Bhutan and Sustainable Development Goals

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Introduction

• Philosophy behind GNH and Bhutan’s long term vision 2020 in tune with the principles of SDGs

• The implementation of the subsequent Five Year Plans (FYP) will be the major implementation plan for the SDGs
Alignment to the National Policies and Plans

12th Plan and the SDGs

• Formulation of 12th FYP objective and National Key Results Areas was guided by the SDGs

• Preliminary assessment of 12th plan NKRAs vis-à-vis the SDGs
  – 16 SDG goals integrated into 17 NKRAs
  – Approximately 63 targets have been integrated into the 12th plan KPIs for 17 NKRA

• Integration of SDGs in sub-national and local government through agency key result areas and local government key result areas
Voluntary National Report 2018

• Voluntary National Review Report at the UN HLPF 2018 covering 5 Goals in detail
  – Goal 6 - Water and sanitation for all
  – Goal 7 - Sustainable and modern energy for all
  – Goal 11 - Cities and human settlements
  – Goal 12 - Sustainable consumption and production patterns
  – Goal 15 - Life on land

• Challenges with priority Actions - in VNR Report
  – Harmonization of policies
  – Improving data and statistics management
  – Improving awareness on SDGs and Ownership
  – Improving Stakeholder Coordination
Development progress, challenges and plans

Poverty and inequality

• Managed to reduce incidence of both income and multidimensional poverty
  – Income (from 23.2% in 2007 to 8.2% in 2017)
  – Multidimensional poverty (12.7% in 2012 to 5.8% in 2017)

• last-mile challenge of eradicating poverty in all its forms

• Reduce both indicators (income and poverty) to less than 5% by 2023
• Assessment of existing policies and programs
• Addressing the needs of vulnerable groups through targeted intervention
Development progress, challenges and plans

**Education and Human Capabilities**

- Good progress on education indicators
  - ANPER is 96.6 percent in 2018
  - GER for basic (Class PP-X) is 105.6 percent in 2018
  - GER for secondary (Class VII-X) is 99 percent in 2018

- Enrolment in vocational and technical education is a challenge
- Gender inequality in TVE (35%) and tertiary education (45%)

- Initiatives to improve learning outcomes, inculcate creativity and innovation, and to enhance employability
- Flagship program: Education and Startup
- Reform initiatives are ongoing to revamp TVE
Development progress, challenges and plans

Health

• Good progress on Health indicators
  – IMR reduced from 40.1 in 2005 to 15.1 in 2017
  – U5MR reduced from 61.6 in 34.1 in 2017
  – MMR reduced from 255 in 2005 to 89 in 2017
  – Institutional delivery rates increased from 46 % in 2005 to 93.4 % in 2017

• NCD has risen considerably causing 53 % of all deaths.

• Bhutan faces the challenge of meeting increasing medical cost and sustainability of free health care.

• Flagship program
  – take all basic diagnostic services to the people at regular intervals
  – prevention, early screening and treatment of the three cancers – cervical, breast and stomach.
Development Progress, challenges and plans

Environment

• 71% of total land area under forest cover and more than half of the country’s landscape (51.40 percent) is under protected areas.

• State of Bhutan’s environment has been changing
  – Conversion of arable land and forest into other land use

• Bhutan has one of the highest per capita water resource availability but experiencing shortages
  – Geographical imbalance and temporal
  – Impact of climate change, esp. water problem for agriculture

• Waste management is a major emerging environmental issue

• Flagships:
  – Water flagship program
  – Waste management flagship (under formulation)
Development Progress, challenges and plans

Economy

- Economy grew at an average of 7.5 percent over the last few decades
  - Share of Industry increased to 41% in 2017 from 11.5% in 1980
  - Share of agriculture dropped to about 17% from 42.9%
  - service sector contributes about 42%

- Challenges
  - Economy diversification
  - imbalances in the economy persists
  - Youth unemployment (7.1%)

- Way economic diversification

- Flagship programs:
  - CSI and Startup
  - Organic
  - Tourism
Development Progress, challenges and plans

Development Financing

• Guided by the development philosophy of GNH, Bhutan is fully committed to realizing the 2030 Agenda for SDG.

• Bhutan is graduating to LMDC by 2023.

• Sustainable graduation and effective implementation of SDGs are contingent on availability of adequate and timely resources.
  – Bhutan has requested for enhanced transition support to the countries graduating from the LDC category
  – Committed to explore domestic financing mechanisms
  – Explore innovative financing opportunities from both multi-lateral and bilateral partners
  – Explore FDI and Public Private Partnership (PPP) as key alternative financing tools.
Current Status

• Localizing SDGs (even in the implementation)
• Flagship programs
  – Initiated 5
  – 3 in the advanced stage of formulation

• Dashboard for monitoring progress
  – In the advanced stage of developing dashboard to enhance implementation and monitoring of 12\textsuperscript{th} FYP, SDGs and GNH Indicators
Conclusion

• Policy alignment of SDGs through integration into national planning process and institutional mechanism is adequate with opportunities for further enhancement

• Partnerships among various stakeholders should be a continuous process with particular focus on engaging CSOs and private sector

• Key challenges for Bhutan
  – financing
  – adequate and reliable data

• Strengthening its resource base statistical system will be critical in achieving the SDGs and tracking the progress.
THANK YOU !