

Is North-East Asia on Track to Achieve the SDGs by 2030?
Insights from the SDG Index & Dashboards 2018 Report

Keynote Presentation at the Northeast Asia SDSN Forum on the SDGs
organized by the sub-regional SDSNs, hosted by National University of Mongolia
supported by the SDSN Global and the UNESCAP-ENEA

Held on Friday, Sept. 7, 09:00am-12:30pm, at NUM Library Rm., Ulaanbaatar

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1. Issues for Discussion

1. How is the state of implementation of the SDGs in the respective countries?

Difficulties in achieving some Goals? What are priority problems, tasks, and recommended solutions?

2. To what extent have the respective governments institutionalized the SDGs implementation mechanism?

3. Is there room for international cooperation among our countries in terms of policy actions and joint research?

2. UN SDSN & “SDG Index and Dashboards 2018” www.sdgindex.org

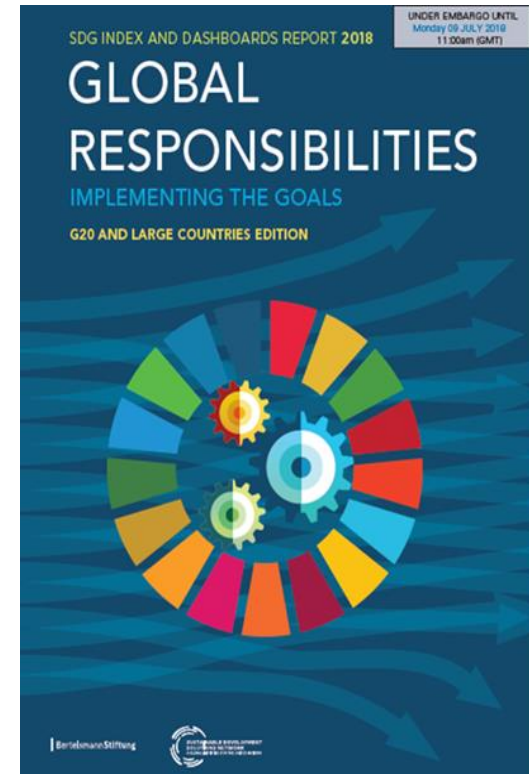
A global network of knowledge institutions on sustainable development issues directed by Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, Special Advisor for the UN Secretary-General on MDGs/SDGs, under the auspices of the UN Secretary-General

www.unsdsn.org

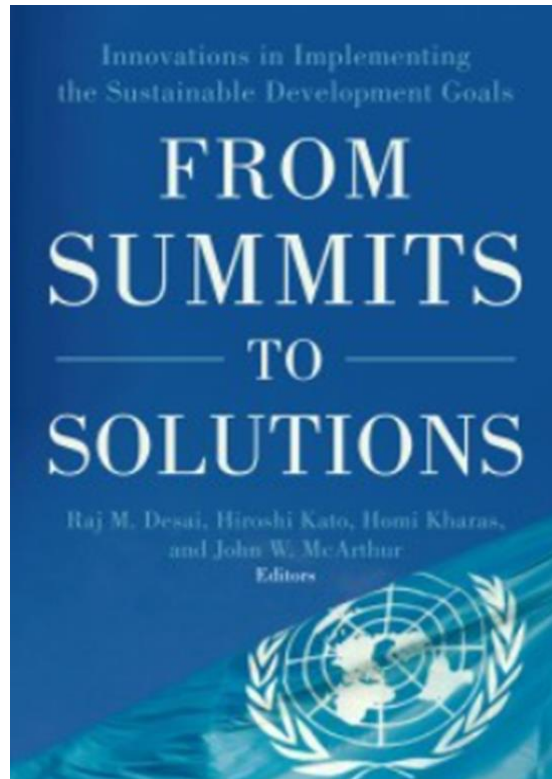
Consists of national and regional networks around the world, including SDSN Korea, SDSN Japan, Tsinghua University Institute of SDGs (TUSDG), SDSN Hong Kong, to be joined by SDSN Mongolia.

Since 2016, SDSN and Bertelsmann Stiftung annually publish “SDG Index & Dashboards”

www.sdgindex.org



“From Summits to Solutions: Innovations in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals”
Brookings Institution, 2018



Chapter 1. The Need for Innovations to Implement the Sustainable Development Goals,

By Raj M. Desai, Hiroshi Kato, Homi Kharas, and John W. McArthur

Chapter 12. A Canadian North Star: Crafting an Advanced Economy Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals,

By Margaret Biggs and John W. McArthur

4. The SDG Index of Selected Countries

Japan(15) 78.5, S. Korea (19) 77.4, China (54) 70.1, Russia (63) 68.9, Mongolia (95) 63.9

Rank	Country	Score
1	Sweden	85.0
2	Denmark	84.6
3	Finland	83.0
4	Germany	82.3
5	France	81.2
15	Japan	78.5
16	Estonia	78.3
17	New Zealand	77.9
18	Ireland	77.5
19	Korea, Rep.	77.4
20	Canada	76.8
53	Argentina	70.3
54	China	70.1
55	Malaysia	70.0
62	Albania	68.9
63	Russian Federation	68.9
64	Peru	68.4
65	Kazakhstan	68.1
94	Oman	63.9
95	Mongolia	63.9
96	Honduras	63.6
154	Democratic Republic of Congo	43.4
155	Chad	42.8
156	Central African Republic	37.7

5. China's Country Profile: Performance by Indicator

CHINA Performance by Indicator

Monday 09 JULY 2018
11:00am (GMT)

Indicator	Value	Rating	Trend	Indicator	Value	Rating	Trend
SDG1 – End Poverty				SDG10 – Reduced Inequalities			
Poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day (% population)	0.4	●	↑	Logistics performance index: Quality of trade and transport-related infrastructure (1=low to 5=high)	3.8	●	→
Projected poverty headcount ratio at \$1.90/day in 2030 (% population)	0.1	●	→	The Times Higher Education Universities Ranking, Average score of top 3 universities (0-100)	72.4	●	→
SDG2 – Zero Hunger				SDG11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities			
Prevalence of undernourishment (% population)	9.6	●	→	Annual mean concentration of particulate matter of less than 2.5 microns of diameter (PM2.5) in urban areas (µg/m³)	58.4	●	→
Prevalence of stunting (low height-for-age) in children under 5 years of age (%)	9.4	●	→	Improved water source, piped (% urban population with access)	90.0	●	→
Prevalence of wasting in children under 5 years of age (%)	2.3	●	→	Satisfaction with public transport (%)	72.0	●	↑
Prevalence of obesity, BMI ≥ 30 (% adult population)	6.2	●	→	SDG12 – Responsible Consumption and Production			
Cereal yield (t/ha)	6.0	●	→	Municipal Solid Waste (kg/day/capita)	1.0	●	→
Sustainable Nitrogen Management Index	0.8	●	→	E-waste generated (kg/capita)	4.4	●	→
SDG3 – Good Health and Well-Being				SDG13 – Climate Action			
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births)	27.0	●	→	Energy-related CO ₂ emissions per capita (tCO ₂ /capita)	7.5	●	↓
Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)	5.1	●	→	Imported CO ₂ emissions, technology-adjusted (tCO ₂ /capita)	-0.8	●	→
Mortality rate, under-5 (per 1,000 live births)	9.9	●	→	Climate Change Vulnerability Index	0.3	●	→
Incidence of tuberculosis (per 100,000 population)	64.0	●	→	CO ₂ emissions embodied in fossil fuel exports (kg/capita)	20.6	●	→
HIV prevalence (per 1,000)	0.0	●	→	SDG14 – Life Below Water			
Age-standardized death rate due to cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory disease in populations age 30–70 years (per 100,000 population)	18.1	●	→	Mean area that is protected in marine sites important to biodiversity (%)	18.8	●	→
Age-standardized death rate attributable to household air pollution and ambient air pollution (per 100,000 population)	169.4	●	→	Ocean Health Index: Biodiversity (0-100)	80.1	●	↓
Traffic deaths rate (per 100,000 population)	19.4	●	→	Ocean Health Index: Clean Waters (0-100)	34.8	●	↓
Healthy Life Expectancy at birth (years)	76.1	●	→	Ocean Health Index: Fisheries (0-100)	45.4	●	→
Adolescent fertility rate (births per 1,000 women ages 15-19)	6.5	●	→	Fish Stocks overexploited or collapsed by EEZ (%)	8.6	●	→
Births attended by skilled health personnel (%)	99.9	●	→	Fish caught by trawling (%)	60.0	●	↓
Surviving infants who received 2 WHO-recommended vaccines (%)	99.0	●	→	SDG15 – Life on Land			
Universal Health Coverage Tracer Index (0-100)	70.0	●	→	Mean area that is protected in terrestrial sites important to biodiversity (%)	52.1	●	→
Subjective Wellbeing (average ladder score, 0-10)	5.1	●	↑	Mean area that is protected in freshwater sites important to biodiversity (%)	41.6	●	→
SDG4 – Quality Education				SDG16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions			
Net primary enrolment rate (%)	NA	●	→	Homicides (per 100,000 population)	0.7	●	→
Mean years of schooling	7.6	●	→	Prison population (per 100,000 population)	120.5	●	→
Literacy rate of 15-24 year olds, both sexes (%)	99.6	●	→	Population who feel safe walking alone at night in the city or area where they live (%)	80.0	●	→
SDG5 – Gender Equality				SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals			
Unmet demand for contraception, estimated (% women married or in union, ages 15-49)	4.3	●	→	Government Efficiency (1-7)	4.3	●	↓
Female to male mean years of schooling of population age 25+ (%)	91.1	●	→	Property Rights (1-7)	4.6	●	↓
Female to male labour force participation rate (%)	80.8	●	→	Children under 5 years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority (%)	NA	●	→
Seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	24.2	●	→	Corruption Perception Index (0-100)	41.0	●	→
SDG6 – Clean Water and Sanitation				SDG17 – Partnerships for the Goals			
High-income countries: population using safely managed water services (%)	NA	●	→	Government Health and Education spending (% GDP)	NA	●	→
Other countries: population using at least basic drinking water services (%)	95.8	●	→	High-income and all OECD DAC countries: international concessional public finance, including official development assistance (% GNI)	NA	●	→
High-income countries: population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	NA	●	→	Other countries: Tax revenue (% GDP)	9.4	●	↓
Other countries: population using at least basic sanitation services (%)	NA	●	→	Tax Haven Score (best 0-5 worst)	1.0	●	→
Freshwater withdrawal as % total renewable water resources	29.9	●	→				
Imported groundwater depletion (m³/year/capita)	1.6	●	→				
SDG7 – Affordable and Clean Energy							
Access to electricity (% population)	100.0	●	→				
Access to clean fuels & technology for cooking (% population)	57.2	●	→				
CO ₂ emissions from fuel combustion / electricity output (MtCO ₂ /TWh)	1.6	●	↑				
SDG8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth							
Adjusted GDP Growth (%)	3.1	●	→				
Slavery score (0-100)	80.0	●	→				
Adults (15 years+) with an account at a bank or other financial institution or with a mobile-money-service provider (%)	80.2	●	→				
Unemployment rate (% total labour force)	4.7	●	→				
SDG9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure							
Proportion of the population using the internet (%)	53.2	●	↑				
Mobile broadband subscriptions (per 100 inhabitants)	69.4	●	↑				
Quality of overall infrastructure (1=extremely underdeveloped; 7=extensive and efficient by international standards)	4.5	●	↑				

PART 4: COUNTRY PROFILES

6. Normalizing Indicators to 0~100 Scale for Goal Score

Setting the best outcome and the worst outcome

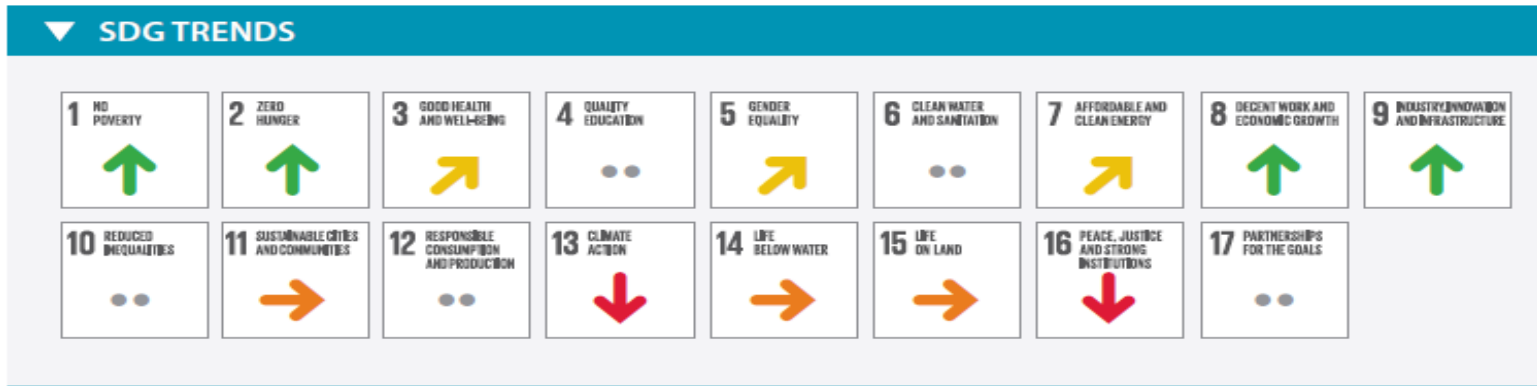
Setting the upper bound for each indicator using a 5-step decision tree:

1. Use absolute quantitative thresholds in SDGs and targets: e.g. zero poverty, when available.
2. Where no explicit SDG target is available, apply the principle of “leave no one behind” to set upper bound to universal access or zero deprivation for the following types of indicators: measurement of extreme poverty (e.g., wasting), public service coverage (e.g., access to contraception), access to basic infrastructure.
3. Where science-based targets exist that must be achieved by 2030 or later, use these to set 100% upper bound.
4. Where several countries already exceed an SDG target, use the average of the top 5 performers (e.g. child mortality).
5. For all other indicators, use the average of the top performers.

Setting the lower bound:

To remove the effect of extreme values, which can skew the results of a composite index, the OECD’s approach of censoring the data at the bottom 2.5th percentile as the minimum value for the normalization was applied.

7. China (70.1, 54/156): SDG Dashboard, SDG Trends & Scores by SDG



Country	SDG1	SDG2	SDG3	SDG4	SDG5	SDG6	SDG7	SDG8	SDG9	SDG10	SDG11	SDG12	SDG13	SDG14	SDG15	SDG16	SDG17
China	99.7	71.5	80.0	73.8	75.6	89.9	69.1	83.1	58.7	59.6	69.2	73.2	69.3	33.5	58.6	72.5	53.6

8. Color Indicators of SDG Trends

“The SDG Index and Dashboards 2018”

Figure 22 | The 5-arrow system for denoting SDG Trends

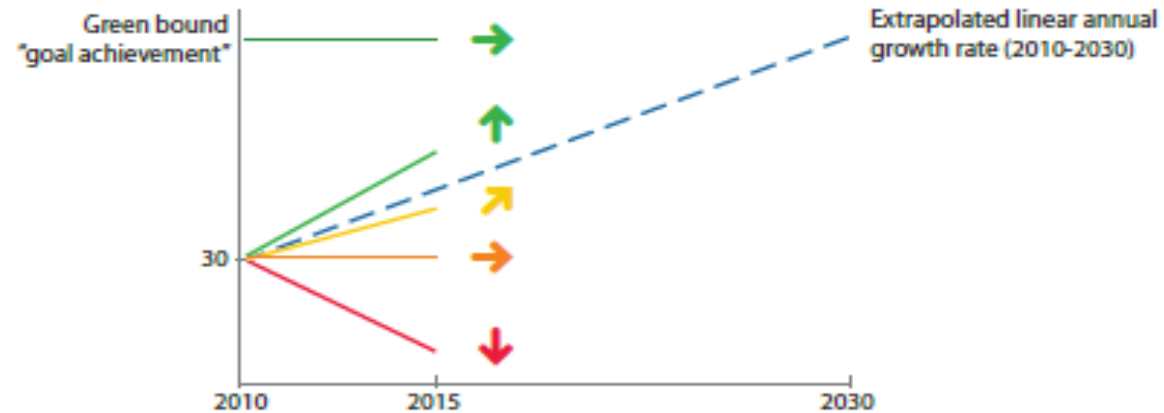
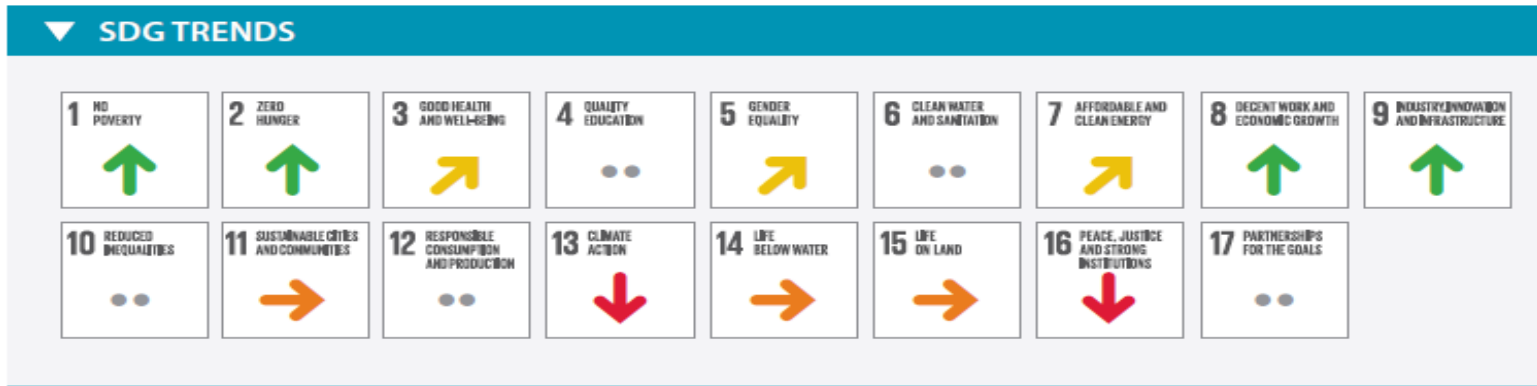


Figure 23 | Graphic representation of the SDG Trends methodology

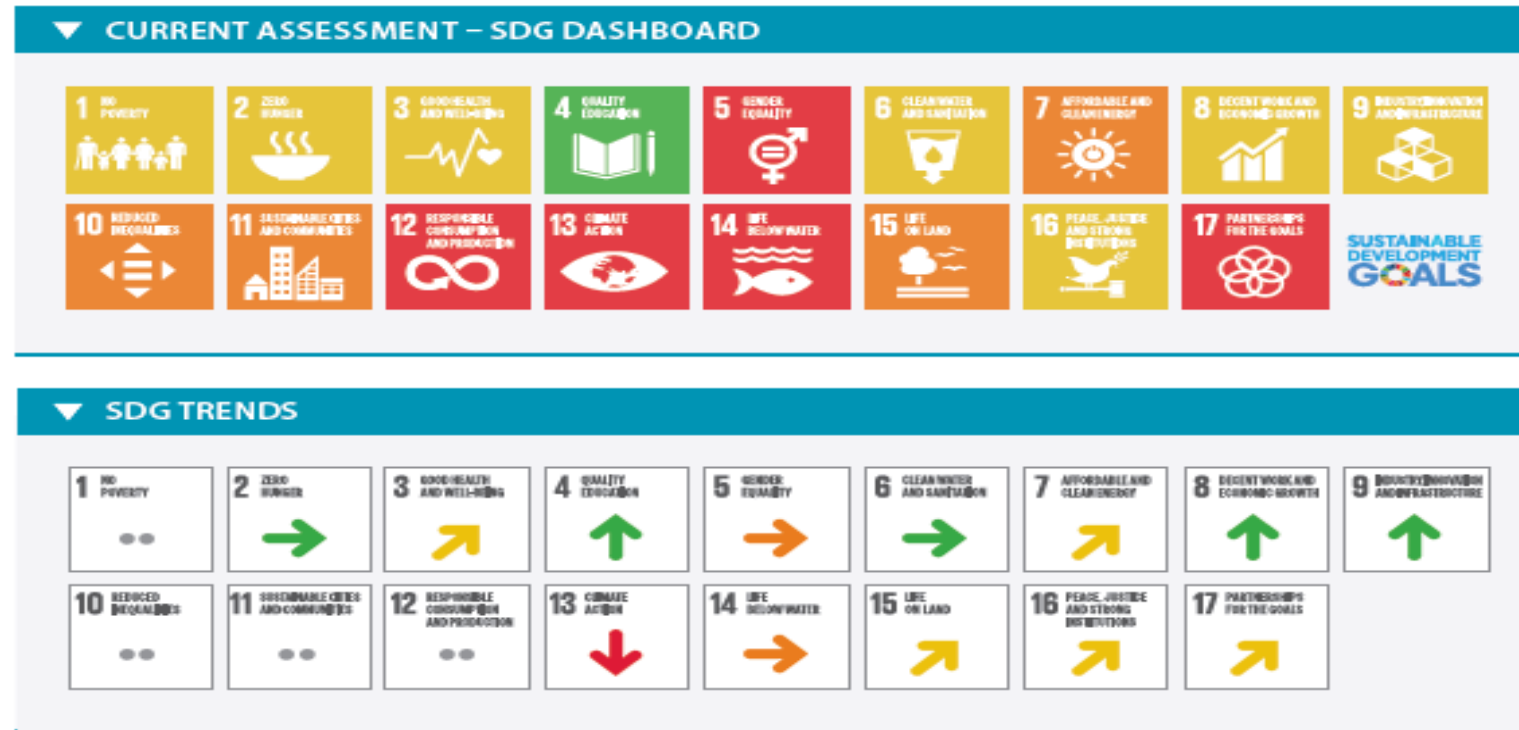


9. China (70.1, 54/156): SDG Dashboard, SDG Trends & Scores by SDG



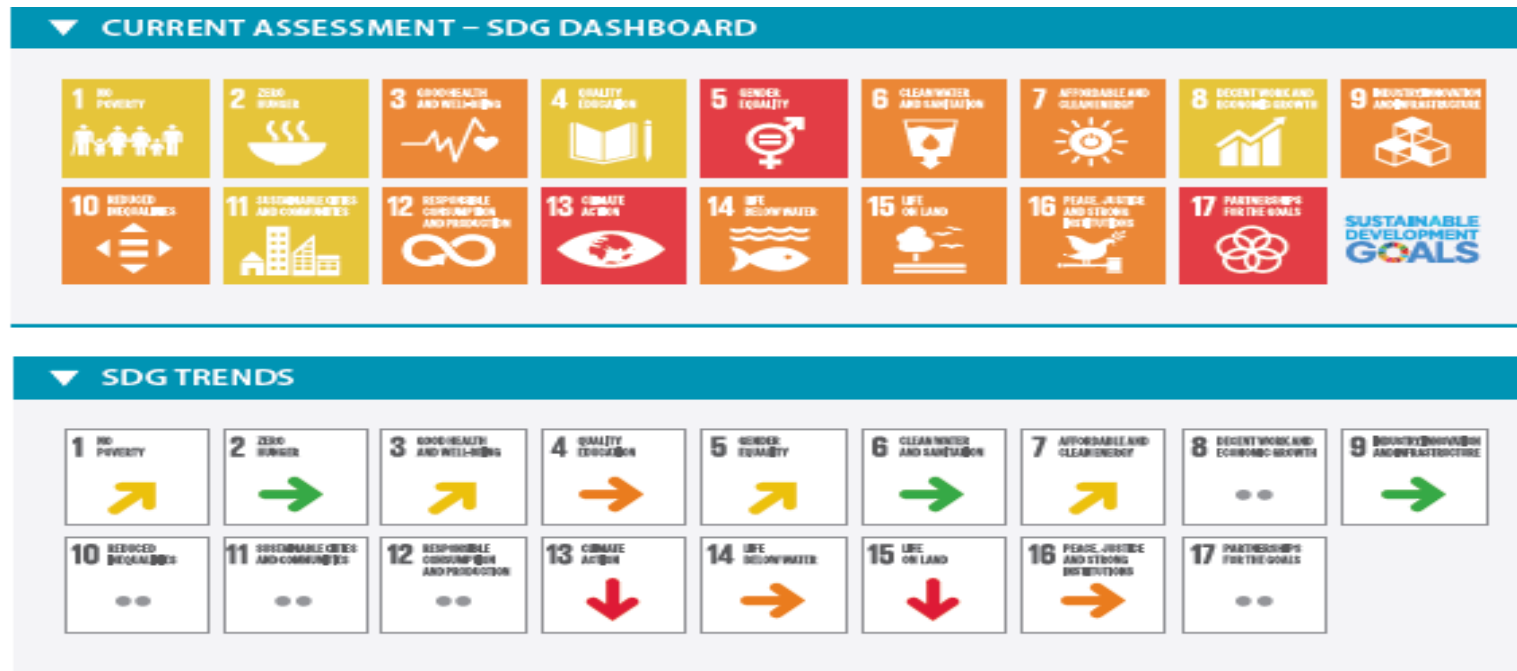
Country	SDG1	SDG2	SDG3	SDG4	SDG5	SDG6	SDG7	SDG8	SDG9	SDG10	SDG11	SDG12	SDG13	SDG14	SDG15	SDG16	SDG17
China	99.7	71.5	80.0	73.8	75.6	89.9	69.1	83.1	58.7	59.6	69.2	73.2	69.3	33.5	58.6	72.5	53.6

10. Japan (78.5, 15/156): SDG Dashboard & SDG Trends



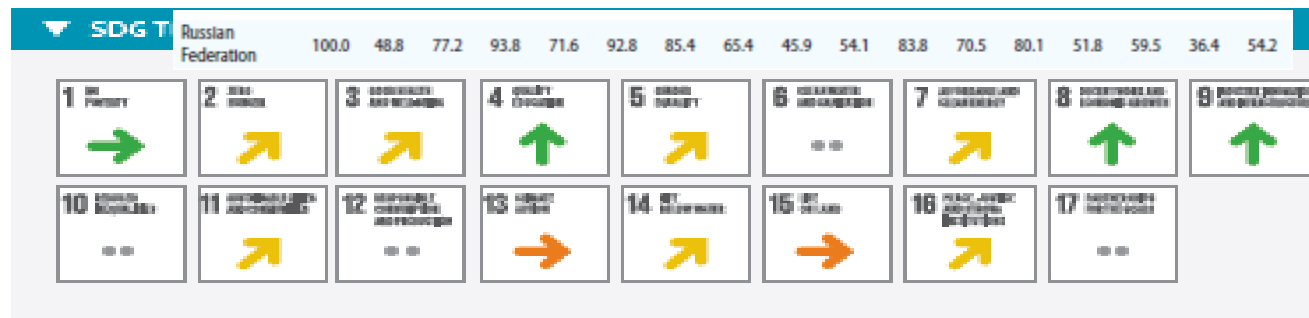
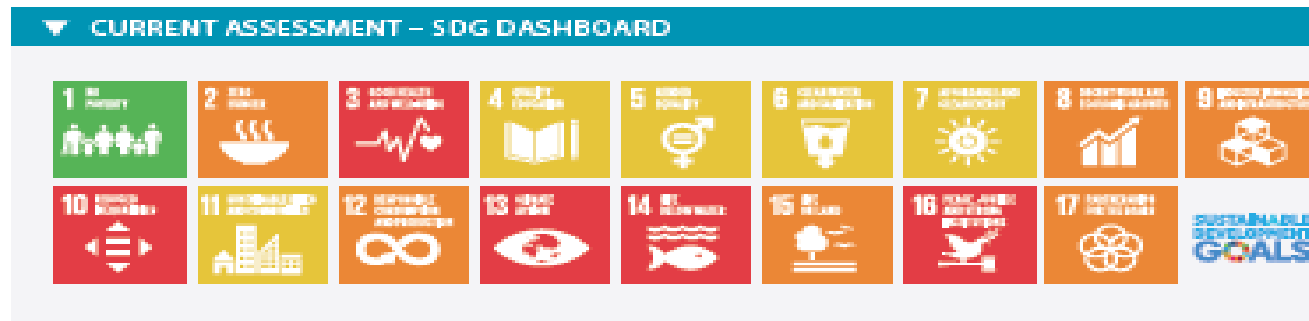
Country	SDG1	SDG2	SDG3	SDG4	SDG5	SDG6	SDG7	SDG8	SDG9	SDG10	SDG11	SDG12	SDG13	SDG14	SDG15	SDG16	SDG17
Japan	99.3	75.6	94.0	95.3	61.7	90.7	88.3	85.8	82.4	76.9	74.1	55.7	85.2	56.4	66.6	89.6	57.3

11. S. Korea (77.4, 19/156): SDG Dashboard & SDG Trends



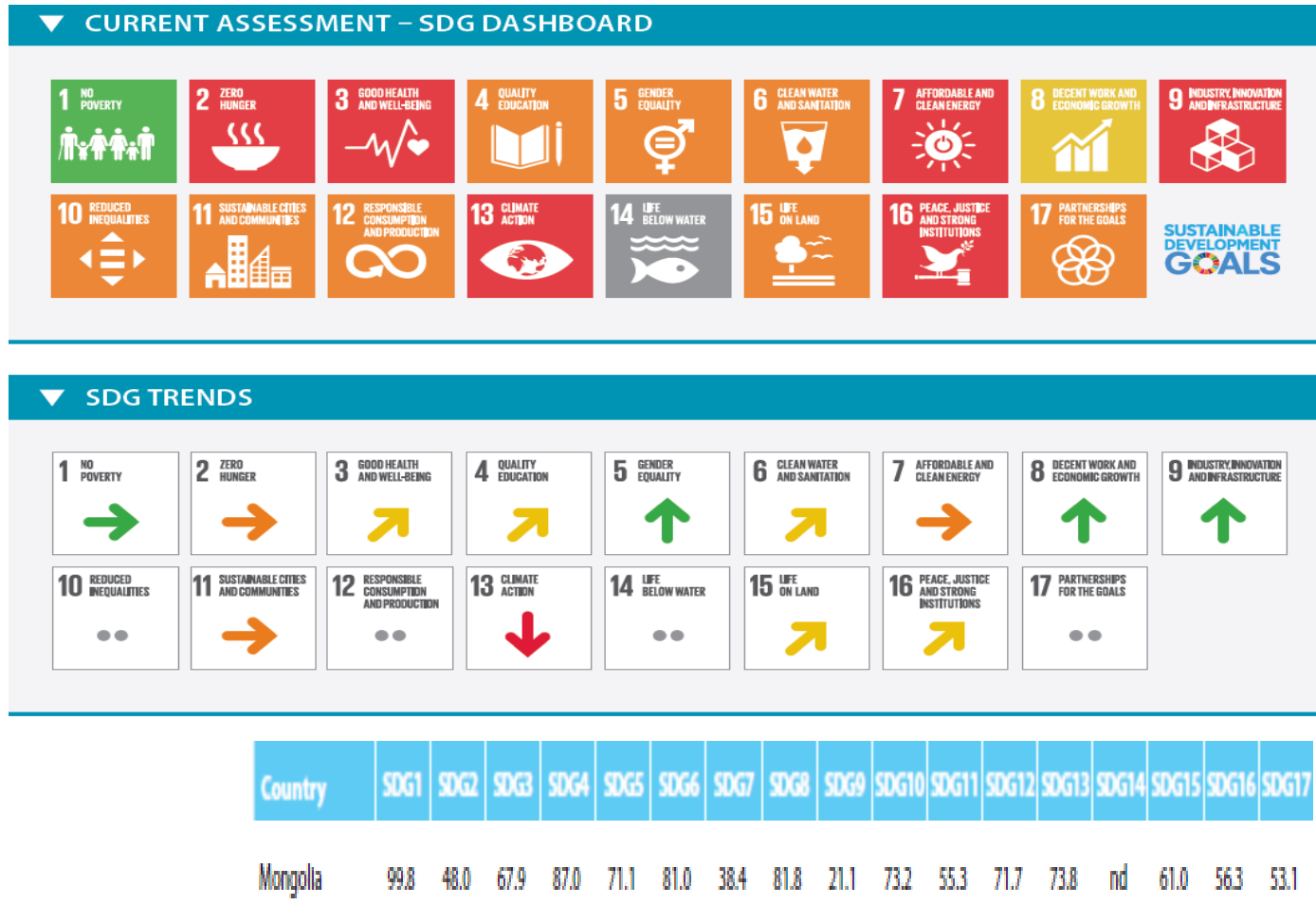
Country	SDG1	SDG2	SDG3	SDG4	SDG5	SDG6	SDG7	SDG8	SDG9	SDG10	SDG11	SDG12	SDG13	SDG14	SDG15	SDG16	SDG17
Korea, Rep.	99.3	83.2	91.3	91.7	67.4	79.9	88.6	83.4	83.4	86.6	80.0	65.2	85.4	56.0	52.9	71.8	49.8

12. Russia (68.9, 63/156): SDG Dashboard & SDG Trends



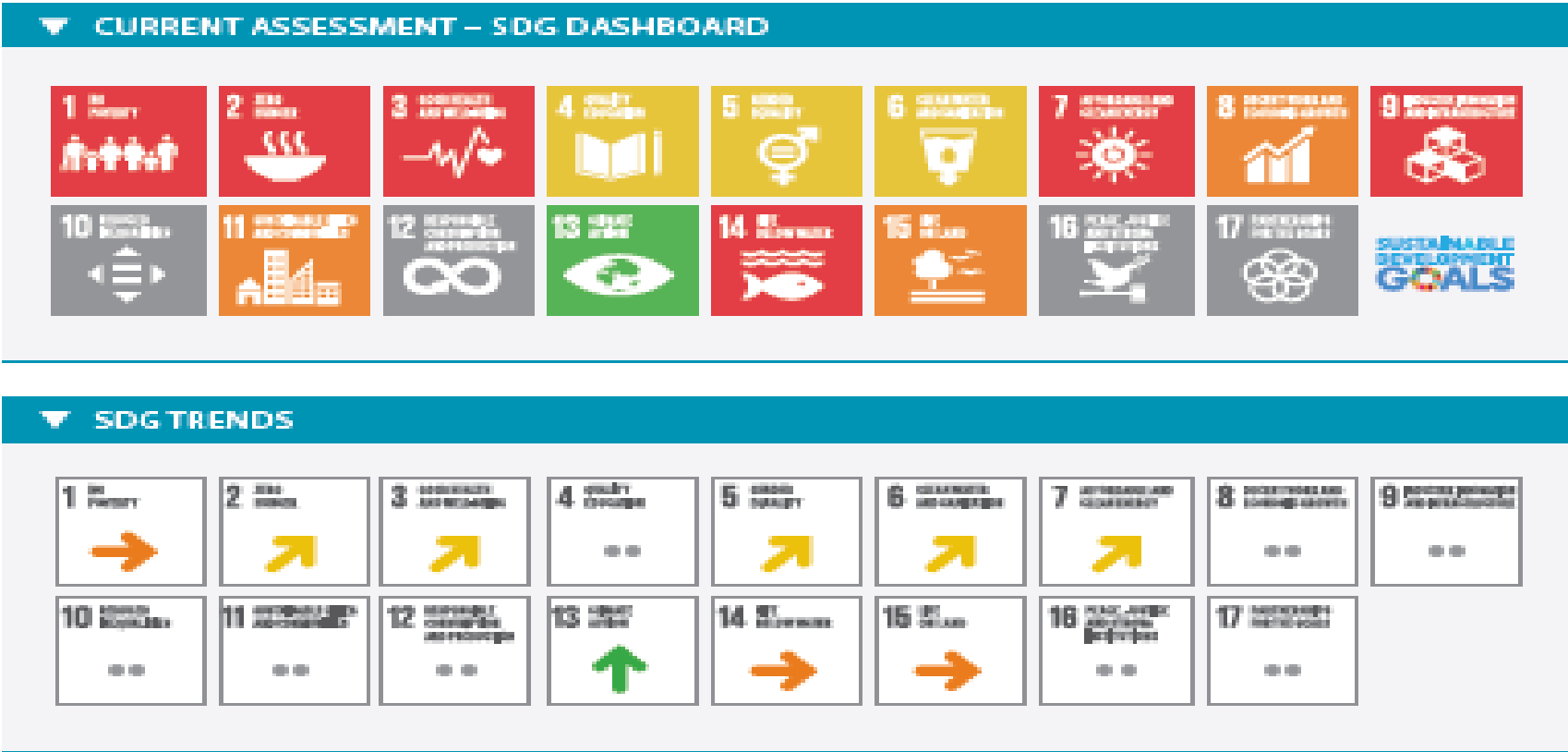
Country	SDG1	SDG2	SDG3	SDG4	SDG5	SDG6	SDG7	SDG8	SDG9	SDG10	SDG11	SDG12	SDG13	SDG14	SDG15	SDG16	SDG17
Russian Federation	100.0	48.8	77.2	93.8	71.6	92.8	85.4	65.4	45.9	54.1	83.8	70.5	80.1	51.8	59.5	36.4	54.2

13. Mongolia (63.9, 95/156): SDG Dashboard & SDG Trends



14. DPRK: SDG Dashboard & SDG Trends

SDG Index value not calculated due to lack of sufficient data



15. Number of SDG Indicators by Policy Trend by Country

Policy trends classified by arbitrary judgment by this speaker
in cases of ambiguous or missing color coding of indicators

Country	Achieved or On track	Acceleration needed	Breakthrough needed	Reversal required	Data wholly missing by Indicator	Number of Indicators
China	44	13	12	9	7	85
Japan	69	16	7	11	2	105
South Korea	62	13	16	8	8	107
Russia	44	9	25	6	4	88
Mongolia	39	9	21	8	2	79
DPRK	25	5	26	3	28	87

16. Challenges of Implementation: 5 Core Principles

UN System Staff College

Universality

Applicable in all countries, in all contexts, and at all times, subject to CBDR

Leaving no one behind

Reach out to all people in need and deprivation, wherever they are, in a manner which targets their specific challenges and vulnerabilities → An unprecedented demand for local and disaggregated data to analyse outcomes and track progress.

Interconnectedness and indivisibility

Treat SDGs in their entirety instead of approaching them as a menu list of individual goals from which they pick and choose.

Inclusiveness

Calls for the participation of all segments of society—irrespective of their race, gender, ethnicity, and identity—to contribute to its implementation.

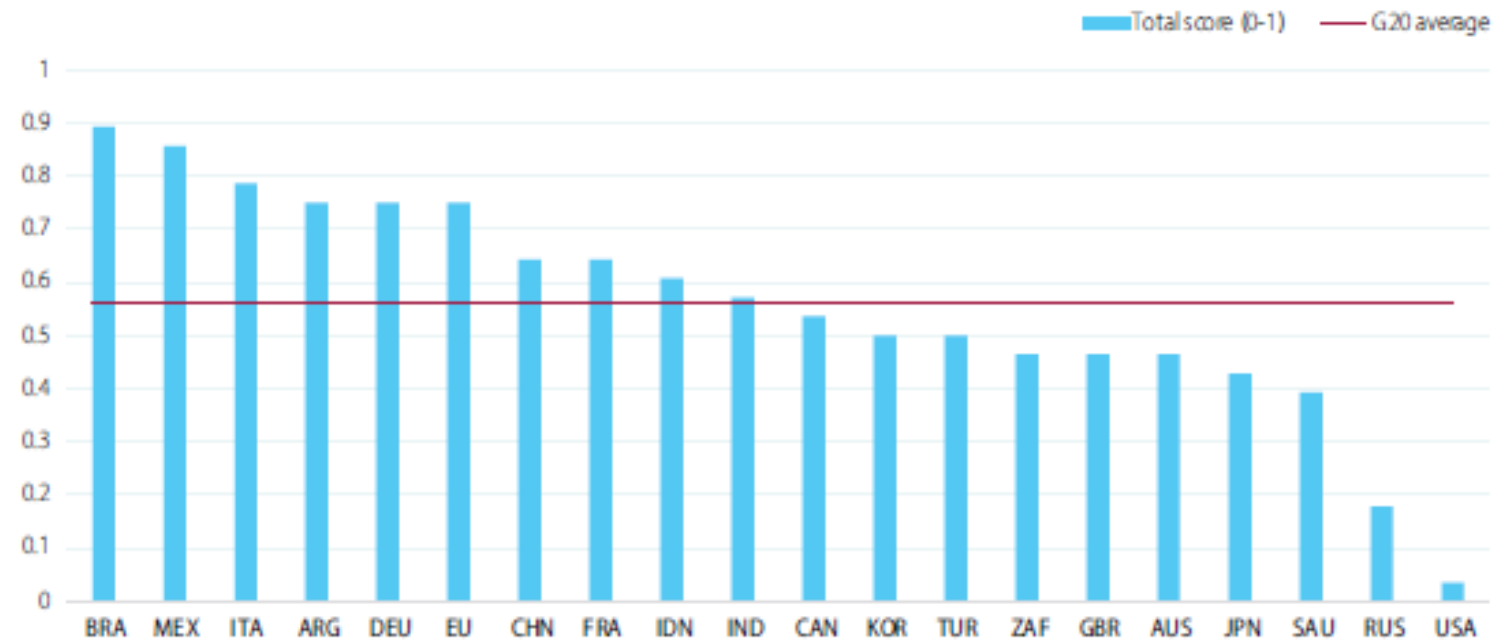
Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships

Mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of SDGs in all countries.

17. The Ultimate Challenge: Institutionalizing the Implementation Mechanism Geared to 5 Core Principles

Figure 2 | National coordination and implementation mechanisms for the SDGs in G20 countries, 2018

Composite score from 0 (lowest) to 1 (highest)



Note: Based on the sum of answers to q1, q2, q3, q4, q5, q6, q6.a, q7, q8, q9, q10, q11, q12, q14. Best response option was allocated 1 point, intermediate response 0.5 points, and worst response 0 points. Responses computed on a scale from 0-14 were rescaled on a 0-1 scale. Data reported correspond to the situation as of May 2018.

Source: Authors' analysis

18. Some of the SDSN-Bertelsmann's G20 Survey Questions on Institutionalization of the Implementation Mechanisms for the SDGs

Has the Head of State mentioned in a public and official context, endorsing the SDGs and stating how the country plans to operationalize their implementation?

Did the government map the alignment of existing national strategies with the SDGs?

Did the central government adopt an action plan to implement the SDGs?

Did the National Statistical Institute identify official key national indicators to monitor SDGs implementation? If so, how many indicators are included in this list?

Has the National Statistical Office been officially mandated to lead the work on data and indicators for the SDGs?

Since January 1st 2016, has there been a comprehensive assessment coordinated by the central government looking at where the country stands with regards to its distance to achieving the SDGs?

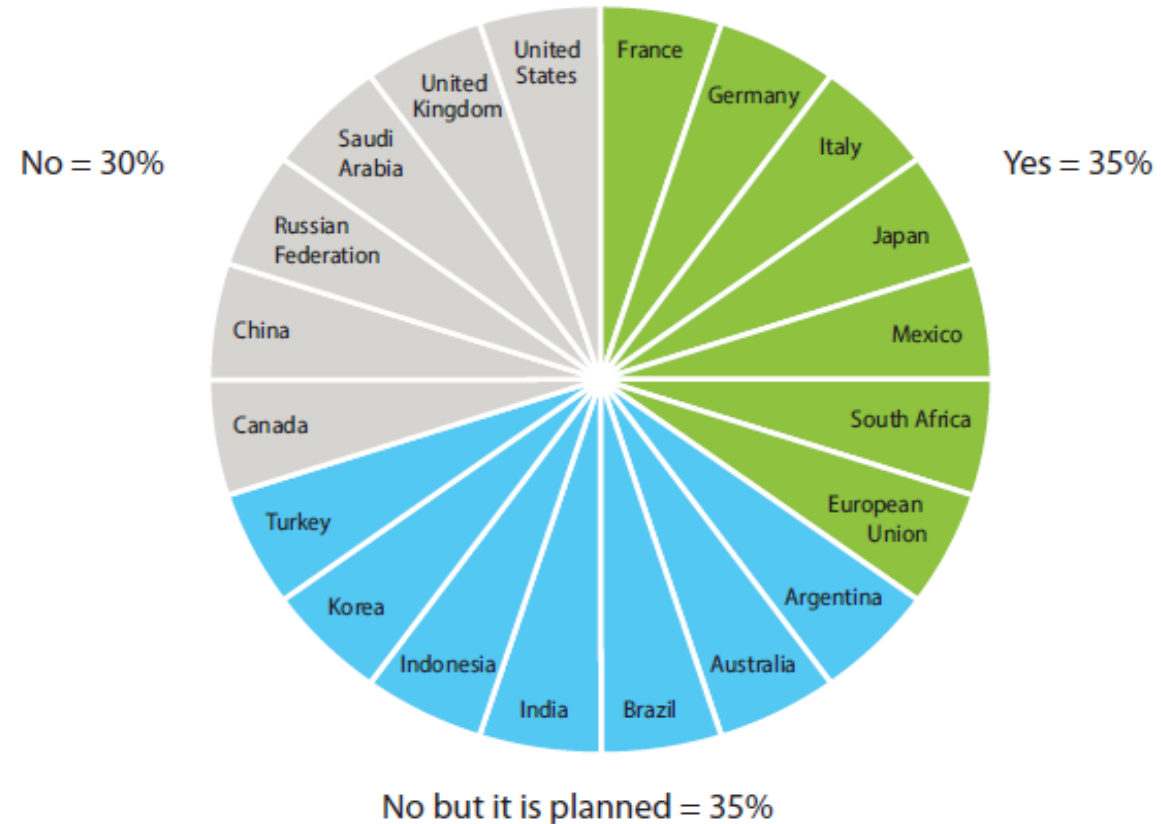
Have key national priorities been identified, and explicitly mentioned, regarding the implementation of the SDGs?

Is there a lead central government unit responsible for supporting the implementation of the SDGs across line ministries and agencies?

Does the latest central budget reflect incremental SDG investment needs?

19. Key National Indicators to Monitor SDGs Implementation Identified?

Figure 4 | Did the National Statistical Institute or any mandated central/federal institutions identify official key national indicators to monitor the implementation of the SDGs?



Source: Authors' analysis

20. Conclusion: Priority Agenda for NEA Countries on the SDGs

None of our three countries have completed the establishment of the SDGs implementation mechanism subject to the 5 core principles of the SDG Agenda – the governance arrangements for SDGs implementation.

The priority task is to build this mechanism. Doing so requires the meeting of two processes – the top-down process led by HOS and the bottom-up process led by the civil society and the private sector – in order to overcome the societal inertia.

The knowledge institutions of the respective countries should contribute to both processes with research and public education of key issues and solutions, based on international collaboration among them.