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)

- 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

- Voluntary National Reviews by UN Member States
- 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

UNV supported initiatives

- UN Member States to submit their National Situation Analysis by October 2018
- UNV Regional Synthesis Report
- SDG Partnership Report
- Co-organized by UNV and IFRC with UN Member States and civil society
- UNV Global Synthesis Report
II. WHY engage volunteers: Value addition

- 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

- 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

• 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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