policy specific to the conditions of women is increasingly relevant, considering that different problems affect women and men differently.

### e. Migration and Refuge

Costa Rica has different mechanisms for addressing and serving migrants and refugees in the country, including the Comprehensive Migration Policy (2013) and the National Integration Plan for Costa Rica 2018-2022. In addition, the National Migration Council (CNM) advises and recommends the Executive Branch on migration policy and coordinates public actions by each of the institutions represented in the CNM and the rest of the public sector developed in migration matters. Other bodies have functioned as pillars in strengthening enforcement of the rights of migrants, such as the Framework for Protection and Response Solutions to the Situation of Refugees (MINARE), which has been implemented with the close support of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Costa Rica's characteristics and the conditions of socio-political crisis that have developed in countries in the region have caused people who have a need for international protection to come to Costa Rica to seek refuge.

MINARE has been adopted as an action plan to involve sectors of society in order to strengthen the Costa Rican asylum and protection system. The MINARE framework was developed in a national consultation process with all relevant stakeholders who provide assistance to asylum-seekers and refugees, including public sector, private sector, academia, civil society and faith-based groups. The result of the national consultation was a list of 32 commitments organized in four main areas: reception and admission; assistance for immediate and persistent needs; support for host communities; and integration. Under the MINARE Framework, the SDG Technical Secretariat undertook to develop a methodology to quantify investments in Costa Rica to serve people with international protection needs<sup>44</sup>. For the first phase of the quantification, the Secretariat has identified three areas of focus: social programs, financial programs, and institutions responsible for promoting the integration of refugee applicants and refugees<sup>45</sup>.

<sup>44</sup> As part of the quantification, the institutions consulted include the Joint Institute of Social Aid (IMAS), the Ministry of Public Education (MEP), the Costa Rican Social Security Fund (CCSS), and others.

<sup>45</sup> The following areas of focus will be taken into account for quantification: a) Healthcare, with services from the Costa Rican Social Security Fund, hospital services, and medical visits; b) Education, with MEP statistics on integration into preschool, primary, secondary and university education; c) Social assistance, with IMAS programs, attention to families, child care and development, Creceamos and Avancemos (UNHCR, 2019).

The costing methodology states that the quantification calculates the funding required per service to serve refugees and asylum seekers. In this first quantification exercise, Costa Rica has calculated a requirement of USD \$82,225,776 for 2020, 24% of which is estimated as planned in the national budget, equivalent to USD \$19,797,672. The remaining 76% of this required funding is the existing financing gap, equivalent to USD \$62,428,104 (Table 2).

Table 2. Financing Summary (2020 in USD\*)

| Area       | Required Financing | National Funding   | Funding Gap        |
|------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Social Aid | 18.577.043         | 1.575.652          | 17.001.391         |
| Education  | 30.200.154         | 9.492.853          | 20.707.300         |
| Healthcare | 33.448.579         | 8.729.166          | 24.719.413         |
| Total      | 82.225.776         | 19.797.672         | 62.428.104         |
|            | CRC 47.442.011.599 | CRC 11.682.023.159 | CRC 37.523.914.139 |

\*Exchange rate: 2019: 590 CRC to 1 USD. 2020: 601 CRC to 1 USD.

Source: MIRPS quantification 2019.



# IX. The 2030 Agenda as a country commitment: The National Pact and stakeholder contributions

In 2016, Costa Rica committed to the 2030 Agenda. It was the first country in the world to sign a National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs. The three branches of government, the Supreme Court of Elections, local governments, public universities, faith-based organizations, civil society, workers' unions, and the private sector undertook to mobilize resources, plan, budget, build institutional capacities, and be accountable for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country<sup>46</sup>.

Within this context, the National Pact predates the formation of the governance structure at the national level that would be responsible for operationalizing and ensuring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica. One of the core agenda items for joint work within the governance structure and its constituent bodies is the accountability process that must be carried out on an intersectoral basis. The objective is to have clarity on the current state and the country's progress in the implementation and results of the Agenda.

This section describes the contributions of the National SDG Pact signatories by showcasing the main results of two online stakeholder consultations in 2018 and 2020 and examining reports published in the last three years and stakeholder input prepared specifically for this Review.

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<sup>46</sup> See: National Pact for the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Costa Rica: <http://ods.cr/sites/default/files/documentos/5-gobernanzacr-ods.pdf>

#### a. Multi-stakeholder survey on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2018)

In 2018, the United Nations System in coordination with the SDG Technical Secretariat conducted a consultation process targeting different National Pact signatories to discuss the efforts made and the results obtained two years after the Pact's entry into force. The Survey for the Advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Costa Rica sought to collect information on progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda under the National Pact and identify good practices, challenges and lessons learned in enforcing the 2030 Agenda.

The survey was provided in online format to representatives of each sector signing the Pact: Executive branch, legislative branch, judicial branch, Supreme Court of Elections, local governments, unions, universities, private sector, civil society, faith-based organizations. Additionally, the Ombudsperson's Office and the United Nations System were witnesses to the process. Responses were received from September 21 to October 19, 2018.

##### 1. MAIN RESULTS:

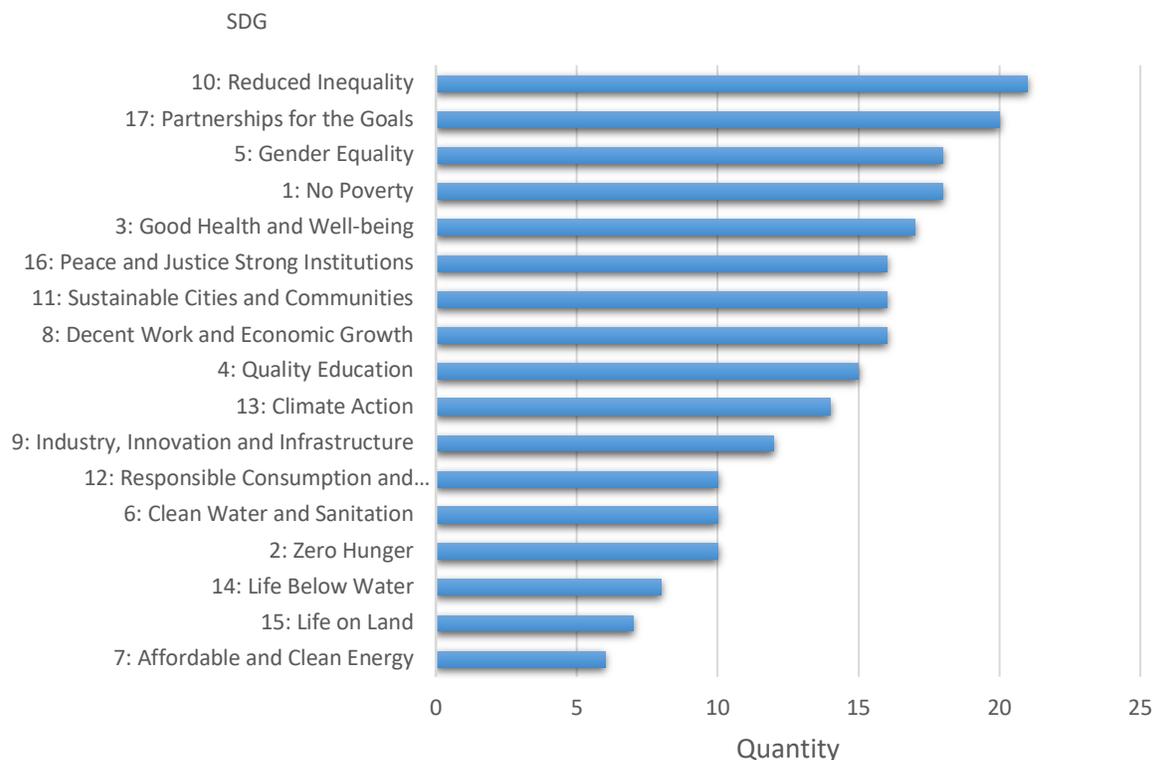
Responses were received from the executive branch, legislative branch, judicial branch, Supreme Court of Elections, local governments, faith-based organizations, private sector, civil society, and the United Nations System.

- Contribution to the SDGs according to reported actions

Based on the information provided by the stakeholders, reported initiatives were aligned to the SDGs. The SDG more closely linked to the initiatives of the organizations was number 10: Reduced Inequalities; 64% of the organizations said they worked for this goal. Four other goals were connected with more than 50% of the organizations: partnerships for development (61%), Gender Equality (54%), No Poverty (54%), and Good Health and Well-being (51%). The least mentioned goals were Life Below Water (24%), Life on Land (21%) and, lastly, Affordable and Clean Energy (18%) (Graph 6).

The organizations were also asked about how their activities were linked to the SDG indicators. In this particular topic, technical challenges regarding the implementation of the Agenda were identified. Although a significant percentage of the organizations (61%) stated they worked with specific indicators regarding the targets of the 17 SDGs, the majority referred to the number of the target they impacted, and not to the indicator contained in the target. For this reason, it is not possible to mention specific indicators in this report.

Graph 6. Contribution to the SDGs According to the Number of Initiatives Linked to each Goal



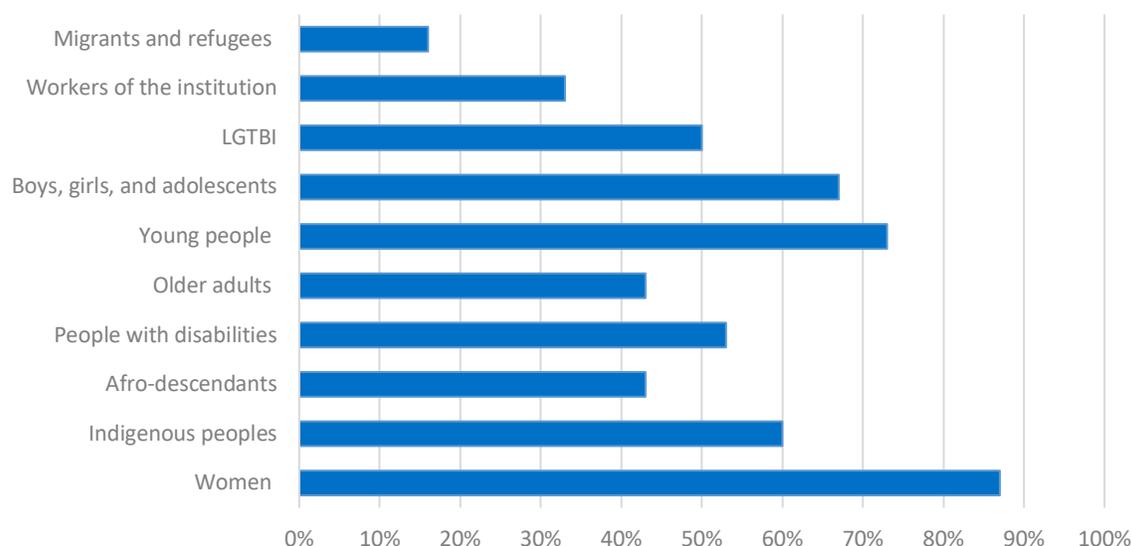
Source: SDG Survey Report 2018, SNU-Costa Rica

Along these lines, the target most linked to the initiatives was 16.2, with a total of 21% organizations expressing they worked to *End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture of children*. The remaining 39% determined that they did not contemplate the impact on indicators at all or that they still had challenges linking the initiatives to specific indicators. Among the reasons for the persistence of these challenges was a lack of training and the absence of national indicators and targets.

- Beneficiary Populations

In follow-up to the principle of *leaving no one behind*, the organizations were asked about population groups that benefited from their actions to contribute to the 2030 Agenda. In this case, 87% of the entities interviewed stated that their initiatives focus on benefitting women; the second most impacted population was young people, with 73%. On the other hand, the least impacted population was migrants and refugees, where only 16% of the entities claimed to work for this population. (Graph 7).

Graph 7. Percentage Distribution of Actions Reported by Beneficiary Populations



Source: SDG Survey Report 2018, SNU-Costa Rica.

Similar results were obtained from the consultation process on the degree of progress of the SDGs and CdM carried out in 2020, with the sectors participating in the National Pact for the SDGs. The following public institutions responded: Legislative Assembly, Judiciary, Joint Institute of Social Aid, National Council of Young People, among other institutions; civil society organizations (CSOs), including the Mauricio Amuy/Brazos de Amor Foundation, the Association for the Deaf in Limón, Dejando Huella Association, the Latin American Council of Churches, the Costa Rican Gerontological Association and other CSOs.

All the institutions and organizations consulted have stated they prioritize the implementation of the SDGs in their strategic actions or interventions, addressing priority development issues with a population focus on women, indigenous people, Afro-descendants, people with disabilities, older adults, young people, children and adolescents, LGBTI, migrants, people who work or collaborate with the institution (company or organization), people living on the street or homeless, and other categories.

- Results reported by stakeholders in their contribution to the SDGs

This question raised particular challenges in the analysis, as the answers reflected a diversity of interpretations in terms of what organizations consider results, and no direct impacts on the SDG indicators or targets were mentioned. Therefore, in order to standardize the information and give a general sample of the approaches and efforts made to date, the results were linked to the types of initiatives defined in the survey instructions:

Knowledge-sharing: Preparation of studies, research, and others.

**Structural interventions:** Laws, decrees, guidelines to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs.

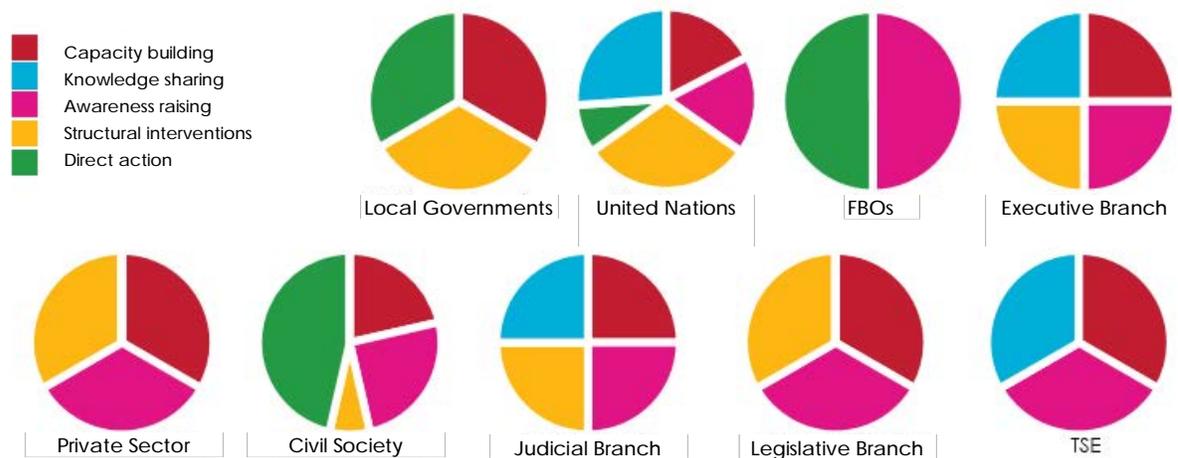
**Information and awareness-raising:** campaigns, web pages, videos, apps.

**Capacity building:** organization of or attendance to workshops and training; development of educational materials such as manuals or guides.

**Direct action:** projects with specific communities or populations.

According to the responses, 25% of the results were related to capacity-building; 23% to awareness-raising; 21% to structural interventions; 20% to direct action; and 11% to knowledge-sharing (Figure 11).

Figure 11. Classification of Actions Reported by Participating Stakeholder



Source: SDG Survey Report 2018, SNU-Costa Rica.

- Value of the National Pact

Under the question: *What meaning and practical value has the Pact had for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica?*, responses can be broken down into three categories: 24% of answers referred to the signing of the National Pact as having symbolic value in terms of the commitment accepted. Although it allows having a common vision of development, it has not yet managed to lead to concrete results. Another 34% stated it had structural positioning value regarding the 2030 Agenda as a country agenda, formalizing the commitment and serving as a prelude to the formation of the governance structure. The remaining 66% saw its value as a joint working tool to provide guidance for institutional activities and facilitate intersectoral strategic alliances, which has uncovered points of convergence at the national level.

- Challenges

The social stakeholders who provided input in this process identified a series of challenges for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda in Costa Rica. These challenges are related, in the first place, to the need for greater transparency, communication, and intersectoral articulation within existing national governance mechanisms to facilitate agreements and decision-making in multi-sector dialogue platforms. On the other hand, the lack of technical capacity of some stakeholders to connect the SDGs to their organizational actions is mentioned as a challenge (especially considering the ability to monitor and evaluate concrete results of non-government stakeholders). More support should be provided in this sense.

Considerable challenges are identified in the financial means for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially affected by the complex state of public finances and the lack of capacities of social actors to mobilize resources. Another challenge is the need to continue efforts to raise awareness and provide communication and access to information for the general public, including the creation of effective spaces for citizen participation.

The 2020 consultation process also uncovered challenges in: achieving balanced and collaborative political agendas; greater ownership of the targets under each goal; increased accountability and transparency of all sectors on equal terms to enable measuring the actual fulfillment of the targets under all the goals through open dialogue and with real citizen participation. There is also a request for greater clarity and speed in the country vision regarding the global indicators of the 2030 Agenda. Similarly, the lack of training for decision-makers is a challenge. Priority is given to short-term planning, mainly attended by National Development Plans, so progress is expected in the short-, medium- and long-term vision for national development, tied to the 2030 Agenda and agreements of the Montevideo Consensus on Population and Development.

- Lessons Learned and Recommendations

Regarding lessons learned and recommendations, the social stakeholders highlight the importance of strategic planning and strengthening the national implementation roadmap from a multisectoral approach. This includes a stronger focus on results-based management and establishing clear monitoring and accountability processes on a regular basis by all stakeholders. Intersectoral coordination should be seen as a national priority, to bolster the governance structure and inter- and intra-sector coordination, recognizing the need to consolidate the Advisory Committee as the ideal platform for this purpose. Also, it is recommended to concentrate more efforts on broadening the scope of actions beyond the Greater Metropolitan Area. Human rights and gender-based approaches should be considered in the interventions, to focus on communication with the most vulnerable populations, taking into account local and community development as a fundamental basis for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The following sections outline the contributions of the stakeholders that have signed the National Pact for the SDGs.

## b. Business Sector

The SDG Advisory Committee brings together different state and non-state actors to create a space for consultation and dialogue to advise the High-Level Council on the implementation of the SDGs in Costa Rica. It is comprised of representatives from each of the institutions that signed the “National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs” in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Costa Rica on September 9, 2016. Within the Advisory Committee, the private sector is represented by the Business Association for Development (AED)<sup>47</sup>, which in turn serves as the technical secretariat of the local Global Compact network in Costa Rica<sup>48</sup>. The proposal was developed between AED, RS-Sostenible<sup>49</sup> (a company specializing in corporate social responsibility and sustainability and also a member of AED), and the SDG Technical Secretariat.

These three entities expect this consultation to be a first step towards a permanent monitoring system on the contribution of the private sector to the SDG targets and indicators. They leverage a web-based consultation tool designed by students of the Systems Engineering School of Costa Rica’s Technological Institute. This will allow a common monitoring of the 2030 Agenda by the public and private sectors, with the possibility of extending it to other actors.

- Private Sector Consultation

The contribution of the private sector is presented below. The main results of this survey are shown in relation to the 3 entry points.

### Entry Point 1: Fight against Poverty

Until a few years ago, the fight against poverty was exclusively aimed at public policy and governments applying it. However, society’s expectations of the role of the business sector in this sense have increased. There is a greater demand for companies to participate and get involved through socially and environmentally responsible actions. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda assume that achieving a more sustainable and equitable world involves more active collaboration by companies in the challenges that humanity faces.

According to INEC’s annual employment data (2018-2019 average), the private business sector employs around 87% of the labor force in Costa Rica. The latest State of the Nation Report highlighted that the income of 80% of households in the country comes from employment. In terms of unemployment, women show the highest levels (18%); currently, it is almost double the men’s unemployment rate (8.6%) and more than the national average, which reached 12.5%. Finally, 32.1% of wage earners (people with an employer) have an informal job. This shows the important challenges that the business sector can help solve.

Faced with these challenges, the business sector has executed the following actions.

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.aedcr.com/>      <https://www.aedcr.com/oferta-de-valor/directorio>

<sup>48</sup> <http://www.pactoglobalcostarica.org/>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/rssostenible/>

**Business management:** Creating quality jobs; affirmative actions to hire women, people with disabilities, refugees, and others. Implementing human capital development programs on issues such as improving quality of life, over-indebtedness, and occupational health and safety. The Alliance of Companies to End Extreme Poverty, led by AED, brings together companies committed to the well-being and development of their collaborators and the country. They develop, implement, and share actions to improve the quality of life of the people who work for them. Since 2011, more than 100 companies have been trained in the methodology of a multidimensional evaluation of poverty. Several programs and strategies focused on detected priority areas have been developed by identifying the socioeconomic reality of more than 10,000 households. The priority commitment is to fight poverty, starting with extreme poverty, inside their organizations through training, financial education, and public-private partnerships. Additionally, in 2017 Horizonte Positivo launched the Multidimensional Poverty Index tool for business use. Currently, 61 companies use this tool to identify the socioeconomic reality of more than 27 thousand households and to plan strategies to bridge the gaps identified.

More support is provided by reinforcing the value chain through responsible linkages that help develop more sustainable suppliers with greater possibilities of success and growth. Public-private partnerships build infrastructure and transfer technology through social innovation that provides business opportunities to address social and environmental problems and challenges; e.g. social enterprises.

**Social investment:** Investing in the communities and in alliance with national and municipal public institutions to enhance their management and strengthen organized groups.

**Coordination and advocacy:** Taking a stand in the face of social and environmental problems that affect not only business, but society as a whole, and promoting agreements to achieve legal or institutional changes.

#### Entry Point 2: Sustainable Production and Consumption

The private sector has implemented sustainable production and consumption systems to reduce its negative environmental impact and increase the competitiveness of companies through innovation, development partnerships, environmental education projects, volunteering, and initiatives aimed at incorporating good practices in their processes.

The Ecological Blue Flag program fosters the commitment of companies to establish an accessible environmental system that is progressively geared at carbon neutrality. This program emphasizes commitment on issues such as responsible management and consumption of resources. More than 400 private sector organizations received the Blue Flag award in 2019, by reducing parameters such as water consumption and electricity consumption, increasing sustainable purchases and decreasing waste. The Business Ecoefficiency program led by AED works with companies to manage their environmental aspects and impacts in order to achieve the Ecological Blue Flag award. Nearly 158 companies have participated during the 2012-2018 period, achieving the following reductions: 2,985 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e as a consequence of decreased electricity consumption; 50 thousand

tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e by reducing fossil fuels; 1,685 million m<sup>3</sup> savings in water; and 591 tons of reduction in paper consumption.

The Carbon Neutral Country Program is an initiative of the Costa Rican government that provides a mechanism to acknowledge the proper management of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in public and private organizations, local governments, district councils or communities. The private sector uses this reference framework as a tool to mitigate its carbon footprint, with 76 companies having been declared Carbon Neutral. This means that they have managed to measure, reduce, and offset the emissions generated by their operations.

The Directorate of Quality Management DIGECA has Voluntary Cleaner Production Agreements with companies to create environmental management instruments that integrate self-regulatory mechanisms, goals, and commitments by mutual agreement between Government and the private sector. The most common agreements focus on standardizing detailed water consumption records; measures to minimize water consumption and pollution; adequate disposal of solid and liquid waste; proper management and disposal of wastewater; reduced energy consumption; fossil fuel replacement by generating alternative energy, among others. A total of 40 companies have already signed the voluntary agreement; 8 are pending signature<sup>50</sup>.

The Directorate of Environmental Quality Management (DIGECA), of the Ministry of Environment and Energy, promotes the National Policy of Sustainable Production and Consumption. It works hand in hand with companies and with the Institute of Technical Standards INTECO to develop eco-labeling regulations for sectors including coffee, domestic refrigeration, cleaning, products, concrete, and other production processes. This label helps translate technical and environmental terms into a language that is more accessible to consumers. It also facilitates the selection of products by providing relevant information on their environmental footprint and creates a differentiating factor for products. A total of 25 companies participate in committees to implement these standards.

In agriculture, examples include Coopetarrazú, a cooperative that promotes a culture of sustainable production by implementing good agricultural practices that seek to reduce the carbon footprint impact, integrating production of bio-inputs based on mountain microorganisms and organic fertilizer. In 2016, the Agricultural Industrial Sugarcane League, LAICA, along with AED and with the financial cooperation of IICO, developed a Sectoral Sustainability Protocol, considered a common agenda by voluntary agreement, which aims to raise the economic, social, and environmental performance of all companies in the industry. The Protocol offers a guide so the industrial sector can be accountable for its contribution to the country's sustainable development. In 2018, thanks to the allocation of AL Invest 5.0 funds, the Protocol was extended to production, incorporating commitments on sustainable management in national producers and farms. Some of the substantial issues identified by the sector are occupational health

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<sup>50</sup> Information provided by the Directorate of Quality Management DIGECA, of the Ministry of the Environment and Energy.

and safety, child labor, good agricultural practices, product innovation, transparency and accountability, associations, and gender equality.

In relation to target 12.3 on reducing food losses, in 2012 and under the leadership of the private sector, the Food Bank Association was created, with the objective of securing and obtaining food and basic commodities to distribute them to the excluded and at-risk populations. These products are provided by the surplus of the food industry, which has allowed to reduce food loss in the production and supply chains and the waste of consumable food. Around 40 companies in the industry participate in this program.

The Circular Economy is a theme promoted mainly by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Costa Rica, through Holland House (Chamber of Commerce of the Netherlands). There have been exchanges of experiences between both countries to promote initiatives in Costa Rica, as well as talks and training. The practices focus mainly on reducing the use of plastics and reducing environmental impact. An example of a circular economy is FIFCO Air Brands, which strives to make its brands environmentally friendly through standards for products to be carbon, water and waste neutral and even positive. Additionally, there is an award for entrepreneurship projects in circular economy as part of the Regional Business Competition of the organization Yo Emprendedor, sponsored by HIVOS.

The Certificate of Tourism Sustainability CST standard is a tool that intends to strengthen sustainable tourism in Costa Rica. It is a process to recognize efforts in terms of savings and innovation in resource management. It also integrates socio-environmental management initiatives of companies with the communities where they operate and even with their clients. The CST works with tour operators, restaurants, hotels, theme parks, and car rentals.

Additionally, Costa Rica established 167 Protected Wildlife Areas, which amount to 27,840.47 km<sup>2</sup> of the national territory; 124 or 74% of these areas are State-owned (public); the remaining 26% are mixed or privately-owned (19% and 7%, respectively). Of the 12 private protected areas, 11 are National Wildlife Refuges, for example: Hacienda La Avellana, Cerro Redondo, Transilvania, Curi Cancha, Montana de El Tigre, and a Protected Area called La Selva. In Costa Rica, 34 private companies publish sustainability reports under either the GRI (Global Reporting Initiative) or the Global Compact COP methodology. Of these, two comply with the minimum reporting requirements according to the guidelines under indicator 12.6 of the SDGs, and another six with the advanced reporting requirements. Seven (88%) of these eight companies have more than 250 collaborators and the same proportion are of national origin. Six (75%) are from the financial and insurance activities sector, while three (38%) are from manufacturing industries.

In relation to SDG 13, in 2019, three important milestones occurred involving actions of the private sector.

- 1) MINAE's Climate Change Directorate, regulators SUGEF and SUGESE, the German Cooperation Agency GIZ and the AED facilitator organized the private sector to participate in a series of climate discussion tables. At least 130 financial institutions, insurers, support organizations, ministries, and other stakeholders participated. Discussions concluded with the signature of the Green Protocol, led by the Chamber of Banks, with specific actions to be carried out by the signatory Banks (12 in the original). In 2020, it is being implemented through an Interbank Sustainability Forum.
- 2) Around 125 organizations signed a business commitment to increase climate ambitions to work individually and as sectors in alignment with the country's climate policies and the Paris Agreement pledges. This commitment was signed during the preparatory meeting for the Conference of the Parties (preCOP25) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in San José, Costa Rica in 2019.
- 3) Regulator SUGEF and the Directorate of Climate Change, supported by GIZ, worked to establish climate financing mechanisms and traceability methods to develop instruments for the mobilization of financial resources for climate actions and create methods to monitor volume, origin, and use of these funds. This is already being prepared by banks in Costa Rica and will come into effect during 2020.

#### Entry Point 3: Resilient Infrastructure and Cities

The private sector plays a leading role in the design of risk-resilient cities, building and investing in infrastructure, products, and services that support the scope of the SDGs. These include the elimination or reduction of chemical products and hazardous materials (mainly hydrocarbons and products for agricultural use) that affect the quality of water sources and the treatment of wastewater. This has been one of the challenges that the business sector has tried to solve in recent years, as well as water saving programs through reuse, efficient use of water resources and sustainability in water extraction.

Close to 20% of Costa Rica's electricity is provided by private organizations, many operating as cooperatives, contributing to a national coverage of more than 99.3% of the territory. This ensures that communities have access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy services. Additionally, the annual average of energy produced from renewable resources is over 95%, thanks to investments in energy infrastructure and clean technologies. The private sector has also ventured into actions to improve energy efficiency with practices and technology for the sustainable use of electricity and fuels as part of their operations.

The Business Association for Development (AED), Technical Secretariat of the United Nations Global Compact, has implemented the Business Ecoefficiency platform. A collaborative platform was designed with specialized and internationally recognized tools for companies to manage their environmental impacts. Two aspects of focus include the use of water and energy resources. From 2012 to 2019, the platform has enabled the mobilization of 158 companies in Costa Rica and more than 100 companies in the rest of Central America thanks to the transfer of

knowledge provided by AED to member organizations of the INTEGRARSE Network. In 2019, 55 people from 22 companies participated in a training program that consisted of 18 hours over 6 sessions. Through this initiative, companies can apply for the Ecological Blue Flag award. Of the companies that received the award in 2019, 40% are AED members.

Part of the private sector contribution towards resilient infrastructure is provided as support from the design and construction sectors to promote sustainable urban planning making use of local and more sustainable materials with energy-efficient technology, considering climate risks, economic development, and human well-being.

AED coordinates a working group on construction and real estate development with about 8 companies in the sector meeting to exchange good sustainability practices that benefit their sector and trying to influence other companies in their value chain to venture into promoting more sustainable construction practices to build more resilient cities.

The ARISE Network (Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies) in Costa Rica is an initiative by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). In May 2019, AED, the National Commission for Disaster Risk Prevention and Emergency Response (CNE) and the UNDRR signed a declaration of cooperation for the establishment of the National Network of the Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies (ARISE) in Costa Rica. The National Insurance Institute (INS) and Cemex were also an integral part of this agreement. This initiative seeks to provide tools to improve the resilience of the business sector. Workshops and disaster risk management forums were held throughout 2019, with nearly 30 companies participating in the workshops and 14 in the forums organized jointly with the National Insurance Institute (INS) during the Risk-Awareness Week in October 2019.

The public and private financial sector has innovated to create products to favor the economic development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and allow them to grow and incorporate new and better sources of work. In 2019, this same financial sector and the insurance sector came together in a series of climate dialogues held by the German Cooperation Agency GIZ, the Climate Change Directorate, SUGEF, SUGESE and facilitated by AED. Eight discussion tables were organized during the year, where different stakeholders were able to receive training and exchange ideas and experiences on the climate finance in order to include these concepts in their operations, considering climate risks to design products and services with a focus on sustainability. These discussion tables concluded with the signing of the Green Protocol by regulatory entities and different banking organizations. With this Protocol, Costa Rican financial institutions committed to strengthening affirmative actions focused on climate change and environmental and social sustainability.

According to the Superintendence of Telecommunications (SUTEL), the average investment from 2016 to 2018 executed by the Connected Homes Program has been 83% through private telecommunications companies. The objective of this program is to reduce the digital divide, facilitating the same opportunities for families in poverty, so they may have access to a computer and use the Internet in a safe, responsible, and productive way. Along these same lines, the private telecommunications sector contributes 50.7% of coverage in internet and telephony under the prepaid modality, and 35.7% in the post-paid modality.

The average investment in scientific and technological activities by the business sector between 2016-2018 was US \$86.6 million per annum (6.24% of total investment), according to data from the Ministry of Science, Technology and Telecommunications (MICITT). Finally, it is important to highlight that public-private partnerships provide a very important contribution to advancing national achievements for the implementation of the SDGs.

#### Partnerships for the Goals

The private sector recognizes the need for partnerships between the different social actors in order to achieve the SDGs. Therefore, different organizations and initiatives have been consolidated to exchange experiences and work collaboratively between companies, the State, and non-governmental organizations.

- 1) The Business Association for Development AED is a non-profit organization that seeks Costa Rica's sustainability and competitiveness by promoting responsible business models in companies. AED brings together more than 120 companies, from all sectors of business activity, whether public or private, small, medium and large, national and multinational. It is the local chapter of the WBCSD, as well as the Technical Secretariat of the Global Compact Local Network; over the next 2 years it will become the Local Network itself. There are 24 companies that signed the Global Compact and 5 NGOs, foundations or business associations in Costa Rica.

The organization leads practical orientation actions in sustainability, capacity-building and exchange of good practices with its associated companies. Another priority for Costa Rica's competitiveness and sustainable development is the creation of partnerships with civil society and the State so the business sector may become more competitive and contribute affirmatively to the country's development. The purpose of all AED actions is to contribute to a prosperous, inclusive, noble society in harmony with the environment through a conscious, articulated, and committed business sector.

- 2) The Alliance for Central American Sustainability is comprised of more than 20 companies that connect through working groups. These include working groups on good environmental practices, consumer education, and packaging innovation. An alliance with DIGECA focuses on the Cleaner Production Program. This group of companies partnered with the Ministry of Education to support the management of the Blue Flag program in public

schools. They organized a Green Commitment event in Walmart stores to show consumers sustainable practices in products and drafted the first joint GRI Report, where 11 companies reported their initiatives to save energy and water and reduce greenhouse gases in their plants.

- 3) The Foundation for Sustainability and Equality (ALIARSE) has made efforts, together with its founding members and allies, to contribute to Costa Rica's sustainable development by promoting Public-Private Partnerships for Development (PPP-D). It encourages knowledge-sharing and the creation of tools and guides for the implementation of PPP-Ds as an instrument for more efficient development project management. These partnerships have focused on consulting, research and training, and development of strategic interventions in the social and environmental fields.
- 4) Essential Costa Rica is the country brand promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Trade in the private sector. Essential Costa Rica grants a license to companies that meet social and environmental standards. It works in the categories of food, agriculture, industry, services, and tourism. Companies must demonstrate that they meet criteria for environmental culture, energy management, emissions management, waste management, water management.

### c. The Judiciary

In September 2016, with the signing of the National Pact for the SDGs, the Judiciary publicly committed to continue on the path of sustainable development, making significant efforts to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, with the support of the Supreme Court of Justice, the Superior Council, and the Institution's Auxiliary and Administrative Bodies. Costa Rica's Judiciary has promoted compliance with the Rule of Law during these 4 years using a cross-cutting and multidimensional strategy to foster ownership, alignment, and harmonization of the SDGs in its institutional work, guaranteeing access to justice with a human-centered approach to the services it provides.

In addition, an institutional governance scheme was established during this period, led by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, with the Office of International Cooperation and Relations (OCRI) as the focal point for this work. This has allowed the Judiciary to reaffirm it contributes to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and to 94 of the 169 global targets. An institutional implementation and coordination mechanism has been established, with articulated and sustainable processes under a transformative long-term vision of judicial matters. Its main pillars are commitment, justice with a human face, and institutional strengthening.

The Judiciary's experience in this process has been shared with other countries in Central America and the Caribbean and Ibero-America, all duly incorporated and

detailed in 3 voluntary institutional reports submitted to the public<sup>51</sup>. In 2016, the Judiciary submitted its first voluntary report<sup>52</sup>. Since then, it has used the concept of ownership in the SDG implementation processes, understood as: Exercising effective authority over its development policies and strategies and coordinating development actions.

From this viewpoint, ownership has been developed as a strategy for sustainable development in the Judiciary, including a transformative vision of judicial matters that integrates the components described below.

**Institutional commitment and support.** In 2016, the Judiciary, as part of the Costa Rican State and through the Supreme Court of Justice and the Superior Council, adopted a series of sustainable strategic lines of action to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. These lines of action have been vital to advance this issue. For example:

- Launching of the SDGs in the Judiciary by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice, July 13, 2016.
- Authorization of the Superior Council to sign the National Pact as a branch of government committed to Costa Rica's pledge to the United Nations, on 09 September 2016.
- Ratification of the commitment by all the heads of the Judiciary, by publicly signing the Letter of the Judiciary's Commitment to the SDGs, on July 12, 2017.
- Designation of the Office of International Cooperation and Relations (OCRI) as the Official Liaison for the Judiciary to coordinate the issue of the SDGs.
- Declaration of Institutional Interest of the SDGs, through agreements of the Court Plenary on August 21, 2017 and December 10, 2018.
- Voluntary accountability to the public on progress in the implementation of the SDGs, by the President of the Supreme Court of Justice.

**Justice with a human face.** This ensures respect for human rights and the dignity of others and fosters equality and non-discrimination.

- Emphasis is placed on the needs and particularities of people, especially those in vulnerable conditions.
- Participation and collaboration of various institutional, national, and international actors that share this same vision is promoted.

**Institutional strengthening.** Focusing work on ownership, alignment, and harmonization. It has allowed the Judiciary to have a transforming projection and vision within the scope of its competences.

- A collaborative and participatory Institutional Coordination Mechanism has been established for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

<sup>51</sup> Available at: [www.poder-judicial.go.cr/ocri](http://www.poder-judicial.go.cr/ocri)

<sup>52</sup> <https://ocri.poder-judicial.go.cr/documentos-de-interes/publicaciones>

- The empowerment of judicial personnel on the implementation and fulfillment of the SDGs is encouraged.
- Awareness-raising actions are carried out for judicial personnel in various modalities and through various means.

Institutional scope. The Judiciary has translated its international and national commitment into concrete actions to advance the implementation of the SDGs. For example:

- All judicial bodies were encouraged to include in their annual budgets actions to promote compliance with the SDGs, according to the subject matter of their competence. (Agreement of the Superior Council, Session 32-17, April 2017, reiterated and communicated with Circular 59-17).
- Efforts on aligning the Institutional Strategic Plan with the SDGs, in order to harmonize the task of administering justice and the SDGs.
- Aligning the jurisprudence of the Supreme Court of Justice with the SDGs.
- Progress in aligning the international instruments of public international law that Costa Rica has ratified with the SDGs to provide national and international accountability and highlight the contribution of the Judiciary to compliance with the SDGs and national legislation.

It is essential for the Judiciary to recognize the diverse composition of our nation and its particular needs to ensure effective access to justice and the effective exercise of economic, political, social, and cultural human rights. Since 2016, it defined three main thematic areas and one cross-cutting theme to fulfill the 2030 Agenda and address the 17 SDGs, namely (Figure 12).

#### Strategic Priorities

- Access to justice and conflict prevention.
- Holistic development of people.
- Sustainability and environmental management.

#### Cross-Cutting Theme

- Partnerships for the SDGs.

Figure 12. Illustration of Strategic Priorities and Cross-Cutting Theme to Achieve the SDGs



Source: Judiciary, with information from annual reports.

The three dimensions of sustainable development were analyzed and incorporated: economic, social, and environmental. In addition, the five spheres of critical importance for humanity and the planet were included: peace, alliances, people, prosperity, and the planet. This integrated and indivisible approach to sustainable development has allowed the Judiciary to carry out a cross-cutting and multidimensional analysis of the SDGs. Through voluntary annual accountability, the contributions that the Judiciary provides to sustainable development towards the year 2030 is highlighted.

Even though the starting point of the Judiciary under its constitutional mandate is identified in Objective 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, it also performs actions related to the fulfillment of other SDGs, i.e. SDG 16+ (plus). The figure below shows the strategic lines of action, the SDGs and the targets to which the Judiciary contributes (Figure 13).

The Judiciary has been visionary in establishing users as the center of all its work, especially people in vulnerable conditions, which is one of the institutional priorities. Since 2000, the Judiciary has been working to ensure its services meet the needs and specificities required by each person and also to eliminate the barriers they may face in accessing those services.

In this sense, it has developed institutional policies and initiatives for vulnerable populations. For example, policies to guarantee adequate access to justice for older persons; the institutional policy on access to justice for children and adolescents; the Judiciary’s institutional policy on access to justice for people of African descent and its action plan; the practical rules to facilitate access to justice

for indigenous populations, and others. This work is done through the Access to Justice Commission, the governing institutional body in terms of access to justice for populations in vulnerable conditions, coordinated by a Judge of the Supreme Court of Justice. This Commission is in charge of designing institutional policies and guidelines to improve access to justice for these populations.

Figure 13. Strategic Priorities as Related to the SDGs



Source: Source: Judiciary, with information from annual reports.

It is strategically comprised of all judicial areas: Jurisdictional, Justice Assistant, and Administrative, as well as by representatives of the Subcommittees designated to work for each of the populations in a vulnerable condition: population with disabilities, older adults, Afro-descendants, prison inmates, migrants and refugees, sexually diverse population, indigenous peoples, victims of crime, victims of sexual and domestic violence, children and adolescents, and people in conflict with the Juvenile Criminal Law. It includes representatives of trade union organizations and representatives of the civilian population.

Additionally, and in the interest of improving institutional management and modernizing national legislation, the Judiciary is implementing reforms that seek to provide more legal certainty to people, and swift and effective justice. Some of these reforms include the civil procedural reform, the labor procedural reform, and others in process.

The Judiciary has been supported by policy reforms and actions to ensure the effective protection of people's rights and the peaceful resolution of their conflicts. It focuses on prevention to avoid prosecuting every case and to provide a different approach to benefit people with alternative methods of administering justice. These actions include the Restorative Justice Program and the System of Judicial Facilitators, among others.

In line with the cross-cutting and multidimensional perspective of the Judiciary, the use of information and communication technologies has been promoted to provide essential services to citizens, facilitating access to justice. Thus, people can carry out procedures online, such as requesting criminal records, consulting judicial files and sending demands, complaints, briefs, and others.

The Third Progress Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the Judiciary<sup>53</sup> in 2019 lists the specific populations and SDGs which the jurisprudence has aided. The repeated considerations of the judges have been contributing to a more solid framework to guarantee rights, taking into account the particularities of these populations.

Towards access to justice beyond borders. The Judiciary's experience has helped coordinate initiatives and actions with other countries' Judiciaries in the context of high-level international forums where Costa Rica's Judiciary participates, such as:

- The Ibero-American Judicial Summit, where it supported the signing of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit Declaration, the Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda, approved by the Plenary Assembly in April 2018.
- The Central American and Caribbean Judicial Council, where it led a regional work process with the participation of the Judiciaries and Supreme Courts of Justice of the Council, through a participatory strategy in Specialized Working Groups (GET) on SDGs established by Costa Rica as

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<sup>53</sup> <https://ocri.poder-judicial.go.cr/documentos-de-interes/publicaciones>

President Pro Tempore of the Judicial Council for Central America and the Caribbean in the period 2018-2019.

- Currently, the Judiciary is promoting access to transnational justice, in collaboration with the Hague Conference on Private International Law.
- The Judiciary carries out SDG alignment processes for institutional initiatives, projects and programs that receive collaboration from external partners.

Based on the work that the Judiciary has carried out to date, no structural changes have been required, but a cultural change is needed to give visibility to the work conducted by each person and judicial body in contribution to compliance with the SDGs.

#### d. Legislative Assembly

- Roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda

In 2019, the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica through its representation in the SDG Advisory Committee and in the context of SDG 16 (to contribute to good governance with inclusive and transparent decision-making) and taking into account its commitment to the National Pact, prepared --with the support of the United Nations in Costa Rica-- a Roadmap for the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda in Congress. The process and implementation of the Roadmap will be based on the following structure:

##### I. Areas

Five 2030 Agenda monitoring areas were identified:

- Legislation.
- Political control.
- Budget approval.
- Representation and citizen participation.
- Internal institutional coordination and administrative actions.

## II. Stages

Three implementation stages were identified for the roadmap:

- 2030 Agenda training and awareness stage
- 2030 Agenda progress monitoring stage
- 2030 Agenda evaluation stage

The awareness and training stage seeks an impact on legislation. To achieve this, 3 specific actions were identified:

1. Awareness-raising and information on the 2030 Agenda and the importance of incorporating it into legislation. Geared at provincial councils and advisory team.
2. Awareness-raising and information in Legislative Assembly Permanent Commissions on the SDGs related to their topics of focus.
3. Implementing the 2030 Agenda methodology in reports provided by Technical Services to assist in drafting bills of law. This helps organize the bills according to the SDGs to which they are linked and make recommendations for improvement.

In the 2030 Agenda monitoring and progress stage, the main area of focus would be legislation. The following actions will be carried out:

1. Dividing bills of law by SDG according to the subject matter.
2. Monitoring the contribution of bills to the achievement of the SDGs.

These actions will be achieved by creating a web-based tool in the Legislative Assembly's web page to access all the bills under discussion, divided by SDG. This tool will provide transparency and create an Open Parliament to ensure monitoring from within the Assembly and from civil society in terms of progress made.

At this same stage, the following areas will be monitored: political control, budget approval, civil society forums, and citizen participation. Information will also be sorted according to the related SDGs to share them in the web-based tool. The main area of monitoring will be legislation.

As for institutional coordination and administrative actions, the Assembly's Executive Directorate is being asked to assign a permanent division (not linked to changes in government and legislature) to monitoring on the 2030 Agenda in the Legislative Assembly and periodically enter information in the web-based tool.

Once this has been completed, there will be an evaluation stage. The representative of Congress in the SDG Advisory Committee shall issue annual reports on the progress of the 2030 Agenda in the first branch of government.

- 2030 Agenda Affirmative Action at the Administrative Level

The Department of Institutional Strategic Development and the Institutional Sustainability Commission of the Legislative Assembly execute affirmative actions related to SDGs 9, 12, 13, 16, and 17. The Institutional Strategic Plan PEI 2017-2021 to implement a Sustainable Parliament, directly linked to the 2030 Agenda, is currently being applied.

Likewise, the institution has received the Ecological Blue Flag awards in the Climate Change category in 2017, 2018, and 2019. In 2018, it received the Environmental Excellence Award with a rating greater than 100. It has a Health Quality Seal, awarded in 2017, 2018, and 2019. An inventory of greenhouse gases is being developed in order to become a Carbon Neutral Parliament. It is also a Parliament with no single-use plastics, characterized by responsible waste management.

Finally, the institution has a Technical Unit for Gender Equity and Equality, where administrative actions are carried out to implement SDG 5 permanently, by promoting, planning, proposing, coordinating, guiding, strengthening, and monitoring the mainstreaming of gender issues in legislative processes.

- Legislation and the 2030 Agenda

The work of the Legislative Assembly as a strategic actor to create conditions that facilitate implementation at the regulatory level is essential. As a reference, in the period between 2017 and 2020, a series of laws were passed. They substantially contribute to the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. Their impact is significant and structural at the social and environmental level.



### 2020-2021 Legislature

- Law 9849. ADDITION OF A PARAGRAPH TO ARTICLE 50 OF THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION, TO RECOGNIZE AND GUARANTEE ACCESS TO WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT.



### 2019-2020 Legislature

- Law 9840. LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS DURING THE EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 DISEASE.
- Law 9710. LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO NATIONALITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND TO GUARANTEE THE INTEGRATION OF CROSS-BORDER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.
- Law 9797. COMPREHENSIVE REFORM OF THE GENERAL LAW ON HIV.
- Law 9820. LAW TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY.
- Law 9821. LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTING OF A SECOND FAMILY HOUSING BONUS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.
- Law 9822. LAW OF RECOGNITION OF THE COSTA RICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (LESCO).
- Law 9824. REFORM OF ARTICLE 12 OF THE GENERAL HEALTH LAW 5395 OF OCTOBER 30, 1973 AS AMENDED, TO PROTECT PREGNANT WOMEN, BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER DELIVERY.
- Law 9828. LAW FOR THE USE OF RECYCLED MATERIALS IN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS (RECYCLED PAVEMENT LAW).



### 2018-2018 Legislature

- Law 9593. PROCESS TO JUSTICE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF COSTA RICA.
- Law 9608. APPROVAL OF THE CONVENTION CONCERNING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MEN AND WOMEN WORKERS: WORKERS WITH FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES (CONVENTION 156).

The annex to the report, page 128, includes more bills related to compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

### e. Platform of Civil Society Organizations

The Platform of Civil Society Organizations for the SDGs in Costa Rica<sup>54</sup> (Figure 14) is an open and inclusive, multi-ethnic and multicultural citizen platform made up of civil society organizations that promote meeting spaces to advocate for the development of national policies in the context of the 2030 Agenda in order to encourage sustainable development in Costa Rica. The CSO Platform serves as an articulating entity for the different interest groups in an inclusive and fair manner, based on the respect of human rights and the premise of leaving no one behind.

Figure 14. Platform of Civil Society Organizations



Source: Platform of Civil Society Organizations

This Platform is comprised of civil society organizations<sup>55</sup> working on issues related to women, LGBTI population, education, people of African descent, people with disabilities, older adults, indigenous peoples, communication, youth, boys and girls, habitability, among others. The work carried out by CSOs builds capacities in: Interculturality; coordination with strategic stakeholders; mobilization of groups; legitimacy in communities; leadership; thematic diversity and awareness of needs from the first source; capital in organizations; management of alliances and exchange of knowledge. They train together with other platforms, such as faith-based organizations (FBOs), on SDG-related issues and document their processes through social communication researchers from the University of Costa Rica.

<sup>54</sup> Platform of Civil Society Organizations to contribute to the SDGs. Document available on line at: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/64e33f\\_24b5e7f22d3e450790730185dfe441bc.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/64e33f_24b5e7f22d3e450790730185dfe441bc.pdf) Web site <http://www.plataformaodscostarica.ga/>

<sup>55</sup> AMUCOODE, Travelers of the Kingdom, FBOs, JEPC, Afrodescendent Development Foundation, Asociación Sordos de Limón, Dejando Huella, Legatos Mundi, TECHO, Fundación Casa de los Niños, ADS, Fundación PRESODE, ACEPESA, Cruz Roja, Red de Mujeres Incidencia Social y el Desarrollo de Costa Rica, Organización TRANSVIDA, VANGUARD, AGEKO, CECATS. On a personal basis: Katya Chacón, Lissette Marroquín Velásquez, Gloriana Fernández Anglada.

Its contributions to the framework of the SDGs and 2030 Agenda include:

- Advising beneficiary communities on the importance of contributing to the fulfillment of the SDGs.
- Participating in discussion forums facilitated by the United Nations National System with the SDG Technical Secretariat, the Office of the Ombudsperson, the Global Compact and other strategic actors.
- Providing input for country reports on the 2030 Agenda and the Voluntary National Review on SDGs.
- Supporting the creation of the Advisory Committee Work Plan for the SDGs.
- Helping coordinate the National SDG Forum and anniversary celebration of the signing of the National Pact.
- Participating in SDG dissemination campaign in 2018.

However, the platform has consistently faced challenges in terms of uniting its members under a shared agenda, morale, and priorities; supporting different government institutions and coordinating with various actors; mobilizing funds to expand the scope to the entire country and having enough resources for efficient operation; facilitating the exchange of good practices and lessons learned between sectors for an interdisciplinary implementation of the SDGs; and connecting to other CSOs platforms to create synergy in future projects.

Despite these challenges, the Platform remains active and advances with actions such as the strategy to raise awareness on and alignment to the Sustainable Development Goals for Universities (2020 -2021). It is aimed at a preselected group including the National University, the University of Costa Rica, the State Distance University and the Fidélitas University. The general objective is to build new competencies, attitudes, and behaviors that lead to more sustainable societies by informing and raising awareness on the 2030 Agenda from a human rights perspective. This will contribute to the impact of the SDGs, especially SDG 4 "Quality Education;" SDG 16 "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions;" and SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals;" and develop strategic interventions to boost sustainable development of people and communities in the country in the context of the Decade of Action.

The Platform's strategic proposal takes into account the guidelines of the Decade of Action, which is expected to: Mobilize everyone, everywhere; demand urgency and ambition; and supercharge ideas to solutions.

## f. Faith-Based Organizations (FBO)

The National FBO Platform is a network made up of faith communities and foundations and associations with a social focus. They promote human dignity, quality of life, and sustainable use of natural resources. The Platform is a space for dialogue, proposition, collective construction, and dialogue to promote actions contributing to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In turn, the platform is upheld by a political pledge to the government and vulnerable populations for implementing the SDGs and the Montevideo Consensus nationally and locally with a transformational approach. It proposes as central focus points that traverse its work, SDG 1, "Eliminate Poverty," SDG 10, "Reduce Inequality," and SDG 16, "Guarantee Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions."<sup>56</sup>

When approaching the fight against poverty, health and well-being, gender equality and territorial inequalities, peace and justice, the FBO have reactivated programs for children, women, young people, the indigenous population, immigrants, Afro descendants, senior citizens, and the population with disabilities on sexual and reproductive rights and reproductive health, where alliances are developed with the International Rights of Children, the Viva Network, and other organizations.

Thus, the FBO develop community programs and fairs to work on the issues of sports, health, nutrition, and training on family and solidarity economics in different areas of the country. Likewise, to support the scope of quality education, some FBO have carried out educational strategies based on crime prevention in children and adolescents so they will remain in the educational system and they implement training courses on gender equality and on HIV and other diseases. In addition, they provide support with scholarships to learn English and domestic and international university scholarships for young people with scant financial resources.

The FBO support for water and sanitation, economic growth and unemployment, production, and climate change includes alliances for producing purified water for drinking in isolated communities; the development of productive skills in communities with low development levels; support for developing a national production and sustainable consumption policy; execution of initiatives for preserving the environment and promoting economic and social development projects and rural communities that work on producing food, small-scale fishing and care of the environment along with training seminars on climate change, impact, mitigation, and adaptation. In addition, the initiatives provide training and education on technical skills for financial support for small initiative development projects in the area of agricultural production, training female heads of family on

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*The Latin American Council of Churches, the CLAI/ACT Alliance, the Mauricio Amuy Foundation / Arms of Love, ICTHUS: Work on positive values with young people and teenagers, the Costa Rican Lutheran Church, the Central American Lutheran Church, the Wesleyana Methodist Church, the Costa Rican Presbyterian Church, Social Prevention of Crime (PRESODE in Spanish), the Viva CR Working with Children Network, Travelers of the Kingdom MC (TKMC), the Latin American Biblical University, and World Vision.*

handcrafts for economic autonomy and to seek sources of employment in textile production.

Finally, the FBO push for development of strategic alliances with other sectors in the society, e.g., within the framework of territorial or local (sub-national) development that seeks natural alliances to articulate projects with the participation of citizen networks, strategies, and alliances to prevent early teenage pregnancy and to eliminate AIDS (HIV), to boost and encourage decent employment and entrepreneurialism for the young population, among other initiatives. The purpose is to have an impact on areas with indigenous and Afro descendant populations, to fight against corruption, and to boost public ethics, transparency, and accountability in public and private institutions, CSO, and in the citizens in general.

For the stage after COVID-19, a Resiliency, Management, and Development Plan has been developed to enable vulnerable communities and people who have been left unemployed and who need new forms of dignified and decent employment for well-being and development.

#### g. The United Nations Funds and Specialized Agencies and Programs accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

a. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022 (UNDAF)<sup>57</sup> and its promise to Leave No One Behind in Costa Rica

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2018-2022 (UNDAF) contains the strategic five-year assistance framework for the United Nations System (UNS) with the Government of Costa Rica and guides the comprehensive response to its Agencies, Funds, and Programs (AFP) related to the national priorities and the needs identified within an ever-changing country context. The UNDAF is attempting to position the UNS in Costa Rica as a strategic ally of the Costa Rican government in implementing the 2030 Agenda and the points of entry identified nationally as areas for accelerating the SDGs. As a result of a broad consultation process with key stakeholders and populations in a vulnerable situation, the UNDAF focus was defined to revolve around the three strategic priorities:

1. National Agreements. Facilitate national dialogue to follow the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs and to strengthen the capacities of all the national stakeholders to improve the quality, scope, and impact of the dialogue on key issues.
2. Institutional Efficiency. Strengthen the duty bearers and their national and local institutional capacities for innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness related to public processes with a gender perspective and a focus on human rights.

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<sup>57</sup> See details about Joint Products for each Strategic Priority in Appendix, page 131.

3. Leave no one behind: Strengthen the holders of rights to ensure greater capacity to have a public effect, especially on the most excluded groups and the groups that are in a vulnerable situation.

The UNDAF began implementation in 2018 through the Joint Biennial Work Plans,<sup>58</sup> which are strategic planning instruments that compile the technical and financial contribution by all the AFP, whether they are resident or not<sup>59</sup>, that are part of the United Nations System in Costa Rica. The results reported below belong to the first biennial of the UNDAF implementation, i.e. 2018-2019.

b. Main results of the UNDAF in its first two years of implementation<sup>60</sup>

The UNS contributed to strengthening the SDGs nationally, regionally, and locally. This is reflected in its presence throughout the country. In line with the type of aid offered by the UN to a Medium Income Country, as Costa Rica is, the actions taken are concentrated on the technical and financial assistance provided to national processes. Nevertheless, part of the aid is targeting local level work primarily in the Central Valley, the Northern Zone and the south of the country. Thus, approximately 70% of the activities planned pertain to national actions and 30% were executed regionally or locally (Figure 15).

<sup>58</sup><https://costarica.un.org/es/37074-marco-de-asistencia-de-las-naciones-unidas-para-el-desarrollo>

<sup>59</sup>The United Nations System in Costa Rica is composed of 12 Resident Agencies (UNCHR, FAO, IOM, ILO, WMO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UPU), 7 Non-Resident Agencies (UNHCHR, OCHA, IAEA, UN-Women, UNIDO, UN Environment, UNODC), and two affiliated entities (ILANUD and UPEACE).

<sup>60</sup> See summary of the United Nations System. UNDAF First Report <https://costarica.un.org/es/31645-resumen-informe-2018-manud> and see Second UNDAF Report (2020) <https://costarica.un.org/es/48593-segundo-informe-onu-costa-rica-manud-2018-2022>

Figure 15. Territorial distribution of the carried out by the UN, 2019



Source: First UNDAF Report (UNS-Costa Rica, 2018).

- Articulation of the United Nations System actions with the SDGs

The United Nations in Costa Rica began a process to implement the United Nations Information System (UN INFO) during 2019. The UNDAF 2019 report is the first report that uses this platform in Costa Rica and in the region. This virtual monitoring and planning tool has made it possible to improve and facilitate following up on the collective work done by the UNS about the progress and transparency of the aid.

The UN AFP technical and financial resources in Costa Rica consigned in the Joint Work Plans focus on setting actions in motion that target accelerating SDG 17 from a mostly dimensional action perspective during 2019. Striking a general balance between the amounts spent in the three Strategic Priorities, with a total resource forecast for the 2018-2019 biennium in the amount of US \$ 137,439,235, the UNS spent a total of US \$115,691,641. In 2019, some 84.16% of the financial contribution targeted SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) (Figure 16).

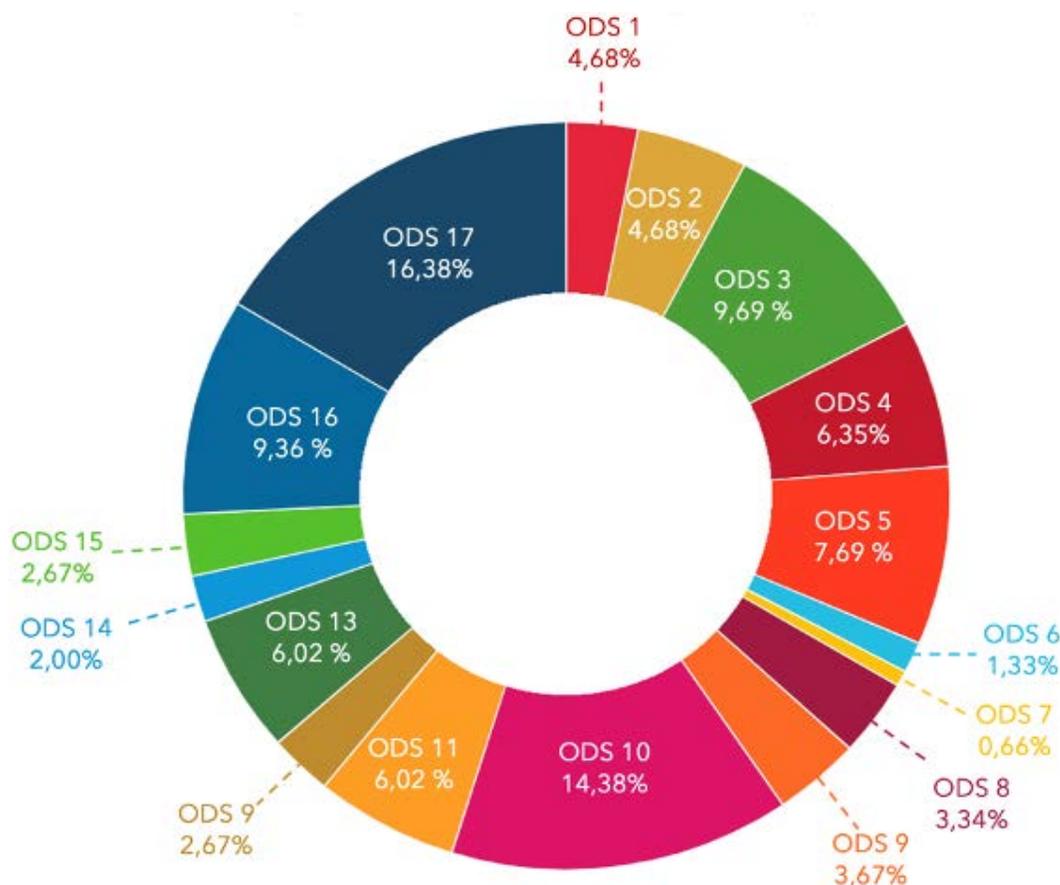
Figure 16. Financial Distribution of the UN Program related to the 17 SDGs.



Source: United Nations Information System, UNINFO 2019.

However, the number of activities implemented by the UNS targeting accelerating the SDGs are grouped differently, showing a more equitable distribution from the program point of view (Graph 8). This means that, through the AFP, the United Nations provides relevant contributions from a multidimensional, comprehensive approach throughout the 2030 Agenda. Thus, the 5 SDG that concentrate on the most activities are 17, 10, 3, 16, and 5 in that order.

Graph 8. Percentage distribution of activities executed by the UN by SDGs



Source: United Nations Information System, UNINFO 2019.

### Strategic Priority 1: National Agreements<sup>61</sup>

The United Nations contributed substantially to domestic public policy participatory preparation, to strengthening national governance, effectively managing and using knowledge for decision-making, monitoring actions for recommendations by the treaty bodies, and communication for development through Joint Products during the years 2018 and 2019. The United Nations Information System makes it possible to identify which SDG are linked to the initiatives executed in each Strategic Priority graphically for SP 1, as shown below (Figure 17).

<sup>61</sup> The agencies involved directly in this strategic priority are: UNCHR, FAO, ILANUD, IOM, IAEA, WMO, PAHO/WHO, UN Environment, UN Women, UNIDO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, and UPU.

Figure 17. United Nations contribution to the SDGs according to the actions executed in Strategic Priority 1.



Source: United Nations Information System, UNINFO 2019.

· Strategic Priority 2: Institutional Efficiency

In relation to the main results of *Strategic Priority 2: Institutional Efficiency*, during the years 2018 and 2019, the UNS provided high-quality technical assistance to strengthen the public institutional capacities, to develop models to attend to populations, to efficiently and transparently manage sustainable infrastructure and, and in information production and usage processes to improve public processes. Starting with the previous joint products, the UNS contribution to accelerating the SDGs is shown as follows (Figure 18).

Figure 18. United Nations contribution to the SDGs according to the actions executed in Strategic Priority 2.



Source: United Nations Information System, UNINFO 2019.

- Strategic Priority 3: Leave no one behind<sup>62</sup>

Finally, by implementing the MAUD, assistance was provided to strengthen the capacities of the social stakeholders in spreading evidence-based knowledge and to improve their attention to the protection of the populations in a vulnerable situation; to developing and using tools of different natures to reinforce the local level response capacity, to empowering populations, and to producing and using knowledge to be able to demand rights. In this Strategic Priority, the UN in Costa Rica supported accelerating the following SDG (Figure 19).

Figure 19. United Nations contribution to the SDGs according to the actions executed in Strategic Priority 3.



Source: United Nations Information System, UNINFO 2019.

### c. Challenges, opportunities, and next steps in the cooperation of the United Nations System facing the Decade of Action

In line with the implementation process and the experience of the two reports prepared for the biennium, the following challenges and opportunities have been identified for implementing joint aid from the UNS to support the country in the process to recover from the impact by COVID-19 and from a 2030 vision.

1. Frequent context analysis and adaptation to the new circumstances: The country is in an ever-changing national, regional, and global context that demands that the UNS’ contribution be flexible and timely. An analysis of the growing complexity of the domestic, trans-border, regional, and global problems must be constantly performed and reflected throughout the full UNS aid cycle in the country
2. Programming flexibility and constant review: The flexibility of the United Nations’ strategic and operating program must become a constant. This opens up a chance for innovation through initiatives, strategies, methodologies, and tools to introduce unparalleled work angles in aid and new forms of participation.

<sup>62</sup>The agencies linked to the activities pertaining to this strategic priority are UNCHR, ILANUD, IOM, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, and UPU.

3. Strengthening the focus on coordinated and collective work: Although at this point major advances have been reached related to joint programming, there are still challenges due to the administrative, programming, and proprietary governance mechanisms for each agency. The UNS should strengthen the joint programming capacities and strategies to ensure greater, better adaptation to the response to the national priorities to make them increasingly coherent, timely, effective, and efficient to ensure ongoing improvement in the aid.
4. Support the country in the recovery after COVID with an SDG vision: In the recovery process from the impact of COVID-19, the United Nations needs to assist institutions and, from a multisectoral approach, support the investigation and dialogue generation processes related to the impact from the crisis in the country and on specific populations to be able to develop actions and redirect policies based on this new reality.
5. Innovation to strengthen the achievements reached and to boost sustainable development: The United Nations' focus should enhance the efforts to establish innovation laboratories to redesign how public services are provided; data innovation; explore new sources of financing and alliances for implementing the SDGs and for developing mechanisms to achieve real participation by everybody.
6. Explore new sources of financing for development: The UNS is proposing to seek new opportunities for development within a financing framework that includes partnering with other sectors other than the public through innovative financing mechanisms. In the face of the socioeconomic impact by the COVID-19 pandemic, reconstruction should be different and better.
7. New challenges in creating policies. There is a need to strengthen aid to achieve transforming effects of a social, political, and economic nature that have been proposed by the regulatory frameworks and national policies and to deal with the challenge of accelerating effective implementation. This involves transforming how policies are prepared and implemented and integrating innovation, strengthening the focus on gender and human rights in all processes, increasing effective participation, new forms of dialogue, and placing people at the center.
8. Multilateralism: The United Nations should continue to demonstrate the need to strengthen the multilateral aid plan and the critical importance of aid to achieve the SDGs. This also includes dealing with the growing and more polarized world challenges and to make the need more evident to boost a greater effort beyond the domestic borders to face shared challenges.

Multilateralism also implies using the common opportunities and, in this historic moment, in the spirit of the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs, the UNS will work hand-in-hand with all the stakeholders in the country so the reconstruction is better than in the past and a road map may be directed to implementing the 2030 Agenda, to achieve inclusive and sustainable economies and societies, to reinforcing coordination between all the multilateral organizations and working intensively to interact in civil society, the private sector and unions, local authorities, and wherein everybody has a voice, particularly the more young people, to be heard to configure a future where nobody is left behind.

#### h. National Commission of University Deans: Representation of the public universities on the advisory committee

The state universities that are committed to contributing to complying with the SDGs and, in line with the national agreement entered into by all the sectors in the country, have taken the following actions:<sup>63</sup>

During the process of formulating the National Higher Education Plan, PLANS 2021-2025, which began in 2019, the National Commission of University Deans (CONARE) passed a motion in the meeting held on July 30, 2019, official document CNR-270-2019, to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals in the systemic vision within the strategic framework of PLANS 2021-2025. To implement this agreement during 2019, two actions were taken that encourage appropriate inclusion within the PLANS 2021-2025 to contribute to compliance with the Sustainable Development Goals. The actions were the following:

- 1) Hold a discussion called "Higher Education and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)" in the month of October. It had the participation as presenters of the Executive Branch through the Vice-Minister of Planning, state universities through the co-author of the book about contributions by the University of Costa Rica to the SDGs, the National Education Officer in the San Jose UNESCO Office of the UNDP and the Executive Director of the Business Alliance for Development, a representative of the business sector.
- 2) A work group was set up in the month of August 2019 with members of the planning offices from the five state universities and from CONARE to compile information related to university activities underway for dealing with the SDGs as part of their daily duties.

The work done in this second action consisted of reviewing the university activities taking place in the substantive activity, which is organized into Education, Research, Extension and Social Action, Student Life, and Processes as a product of this review, 3,449 actions were compiled that contributed to compliance with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 goals. The actions were systematized by each thrust of the substantive activity. The most important contribution by the state universities, due to its very own nature, is concentrated on SDG 4, with 36.62% of the actions. Second place was taken by the actions that contributed to SDG 3, with 7.16% and third place was taken by SDG 11, with 6.52% (Figure 20).

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63 The information obtained from the report "Contributions by the State Universities and Conare to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda": <http://repositorio.conare.ac.cr/handle/20.500.12337/7901>

Figure 20. Number and percentage of actions taken by the state universities and CONARE as part of achieving the SDGs.



Source: Office of Higher Education Planning with information from the state universities and CONARE related to the contributions to achieving the SDGs, October 2019.

Moreover, based on the issues identified by PLANS 2021-2025, the action plan includes a goal and specific actions by SDG to attend to the National Pact. The outstanding actions include registration of the projects that contribute to the 2030 Agenda and preparation of an annual report that reflects the contributions.

## i. Local governments<sup>64</sup>

Representation of the local governments at a global scale: Local United Cities and Governments (CGLU), the National Union of Local Governments (UNGL), the National Association of Municipalities of Costa Rica developed an alliance to encourage the implementation of the SDGs in the Local Governments (LG). As a result of this alliance, in 2020, the UNGL created a report about locating the SDGs in the Local Governments of Costa Rica. The main results derived from this process are shown below.

<sup>64</sup>COMPLETE VERSION OF THE STUDY: Report about the placement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the Local Governments of Costa Rica, May 2020. UNGL – CGLU.

The following main actions carried out by the UNGL to implement the SDGs stand out: Link the SDGs with the strategic objectives in the Institutional Strategic Plan (2017-2022); approve budget line items to make local government authorities and employees more aware; prepare skills analyses at determined institutional capacities for this implementation; along with UNDP-CR, build a guide to the SDGs for local governments; link the SDGs with the LG's bank of projects to be able to identify progress by the institution in complying with the goals, considering the current initiatives, and develop a technical process for appropriating the SDGs through the Municipal Planner Network. Likewise, within the framework of the 2017-2022 Strategic Plan, a third goal was established called "Provide Advisory Services and Assistance to the Local Governments so They Will Assume Responsibility in Finalizing the Principles and the Postulates in the 2030 Agenda in Their Territories."

As a product of the preceding actions, a result that was obtained included that 88% of the Municipalities that were consulted stated that they were familiar with the SDGs in relation to the implementation mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda locally and the participation and influence of the LG for implementation nationally. In addition, 15 municipalities stand out for having an explicit pledge to the local authorities for implementing the 2030 Agenda. However, there are still major gaps between knowledge at the general level about the 2030 Agenda and the parts related to municipalities implementing the SDGs.

Another result that was obtained from aligning the planning and municipal budgeting instruments with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is that 44% of the municipalities that were consulted stated that they had aligned some planning instrument at the municipality with the 2030 Agenda. Of that percentage, 10 LG did so without assistance from any entity or organization. The municipalities that have received assistance to align planning instruments stated that they have been a product of strategic alliances with the UNGL, the Center for Public Administration Research and Training (CICAP) at the University of Costa Rica, the National University of Costa Rica, and the Institute for Municipal Promotion and Advisory Services (IFAM).

Likewise, derived from evaluating the analyzed and interviewed municipalities, there was evidence of good practice within the framework of the SDGs implementation. One case of good practice is the work done by the Municipality of Desamparados in the Province of San Jose, where, according to the work report by the Mayor's Office in 2019: "In the 2018 period, the Mayor's Office issued specific instructions to prioritize and develop the Local Government institutional strengthening process. This was achieved by linking the existing planning instruments at the international, national, and local levels, achieving a strategic framework for the Municipality so it is linked to the basic pillars of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) with what is established by the four strategic dimensions" (Figure 21).

Figure 21. Strategic Dimensions of the municipality of Desamparados, 2019



Source: Taken from UNGL - CGLU, the Municipality of Desamparados.

Another example of good practice is the Municipality of San Rafael in the Province of Heredia, which understood the environmental thrust of sustainable development as an entryway to achieve development since this territory has major natural resources, especially water and forest. This Municipality has four official institutional policies in favor of the environment, i.e.: General Municipal Environmental Policy; General Municipal Environmental Hydric Resource Policy; General Municipal Environmental Solid Waste Policy; General Municipal Environmental Climate Change Policy; that make it possible to identify the value of the environmental dimension as an investment to guarantee the quality of life for the inhabitants of the county and approaches to SDG 6, 12, 13, 14, and 15, become evident in the territory.

Likewise, the Municipality of San Rafael has been strategic for linking its local agenda with the international agenda through the UNGL. It was the first Municipality to subscribe in Costa Rica to the Global Agreement of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCom) along with the Municipality of San Jose. In addition, the Mayor's Office in the Municipality fulfills a member role on the ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) Board of Directors in its Secretariat for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean.

On the other hand, to align the SDGs with the LG functional structure and planning, the UNGL developed a methodology so each municipal work team is able to

identify and clearly understand the contributions that are made by the LG in complying with the SDGs through the impact of their management. Also, thus, they are able to identify the municipal organizational structure that has an impact on each SDG through socialization, localization, implementation, monitoring, and communication. This makes an exhaustive review and alignment with the SDGs possible with the main municipal planning instruments (Figure 22)

Figure 22. SDG Implementation Strategy in Municipal Planning Instruments



Source: Report about the placement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the local governments of Costa Rica.

Finally, the report on placing the Sustainable Development Goals in the local governments in Costa Rica to achieve proper implementation of the SDGs in the LG highlights a series of recommendations: a) Boost and develop a long-term planning and prospectus process for the local governments, b) Incorporate project alignment with the 2030 Agenda as an evaluation criterion in the Good Municipal Practices Program in which there is participation by the UNGL, the IFAM, and the Institute for Municipal Training and Education and Local Development of the National Distance Education University (UNED), c) Develop political advocacy processes to be able to design and approve legislation that removes obstacles to financing and development of municipal initiatives to implement the 2030 Agenda, d) Add a toolbox that includes methodologies, models, and manuals for aligning planning and municipal budgets with the SDGs, e) Identify good practices in selecting the SDGs as points of entry for implementing the 2030 Agenda; etc. The above is to contribute to responsible participation by the LG in achieving the SDGs in Costa Rica; with the idea of having an impact on national and sub-national development in all the goals in the 2030 Agenda, especially the goals that have a direct say in their actions (Table 3).

Table 3. SDG with Direct Competence on the Local Governments

| SDG | Goal                               | SDG | Goal   |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|--|
| 1   | 1.3 - 1.4                          | 9   | 9.1.   |
| 2   | 2.4                                | 10  | 10.3   |
| 3   | 3.6                                | 11  | 11.1 - 11.3 - 11.4 - 11.5 - 11.6 - 11.7 - 11.a - 11.b. |
| 4   | 4.2 - 4.a.                         |     |  |
| 5   | 5.1 - 5.2 - 5.5 - 5.c              | 12  | 12.4 - 12.5.   |
| 6   | 6.1 - 6.3 - 6.4 - 6.5 - 6.6 - 6.b. | 13  | 13.1 - 13.3 - 13.b.                                    |
| 8   | 8.3 - 8.6 - 8.9.                   | 16  | 16.1 - 16.6 - 16.7. - 16.b.                            |

Source: Report about the placement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the local governments of Costa Rica.

# X. Evaluation and accountability mechanisms

## a. National Evaluation Agenda

The SDGs are evaluated through the National Evaluation Agenda (ANE)<sup>65</sup> included in the 2019-2022 PNDIP, which encompasses a series of public interventions that will be evaluated during that period of time. To incorporate the SDGs, a base criterion was established to prioritize public interventions that will become part of that Agenda. Specifically, the criterion called “SDG Linking” consisted of analyzing the degree of association between the public interventions that are proposed to evaluate the SDGs objectives and goals. The interventions to be evaluated are (Table 4).

Table 4. List of Public Interventions on the National Evaluation Agenda According to the SDGs.

| ANE Interventions  | Sustainable Development Goals   | Year When It Is to Take Place |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Vaccination Against the Human Papiloma Virus   | 3. Health and Well being  | 2019                          |
| National Strategy for a Comprehensive Approach to Chronic Non-Transmissible Diseases and Obesity 2013-2021 | 2. Zero Hunger<br>3. Health and Well being  | 2019                          |
| Strategy to Reduce Educational Exclusion (“I’m in”)  | 4. Quality Education<br>8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>10. Reduce Inequalities | 2019<br>2022                  |

<sup>65</sup> The different evaluations may be checked at the following link: <https://sites.google.com/expedientesmideplan.go.cr/pndip-2019-2022/agenda-nacional-de-evaluaciones>

| ANE Interventions  | Sustainable Development Goals   | Year When It Is to Take Place |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| National Forestry Development Plan 2011-2020   | 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure<br>12. Responsible Consumption and Production<br>13. Climate Action<br>15. Life on Land   | 2019                          |
| Public Finance Processes Tax Burden  | 17. Partnership to achieve the goal   | 2020                          |
| International Non-reimbursable Aid for Biodiversity and Climate Change   | 7. Affordable and Clean Energy<br>13. Climate Action<br>14. Life Below Water<br>15. Life On Land  | 2020                          |
| Discover Project   | 1. Eliminate Poverty<br>2. Zero Hunger<br>8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure<br>10. Reduce Inequality<br>12. Responsible Consumption and Production<br>13. Climate Action<br>14. Life Below Water<br>15. Life On Land<br>17. Partnership to Achieve the Goal | 2020                          |
| Development Banking  | 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure   | 2021                          |
| Repairing and broadening National Route No. 1 of the North Interamerican Highway to four lanes: Barranca-Cañas | 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure<br>11. Sustainable Cities and Communities   | 2021                          |
| Comprehensive Prevention Strategy for Public Security "Let's Plant Safety"                                     | 4. Quality Education<br>5. Gender Equality<br>11. Sustainable cities and communities<br>16. Peace, Justice and Strong institutions  | 2021                          |
| Constant frequency programs to promote public spaces "Civic Centers for Peace"                                 | 4. Quality Education<br>5. Gender Equality<br>11. Sustainable cities and communities<br>16. Peace, justice and Strong Institutions  | 2021                          |
| Chorotega Region Wholesale Regional Market Project   | 2. Zero Hunger<br>5. Gender Equality<br>8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>12. Responsible Consumption and Production  | 2021                          |

| ANE Interventions  | Sustainable Development Goals   | Year When It Is to Take Place |
|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Coast Rican Disability Information System Project (SICID)  | 4. Quality Education<br>5. Gender Equality<br>8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>10. Reduced Inequalities<br>11. Sustainable cities and communities  | 2021                          |
| Residential Shortage Program for the Low-Income Population | 1. Eliminate Poverty<br>3. Health and Well being<br>5. Gender Equality<br>11. Sustainable cities and communities  | 2022                          |
| National Climate Change Adaptation Policy                  | 5. Gender Equality<br>8. Decent Work and Economic Growth<br>9. Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure<br>12. Responsible Consumption and Production<br>13. Climate Action<br>15. Life on Land | 2022                          |

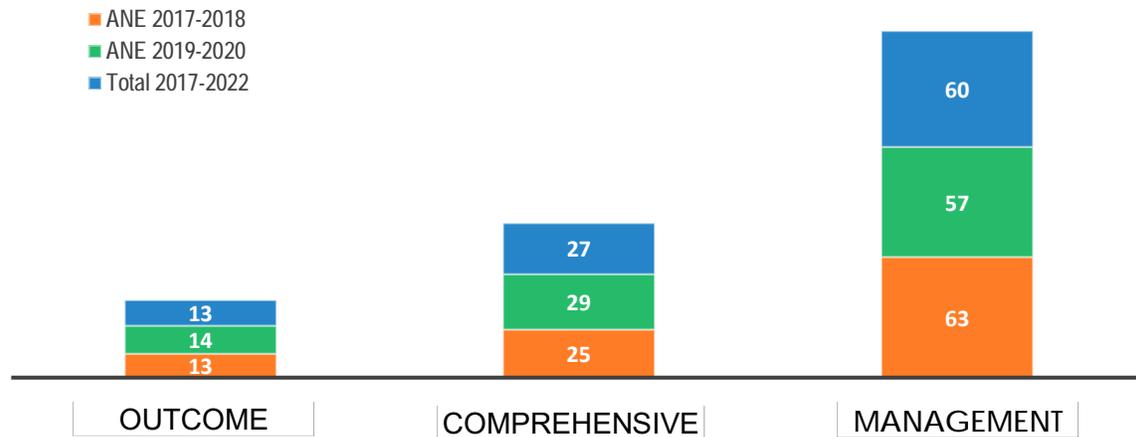
Source: Mideplan with Data from the National Evaluation Agenda

In that sense, each evaluation performed within the framework of the ANE has identified at least one Sustainable Development Goal. SDG 8 and SDG 6 are the goals that are dealt with the most based on public interventions. The use of evaluation for international aid stands out in Biodiversity and Climate Change 2008-2018, with evaluation being evident as a service tool with the implementation means in the 2030 Agenda and at the service of a process based on evidence and oriented toward effectiveness.

From 2017 to date, diverse types of evaluations have been performed that are classified into 3 categories: Management, which includes design and processes, Results, which groups results evaluations and impact, and Integral, which mixes the evaluation results and the management results. According to this classification, it turns out that, for the indicated period, some 60% of evaluations have included an assessment of the design, processes, or their combination; followed by those that implemented a comprehensive approach (27%), i.e., its analysis reunited the design, process, and results of an intervention; the remaining evaluations revolve around attending to the results (13%) with these being the evaluations that require the greatest availability of data and robust information systems (Graph 9)<sup>66</sup>.

<sup>66</sup>On the Mideplan webpage, there is detailed information for each evaluation process, delimited by government period, number, and information in an interactive format about the evaluations that were run starting in 2015 and planned until 2022.

Graph 9. Percentage distribution of the ANE evaluations based on Content, 2017-2022



Source: Mideplan with Data from the National Evaluation Agenda

Diverse evaluations have taken place targeting populations such as children and adolescents,<sup>67</sup> businesswomen<sup>68</sup>, and gender equity and equality since<sup>69</sup> 2015. In addition, in 2020 an evaluation is performed with the participation of the user population and related to the Disabled Person Autonomy Program. This progress toward incorporating populations in the evaluation makes it possible to accumulate experience and propose a technical and methodological instrument that includes the focus; as established in the “Guide to the Approach on Gender Equality and Human Rights in the Evaluation”<sup>70</sup> and the “Guide to Evaluation with Participation.”<sup>71</sup>

The institution that ran the evaluation in Costa Rica involves different stakeholders by taking advantage of that particular feature within the framework of the National Evaluation Policy 2018-2030 (PNE), which is individualized by its participatory construction and establishment of joint management mechanisms. Each of the stakeholders participates according to his or her role and particular interest (Figure 23).

67 <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/n5rup7-NSjC7Q5ofITUpHg>  
 68 <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/j171HRS2R46w-fEMRQy12g>  
 69 [https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/6JnX\\_UHzRHqPBmvcTMTHxQ](https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/6JnX_UHzRHqPBmvcTMTHxQ)  
 70 <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/UWG8czewS5-A8GJsx8xBCw>  
 71 <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/LTf813HsQJC0HHGLKgdMAw>

Figure 23. Institutional PNE Mechanisms 2018-2022



Source: Mideplan, National Evaluation Agenda.

The figure of the National Evaluation Platform is noteworthy. It "(...) constitutes an open participation space for stakeholders associated with developing the evaluation culture and the country being directed toward Mideplan with the participation of central government institutions, academia, examiners networks, the Legislative Assembly, the General Comptroller of the Republic, the Ombudsman, organized civil society, and international aid partners." All the stakeholders who participate in the National Evaluation Platform have the right to be queried, to participate (at different levels) in the evaluation processes, and to access information about implementation of the recommendations that were produced after the results of the evaluations.

Acknowledgment of the installed capacities. Likewise, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in its Government at a Glance publication,<sup>72</sup> which was submitted at the end of 2019, points out Costa Rica in evaluation issues because it has a clearly institutionalized policy evaluation framework. The publication locates the country in positions similar to Germany, Korea, France, Mexico, Chile, and Brazil.

#### b. Costa Rica as a regional evaluation hub

As a product of the progress that Costa Rica has shown in implementing the 2030 Agenda, German Cooperation has established financing for the Stakeholder Capacity and Articulation Evaluation Promotion Project in Latin America as a contribution to the 2030 Agenda (FOCELAC)<sup>73</sup> whose goal is to strengthen and articulate stakeholders from Latin America so they perform their evaluation role (learning and decision-making, transparency, and accountability) more fully within the framework of the 2030 Agenda. This way, Costa Rica is established as an evaluation hub for the 2030 Agenda for the Latin American region.

The aid contract effective period runs from January 1, 2019, to December 31, 2020. The government of the Federal Republic of Germany has made €1,400,000 available as a non-reimbursable financial contribution. FOCELAC has established itself as a new stage in the German support process by promoting evaluation capacity since this program is the successor to the previous Program to Promote Evaluation Capacities in Selected Countries in Latin America (FOCEVAL), which was developed from 2012 until 2018. In addition, FOCELAC expects state and non-state stakeholders to use evaluations to learn, for example, about planning or modifying projects; that the non-state stakeholders will be involved in at least two of the state stakeholder evaluation processes; that the examiner and evaluation network role becomes more professional, and that regional interchange related to evaluation issues will grow. This whole process is expected to be developed in at least three countries.

Therefore, the project will foster evaluation structures and functions in public institutions, training oriented toward practicing by academia, practical and methodological skills in evaluation with an emphasis on young and emerging examiners, participation by civil society in evaluation processes, and encouraging linking an exchange between relevant evaluation stakeholders.

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<sup>72</sup> <http://tiny.cc/k715kz>

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.facebook.com/Focelac/>

### c. Control body: audits on implementing the SDGs.

The General Comptroller of the Republic (GCR) of Costa Rica has prepared oversight reports about implementing the SDGs in the country. During the XXVI General Assembly of the Latin American and Caribbean Organization of Superior Oversight Entities (OLACEFS), a motion was passed to adopt commitments, based on the scope, the competencies in the constitutional and legal framework in place and the resources available from each Superior Oversight Entity. As part of this effort, the first audit was performed in 2018, the "Management Follow-up Report for the Central Government for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"<sup>74</sup> and some recommendations were made that were accepted.

Afterward, the "(...) report on the operating audit about the effectiveness of preparing for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals with an emphasis on gender (SDG 5)," which suggested improvements, especially related to budget matters was created. This report gave rise to the study mentioned previously in the Gender section. Today, only one of the recommendations is still remaining to be implemented.<sup>75</sup>

The third report was oriented toward SDG 3, "Special Audit Report about the Guidance of the Ministry of Health Related to Public Policy Actions Linked to Dealing With "Mental Health,""<sup>76</sup> for which progress has been reported in implementing recommendations.

Audit reports were generated in 2019. The first of the reports was oriented toward SDG 7, "Report on Operating Auditing Coordinated about Renewable Energy in the Electric Sector."<sup>77</sup> Those provisions are being implemented. The second report was oriented toward compliance with SDG 2, "Report on Operating Auditing about the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Agricultural Public Services for National Food Availability."<sup>78</sup> Currently actions are being defined to comply with the provisions that are ordered in the report.

This way, the General Comptroller of the Republic has joined an international initiative to contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda and has oriented its improvement opportunities related to matters within the Public Administration related to the SDGs.

74 [https://www.intosai.org/fileadmin/downloads/focus\\_areas/SDGs\\_and\\_SAIs/sai\\_preparedness\\_audits/SDGs\\_Costa\\_Rica\\_prep\\_SP.pdf](https://www.intosai.org/fileadmin/downloads/focus_areas/SDGs_and_SAIs/sai_preparedness_audits/SDGs_Costa_Rica_prep_SP.pdf)

75 [https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs\\_cgr/2018/SIGYD\\_D\\_2018020604.pdf](https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs_cgr/2018/SIGYD_D_2018020604.pdf)

76 [https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs\\_cgr/2018/SIGYD\\_D\\_2018021645.pdf](https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs_cgr/2018/SIGYD_D_2018021645.pdf)

77 [https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs\\_cgr/2019/SIGYD\\_D\\_2019012476.pdf](https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs_cgr/2019/SIGYD_D_2019012476.pdf)

78 [https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs\\_cgr/2019/SIGYD\\_D\\_2019021719.pdf](https://cgrfiles.cgr.go.cr/publico/docs_cgr/2019/SIGYD_D_2019021719.pdf)



# XI. Structural Challenges

## a. OECD

On July 8, 2015, the Council of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), made up of 35 member countries, approved the Membership Road Map (which defines the membership process in Costa Rica) for that organization. Since then, diverse reforms have been implemented at the administrative and regulatory level (guidelines, decrees, and other infra legal regulations) as well as reforms to laws or approval of laws meant to generate reforms that establish governance in line with the standards of the OECD member countries. This process has culminated with an invitation from that body for Costa Rica to become a full member of the organization.

In that regard, a reform process was generated in different settings that contributes to the three sustainable development dimensions. The appendix to the document lists the contribution of those reforms to implementing the SDGs in the country.<sup>79</sup>

## b. From domestic to transnational

Public policy beyond the borders, a necessary reflection. The border areas showed territorial dynamics that are particularly complex due to the difficulty to access basic goods and services. In addition, most of the population lives from agricultural activities and extractive activities. They bring in insufficient family income levels and dynamics involving sub-usage or environmental plundering through extensive production systems.

The very dynamics of the migrant population and, especially, the dynamic that shows an ongoing flow of displacement between two countries raise the difficulty that the State has in this territory to be able to follow up on the population's needs and to improve the social development indices. Likewise, the regional context conditions that have caused a considerable increase in the number of asylum seekers in Costa Rica raise major challenges for Costa Rican institutions to ensure protection mechanisms and timely care for this population. Nevertheless, this series of conditions brings about a necessary reflection in relation to the principle of Universality that the 2030 Agenda promotes in an attempt to be a space for

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<sup>79</sup> Available in the Appendix, page 133.

developing public political response that includes dynamics beyond borders with the support of the international community for development and paying special attention to the populations that are vulnerable that are immersed in and affected by these dynamics.

A first approach is brought up in the study "Comprehensive Care Plan for the Northern Border Area in the Districts of Pocosol, Cutris, and Pital in the County of San Carlos."<sup>80</sup> Although it establishes measures based on national competencies, it brings about points where the country should create spaces that transcend the established logic.

The Judiciary Branch of Costa Rica is also consolidating efforts for access to justice be an issue that goes beyond borders. In the section for this Branch of the Republic, greater detail is provided.

### c. Financial growth strategy

The development of the National Strategy for Growth, Employment, and Well-being<sup>81</sup> is meant to trace the road map of the economic policies that the Government has adopted and proposed to re-activate the economy in the short term, to generate more and better jobs, and to boost potential financial growth in the medium- and long-term.

Currently, the Costa Rican economic context is complex and its perception in people who are consumers is not encouraging. It is fed by factors such as the fact that concrete measures are not being perceived in the short term that are able to reactivate the economy, the Value Added Tax (VAT) coming into force and being implemented, and the lowering of the growth rates of the gross domestic product (GDP) for 2019 and 2020. In addition to that, there is unemployment: for the second half of 2019 that meant 11.9% of the labor force.

Therefore, the National Strategy on Growth, Employment, and Well-being is seeking to provide responses in the short term that make it possible to improve the figures that in these areas turn out to be worrisome and that are fundamental for generating sustainable development conditions. The announcement of the strategy in and of itself may support economic reactivation by returning trust and optimism to the population and the business sector and, thereby generating a favorable situation that encourages the virtuous circle of employment and economic growth.

### f. COVID-19

The epidemic caused by the COVID – 19 disease is an emergency in process in Costa Rica. The direct damages attributable to the disease refer to the number of people who are ill and the people who have passed away: as of June 4, 2020, the

<sup>80</sup> <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/1gbBJhrHTV-AOBYwCjwucw>

<sup>81</sup> <https://documentos.mideplan.go.cr/share/s/5bLjJbfNS1Gw-fHQ2T13BQ>

country is reporting ten (10) people dead and a total of 1,194 confirmed cases of contagion; with a record of 687 people who have recovered.

Consistent with this, the priority issue to be resolved in an emergency of this nature is caring for the health of the people who are patients. It is already an announced fact that the health system, and specifically the hospital system, may easily be overwhelmed in relation to capacity for the number of patients who must be cared for.

In that regard, for Costa Rica, the same as for other affected countries, the immediate response measures refer to taking care of the people who are patients, including the work related to traceability of the contagion chain to control it. This supposes reinforcement of the epidemiological and laboratory effectiveness. In parallel, there has been a need to increase the health system capacity from the basic level of Basic Equipment for Comprehensive Health Care (EBAIS) through the hospitals to be responsible for these patients. The increase and improvement in capacity has supposed actions related to: the number and specialization of beds, the space and features of the hospital infrastructure, the equipment, the general logistics, and human resources that have not only been increased but also trained to have greater knowledge and medical and health skills, etc. In that regard, the creation of a specialized center is noteworthy for treating patients with COVID-19: the Specialized Center for Caring for Patients with COVID-19 (CEACO).

In addition, the government has been forced to deploy a series of measures meant to avoid contagion and to delay contagion. The purpose of the latter is so the Health System is able to develop reaction capacity, i.e., gain time, while the capacity of the hospitals and laboratories is increased and improved and while how the disease is behaving is being studied.

In that sense, the measures that have been adopted by the Government of Costa Rica are defined by the Ministry of Health. To a great degree, they are in response to the recommendations of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) and to the pillars of the WHO Strategic Plan.<sup>82</sup> In general, these are measures to contain the epidemic outbreak and, to summarize, may be described as follows:

- Epidemiological and laboratory control: monitoring throughout the country that does not limit the possible contagion of COVID – 19 and laboratory diagnostics to confirmed cases.
- Hygiene practices: handwashing, use of protection, sneezing and cough protocol, cleaning surfaces.
- Social distancing: multiple measures meant to avoid the concentration of people, including immigration control, closure of the borders and ports, closure and control of businesses, especially hotels and restaurants, temporary closure of buildings, service regulation, including education and transportation, promotion of work from home as a means of isolation at

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<sup>82</sup>The United Nations System in Costa Rica has provided comprehensive support to the Government of Costa Rica in the response to the COVID-19 emergency with the technical leadership of the PAHO/WHO.

home, closure of public areas such as beaches and parks, vehicle restriction, etc.

In any case, the Government, on the one hand, is moving forward with measures to be understood by the population with diverse messages and disclosure campaigns on social media and in the networks. The support received by the private sector has been outstanding. In addition, diverse alternatives are being turned to for regulation and control with actions that encompass aspects that cause the following to be mandatory:

- Protocol preparation or updates.
- The use of the existing regulations or variations on those regulations to regulate issues such as: transportation, access to public sites, provision of services, and business activity.
- The resources in the police forces to oversee and follow measures such as the closure of businesses and application of sanctions, as well as modifications to the regulations to punish using fines for any infractions that are committed.

The measures that seek distancing have an immediate effect of paralyzing social activity, production, and business exchange; consumption is reduced, and a recessive effect is brought about that in Costa Rica's case aggravates the pre-existing situation and has repercussions in the short- and medium-term. This effect constitutes the secondary impact of the epidemic. This impact is not attributable directly to the disease but is attributable to the necessary measures imposed by the Government to avoid or delay contagion. The measures that are adopted are not extreme, but they have been in response to a gradual, flexible, rising process; as the contagion and the quality of the response by the population advance.

According to information from the Ministry of the Economy, Industry, and Commerce, productive activity, commerce and services slowdown in certain sectors. Since there is no social activity and since there is a restriction on the use of public spaces and commerce, consumption drops, and unemployment rises. Due to the economy of scale, it is logical to think that the companies with very little capital and small endeavors that are dependent on loans are the companies that have the most reduced earnings and that they are the companies that feel the most pressure from the measures. Many families no longer have any income to take care of their immediate needs, to pay their public utilities, and to pay their debts. As an example, more than 75% of the companies tagged as "SMEs" have reduced their sales, 30% claim that they will be able to continue operating for just two months, just 36% are current in paying their vendors, 25% have already closed, and 58% are having difficulty with making their loan payments (MEIC: April 28, 2020). Likewise, 8,345 companies have submitted applications for suspension of work contracts, raising unemployment by more than 10%. This is in addition to the unemployment that had already been on the books.

This forces the Government to issue a series of protective measures for the business sector and the family economy to safeguard the liquidity and solvency in addition to the allocation of resources to reinforce social compensation and humanitarian

assistance programs. Likewise, and in parallel, the planning process for recovery of the economy immediately needs to be in place. This not only limits consolidation of public finances but also makes it important to continue with a vision of long-term comprehensive development to be able to put the country on the path to an agenda that achieves the goal of becoming an inclusive, resilient, decarbonized, and decentralized energy economy.

At the economic level, diverse proposals have been brought about that run from reassigning budget entries to allocating resources that are targeting helping people affected by the national emergency by using different mechanisms, one of which is approving bills of law. These measures include a law for tax relief to grant a moratorium of up to 4 months for paying taxes; as well as the law that transfers 75 billion colones (approximately \$129,000,000) of the assets belonging to the National Insurance Institute (a state company) to be used exclusively as subsidies for people who have been financially affected by the emergency. In addition, the law to create a subsidy fund has been boosted to take advantage of the differential in fuel prices; as well as a law that makes it possible to reduce the working hours for employees in the national emergency to prevent massive destruction of employment. Linked to the above, a law should be mentioned that makes it possible to withdraw from the Labor Capitalization Fund for people who are in suspension or who have had their working hours reduced.

The “Protect” Bond stands out from among these efforts. It is a direct transfer to people who have had their working hours reduced or suspended or who have lost their jobs. As of the June 2 cut-off, this program has been able to benefit a total of 439,941 people who have had their jobs affected directly by COVID-19. It is important to point out the role of State-owned companies. The companies that provide public utilities (water and electricity) to the citizens have ensured continuity of those utilities by applying moratoriums on collecting their fees and on not disconnecting the service. In addition, in an alliance with the National Liquor Factory and the Costa Rican post office, it was possible to deliver antiseptic alcohol for sterilizing hands all over the country.

From the monetary and financial viewpoint, the Central Bank of Costa Rica has applied a flexible monetary policy that provides a margin to be able to reduce interest rates on the market; likewise, the level-headed regulation by the National Financial System Supervisory Council (CONASSIF) and the General Financial Entity Superintendence (SUGEF) has made it possible for financial intermediaries to offer an improvement in the credit conditions for their customers through readjustments and extensions of their transactions. This is in strict alignment with Guideline 075-H. Although this guideline was targeting State banks, all of the banks in the financial system joined together to apply this directive.

At the closure of the first 2020 quarter, the National Financial System extended transactions for 284,406 debtors and 181,612 debtors were benefited with readjustments. The balance applied for extensions and readjustments is 2.3 and 1.8 billion colones (US \$4,102,000 and US \$3,195,000), respectively.

At a second point in time, as part of the strategy to gradually reopen the economy, understanding the need for companies to have working capital, public banking allocated 584 billion colones (US \$1 billion) for special programs so the business park would have a chance to access fresh funds to deal with needs associated with the line of business. This was motivated by Guideline 083-MIDEPLAN-H targeting State commercial banks to promote credit under favorable conditions for working capital and investment for people and companies that have been affected by COVID-19. In addition, work is being done on creating a special endorsement and guarantee fund so companies that do not have repayment capacity or sufficient earnings to access these resources may access them and be able to mitigate the risk related to the financial system.

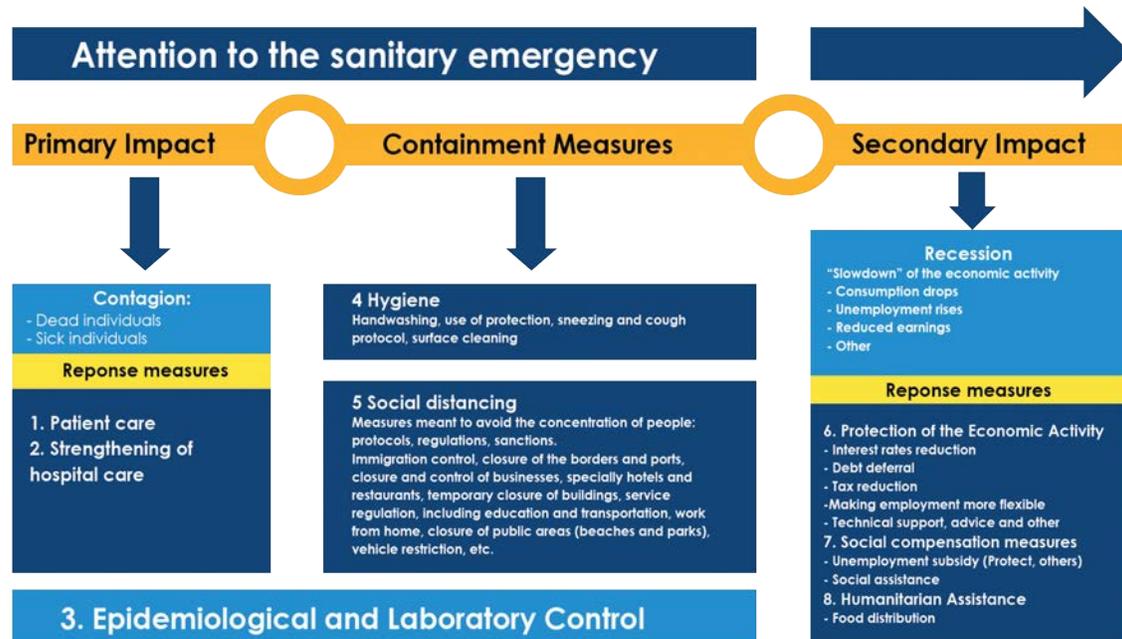
As a joint public-private effort, the financial donation campaign called "With You We Can" closed after collecting 725 million colones (approximately US \$1,250,646.89). This money will be used to pay off local loans for the approximate number of 9,000 packets of food and cleaning products. Likewise, the Proactive Testing campaign for AMCHAM, CRUSA, and AED was able to collect \$1,861.048 that will be provided to the CCSS for 40 double-module machines and more than 30,000 test kits. Likewise, the business sector has contributed with diverse initiatives that run from preparing and distributing food packets through repatriation flights for<sup>83</sup> Costa Rican citizens who reside abroad.

The following illustration is a graphic summary of the types of impact in association with actions that should be dealt with to take care of the emergency. This is without providing any detail about the multitude of operating coordination actions and decisions that are needed to be able to execute them in a timely, immediate fashion (Figure 24).

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<sup>83</sup> This is part of the Return Home initiative by the AMCHAM and AED, and the SoliDiaros project by AED and Horizonte Positivo.

Figure 24, COVID – 19 impact and care actions



Source: The National Emergency Commission, the suitability of public investment in health and social security systems.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that the consequences of COVID-19 in the three dimensions of sustainable development will be significant and may imply the indicators on the 2030 Agenda moving backward. This estimate is still uncertain.

# XII. Means of implementation

## a. Public investments

The National Public Investment System (SNIP<sup>84</sup>) in Costa Rica oversees the quality and efficiency of investment initiatives. This planning involves public investment programs and projects in execution and pre-investment phases that are strategic for the country to develop and that are also responsible for the SDGs. Public investment and its evolution as part of the total investment by the countries in general terms have a fundamental impact on the growth of production, productivity, and development, as well as internal and external consumption. It is also part of the State of Wellbeing and allows the accrual of physical and human capital.

The decrease in public investment affects sustainable growth. Public investment arises from the expense component, bearing in mind the government income that has an impact on the public deficit, indebtedness, interest rates, and private investment. Thus, public investment results in a means of fundamental implementation for the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, approaching public investment from the perspective of the SDGs requires public and private investment planning and alignment, bearing in mind growth and development, risk of disaster, climate change, and territorial equity.

Currently all the public investment projects registered at the Bank of Public Investment Projects (BPIP) have quarterly monitoring,<sup>85</sup> including both the projects that are part of PNDIP 2019-2022 and those are not part of the plan. Linking strategic public investment in this plan with the SDGs makes a contribution to:

- Having available a roadmap that includes planning development and public investments to be executed within a defined period of time and oriented toward national priorities such as the 2030 Agenda.

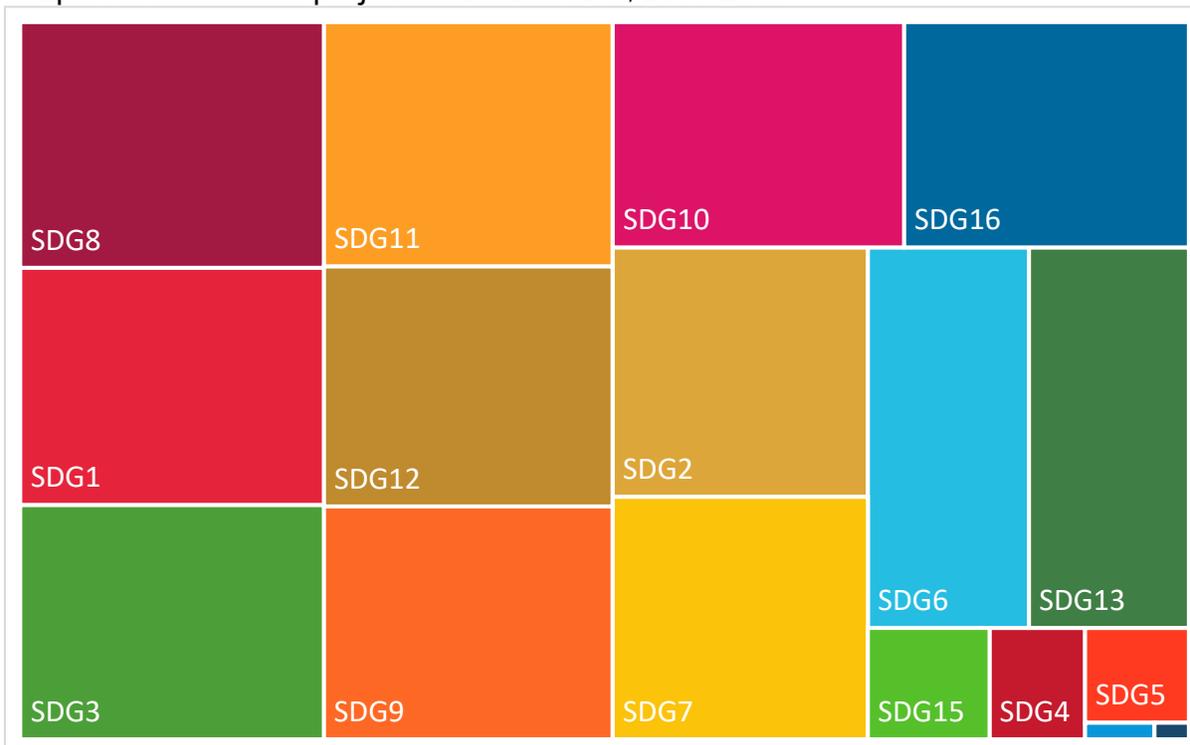
<sup>84</sup>The SNIP does not cover some autonomous or decentralized institutions, e.g., the Costa Rican Electricity Institute, the Costa Rican Social Security Institute, etc.

<sup>85</sup> <https://www.mideplan.go.cr/banco-proyectos-inversion-publica>

- Making a better use of the resources by public institutions by having available a planning instrument with the main public investments that are required to reach goals, with an impact on greater coherence and effectiveness in the institutional duties, and on a coherent public policy oriented toward results.
- Making coherent accountability possible at the level of domestic and international organizations by having information available that links development goals and the main required public investments.
- Reaching greater sustainability of financial resources linked to planning by the public institutions involved in executing planning by having a budget allocation as required by the project lifecycle.
- Making monitoring and evaluation of the PNDIP and SDG being served possible given the explicit link with public investment programs or projects.

Within this framework, a process was performed for analyzing the projects contained in the 2017 to 2019 Bank of Public Investment Projects and their relationship to the SDGs. As a result, a conclusion was drawn that the SDGs that are associated with the greatest number of investment projects are: SDG 8, Create Decent Work and Economic Growth (52.55%), SDG 1, Eliminate Poverty (50.71%), SDG 3, Establish Good Health and Well-Being (50.10%), SDG 11, Mobilize Sustainable Cities and Communities (49.69%), SDG 12, Influence Responsible Consumption and Production (48.88%), SDG 9, Increase Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (47.45%), SDG 10, Reduce Inequality (46.23%), and SDG 16, Guarantee Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (45.21%), Graph 10).

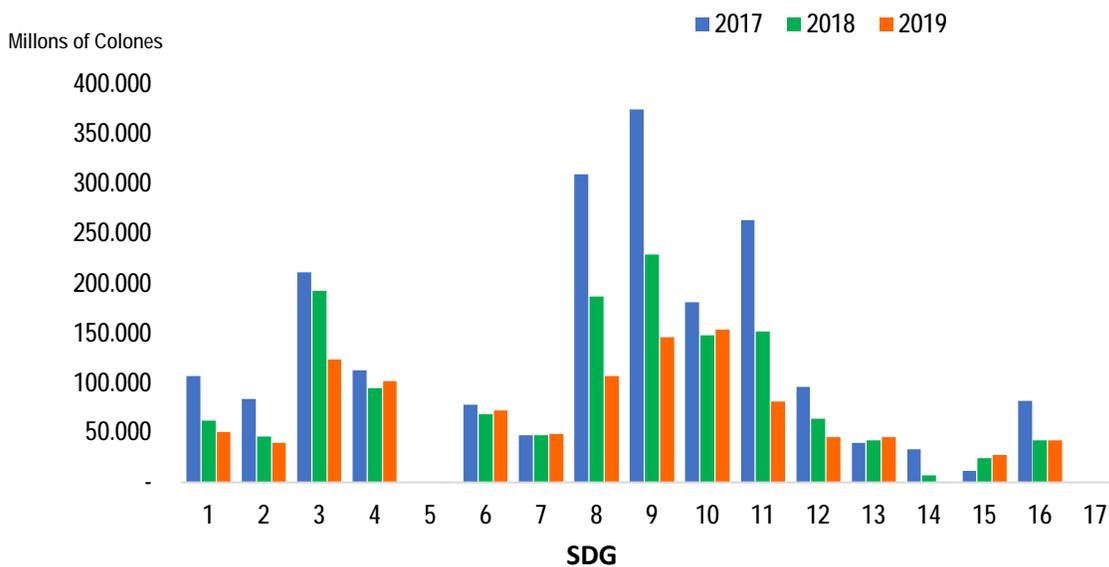
Graph 10. Investment project related to SDG, 2017-2019



Source: Mideplan, with data from the Bank of Public Investment Projects, 2017-2019.

As part of this analysis, the amount invested in the projects for each SDG may be identified for the last 3 years. The year that invested the most was 2017, followed by 2018, and, lastly, by 2019 (Graph 11).

Graph 11. Investment projects, amounts invested by SDG, 2017-2019



Source: Mideplan, with data from the Bank of Public Investment Projects, 2017-2019.

In addition, taking into account the average invested amounts over the last three years (2017, 2018, and 2019), the SDGs related to the greatest investment amount are: SDG 9, Increase Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, SDG 8, Create Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 3, Establish Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 11, Mobilize Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 10, Reduce Inequality, SDG 4, Provide Quality Education and the goals that had the least amount invested are SDG 17, Build Partnerships for the Goals, and SDG 5, Enforce Gender Equality (Figure 26).

The institutions that execute public investment projects are clear about their commitment and to which SDG their duties contribute. This is the case for institutions such as MICITT, CONICIT, MOPT, MEP, 5 public universities, INA, the Ministry of Health, the CCSS, the Ministry of Social Well-being and Family, IMAS, Family Assignments and BANHVI, the Patronage of Construction, Installation and Hiring, the National Council of Disabled People, the General Directorate of Civil Aviation, the National Department of CEN CINAI, the Liberty Park Foundation, the Costa Rican Water and Sewer Services Institute, etc.

Figure 26. Average investment amounts in millions of colones in relation to the SDGs, 2017-2019



Source: Mideplan, with data from the Bank of Public Investment Projects, 2017-2019.

## b. Dual role of cooperation in Costa Rica

Managing International cooperation and the SDGs. Costa Rica has an institutional and regulatory structure and a subsystem with cooperation links with the three branches of the Republic, the public universities and local governments that make it possible to manage non-reimbursable technical and financial cooperation in a centralized fashion. Therefore, it has a set of instruments designed to fulfill the mandates that are set forth in Law 5525 on National Planning; to coordinate, negotiate, evaluate, formulate, and approve international cooperation in the country. All the information about international cooperation is registered in the Information System designed for those purposes (SIGECI).<sup>86</sup> This system provides the main input for preparing reports and to track and monitoring, as necessary. That system also has an informational module about the SDGs to be able to find out which SDG targets the international cooperation that the country receives and offers. All the international cooperation projects, programs, and actions that go through Mideplan must be linked to one or more SDG before being approved.

Details are provided below about International Cooperation in Costa Rica based on the projects executed for the period in this report. All the data were extracted from the whole International Cooperation Project Management System (SIGECI) that is part of Mideplan and are related to projects being executed or that were only executed during the period that runs from 2017 to 2019.

These projects report to the non-reimbursable technical and financial cooperation modes. Therefore, they do not include any reimbursable resources. In addition, it includes south-south, triangular, bilateral, and multilateral cooperation projects. The following should be considered in that regard:

- Bidding Projects: when Costa Rica is the entity that transfers the know-how.
- Demand Projects: when Costa Rica is the entity that receives the cooperation.

Most of the projects are linked to several SDG simultaneously so the graphs do not show the actual number of projects. Instead, they show the links by each project. The SDGs link to each project may be full or partial. That is because there are projects related in full to a single SDG or to several SDG. In relation to the cooperation flow received by Costa Rica, the filters have been: demand projects that are being executed or have been executed for the 2017-2019 period, by SDG, i.e., in this case, only those resources received by Costa Rica are registered.

In relation to the number of projects, the filters have been demand and offer projects that are being executed or have been executed by SDG for the year 2017, 2018, and 2019. There may be many projects linked fully or partially to an SDG but this is not necessarily reflected in the external amounts that are allocated. There may be many projects linked to a single SDG and few resources allocated or vice versa.

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<sup>86</sup> <https://www.mideplan.go.cr/SIGECI>

The contribution by all the projects that contribute to the SDGs is shown below (Table 5)

Table 5. Number of projects linked by SDG, 2017-2019

| SDG   | Number of projects linked under implementation/implemented 2017-2019 | SDG    | Number of projects linked under implementation/implemented 2017-2019 |
|-------|--|--------|--|
| SDG 1 | 5  | SDG 10 | 6  |
| SDG 2 | 12   | SDG 11 | 20   |
| SDG 3 | 17   | SDG 12 | 26   |
| SDG 4 | 18   | SDG 13 | 53   |
| SDG 5 | 9  | SDG 14 | 5  |
| SDG 6 | 17   | SDG 15 | 19   |
| SDG 7 | 11   | SDG 16 | 7  |
| SDG 8 | 10   | SDG 17 | 26   |
| SDG 9 | 6  | TOTAL  | 267  |

Source: Mideplan, with information from SIGECI, 2020.

This makes evident the four SDG with the greatest number of related projects: SDG 13, Organize Climate Action, SDG 17, Build Partnerships for the Goals, SDG 12, Influence Responsible Consumption and Production, and SDG 11, Mobilize Sustainable Cities and Communities. Moreover, the SDGs with the fewest number of related projects are SDG 14, Develop Life Below Water, SDG 1, Eliminate Poverty, SDG 9, Increase Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, and SDG 10, Reduce Inequality. In addition, by reducing the amounts received as a counterpart for each SDG, in all modes, the following data are obtained (Table 6).

Figure 25. Greater association with international cooperation projects for SDG 2017-2019



Source: Mideplan, with information from SIGECI, 2020.

Table 6. Resources demand according to origin by SDG. 2017-2019 (In US\$).

| Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)                        | External contribution to the country in US\$ | Match Funds in US\$ | Partners contribution in US\$ |
|---|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| SDG 1<br>Eliminate Poverty                                | 1,113.930                                    | 708,150             |                               |
| SDG 2<br>Erase Hunger                                     | 1,792.930                                    | 1,604.000           |                               |
| SDG 3<br>Establish Good Health and Well-Being             | 13,028.909                                   | 857,506             |                               |
| SDG 4<br>Provide Quality Education                        | 2,151.495                                    | 3,533.833           | 20,000                        |
| SDG 5<br>Enforce Gender Equality                          | 482,012                                      | 30,108              |                               |
| SDG 6<br>Improve Clean Water and Sanitation               | 8,542.713                                    | 1,436.657           |                               |
| SDG 7<br>Grow Affordable and Clean Energy                 | 1,797.381                                    | 614,973             |                               |
| SDG 8<br>Create Decent Work and Economic Growth           | 9,806.848                                    | 204,260             |                               |
| SDG 9<br>Increase Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure | 190,226                                      | 61,038              |                               |

| Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)                         | External contribution to the country in US\$ | Match Funds in US\$ | Partners contribution in US\$ |
|--|--|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| SDG 10<br>Reduce Inequality                                | 1,546.411                                    | 65,000              |                               |
| SDG 11<br>Mobilize Sustainable Cities and Communities      | 20,440.973                                   | 1,638.062           |                               |
| SDG 12<br>Influence Responsible Consumption and Production | 4,694.913                                    | 1,570.550           |                               |
| SDG 13<br>Organize Climate Action                          | 31,387.917                                   | 4,206.973           |                               |
| SDG 14<br>Develop Life Below Water                         | 174,292                                      | 80,790              |                               |
| SDG 15<br>Advance Life On Land                             | 4,736.691                                    | 1,011.214           |                               |
| SDG 16<br>Guarantee Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions | 1,381.771                                    | 70,000              |                               |
| SDG 17 Build Partnerships for the Goals                    | 18,558.686                                   | 412,170             | 42,714                        |

Source: SIGECI-Mideplan. 2020.

Information shows that during the period 2017-2019, SDG 13 Organize Climate Action was the one with the largest number of projects (53) and external resources and national match funds in kind of US\$: 10,639,639.26. Also, 46,75 % of external resources were allocated to projects linked to SDG 13 either partially or fully.

External resources received by Costa Rica in the period 2017-2019: US\$ 82,854,965 in external contribution and US\$ 10,606,849 in national match funds (in kind) for a total of 267 projects. In turn, the lowest amounts of international cooperation for the country in the period under analysis were for SDG 14 Develop Life Below Water, SDG 9, Increase Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 5 Enforce Gender Equality and SDG 1 Eliminate Poverty. The SDGs 5 Enforce Gender Equality is not the SDGs with fewer projects, but it is on average (9). Otherwise, the allocation of external resources is among the lowest ones. Another significant fact is related to SDG 17 Build partnerships for the Goals; 26 projects belong to it. In this way, it is evident that there are national priorities that do not necessarily coincide with the priorities of the cooperation partners or that there are SDG with little cooperation, since most of them focus on climate change and related issues, such as SDG 11 and 12.

- The Addis Abeba Action Agenda to mobilize means of implementation

Latin America and the Caribbean, like other middle-income regions, has lost their share of official development assistance flows. Costa Rica is part of the group of upper middle-income countries that since the beginning of the twenty-first century has been graduated and has serious difficulties in accessing non-reimbursable external resources.

Part of the strategies to mobilize resources has been to become a dual stakeholder, a recipient and provider of technical cooperation and to access regional resources through triangulation and south-south cooperation mechanisms. It is important to point out, however, that none of these cooperation mechanisms is a substitute for bilateral and multilateral cooperation; rather, it is a strategy complementary to traditional resources. Costa Rica is an important partner for many of the cooperation partners, so it has been able to place itself in a "privileged" space when transferring its best practices to other countries with similar or lower levels of development. South-South cooperation can help improve assistance effectiveness by building cooperation into a new structure of relationships; it also generates double dividends activities: it benefits both those who promote intervention and those who demand it.

The International Cooperation Policy (POLCI) Costa Rica, 2020-2022, which defines the country's guiding framework in terms of the following elements, has been used as a complement to the Addis Ababa Agenda. Costa Rica prioritizes its demand for cooperation in high-impact projects, specifically targeting specific objectives for vulnerable and less developed sectors, previously identified. At the international level, the country will continue to develop its position as a recipient and provider of cooperation.

All this is framed by the principles of equity, inclusion, sustainability and taking into account the premise of "leave no one behind"; the latter in the sense that the priority for the country is for international cooperation to be directed mainly towards groups in situations of poverty, social risk and vulnerability, reduction of regional gaps, reduction of the ecological footprint, support for decarbonization processes, risk management, just to name a few.

### c. Total official support to sustainable development (TOSSD)

At present, there is no international certainty of full support to developing countries to meet the SDGs. In this regard, on July 27, 2015, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda agreed on the need for a measurement of "full official support to sustainable development" in the interest of greater transparency and compliance with target 17.3 of SDG 17 (Mobilize additional financial resources from multiple sources for developing countries).

As a result, the initiative to create an international measurement of all resources contributing to the SDGs was created. The name of this indicator is TOSSD, which refers to "Total official support for sustainable development". This effort was promoted by the OECD in 2017 and since then the Government of Costa Rica participated through Mideplan, being then part of the founders of this tool.

Specifically, the purpose of TOSSD is to provide a full picture of all official resources and private resources mobilized through official means supporting sustainable development and SDG. Today we have some information about the Official Development Assistance (ODA) from OECD member countries. However, more data are needed about the support through South-South cooperation (including

the triangular one), regarding officially channeled private financing and also through other types of financing mechanisms for sustainable development (such as loans, mezzanine debt financing, investment funds, guarantees or contingent liabilities, official export credits, etc.)

On the one hand, TOSSD raises a contribution unaccounted-for so far. It refers to international public goods, understood as resources, outputs, services, institutions, policies and conditions where the benefits produced are not exclusive and can be exploited by at least two countries. This category includes, for example, countries' efforts to mitigate climate change, support for refugees, among other situations that often help to contain or reduce global challenges.

A TOSSD innovative aspect is that it does not attempt to generate data on the contribution of countries, but rather the total contribution to developing countries (beyond those considered as ODA's recipient countries) and global international goods. Therefore, the approach is not from the perspective of the donor, but of the recipient.

The main idea is to be able to notice funding gaps between regions and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. It is also essential for developing countries to be able to have a complete map of the resources they are receiving and to be able to verify that those resources are within the country's priorities. In this regard, it is an instrument that will be useful for evidence-based decision-making.

Despite the advantages, for its implementation and visibility of the data, the report of all countries is needed; otherwise the exercise would be incomplete. As a result, the TOSSD Task Force sent the TOSSD indicator to the United Nations in May 2019 for inclusion in the SDGs 17. Following the consultation period, developed in August 2019, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG) recommended that a working group be established within the United Nations to include the indicator into the SDGs with a maximum period of two years.

In this regard, the working group is taking place within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). So far and while UNCTAD makes decisions on how to incorporate the contributions made by the Task Force, the visualization of the reports already made through the TOSSD methodology according to the data collected in 2018 was presented.

At the moment, Costa Rica is preparing the report related to 2019. The report on Pillar I, on in-kind resources provided to other developing countries, will be submitted to the Task Force secretariat next July, while data on Pillar 2 (regarding the contribution to international public goods) shall be sent before October 1<sup>st</sup>. The information will be validated in November and published next December 15.



# XIII. Statistical capacity building

## *a. Statistical Capacity Building and Indicators*

In accordance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination to ensure that all persons are included, especially those in conditions of greater exclusion recognized by the SDGs when proposing "leave no one behind", the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), as the SDGs Statistical Advisory Body, has made a major effort to improve the tools of statistical operations, so as to ensure that users of information have the highest levels of disaggregation for population groups.

INEC, as technical advisor on statistics, provides support in the process of calculating and updating SDG indicators; making information available to the institutions to allow the formulation of targets, ongoing monitoring, analysis, monitoring and evaluation through SDG statistics.

Thus, INEC proposes different strategic actions that allow the production and dissemination of quality official statistics with opportunity and easy access for users, accounting for the goals established by the country for the monitoring and follow-up of the SDGs; defining methodologies meant to incorporate the focus to gender and ethnicity in statistical measurements by providing new indicators and improving existing ones; exercising the governing role in the National Statistical System to address the challenges posed by the generation of SDG monitoring indicators.

In the development of compliance indicators and monitoring of the SDGs, INEC has played a major role, carrying out a series of actions with the aim of making available to users a System of SDG Indicators on its website. This system is the result of joint work between INEC and the institutions of the National Statistical System (SEN) and was based on an updating and monitoring strategy that made it possible to coordinate the conceptual, methodological and operational work of the definition, generation and update of indicators that meet the objectives set out in the 2030 Agenda.

This strategy started in 2016 and to date INEC continues coordinating the monitoring and update strategy for the System of Indicators. The work carried out during these years is detailed below:

| Year | Actions performed   |
|------|---|
| 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Methodological proposal and development of a tool to assess national statistical capacities for the elaboration of SDG.</li> <li>Assessment tool on the status of SDG indicators based on the ECLAC tool.</li> <li>List of SDG Indicators consulted and validated, with the corresponding methodological sheets.</li> </ul>  |
| 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of national capacities assessment and availability of indicator information.</li> <li>Revision of indicators proposed by the United Nations and its methodological sheets based on the new list of revised indicators of the United Nations Statistical Commission</li> <li>Collection of information for indicators and development of methodological sheets.</li> <li>Development of SDG baseline publication with data available.</li> <li>Implement SDG Information System and monitoring of indicators update.</li> <li>Support and monitoring of activities to revise targets and indicators in activities convened by the planning sectors of the Executive Branch (health, environment, poverty) and SDG Technical Secretariat (Mideplan).</li> </ul> |
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishment of the INEC Institutional Technical Commission for the monitoring of SDG indicators with the participation of the Technical Secretariat and the United Nations System</li> <li>Review of the proposal for the Regional Framework of SDG indicators.</li> <li>New methodological sheet structure for SDG, with fields' definition.</li> <li>Course/Workshop "Methodology to develop and give continuity to SDG environmental indicators".</li> <li>Strategy to update indicators, by classification.</li> <li>Request to update available SDG indicators.</li> <li>Publication of the Excel file with updated SDG indicators available.</li> <li>Establishment of the Inter-Agency Group on SDG Monitoring Indicators</li> </ul>                        |
| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prioritization for the production of unavailable or outdated indicators.</li> <li>Appointment of institutional focal points<sup>87</sup> for the National System of SDG Indicators.</li> <li>First meeting of institutional focal points for the National System of SDG Indicators</li> </ul>  |

<sup>87</sup> Understood as those persons designated in the institution as responsible persons for providing statistical information on the SDGs.

| Year | Actions performed  |
|------|--|
|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update of the assessment on SDG indicators availability</li> <li>• Update of time series of indicators available in the National System of SDG indicators.</li> <li>• Operationalization of 15 new SDG indicators</li> <li>• Publication of SDG indicators with available data (process in progress).</li> <li>• Development of an Action Plan to meet the information demands of SDG (process in progress).</li> </ul> |

In order to have a better organization at the level of SDG Technical Secretariat according to the responsibility entrusted to INEC as the Statistical Advisory Body, the need to establish an Institutional Technical Committee (CTI-ODS-INEC) arises at the end of 2017.

The establishment of this CTI-ODS-INEC has made it possible to coordinate the conceptual, methodological and operational work on the definition, generation and periodic updating of indicators that meet the objectives set out in 2030 Agenda. To do so, a set of coordination activities, both institutional and inter-agency, for the production and organized monitoring of SDG indicators is proposed.

Thus, in 2018, INEC management signed the resolution 011-2018 establishing an "Institutional Technical Commission for Sustainable Development Goals". This Technical Commission has the following functions or powers:

- a) Manage the development of a computer platform for SDGs indicator system in Costa Rica.
- b) Identify the actions needed for SEN institutions to generate and apply SDG-related indicators in Costa Rica.
- c) Provide technical advice to SEN institutions in order to obtain SDG indicators in Costa Rica, establishing guidelines for the generation and update of these SDG indicators.
- d) Coordinate with the SDGs Technical Secretariat the definition of indicators to monitor the SDGs targets in Costa Rica.
- e) Coordinate with SEN institutions the timely verification of the indicators defined for the SDGs in Costa Rica.
- f) Inform the INEC authorities of the non-compliances and delays of SEN institutions in submitting and verifying reports on SDG indicators in order to implement the appropriate corrective and disciplinary regime.

Currently, the availability of national indicators as of 2019 is 136 out of 244 (55.74%); the result is the product of a progressive effort from 2017 to the present (Table 7). However, there is a challenge in disaggregating statistics by sex, age, area (urban -

rural), disability, indigenous peoples, population of Afro descendants, among other disaggregation (Table 8)<sup>88</sup>.

Table 7. National availability of SDG monitoring indicators by category, by year

| Categoría   | 2017     |            | 2018     |            | 2019     |            |
|---|----------|------------|----------|------------|----------|------------|
|   | Absolute | Percentage | Absolute | Percentage | Absolute | Percentage |
| Total   | 244      | 100        | 244      | 100        | 244      | 100        |
| Available   | 117      | 47,95      | 121      | 49,59      | 136      | 55,74      |
| Indicator not produced, but can be produced with existing information sources | 38       | 15,57      | 35       | 14,34      | 39       | 15,98      |
| Not Available   | 32       | 13,11      | 30       | 12,30      | 14       | 5,74       |
| International report  | 57       | 23,36      | 58       | 23,77      | 55       | 22,54      |

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, November 2019.

With the main objective of providing technical advisory on statistics for the development of compliance and monitoring indicators of the SDGs, INEC has included in the National Statistics Plan (PEN) 2018-2022<sup>89</sup> an Action Plan (PA-ODS 2020-2025) for updating, calculating and defining methodologies for SDG indicators.

Table 8. Number of indicators disaggregated by type of disaggregation by objective, 2019

| Goal    | Data are available | Disaggregation by |        |        |                 |                    |     |            |          |                      |
|---------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|------------|----------|----------------------|
|         |                    | Sex               | Region | County | Planning Region | Activity Condition | Age | Disability | Province | Other disaggregation |
| Total   | 136                | 41                | 21     | 1      | 16              | 5                  | 26  | 1          | 17       | 60                   |
| Goal 1. | 10                 | 4                 | 4      |        | 4               | 3                  | 3   |            | 1        | 3                    |
| Goal 2. | 5                  | 2                 | 2      |        |                 |                    |     |            |          | 3                    |
| Goal 3. | 24                 | 12                | 1      |        | 1               | 2                  | 12  |            | 11       | 10                   |
| Goal 4. | 10                 | 5                 | 2      |        | 1               |                    | 2   |            |          | 6                    |
| Goal 5. | 9                  | 2                 | 2      |        | 2               |                    |     |            |          | 5                    |
| Goal 6. | 8                  | 1                 | 2      | 1      | 1               |                    | 1   |            | 1        | 5                    |
| Goal 7. | 5                  | 2                 | 2      |        | 2               |                    | 2   |            |          | 2                    |
| Goal 8. | 14                 | 5                 | 1      |        | 1               |                    | 3   |            |          | 4                    |
| Goal 9. | 9                  | 1                 |        |        |                 |                    |     |            |          | 3                    |

<sup>88</sup> Refer to Annex page 136 for more details about the SDG monitoring indicators.

<sup>89</sup> [http://sen.inec.cr/sites/default/files/Documentos\\_PEN/Planes/pen\\_2018-2022.pdf](http://sen.inec.cr/sites/default/files/Documentos_PEN/Planes/pen_2018-2022.pdf)

| Goal     | Data are available | Disaggregation by |        |        |                 |                    |     |            |          |                      |
|----------|--------------------|-------------------|--------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|------------|----------|----------------------|
|          |                    | Sex               | Region | County | Planning Region | Activity Condition | Age | Disability | Province | Other disaggregation |
| Goal 10. | 5                  | 1                 | 2      |        | 2               |                    |     | 1          |          | 2                    |
| Goal 11. | 7                  | 1                 | 1      |        | 1               |                    | 1   |            | 2        | 4                    |
| Goal 12. | 3                  |                   |        |        |                 |                    |     |            |          | 1                    |
| Goal 13. | 2                  |                   |        |        |                 |                    |     |            | 1        | 1                    |
| Goal 14. | 1                  |                   |        |        |                 |                    |     |            |          | 1                    |
| Goal 15. | 4                  |                   |        |        |                 |                    |     |            |          | 3                    |
| Goal 16. | 11                 | 5                 | 1      |        |                 |                    | 2   |            | 1        | 6                    |
| Goal 17. | 9                  |                   | 1      |        | 1               |                    |     |            |          | 1                    |

Note: There is no indicator disaggregated by ethnicity or socio-economic status.

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, Coordination Unit of the National Statistics System (2019)

This Action Plan is a planning tool used for the management and control of tasks or projects for the update and calculation of SDG indicators. As such, it works as a road map that sets out how the set of tasks needed to accomplish these tasks and projects will be organized, guided and implemented.

The objectives of the plan include establishing a strategic partnership with international cooperation to have the technical and financial support needed for the calculation of the SDGs; strengthen the operation and coordination of bodies established for the calculation of national indicators to monitor SDG; ensure that the institutions responsible for the generation of national indicators to monitor SDG develop them according to the best statistical practices, ensuring quality, timeliness and regularity; determining the feasibility for the calculation of national SDG monitoring indicators classified as not available, among others.

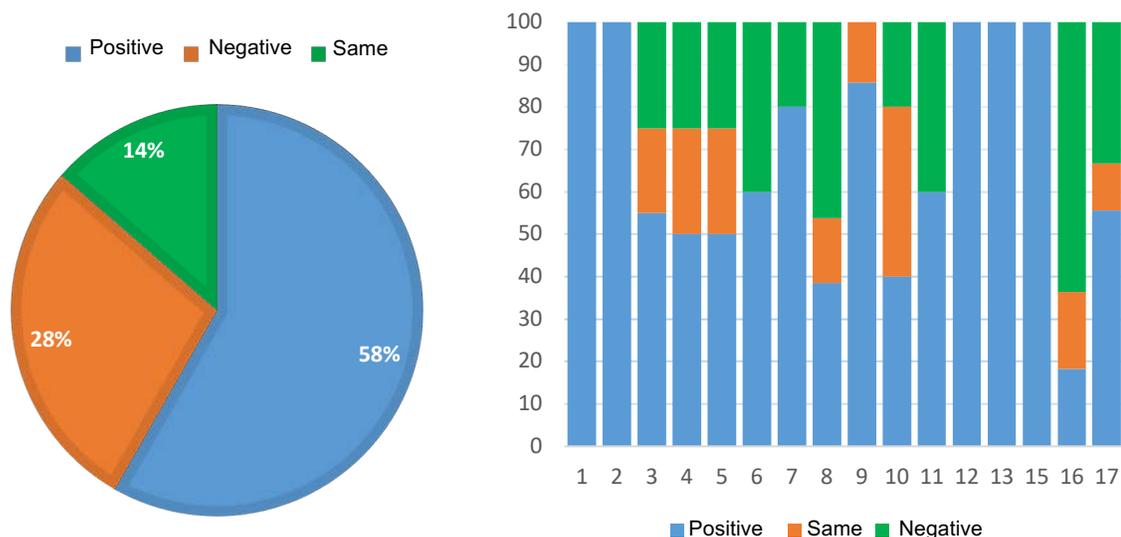
In this regard, the strategic alliance between INEC and AED for the development of the methodological proposal for the calculation of indicator 12.6.1 on the number of companies that publish sustainability reports should be highlighted in order to obtain the first data by the end of 2020.

# XIV. SDG Progress: Goals and indicators

## Analysis of national indicators for the SDGs monitoring

Through the efforts of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) and the institutions that provide data for the treatment of 2030 Agenda indicators, the country currently has 136 indicators for the national approach of the 169 SDG targets. Out of this number of indicators, around 102 (75%) were analyzed regarding the trend and evolution over time, mainly from 2010 onwards, prioritizing from 2017 to the date (provided an official data is available). This showed as a result that the majority (58%) of the indicators analyzed have a positive or favorable behavior for addressing those of the 2030 Agenda. 42% of them, on the other hand, showed an unfavorable trend or that their variation has been uniform with neither positive nor negative changes (Figure 12).

Figure 12. Classification of indicators by general trend and by SDG \*. 2020



\* SDG14 was not considered for this section because of the lack of data with time series.  
Source: Mideplan, SDG Technical Secretariat.

Details are given below for each SDG, illustrating the situation through at least one indicator.

### SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere



In SDG 1, all monitoring indicators with a series of data showed a favorable trend for the reduction of the scourge of poverty in Costa Rican society, for example, the behavior of the percentage of the population living in Costa Rica with less than \$1,90 records a reduction in the period 2015 - 2018 from 2.7% to 2.5%, respectively. In turn, the situation of people living in poverty by Poverty Line (PL) or income<sup>90</sup> of INEC<sup>91</sup>, shows in the period 2015-2018 a reduction of 0.7 pp going from 23.6% to 22.9%. In the case of multidimensional poverty since 2015, it has decreased 2.7 pp going from 21.8% to 19.1% in the country in the period 2015 - 2018.

These results have been obtained from many angles, including the public interventions that have been upheld over time and the new ones of the recent administrations, for example, the implementation of "Puente al Desarrollo", with an emphasis on households and people living in areas in extreme poverty, through the articulation of 22 programs run by 14 public institutions, as well as the articulation of selective social programs (SSP), including: "Programa Avancemos" [Advance Program] for the school retention of young students in secondary education, the "Red de Cuido" [Network of Care for minors] and the care of senior citizens in Shelters, Day Care Centers and Homes, Pensions of the Non-Contributory Regime, among other interventions.

### SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

SDG 2 in Costa Rica shows positive advances, such as: in the triennium 2015-2017, 220 thousand people suffer from undernourishment and represent a portion of 4.4% of the population, lower by 1.2 pp which is equivalent to 80,000 people less than in the triennium 2014-2016. As for the average hourly income in the agricultural sector, it showed an increasing trend for the period 2015-2018, thus for the total it registered an increase of 8.5%, while for the employer of 2 to 5 people it was 9, 7% and for the one of 6 to 9 employees it was 17.5%, explained in part by higher productivity and better market conditions that guarantee a better placement of his products, both domestically and internationally, where exports grew by 6.2% on average for the period in reference and added to this by



<sup>90</sup> It represents the minimum amount required for an individual to fulfill basic food and non-food needs, included on a goods and services basket differentiated pour urban and rural areas.

<sup>91</sup> INEC defines people in poverty by LP as those who have a per capita income equal to or less than the per capita cost of the Basic Food Basket located in extreme poverty. Non-extreme poverty households have a per capita income equal to or below the poverty line, but higher than the per capita cost of the Basic Food Basket (CBA) or extreme poverty line. For their part, the persons classified as non-poor households are those who have a per capita income that enables them to meet their basic food and non-food needs so that their per capita income is higher than the value of the poverty line.

institutional support in training, technical assistance and technology transfer processes.

The country has important instruments that have been guiding the various actions to reduce undernourishment, which are: National Policy for Food and Nutrition Security 2011-2021 (SAN) and the Strategic Plan for Food Security, Nutrition and Hunger Eradication, 2025 and more recently with the National Policy for Sustainable Production and Consumption 2018-2030.

### SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



For this SDG, according to the series of monitoring indicators, Costa Rica has a favorable performance in 11 indicators (55%), negative in 5 (25%) and 4 (20%) where they maintain their trend (the same). In favorable cases, maternal mortality is estimated at 16.1 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by 2018, down from 28.6 in 2016 (13 deaths per 100,000 inhabitants).

On the other hand, available statistical data show that the country has been experiencing an increase in the rate of new HIV diagnoses per 100,000 inhabitants. Thus, the rate of new diagnoses has increased from 8.6 to 19.6 over a period of 15 years. The data available up to 2017 indicate that the most affected population is the male population, since for every woman there are 6 men diagnosed with HIV.

In the case of the indicators that keep the same trend, births attended by skilled health personnel in Costa Rica were in the order of 99.1% in 2018. During the past nine years this number has not changed significantly. Thus, in the area of health and well-being, the country has the standard for Comprehensive Care for Women during Low Obstetric Risk Pregnancy and the Guide for Comprehensive Care for Women, Children in the prenatal, childbirth and post-natal period, as well as a series of protocols in the health care services that allow to address risk conditions in pregnant women, which allows to guarantee an adequate maternal and child health. It also keeps the goal of maintaining the AIDS mortality rate between 2019 and 2022 at 3.7; seeking to ensure the sustainability of the combined prevention model that is part of the HIV care cascade, which targets more vulnerable populations such as the sexually diverse population.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

In the case of inclusive and equitable education, 50 per cent of the monitoring indicators with data series showed a favorable trend towards achieving the goals, while the other 50% is divided between indicators that have negative growth or maintain the same trend. In Costa Rica, universal, free and state-funded education up to the high school level has made it possible to achieve high and sustained school enrolment rates. This means that both girls and boys have equal opportunities to enroll and attend education up to high school.



One of the shortcomings is secondary and post-secondary education, with efforts being made to increase the percentage of young people and adults aged 15-35 who attend formal and non-formal education. Thus, programs such as "Education for Young People and Adults" are being developed in such a way as to provide educational formation for young people to enable them to access better jobs and achieve a more dignified life. It is important to mention that the percentage of educational establishments with computers connected to the Internet for teaching purposes in cycles I and II increased significantly, from 45.8 per cent in 2014 to 86.6 per cent in 2018. This is due to the intervention of the Use of Technology for the benefit of the educational community, which aims to connect public educational establishments throughout the country (Bicentennial Education Network); in addition, the National Mobile Technologies Program (PNTM) will support the inclusion of digital technologies in learning processes.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Within the framework of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, 50 per cent of women and girls with a favorable trend towards achieving the goals were reached, while the other 50 percent is divided between indicators that have negative growth or maintain the same trend, according to the monitoring indicators with data series. Thus, it should be considered that legislation and mechanisms in Costa Rica for the political participation of women stated in the Electoral Code of Costa Rica, article 2, the Principle of political participation by gender that will be governed by the principle of parity which implies that all delegations, payrolls and other peer bodies shall consist of fifty percent (50%) of women and fifty percent (50%) of men.

If we analyze the behavior in recent electoral periods of the percentage of women's participation in the positions of councilors, mayors and receivers, we can see that the highest representation of women is in the positions of councilors (about 40%); however, for the last election of municipalities only 9 out of 81 (11%) were for women elected to mayor positions.

On the other hand, data from the 2018 Survey of Women, Children and Adolescents (EMNA, Encuesta de Mujer, Niñez y Adolescencia ) showed that 2 per cent of women aged 20-24 were married or cohabitated before the age of 15 and 17.1 per cent before the age of 18, data that are not negligible especially when disaggregated by urban and rural area, where we see that almost 24% of women aged 20-24 years cohabit before the age of 18, 9 pp more than women of the same age in urban areas (15%).

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all



For the approach to water and sanitation in SDG 6, Costa Rica shows 60 per cent growth in its data-series monitoring indicators and 40 per cent negative trends, for example: In the percentage of the population that is supplied with intra-household water from an aqueduct, for the period 2014-2018 there is an increase, reaching in 2018 94% of the total population, in turn, in the proportion of the population using safely managed sanitation services, including a hand washing facility with soap and water. Over the same period of time, there has been an increase in the percentage of the population living in dwellings with a toilet connected to sewers or septic tanks, reaching 98 per cent of the total population by 2018.

However, in the Proportion indicator of the volume of Wastewater Treated Safely, it should be mentioned that despite national efforts to improve access to sewerage and improve water quality, by reducing the percentage of untreated wastewater discharged into the environment and thus moderate pollution, the process has been slow and complex. It is important to point out that some of the efforts undertaken include the Program for the Sanitation of Priority Areas and the City of Limon, which includes the development of sewerage systems, in the search of both the health of its inhabitants and the protection of the environment. They are included in the PNDIP 2019-2022. It should also be mentioned that Costa Rica is promoting the Comprehensive Water Supply Program for Guanacaste (PIAAG), in line with the CR National Regional Drinking Water Policy 2017 - 2030 as a priority tool for access to drinking water protection and, of course, the protection of water resources.

Another program is the Sanitation of priority areas and the Expansion and Improvement of the Sewerage System of the City of Limon, which together expand the coverage and provision of sewerage services in five coastal and rural cities in Costa Rica.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

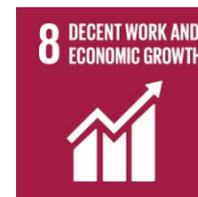


In the case of clean and affordable energy, the country is achieving favorable growth in 80 per cent of the monitoring indicators that provide data series, on the contrary, it still has challenges in 20% of them, for example, in recent years the percentage of the population with access to electricity has been almost 100%; in 2018 it was 99,7%, virtually the entire population has such access. The current challenge is presented in the Energy Operational Planning of the National Electricity System SEN 2020-2024 and in the PNDIP 2019-2022, in which it is expected to have efficient control and measurement systems, with a target of 1,013,048 Intelligent meters installed in the electric grid, which will contribute to maintaining the quality of the service and improving the continuity of the same.

In addition, for the period 2014-2018, an increasing trend is seen in the percentage of the population that cooks with clean energy (electricity and gas, electricity or gas), going from 93% to 95% between 2014 and 2018, respectively. The 2015-National Energy Plan2030 proposes an increase in the supply of electricity generated from renewable sources in order to avoid an increase in the relative share of thermal energy within the national electricity grid and to allow the maintenance and advancement of the targets of this indicator.

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Within the framework of SDG 8 monitoring indicators, from 13 indicators with series, 38.5% of these have a favorable trend, 15.4% remain uniform and 46.2% show major challenges. To mention a few, the annual growth rate of real GDP per capita shows a downward trend in the period 2015-2019 going from 2.4 to 1.5. Another indicator is the percentage of informal employment, in non-agricultural employment, on average it was 41% between 2015 and 2018, showing an increase compared to its average value between 2010 and 2012 of 36.8%. Women have higher percentages (45.7% average 2015-2018) compared to men who register an annual average of 38%. This indicator is 86% for self-employed workers, while for dependents it is 29% on average annually from 2015 to 2018.



Also the percentage of young people between 15 and 24 years old who do not study or do not have a job or have not received training or other non-formal education represents 16.2% of the young population, as an annual average between 2015 and 2018 . In the case of women, this indicator is 20 per cent, which is equivalent to 7 percentage points more than for men who reach 13 per cent. To this end, the Ministry of Labor and Social Security is implementing the "Empleate" Program, targeting young people aged 17 to 24 who are neither working nor studying. This program is involved in the strategic intervention of the National Employment System included in the PNDIP 2019-2022.

## SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Regarding SDG 9, 6 of its monitoring indicators (85.7%) with data series show a favorable trend for the treatment of resilient infrastructure and the commitment to innovation; the remaining indicator (14.3%) showed a uniform trend (with no variation, positive or negative) in the analysis period. Among its indicators, manufacturing industry shows a slight increase in its importance in terms of GDP, going from 11.4 per cent in 2015 to 11.9 per cent by 2019, due to the greater dynamism of activities linked to the export sector such as Active Improvement and Free Zones where the exports of precision and medical equipment, electrical and electronic and metal-mechanical stand out. In addition, in recent years the manufacturing industry has been generating around 10 to 11 percent in employment. The dynamism of the industries linked to the free zones and the export sector has demanded a better qualified and better-off human resource, opening up opportunities for both men and women.

With the ideal of modernizing infrastructure and reconverting industries to be sustainable, using resources more efficiently and promoting the adoption of clean industrial processes and technologies, in Costa Rica, total carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions in the period 2011-2016 have been around 7,000 tons approximately. In addition, the Decarbonization plan has been aligned with PNDIP 2019-2022 and includes the reduction of 4,000,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent and the maintenance of 115,000,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in stock, contained in forests under Payment for Environmental Services contracts, the incorporation of 10 municipalities in the Carbon Neutral Country Program and the reduction of 135 tons of Co<sub>2</sub>e, through the incorporation of 3 electric buses that operate on a pilot basis on routes in the metropolitan area, within the National Program for the Reduction of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG).

## SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

Regarding indicators with series for SDG 10, 40% maintain a favorable trend, 20% maintain their behavior on a uniform average and 40% presented an unfavorable trend. Among its main results it is possible to say that: The percentage of income of people in quintile 1 and 2 with respect to the total income of the population was 12.9% as an annual average between 2015 and 2017, 1 percentage point lower than in 2010. This indicator by area tends to be similar, since in urban it is 13.7% and in rural it is 13.5% in annual average from 2015 to 2017.



Finally, for Costa Rica, the productive asset with respect to the total asset corresponds to 84.3% in annual average between 2015-2017, showing an increase

of 2 points with respect to 2010. Liabilities with costs represent 86% of total liabilities in the same period and with an increase of 2 points from the 2010 level. The Strategic Area of Economy for the stability and growth of the PNDIP 2019-2022 has the intervention Institutional Management of state commercial banks, whose objective is to efficiently manage the financial resources of the institution through the control of administrative spending, which is the responsibility of the Banco Nacional de Costa Rica and of the Banco de Costa Rica.

In addition, the indicators fall within the scope of supervision of the Office of the Superintendent General of Financial Institutions (SUGEF), which is involved in the strategic intervention of PNDIP, called Oversight of the Costa Rican Financial System, whose objective is to consolidate risk-based oversight in supervised entities in the Costa Rican financial system.

#### SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



In the case of this goal, 60% of monitoring indicators show an increasing trend and 40% of them have negative or not so favorable trends. Thus, for example, the percentage of the population in dwellings with poor physical condition, broken down by planning area and region, where a constant performance is observed for the years 2015-2018 reflected by a percentage ranging from 8.8% - 9.5%, however, it should be noted that for the years 2016 and 2018 there is a decrease in the bad physical condition of the dwelling.

In addition, the percentage of the population living in slums shows substantial growth from 2015, which is around 0.3 per cent and 0.4 per cent. The same pattern is observed in urban areas, while in rural areas the percentage of slum dwellers is lower but increases to 0.3 per cent in the last year. Slum status refers to the physical condition of the dwelling. From this perspective, the Housing Deficit Care Program for low-income population groups includes as part of its coverage the replacement of unsuitable housing (understood as slums). According to article 52 of Law 7052 on the Creation of the National Financial System for Housing and the Banco Hipotecario de la Vivienda (Housing Mortgage Bank), families whose monthly income does not exceed the upper limit of the minimum monthly wage of an unskilled worker in the construction industry shall be eligible to receive the benefit of the Family Housing Bonus.

### SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

In treating the guarantee of consumption and sustainable production in Costa Rica, in the national recycling rate, tons of recycled material, the Waste Recovery Centers, in coordination with the Ministry of Health and the local governments, have made great efforts to increase and improve the collection and treatment of waste containing plastic, glass, aluminum and cardboard, among others. However, these efforts must be supported by public awareness and civic education. For the period 2017, recycling more than doubles the amount recovered compared to 2016, going from 40,000 to 100,000 tons; however, in 2018 it fell to 53,473 tons, which according to the Ministry of Health was due to a lower generation of ordinary waste in shops and others that recycle.



The challenge for the following years goes far beyond waste management through recycling. It involves a change in production and consumption habits aligned with circular economy practices. To this end, the National Policy for Integrated Waste Management (PNGIR) 2010-2021 and the National Recycling Strategy 2016-2021 are in place, as well as the goals of PNDIP 2019-2022 of the Sustainable Production and Consumption Program, 4,553 organizations adopting voluntary environmental standards to improve their performance and the National Strategy for the Reduction of Single-Use Plastics, which calls for 100% of municipalities to adopt the strategy for the replacement of plastic with compostable and renewable alternatives.

### SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



For the development of Climate Action in Costa Rica, efforts have been made to strengthen resilience and adaptation capacity to climate and disaster-related risks. In the last triennium 2017 to 2019, the rate of deaths per person directly affected by disasters per 100,000 inhabitants changed from 0.44 to 0.06 (4 persons dead), a similar pattern is seen in the data regarding missing persons, injured persons and relocated persons. In 2017, the victims' rate was 185 per 100,000 inhabitants, and the rate for 2018 and 2019 has not yet been recorded, the rate of those affected from 2018 to 2019 changed from 342 to 6 per 100,000 and the number of evacuees from 2018 to 2019 changed from 146 to 16 per 100,000 inhabitants.

In this regard, a National Risk Management Plan has been in place since 2016, and the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Response has been working on early warning systems. In addition, the 2019-2022 PNDIP Land zoning and Human Settlements sector has two strategic interventions: The Housing Deficit Program for Low-Income Groups and the Program to Address the Housing Deficit for the Middle-Class Population. These are conducive to the provision of ordinary and article 59 bonds for the vulnerable population. On the other hand, guidelines prevail in the National Housing Policy, the National Land Zoning Policy and the National

Urban Development Policy, which generally emphasize risk prevention and mitigation, to develop housing projects in areas of low vulnerability, respecting land use.

SGD 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

In SGD14, Costa Rica has the main challenge of the scope of monitoring indicators for the 2030 Agenda since it currently has only one indicator out of the 10 proposed in the goal. In addition, the indicator on the coverage of protected areas in relation to marine areas does not have a data series that allow establishing a trend. However, in 2019, according to data from the Ministry of the Environment and Energy, Costa Rica has a total of 143 protected areas covering 2,784,047 hectares, of which the terrestrial ones represent 25 per cent of the national territory, while the marine ones represent approximately 49 per cent.



Costa Rica works within the framework of the Policies for Wild Protected Areas (ASP) of the National System of Conservation Areas (SINAC), which seeks to guide the course of future decisions on the protected areas of our country and, and at the same time, serve as a reference point for periodically assessing progress and rectifying the course where appropriate in order to protect the country's total diversity, not just the marine diversity.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss



In the case of SDG 15, the three indicators (100%) with series or observations over time, showed a positive trend. This can be visualized, for example, with the Progress in Sustainable Forest Management, where since the period 2017-2018, the percentage of net change in the forest area has been 0,54, reflecting planning instruments such as the National Forestry Development Plan 2011-2020.

Thus, the challenge of maintaining and overcoming these data is reinforced by the targets included in PNDIP 2019-2022 with the National Adaptation Policy to address the adverse effects of Climate Change. It proposes 5,000 hectares managed under an ecosystem-based adaptation approach, as well as the Plantations for Forest Use Program for Landscape Restoration, the Payment for Environmental Services Program (PPSA), Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Projects (PPAF), financing mechanisms for the management, conservation and sustainable development of forest resources and biodiversity, which have allowed our country to become a replicable model of forest conservation and management.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

In the case of SDG 16, the indicators with time series show favorable trends in 18,2%; challenges in 63,6% and 18,2% a uniform trend. For this reason, it is a goal that triggers a lot of work at the national and international levels with the manifestations that its indicators aim to measure, for example, the number of victims of intentional homicides per 100,000 inhabitants that shows an increasing trend, showing an annual increase, until 2017 where the highest historical values were reached, closing with a value of 12.2 intentional homicides per 100,000 inhabitants. However, for 2018-2019, decreasing values were observed, showing a more positive picture. The indicator is used directly in the PNDIP 2019-2022 and is supported by the National Strategy to Combat money laundering and the financing of terrorism, Sembremos Seguridad Strategy, Combat against organized crime, Police Operational Programs to reduce crime and delinquency.



Another example is the rate of cases of domestic violence per 100,000 inhabitants, where in Costa Rica in 2016 it was 385.63 for women and 149.73 for men. Looking at the years from 2012 to 2015, the rate has been increasing in value for women. This is because domestic violence is mostly associated with cases of violence against women. For this reason, the State is working to care for women victims of violence, which are included in the intervention entitled "Policies for effective equality between women and men (PIEG) and for the protection and prevention of violence against women (PLANNOVI).

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



For SDG 17, the monitoring indicators with data series showed a mostly favorable trend (55.6 per cent), 33.3 per cent an unfavorable trend and 11.1 per cent a uniform trend or without much variation over time. Among the indicators, the Percentage of government revenue as a proportion of GDP stands out, broken down by source according to its origin, since this percentage of GDP is equivalent to 14.4% on annual average 2015-2018; with current income having the highest share of GDP of 14.4%, while capital income accounts for 0.03% of GDP. As part of current revenue, the percentage of tax revenue with regard to GDP reaches 13.3%, while income from social contributions, non-tax income and transfers represent 0.3%, 0.2% and 0.6% of GDP, respectively, on annual average from 2015 to 2018. It is important to point out that total government revenues as a proportion of GDP show a downward trend from 2016 onwards, showing a decrease of 0.4 percentage points from the figure reported in 2018.

However, in the Percentage of total expenditure covered by tax revenues, an average of 65.9% was estimated per year 2015-2018, which shows a lower level compared to 2011 and 2012, whose average was 71%. The trend shown by this indicator has been very stable since 2013. It is important to point out that the value of 64.9% reported in 2017 is the lowest of the entire historical series in analysis. The indicator is related to the strategic interventions "Management of the Expenditure and Debt of the Central Government" and "Public Finance Management", of the Economics Area for the stability and growth of the PNDIP 2019-2022, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Finance.

All of the above provides an overall result in line with the Ranking of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) prepared by the German Bertelsmann Foundation and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network that monitors the performance of 162 countries annually and summarizes countries' current performance and trends in the 17 SDG, which also describes countries' progress towards SDG compliance, indicating possible areas that require faster progress.

Thus, Costa Rica ranks 33 out of 162 countries evaluated in the Sustainable Development Goals Index, obtaining an overall score of 74.98; which puts the country at the level of the most advanced economies in the world. Remaining in 2019, as the third in the Americas, after Canada and Chile (leading the ranking along with Costa Rica for Latin America and the Caribbean).



# XV. Conclusions and lessons learned

- The 2030 Agenda through the National Pact for the Advancement of the SDGs is seen as an instrument to guarantee the human rights of all people and to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders in society in its achievement. It gives a sense of responsibility about the well-being of all populations to a nation, which is not solely the responsibility of government.
- The National Pact and the governance structure are considered as important advances that have positioned the 2030 Agenda and achieved levels of commitment from the stakeholders. However, the proper functioning of these structures remains a challenge, with uneven performance in the intersectoral articulation.
- There is a need to strengthen subnational mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs, as asymmetries in capacities and commitments persist at the regional, territorial and local level.
- National indicators and the inclusion of SDG targets in the National Development and Public Investment Plan (PNDIP) 2019-2022 are highlighted as important advances, have a robust National Assessment Agenda, a reliable system of monitoring indicators and make an effort to make traditionally excluded populations visible.
- A recurring theme in the feedback to the implementation processes has been the need for a long-term multi-stakeholder road map. Stakeholders work towards where they feel they should work linked to certain objectives; however, there is no clear line of action.
- The preparation of the 2020 Voluntary National Review has made it possible to review progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which highlights progress in the development of technical tools to guide its implementation. In this regard, it highlights that stakeholders such as the business sector and the Judiciary Branch have developed their own tools to guide the implementation of the SDGs in the organizations they group.
- Special attention is needed to the SDGs whose indicators show less progress (SDG 5, 8, 9, 16, 12, 14), as well as to the disparity in the technical and internal articulation capacities of the various stakeholders represented in the Advisory Committee.

- The country is of upper middle income and has been graduated, therefore, it has a dual role in international cooperation. There is a need to clarify the mobilization of resources in terms of development priorities, both at the national and regional level, since otherwise the means of implementation do not show that they are meeting the commitment of Universality. The country contributes responsibly to cross-border processes, such as climate change, access to justice and care for migrants and refugees, but requires support to remain an effective partner within the global community.
- As a member of the global community, greater clarity on international public goods is urgently needed if the 2030 Agenda is to result in an effective road map across borders and allow greater use of the means of implementation.
- The country has found in the Population and Development approach and the monitoring to the commitments of international law a complement that allows to address the particularities of the different populations in the process of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, however, major challenges remain to ensure that no one is left behind in Costa Rica.
- Targeted public interventions ensure the fulfilment of rights and access to goods and services; however, it was increasingly necessary to design interventions that contribute to reducing gaps or that involve affirmative action, so as to transform well-being conditions.
- National experience shows that environmental commitments require precise and rigorous instruments to guide their implementation in order to demonstrate the status of progress.
- Decarbonization of the national development process uses the advances installed in the country as the basis and demand for additional efforts to separate the carbon footprint from national productivity. To this end, guidance with the 2050 National Strategic Plan is essential.
- Although the effects of measures to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 are still uncertain, current figures predict a negative impact on SDG progress over the past five years. This is the result of an increase in the unemployment rate, low domestic production, a slowdown in the quality of education, financial fragility and other structural and non-structural problems of Costa Rican society.

# XVI. Costa Rica facing the decade of action

- 2050 National Strategic Plan: As a guiding strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the commitments that exceed this deadline, the National Strategic Plan 2020-2050 (PEN) is being prepared, with a process of national participation to establish a long-term development strategy, based on a decarbonized, resilient, R&D-intensive and inclusive economy.
- Recovery process of the impacts of COVID-19 with 2030 vision. Recovery from the effects of COVID-19 will be a national challenge; but at the same time it will provide an opportunity to define actions and find solutions in line with sustainable development, putting people at the center and from a multi-stakeholder and multi-level approach.
- Reinforce human rights and gender mainstreaming in every initiative, project, program and public policies.
- Promote the sustainability and expansion of meeting spaces and build agreements around the 2030 Agenda.
- Strengthen the generation of data with a population focus, in order to better characterize the population groups that are lagging behind. This includes both the opportunity to expand administrative records and the application or development of new tools or surveys.
- Strengthen the coordination processes within non-governmental organizations, the private sector, local governments and other stakeholders signatory to the National Covenant with the aim of having concrete plans, budget and monitoring mechanisms, in a sustained (annual) manner by all stakeholders.
- Although the country has made an effort to address the comprehensiveness of sustainable development in its interventions, the challenge remains to articulate the policies and work of institutions from a multidimensional perspective. In this regard, the Joint Programs approved by the SDGs Trust Fund (implementation of which will begin in 2020) will strengthen the country's capacity to visualize a multidimensional approach and the integration of sectoral policies, and to promote a results-based economic policy.

- For a clear quantification of financing in terms of external resources for the 2030 Agenda and for the financing of national public goods, it is necessary to incorporate the TOSSD tool as one of the indicators of the SDG 17.

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## ANNEXES

Table 9. Distribution of strategic interventions according to connection of objectives by SDG\*, 2020

| SDG | Quantity | Percentage | SDG | Quantity | Percentage |
|-----|----------|------------|-----|----------|------------|
| 8   | 180      | 59,02      | 6   | 68       | 22,30      |
| 11  | 163      | 53,44      | 12  | 50       | 16,39      |
| 10  | 160      | 52,46      | 15  | 44       | 14,43      |
| 1   | 159      | 52,13      | 2   | 39       | 12,79      |
| 9   | 125      | 40,98      | 13  | 37       | 12,13      |
| 4   | 124      | 40,66      | 14  | 35       | 11,48      |
| 3   | 121      | 39,67      | 7   | 25       | 8,20       |
| 16  | 87       | 28,52      | 17  | 25       | 8,20       |
| 5   | 78       | 25,57      |     |          |            |

\*SDG distributed by frequency. Note: Quantities and percentages are not added because a strategic intervention may be classified in two or more SDG

Source: Mideplan, with information from PNDIP 2019-2022.

Table 10. PNDIP interventions targeting specific populations

| Target population               | Specific intervention  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Senior Citizens                 | 20,000 new Non-Contributory Regime Pensions granted to senior citizens in poverty.   |
|                                 | 139,633 persons with a pension granted by the Non-Contributory Regime Pensions.  |
|                                 | 29,400 senior citizens treated according to the SINIRUBE register at national and regional level.  |
|                                 | 100% implementation of the “Línea Dorada” (Golden Line) Project.   |
|                                 | 900 senior citizens with health services cared for in the Home Hospital modality in the Regional and Peripheral Hospitals, aimed at the elderly population.  |
| Children, adolescents and youth | 4,500 educational centers providing canteen service with the new menu for boys and girls under 12 years old  |
|                                 | 172,792 students with student transportation service, people under 18 years old.   |
|                                 | 209 educational centers of first cycle, second cycle, lower secondary education, upper secondary education implementing the STEM strategy for under 18 years old minors.   |
|                                 | 184,300 secondary education students receiving the ‘Avancemos’ benefit according to the SINIRUBE register at the national and regional level.  |
|                                 | 200,000 early childhood and primary students in poverty with conditioned cash transfer from the ‘Creceamos’ Program.   |
|                                 | 6000 children that join for the first time the Child Care Network Program.   |
|                                 | 34,244 children beneficiaries of the childcare and development subsidy according to SINIRUBE at national and regional level.   |
|                                 | 14,881 children and adolescents treated in care alternatives and other care modalities that have not been incorporated into the records of the REDCUDI Technical Secretariat at the national and regional level. |
|                                 | 86,27 per cent progress in infrastructure projects at the national level of the National Child Welfare Agency through the figure of Trust for Minors.  |
|                                 | 31620 and 14438 treated under internal and external modalities, targeting children under 13 years all in social vulnerability.   |

| Target population  | Specific intervention  |
|--|--|
|  | 43 CEN CINAI infrastructures work to strengthen preventive nutrition services, care and child protection, targeting children under 13 in social vulnerability.   |
|  | 60% children of I, III and VI grades in public schools with obesity, comprehensively addressed, targeting children under 12 years.   |
|  | 43,000 vulnerable secondary school students, who are intervened each year at an early stage to prevent the use or consumption of substances harmful to health, targeting children under the age of 18. |
|  | 40 income-generating productive projects targeting rural youth groups.   |
| Women  | 80% of secondary school students benefited from Avancemos who remain in the education system according to the SINIRUBE register.   |
|  | 2,500 adolescent mothers who receive scholarships to stay in the education system, in any educational offer of the Ministry of Public Education, according to the SINIRUBE register.                   |
|  | 100% of the actions of the PIEG 2019-2022 Action Plan being implemented, aimed at women of all ages.   |
|  | 100% of the actions of the PLANOSI 2018-2022 Action Plan being implemented, aimed at women of all ages.  |
|  | 55% of the population covered by the Human Papilloma virus vaccine, targeting 10-year-old girls.   |
|  | Maintain the rate of premature death from cervical and breast cancer for women aged 30-69.   |
|  | Reduce births to 12.8 per cent among adolescent women aged 10 to 19 targeting women under 19 years old   |
| 40 income-generating production projects targeting rural women's groups. |  |
| Indigenous people  | 26 schools in the Brunca region implementing new programs for the study of indigenous language and culture.  |
|  | 39 schools in the Huetar Caribe region implementing new programs for the study of indigenous language and culture.   |
|  | 2 social infrastructure projects for indigenous people implemented (CCSS).   |
|  | 17 indigenous peoples with social infrastructure projects implemented (Aqueducts and Sewers).  |

| Target population  | Specific intervention   |
|--|---|
| Disable people   | 1500 students with disabilities enrolled in regular schools.  |
|  | 95% of public institutions applying the Disability and Accessibility Management (IGEDA) Index.  |
|  | 320 people with disabilities placed in the labor market as a result of the process of labor intermediation or strategies with the business sector.  |
| Afro descendants   | 2050 students enrolled, aimed at the population with an emphasis on young afro descendants.   |
|  | 3740 people enrolled in technical assistance and community education programs, aimed at population with an emphasis on young afro descendants.  |
| Multiple Vulnerabilities   | 308,270 persons from the counties with medium and low SDI with projects implemented targeting population with medium or low social development.   |
|  | 99 housing solutions targeting people in general and extreme poverty in rural areas.  |
|  | 13,780 properties regularized to order possession of real estate, for population in border, rural and urban areas.  |
|  | 44,648 housing bonds for scant financial resources families, indigenous population, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, informal settlements, extreme need  |
|  | 3568 housing bonds for middle class families  |
|  | 40 projects financed to improve the living conditions of the selected communities.  |
|  | 54,565 poor households attended, according to the SINIRUBE national register at the national and regional level.  |
|  | 66,832 poverty-stricken households receiving comprehensive care, including those that are part of the National Strategy for Poverty Reduction "Puente al Desarrollo " at the national and regional level. |
|  | 82,592 persons benefited from the coordinated public interventions, with an emphasis on women, children and adolescents, senior citizens and disable people.  |
|  | Keep the AIDS mortality rate at 3.70, targeting the entire population.  |
| 141 new micro, small and medium-sized agribusiness suppliers with market share, aimed at the elderly beneficiary population. |   |

| Target population | Specific intervention   |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | 100% advance of the pre-investment phase of the Water Supply Program for Guanacaste and North Pacific (PIAGG) , targeting the farmer population of the region                         |
|                   | 95% progress of the PIAGG in supply and irrigation systems, aimed at the population of the selected farmer communities.   |
|                   | 100% construction of PIAGG aqueducts, targeting the entire population of the selected farmer communities.   |
|                   | 10 Climate Change adaptation projects were carried out for the rural population and the Asadas (regional water associations) in the region.   |
|                   | 100% Sanitary Sewer construction in different localities, to improve the health condition of the population.  |
|                   | 3,000 users served by regional innovation and entrepreneurship laboratories, targeting low-income populations living in areas with difficult access to technology.                    |
|                   | 1,000 new people in technical and vocational education and training, targeting poor people over the age of 15 years old.  |
|                   | 100% progress in the implementation of the projects of the Digital Solidarity Agenda, targeting people living in households, communities with limited resources.                      |
|                   | 120 financed projects targeting senior citizens which require mechanisms to finance and promote productive projects.  |
|                   | 3000 micro, small and medium size enterprises served in Integrated Business Development Centers in the different regions, targeting the senior citizens that boost entrepreneurialism |
|                   | 34 simplified procedures targeting older people who require mechanisms to promote competitiveness.  |
|                   | 9016 people trained and advised on consumer rights and employers' obligations, targeting vulnerable populations.  |
|                   | 4.5% coverage of Civic Centers for Peace, aimed at young people aged 13 - 17.   |
| LGTBIQ Population | 50% of affirmative actions for the LGTBI population implemented.  |
|                   | 50% of public institutions implementing affirmative actions, programs and projects for the well-being of the LGTBI population.  |
|                   | 50% of institutions with officials with enhanced capacities to provide services to the LGTBI population.  |

| Target population              | Specific intervention   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Migrant and refugee population | 80% of the migrant population is regularized through mobile migration programs. |

### Annex. Legislation adopted contributing to the SDGs



#### 2020-2021 Legislature

- Law 9849. ADDITION OF A PARAGRAPH TO ARTICLE 50 OF THE POLITICAL CONSTITUTION, TO RECOGNIZE AND GUARANTEE ACCESS TO WATER AS A HUMAN RIGHT
- FILE 21.230. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 43 OF THE LAW ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES, 7600 OF MAY 2, 1996 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO.
- FILE 20,848. ADDITION OF A SUBSECTION TO ARTICLE 4 AND AN ARTICLE 74 BIS TO THE LAW ON COPYRIGHT AND RELATED RIGHTS, LAW 6683 OF OCTOBER 14, 1982 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE MARRAKECH TREATY TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO PUBLISHED WORKS TO PERSONS WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES OR OTHER DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING THE PRINTED TEXT.
- FILE 19,672. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 79 OF THE LAW ON THE CONSERVATION OF WILDLIFE OF DECEMBER 07, 1992, LAW FOR THE PROHIBITION OF THE IMPORTATION, INTERNMENT, EXPORT OR TRANSPORT OF FLORA AND FAUNA, THEIR PRODUCTS, PARTS OR DERIVATIVES, WHICH ARE PROTECTED.
- LAW 9843. APPROVAL OF THE LOAN AGREEMENTS SIGNED BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA AND THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK AND THE FRENCH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO FINANCE THE BUDGET SUPPORT PROGRAM BASED ON POLICY REFORMS TO SUPPORT THE COSTA RICA DECARBONIZATION PLAN.



#### 2019-2020 Legislature

- Law 9840. LAW FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS DURING THE EMERGENCY DUE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY.
- Law 9692 AMENDMENT AND ADDITION OF SEVERAL ARTICLES AND SUBPARAGRAPHS OF THE LAW AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, 7586 OF APRIL 10, 1996 AND ITS AMENDMENTS, AND THE ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES LAW, 7530 OF JULY 10, 1995 AND ITS AMENDMENTS, TO PREVENT AND AVOID THE USE OF FIREARMS IN SITUATIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND TO PROTECT THE LIVES OF VICTIMS.
- Law 9693. TO DECLARE AS A PUBLIC SERVICE THE CANTEENS THAT SERVE VULNERABLE POPULATIONS WITH PUBLIC FUNDS, ADDITION OF A NEW SUBPARAGRAPH TO ARTICLE 376 OF THE LABOR CODE, LAW 2 OF AUGUST 26, 1943.
- Law 9710. LAW ON THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHT TO NATIONALITY OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE AND TO GUARANTEE THE INTEGRATION OF THE CROSS-BORDER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE.
- Law 9714. ADDITION OF A CHAPTER OF ACCESS TO JUSTICE TO LAW 7600 OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.

- Law 9726. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 5 OF LAW 9095, LAW AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS AND CREATION OF THE NATIONAL COALITION AGAINST SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS AND TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (CONATT) OF OCTOBER 26, 2012 AND ITS REFORMS.
- Law 9728. LAW ON EDUCATION AND DUAL TECHNICAL TRAINING.
- Law 9729. APPROVAL OF ACCESSION TO THE CONVENTION ON COMPETITION, APPLICABLE LAW, RECOGNITION, ENFORCEMENT AND COOPERATION IN MATTERS OF PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND MEASURES FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN.
- Law 9731. PARTIAL REFORM OF THE ARMS AND EXPLOSIVES LAW 7530 AND ITS AMENDMENTS OF JULY 10, 1995, ARTICLES 7, 20, 23 AND 51.
- Law 9735. REFORM OF ARTICLE 24 OF THE GENERAL LAW ON THE YOUNG PERSON, LAW 8261, OF MAY 02, 2002 AND ITS AMENDMENTS
- Law 9739. LAW OF INCLUSION OF PARALYMPIC SPORT.
- Law 9740. REFORM OF ARTICLE 29 OF LAW 9028, GENERAL LAW FOR TOBACCO CONTROL AND ITS HARMFUL EFFECTS ON HEALTH, OF MARCH 22, 2012.
- Law 9745. APPROVAL OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING THE CONVENTION ON FORCED LABOR, 1930.
- Law 9766. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 39 OF THE BIODIVERSITY LAW, 7788, MAY 27, 1998 AND ITS AMENDMENTS.
- Law 9777. REFORM OF ARTICLE 523 OF THE CIVIL CODE, LAW 63 OF SEPTEMBER 28, 1887 AND ITS AMENDMENTS AND OF ARTICLE 65 OF THE COMPREHENSIVE LAW FOR THE SENIOR CITIZEN, 7935 OF OCTOBER 25, 1999 AND ITS AMENDMENTS, LAW TO UPDATE THE CAUSES OF INDIGNITY TO INHERIT.
- Law 9781. MODIFICATION OF ARTICLES 35, 56, 60, 141, 151 AND 152 OF THE FAMILY CODE, LAW 5476 OF DECEMBER 21, 1973 AND ITS AMENDMENTS, AND ARTICLE 35 OF THE CODE OF CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS, LAW 7739 OF JANUARY 6, 1998 AND ITS AMENDMENTS.
- Law 9786. LAW TO COMBAT PLASTIC POLLUTION AND PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT.
- Law 9797. COMPREHENSIVE REFORM OF THE GENERAL LAW ON HIV.
- Law 9820. LAW TO STRENGTHEN THE FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY.
- Law 9821. LAW TO AUTHORIZE THE GRANTING OF A SECOND FAMILY HOUSING BONUS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.
- Law 9822. LAW OF RECOGNITION OF THE COSTA RICAN SIGN LANGUAGE (LESCO).
- Law 9824. REFORM OF ARTICLE 12 OF THE GENERAL HEALTH LAW 5395 OF OCTOBER 30, 1973 AND ITS AMENDMENTS, TO PROTECT PREGNANT WOMEN, BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER DELIVERY.
- Law 9828. LAW FOR THE USE OF RECYCLED MATERIALS IN ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS (RECYCLED PAVEMENT LAW).



### 2018-2019 Legislature

- Law 9593. PROCESS TO JUSTICE OF THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES OF COSTA RICA.
- Law 9598. DECLARATION OF AUGUST 7 AS THE DAY OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE.
- Law 9608. APPROVAL OF THE CONVENTION CONCERNING EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUAL TREATMENT FOR MALE AND FEMALE WORKERS: WORKERS WITH FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES (CONVENTION 156).
- Law 9615. ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS ON THE ACTIONS CARRIED OUT IN FAVOR OF YOUNG PEOPLE, IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY
- Law 9616. AMENDMENT OF ARTICLES 41 AND 54 OF LAW 7600 ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES OF MAY 2, 1996.
- Law 9636. AMENDMENT OF SUBPARAGRAPH E) ARTICLE 14 OF LAW 9582, LAW OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, OF JULY 2, 2018; ARTICLE 6 BIS OF LAW 8720, PROTECTION OF VICTIMS, WITNESSES AND OTHER SUBJECTS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL PROCESS, AMENDMENTS AND ADDITION TO THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE AND TO THE CRIMINAL CODE, OF MARCH 4, 2009 AND ARTICLE 123 OF LAW 7576 ON JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE OF MARCH 8, 1996.
- Law 9641. LAW TO IMPROVE THE CARE OF DAMAGES CAUSED BY NATURAL DISASTERS.
- Law 9677. REFORM OF LAW 7142, LAW ON THE PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S SOCIAL EQUALITY, OF MARCH 8, 1990 AND ITS AMENDMENTS, FOR THE PROTECTION OF EQUAL PAY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN, (ORIGINALLY DENOMINATED): REFORM OF THE LAW ON THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL EQUALITY FOR WOMEN, LAW 7142, OF MARCH 8, 1990, FOR THE PROTECTION OF WAGE EQUALITY BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN.
- Law 9683. LAW FOR THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NARANJO RIVER BASIN AND THE PROTECTION OF THE MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK (PNMA).
- Law 9684. LAW AMENDING ARTICLES 107, 108 AND 109 OF LAW 7554, ORGANIC LAW OF THE ENVIRONMENT, OF NOVEMBER 13, 1995 AND ITS REFORMS, (ORIGINALLY DENOMINATED): LAW TO EXPEDITE PROCEDURES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL COURT".
- Law 9685. LAW ON THE RIGHT TO TIME: AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 31 OF THE CRIMINAL PROCEDURE CODE, LAW 7594, OF APRIL 10, 1996, TO EXTEND THE LIMITATION PERIOD OF CRIMINAL ACTION IN CASES OF SEXUAL OFFENCES AGAINST MINORS OR PERSONS WITHOUT WILLPOWER OR COGNITIVE CAPACITY.

Table 11. Joint Products of the United Nations System for the first biennium (2018-2019) of UNDAF implementation

| Joint Products – Strategic Priority 1<br>The agencies linked to this Strategic Priority are: UNHCR, FAO, ILANUD, IOM, ILO, UN Environment, UN Women, UNAIDS, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNODC, UNOPS, UPAZ and UPU.  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 1. National commitments towards the empowerment of women and gender equality, social protection of children and adolescents, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, indigenous peoples, rural populations, persons with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups with a life-course approach and sustainable development. | 2. SDG-oriented governance, particularly in the health, education, agriculture and sustainable production sectors.  | 3. Dialogue spaces with multi-stakeholder participation are strengthened with greater representativeness of stakeholders in order to reach agreements. |
| 4. Multisectoral policies, plans and programs incorporate key interventions for the comprehensive approach to non-communicable diseases.   | 5. Multisectoral policies, plans and programs incorporate key interventions for the comprehensive approach to citizen security.   | 6. Documents synthesizing evidence and presenting policy options related to national priorities identified under the SDGs.                             |
| 7. Accountability reports and contributions to achieving SDG targets.  | 8. Dissemination of the 2030 Agenda through information, education and communication actions to "leave no one behind".  | 9. National capacities strengthened to address the recommendations of international human rights conventions and treaty bodies.                        |
| Joint Products – Strategic Priority 2<br>The agencies directly involved in this strategic priority are: UNHCR, FAO, ILANUD, IOM, IAEA, IOM, ILO, WMO, PAHO/WHO, UN Environment, UN Women, UNIDO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNOPS, UPU.  |   |  |
| 1. Institutional models, protocols and procedures facilitate results-based management, gender and human rights approach aligned with the SDGs.   | 2. Skills, knowledge and practices of public sector officials, representatives of civil society organizations and the private sector around results-based management, gender approach, human rights and SDG         |  |
| 3. New Resilient and Sustainable Infrastructure.   | 4. Public sector information systems facilitate results-based management, gender and human rights approaches, and they are aligned with SDG compliance monitoring.  |  |
| Joint Products – Strategic Priority 3<br>The agencies involved in activities under this strategic priority are UNHCR, ILANUD, IOM, ILO, PAHO/WHO, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UPU  |   |  |
| 1. Representatives of trade unions, business groups and community groups strengthened on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.  | 2. Youth and adolescent groups, migrants, indigenous people, refugees and Afro descendants' people, empowered to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.   |  |
| 3. Youth and adolescent groups, migrants, refugees, people at risk of statelessness, indigenous people, Afro descendants' people strengthened in participation for accountability for the advancement of SDG in Costa Rica.  | 4. Staff of civil society organizations, trade unions, the private sector and individuals have been trained, informed or educated on aspects of closing knowledge gaps and enforceability of rights under the SDGs. |  |

Table 12. Bills passed in the process of accession to the OECD that contribute to sustainable development.

| Law Number | Name  | Goal- Benefit   | 2030 Agenda component or related SDG   |
|------------|---|---|--|
| 9668       | "Comprehensive Reform to the Law Creating Civic Centers, Law 7582 of March 1996 and Revocation of Laws on Inactive Institutions"  | This law dissolves any institutions that were created for a specific objective that has already been met but which remain legally in force despite being financially and operationally inactive.  | Means of Implementation  |
| 9672       | "International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992."   | Complementary to the Civil Liability Convention; it establishes a regime to indemnify victims when compensation under the applicable Civil Liability Convention is insufficient. Guarantees the protection of people and activities affected by oil pollution by ensuring the damage they have suffered is duly compensated.  | 6: Clean water and sanitation<br>13: Climate action<br>14: Life below water      |
| 9673       | "International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, 1992."   | Provides appropriate legal instruments to guarantee that those responsible for oil pollution accept their responsibility for the damage caused. In the event of a persistent oil spill in the territorial sea or in the exclusive economic zone, Costa Rica must have a civil liability regime that allows effective compensation for the damages caused.   | 6: Clean water and sanitation<br>13: Climate action<br>14: Life below water      |
| 9670       | "Modification of paragraphs a), b) and c) of article 17 of the Organic Law of the Central Bank of Costa Rica, 7558."  | This law strengthens the independence of the BCCR in terms of formulating monetary policy by eliminating the voting right of the Minister of Finance in the Board of Directors, separating the appointment of its President from the political cycle, and clarifying the reasons justifying his/her dismissal.  | 8: Decent work and economic growth<br>16: Peace, justice and strong institutions |
| 9689       | "Modification of Law 7210, Law on the Free Trade Zone Regime of November 23, 1990, to ensure compliance with international standards established by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the Inclusive Framework of the "Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS, "ACTION 5")" | <p>This law aligns the regulations applicable to the preferential tax regime of free zones with the requirements under the international standards of Action 5 of the Action Plan on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (combatting harmful tax practices, taking into account substantial activities and transparency) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Removing the local sale restriction in the regime's services category (amendment to article 22).</li> <li>- Ensuring equivalent tax treatment in local and external sales (article 3 added).</li> <li>- Lifting local sales reporting requirements (regulatory reform).</li> </ul> <p>The reform promotes a balanced approach to the national interests of attracting investment and collecting taxes by establishing the Strategic Eligibility Index for Service Companies (article 2 added, article 17 and transitory provision I amended). This new</p> | 8: Decent work and economic growth   |

| Law Number | Name   | Goal- Benefit  | 2030 Agenda component or related SDG                               |
|------------|--|--|--|
|            |  | requirement ensures compliance with the regime's objectives without negatively impacting tax revenues.   |  |
| 9694       | "Law on the National Statistics System"  | Updates the national regulatory framework to reflect best international practices in the production of statistics, including multi-annual programming.   | Applies to all goals.  |
| 9699       | "Liability of Legal Persons on Domestic Bribery, Foreign Bribery and Other Crimes"   | Costa Rica adopted the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention through Law 9450. To meet the commitments of this Convention and strengthen Costa Rican legislation to fight corruption, this law sets out the criminal liability of corporate entities for domestic and transnational bribes and other crimes related to corruption. It also regulates how the aforementioned criminal liability is investigated, determined, and sanctioned. It provides additional tools for the authorities to fight corruption. | 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions                         |
| 9724       | Bank branches of foreign banks<br><br>"Reform of Law 1644, Organic Law of the National Banking System, of September 26, 1953, and reform of subsection a), Article 20 of Law 6041, Law Creating the National Commission of Loans for Education (CONAPE), of January 18, 1977 " | This law allows foreign banks to choose how to operate in Costa Rica (either through a corporation or a branch) with equal rights and obligations, as is common throughout the world. The text grants SUGEF and CONASSIF the powers to safeguard the proper regulation and supervision of branches.  | 8: Decent work and economic growth<br><br>10: Reduced inequalities |
| 9736       | Strengthening of Costa Rica's Competition Authorities  | This law seeks to strengthen competition authorities by giving them more tools to improve the functioning and efficiency of markets and encouraging companies to conduct business activities responsibly and competitively for the direct benefit of consumers.  | Means of Implementation  |
| 9746       | Reform of the Law Regulating the Stock Market and other laws (LRMV)<br><br>"Reform of the Law Regulating the Stock Market, Organic Law of the Judiciary, Organic Law of the Central Bank of Costa Rica, Criminal   | This law aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Enable the exchange of information between financial authorities.</li> <li>- Allow the General Superintendence of Securities (SUGIVAL) to have access to information on final beneficiaries and to the regulation of new financial products.</li> <li>- Strengthen the stock market's accounting regulations and sanctions framework.</li> <li>- Create a legal protection regime for officials who carry out supervisory work.</li> </ul>    | Means of Implementation  |

| Law Number | Name   | Goal- Benefit   | 2030 Agenda component or related SDG   |
|------------|--|---|--|
|            | Code, Code of Commerce, Law Regulating the Insurance Market, Private Supplementary Pension Schemes"  | Modify the financing scheme of the superintendences, from the current contribution by supervised entities of 20% of operating expenses to 50%.  |  |
| 9767       | Modification of article 7 of Law 7384  | The organization found that the governance of the fisheries sector should be improved to promote its long-term development. This law reforms the composition of the INCOPESCA Board of Directors, changing from 9 to 11 members. The new members are MINAE, MEIC and COMEX, authorities responsible for certain activities in the sector. This provides enhanced decision-making, accountability, and confidence in terms of management and use of marine resources.  | 14: Life below water   |
| 9768       | Consolidated Supervision<br><br>Reform of the Organic Law of the Central Bank of Costa Rica, Organic Law of the National Banking System and the Law Regulating the Stock Market" | Both the OECD and the IMF recommended that Costa Rica strengthen the powers of its financial superintendencies so they can efficiently supervise and regulate financial groups. This bill intends to strengthen the legal powers of supervisors with the following actions:<br><br>- Authority to issue appropriate prudential regulations.<br><br>- Monitoring the risk exposures of the entities and companies comprising a Costa Rican financial group, regardless of the country where they conduct their business.   | 8: Decent work and economic growth<br><br>10: Reduced inequalities<br><br>16: Peace, justice and strong institutions |
| 9816       | Deposit Guarantee Fund<br><br>"Law Creating the Deposit Guarantee Fund and Resolution Mechanisms for Financial Intermediaries"   | The purpose of this law is to strengthen financial stability for the benefit of depositors and financial consumers in general. The deposit guarantee fund intends to protect small depositors and thus contribute to financial system stability. Unlike the intervention of a financial institution, a bank resolution is a mechanism that seeks to give greater flexibility to the relevant authority in terms of resolving a failing financial institution. It provides a less expensive and complex solution, which is faster than the intervention of financial entities. | 8: Decent work and economic growth<br><br>10: Reduced inequalities   |

Source: Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy with information from the Ministry of Foreign Trade

## Statistical Detail

Table 13.  
 Costa Rica: Availability of information by IAEG-SDG Tier classification (20 November 2019) according to availability category, December 2019

| Categories                               | Grand Total | Tier I | Tier II | Tier III | Multi-Tier <sup>1/</sup> |
|--|-------------|--------|---------|----------|--------------------------|
| Grand Total                              | 244         | 118    | 93      | 27       | 6                        |
| Available                                | 136         | 77     | 49      | 8        | 2                        |
| It could be calculated, to be calculated | 39          | 14     | 19      | 5        | 1                        |
| Not available                            | 14          |        | 12      | 2        | 0                        |
| International Report                     | 55          | 27     | 13      | 12       | 3                        |

Multi-tier indicators are indicators where there is no consensus on methodology or availability of information and are classified in: Tier I (ODA)/Tier II (FDI), Tier I/III, Tier II (a)/Tier III (b); Tier II/III; Tier I/II/III depending on indices.

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, November 2019.

Table 14.  
 Costa Rica: Number of indicators according to last year available, December 2019

| Last year available           | Quantity |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Total of indicators available | 136      |
| 2003                          | 2        |
| 2010                          | 1        |
| 2011                          | 3        |
| 2013                          | 4        |
| 2014                          | 2        |
| 2015                          | 4        |
| 2016                          | 11       |
| 2017                          | 38       |
| 2018                          | 58       |
| 2019*                         | 9        |
| 2020*                         | 4        |

\* Estimates

Source: National Institute of Statistics and Censuses, November 2019.

