Preparedness of governments to implement the SDGs

2018 Sustainable Development Transition Forum
Accelerating Progress towards the SDGs: Enhancing the Role of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

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David Le Blanc
UN Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government
“Adoption” of SDGs at the national level, seen from the global follow-up and review process

• The 2030 Agenda is not legally binding
  • Countries choose how to implement it, according to their national circumstances
• Strong national ownership / engagement in SDGs observed in many countries
  • For some countries, ownership / champions from the very beginning
  • Easier access to donors’ resources in the future?
  • “Good” framework for sustainable development?
• In many countries, SDGs already inscribed in the “hardware”: legal / regulatory, decrees, development strategies, planning and budgeting processes, etc.,
• Strong resonance with civil society
• HLPF / VNR show extensive national preparations and strong commitment of national governments
• Strong emphasis on data
Horizontal integration

• Integration across sectors and institutions essential, given the integrated nature of the SDGs
• But challenging
• In the context of UN reviews of the SDGs, main focus has been on systemic (high-level) coordination mechanisms
• However, range of experiences at the sector level, not yet systematically drawn upon
  • IWRM, ICZM, ecosystem approaches, social protection, integrated approaches to health
• Critical importance of cross-cutting processes and tools:
  • national sustainable development strategies/plans,
  • budget and planning processes,
  • monitoring/evaluation/review processes
  • public service engagement,
  • role of parliaments and supreme audit institutions
National institutional arrangements to coordinate and lead SDG implementation in a sample of 60 countries

**Type 1**
Inter-ministerial entity with Head of State or Government leadership

- Existing arrangements: 4
- Newly created arrangements: 17

**Type 2**
Inter-ministerial entity with ministry leadership

- Existing arrangements: 4
- Newly created arrangements: 7

**Type 3**
Head of State or Government Office

- Existing arrangements: 5
- Newly created arrangements: 1

**Type 4**
Specific ministry

- Existing arrangements: 20
- Newly created arrangements: 2
Chapter 3 - Approaches and tools for vertical integration

- Alignment or integration of SDGs in sub-national plans & strategies
- Analytical tools to identify priorities and prepare for implementation at local level
- National coordination/decision making structures include LG or are multi-level
- Multi-level budgetary processes
- Localizing indicators
- Vertically integrated monitoring and evaluation structures
- Participation of local authorities in voluntary national reviews at the UN
- Vertically integrated oversight and auditing
National Councils for sustainable development

- No NCSD found (110)
- New NCSD created specifically for the SDGS (34)
- NCSD reportedly in the process of being established (4)
- Existing NCSD but role in SDG implementation unclear (18)
- Pre-existing NCSD, involved in SDG implementation (28)
High-level institutional arrangements: Czech Republic

Source: VNR of the Czech Republic, 2017
Whole-of-society approach in Finland

Revised Society’s Commitment to sustainable development, 8 national goals for 2050, SDG’s integrated


Society’s Commitment - tool, commitments made by public sector companies, civil society & individuals

Sustainable development & CSR plans of individual companies & organisations

Source: Government of Finland, voluntary national review (2016)
Examples of awareness raising on SDGs at local levels: Belgium
How ready are Governments? Awareness of SDGs in Europe at the end of 2016

QC7 Have you ever heard or read about the Sustainable Development Goals agreed by the international community?

(\% - TOTAL ‘YES’)

- Don’t know, 1
- Yes, and you know what they are 12 (+2)
- Yes, but you do not really know what they are 29 (+3)
- No 58 (-5)

Source: Special Eurobarometer 455, 2017, data collected in Nov-December 2016
## How ready are Governments? Sample of emerging findings from SDG preparedness audits done by supreme audit institutions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Findings</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Long-term planning</strong></td>
<td>Canada: lack of national implementation plan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Costa Rica: limitations in strategic planning process</td>
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<td><strong>Responsibilities</strong></td>
<td>Canada: lack of clear institutional structure articulating roles and responsibilities</td>
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<td>Georgia: roles and responsibilities of public entities for implementation not clearly defined</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jamaica: unclear definition of roles and responsibilities</td>
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<td><strong>Coordination, integration and coherence</strong></td>
<td>Brazil: opportunities for adopting a more coordinated approach</td>
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<td>Indonesia: policy coherence and integration lacking an accountability framework</td>
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<td>Netherlands: attention needed to safeguard policy coherence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Vertical integration</strong></td>
<td>Netherlands: coordination between various administrative levels requires attention</td>
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<td>Georgia: SDG not integrated at local level</td>
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<td>PASAI: linkages with sub-national development plans are unclear</td>
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<td><strong>Stakeholder engagement</strong></td>
<td>Canada: unclear engagement strategies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Costa Rica: limited awareness raising efforts</td>
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<td><strong>Budget</strong></td>
<td>Indonesia: budget spending is still done in silos</td>
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<td>PASAI: only a few member countries have aligned budgets to the SDGs</td>
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<td><strong>Monitoring &amp; evaluation</strong></td>
<td>Canada: need for a monitoring and reporting system</td>
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<td>Indonesia: need for an adequate M&amp;E system</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Sudan: Central Bureau of Statistics’ data needs improvement</td>
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Thank you!

leblanc@un.org
www.publicadministration.un.org