

# Volunteerism and the SDGs

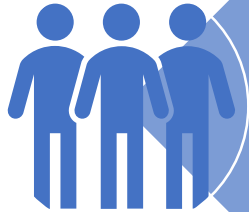
North and Central Asia Forum on Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

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# I. WHAT is volunteerism



Free will



For the general public good



Unpaid non-compulsory work,  
outside of the household

# WHAT is volunteerism (in the context of SDGs)

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- The 2030 Agenda recognizes that traditional means of implementation need to be complemented by participatory mechanisms that facilitate people's engagement and capacity to benefit other people and the planet
- Volunteer groups and associations can be brokers of engagement, connecting institutional initiatives with volunteer action at community level
- Volunteerism strengthens civic engagement, social inclusion, solidarity and ownership
- It increases the reach, scale and inclusiveness of action from the local to the national level and beyond



# Plan of Action for the next decade and beyond

## Strategic Objectives

Strengthen people's ownership of the development agenda through enhanced civic engagement and enabling environments for citizen action

Integrate volunteerism into national and global post-2015 agenda implementation strategies

Measure volunteerism to contribute to a holistic understanding of the engagement of people and their well-being, as well as to be part of the monitoring of the SDGs

## Role of UNV



Stronger alliance

Evidence and data  
on volunteering



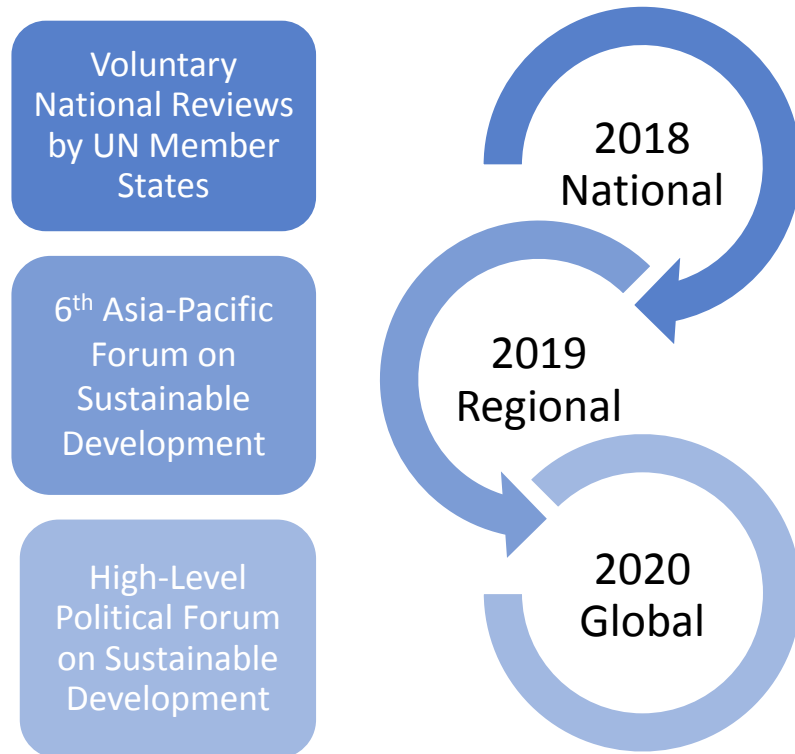
Knowledge sharing

Convening

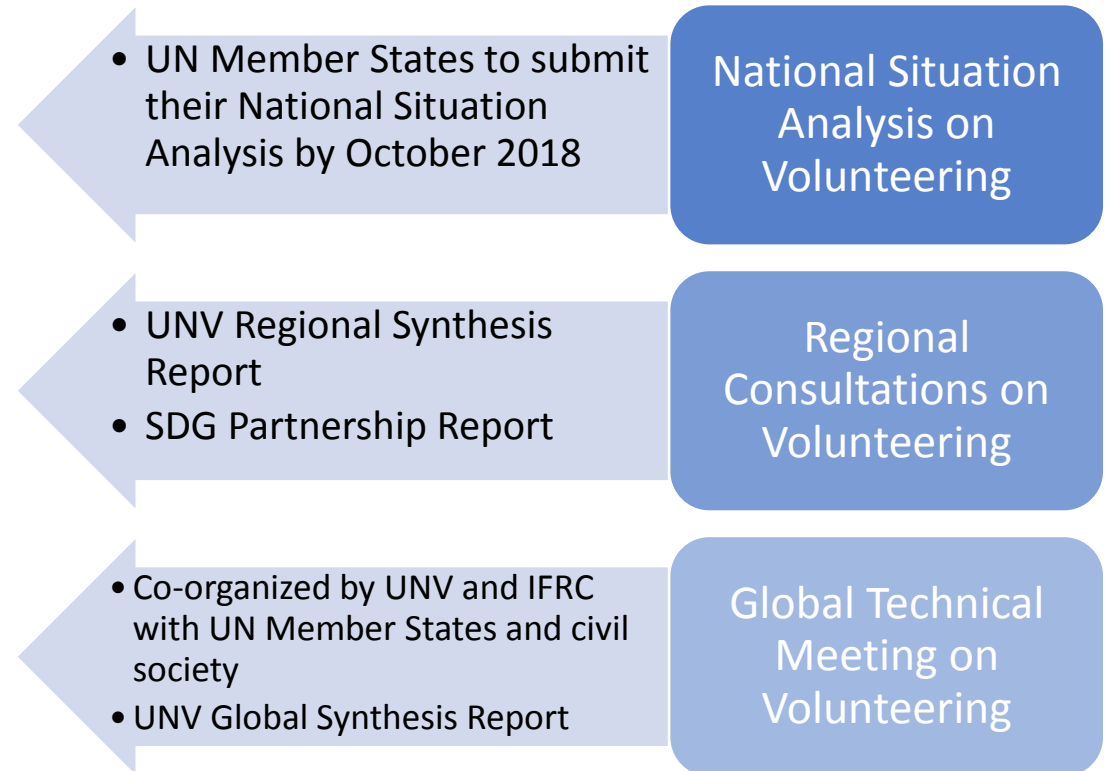


# Implementation process of the Plan of Action

## Global Mechanisms



## UNV supported initiatives





## II. WHY engage volunteers: Value addition

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- Raising awareness
- Delivering technical expertise
- Facilitating spaces through participatory forms of engagement
- Monitoring SDG progress
- Facilitating knowledge sharing and leveraging local expertise
- Complementing essential basic services
- Modelling behaviors





# III. HOW to integrate volunteerism in national processes

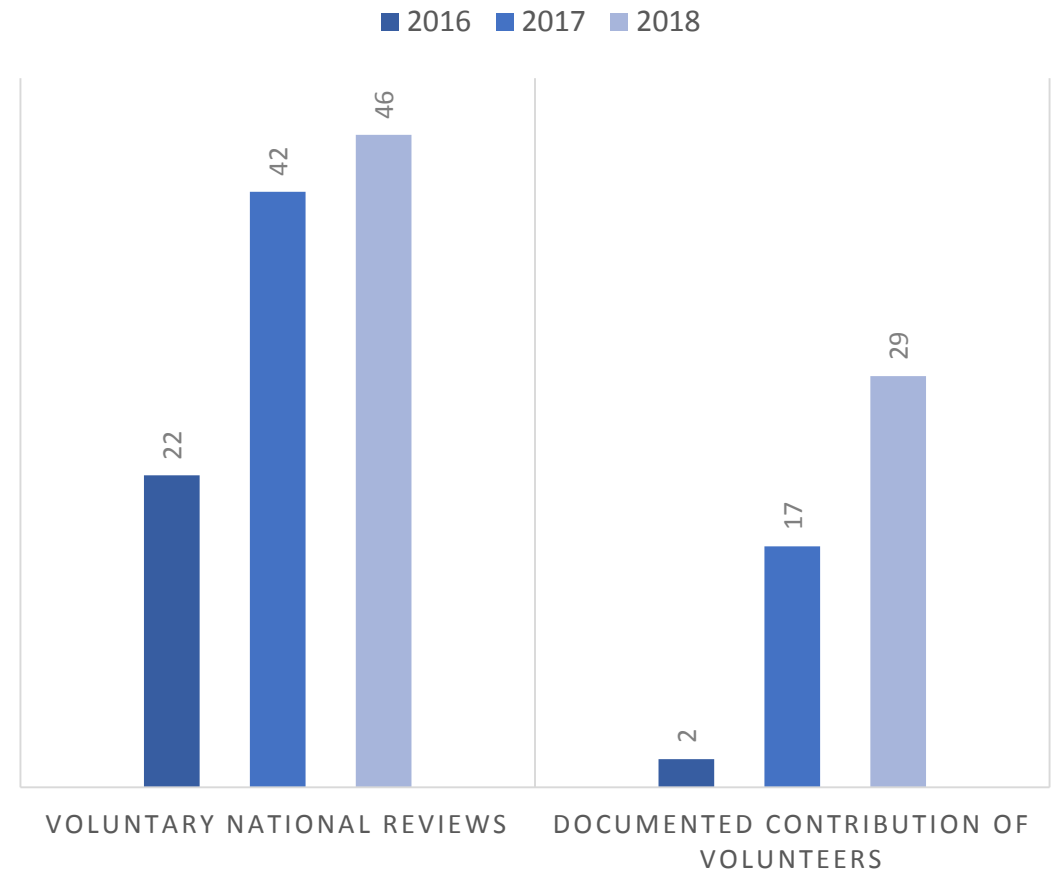
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- Volunteers as a cross cutting means of implementation under SDG 17
  - Member states are encouraged to include information on the voluntary contributions and participation of citizens in their countries, to help with analysis on progress and challenges
- Volunteer contributions under individual SDGs
  - Member States are encouraged to work with other stakeholders to identify sources of information from key sectors
- Volunteer participation in VNR development process
  - As part of a multi-stakeholder approach, volunteers and volunteering agencies and platforms can support consultations, workshops, reporting, evaluation of data within VNR processes themselves



# Reflection of volunteerism in VNRs

- 2018 VNR confirm volunteers as critical partners for implementation of the SDGs
- Member States continue to develop specific volunteer initiatives and programmes to reach the furthest behind first
- Member States starting to leverage volunteer-led data collection, validation and consultation processes as a cost-effective approach to widening stakeholder involvement in SDGs monitoring and reporting





# Questions to the audience

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- In your country context, what could be the role of volunteering in ensuring engagement and citizen participation towards achieving the SDGs?
- What needs to be in place for volunteers to be effectively engaged and recognized?



# Thank you

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