HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

16 July 2018
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SPEAKERS:

Socrates Famellos, Alternate Minister of Environment and Energy, Greece

George Vernicos, President, Economic and Social Council of Greece

Aikaterini Inglezi, MP, President of the Special Permanent Committee on Environmental Protection, Hellenic Parliament
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Socrates Famellos
Alternate Minister of Environment and Energy, Greece
at the crossroads of three continents
Strongly committed to the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs as an ambitious and transformative framework for a new, fair and sustainable development path
Sustainable Development Goals

1. No Poverty
2. Zero Hunger
3. Good Health and Well-being
4. Quality Education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean Water and Sanitation
7. Affordable and Clean Energy
8. Decent Work and Economic Growth
9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
10. Reduced Inequalities
11. Sustainable Cities and Communities
12. Responsible Consumption and Production
13. Climate Action
14. Life Below Water
15. Life on Land
16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
17. Partnerships for the Goals
SDGs offer a unique opportunity to balance:
economic growth
social cohesion and justice
protection of the environment and of a unique ecological wealth
no one is left behind
a high political priority for Greece
Greece now exiting a period of prolonged economic crisis
a crisis that forced a focus towards economic policies that often create divergence rather than contributing to achieving sustainable development
SDGs not just an element of the roadmap for exiting the crisis
SDGs are a means to reshape our economy, our society, our resources in a way that guarantees the wellbeing of all citizens and the environment, now and in the future.
a robust long-lasting institutional mechanism to coordinate national efforts for achieving the SDGs: a strategic approach, anchoring sustainable development at the highest political level, ensuring ownership
a whole-of-government approach
a whole-of-society approach enhancing transparency, partnership and accountability
8 National Priorities

adapting the 17 SDGs to national needs and circumstances
### People
Addressing Poverty and Social Exclusion and providing universal access to quality health care services

Providing high-quality education

### Prosperity
Reducing social and regional inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for all

Fostering a competitive, innovative and sustainable economic growth

Promoting full employment and decent work for all

### Planet
Strengthening the protection and sustainable management of natural capital as a base for social prosperity and transition to a low-carbon economy

### Peace
Building effective, accountable and transparent institutions

### Partnership
Enhancing open, participatory, democratic processes and promoting partnerships
Fostering a competitive, innovative and sustainable economic growth
Promoting full employment and decent work for all
Addressing poverty and social exclusion, and providing universal access to quality health care services
Reducing social and regional inequalities and ensuring equal opportunities for all
Providing high-quality and inclusive education
Strengthening the protection and sustainable management of natural capital as a base for social prosperity and transition to a low-carbon economy
OpenGov.gr - The Greek Open Government Initiative

Opengov.gr has been designed to serve the principles of transparency, deliberation, collaboration and accountability and includes three initiatives:

**Open calls for the recruitment of public administration officials.** Top level and mid-level openings in the public sector are available on the Internet. Applications are submitted on-line using a platform available on the opengov.gr website. See the latest Open Calls [here](#) (in Greek).

**Electronic deliberation.** Almost every piece of draft legislation or even policy initiative by the government, are posted in a blog like platform prior to their submission to parliament. Citizens and organisations can post their comments, suggestions and criticisms article-by-article. See the latest Electronic deliberations [here](#) (in Greek).

**Labs OpenGov.** An open innovation initiative that brings together ideas and proposals from citizens, the public and the private sectors. Labs.OpenGov.gr attempts to release the power of decentralised knowledge and explore new ways to tackle modern public administration problems. See the latest Labs events [here](#) (in Greek).

**Read also:**

Open Government Initiatives
Enhancing open, participatory, democratic processes and promoting partnerships
Enabling an equitable growth
improving the **business environment** and encouraging investments
promoting social and solidarity economy
supporting human capital, research and innovation
fostering sustainability in sectors such as agriculture, tourism and infrastructure
Promoting social and regional cohesion
addressing unemployment, particularly for youth and women
responding to the pressing humanitarian needs of the large refugee flows showing solidarity in the midst of a challenging social and economic context
addressing social inequalities and promoting inclusion of immigrants and vulnerable population groups
building a robust social security system and establishing a minimum guaranteed income for all
ensuring universal access to quality health care services
ensuring free access to quality education for everyone at all education levels
Protection of natural capital and shift to a low-carbon circular economy
SDG 12 Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
endorsement of a National Action Plan on Circular Economy in April 2018
improvement in waste reduction, reuse and recycle for creating new jobs and increasing resource efficiency
application of a hierarchy approach in waste management
"closing the loop" of product life-cycles
supporting circular entrepreneurship by promoting “industrial symbiosis” and clustering of businesses
secondary use of by-products and waste in new production processes as raw primary materials e.g. re-utilisation of construction and demolition waste by enabling construction components’ recoverability
supporting circular consumption patterns through awareness raising and education
enhancing partnerships, synergies and communication between the various involved actors
emphasis on monitoring progress and results through indicators
SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
resilient and sustainable settlements aiming at regional and social cohesion
important progress on the full digitalization of land-uses across the Greek territory (in land and sea) controlling urbanisation and facilitating investments
National Cadastre and Forest Maps
promoting sustainable urban mobility plans to improve quality of life, energy efficiency and decrease GHGs
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
Greece, an exceptionally rich biodiversity and one of the world’s hotspots for endemism
home to the 40% of the plant species and to the 18% of the animal species of Europe’s biodiversity
preserving and sustainably managing natural environment provide an important catalyst for achieving overall sustainable development objectives in Greece
446 sites in the EU’s Natura 2000 network of protected areas:
- terrestrial protected sites: 27.59% of land territory
- marine protected sites: 19.60% of territorial waters
SDG 7 Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
fight against energy poverty for vulnerable citizens
establishment of a reduced social residential electricity tariff
support for “energy communities”
important progress on energy efficiency and savings in the buildings sector
a great potential for further increase RES penetration around 30% of total energy generation from RES in 2015 in a good track to achieve a 20% of total energy consumption from RES, by 2020
by 2030 aim at a 50% of power generation from RES
by 2030 interconnect many non-connected islands to mainland’s electricity grid to achieve climate change mitigation goals and reduce air emissions
SDG 6 Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
universal and equitable access to high quality drinking water to all
full application of the IWRM principles considering social aspects and ecosystem needs
emphasis on **water savings**
cost and **pricing** structure of water services for all
water uses, addressing the needs of **vulnerable** groups
water and adequately treated wastewater re-use in the context of circular economy
long-standing transboundary cooperation with riparian countries for cross-border IWRM
Building strong partnerships beyond borders
striving to be a responsible broker in promoting peace, religious tolerance and stability in Eastern Mediterranean and SE Europe
Next Steps
capitalising on the VNR experience
develop a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs, in 2019, consistent with the National Growth Strategy

further enhance tools and processes for stakeholder engagement

pursue an active involvement of the Hellenic Parliament in the follow-up and review process
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Stakeholder engagement and consultation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group A (Employers)</th>
<th>Group B (Employees)</th>
<th>Group C (Other Categories)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hellenic Federation of Enterprises (SEV)</td>
<td>Greek General Confederation of Labour (GSEE)</td>
<td>Panhellenic Confederation of Unions of Agricultural Cooperatives (PASEGES)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hellenic Confederation of Professionals</td>
<td>Supreme Administration of Greek Civil Servants’ Trade Unions (ADEDY)</td>
<td>General Confederation of Greek Agrarian Associations (GESASE)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craftsmen and Merchants (GSEVEE)</td>
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<td>Lawyers Steering Committee</td>
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<td>Hellenic Confederation of Commerce and</td>
<td></td>
<td>Panhellenic Greek Medical Association</td>
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<td>Entrepreneurship (ESEE)</td>
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<td>Union of Hellenic Chambers of Commerce</td>
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<td>Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises (SETE)</td>
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<td>Technical Chamber of Greece (TEE)</td>
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<td>Hellenic Bank Association (EET)</td>
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<td>Economic Chamber of Greece (OEE)</td>
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<td>Union of the Greek Shipowners (EEE)</td>
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<td>Geotechnical Chamber of Greece (GEOTEE)</td>
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<td>Association of Greek Contracting Companies (SATE)</td>
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<td>Consumers</td>
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<td>Hellenic Federation of Real Estate Developers (OMKOEE)</td>
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<td>Environmental protection organisations</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>National Confederation of Disabled People (ESAEA)</td>
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<td>Organisations for gender equality issues</td>
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<td>Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE)</td>
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<td>Union of Greek Regions (ENPE)</td>
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<td>Supreme Confederation of Multi-Child Parents of Greece (ASPE)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
shaping common ground for sustainable development
input for defining the National Priorities for adapting and implementing the SDGs at national level
social dialogue as a driver for change towards sustainability
achieving a multi-stakeholder approach for the SDGs
shared responsibility of all social partners in implementing the SDGs
monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at national level
11 ΒΙΩΣΙΜΕΣ ΠΟΛΕΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΗΤΕΣ
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Follow up and review process of the SDGs implementation: involvement of the Hellenic Parliament
ensure continuity of national efforts for the implementation of the SDGs
review progress of implementing the National Implementation Plan for the SDGs through discussion in the appropriate Parliamentary Committees
ensure integration of the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in legislation
ensure policy coherence for sustainable development