

# Progressing national SDGs implementation:

Experiences and recommendations from 2016



towards a sustainable UK

**A joint report by UKSSD and Bond**

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## About Bond

Bond is the civil society network for global change. We bring people together to make the international development sector more effective. [bond.org.uk](http://bond.org.uk)

Bond hosts the Bond SDGs Group, which brings together 150 organisations in the UK who focus on the international development aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Group, previously Bond Beyond 2015 UK, has been working for the past four years to secure an ambitious set of new global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which integrates the social, environmental and economic pillars of sustainable development. Their focus is now on the implementation of the SDGs. For more information please contact Mariana Rudge: [mrudge@bond.org](mailto:mrudge@bond.org)

## About UKSSD

UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development (UKSSD) is an open platform that supports public, private and voluntary organisations working towards sustainable development in the UK.

## Acknowledgements

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# Introduction

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted in September 2015, represent the most ambitious sustainable development agenda ever agreed by UN Member States. This comprehensive set of 17 goals and 169 targets<sup>1</sup> marks a new universal agenda which applies to all countries, rich and poor, who have promised to ensure no one will be left behind in the implementation of the goals.

Getting the accountability structures fit for purpose is key in ensuring this pledge is fulfilled. The UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the key global forum in charge of monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This report aims to contribute to ensuring this intergovernmental forum is as effective as it can be in holding governments to account and supporting their efforts to make progress on the goals.

The first UN High Level Political Forum since the agreement of the Sustainable Development Goals took place in July 2016. The forum is mandated to conduct regular State-led reviews and thematic reviews of the implementation of the Agenda, with inputs from other intergovernmental bodies, regional processes, major groups and other stakeholders.

Twenty-two countries volunteered for national review at this year's HLPF. These countries were: China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela.

In addition, several civil society groups produced their own reports to provide their perspectives of government action on implementation and reporting. The participation of civil society and all relevant stakeholders is a key element of successful monitoring and review at the HLPF. These shadow reports are a vital accountability tool, providing an objective view of countries' progress towards the SDGs by challenging and verifying countries' claims.

In order to inform future implementation and reporting on Agenda 2030 by both governments and civil society, this report aims to:

- Provide an overview of a selection of national reviews presented at the 2016 HLPF and equivalent civil society reports
- Share examples of best practice
- Make recommendations for country and civil society reporting under the follow-up and review of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs
- Make recommendations for future revisions of the Secretary-General's voluntary reporting guidelines.

1. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

## Scope of the report

Due to time and capacity limitations, this review focuses only on the 16 country reports that were published in English.<sup>2</sup> The executive summaries and full reports for each of these 16 countries were analysed.

The analysis comprised a literature review, which concentrated on a set of key questions provided in full in Annex I. Using these guiding questions, notable aspects for knowledge sharing and examples of best practice were drawn out and recorded, forming the basis for this report.

The country reports were also assessed according to whether they adhered to the UN Secretary General's common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews (VNRs).<sup>3</sup> The guidelines provide a common foundation against which to compare the reports and the high level analysis provides a basis from which to draw out recommendations for future revisions of the guidelines.

In addition to the country reports, relevant civil society inputs – including statements and reports – which provide an important verification and accountability mechanism in the reporting process, were also reviewed. The civil society analysis mirrored that of the country analysis, focusing on a proportion of the same 16 countries and only including inputs made available in English.<sup>4</sup> This report provides an overview of the civil society shadow reports and makes recommendations for civil society reporting, highlighting examples of best practice.

Given the recent adoption of the SDGs and recognition that we are still early in the implementation process, for this year's HLPF countries were asked to focus on the strategies and policies that are being put in place to facilitate implementation.<sup>5</sup> As such, this report does not look in detail at any assessments of progress against the goals and targets. It does however, share examples of baseline and gap analyses that have been conducted.

2. Those from China, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Montenegro, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Turkey and Uganda.

3. The UN Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9768Guidelines%20from%20SG%20report.pdf>

4. Civil society reports from Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Switzerland and Uganda were identified and reviewed.

5. See the 'Q&A for national reviews at the 2016 HLPF', which defines the scope for the 2016 reviews: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9765Q%20and%20%20for%20HLPF%20National%20reviews%202016.pdf>

# Analysis of country Voluntary National Reviews

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As this is the first year of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the SDGs, this initial set of reports form a foundation for future reporting that can be adapted and built upon. The focus at this stage is on the sharing of experience, to work out what works and what doesn't in terms of both reporting and implementation.

The reports reviewed differ significantly in their structure, length and scope. Some have adhered closely to the Secretary-General's guidelines, while others chose to set their own structures. Some countries, including Samoa, Switzerland and Norway have submitted reports that are less than 30 pages long, while the reports from Montenegro and Uganda both stretch to over 100 pages.

The majority of reports focus on sharing successes, lessons and challenges from the initial stages of implementation while other countries, including Estonia, France and Germany have included initial assessments of progress under each of the goals as the main basis of their reports.

All the reviews provide valuable insight into the initial steps that countries are taking to implement the SDGs and report on progress.

This section of the report summarises the analysis of 16 country VNRs, first providing an assessment of the reviews against the UN Secretary-General's common reporting guidelines and then providing an overview of the steps countries are taking to put Agenda 2030 into practice at the national level. Drawing on this analysis, the section then concludes with a set of recommendations for country reporting to the HLPF.



## Assessment of VNRs against the UN Secretary-General's common reporting guidelines

The UN Secretary-General has proposed a set of common reporting guidelines to help countries frame their Voluntary National Reviews to the HLPF.<sup>6</sup> The guidelines are voluntary, each country will ultimately decide on the scope of their review and the format in which they want to present their findings, however this year many of the country reports reviewed have followed the guidelines to some extent and they provide a common foundation against which to compare the reviews and assess where gaps are emerging and recommendations can be made.

The guidelines are expected to be updated as experience is developed and there must be an opportunity to provide recommendations for future revisions of the guidance.

The guidelines contain the following components:

- 1. Opening statement:** by the Head of State or Government, a Minister or other high-ranking Government official.
- 2. Summary:** a synthesis of the findings of the review highlighting good practice, lessons learned, key challenges and support needed.
- 3. Introduction:** The context and objectives of the review with a discussion of national priorities and critical challenges.
- 4. Methodology for the Review:** This section may discuss the process for preparation of the national review.

### 5. Policy and Enabling Environment

**5a. Creating ownership of the SDGs.** Efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the SDGs.

**5b. Incorporation of the SDGs in national framework:** Critical initiatives that the country has undertaken to adapt the SDGs and targets to its national circumstances, and to advance their implementation.

**5c. Integration of the three dimensions:** How the three dimensions of sustainable development are being integrated and how sustainable development policies are being designed and implemented to reflect such integration.

**5d. Goals and targets:** Brief information on progress and the status of all SDGs, including whether a baseline has been defined.

**5e. Thematic analysis:** Analysis of progress and initiatives related to the HLPF's thematic focus for the year – leave no one behind.

**5f. Institutional mechanisms:** How the country has adapted its institutional framework in order to implement the 2030 Agenda.

- 6. Means of implementation:** How MOI are mobilised, what difficulties this process faces, and what additional resources are needed.
- 7. Next steps:** Outline what steps the country is taking or planning to take to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- 8. Statistical Annex:** An annex with data, using the global SDG indicators as a starting point and adding priority national/regional indicators and identifying gaps.
- 9. Conclusion:** A summary of the analysis, findings and policy implications.

The sample of 16 VNRs was reviewed against the guidelines to identify which of the suggested components each country addressed in their reports. Table 1 provides an overview of this analysis and is followed by commentary on the key observations.

6. The full guidelines can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9768Guidelines%20from%20SG%20report.pdf>

**Table 1: Assessment of VNRs against the UN Secretary-General's common reporting guidelines**

	China	Egypt	Estonia	Finland	France	Georgia	Germany	Montenegro	Norway	Philippines	Republic of Korea	Samoa	Sierra Leone	Switzerland	Turkey	Uganda
Statement by HoSG	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●
Executive Summary	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●
Introduction	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Methodology for review	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●
Creating ownership	○	○	●	●	○	●	○	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●
Incorporation in national frameworks	○	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Integration of 3 dimensions	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	●	○
Goal and targets	○	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	○
Leave no one behind	○	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	○	○	○	○	○
Institutional mechanisms	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●
MOI	○	●	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	●	○	○	●	○	●
Next steps	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	○	●	●	○	●
Statistical annex	○	○	○	○	○	●	○	●	○	○	○	○	●	●	○	●
Conclusion	○	●	●	●	○	●	○	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●

● The report addresses this component as instructed in the guidelines

○ The report addresses this component to some extent in this or another section of the report but does not fulfil the brief as laid out in the guidelines

○ The report does not address this component

Using the analysis of the country VNRs against the Secretary-General's guidelines summarised in the table above, the following key observations are made, along with recommendations for future revisions of the guidelines:

- Statement by Head of State or Government**  
 Only 4 out of 16 countries chose to include an **opening statement by a Head of State or Government**. These statements can be an impactful way to demonstrate a country's commitment and the profile it is giving to this agenda and their inclusion should become standard practice.
- Executive summary**  
 The inclusion of an executive summary is **vital for accessibility and broad dissemination**, especially at this important stage of sharing lessons on implementation. A well-structured summary can be a key tool to share essential findings from the reviews with other countries, key stakeholders and to raise awareness among the wider public.
- Methodology for review**  
 Many countries included some information on the process used to prepare their reports. The information provided was mixed in terms of quality and usefulness. **Countries should focus on sharing lessons learned and providing information that can support other countries in the preparation of their reports**, including: leadership and coordination mechanisms for the drafting process, data sources and collection methodology and involvement of stakeholders.
- Creating ownership**  
 Many countries highlighted raising awareness and creating ownership of the SDGs as a key challenge at the national level. Only half the countries reviewed included significant contributions on this component in their reviews. Going forward, **countries should be encouraged to share lessons learned, key initiatives and successes in creating ownership of the goals at the national level**, to support other countries in this endeavour. This should include key awareness raising initiatives by civil society and other actors.

- **Incorporation of SDGs in national frameworks**  
This was a key component in many of the reports at this early stage on implementation. This information can be useful in supporting other countries early in the implementation process to incorporate the SDGs into their own national frameworks.
- **Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development**  
This was highlighted as a key implementation challenge in many of the country reports. This is reflected in the assessment above as few countries addressed this component in their report, suggesting most countries did not know how to approach the issue. Going forward, **countries should be encouraged to share lessons learned, key initiatives and successes in this area.** Further guidance and support from the Secretary-General and the UN would be helpful in this regard.
- **Goals and targets**  
Only a few countries chose to review the status of goals and targets at the national level. This is not surprising at this stage in the implementation process, but this component is expected to become the main aspect of the reports going forward as assessments of progress against the goals and targets begin. **At this stage, information provided on the methodologies and outcomes of baseline and gap analyses that have been conducted can be highly valuable.**
- **Leave no one behind**  
**Leave no one behind** was emphasised by most as an important component of Agenda 2030, but was also highlighted as a challenge. Only a handful of countries chose to address the topic substantially in their reports. **To ensure that focus remains on the principle of leave no one behind going forward, meaningful reporting on progress to fulfil the pledge should be made a permanent feature of future reporting guidelines, underpinned by support and guidance from the Secretary-General and the UN.**
- **Institutional mechanisms**  
Many countries addressed this component in their reports and, like the section on the incorporation of SDGs into national frameworks, this section can provide **vital information and support for capacity and knowledge building at this early stage of implementation.**
- **Means of implementation**  
Only a handful of countries addressed this section and the content and quality was mixed. **Further guidance on how to approach this section would be useful to include in future guidelines,** especially as the content, approach and expectations will be different for developed and developing countries.
- **Next steps**  
A clear set of next steps that a country is committing to can be a useful tool for member states, stakeholders and citizens to track progress and hold governments to account. **The inclusion of next steps in both the main report and the executive summary should be encouraged.**
- **Statistical annex**  
Although few countries included a detailed statistical annex, many countries did address reporting, measurement and the assessment and development of national indicators to a significant degree in their reports from which key knowledge and lessons could be gleaned. **Future guidelines should provide a space for discussion of these topics as well as for the provision of statistical information where it is available.**
- **Governance**  
Governance did not feature in the Secretary-General's guidelines and few countries addressed it in their reports. **Governance and leadership arrangements would be a useful additional component to include in future revisions of the guidelines,** especially in the initial years of reporting.



## Initial steps towards implementation

As well as facilitating the assessment of progress towards achieving the SDGs, the Voluntary National Reviews are intended to be a tool for the sharing of knowledge and experiences of implementing the goals at the national level. This is particularly important at this early stage of implementation, when countries are still finding their feet.

To facilitate the sharing of best practice and lessons learned, this section summarises the main highlights from the 16 VNRs analysed, in terms of the initial measures countries are putting in place to implement the goals.

Key activities are summarised under the following thematic sections:

1. **Incorporation of the SDGs in national frameworks and policies**
2. **Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms for implementation**
3. **Efforts to conduct a baseline or gap analysis**
4. **Integration and policy coherence**
5. **Leave no one behind**
6. **Raising awareness and creating ownership of the SDGs**
7. **Stakeholder engagement in reporting and implementation**
8. **Measurement and reporting**

### 1. Incorporation of the SDGs in national frameworks and policies

In order to implement Agenda 2030 successfully, countries will need to integrate the SDGs into national plans, sector strategies, foreign policies and budgets.

This section provides an overview of country's initial efforts to integrate the SDGs into national legislation, policies and programmes, as well as any plans to develop dedicated national action plans for the SDGs. The analysis found that many countries will be adapting and updating existing national sustainable development strategies and policies to deliver the SDGs.

#### Key tools and activities:

- The majority of countries reviewed, including **Egypt, Finland, Germany and Montenegro**, intend to use their **national sustainable development strategies** to implement the SDGs, and have taken steps to **align existing objectives** with the goals.
- **Sierra Leone** has integrated the SDGs into the **national budget** and intends to produce a **National SDGs Investment Plan**, to be derived from a costed needs-based assessment.
- **Uganda** has developed and disseminated development planning guidelines for sectors and local governments to facilitate the **integration of the SDGs in sector and local government planning frameworks**.
- **China, Finland, France and the Philippines** all intend to develop dedicated **national implementation plans** for the delivery of Agenda 2030.

#### **China**

- Efforts have been made to **link the 2030 Agenda with domestic mid-and-long term development strategies** and China also intends to strengthen inter-sector policy coordination and revise relevant laws and regulations to provide policy and legislative guarantee for implementation of the SDGs.
- China will issue its **national plan for the implementation of Agenda 2030** this year.

#### **Egypt**

- The **national Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS): Egypt's Vision 2030**, launched in January 2016, serves as the national umbrella through which the SDGs will be implemented in Egypt.
- At the regional and global levels, the strategy aims to **align its objectives with those of the 2030 agenda and the African Union's Sustainable Development Strategy for 2063**. Efforts are also being made to identify the level of alignment between the Constitution, the SDS, and the SDGs at the level of goals, targets and key performance indicators.

- The Strategy is reflected in the Government programme for 2016-2018 and a **sustainable development plan** has been developed for the first year of SDS implementation. The strategy, midterm programme and annual plan were all approved by parliament earlier this year.
- Egypt's report states that a number of projects, programmes, and initiatives with the aim of localising the SDGs have been launched or are in the process of being initiated.

#### Civil society validity check

The report from Egyptian civil society questions the validity of the national sustainable development strategy, on the basis that it is not backed up with a concrete programme of action or means of implementation.

- The Commitment was updated in April 2016, with the aim of **aligning the national strategic sustainable development policy with Agenda 2030**.
- A **National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030** will be drawn up by the end of 2016. The Plan will establish a baseline and identify priorities, strengths, gaps and challenges. It will also define the key executors, determine tools and approaches for implementing an integrated agenda and define the division of labour and partnerships between the public, private and civil society actors in the work on implementation.

#### Civil society validity check

Surprisingly, considering Finland's established mechanisms to promote sustainable development, the report from Finnish civil society states that the main challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda in Finland will be integrating the principles and targets of sustainable development into all of the country's domestic policies and decision-making.

### Estonia

- It is expected that **the SDGs will be implemented though Estonia's existing sustainable development plan**, Sustainable Estonia 21, once a gap analysis has been completed in Autumn 2016 and recommendations are made regarding the renewal of the strategy and its implementation mechanisms. The existing Strategy has four main goals: viability of the Estonian cultural space, growth of welfare, coherent society and ecological balance.
- There is **no separate implementation plan** for Estonia's sustainable development strategy. Reaching the goals is achieved via various thematic development strategies and their implementation plans.

### Finland

- Finland's '**Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development**' is the main policy guiding the implementation of sustainable development at the national level and will be the **key tool for implementation of the SDGs** in Finland.
- The Commitment is not a government strategy but represents the vision of "the Finland we want by 2050" and provides a concise policy framework addressing thematic areas of sustainable development critical to Finland. The Commitment was **jointly negotiated with a broad-based group of societal actors** and comprises a vision, eight objectives and overarching principles.

### Germany

- The existing **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)** is the key framework for achieving the SDGs in Germany. Work on revising the Strategy in the light of Agenda 2030's ambition and goal structure should be complete by Autumn 2016.
- In preparing the new edition of its NSDS, the German Government is engaging with each individual SDG and defining the need for action relevant for Germany in that particular field. Particular emphasis has been placed on **addressing the three dimensions of sustainable development** – social, environmental and economic – in a balanced manner and on clearly outlining the **global impacts of national policies**.
- **For every SDG there will be at least one indicator-based political objective**. Not all targets and indicators will be reflected in the NSDS, partly because they not relevant in the German context and partly because Germany's own objectives and targets in some areas are further reaching and more ambitious.

## Montenegro

- Montenegro's **National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD)** sets the basis for monitoring the implementation of Agenda 2030 in the national context.
- In order to ensure that the NSSD was aligned with the SDGs, **Montenegro delayed the scheduled revision of the NSSD until after the agreement of Agenda 2030** and adapted the structure and content of the new Strategy, as well as the composition of the expert team, in order to respond to requirements of the SDGs. The report indicates that on average **78 per cent of the SDGs is carried over to the new Strategy**.
- After public consultations the new NSSD (2016-2030) was adopted in July 2016 and comprises: an assessment of the state of national capital; an overview of key unsustainable trends; strategic goals and measures up to 2030; recommendations for the establishment of a financing framework for sustainable development of Montenegro; and the NSSD Action Plan.
- The **NSSD Action Plan** establishes a set of measures, sub-measures and target outcomes, which translate the SDG targets and indicators into the national context. The Plan also proposes a system for monitoring the implementation of NSSD and reporting on progress, including indicators.
- In the period up to 2018, **sectoral policies will be harmonised with the NSSD and Agenda 2030**.

## Philippines

- The Philippines plan to integrate the SDGs into the **national Long Term Vision**, as well as the **Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022** and its accompanying Public Investment Program, yearly Budget Priorities Framework and various Subnational and sectoral Development Plans.
- The Philippines plan to formulate an **SDGs Implementation Roadmap** that will serve as the overall framework that guides government and other key stakeholders on the actions, resources, responsibilities and partnerships needed for the implementation of the SDGs.
- The Roadmap will include a **financial plan, data collection and methodology work plan, and a communications and advocacy plan**.

## Republic of Korea

- Republic of Korea's **Third Basic Plan for Sustainable Development 2016-2035** adopted in January 2016 constitutes a vital component of the country's

efforts to translate the SDGs into national policies and plans and is the **main tool for national SDGs implementation**.

- Republic of Korea's report also mentions a number of other acts, policies and plans that are relevant in the implementation of the SDGs. There are **plans to adjust the goals and tasks of existing policies and institutions to better fit the SDGs**, to further mainstream the SDGs into ministerial policies.

## Samoa

- The national **Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS)** will be the mechanism used to implement the SDGs.
- As part of the Mid Term Review of the SDS 2012-2016, Samoa conducted a preliminary **assessment of the Strategy against the SDGs**, providing an indicative overview of the level of alignment between SDS and the SDG targets.
- The findings from the assessment formed the basis for the development of the new SDS, which will run from 2016-2020 with the theme 'accelerating sustainable development and creating opportunities for all'.

## Sierra Leone

- To ensure coherent, harmonised and aligned national development efforts, the SDGs will be **implemented within the existing framework of national development plans**, namely the current poverty reduction strategy paper, the Agenda for Prosperity (2013-2018), and the National Ebola Recovery Strategy (2015-2017).
- As the current Chair of the G7+ countries, Sierra Leone is keen to give due consideration to the **New Deal for International Engagement in Fragile States** in the planning and implementation of the SDGs and is currently engaged in devising practical ways of using the principles of the New Deal in localising the SDGs in country.
- The SDGs constitute a major policy thrust in Sierra Leone's National Budget for 2016 Fiscal Year, with the **goals aligned to each spending category of the Budget**. In so doing, the Budget Statement has been able to start defining actors and their responsibilities for reporting on the SDGs within the government ministries, department and agencies competing for state resources and categorised under the various planned expenditure headings.
- Sierra Leone intends to produce a **National SDGs Investment Plan**, to be derived from a costed needs-based assessment.

 **Switzerland**

- In January 2016, the Federal Council adopted the **Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2016-19**, which underlines the need for sustainable development to be a coherent feature of all policy areas. The SDS is the **principal instrument for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda** in Switzerland.

 **Turkey**

- Turkey's highest-level national policy is the **National Development Plan (NDP)**, which sets all macro-level national policies and priorities. Turkey is currently in its tenth iteration of the NDP, which the Government has already assessed against the SDGs and determined that there is a **high level of consistency** between the two documents.
- There are intentions to **integrate the SDGs into the existing national policy-making processes**, including the 11th National Development Plan, which will run from 2019-2022, and to use the already established governmental structures.
- It appears that there are no plans to adjust the current NDP. **As an interim measure, the 2030 Agenda has been outlined in the 2016 Annual Programme**, a high-level policy document approved by the High Planning Council and the Council of Ministers. The Annual Programme follows the systematic guidance of the NDP and sets out the objectives and policies to be pursued in 2016.

 **Uganda**

- The formulation and agreement of Agenda 2030 coincided with the development of Uganda's **second National Development Plan (NDPII)**, which enabled the country to mainstream the SDGs and targets into the national planning frameworks. An assessment undertaken by the National Planning Authority has indicated that the **NDPII has integrated 69 per cent of SDGs**.
- NDPII (2015/16-2019/20) is the second in a series of six development plans to operationalise the Uganda Vision 2040 – the overall guiding framework on sustainable development and socioeconomic transformation for Uganda. The NDPII is Uganda's current medium term plan and the **national framework for implementing Agenda 2030**.
- To facilitate the **integration of the SDGs in sector and local government planning frameworks**, the Government has developed and disseminated development planning guidelines for sectors and local governments. Uganda also has a long term Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework, which provides a context within which to **localise Agenda 2030**.
- The Government states that it will **continue to prioritise the SDGs** in its subsequent five-year development plans.

## 2. Leadership, governance and institutional mechanisms for implementation

This section summarises the key institutional mechanisms and governance structures that countries have put in place to lead and coordinate national action to implement the SDGs.

The examples below demonstrate how countries have adapted existing sustainable development mechanisms, as well as instituted new ones, to deliver Agenda 2030. Countries' efforts to show leadership and cooperation at the regional level are also highlighted.

### Key tools and activities:

- In **Egypt, Finland, Germany and Sierra Leone** the promotion of sustainable development and implementation of the SDGs are guided by **leadership at the highest political level**.
- **China, Egypt, Norway and Sierra Leone** have all put in place **new mechanisms** to coordinate SDGs implementation and **the Philippines, the Republic of Korea and Uganda** have plans to do the same.
- **Estonia, Germany, Switzerland and Turkey** intend to use **existing sustainable development mechanisms** to deliver the SDGs.
- **Egypt and Finland** are both leading efforts at the **regional level** to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs.
- **Estonia, Finland and Germany** all have an existing **Commission or Council for Sustainable Development** that facilitates input from non-governmental actors.

### China

- A **domestic coordination mechanism**, comprising 43 government departments, has been established to deliver implementation.

### Egypt

- A **national committee to follow up on the implementation of the SDGs** has been established, with the mission to coordinate efforts toward the SDGs. The committee, which is **under the direct supervision of the Prime Minister**, is comprised of a number of Ministries and has the Ministry of International Cooperation as its rapporteur.
- A **Sustainable Development Unit** has already been established at the Ministry of Environment to foster the achievement of the Sustainable Development Strategy and the SDGs, with **emphasis on the environmental dimension**. Similar Units are currently being established within other line ministries, along with monitoring and evaluation units to support the monitoring of relevant programs and policies.

- There is still work to be done to embed the SDGs within the **national budgeting** process.
- At the regional level, Egypt is working through the African Union Commission and the UN to integrate the **implementation of both the African Union's Agenda 2063 and the SDGs**. Egypt hosted the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and has also organised a High Level Meeting to bring together the six African countries presenting their national reviews at the 2016 HLPF.

### Estonia

- At the central government level, the implementation and monitoring of sustainable development issues is coordinated by the **Government Office Strategy Unit**, which also coordinates Estonian competitiveness strategy, Estonia 2020, and drafts and monitors the Government Action Plan – helping to maintain coherence between main horizontal strategies. Estonia plans to use this mechanism to coordinate the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- Beneath the Government Office the main coordination mechanisms are the **Intra-Ministerial Sustainable Development Working Group**, comprised of representatives from all the ministries and the Statistics Estonia, as well as Estonia's **Commission for Sustainable Development**, which is composed of NGOs covering the different fields of sustainable development. The Commission discusses drafts of sustainable development related strategic action plans before they are adopted by Government and publishes focus reports with policy recommendations.
- **Local municipalities** apply the main principles of sustainable development through the action plans and local legislation adopted during the processes related to Agenda 21.

### Finland

- The **Prime Minister's Office is in charge of coordinating the national implementation work** and drawing up the national plan. The Office acts as the **Coordination Secretariat**, which includes representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the **Ministry for Foreign Affairs** and the **National Commission on Sustainable Development**.



- The Coordination Secretariat functions as an operational hub for Agenda 2030, and it works closely with the **Coordination Network**, which has been established for 20 years and comprises focal points from all government ministries and the Finnish Development Policy Committee.
- The ministries are the key executors of Agenda 2030 through their sectoral programmes, strategies, legislation and implementation of international agreements and commitments. The report emphasises that while the Finnish Government has the primary responsibility for SDGs implementation, **civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders** have an integral role in this endeavour.
- In early 2016, a **Working Group**, engaging members from the National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Finnish Development Policy Committee, was set up to develop **new tools and governance models** to enhance the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- The report emphasises that **Members of Parliament and Parliament** itself will play a key role in the national and global implementation of the Agenda 2030 and in monitoring its progress. The aim is for the various Parliamentary committees to take a holistic approach to considering Agenda 2030. Parliament is also responsible for **budgeting sufficient funds** for the implementation of the Agenda.
- As part of Finland's presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2016, the potential for Nordic cooperation in Agenda 2030 implementation will be mapped and the results used as input to prepare a **Nordic Programme on Agenda 2030 implementation**.
- Like Germany, Finland's national report emphasises that national implementation should include consideration of areas where **domestic policy has an impact abroad**, as well as national measures to achieve the SDGs for the benefit of other countries and for global sustainability (see box 1).
- The integrated nature of the SDGs means that responsibility for each individual SDG is not vested in any one ministry, but that **all ministries affected by an SDG must work together**, and produce joint proposals on ways of achieving the goal.
- The **key principles of intergenerational equity, quality of life, social cohesion and international responsibility** are used to guide the national sustainability policy.
- Since the inception of the NSDS, a national **sustainability management system** has been developed consisting of a number of procedures, bodies and instruments designed to guarantee that the guiding principle of sustainable development is applied throughout the work of the government.
- The **State Secretaries' Committee for Sustainable Development** steers implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy and oversees the updating of its content. It comprises representatives from all the ministries and is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery.
- The **Parliamentary Advisory Council on Sustainable Development** raises policy-related sustainability concerns in parliament and formally reviews whether the sustainability impact assessment of draft legislation has been conducted in a plausible manner. These impact assessments are used to examine every item of draft legislation proposed by the government against the objectives, indicators and regulations laid out in the NSDS for the impacts they can be expected to have on sustainable development.
- The **German Council for Sustainable Development**, an independent advisory panel consisting of 15 figures of public life representing the economic, environmental and social aspects of sustainable development in its national and international dimensions, advises the Government on all issues related to sustainable development and fosters dialogue on sustainability within society.
- In Germany's federal system, the federal states and local authorities are responsible for making and enforcing laws in important areas relating to sustainable development. **Two thirds of all federal states already have their own sustainability strategies** or are in the process of producing one. Regular meetings are held between federal and state governments to share experiences.
- Finally, with its programme of measures for sustainability the **federal administration has also taken steps to align its own actions with sustainable development**, for example through construction and facility management, procurement, and efforts to achieve a healthy work-life balance.

## Germany

- Due to sustainable development's high political significance and crosscutting approach, the **Federal Chancellery is the lead agency** for the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS). All government departments have the primary responsibility for their own contributions to implementing the NSDS and Agenda 2030 in their respective policy fields.

### Box 1: Universality in action – Implementing Agenda 2030 at three levels in Germany

Reflecting the universality of Agenda 2030 – and recognising that worldwide sustainable development can only be achieved if every country takes steps that benefit not only its own nation, but the entire global community – Germany is considering its involvement in terms of impacts at three levels:

1. **Implementation and impacts in Germany.** This level focuses on identifying and addressing national challenges, such as achieving gender equality, protecting biodiversity and achieving an energy transition.
2. **Impacts in other countries and on global public goods.** This level focuses on identifying measures that require action in Germany while at the same time contributing to global wellbeing, such as trade, sustainable consumption and production or climate policy.
3. **Supporting other countries through international cooperation.** Germany will maintain and further strengthen its existing development cooperation commitments to support other countries in their efforts to implement the SDGs.

In its Voluntary National Review, Germany has identified measures for achieving each of the SDGs at each of the three levels, outlining a comprehensive approach to delivering the Agenda in its entirety and recognising that impacts at home and worldwide can't be considered in isolation. Through this approach Germany is taking care to ensure that implementation is ambitious both domestically and in terms of Germany's international responsibility. This approach is supported by civil society in their shadow reports.

- The report honestly identifies a number of issues with the current institutional framework for delivering sustainable development, for example, it highlights that despite the definition of development priorities, in most cases there are **no permanent coordination structures** to monitor the implementation of strategic documents, and no secured sources of finance.
- Recognising that no sector offers adequate institutional capacity for the implementation of sustainable development, the report **recommends the establishment of a Sustainable Development Office or other suitable body within the Prime Minister cabinet.** It also suggests that at least one full-time employee should be hired to work on sustainable development tasks in the context of the implementation of the NSSD in all ministries and local governments.
- The report recommends that the **National Council for Sustainable Development is strengthened** at both the political level, by reinforcing the capacities of its expert bodies, and at the administrative level, by improving inter-sectorial cooperation and the activity of the Sustainable Development Coordination body.
- Furthermore, one of the strategic objectives under the NSSD is to **reform the governance system for sustainable development** by: strengthening environmental governance, reforming the institutional organisation, establishing a system of monitoring that incorporates the SDGs and establishing a long-term sustainable development funding system.

### Norway

- **Norway** has given **responsibility for each of the 17 SDGs to a coordinating ministry**, which will consult with other ministries involved in the implementation of various targets. Each ministry will report on the status of follow-up for its respective goal(s) in its budget proposal.
- The proposals will then be summarised by the Ministry of Finance in the national budget white paper and presented to the Storting (Norwegian Parliament) annually, along with the state budget. This ensures **annual reporting on the follow-up of the SDGs to the Storting** through the well-established political mechanism of the **budget process**.
- The **indigenous peoples' assembly, the Sámediggi** (Sami Parliament), will be involved through dialogue with the line ministries and formal consultation mechanisms. The Government will also make use of existing mechanisms for cooperation with **local and regional authorities** and other key stakeholders.

### Montenegro

- Montenegro's **National Council for Sustainable Development** is an advisory body to the Government with the aim of strengthening the capacity to implement sustainable development policies. The Council is chaired by the **President of the State** and has a non-governmental representative as its deputy president. The Council has a number of expert working groups.
- The **Ministry for Environment Protection** has overall responsibility for the implementation of sustainable development policy.

 **Philippines**

- While several mechanisms exist for the implementation of the MDGs, it is unclear whether or how these will be adapted for the SDGs.
- There is recognition that the SDGs will require the participation of all key government agencies and that a centralised coordinating and reporting mechanism should be put in place. The creation of a dedicated **Special Committee on the SDGs has been proposed** to spearhead the national implementation of the SDGs. The proposed Committee would have oversight of the House of Representatives in attaining the SDGs and be composed of the heads of the various concerned national government agencies with the Socioeconomic Planning Secretary as the Chair.
- At the subnational level, the Subnational Offices of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in one region have passed a resolution requesting for the establishment of an operational and **integrated mechanism within NEDA for the localisation of the SDGs**. The resolution also calls for the NEDA Central Office to ensure a participative process by involving the **Regional and Subnational Development Councils** in SDG-related activities.

 **Republic of Korea**

- The **Commission on Sustainable Development**, under the Ministry of Environment, plays an advisory role in shaping the policies and plans for national sustainable development. The Commission’s role includes **integrating economic, social and environmental policies**, planning and implementing international conventions on sustainable development and the environment, including Agenda 2030 and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- At the local level, **Local Councils for Sustainable Development (LCSDs)**, using a model of public sector–civil society partnership, have been working to advance sustainable development for the last 20 years. They are now aligning existing local level projects to the SDGs.
- The **Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea**, a nation-wide network of LCSDs, has been a vital institutional platform to ensure the participation of LCSDs in policy dialogues for the SDGs at the national level.
- In addition to utilising the existing mechanisms above, there are plans to accelerate discussions on establishing a **coordinating mechanism for SDGs implementation**.

 **Box 2: SDG governance in Sierra Leone**

Sierra Leone was the only country reviewed to directly address the national governance structures that have been put in place for SDGs implementation in their National Voluntary Review. The structure proposed includes:

- A **Presidential Board** at the highest policy and political level to provide the overall policy and strategic guidance.
- A **Ministerial Committee** that will provide operational guidance across line government ministries, departments and agencies, at the central and local level, and across CSOs, NGOs, the private sector, the media, the research community and academia.

- The existing **Pillar Working Groups of the Agenda for Prosperity**, Sierra Leone’s current poverty reduction strategy. The working groups will be modified to capture technical follow-ups and reporting on the SDGs within the Pillars, drawing on actors from the public sector and non-state institutions.

**Presidential Body on SDGs**

Office of the President / OGI / OGP / SPU  
 Ministry of Finance and Economic Development  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
 Ministry of Information and Communication  
 United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office

**Ministerial Steering Committee on SDGs**

Ministry of Finance and Economic Development  
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
 Sierra Leone Environmental Protection Agency  
 Statistics Sierra Leone  
 Civil Society and Private Sector Representatives

**Agenda for Prosperity Pillar Working Groups**

<b>Group 1</b> SDG 7, 8, 9	<b>Group 2</b> SDG 11-15	<b>Group 3</b> SDG 3-6, 11	<b>Group 4</b> SDG 7, 8, 9	<b>Group 5</b> SDG 7, 8, 9	<b>Group 6</b> SDG 1, 2, 10	<b>Group 7</b> SDG 16	<b>Group 8</b> SDG 5
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SDG 17 corresponds to Parts 4 and 5 of the A4P on capacity development for implementation of strategies

## Switzerland

- Political responsibility for the national Sustainable Development Strategy lies with the **Federal Council**. Implementation of the SDS in domestic policy is coordinated by the **Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC)**, which comprises representatives of all federal offices whose activities are of relevance to sustainable development.
- An **inter-ministerial task force** coordinated international processes and negotiations directly relating to the 2030 Agenda and has handled coordination within the Federal Administration. It is currently composed of 16 federal offices that deal at the sectoral policy or general level with sustainable development issues in foreign policy.
- With regard to the sectoral international policies such as climate change, biodiversity or health, each federal office has the responsibility to coordinate its international engagement with other ministries concerned to ensure coherence and orientation towards sustainable development.
- Within a “transition phase” from 2016 to 2017 a **temporary inter-ministerial working group** comprising representatives active at both national and international level is managing work to: clarify institutional arrangements for implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda; conduct a baseline and gap analysis; and ensure adequate monitoring and reporting.

### Civil society validity check

The report from Swiss civil society highlights that while an interministerial working group has been established to lead work on Agenda 2030, no additional personnel or financial resources have been allocated to support this.

## Turkey

- The **Ministry of Development (MoD)** is responsible for **coordinating the implementation** of the SDGs and promotion of sustainable development at the national level.
- Within the Ministry, a **Task Force** composed of relevant experts, has been assigned to integrate SDGs into public policy documents at all levels, including National development Plans, regional plans, annual programmes, and sectoral strategies.
- The **National Sustainable Development Commission (NSDC)** will serve as the central political body in the follow-up and review process of SDGs and will provide periodical reporting to the High Planning Council, Cabinet and Turkish Grand National Assembly.
- The Turkish Government plans to extend the role of the existing Commission by increasing the number of members, with the purpose of creating an integrated and holistic approach to the different drivers and aspects of the SDGs.

## Uganda

- The **National Coordination Policy** will guide the coordination framework on SDGs in addition to other government programmes.
- The report **proposes an SDGs coordination framework** that will include an **SDGs Policy Coordination Committee** to provide policy guidance and direction and review implementation; an **SDGs Implementation Steering Committee** to review progress and make recommendations an **SDGs National Task Force** and **five SDGs Technical Working Groups** on coordination and monitoring, data, planning, communication and advocacy and finance.



### 3. Efforts to conduct a baseline or gap analysis

In order to accurately assess progress towards the goals and to identify key priorities for action, it is necessary to first establish a baseline depicting the current national situation. Comparative and gap analyses can also provide useful information on weaknesses and challenges for implementation, including gaps in the existing strategies and policy measures.

10 of the 16 countries reviewed have conducted some kind of mapping and gap analysis, with a handful going further and beginning to establish baseline levels and national targets. The key activities are summarised below.

#### Key tools and activities:

- **Egypt, Philippines, Samoa, Sierra Leone and Turkey** have all analysed the **alignment of the SDGs and their existing national sustainable development strategies**.
- **Estonia, the Republic of Korea and Sierra Leone** have also taken steps to **map existing policy measures against the SDGs**.
- **Finland and Norway** have both identified national **weaknesses and challenges for the implementation** of Agenda 2030.
- **Georgia and Sierra Leone** have both begun to **set national targets and establish baselines** against national indicators.
- **Switzerland and Turkey** both intend to conduct **future baseline and gap analyses** in order to identify priority areas for action.

aligned to some degree to the SDG targets, are not quantified in the way that the SDG targets are, reducing their measurability.

- It appears that some baseline analysis has been done in order to set targets under the national SDS.

#### Estonia

- A **preliminary gap analysis comparing the SDGs and a mapping of policy measures** was initiated in spring 2016 and was used as a relevant input for the voluntary review.
- According to the report the comparative analysis showed that the Estonian government and non-governmental sector are already implementing measures and taking actions in the fields of all 17 SDGs. The report states that some targets are covered partially or via international cooperation, suggesting that **there are still gaps at the domestic level**. The analysis identified only few targets that are not covered by any actions, including combating desertification and protecting ecosystems in mountains.
- An intra-ministerial sustainable development working group, including a representative of Statistics Estonia, took part in drawing up this analysis. The main purpose was to identify the goals and targets where the Government has no existing goals or measures.
- To conduct the review, first the coverage of goals and targets in the government's central planning documents – The Government's action programme for 2015-2019; the State Budget Strategy 2016-2020; Estonia's plan for competitiveness, Estonia 2020; and the Estonian National Strategy for Sustainable Development Sustainable, Estonia 21 – were analysed. When measures regarding the targets were not found in these horizontal strategy documents, the analysis was continued on the sectoral development plans adopted by the Government.
- The report includes a **discussion of this current status and existing measures and activities under each of the 17 goals**, including baseline figures and 2019 targets for relevant existing national indicators.

#### Egypt

- Egypt have conducted an **initial screening of the SDGs against the Egyptian Constitution and national Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS)**: Egypt's Vision 2030, finding that they are broadly aligned and all SDGs are covered under these mechanisms.
- Without looking in detail at the SDS the validity of this claim is hard to judge. However it seems a stretch that all SDG targets are covered and that the SDS will facilitate the integrated implementation that is intended with the SDGs – Goals 13 on climate change, 14 on oceans and 15 on ecosystems are all lumped under the 'environment' pillar of the national strategy for example, potentially ignoring their social and economic relevance.
- Furthermore, the comparison that is presented for some SDGs – for example Goal 1 on poverty – shows that the strategic goals under the SDS, although



 **Finland**

- To guide the preparation of the National Plan to implement Agenda 2030, the **Prime Minister's Office asked all line Ministries to identify existing policies, measures, activities and budgets covering 17 goals and 169 targets**. The mapping also served as a means to make all ministries familiar with the whole agenda and draw attention away from silos.
- The results of the mapping provided the basis for a more **comprehensive gap analysis** looking at Finland's readiness to implement the global 2030 Agenda. The **independent analysis**, which began in March 2016, was carried out jointly by the Finnish Environment Institute and the think tank, Demos Helsinki, and **ensured the participation of various stakeholders**, including members of the National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee.
- The objective of the analysis was to draw a **baseline for implementation** and to identify goals and targets requiring most improvement in Finland, as well as those where Finland can lead the way in implementation and share its expertise.
- The analysis uses international index- and indicator-based comparisons – including the Preliminary Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Index - as well as OECD databases, to assess Finland's position globally and in relation to Finland's peer-countries.
- Two workshops were also held with stakeholder groups and experts on sustainable development and indicators to gather their view on Finland's strengths and weaknesses.
- Preliminary results from the gap analysis highlight education (Goal 4) and societal stability (Goal 16) as **key strengths**, while climate change and use of natural resources (Goals 12 and 13) as well as economic development and employment trends (Goal 8) were recognised as Finland's **weaknesses**.
- The results of the **gap-analysis will provide guidance on which issues to focus on** during the first years of implementation. National relevance and urgency will be the key drivers for early implementation in Finland. At the same time, Finland aims to ensure that the whole Agenda 2030 will be addressed in the next 15 years.
- The report emphasises that the preliminary findings are observations from an independent team of researchers and a participatory political process will have to take place before decisions are made on how the goals and targets will be phased as part of the preparations for the National Plan to implement Agenda 2030.

 **Georgia**

- Georgia has taken steps to prioritise goals and targets at the national level generating **a set of nationalised sustainable development goals, targets and indicators**.
- As a first stage the Government held **high-level intra-governmental consultations involving all ministries and agencies**. **Technical working groups** have also been established to discuss the relevant SDGs in the areas of Human Rights and Gender Equality, Social Inclusion, Economic Growth and Environment Protection.
- The work on the review coincided with the end of many of Georgia's strategic documents and, whenever possible, final assessments concerning the impact of the expiring strategic programmes were fed into the baseline for SDGs review, drawing on the lessons learned during their implementation.
- **14 out of 17 SDGs have been identified as national priorities along with 88 global targets** and are presented in an annex to the report along with matching Georgia adjusted targets where the wording of the targets have been adjusted to suit Georgia's specific needs.
- The nationalisation of the goals and targets raises some **concerns about a 'pick and choose' approach** to the implementation of the SDGs. The goals on water and sanitation, oceans and means of implementation are excluded from the prioritisation altogether, while only one or two targets under each of the goals on sustainable consumption and production, climate change and ecosystems have been retained. Furthermore, the rewording of the targets appears in some cases to lower the ambition.
- During the subsequent consultations, experts from the line ministries have worked with international experts (mostly through the various UN agencies in Georgia, led by UNDP) to define verifiable indicators for tracking the progress towards these targets.
- A baseline has been fixed for each target, along with complementary national indicators and quantitative projections for 2030. An excerpt from this work is included in the report. The full set of **baselines, complementary national indicators and quantitative projections for 2030 will be published following consultations with civil society organisations and academia**.

 **Norway**

- An **inter-ministerial contact group led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has analysed the SDGs** and considered the potential consequences and challenges for foreign and domestic policies.
- **The Government has identified a number of targets that pose particular challenges for domestic follow-up in Norway.** These challenges relate to several of the SDGs and all three dimensions of sustainable development. They include: Reducing non-communicable diseases and promoting mental health; Increasing high-school completion rates; Eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls; Reducing the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training; Ensuring sustainable infrastructure; Sustaining income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average; Improving urban air quality; Halving food waste and reducing waste generation; Reducing the impact of invasive alien species; Reducing all forms of violence and related death rates and combating organised crime; sustainable natural resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation, with a particular focus on oceans and the marine environment.
- For the report, **each coordinating ministry provided input on their respective goal area**, identifying targets that have already been met domestically and key priorities both domestically and internationally. These are summarised in the 'goals and targets' section of the report.

 **Philippines**

- **The Government have conducted a high-level assessment of the alignment of the SDGs with the existing national long-term vision.**
- According to the report the assessment found that the two agendas match well in general, however most **environment and equality goals** (5 on gender equality, 10 on reducing inequalities, and goals 13-15 on climate change, oceans and ecosystems) **are missing from the brief overview** of alignment provided in the report, suggesting that these are not priority areas of the national long-term vision.

 **Republic of Korea**

- **The Republic of Korea have started mapping exercises** to identify existing laws, rules, regulations and policies conducive to achieving the SDGs. Based upon the results, the Government will identify the targets that are most relevant in the national context.

 **Samoa**

- As part of the Mid Term Review of the Strategy for the Development of Samoa (SDS) 2012-2016, **Samoa conducted a preliminary assessment of the SDS against the SDGs**, which provides an indicative overview of the level of alignment between SDS and the SDG targets.
- The assessment found that the SDS was generally aligned to the SDGs but **goals 11 and 12 were identified as gaps** that require further attention, particularly the development of appropriate targets and indicators.
- The findings from the assessment formed the basis for the development of the next SDS, which will run from 2016-2020.

 **Sierra Leone**

- In March 2016, **the Head of Civil Service and Secretary to Cabinet requested that all government ministries, departments and agencies submit existing sectoral policies and their alignment to the SDGs**, with a view to determining gaps in policy orientation towards the new global agenda.
- The report also presents analysis of the correlation between the SDGs and Sierra Leone's development priorities as defined in the country's current poverty reduction strategy, the Agenda for Prosperity, which sets the baseline for achieving Sierra Leone's Vision 2035 of becoming a middle income country.
- **A set of indicators for the country has been drafted and provisional baselines and targets for 2020, 2025 and 2030 have been set for 56 indicators.** There are plans to finalise the baselines and targets following further validation and agreement among stakeholders.
- **This will be followed by a comprehensive needs-based assessment to inform the preparation of an SDGs Investment Plan for the country**, which will determine the resources required to achieve targets by 2030.

 **Turkey**

- After the adoption of the SDGs, **the Government of Turkey conducted a rapid screening of the current Development Plan (2014-2018) looking at the consistency with SDGs.** The report states that a high degree of consistency was found.

## 4. Integration and policy coherence

Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development was highlighted as a key implementation challenge in many of the country reports. Only a handful of countries included a section on integration in their reports, despite it being a recommended component in the Secretary-General's guidelines. Fewer still discussed policy coherence for sustainable development.

The fact that few countries addressed these issues in their reports suggests that they do not know how to tackle integration in implementation or in their reporting. The integration of the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and the realisation of the interlinkages between the goals and targets is one of the key transformational aspects of the SDGs which sets them apart from MDGs. Countries need to be encouraged and supported to share best practice and lessons learned from their experiences facilitating integration and policy coherence through their country reports in order to build capacity in this area and achieve comprehensive and balanced implementation of Agenda 2030.

Highlights from the country reports are summarised below.

### Key tools and activities:

- **Germany** and **Switzerland** both treat sustainable development as an **overarching goal or regulatory concept** to which all policies and activities are to be aligned.
- **Finland** and **Montenegro** both use **composite indicators** to provide a comprehensive view of sustainable development.
- **Finland** and **Uganda** both highlight the **role of stakeholders in Policy Coherence for Sustainable development**, promoting a multi-stakeholder approach and emphasising the need to coordinate relevant stakeholders around particular SDGs to ensure harmonised implementation.
- **Finland** and **Montenegro** both have **coordination bodies** to promote policy coherence and inter-sectorial cooperation.

### Finland

- Their report names the **integration** of the social, environmental and economic dimensions of sustainable development as **one of the country's fundamental objectives**. Integration at the national level has been facilitated by developing integrative concepts, tools and indicators, as well as by establishing comprehensive national strategies and inclusive multi-stakeholder forums to ensure policy coherence.

- Indicators have been one of Finland's key integration tools in the monitoring and assessment of sustainable development and their national collection of sustainability indicators seek to provide a balanced picture of the three dimensions of sustainable development. Finland has also promoted the use of **composite indicators** to provide an overall assessment of sustainable development, while facilitating itemised analysis based on various dimensions.
- Finland's report was **one of the few to explicitly mention policy coherence for sustainable development**. The **inter-ministerial Coordination Network** is the key mechanism to ensure policy coherence at the national level. It prepares, develops and coordinates sustainable development efforts in Finland, with the objective of increasing policy coherence and mainstreaming sustainable development as part of Government policy. The Network ensures that all dimensions and aspects of sustainable development are taken into consideration in the implementation.
- Finland has also made **efforts to strengthen policy coherence since the adoption of Agenda 2030**. In January 2016, the coordinating secretariat of the National Commission on Sustainable Development was transferred from the Ministry of the Environment to the Prime Minister's Office to highlight the equitable and integrative implementation of the various dimensions of sustainable development in Finland during the Agenda 2030 era. The collaboration between the Commission and the Development Policy Committee is also being intensified through joint meetings, workshops and discussion papers.
- Despite these steps, the report acknowledges that integrating the various dimensions of sustainable development and understanding the relationships between various goals are still **challenges that require the creation of a new mindset. Approaches for implementing an integrated agenda will be included in the country's SDGs implementation plan**.
- In addition to integration of the three dimensions Finland's report also highlights the need to consider **policy coherence in the context of where domestic policy has an impact abroad**.

## Montenegro

- Montenegro identifies integration as a challenge for the country and states that the **integration of environmental issues and sustainable use of natural resources continues to significantly lag behind**. Behind this is the issue that the preservation of the environment is still not perceived as a precondition for a long-term sustainable economic growth and development.
- To tackle integration they have started to introduce 10 complex indicators to provide a comprehensive view of sustainable development of Montenegro. These are: **ecological footprint (EF), the Human Development Index (HDI), Gender inequality Index (GII), Domestic material consumption (DMC), resource productivity (RP), land consumption (LC), the social progress Index (SPI), the genuine progress indicator (GPI), the environmental democracy Index (EDI) and the environmental performance Index (EPI)**.
- Inter-sectoral cooperation will also be strengthened through the activities of their **Sustainable Development Coordination body**.

### Civil society validity check

While Switzerland's country report demonstrates seemingly strong integration and coordination mechanisms for sustainable development, this is challenged by the civil society report by Alliance Sud – Swiss Alliance of Development Organizations. The report does verify that the concept of sustainability is already well enshrined in the Swiss legal framework and that the Federal Act on the Federal Assembly requires the Federal Council to clarify "the consequences for the economy, society, the environment and future generations" in its dispatches on bills. However, Alliance Sud's report highlights that the Federal Council has not initiated such 'future generation impact assessments' for most bills. In light of the 2030 Agenda, Alliance Sud advocates for Parliament and civil society to call for the consistent application of this provision for all future affairs.

The report also emphasises that Switzerland does not have a President or Prime Minister's office that could integrate and monitor the implementation of 2030 Agenda in a top-down manner. Currently, successful implementation therefore relies on every ministry to actively acknowledge the Agenda, identify relevant interventions needed, and initiate respective measures in a politically coherent way. Some sort of central secretariat with oversight of the federal departments and offices is therefore urgently needed.

## Switzerland

- In Switzerland, **sustainable development is treated as an overarching regulatory concept to which all areas of policy are to be aligned** and a priority is to factor sustainable development principles into all levels of government and to integrate sustainable development as far as possible into regular planning and control processes. Consultation and coordination processes will be used to examine the Confederation's initiatives in specific sectors to ensure that they are congruent with sustainable development.
- The review highlights **integration and interlinkages as key concerns** and states that the Swiss Confederation is taking steps to integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development in all relevant policies and strategies in a balanced way, both at the domestic and international level, providing examples. **Important policy decisions must be based on proposals whose economic, social and environmental impacts are evaluated transparently** at an early stage in order to optimise state action.
- The importance of **strengthening policy coherence for sustainable development** at all levels is mentioned and the report states that the existing mechanisms for fostering PCSD at the federal level will be strengthened.

## Uganda

- Uganda's report states that the **inter-linkedness and multi-sectoral nature of the SDGs presents a planning challenge**, as general practice in Uganda is that sectors operate vertically according to their mandate and there is often minimal effort to harness interlinkages horizontally across sectors.
- However, the report recognises that **sector silo approaches to development are no longer tenable** and highlights the need for the National Planning Authority to strengthen its capacity to facilitate integrated development planning across the SDGs.
- The report discusses the development of **multi-sectoral action plans** or strategies to rally implementing stakeholders, map out key milestones, reduce duplication and increase effectiveness of implementation. The National Planning Authority will act as a clearing house through which SDGs interventions will be coordinated to ensure that stakeholder's plans are synchronised.
- To **break down silos** the Government is also shifting from output based budgeting to programme based budgeting.
- **Enhancing multi-sectoral implementation planning and coordination** of SDGs is listed as one of the country's next steps.



## 5. Leave no one behind

The commitment to 'leave no one behind', encompassing the idea that no goal should be met unless it is met for everyone, has been a key feature of the discussions on the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs.

As such, 'Ensuring that no one is left behind' was the theme for this year's HLPF and analysis of progress and initiatives relating to the theme was one of the suggested inclusions put forward in the Secretary General's proposal for voluntary common reporting guidelines.

13 out of the 16 country reports considered mentioned 'leave no one behind' at least once. The majority of these, however, did not go into detail about existing inclusive approaches or how the principle might be achieved in the implementation of the SDGs.

The exceptions were **Egypt, Finland, Germany, the Republic of Korea and Uganda**, which all included dedicated 'leave no one behind' sections in their reports. Some highlights from the reports are summarised below.

### Key tools and activities:

- **Georgia, Germany, Mexico, Samoa, Sierra Leone, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea** have all highlighted **disaggregated data** as a key element for identifying the impacts of the complex SDG targets on all sections of the population.
- **Egypt, Finland, the Republic of Korea and Uganda** all shared examples of existing national programmes and initiatives focused on targeting the vulnerable and tackling inequality.
- **Uganda** stressed that leaving no one behind requires not only a targeted focus on the most vulnerable but more emphasis on **participation**. In line with this, **Finland** has committed to considering **new modes for interacting with vulnerable and marginalised groups** as part of its National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030.

### Egypt

- Egypt's sustainable development plan and budget for FY 2016/2017 are primarily focused on achieving **inclusive economic growth, enhancing social justice, and increasing employment rates**, particularly among young people.
- The report highlights a number of national initiatives taking place in the areas of women, children, youth, persons with disabilities and refugees.
- Sectoral projects being launched to support the SDGs will **target those most in need** as a priority, especially youth; women, individuals with special needs; and individuals in underserved areas.

### Finland

- The Prime Minister's Government Programme has recognised **increasing inequality** between regions and people, **youth and long-term unemployment** and **inherited disadvantage as Finland's weaknesses**.
- Finland's voluntary review shares a **number of national projects already in place** or to be implemented to tackle these issues including: 'Career opportunities for people with partial working ability', which will simplify the social security system in order to incentivise the employment of people with partial working ability or disabilities; and 'Fostering health and wellbeing and reducing inequality', which includes measures such as the joint implementation of good practices and operating models that promote health and wellbeing.
- Representatives of **minorities and children and young people will be actively consulted** during the preparation of the national implementation plan of Agenda 2030. The Non-Discrimination Ombudsman and the Ombudsman for Children in Finland will also be consulted.
- The review highlights reaching out to communities, children and youth, people with disabilities and migrants as a particular challenge. **New modes for interacting** with these groups will be considered as part of the process of designing the National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030 in the course of 2016.

### Germany

- At the national level, the **General Act on Equal Treatment** is the key framework that will be used to implement leave no one behind. The Act aims to **prevent and eliminate the disadvantaging of individuals** as a result of their ethnic background, gender, religion or worldview, disability, age or sexual identity. Individuals affected can also seek information and support from various sources including the independent Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency.
- **Gender equality is identified as one of the central challenges for Germany**. A second Gender Equality Report will be published in 2017 and will guide Germany's gender equality policy going forward.





### Republic of Korea

- All government policies and plans are designed and implemented with attention to the principle of **universal application of benefits to all**, supporting the principle of 'leave no one behind'.
- The country's Three Year Plan for Economic Innovation focuses on **strengthening the social safety net for those who risk being left behind** in the process of economic innovation and includes activities to encourage women's participation in economic activities, as well as increase employment opportunities for youth.
- The report also highlights a **number of existing initiatives to support inclusion**, including domestic policies on gender equality, youth unemployment, the aging population, and disabilities; as well as internationally focused policies on humanitarian assistance and financial inclusion.



### Uganda

- The Government of Uganda has commenced implementation of a range of **new social programmes based on enhanced targeting capabilities with the aim of ensuring that no one is left behind**. These include: Operation Wealth Creation; Universal Primary and Secondary Education; the Youth Livelihood Program; the Higher Education Students Loan Scheme; the Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment for the elderly; the Legal Aid Programme, the Women Entrepreneurship Program; Community Tree Planting Project; and the Skilling Uganda Program.
- In addition to the above, the report highlights inclusive programming initiatives in the areas of climate change, green growth and sustainable energy for all, recognising the **impact of the environmental dimension on vulnerability and marginalisation**.
- The Ugandan Parliament has a key role in ensuring that all policies, programs, and budgets are inclusive and equitable.
- The report emphasises that leaving no one behind requires not only a targeted focus on the most vulnerable but **more emphasis on participation and concerted efforts to build partnerships** between government, civil society, private sectors to ensure that programmes are successfully implemented,

## 6. Raising awareness and creating ownership of the SDGs

Many countries cited raising awareness and ownership of the SDGs among the general public, and engaging society in action, as a huge challenge in delivering Agenda 2030.

In the voluntary guidelines the Secretary-General recommended that countries include in their national reviews a section on efforts made towards informing and involving all stakeholders in the SDGs. The majority of countries (11 out of 16) addressed activities to increase ownership and awareness to some degree in their reports. The highlights are summarised below.

### Key tools and activities:

- Both **the Republic of Korea** and **Norway** have recommended including content on the SDGs as a part of the **school curriculums and textbooks** to reach out to children and the youth.
- **Finland, the Philippines** and **Uganda** all plan to develop **communication plans** to raise awareness of the goals among the public.
- **Estonia, Finland** and **Uganda** have all held **launch events** to introduce Agenda 2030 to government, stakeholders and the general public.
- **The Philippines** and **Uganda** have both used **radio** to raise awareness of the goals and plan to appoint **SDGs ambassadors or champions**.
- **Montenegro** and **Uganda** both discussed using their **voluntary review as an awareness-raising tool** at the national level.

### Estonia

- **A conference introducing Agenda 2030** to the wider public was organized in November 2015, where The Minister of the Environment, Minister for Foreign Affairs and other high-level officials, representatives from companies and civil society introduced the SDGs and discussed possibilities for implementing the goals using the example of the goal on sustainable consumption and production.
- The report also highlights that the **EU Sustainable Development Week** can also be used as a platform for increasing awareness and ownership of the Agenda.

### Box 3: Innovative approaches to creating ownership in Finland through the 'Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development'

Finland's 'Society's Commitment to sustainable development' is an innovative partnership model that aims to make sustainable development tangible, boost ownership and involve as many new actors as possible in concrete action and innovative solutions on sustainable development. It is not a Government Strategy but represents the views of a broad-based group of societal actors in Finland on what should be the key national objectives and thematic areas with respect to sustainable development.

First developed in 2013, the Commitment was updated in April 2016 to better correspond to the principles, Goals and targets of the global Agenda 2030, following extensive participation by the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, an expert panel and the coordination network between ministries.

On the basis of the Commitment, which comprises a concise vision, key principles and eight integrated objectives, the member bodies of the Commission and an increasing number of societal actors are making their own action-oriented operational commitments, drawing up their own definition on the content and implementation of sustainable development. By April 2016, over 240 actors from companies to ministries, schools, municipalities and civil society organisations, as well as individuals have already joined Society's Commitment by launching their own operational commitments. The aim is for over 10,000 commitments to be signed by end 2017.

The Commitment is the National Commission on Sustainable Development's key tool for embedding sustainable development in all policy sectors and within the core activities of various societal actors and will complement the Government's official implementation plan for Agenda 2030.

 **Finland**

- Ownership of Agenda 2030 is supported by a **long-term integrated approach to sustainable development in early education, schools, educational institutions and universities**, as well as by NGOs.
- However, awareness raising still remains a challenge which Finland will respond to with a **strengthened communications plan**, to be designed together with civil society organisations and other stakeholders.
- The implementation of Agenda 2030 was launched at a **kick-off seminar** in November 2015, with participants from public administration, municipalities, companies, civil society organisations, interest groups and schools.
- The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office are jointly coordinating a **regional tour** of Finnish cities to raise awareness and discuss the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Finland and abroad, while involving local actors in the implementation process.

 **Philippines**

- The government has conducted **briefings** for various government agencies, academia and civil society focusing on the progress on MDG targets, lessons from MDG implementation, salient features of the 2030 Agenda, and the planned strategies to achieve the SDGs. The government has also used **radio guesting** and attendance to special events to reach the public.
- As the government starts to roll out the SDGs into national and local development planning, it plans to develop a strategic **Communication Plan** to raise awareness, create a knowledge repository, ensure coherent messaging and advocacy, connect communication platforms, and mobilise broad support. The plan for the SDGs will be linked to the recently launched communication plan for the country's Long-Term Vision to ensure a coherent and integrated communications and advocacy approach.
- Some further strategies that are being considered in the SDGs campaign include: the identification of **new Champions for the SDGs**, and **harnessing the good practices of active CSOs**.

 **Republic of Korea**

- To raise awareness among children and youth the government has encouraged the **inclusion of the content addressing ODA and the SDGs in the textbooks** for primary and secondary school students and has expanded funds for sending youth to the project sites of international development cooperation.
- The government is also carrying out **national campaigns** for the SDGs, and the Korea National Assembly UN SDGs Forum has engaged in diverse congressional activities related to the SDGs, including holding seven regular forums and visiting UN headquarters in New York. Such efforts will continue to develop practical and diverse global initiatives to create national ownership of the SDGs at the legislative institutional level.

 **Uganda**

- The government is in the process of developing a **communication strategy** for the SDGs, which will aim to reach the largest proportion of Ugandans using concepts of sustainable development that are easily understandable and explaining the relevance of the goals to everyone. The youth, media and members of the community will play a major role in supporting government deliver these messages.
- The Government of Uganda in partnership with the UN also organized a **National Launch** including an exhibition of the 17 SDGs. During the launch, five eminent Ugandans were engaged to serve as SDGs Ambassadors to help raise awareness through participation in related SDGs events as well as voicing radio messages.

## 7. Stakeholder engagement in reporting and implementation

Stakeholder engagement in SDGs implementation and reporting can improve the quality of government decisions and increase public acceptance of actions to implement Agenda 2030. Crucially, Civil society and other stakeholder have a key role in holding governments to account for their actions and commitments.

Participatory mechanisms should be put in place to ensure that key stakeholders are able to engage directly with government and provide input into key policies and activities.

This section provides an overview of the stakeholder engagement activities that governments detailed in their national reviews. It is divided into two parts: the first focusing on the stakeholder engagement activities during the preparation of the national report and the second summarising the mechanisms for stakeholder engagement during the implementation of the SDGs.

### Stakeholder engagement in report preparation

#### Key tools and activities:

- **Germany, Norway, the Philippines and the Republic of Korea** all held **dialogues or informal consultations** to seek input from key stakeholders for their national reviews.
- **Turkey** sought input through an **online consultation process**, while **Finland** conducted a **survey** to gather views on the implementation of Agenda 2030.
- **The Philippines and the Republic of Korea** both drew upon **existing research and outputs** relevant to the SDGs in the formulation of their reports.
- **Finland** consulted **Members of Parliament** in the preparation of their review while **Norway** sought input from **indigenous peoples** and from the **national human rights institution**.

#### Finland

- Members of the **Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development** and the **Development Policy Committee** – both of which have broad civil society participation - contributed their views to the report, based on meetings of these bodies and responses to a **survey on the implementation of Agenda 2030**. In the survey, respondents were asked to specify the measures undertaken by various stakeholder groups and to identify the best operating models for the implementation of Agenda 2030, as well as proposing how the public administration might best implement Agenda 2030.

- **Members of Parliament** were also consulted during the preparation phase of the report.

#### Civil society validity check

The report from Finnish civil society describes the co-operation between the Government and civil society as exemplary, and recommends that their participatory working methods are disseminated as a good practice.

#### Germany

- The report was discussed in the **dialogue forum** on Agenda 2030 with representatives of NGOs, churches, local authorities, and the scientific and academic community, who had the opportunity to engage in a critical exchange of views with government representatives and to suggest changes to the report.
- The **German delegation to the HLPF included representatives from youth, the private sector, trade unions and environmental and development associations**. A representative of civil society in Germany also spoke at the HLPF when the report was presented.

#### Norway

- Political representatives and officials involved in preparing the review organised and participated in **informal consultations** with stakeholders from the business sector, civil society and the Sámediggi (Sami Parliament).
- Civil society groups, NGOs and representatives of indigenous peoples all provided input to the review.
- Norway's national **human rights institution was also consulted** in connection with the preparation of the report.

## Philippines

- The report is based on the results of **technical workshops** on the assessment and identification of SDG Indicators, as well as strategies for incorporating SDGs in the planning process, conducted by the government and widely participated in by a range of stakeholders.
- The review also benefited from the outputs of a number of recently held workshops and fora.
- The government's **Multi-Sectoral Committee on International Human Development Commitments held a consultative meeting** among various stakeholders to discuss and provide further inputs to the report prior to its finalisation.

## Republic of Korea

- **Literature reviews and semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders** of governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations within and outside the ROK were used to collect data.
- **Two open government-civil society dialogues** were held to incorporate valuable insights and suggestions from a number of CSOs
- The **Korean Civil Society Network for SDGs** was established in June 2016, by a number of local and national CSOs working on a wide range of issues related to the SDGs, including gender equality and disabilities. The Network actively facilitated consultations between Government and CSOs and has submitted its opinions of the review to the Government.
- Existing **research and reports relevant to the SDGs** and existing online and open information platforms from the government, academia and research communities and civil society were drawn upon.

### Civil society validity check

Interestingly, the report from the Republic of Korean civil society challenges the claim that CSOs were effectively engaged during the report preparation process. It states that the Government were slow to share a full draft of the report, which gave civil society very little time to review and respond to the report before it was submitted to the HLPF.

## Turkey

- The report states that a **wide range of actors and representatives** from NGOs, business institutions, academic community and the UN bodies were included in the process through online consultations.
- The report was finalised based on stakeholder feedback.

## Stakeholder engagement in implementation

### Key tools and activities:

- **Estonia** and **Finland** both have existing **National Commissions on Sustainable Development**, which facilitate stakeholder engagement with government.
- **Finland** and the **Republic of Korea** have both put in place **dedicated mechanisms for stakeholder engagement on indicators**.
- The **Philippines** and **Sierra Leone** have both held **national consultations on SDG implementation**.
- **Consultation with indigenous peoples** is a key part of **Norway's** institutional framework.
- **Germany, Finland** and **Turkey** all expressed that they will make efforts to further **strengthen stakeholder engagement going forward**.

## Estonia

- The national **Code of Good Engagement** adopted by the Government states that government institutions must involve interest groups and the general public when making decisions affecting them. **The most important decisions and drafts are put up for public consultation**.
- Estonia's **Commission for Sustainable Development**, which connects non-governmental umbrella organisations in different areas of sustainable development, is an advisory body to the Government and one of the main coordination bodies for the implementation of sustainable development at the national level. The most significant strategy documents related to sustainable development are presented to the Commission prior to their adoption.
- The Commission's next output will analyse the timeliness and relevance of Estonia's sustainable development strategy, Sustainable Estonia 21, in the light of new development trends and Agenda 2030 and will put forward proposals regarding updating the strategy or improving its implementation for consideration by Government.
- **The membership of the Commission was recently reviewed and participation was expanded in order to cover all the important issues related to SDGs**.
- In the report, government actions on sustainable development are paired with civil society initiatives, indicating a global partnership approach.



 **Finland**

- There are **two major multi-stakeholder committees** in Finland that have an integral role in national coordination, implementation and follow-up:
  - The National Commission on Sustainable Development** is a Prime Minister led partnership forum based on a unique hybrid model, combining high-level political leadership with wide-ranging participation by civil society. The Commission aims to integrate sustainable development into Finnish policies, measures and everyday practices. Its two main responsibilities are to follow up and review the national implementation of Agenda 2030 and enhance the implementation of the Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development.
  - The Finnish Development Policy Committee** is a parliamentary body with membership including representatives from the political parties as well as NGOs and trade unions. The main task of the Committee is to monitor and assess the implementation of Finland's international development commitments and development policy, including following the implementation Agenda 2030 in Finland from the development policy perspective.
- Membership of the committees is broad; thereby, ensuring that the voices of civil society organisations, private sector actors, interest groups and other stakeholders are heard. To strengthen coherence, the **collaboration between the two committees is being intensified since the adoption of Agenda 2030.**
- In addition to the two committees, an interdisciplinary **Sustainable Development Expert Panel**, comprising eight professors and senior academics challenges and advances the work of the National Commission on Sustainable Development and adds a critical voice to the sustainability debate.
- As part of the SDGs gap analysis process, Finnish experts, civil society organisations and other stakeholders had the opportunity to analyse the results of international studies and give their views on national strengths and weaknesses.
- The **national implementation plan will define the division of labour and partnerships between the public, private and civil society actors** in the work on implementation.
- A specific **Indicator Network**, comprising experts from statistics, research, evaluation, policy and stakeholder groups, will be set up to update the existing national sustainable development indicators as part of the national implementation plan for Agenda 2030.

- An **'Enterprises and sustainable development' working group** has been set up, bringing together representatives of Finnish companies and the business environment to implement Agenda 2030 in Finland and the developing world.
- Finland is committed to strengthening the existing means and finding innovative ways to increase the civic, public and private participation and build ownership. **New modes for participation, to reach the marginalised, will be considered as part of the process of designing the National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030.**

 **Germany**

- **When seeking to implement proposed measures, especially before amendments to legislation, the German Government engages in a dialogue with stakeholders and other relevant parties**, creating an opportunity to explain the proposed measures and for stakeholders to articulate their ideas, criticisms and suggestions for improvements.
- The Government also organises a **dialogue forum three or four times a year** in order to facilitate a regular exchange of ideas and information on the international sustainability agenda between the government and representatives of NGOs, churches, local authorities, the scientific and academic community and the private sector.
- A large number of **sector-specific dialogue forums** are also in place, which the Government uses regularly and on a case-by-case basis to engage with concerned civil society groups.
- Throughout the process of updating the National Sustainable Development Strategy – the key framework for delivering the SDGs in Germany – citizens have been and will continue to be involved both **via the Internet and through hearings** which allow various interest groups to present their points of view. A broad-based process of dialogue and consultation with civil society groups also accompanies the preparation of progress reports on the Strategy every four years.
- In **five public dialogue conferences** held in all regions of Germany, ministers from the federal states, state secretaries and other representatives of federal, state and communal-level government engaged with a broad range of actors from the private sector, academia and civil society to discuss the requirements for a new Sustainability Strategy. The results were taken into account in the writing of the first draft of the reissue of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2016. The public can now comment on the draft over the course of several weeks, both orally at a public hearing in the Chancellery and in writing.

- The **Charter for the Future** – which focuses on opportunities for the future for everyone worldwide and Germany’s role in promoting them – is a further attempt to involve civil society actors in the dialogue to promote global sustainable development. In an **open online dialogue and numerous special events** involving over 100 organisations and initiatives and members of the public, proposals were advanced which were subsequently compiled in the form of a Charter along with recommendations. A nationwide tour brought these issues to a wide audience. The Charter has generated impetus to make the new National Sustainable Development Strategy more international in its outlook, and is **helping to implement the 2030 Agenda by initiating multi-stakeholder partnerships**.
- **German Council for Sustainable Development** organises numerous campaigns to encourage dialogue within society on the principle of sustainability, and to put the philosophy of sustainability into practice. The establishment of **regional network points** for sustainability strategies is designed to strengthen the nationwide networking of sustainability initiatives launched by federal, state and local governments. The German Council for Sustainable Development also supports the **international networking of councils** for sustainable development and similar stakeholders. One example of this is an international conference which the German Council plans to host in November 2016.
- The report emphasises the need for a multi-stakeholder approach to implementation and provides some examples of **multi-stakeholder alliances** through which the German Government is already fostering cooperation with a wide spectrum of civil society actors
- **The German Government is looking for ways to take the interests and concerns of civil society into account to an even greater extent in the future.**

### Norway

- In the process of developing a strategy for SDG follow up the Government has benefited from input, including written reports, from civil society, NGOs and other stakeholders.
- The report states that the Government will **continue to engage in a constructive dialogue with relevant stakeholders** on the implementation and follow-up of the new Agenda.
- When measures to reach the SDGs are developed, the **Sámediggi (Sami parliament)** will be consulted on matters that may affect Sami interests directly.
- The report also recognises that **youth’s active participation** in the realisation of the SDGs is needed.

### Philippines

- CSOs have provided significant support to the national SDGs campaign through theme- and sector- focused **fora and workshops** on how the SDG framework could be utilised. An overview of relevant workshops is provided in the report.
- UNDP Manila discussed the **role of business** in nation-building and in achieving the SDGs at the last annual meeting of the Philippine Business for Social Progress which resulted in a group mapping of activities on the SDGs.
- The Government has held a number of **technical workshops** on the SDG Indicators which have included civil society and other stakeholders. The latest in May 2016 had 313 participants. Some sectors also conducted their own preliminary workshops to discuss relevant SDG indicators in specific areas such as sexual and reproductive health
- The report identifies potential areas for **future consultations** on the SDGs.

### Republic of Korea

- The report recognises that the active participation of multi-stakeholders in the formulation of the SDGs in its early phase has produced a set of good conditions for an inclusive and integrated approach to the SDGs and emphasises that central government needs to encourage and facilitate more meaningful participation of local governments and civil society organisations in the national implementation of the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind.
- The report acknowledges the **dual role of civil society as service delivery actors and monitoring and advocacy agents** in the implementation of the SDGs in national and international contexts.
- The **Korean National Assembly** has played a significant role in creating a space for political and technical dialogue among national stakeholders.
- Statistics Korea has established the framework for an **online platform** to promote the exchange of views on indicators among multiple stakeholders.

 **Sierra Leone**

- **Consultations have been held at both the regional and national levels** with central and local government, civil society, NGOs, trade unions, academia and the private sector, in order to create ownership and provide relevant inputs into the national SDGs implementation planning process.
- These **discussions were centred on the key topics and themes** that will guide efforts to achieve the targets set in Agenda 2030, including: leave no one behind; ensuring balance between the three dimensions of sustainable development; and delivering the SDGs to their full potential.
- The report provides a **detailed summary of the key messages** from the regional and national consultations.

 **Turkey**

- Stakeholders are engaged in the development of national development plans through **Ad-hoc Committees**, which are convened in order to gather diverse viewpoints of the experts from various policy fields. The Government is ready to work together with civil society, academia, private sector, international organisations and local authorities in drafting of the next plan.
- The report states that Turkey will accelerate its efforts to cooperate and engage with a wide range of stakeholders in sustainable development policy formulation and implementation at local, national and international levels – with a particular focus on **improving dialogue with children and youth**.

## 8. Measurement and reporting

Accurate measurement and regular reporting on efforts towards the SDGs is vital to identify areas that are lagging behind and ensure that progress is on track. The development of relevant indicators and data will play a key role and require support from the international community.

This section summarises the new and existing mechanisms that countries plan to employ to track progress towards the goals. It provides an overview of work taking place to develop national indicators for the SDGs and highlights key challenges that countries are facing in terms of measurement and data collection. It also provides details of any plans countries shared regarding reporting on progress.

### Key tools and activities:

- **Estonia, Finland and the Republic of Korea** all have an **existing set of sustainable development indicators** at the national level and are taking steps to update them in line of the SDGs.
- The **Philippines** and **Sierra Leone** have both held stakeholder consultations on the development of SDG indicators.
- **Egypt, Estonia, Finland and Turkey** have all **conducted assessments of the percentage of global SDGs indicators that are currently measurable at the national level**.
- **Montenegro, Samoa and Uganda** all highlighted **measurement and data collection as a key challenge** and emphasised the need for capacity building and strengthening of statistical mechanisms.

responsibility for monitoring and reviewing the sustainable development strategy, reviewing the key performance indicators, and evaluating the effect of programmes and projects on the sustainable development strategy.

- CAPMAS has also been taking part in the **2016 Africa Data Report Initiative** to assess what is needed to fully realise the data revolution. The Report will feed into other SDG initiatives and studies by providing a concrete analysis of data issues at the national and regional level, appraising the data ecosystem in Egypt and identifying areas where capacity could be leveraged to meet the needs of data collection for the SDGs.

### Egypt

- In April 2016, a **Sustainable Development Unit was established within the Egypt's National Statistical Agency (CAPMAS)** to lead the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs, map national indicators, and assess the level of alignment with the key performance indicators from Egypt's national sustainable development strategy.
- An initial assessment of indicators has found that **measurements and data are available for 41 per cent of the global indicators**. Integrated sets of indicators will need to be developed and harmonised with national policies.
- The Ministry of Planning is in the process of designing a structure for reviewing and following up on the goals, targets and indicators. The new mechanism includes the establishment of an **independent unit for monitoring and follow-up**, which reports to the Presidency, Cabinet, and Parliament, and has

### Estonia

- Estonia have an **existing set of sustainable development indicators** and a regular review is compiled by Statistics Estonia in co-operation with the Government Office and various ministries detailing the status of the indicators.
- The Estonian Statistics Office has conducted an initial overview of 231 global sustainable development indicators and found **approximately 14 per cent of the indicators are currently measurable**. Gathering information on the rest of the indicators needs extra work and is a challenge for the statistics system.
- **A renewal of the existing sustainable development indicators will be started in 2016 with the aim on including indicators to measure progress against SDGs**. The indicators will be updated in cooperation with Statistics Estonia, the Government Office, the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development and the Estonian Commission on Sustainable Development.

### Finland

- **Finland's monitoring and reporting plans will be specified by the end of 2016**, during the preparation of the national implementation plan, however, preliminary discussions have outlined that Finland could **report to the UN on its progress approximately every fourth year**. Such reporting should be preceded by a general, national discussion of the implementation of Agenda 2030, in which Parliament would play a key role.

- In addition, a **high-level annual event** 'The state of sustainable development in Finland' is being planned, where progress, challenges and successes in national implementation will be discussed.
- The Government has set the **National Commission on Sustainable Development** and the **Development Policy Committee** the key task of monitoring and assessing the implementation of Agenda 2030 in Finland. The role of the **National Parliament** and all political parties is considered fundamental in this work and is currently under discussion.
- Finland has **39 existing national sustainable development indicators** developed to measure progress against the strategic objectives of the society's commitment.
- Sustainable development indicators serve two purposes in Finland: assessment and communication. For instance, Finland's leading newspaper has previously used the indicators in a six-month series of articles on sustainable development, to inform the general public of what sustainable development means.
- The **national indicator network** has been responsible for long-term sustainable development indicator work in Finland. The network will be reappointed in 2016 comprising experts from statistics, research, evaluation, policy and stakeholder groups and will revise the existing indicators based on Agenda 2030. It will also act as the national support group in international SDG indicator work.
- According to an initial overview of the data availability of the global sustainable development indicators in Finland, approximately **40 per cent of the indicators are readily measurable** and about the same percentage can be measured with additional data collection. Analysis of the availability of data is ongoing with regard to the remaining indicators
- The report highlights that **many SDGs and targets are difficult to monitor** on the basis of the global indicators and that the indicators do not clearly reveal the links between the implementation and impacts of various goals. Therefore, the ambitious implementation of Agenda 2030 requires not only a stronger knowledge base but also opportunities for common learning.

## France

- The French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies is conducting a **feasibility study** with all the ministries' statistical departments on the production of global indicators at national level and has found that they should be **able to produce just over half of the indicators in the short to medium term**.
- Since 2015, France has instituted **10 additional wealth indicators** covering employment, investment, national debt, health, inequalities, education, environmental protection and happiness. The indicators are to be factored into public policymaking to extend the measurement of progress beyond GDP and will be incorporated into SDG monitoring.

## Georgia

- In the process of nationalising the SDGs, Georgia has developed **Georgia-adjusted indicators** for measuring progress against each of the targets identified as relevant to the national context. In addition, a baseline has been fixed for each target and quantitative projections made for the 2030 horizon.
- The process of developing and adjusting the SDG indicators drew upon the **data from sectoral and multi-sectoral policy documents** developed on a national level. Georgia has also worked with UN experts and tapped into the experiences and views of other nations.
- Once finalized, based on stakeholder inputs, these targets and indicators will be used to report on Georgia's progress towards the SDGs.
- The process of adjusting the SDGs has helped Georgia to **pinpoint the weaknesses of the available statistical data and the areas in which the national data collection must improve**.
- **The key problem is the lack of disaggregated data**, particularly for the goals and targets that deal with social rights, labor rights, gender issues, poverty and unemployment. Current problems have been discussed in detail with the Statistics Office and Georgia to seek assistance in the area of disaggregated data generation.
- The identified data gaps demonstrate **substantial need for upgrading Georgia's national statistical research infrastructure and practices**, which will require additional training, better financing and increased human capital.
- The report states that **Georgia would welcome international discussion on best practice relating to the design of inclusive coordination process to develop and track the implementation of nationally adjusted SDGs**.



- In terms of next steps, Georgia plans to establish an **SDGs monitoring and evaluation system** at both central and local levels to track progress and to uphold an annual reporting cycle. They will also seek **independent, third-party evaluations** to assess the progress to date and to advise on adapting the country's institutional setup for SDG review.

### Germany

- Germany report on the implementation status of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) every four years in the form of progress reports that also update the strategy's content. **Following the next regular progress report on the NSDS, scheduled for 2020, Germany plans to participate in the national voluntary review at the HLPF in New York in 2021 for the second time.**
- There are **established indicators** under the NSDS, which allow for a regular measurement of progress. Every two years, the Federal Statistical Office publishes an independent Indicator Report with information about progress towards meeting goals.
- Where aspects of the SDGs are not sufficiently reflected in the NSDS and a corresponding national goal is yet to be put in place, suitable indicators are still to be defined. New indicators and goals leading up to 2030 will be elaborated quickly. **An inter-ministerial working group on sustainability indicators** will be involved in this work.
- The **work on a statistical annex is still ongoing** and will be submitted to the UN after completion. Germany will submit data on the global indicators at regular intervals in order to contribute to the international comparison of data.
- The report emphasises that the **disaggregation of data is an important element in achieving all the goals.**

### Montenegro

- The **lack of a functional system for the monitoring of the implementation of sustainable development policy** is one of key problems for Montenegro and as such, one of the strategic goals under the NSSD is to establish a system for monitoring the sustainability of national development including the monitoring of the implementation of SDGs.
- In order to establish the system for monitoring and reporting on progress on NSSD and Agenda 2030 implementation, **the 241 global SDGs indicators were analysed. Montenegro has identified that 180 of the 241 global indicators are relevant to the national context and need to be introduced into the national system by 2024.**

- As well as the global SDGs indicators, the integrated system of indicators for reporting on the NSSD also includes: relevant national indicators, selected indicators of relevant international organisations and a set of complex indicators considered essential for a comprehensive view of sustainable development of Montenegro.
- The **10 complex indicators** that have been introduced into the NSSD are: Ecological Footprint, Human Development Index, Gender Inequality Index; Domestic material consumption (DMC); Resource Productivity (RP); Land Consumption, Social Progress Index, Genuine Progress Indicator, Environmental Democracy Index, and Environmental Performance Index.
- The indicators for DMC and RP are included in the list of global indicators for the SDGs. The others were introduced based on positive experiences with their application within the EU and certain international organisations and the fact that they strongly support the integration of sectoral approaches and SDGs.

### Norway

- **Norway already has systems in place for reporting on national targets and environmental indicators.** These systems are closely linked to ongoing international initiatives and standards such as those established under UNEP, the UN Statistical Commission, the OECD, the EU/EEA and the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- Norway will start to **adapt the indicators** that are most relevant to the national context and will also define other indicators of its own as required to ensure comprehensive follow-up.
- The report identifies **disaggregated data** derived from validated statistics as an important element in Norway's follow-up work, nationally and internationally.
- Norway looks forward to seeing **how human rights mechanisms**, such as the Universal Periodic Review, **can complement and reinforce reporting** and follow-up procedures established under the 2030 Agenda.

## Philippines

- The Philippines is the **co-chair of the International Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDGs Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)**, the body that led the development of the final list of SDGs indicators, which were adopted in March 2016. As co-chair, the Philippines will continue to participate in a number of activities of the expert group until 2017.
- The **Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) will serve as the official repository of SDGs indicators** in the country and will develop mechanisms through which all concerned data-producing agencies and local government units will be able to generate and provide timely and accurate statistics and indicators for the SDGs.
- The **Philippine Statistical Research and Training Institute (PSRTI)** will conduct capacity building activities to help the PSA and other agencies to generate national indicators and conduct methodological researches to address issues in generating the SDGs indicators.
- **A separate chapter on the SDGs was included in the Philippine Statistical Development Programme** to highlight the current situation, key activities and issues and challenges in monitoring the SDGs. This will ensure the operationalisation of data collection and the appropriation of a corresponding budget.
- **The PSA has proposed a number of activities to strengthen the mechanisms for SDGs monitoring and reporting**, including: a) development of SDGs Watch, which will monitor the relevant and available indicators; b) an SDGs webpage where users can view the metadata, database, SDGs Watch and other related links; c) identification of an SDG Focal Point from each data-source agency to facilitate coordination and data gathering of the indicators.
- **Seven technical workshops** on the SDGs were conducted at the national level between 2013 and 2015 to assess, identify and prioritise SDG indicators based on the country situation. Following the adoption of the global SDGs indicators the PSA and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) steered further consultations with stakeholders to generate an initial list of national SDG indicators in time for the HLPF in July 2016 (see box 4).
- The report details the **timetable for continuing consultations** SDG national indicators up to December 2016. In October, the National Convention on Statistics will include plenary and parallel sessions on the SDGs, big data, and data revolution, as well as a side event on the development of a data revolution roadmap for the SDGs.

### Box 4: Ensuring participation in the development of national SDGs indicators in the Philippines

In May 2016, the Philippine Statistics Authority and National Economic and Development Authority in cooperation with UNDP Manila, conducted a technical workshop to assess data availability and relevance of the Global SDG Indicators based on the Philippine context and identify additional indicators where necessary. A total of 313 participants from the government sector, civil society, NGOs, academia and UN agencies participated.

Based on the results of the workshop, the SDGs indicators were classified by tier according to data availability at the national level. Only 96 out of the total 241 indicators were found to have data that are regularly produced (classified as Tier 1), with the rest lacking data (classified as Tiers 2 and 3). Goals 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 14 (oceans), 6 (water and sanitation) and 10 (reduce inequality) were found to have the poorest data availability. Also, most of the indicators classified as Tiers 2 and 3 were deemed as priority indicators by the workshop participants implying the need to develop methodology and standards to generate data for these indicators.

Key issues that were raised during the discussions were on data availability, data disaggregation, unclear definition of technical terms, overlap of indicators across goals, measurement of indicators, accountability of concerned agencies, and the need to encourage more players/stakeholders to participate in the consultation process. A full report can be found on page 18 of the Philippines' national review.

## The Republic of Korea

- Statistics Korea, in collaboration with Seoul National University, is currently **reviewing existing official statistics and indicators** to identify those that are most relevant to global indicators and to establish a national tier system.
- The Republic of Korea has **77 existing sustainable development indicators**, which are regularly reviewed by the Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD). The CSD is in the process of further developing these to reflect the SDGs.
- Statistics Korea has established the framework for an **online platform to promote the exchange of views on indicators** among multiple stakeholders.

- Preliminary findings from the review indicate that the number of Tier 1 (available) indicators is relatively small for Goals 4 (education), 6 (water and sanitation), 11 (cities), 12 (sustainable consumption and production), 13 (climate change), 14 (oceans) and 15 (ecosystems), indicating that **environmental measurements are a particular gap**.
- **An in-depth review of the existing official statistics is expected to be available by October 2016.**

### Samoa

- Following the launch of the SDGs in September 2015, the **Bureau of the Statistics issued a preliminary framework of indicators** to all key sector stakeholders who were invited to comment on the relevance and alignment of such indicators to the sectoral and national indicators of the Strategy for the Development of Samoa.
- The report highlights that one of the failings of the MDGs was that many of the indicators were not suitable for the Pacific context. There is therefore a **need to localise the SDG indicators** and tailor them to the national context for relevance and greater accountability.
- Five out of the six key challenges mentioned in Samoa's report relate to measurement and reporting. Among these the report highlights that the increased demand for quality statistics, given the breadth and depth of the Agenda, will be a **significant challenge for many of the small island countries**, which are already capacity and resource poor.
- The increased number of goals, targets and indicators will also make **tracking progress on an annual basis difficult**. To mitigate this, the report suggests a thematic area could be considered each year, with complete reporting done every five years.
- **Goals 11 and 12 are highlighted as areas that need particular attention** in terms of developing national targets and indicators in Samoa and the report states that every attempt will be made to collect **disaggregated data** across the goals.
- Samoa emphasise that there is value in **tracking progress at both the regional and national level**, as demonstrated by MDG experiences.
- The report also underlines the importance of ensuring an **open and inclusive consultation** process in the development of national SDGs indicators.

### Sierra Leone

- A set of Sierra Leone specific SDGs indicators were drafted before the global indicators were finalised and were revised in June at a **technical workshop**, to incorporate the final set of global indicators, as well as inputs from intensified nationwide consultations.
- The report includes an advanced **draft integrated results framework** with Sierra Leone specific SDGs indicators, with **baseline figures and targets** for 2020, 2025 and 2030 for the indicators that have been identified as Tier 1.
- The baselines and targets that have been established so far will be finalised through further data collection, validation and **consultation with stakeholders**.
- The **Right to Access Information Commission** is an active member of the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data that uses the Open Data Revolution initiative to increase access to reliable data in all forms and formats to enhance policy development across nations. The participation of Sierra Leone in this global initiative is guided by a **national Open Data Council**, drawing membership from all relevant government institutions, NGOs and academia.
- Under the chairmanship of Sierra Leone, the g7+ countries are developing specific monitoring mechanism involving the establishment of an online portal to enhance follow-up and reporting on an **agreed set of fragility, peace building and state building related indicators**.
- The report includes a set of **guidelines for the development of national indicators**, some of which could be shared with other countries as appropriate.

## Switzerland

- **By early 2018, a report summarising initial efforts to implement the Agenda and providing recommendations for implementation, will be presented to the Federal Council.** Based on the findings from the transition phase and decisions taken by the Federal Council, Switzerland will present its first comprehensive country review at the HLPF in 2018.
- Switzerland has an **existing comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system** (MONET) comprising of 73 indicators. The MONET system takes a holistic approach, enabling the measurement of the global or 'elsewhere' dimension of sustainable development.
- The indicators are reviewed regularly and the system has been revised to take into account the SDGs laying the foundation for national and international reporting.
- Preliminary analysis has been done to **link the SDGs and global indicators with existing MONET framework** and is presented in a statistical annex to the report.
- Switzerland will participate in the planned periodic reporting and implementation monitoring for the SDGs, provide specific input on how data can be improved, and help developing countries to build their national capacities to track implementation.

## Turkey

- The **Turkish Statistical Institute (TurkStat)** will have the central role for the monitoring part of the Agenda based on global SDGs indicators.
- Following the agreement of the global indicators, TurkStat started an internal inventory study in April 2016. **Preliminary results indicate 108 of total 241 indicators (45 per cent) are currently produced in Turkish Statistical System.**
- There are plans to establish a new **Official Statistical Programme** working group dedicated to the monitoring of SDGs. The group will operate between 2017-2021 and will address the needs associated with SDGs monitoring gaps.
- Further review will be carried out to **identify gaps on methodology and data production**, including disaggregation.
- The report outlines next steps under a **national roadmap on monitoring** and discusses plans to develop an **SDGs index**.
- The report emphasises that the **statistical capacity of Turkey needs to be improved** and that additional financial resources are needed for the data revolution.

## Uganda

- Monitoring and reporting mechanisms of SDGs implementation will follow the **existing arrangements under the Second National Development Plan (NDP II)**.
- Uganda has adopted an integrated **NDP II Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy**, including a results framework, to coordinate and support sectors, ministries, departments, local governments and other stakeholders in undertaking monitoring and evaluation for the period 2015-2020.
- Uganda is also implementing its second **National Strategy for Statistical Development (NSDS2)**, which is aligned to NDP II. It is envisioned that the information needed for monitoring Agenda 2030 will be delivered through implementation of NSDS2, as well as non-conventional data sources that include Big-data and geospatial technologies and information from private actors.
- Uganda are in the process of developing a **National Standard Indicator (NSI) framework** with national, sector and service level indicators for monitoring government operations. These indicators are aligned to the NDP II goals and objectives and address the broad requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **SDG Indicators are yet to be integrated** into the monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems at sector and local government levels. This will include localisation of the global indicators as applicable and relevant, based on national priorities.
- An assessment of data availability has revealed that **data is available for only 80 (35 per cent) of the global indicators** and no data is available for 113 other indicators that are relevant to Uganda. 37 of the global indicators have been identified as not applicable for national monitoring. Disaggregation is possible in some cases where data is available.
- This **low level of data availability** is partly associated with absence of internationally accepted methodology for computations of some indicators, limited national capacities in the management of administrative data and weak civil registration systems. There are efforts however, to develop and integrate other indicators that cover all the relevant SDGs targets.
- Uganda's report includes a **dedicated section on challenges for monitoring and reporting**, as well as a comprehensive annex assessing existing data and indicators at the national level in relation to the global indicators.



## Recommendations for country reporting to the High Level Political Forum

Drawing on the analysis and observations outlined in this section of the report, the following 10 recommendations are made for country's Voluntary National Reviews to the HLPF. It should be noted that order is arbitrary and the recommendations should be considered of equal importance.

### 1. Commit to submitting a report at least three times as part of the 2030 Agenda

Member States should see VNRs of progress as a crucial part of the implementation and accountability of Agenda 2030 and strive to participate in the review process at the HLPF at least three times during the 15-year lifespan of the 2030 Agenda. Regular VNRs will not only benefit countries in sharing best practices, but will allow the HLPF to assess ongoing progress.

### 2. Engage a broad range of stakeholders at an early stage

A range of views and perspectives should be collected as an important part of preparing for reporting – in order to provide an objective view on national progress, highlight gaps and make VNRs more robust. Mechanisms should be put in place to enable civil society and other stakeholders to feed their perspectives into VNRs and to review them before their submission to the HLPF. The VNRs should provide details of how stakeholders have been engaged in their preparation.

### How to structure your report

### 3. Use the UN Secretary-General's guidelines as a backbone

The guidelines outline the key components of VNRs. Used by countries they would provide a common backbone, facilitating comparisons between countries. In addition, their use would encourage countries to address challenging, but vital, topics, such as SDGs integration and progress being made on the commitment to leave no one behind.

### 4. Focus on quality, not quantity

Keeping VNRs concise improves their accessibility and increases the likelihood that they will be read by peer countries, stakeholders and citizens. This increases their value as a tool for knowledge sharing, accountability and awareness raising.

### 5. Use structure as a way to increase accessibility and engagement

A clear structure and compelling narrative significantly improves the accessibility and appeal of the reports while intuitive design can help to engage the reader, as well as signpost key points. All VNRs must include a contents page to help navigate the report based on

the Secretary-General's guidelines. Images, tables and graphs are all expedient ways of sharing what can be complex and dense information.

### What to include in your report

### 6. Include a summary to engage more people

A concise summary is a vital tool for sharing key messages with a broad audience. The summary should include a synthesis of the process and findings of the VNR, highlighting key activities and good practice, as well as challenges, lessons learned and areas where further support is needed. A good summary should be no more than five pages long.

### 7. Identify obstacles and areas where support is needed

The VNRs provide an opportunity for countries to highlight key obstacles in implementing the goals at the national level and to seek advice and support where it is needed. This approach helps to identify common challenges where further guidance is needed from the international community, as well as highlight opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships.

### 8. Detailed examples add huge value

VNRs should include sufficient detail to allow lessons to be shared and assessments of progress made. VNRs should avoid generalities and use concrete examples to demonstrate how the SDGs are being integrated into national frameworks.

### 9. Don't avoid challenging topics

The integrated nature of the SDGs and commitment to 'leave no one behind' are two of the most challenging aspects of this new Agenda. Few countries chose to address them in detail in their reporting, yet it is in these areas where the sharing of experiences can be most valuable. Countries are encouraged to tackle difficult issues in their reporting, in order to foster learning and development.

### 10. Spell out the next steps

A clear set of next steps can be used to outline the key actions and activities Member States will undertake in the future to implement Agenda 2030 at the national level. They provide a vital tool that civil society and other stakeholders can use to hold governments to account for their actions.



# Analysis of civil society shadow reports

The participation of civil society and all other relevant stakeholders is a key element of successful monitoring and review of SDGs implementation. Civil society reporting is a vital accountability tool, which can provide an objective view of countries' progress towards the SDGs by challenging and verifying countries' claims.

Several civil society groups have produced their own unofficial reports to coincide with this year's HLPF. For this section of the report we identified and analysed counterpart civil society inputs and reports for 10 of the 16 country VNRs reviewed. These were produced by civil society in Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Norway, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Samoa, Switzerland and Uganda.<sup>7</sup>

This section summarises the highlights from the civil society reports reviewed and makes recommendations for effective civil society reporting.

## Key points:

- Civil society from **Uganda** and **Egypt** both reference the **limiting of civil society space** at the national level and feedback from **Samoa** and **the Republic of Korea criticises the mechanisms for civil society engagement** in both reporting and implementation.
- By contrast, the report from Keba in **Finland describes the cooperation between government and civil society as exemplary**.
- Given the additional funds that will be needed to effectively implement Agenda 2030, civil society from **Finland** and **Switzerland** both criticise recent **cuts in funding for development cooperation**, which in Switzerland's case occurred following the adoption of the SDGs.
- Reports from **Egypt, France** and **Switzerland** all highlight the **gap between words and action** from government at the national level.
- The papers from civil society in **Switzerland** and **Uganda** were the only ones to **directly reference the contents of the government VNRs**.

## Egypt

- The piece 'Lack Of Strategy In The 2030 Strategy' by the Egyptian Center for Economic & Social Rights<sup>8</sup> focuses on Egypt's national sustainable development strategy, the main mechanism to deliver the goals at the national level.
- While the report doesn't address the implementation of the SDGs directly, it uses examples to **pick holes in the key national delivery mechanism**.
- The report argues that the **national strategy is not backed up with a concrete programme of action or means of implementation** for achieving the targets and highlights the energy transition and tackling violence against women as two areas where the strategy has not been put into practice.
- A key theme throughout is the **lack of transparency and participation** in the implementation of the national strategy and the need to improve the mechanisms for the involvement of civil society.
- The report makes clear recommendations for action and improvement.

## Finland

Two relevant reports from Finnish civil society were reviewed – one from Keba, an NGO platform representing more than 300 Finnish non-governmental organisations, and one by Kehys, the Finnish NGO Platform to the EU comprising around 40 Finnish NGOs working on development issues.

7. Relevant inputs were not found for China, Estonia, Georgia, Montenegro, Sierra Leone and Turkey.

8. Lack Of Strategy In The 2030 Strategy: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17212>

### Integrating the 2030 Agenda into Finland's domestic policy framework (Kepa)<sup>9</sup>

- The report was **put together with help of an online questionnaire** targeted to experts from Finnish organisations and discusses key themes including aid, gender equality, workers rights and education.
- Surprisingly, considering Finland's established mechanisms to promote sustainable development, the report states that the **main challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda in Finland will be integrating the principles and targets of sustainable development into all of the country's domestic policies and decision-making**. It also states that so far Finland's actions have been inadequate, and in places contrary, to the implementation of the SDGs.
- The report highlights that **cuts to development aid and education spending** threaten the country's ability to meet the goals. In 2015 aid was slashed by 43 per cent.
- On the positive side, the report describes the **co-operation between the Government and civil society as exemplary**, including in the drafting of the action plan for sustainable development. It recommends that these participatory working methods should be continued and **disseminated as a good practice**.
- Finnish civil society is currently in the process of building a **systematic co-operation structure** to create new kinds of partnerships in line with the universal spirit of the SDGs.
- The report emphasises the need to **harness private sector resources and forge partnerships** between private sector and civil society to achieve the goals
- Key recommendations include: addressing the 17 per cent of the population considered at risk of poverty and social exclusion, policy coherence to be recognised as crucial MOI and written into law, climate change to be mainstreamed into everything that Finland does, the implementation of a communications strategy to raise awareness among general public.

### Finland on the road to sustainable development (Kehys)<sup>10</sup>

- This report is **well structured and designed**, immediately engaging the reader.
- The publication takes a first look at the **implications of the new goals for Finland and its partner countries**. It focuses on five of the seventeen goals but emphasises that the framework is indivisible and interlinked.
- The report doesn't assess progress against the goals but provides discussion on challenges and actions under each of the five goal areas, considering what the goal entails for either Finland, a partner country or globally.



### France

- 'Implementing the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad presents new challenges to France' by International Movement ATD Fourth World<sup>11</sup> states that there is a **gap between the words and actions of the French Government**, highlighting that ODA has decreased in recent years.
- The report does not critique the actions of government but addresses a number of areas that should be addressed in implementing the SDGs, including: housing, human rights, education and climate change.
- It states that **stronger coherence between domestic and international policies is needed** and that effective governance will also be necessary to implement the Agenda. It suggests that the office of the prime minister could be in charge of implementing Agenda 2030.
- The report recommends that the French Law on the Orientation and Programming of Development and International Solidarity favours participation of vulnerable groups in designing, implementing and assessing development projects and should be fully implemented.

9. Integrating the 2030 Agenda into Finland's domestic policy framework: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17325> f

10. Finland on the road to sustainable development: <http://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Finland.OnTheRoadToSustainableDevelopment.pdf>

11. Implementing the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad presents new challenges to France: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17335>

 **Germany**

Two relevant inputs from German civil society were reviewed, each representing the views of different stakeholder coalitions.

#### 'Sustainable Germany – A Long Way To Go'

- An English excerpt from a 166 page report published by a broad coalition from German civil society organisations was reviewed. The full length report (available in German) includes articles and contributions by 40 authors from NGOs, trade unions, social welfare organisations, environmental groups, critical farmer associations, peace activists and journalists.<sup>12</sup>
- The introductory article is highly critical and states that the **much-quoted image of Germany as a 'pioneer in sustainability' is largely wishful thinking and does not withstand critical examination.** The article fails however to make any clear recommendations for action or improvement.
- The article **supports Germany's three-level approach** to implementing the agenda with consideration of impacts at the domestic level, global level and in other countries through development cooperation.

#### 'Implementation of the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in and by Germany'<sup>13</sup>

- This joint position paper by over 40 CSOs, published by German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, calls on the German Government to draw up a comprehensive and binding national plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in and by Germany, including, but going beyond, the revised national sustainability strategy.
- The paper recommends that **all judicial intentions and sectoral policies should be checked for compatibility with the 2030 Agenda** and the German implementation plan and adjusted where necessary. They suggest an **upgraded Parliamentary Advisory Council for Sustainable Development** should assume a central role in this "SDG-check" as a regular committee of the German parliament.
- Like the other civil society report, the paper **supports Germany's comprehensive three levels approach to implementation.**
- The report advocates that **civil society must be provided with the opportunity to comment on progress reports and discuss the results** with the German parliament and the German government.
- The report highlights the areas that need particular political action under each of the 17 goals.

12. The introduction in English is available here: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17337>. The full report is available in German at [www.2030report.de](http://www.2030report.de).

13. Implementation of the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in and by Germany: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17337>

 **Norway**

- 'How the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be reached in and with Norway by 2030' is a 132 page report by Norwegian ForUM for Development and Environment, a network consisting of 50 Norwegian civil society organisations with almost one million members between them.<sup>14</sup>
- The report makes recommendations to the Norwegian government on how the SDGs can be reached in and by Norway and **constitutes the key input made to the Norwegian government during the drafting of the national report.**
- The first part of the report presents a number of overarching challenges and recommendations, including suggestions regarding implementing and financing sustainable development.
- The second part **addresses all 17 goals and many of the 169 targets**, with specific recommendations and **examples of how civil society organisations can contribute.**
- The report recommends the urgent development of a strategy and a national action plan on how the SDGs can be implemented and financed, and that urgent steps are taken to follow this up in Norway as well as internationally in collaboration with civil society and other relevant actors. **Leave no one behind and tackling climate change are identified as prerequisites for achieving the goals.**
- The report suggests that the **Government should report annually** on Norway's performance and actions to achieve the goals, both domestically and globally. CSOs must be invited to join the reporting process and a baseline must be set.
- The report is **structured and designed in an engaging way**, using images, quotes and key facts, and recommendations are clearly highlighted.

 **Philippines**

- 'For Justice And Sustainability: The Other PH 2030 Agenda,' is a 112 page report by Social Watch Philippines.<sup>15</sup>
- The report states that it aims to 'take the challenge beyond what's minimally expected in the July HLPF national review' and consists of a series of think pieces discussing and analysing progress and challenges in key areas, focusing primarily on social issues.

14. How the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be reached in and with Norway by 2030: [http://www.forumfor.no/assets/docs/SDGs\\_Forum\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.forumfor.no/assets/docs/SDGs_Forum_lowres.pdf)

15. For Justice And Sustainability: The Other PH 2030 Agenda: <http://www.civicus.org/images/PhilippinesSpotlightReport.pdf>

- The publication **emphasises the need to set a baseline to accurately track progress** and to identify underlying barriers to achieving sustainable development and tackling poverty, in order to find suitable solutions.
- It emphasises that the SDGs are not the only agreement that the government signed up to in 2015 and that **implementation of Agenda 2030 should also be coherent with the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on financing for sustainable development.**
- Highlights the need to 'change the system, change everything' and **depart from development as usual**, both in terms of the vision for the future and the means of achieving it.
- While the report does make some recommendations, the structure means that they not easily accessed.
- **The report criticises the poor civil society engagement in the report** preparation process. The Government initially only shared a two-page summary of the report and once the full report was finally shared, civil society groups were given very little time to review and respond to the report before it was submitted to the HLPF.
- The fact that there is **no central coordination body** in charge of national implementation makes it difficult for civic society to engage with the various departments involved.
- The report makes **several recommendations for CSOs**, including: encouraging private sector involvement in implementation; establishing structures to monitor implementation and follow up on each of the SDGs; communicating the importance of the SDGs to the public; and coordinating civil society action to distribute the responsibility for different SDGs among different organisations.

### **The Republic of Korea**

- This short paper, 'Implementing the SDGs' by the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (CCEJ)<sup>16</sup> focuses on civil society's involvement in the SDGs. It discusses government's engagement with civil society and **makes recommendations for CSOs themselves** in the implementation of the Agenda.
- The report criticises the move to change the Commission on Sustainable Development from a presidential advisory body to a structure under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment in 2010, stating that as a consequence subsequent five-year sustainable development plans were concentrated on the area of the environment, **no longer reflecting a holistic view of the state of the nation.**
- The report states that the current regime and ruling party are distancing themselves from the implementation of the SDGs that relate to economic inequality and democracy and a new Anti-terrorism Act, adopted in March 2016, includes **provisions that threaten democracy.**
- They cite **public engagement on the SDGs as a key challenge** and various civil society groups have been working to raise awareness.
- The report states that the biggest obstacle to implementing the 2030 Agenda is the **lack of political will.** Discussions on SDG implementation strategy have been delayed.

### **Samoa**

- For Samoa, a short presentation made at the HLPF was analysed.<sup>17</sup> Despite being only two pages long it successfully highlights challenges and makes some clear recommendations.
- The statement emphasises that there is **room to improve civil society partnership and engagement** through a more meaningful and genuine dialogue to ensure that no one is left behind. It states that the representation of CSOs at the sector level is not standardised and the flow of information is poor. **The statement recommends that CSO engagement is legalised and a more robust mechanism is put in place where civil society is consulted rather than informed.**
- Other challenges include the **absence of a national comprehensive data collection system and an imbalance of the three dimensions of sustainable development in the Strategy for the Development of Samoa**, which has greatest emphasis on the economic and very little on social.
- The statement suggests that the Government **pilot the implementation of leave no one behind** using one Goal.

16. Implementing the SDGs: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17326>

17. <http://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SamoaPresentationCSOV22forum.pdf>



## Switzerland

- The short report, 'Towards a Sustainable Future: A lot of homework for Switzerland still', by Alliance Sud - Swiss Alliance of Development Organisations<sup>18</sup> **was one of the stand out civil society reports** among those reviewed. It clearly **highlights the political and budgetary challenges as well as the gaps in the institutional approach planned**, successfully challenging the claims laid out in the government report. It focuses on analysing the concrete institutional mechanisms that have been put forward to implement the SDGs and provides clear recommendations for what's needed.
- The report emphasises the gap between 'big words and small budgets' highlighting that the Government took steps to **reduce the budget for international cooperation** three weeks after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, moving Switzerland further away from official commitments of 0.7 per cent of GNI. Switzerland is already to date the **largest recipient of its own development cooperation spending**: In 2015, roughly 14 per cent of ODA was dedicated to the management and care of asylum seekers in Switzerland.
- The **lack of political will in allocating adequate resources** for appropriate measures at home and abroad raises questions about the extent to which Switzerland is institutionally and strategically prepared for effective planning and implementation of Agenda 2030.
- The report argues that the **existing mechanisms proposed to deliver Agenda 2030 – the Sustainable Development Strategy and Dispatch on International Cooperation – are not up to the job** as neither covers the national policies and measures with global impact nor reflects the paradigm shift required. They propose that the Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy has the potential to become the instrument covering the cross-border effects of national policies and measures and truly address policy coherence in an integrated manner.
- The report states that while a new **interdepartmental working group** has been tasked with preparing a baseline report and to make recommendations on indicators, **no additional personnel or financial resources have been allocated to support this**. Furthermore, Federal offices, for which the 2030 Agenda is highly relevant, are completely absent from the implementation process.

- The **adoption of the 2030 Agenda is referred has not led to any new strategic direction** in terms of the Dispatch of the Swiss Development Cooperation. A greater attention to climate change challenges has led to sporadic supplements, and in some areas to a priority shift, however, since no additional funds are made available, climate related (and other) additional tasks will need to be addressed at the expense of other areas.
- The report concludes that the steps for planning and implementation of the 2030 Agenda submitted by Switzerland to the HLPF 2016, including the proposed timetable for further analysis and identification of key areas for action, appear realistic, but that successful implementation of the Agenda depends on the provision of sufficient resources and stronger political will for the enactment of concrete measures.
- The report **calls for the continuation and strengthening of effective and transparent participation of civil society**.

## Uganda

- The Ugandan civil society report<sup>19</sup> is framed as a CSO Rejoinder to the Government review and directly **addresses the steps outlined in the official VNR**. The report was put together by the Agenda 2030 CSO Reference Group, which brings together over 60 members at national and regional level. The members are listed in the report, demonstrating the breadth of inputs.
- The Ugandan civil society report was **among the best of those reviewed**. The document is clearly structured around four key areas, under which clear observations and recommendations are made, and the design of the document helps the reader to navigate the key points.
- The report makes an effort to **acknowledge good practice**, as well as highlight areas where improvement is needed.
- The report emphasises the **need for local governments to be included** in the implementation of the SDGs, stating that one of the key failings of the MDGs was the exclusion of local governments. The report expresses concern that the Ugandan VNR Report does not comprehensively articulate Local Governments' readiness for SDG implementation.
- They also advocate **for Parliament to put in place formal structures to provide oversight of implementation and effective monitoring** of SDGs, as well as regular reporting.

18. Towards a Sustainable Future: A lot of homework for Switzerland still: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17327>

19. <http://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/UgandaCSOStatementHLPF.pdf>



- The report requests that government articulate how it will **engage media** in building their knowledge base on the SDGs; communicating the SDGs; and influencing the implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs.
- The report calls for the development of an **open and robust indicator level integration process** to ensure clear tracking of achievements and results at the implementation level.
- While the government VNR highlights the legal frameworks in place, civil society argue there is **a lack of analysis in the Government report on how these frameworks will facilitate implementation of the Agenda.**
- The report calls on the Government to revisit the **Public Order Management Act**, which they argue will lead to a **further deterioration of the civic space** in Uganda, and may hamper civil society actions that involve discussions related to governance, accountability and rule of law.
- The report makes recommendations in a number of areas relating to the **poorest and most vulnerable.** It calls for action in the following areas: Addressing backsliders into poverty, domestic violence, disability, youth unemployment, demographic challenges including high fertility and dependency ratio and environmental development
- Civil society demands that corruption is addressed through full adherence to the principles of transparency and accountability in the use of public resources.
- As well as reviewing government actions the civil society report also includes a section on **civil society's commitment to implement the SDGs.** The Agenda 2030 CSO Reference Group will focus on the following areas in their work: awareness building; advocacy for country level prioritisation; promoting domestication of SDGs at national and local level; participatory citizen monitoring of SDGs; Supporting implementation through resource mobilisation; and developing a coordination mechanisms for local implementation.

## Recommendations for civil society reporting

Drawing upon the analysis of civil society reports presented in this section, the following 10 recommendations are made. It should be noted that order is arbitrary and the recommendations should be considered of equal importance.

### 1. Acknowledge good practice as well as areas for improvement

The civil society reports reviewed were, for the most part, highly critical of governments' action on the SDGs. Holding the government to account by demonstrating where actions are not sufficient is an important role of civil society. Efforts should be made however to present a constructive picture of implementation, applauding good practice where appropriate, as well as highlighting areas where more work is needed.

### 2. Bring together a variety of voices

A report that brings together diverse views and perspectives from a variety of actors in the civil society community will carry more weight than one from a single individual or organisation. Where this is the case, the reports should provide clear information on whom the publication represents and how inputs were gathered.

### 3. Respond directly to the government progress report

Shadow civil society reports can be powerful platforms to challenge and verify the claims made in government progress reports to the HLPF and the most effective civil society reports reviewed were those that directly discussed and challenged the assertions made in the corresponding country reports. Civil society is encouraged to respond directly to the government reports to the HLPF. To facilitate this, governments should, in addition to engaging civil society in the production of VNRs, provide the chance for civil society to review and respond to progress reports at the earliest possible opportunity.

### 4. Avoid generalities and make clear recommendations for action and improvement

General or sweeping statements are difficult for governments to respond to and easy for them to ignore. Civil society reports should make direct and focused observations and draw upon the knowledge and experience of the civil society community to offer solutions and make recommendations for action.

### 5. Provide examples and evidence to back up claims

The use of concrete and evidence-based examples can help to clearly demonstrate where issues lie, give more weight to civil society arguments and make it more difficult for government to rebuff them.

### 6. Provide insight into civil society engagement

Shadow reports can be used to showcase the value of civil society engagement and demonstrate good practice in civil society engagement and collaboration. They can challenge the assertions of government, judge whether mechanisms are adequate, highlight good practice and make recommendations for improvement where needed. Reports should analyse the mechanisms for civil society involvement and engagement in the reporting process, as well as broader SDG implementation.

### 7. Demonstrate civil society's commitment to implementation

Civil society shadow reports should make it clear that civil society is a supportive partner in SDG implementation and demonstrate this with examples of the activities that civil society will be undertaking to deliver the SDGs either independently, alongside or in partnership with government.

### 8. Keep reports short and focused

Two of the best civil society reports reviewed (Switzerland and Uganda) were both under 10 pages long, yet still made a host of clear observations and recommendations to be taken on board by government. Government and civil society representatives alike are more likely to engage with a concise document that highlights key areas for action.

### 9. Engage the reader with good design and structure

Good report structure and design can help to engage the reader from the outset, guide them through the key points and improve accessibility. Clear headings should be used to break the report down into manageable sections and signpost these to the reader. Colour and images can both be used effectively to highlight different sections and convey key messages.

### 10. Ensure reports are easy to disseminate

Several of the civil society documents reviewed were not published as reports as such but as commentaries on a website. This not only makes them difficult to read and engage with, but also does not facilitate easy dissemination, particularly in areas where Internet is unreliable. Shadow analysis from civil society should be published as a stand-alone, downloadable document that can be easily shared and disseminated in both electronic and hard copy formats as appropriate.

# Annex: Key questions for the literature review

The following key questions were provided by the commissioning organisations and were used to guide the review of country VNRs and civil society shadow reports:

## **Governance and SDGs implementation:**

1. What types of governance arrangements are proposed for delivering the SDGs? Where does leadership come from?
2. Are countries taking an integrated approach to delivering the SDGs? Where are the examples of good practice?
3. Did countries 'pick and choose' different SDGs or did they approach it as a holistic package of goals and targets?
4. Is there evidence that countries are changing their approach to deliver the SDGs or is it 'business as usual' with an SDG Spin?

## **Content of reports:**

1. Did countries reference conducting a gap analysis or baseline study to assess existing policies in relation to the SDGs?
2. Did countries give equal weight to the environmental, economic and social aspects of the SDGs?
3. Did Policy coherence for Sustainable Development feature in the reports – if so how?
4. Did countries include the principle of 'Leave no one behind' in their report? How? Have they addressed domestic inequalities?
5. Did countries link the SDGs to climate change and delivering the Paris Agreement? If so how?

## **The role of civil society:**

1. How did countries consult with an engage civil society in the development of their HLPF reports? Are there good examples of how to engage CSOs?
2. Which countries also had civil society reports? How were reports presented, what was the quality, and did they match the government input? What lessons can we learn from the civil society reporting processes?

# References

The full set of 22 voluntary national reviews submitted to the 2016 HLPF can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>

The selection of 16 country reviews analysed for this report can be found at the following links:

## China

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/china>

## Egypt

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/egypt>

## Estonia

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/estonia>

## Finland

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/finland>

## France

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/france>

## Georgia

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/georgia>

## Germany

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/germany>

## Montenegro

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/montenegro>

## Norway

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/norway>

## Philippines

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/philippines>

## Republic of Korea

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/republicofkorea>

## Samoa

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/samoa>

## Sierra Leone

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/sierraleone>

## Switzerland

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/switzerland>

## Turkey

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/turkey>

## Uganda

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2016/uganda>

The following civil society reports were analysed:

**Egypt** Lack Of Strategy In The 2030 Strategy by the Egyptian Center for Economic & Social Rights: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17212>

**Finland** Integrating the 2030 Agenda into Finland's domestic policy framework by Kepa: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17325>

Finland on the road to sustainable development by Kehys: <http://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Finland.OnTheRoadToSustainableDevelopment.pdf>

**France** Implementing the 2030 Agenda at home and abroad presents new challenges to France by International Movement ATD Fourth World: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17335>

**Germany** Sustainable Germany – A Long Way To Go by a coalition of German NGOs. The introduction in English is available here: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17337>. The full report is available in German at [www.2030report.de](http://www.2030report.de).

Implementation of the Global 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in and by Germany by the German NGO Forum on Environment and Development: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17337>

**Norway** How the UN Sustainable Development Goals can be reached in and with Norway by 2030 by the Norwegian ForUM for Development and Environment: [http://www.forumfor.no/assets/docs/SDGs\\_Forum\\_lowres.pdf](http://www.forumfor.no/assets/docs/SDGs_Forum_lowres.pdf)

**Philippines** For Justice And Sustainability: The Other PH 2030 Agenda by Social Watch Philippines: <http://www.civicus.org/images/PhilippinesSpotlightReport.pdf>

**Republic of Korea** Implementing the SDGs' by the Citizens' Coalition for Economic Justice (CCEJ): <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17326>

**Samoa** Presentation by Samoan civil society to the HLPF: <http://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/SamoaPresentationCSOV22forum.pdf>

**Switzerland** Towards a Sustainable Future: A lot of homework for Switzerland still by Alliance Sud - Swiss Alliance of Development Organisations: <http://www.socialwatch.org/node/17327>

**Uganda** CSO Rejoinder to the Review Report on Uganda's Readiness for Implementation of 2030 Agenda: <http://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/UgandaCSOStatementHLPF.pdf>

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