

**Voluntary national review - Latvia  
The UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development,  
Tuesday, July 17th, 2018 (CR4) 9 AM**

**Inese Vaivare - Director of the Latvian National Platform for Development  
Cooperation. (3-5 minutes)  
(following Mr. Arvils Ašeradens, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for  
Economics, Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia)**

**Thank you, Minister, Mr./Madam President, distinguished delegates,**

I highly appreciate the invitation by my government to be here and have the opportunity to raise a voice of the civil society in Latvia.

We welcome our government's report that was developed in a rather open process and honestly describes not only the success but also the challenges that our country is facing in the implementation of the SDGs. We emphasise the need to continue working for balanced sustainable development leaving no one behind in all policy reforms - ongoing and planned, especially in health, education and taxation.

In our supplementary Spotlight report to the government's VNR, we put in the center of the development human security - "freedom from fear" and "freedom from poverty". We strongly believe that social capital - the potential of individuals to secure benefits and invent solutions to problems through membership in social networks, encourages formation of the human security intermediaries - NGOs, community groups, to help people to solve their problems and to empower them to prevent problems on the local, national and global scale.

SDGs cannot be achieved without profound involvement of people themselves - citizen science, citizen generated data and monitoring, design thinking in governance, social economy are few of the concepts that empower people to engage in development.

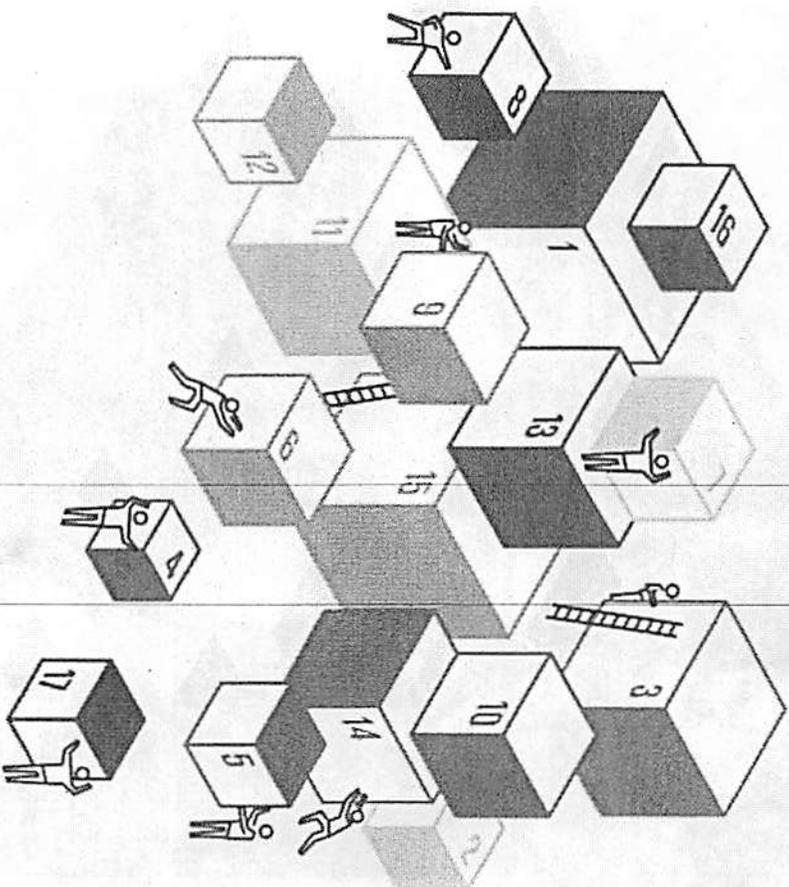
Therefore, in our Spotlight report we present 17 personal stories of Latvian people who hold global responsibility and devote their time and energy to make lives better for others.

However, people are locked in social systems and physical infrastructure that makes this difficult and ultimately discourages them, therefore strong commitment by government to ensure an enabling environment for development of social capital is a must if we want to achieve sustainable development.

Sustainability is in our hands.

Thank you.

**NGO Spotlight Report  
on the Voluntary National Review  
on the Implementation of  
the SDGs in Latvia**  
<http://lapas.lv/en/sdgs/report/>



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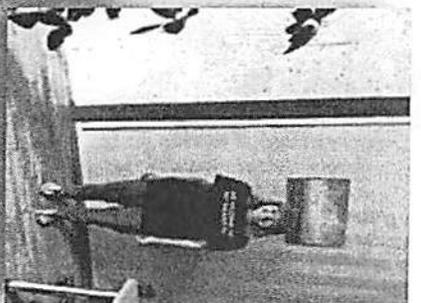
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**Stories:  
People building  
sustainable development  
in Latvia**

<http://lapas.lv/en/sdgs/cases/>



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