Highlights from the VNRs in Asia and the Pacific

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Voluntary National Reviews: figures

142 countries GLOBALLY
37 from Asia Pacific

2016: 22 (6 from AP Region)
2017: 43 (11 from AP Region)
2018: 46 (8 from AP Region)
2019: 51 (16 from AP Region)
2020: 23 (14 from AP Region)
2021: 5 (2 from AP Region)

12 countries from Asia Pacific second time
What do VNRs report on?

SDG reporting choices
- All SDGs: 19%
- All SDGs but clustered in thematic/priority areas: 18%
- Some SDGs as national priorities: 9%
- SDGs under review at HLPF: 55%

Leaving no one behind
- LNOB address in every chapter: 47%
- LNOB as separate section: 19%
- LNOB mentioned: 17%
- Other: 4%
- SDGs as national priorities: 4%

Statistical annexes
- Yes: 47%
- No: 53%

Analysis of goals and targets:
- a snapshot of the status of the goals and targets; achievements and good practices;
- the impact of country interventions at home and abroad; gaps and challenges; SDG interlinkages;
- emerging issues; future implementation plans.

source: UN DESA (2019)
Why a whole of society approach is key for the VNR

• 2030 Agenda: a call for participation

• “All countries and all stakeholders” will act in a collaborative partnership to implement the SDGs

• The “intensive engagement” of civil society and other stakeholders in the implementation of the goals and targets is called for on para 39, 45 and 60

• On the principles for follow-up and review at all levels:
  
  • Be “open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people”
  
  • “will support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders”.
  
  • Be “people-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthers behind”
Engagement of non-Government actors is not “business as usual”

Policy coherence, balanced integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental

Effective institutions, transparency & accountability (Goal 16)

“Leave no one behind”;
Inclusion; participation; empowerment, partnerships (Goal 17)
Engagement of State and non-State actors

- Broad society as a key partner in governance
- State and non-State actors are eager to be included in the consultations
- Multi-stakeholder public hearings for the preparation of the report often mentioned
- Formal consultation and engagement lagging
- Marginalized groups are often left behind, including in VNR processes
Multi-stakeholder engagement in the VNRs

• **Academia**: increased reference in the consultation, but less commonly engaged in the drafting of the report

• **CSOs**: progress on participation and awareness but dissatisfaction for involvement in the VNR process; increased number of shadow reports

• **Persons with disabilities**: limited participation, but more links with Incheon Strategy on Disabilities

• **Youth**: little clarity on the terminology, and they were consulted, and how their inputs were used for the reports, key for awareness raising

• **Volunteers**: often mentioned as agents of change, involved in awareness campaigns, active actors in data collection
Multi-stakeholder engagement in the VNRs

- **Private Sector:** often consulted through Chamber of Commerce, key contributor to the 2030 Agenda, useful in awareness raising
- **Local Authorities:** key in SDG localization, need to enhance local and regional Governments capacities to monitor progress towards the goals
- **Parliaments:** growing number of Parliaments formally and actively engaged
- **Supreme Audit Institutions:** weak engagement, but Governments have shown interest in using audit results as inputs for the VNRs
Country example - Timor-Leste

- Building capacity on inclusive consultation processes
- Key stakeholder groups identified
- **Youth** as key stakeholder because of demographic dividend

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>WOMEN</strong></td>
<td>Gender equality NGOs, Feminist NGOs, Women business entrepreneurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>YOUTH</strong></td>
<td>Youth Council and youth groups, Youth political groups, Members of LGBTI community, University students and youth entrepreneurs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES</strong></td>
<td>Organisations of persons with disabilities, Children with disabilities, Association of disabled people’s organisations in Timor-Leste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS</strong></td>
<td>Conflict prevention and justice sector NGOs, Water and sanitation NGOs, Education NGOs, LGBTI organisations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL LEADERS</strong></td>
<td>Eminent Leaders and members of the opposition, Local Government Officials from Dili and Baucau Municipalities, Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Ministers and Director Generals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Country example - Indonesia

- **Online and offline** consultations
- The first draft of the VNR published online on SDG Secretariat webpage and stakeholders informed by email
- Stakeholders were given 1 week to provide inputs
- Inclusion of **Supreme Audit Institutions**
  The report includes the outcomes of a SDG preparedness audit
- It looked into how the government is integrating the SDGs into national policies, along with evaluating the achievements of targets set in national and subnational action plans, and follow-up measures since the 2017 VNR
Thank you!