Monitoring, Follow-up and Review

UNOSD, Sustainable Development Transition Forum - 26 October 2016

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Why monitoring, follow-up and review?
Monitoring, follow-up and review = means to an end → implementation
Structure

1) **Wording** in the relevant UN documents (purpose, principles ...)

2) **Elements** of Monitoring, Follow-up and Review

3) **Lessons**: 2016 HLPF first round of voluntary national reviews and their future
Resolution 67/290, July 2013

“Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews:
Resolution 67/290, July 2013

(a) Shall be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant UN entities;

(b) Shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;

(c) Shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

(d) Shall replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the ... [AMR], building upon (...) experiences and lessons learned in this context”
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
1. Declaration
2. SDGs
3. Means of Implementation (MoI)
4. Follow-up and Review
2030 Agenda on Follow-up and Review

• We *commit* to fully engage in conducting *regular* and *inclusive* reviews of progress at sub-national, national, regional and global levels,

• *principles*: robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, inclusive, transparent and integrated, people-centered and gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.

• promote *accountability to our citizens*
Follow-up and Review

Complementary elements

- Global Sustainable Development Report
- SDG progress Report
- Indicator Framework
- Thematic Reviews
- Regional Reviews
- FFD/MoI Review
- Voluntary National Reviews
- other
Annual SDG Progress Report

United Nations

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
3 June 2016
Original: English

2016 session
Agenda items 5, 6 and 18 (a)
High-level segment
High-level political forum on sustainable development, convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council
Economic and environmental questions: sustainable development

Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals
Report of the Secretary-General

- global indicator framework
Global Sustainable Development Report - GSDR

- science-policy interface
- Independent Group of Scientists (15 experts)
- comprehensive, in-depth report every 4 years
- each year scientific input into HLPF
HLPF Thematic Reviews

SDGs plus cross-cutting HLPF annual theme

- **2016**: Ensuring that no one is left behind
- **2017**: Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
- **2018**: Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies
- **2019**: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness + equality

plus new and emerging issues, countries in special situations
HLPF MoI/FFD Review

→ Annual ECOSOC Forum on FFD follow-up, recommendations feed into HLPF follow-up and review
→ High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on FFD back to back with the HLPF under the auspices of the GA
→ Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) Report

- identify gaps in financing and other capacity problems
- assess how to mobilize potential domestic sources
- provide for access to financial and technical support
- also innovative sources of financing, partnerships etc.
- assess compliance with financial and other commitments
2030 Agenda on HLPF Follow-up and Review

- HLPF will have central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level, building on existing platforms and processes, institutions and mechanisms

- Input from intergovernmental platforms – synthesis report (E/HLPF/2016/5)
Follow-up and Review

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- Other
HLPF Voluntary National Reviews

Countries voluntarily report on their implementation, for sharing experiences and mutual learning
2030 Agenda on national-level & HLPF VNRs

- informed by *country-led evaluations and data*
- draw on contributions from *national parliaments* and *stakeholders* (indigenous peoples, civil society, private sector et al.) in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities
- foster exchange of *best practices* – but also challenges
- **2016**: 22 countries volunteered
- **2017**: 30 countries want to go!
HLPF Voluntary National Reviews

**Voluntary common reporting guidelines** *(UNDESA)*:

- **methodology and process** (for preparation of review)
- **national level action/trends on all SDGs**
  (adjustment of development plans or sustainability strategies, national targets & indicators, policies, measures & budgets, gaps & challenges, areas requiring advice and support)
- **institutional framework** (responsibilities, coordination, integration for coherent implementation)
- **means of implementation**
- **statistical annex** using the global SDG indicators and additional regional and national ones
Future HLPF Voluntary National Reviews

Resolution A/70/L.60

“[The GA] urges that experience gained from this and future sessions be taken into consideration ... (for subsequent sessions)”.

Ask SG “to update, as appropriate and taking into account feedback from countries participating in the high-level political forum, the voluntary common reporting guidelines (...) and to make them available to Member States as a suggested tool in the preparations for VNRs”.

→ UN DESA Questionnaire on (1) Preparatory Process, (2) Guidelines, (3) format of VNRs at HLPF
How can monitoring, follow-up and review processes be *improved* to better inform actions for sustainable development in “a changing world”??
Learning loops

- Keep focus on *national-level* process and progress
- *whole-of-government* (policy coherence for SD)
- *whole-of-society* (incl. Parliaments, local authorities, civil society, business, identify and empower marginalized groups to participate)
- *process*: present and discuss *draft* report, evaluate feedback, *revise, communicate* results at national level, mobilize public support and ownership
- 2016 VNRS produced good ideas for institutions and process – work with it! (DESA-Policy Brief Kim/Soltau)
- *analyze* the *causes* of trends, encourage *self-critical* assessments, analyzing gaps, challenges, also external effects of domestic policies and behavior
Learning loops

- *do it yourself* – do not outsource to external consultants
- Consider going *regional* for peer learning
- Consider to participate in *HLPF VNRs*
- *Universal participation* should become the norm, all MS should participate at least 2-3 times until 2030
- Further develop common reporting *guidelines*
- *Interactive* debate: discussants need to be able to better prepare
- *Written* reports, early deadline
- Improve overall *access* to information (DESA website)
- Uphold *participation* rights of MGoSH (Res. 67/290)
Learning loops

- provide *feedback* on these reviews’ format
- on-going learning process, improve over time, support from UNDESA, UNOSD, UNDP, UNITAR, and German initiative “*Partners for Review*” (a multi-stakeholder network to facilitate dialogue & learning)
- link to *existing* review formats (to reduce reporting burden)
- work with results: *follow-up* at national and UN-level
  - aim for *on-going learning processes/loops*
  - national, regional and global reviews are not an end in itself but *means of implementation*!

*For more see SWP-Dossier on SD Governance: [bit.ly/29Vfm4Q]*
Now It’s Up to You.

How can monitoring, follow-up and review processes be improved to better inform actions for sustainable development in “a changing world”?