HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2020 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON APPROACHES AND TOOLS FOR THE 2021 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

SUMMARY OF APPROACHES AND TOOLS

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

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Danish Institute for Human Rights

Approach/tool: 1) Human Rights Guide to the SDGs; The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer; 2) Indigenous Navigator; and 3) SDG 4.7: Human rights education monitoring tool

The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs is a searchable online database illustrating the links between the Sustainable Development Goals and the human rights and labour laws.
The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer make the connections between the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms to the SDGs.

The Indigenous Navigator Tools Database provides a framework and a set of tools to monitor indigenous peoples' human rights, in connection with SDG indicators, and ensure they are not left behind.

SDG 4.7 - Human rights education monitoring tool can help keep track of national human rights education implementation - will be launched September 2020.

Links:

https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/
https://www.humanrights.dk/sdgs
https://www.humanrights.dk/tools

Indigenous Peoples International Centre for Policy Research and Education (TEBTEBBA)

Approach/tool: Indigenous Navigator

The Indigenous Navigator is a framework and set of tools for and by indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. By using the Indigenous Navigator, indigenous organisations and communities, duty bearers, NGOs and journalists can access free tools and resources based on community-generated data. The Indigenous Navigator monitors the implementation of: 1) the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; 2) core human rights conventions as they pertain to indigenous peoples; 3) essential aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals; and 4) the outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

Links:

https://www.tebtebba.org/
https: www.indigenouspeoples-sdg.org.
https://www.indigenouspeoples-sdg.org/index.php/english/
https://nav.indigenousnavigator.com/index.php/en/
https://youtu.be/safnfmBqg3w

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG/VAC)

Approach/tool: How to Highlight Promising Practices in VNRs to End Violence against Children

Among the most marginalized and left behind in society are the children who are victims of violence. The SRSG on Violence against Children advocates for accelerated action to reach the SDGs targets on ending all forms of violence against children, especially SDG target 16.2. The SDG targets on violence are creating a greater sense of urgency among Member States for action and the need for scalable solutions. The process of preparing a VNR is a unique opportunity for Member States to identify, share and promote the promising practices they are using to address violence against children. The Office of the SRSG on Violence against Children has outlined an approach for Member States on how they can use VNRs to highlight the linkages between the SDGs and ending violence against children and thus help accelerate progress towards its elimination, leaving no child behind. The approach is described in a Briefing Note (available in English and Arabic with French, Spanish and Portuguese forthcoming. The Office of the SRSG on Violence against Children stands ready to support Member States in helping to ensure no child is left behind: the best way to do that is to put them at the front and center of the national development agenda.

Link: **https://violenceagainstchildren.un.org/content/2030-childrens-rights-agenda**

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Approach/tool: Data on rights and vulnerable groups at your fingertips: Universal Human Rights Index and the National Recommendations Tracking Database

Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) is an online tool that gives easy access to recommendations of international human rights mechanisms per country. It can help identify groups who may be at risk of being left behind and facilitate measuring progress on SDG implementation and reporting on progress made. The tool allows for searching through recommendations by SDGs and SDG targets, by specific groups and themes, customizing each search to the needs of the user. UHRI is freely accessible and readily available online.

The National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) is an online tool available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic and Russian that facilitates recording, tracking and reporting on the implementation of human rights mechanisms recommendations. The database is customized specifically for the requesting country and can significantly ease reporting burdens under both human rights and sustainable development agendas. The database is available upon request to OHCHR as it needs to be customized for each user – it is a tool developed for States and it is the individual State's decision on what information is included in the system and whether any of the information is open to the public.

OHCHR developed several other tools and approaches that can enhance and support VNR preparation:

Guidelines for States on inclusive participation in public affairs
www.ohchr.org/participationguidelines *(available in all UN languages)*

Recommendations for civil society participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/41/Add.2

Human rights-based approach to data: Leaving no one behind in the 2030 Agenda
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf

Tracking progress: Human Rights Indicators
https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx

Human Rights Indicators tables with SDG Indicators
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf

Practical guide to effective state engagement with international human rights mechanisms
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_PUB_16_1_NMRF_PracticalGuide.pdf

Summary table on the linkages between the SDGs and human rights
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG_HR_Table.pdf

Organization URL: **https://www.ohchr.org/EN/pages/home.aspx**

Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

Approach/tool: Template to assist reporting on LNOB in VNRs

We propose a dedicated section in the VNR to identify those left behind in their contexts as well as policies and programs being implemented to reach these groups, as well as acknowledgment of populations missing from the data and program outreach. For countries that are going to be submitting a VNR more than once, this would provide an opportunity to report on progress made from the previous VNR rather than only reporting on policies and programs begun recently.

https://www.odi.org/

Save the Children

Approach/tool: GRID - Child Inequality Tracker

Save the Children's Child Inequality Tracker, GRID, is a free, online resource that helps governments, development partners, and civil society identify groups that are being left behind, monitor progress on the pledge to Leave No One Behind and build public and political understanding about the

importance of equitable progress in SDG implementation. The database shows inequalities in selected children' well-being indicators across education, health and child protection, including more than 400 household surveys for more than 100 mostly low and middle-income countries. GRID offers a variety of tools that provide a visual and interactive representation of the inequalities that persist between groups of children across key SDG indicators that can be used by governments in their VNRs. The tools are available in English, French and Spanish.

Links:

https://www.savethechildren.net/
https://www.savethechildren.net/grid

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

Approach/tool: Creating a child sensitive and child inclusive VNR

UNICEF has developed a clinic methodology for member states and other key stakeholders involved with the VNRs and more broadly SDG implementation at national level on how to make these activities more child sensitive and child inclusive. This includes key elements such as linking child rights principles to the SDGs; meaningful participation/inclusion of child and youth voices; investing in children; data collection, analysis and use; linking child rights and climate change/environmental degradation; and the role of business in protecting child rights and advancing the SDGs.

World Vision

Approach/tool: 1) Guidance to MS on developing VNRs from a child-sensitive perspective applicable to LNOB.; and 2) Citizens Voice and Action (VC&A) to capture citizen generated data than can contribute to VNR at national and global level.

Guidance - it provides detail guidance through each of the sections of the SG Guidelines on VNR on inclusion of children (applicable to LNOB). It references best practices from VNRs presented in previous years; and CV&A - a social accountability approach designed to improve relationships between communities and governments, improve services and impact lives of families and children. Data for these social accountability processes help show not only "whether" policies are being delivered, but "how" they are being delivered and "why" they are succeeding or failing.

Links:

https://www.wvi.org/
https://www.wvi.org/publications/guidance-note-ensuring-children-are-not-left-behind

II.   Health Issues and COVID-19

Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)

Approach/tool: 1) Affirming Rights, Accelerating Progress and Amplifying Action: Monitoring SDG3 in Asia-Pacific; 2) Affirming Rights, Accelerating Progress and Amplifying Action: Monitoring SDG5 in Asia-Pacific; and 3) Key Findings Report: Online Youth Survey Ahead of the Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) 2020.

The monitoring tools are part of ARROW's mission towards monitoring the progress of government commitments towards Agenda 2030 in relation to gender, women and young people's health and wellbeing, in particular around universal access to sexual and reproductive health and rights. They draw on secondary data to provide a comparison and measure progress pertaining to women and young people's health across 19 countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Link: **https://arrow.org.my/publication/an-advocates-guide-monitoring-universal-access-to-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-rights-in-the-context-of-the-sustainable-development-goals/**

International Health Partnership for UHC2030 (UHC2030)

Approach/tool: The State of UHC Commitment Country Profile Dashboard, UHC Data Portal, UHC2030

In 2019, world leaders endorsed the most ambitious and comprehensive political declaration on health in history. UHC2030 has initiated a project on the State of UHC Commitment to curate diverse views of a range of stakeholders on the current situation and commitments to make progress towards UHC by 2030. The Country Profile Dashboard has been developed as one of the products of this new flagship project of UHC2030.

Monitoring progress on universal health coverage (UHC) and holding governments accountable to take the necessary actions may require data on political dimensions around rights, governance and equity that are not readily collected by national institutions. It also involves going beyond the face value of policy documents that document what ought to be happening by providing empirical assessments of the experiences of people, especially the vulnerable, in accessing health services. Individual country profiles aim to provide country stakeholders with the necessary information to feed into inclusive and participatory review processes for assessing UHC progress and action on commitments over time. The country profiles seek to provide the basis for UHC advocates to prepare their campaigns in the lead up to the celebration of the International UHC Day on 12 December. The country profiles will also provide valuable information to prepare reporting into the regular country preparatory processes of the Regional Summits and the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Developments (e.g. Voluntary National Review).

The State of UHC Commitment's Dashboard provides a snapshot of both the state of individual country UHC commitments and an overview of global progress to facilitate cross-country comparisons. The dashboard (version 1) draws on data available from 2010 to the present, aiming to set a baseline of UHC commitments in all 193 UN member states. It comprises a mix of quantitative and qualitative data around the key commitment areas of the UHC Political

Declaration. In future years, the country profiles will be updated to help country stakeholders to assess the latest status of UHC commitments and track progress in their translation into action.

Organization URL: **www.uhc2030.org**

Tool URL: **https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/knowledge-and-networks/uhc-data-portal/**

Other Links:

https://universalhealthcoverageday.org/commitments/

https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiOTBiZjg3MjItMjgwNS00MGNkLTk5ZDItNGQzZTAxZmE2MDI2IiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMGI3LWJkMjQtNGIzOS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjU5MCIsImMiOjh9&pageName=ReportSectionc5402e61cfb85160421d

Contact: **info@uhc2030.org**

International Labour Organization (ILO)

Approach/tool: COVID response and suite of analytical and policy tools

VNR support - ILO policy framework and tools on Agenda 2030 and COVID response for the World of Work

Links:

https://www.ilo.org/global/lang--en/index.htm

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_745337.pdf

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/regional-country/country-responses/lang--en/index.htm#HR

https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/sectoral/lang--en/index.htm

https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@dgreports/@dcomm/documents/briefingnote/wcms_745337.pdf

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Approach/tool: 1) Reg4COVID; 2) Connect2Recover; and 3) Giga

Reg4COVID - The global network resiliency platform created to support countries and industry during COVID-19; It was created to enable regulators, policy makers and other interested stakeholders share information, view initiatives and measures have introduced around the world to

help ensure communities remain connected, and ensure that communities harness the full power and potential of ICTs during this crisis and to prepare for the medium and long-term recovery from COVID19.

Connect2Recover - an initiative to help countries reinforce their digital infrastructure as they adjust to the new normal created by the COVID-19 pandemic. It will consist of three key elements including helping beneficiary countries develop a methodology for identifying gaps and bottlenecks in the use of digital networks and technologies at country level; assist countries in assessing their needs, gaps and bottlenecks, and develop strategies to ensure that the digital infrastructure and ecosystems adequately support recovery efforts and the new normal; and also conceptualize and implement pilot projects to test specific technological solutions in line with national country strategies and policies.

Giga -This is an UNICEF-ITU collaborative initiative that aims at bringing to life the power of meaningful connectivity to fast track young people's access to educational resources and opportunities. It also serves as a platform to create the infrastructure necessary to provide digital connectivity to an entire country, for every community, and for every citizen. It is about using schools to identify demand for connectivity, as well as using schools as an analogy for learning and connecting communities.

Link: **https://www.itu.int/en/about/Pages/default.aspx**

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)

Approach/tool: Suggestions to incorporate disaster risk reduction (DRR) into the 2021 voluntary national reviews

Disaster risk is increasingly complex and systemic, and hazards can trigger each other with cascading impacts across sectors and geographies, hampering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The potential of development policies and investments to prevent the creation of new risk, reduce existing risk and address residual risk means that disaster risk reduction (DRR) must be an integral part of sustainable development to reduce losses and enhance resilience. This was recognized in the political declaration of the 2019 HLPF, and the General Assembly resolutions on "Disaster risk reduction," adopted in the 74th and 73rd sessions identify the importance of considering DRR in the HLPF and the national review process. The list of suggestions for incorporating DRR into the 2021 VNRs, prepared by UNDRR, builds on existing guidance for preparation of VNRs and highlights opportunities for enhanced incorporation of disaster risk reduction into the VNR process.

The list of suggestions for incorporating DRR into the 2021 VNRs supports the achievement of all SDG goals and targets, due to the interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and the systemic nature of disaster risk. Applying a risk-lens to development policies can support enhanced understanding of the ramifications of any development intervention on the exposure or vulnerability to hazards and contribute to risk-informed development. The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 should be used to "guide the multi-hazard management of disaster risk in development at all levels as well as within and across all sectors" necessary towards this aim (paragraph 15).

Links:

United Nations Secretary-General Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent

Approach/tool: An integrated accountability framework for SDGs

The UN Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) for Every Woman Every Child is a key independent accountability mechanism for health under the SDGs. Mandated by the UN Secretary-General, the IAP reviews progress on women's, children's and adolescents' health towards the SDGs and recommends how countries, development partners and stakeholders can strengthen accountability to accelerate progress.

Accountability is a required step for progress on SDGs and rights, to build back better through COVID-19, and ensure no one is left behind. The IAP defines accountability as a way to connect commitments to progress in a justifiable and constructive way. The integrated accountability framework set out in the IAP 2020 report is based on four pillars:

- Commit: commitment to achieving health and rights across SDGs, with defined responsibilities and required resources.
- Justify: decisions and actions to achieve goals and rights are justified by evidence, rights and rule of law.
- Implement: progress is charted by monitoring, reviewing data, including independent review, enacting remedies, taking necessary action and being seen to do so.
- Progress: continuously making effective, efficient and equitable progress toward agreed rights and goals, with all available resources - the human rights principle of progressive realization.

The ECOSOC President for HLPF in a 2019 report noted the lack of monitoring and accountability frameworks as a challenge for VNRs.

The IAP recommends strengthening accountability not as a duty, or a way to criticize, but as a way to improve efficiency, effectiveness and equity and to realize goals and rights. It requires a more democratized and institutionalized approach to accountability, supported by strong country data systems.

In addition to the accountability framework, the IAP 2020 report also provides country scorecards (on women's, children's and adolescents' health in the context of UHC and the SDGs) and five country case aimed to amplify accountability through the voices of women, children, adolescents and key stakeholders so that the required remedies and actions can be taken towards tangible improvements for the World We Want in 2030.

Links:

World Health Organization (WHO)

Approach/tool: Handbook on Social Participation for Universal Health Coverage

Social participation mechanisms are vital for responsive health reforms that leave no one behind in efforts to achieve universal health coverage. The Handbook on social participation for UHC provides best practice guidance to policy makers on how to effectively and meaningfully engage with populations, civil society, and communities for policy- and decision-making.

The Handbook's content has been steered by both an External Advisory Body, the Social Participation Technical Network, and a WHO internal working group on community engagement. Apart from extensive topical literature reviews, nine country case studies across WHO regions have been conducted to inform the handbook. These include studies on wide-scale direct population engagement mechanisms, as well as population engagement through civil society and communities for national planning, policy and review processes in sector-wide policy-making.

Link: **https://www.who.int/activities/promoting-participatory-governance-social-participation-and-accountability**

III. Financing, Investment, Engagement of Private Sector

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

Approach/tool: Corporate SDGs reporting guidance and recommendations for Governments on SDG 12.6

As developer of the most widely adopted global standards for sustainability reporting, GRI is committed to the implementation of SDG target 12.6 and enabling private sector contribution to the SDGs. Through the Action Platform Reporting on the SDGs, GRI and UN Global Compact, together with partners, have developed three reporting tools, based on existing corporate reporting standards and principles, to enable measuring and reporting on the SDGs. The tools are based on existing reporting practices and do not create a new framework:

- "Integrating the SDGs into corporate reporting: A Practical Guide" and "An Analysis of the Goals and Targets" are meant to be used together as part of a company's regular reporting cycle to disclose impacts on and contributions to the SDGs.

- "In-focus: Addressing Investor Needs in Business Reporting on the SDGs" provides additional insights on how business can disclose SDG-related information in an investor-relevant way

These tools have formed the basis for GRI to engage with several governments to support integration of private sector SDG data in the national review processes, and in VNRs.

Links:

https://www.unglobalcompact.org
https://www.globalreporting.org/
https://youtu.be/-1K7z96i5gs

Pure Consulting

Approach/tool: EU Taxonomy for finance to reach SDG

EU taxonomy regulation for finance are mandatory and built to ensure that investors are driving private and public sector in the speed needed to reach the 2030 Agenda. The rule is to be launched in December 2020.

Financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and creating a better life for all – transition to a sustainable economy

The 2030 Agenda has to be implemented. Governments are concerned with financing and carrying out the implementation; the private sector are concerned with new regulations while looking for opportunities and civil society are concerned with oversight issues, transparency, accountability and participation. We can provide solutions to all these concerns.

The following three statements have been repeated so often since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015, that they seem to be blocking creative initiatives and mentally numbing our minds. With our insights and experience we can 'unblock' these and other constraints in developing an economy for sustainable development.

- Insufficient financing remains one of the greatest bottlenecks that prevents the world from achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.[1]
- Unlocking private business and finance is one of the greatest challenges to achieving sustainable development and reinvigorating the economy following the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.[2]
- Private finance and investment are of central importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).[3]

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[1] https://www.un.org/en/desa/key-topics/financing-sustainable-development
[2] https://www.un.org/development/desa/financing/topics/domestic-and-international-private-business-and-finance
[3] https://www.gisdalliance.org/about.

Having worked across nations and regions, with governments and municipalities, with the private sector and civil society, with the EU and the UN, we are in a good position to provide training and capacity building to succeed in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda on time.

The following pages illustrate how we see the issues. We will present this in four elements:

- A general intro
- An overview of the EU taxonomy
- An outline of training sessions
- Conclusions

A General Intro

The necessity of adequate finance to implement the SDGs is dealt with in numerous UN documents and the EU is now making finance and investment for sustainable development into law through their Taxonomy legislation.

There have been several reasons for lack of sufficient sustainable investment. Historically, investing sustainably has most likely meant a reduction in potential positive returns. Other reasons are focus on shareholder primacy coupled with short-termism.

Overcoming this and ensure the scope and pace needed for sustainable investment to meet the 2030 agenda will require the use of new mandatory legislation and government guidelines. Such legislation must be an integral part of national strategies for sustainable development.

Based on the UN's Financing for Development strategy (the Addis Ababa Action Agenda), the EU has codified needed actions into their New Green Deal and Sustainable Financial Action Plan with the Taxonomy Regulation as a foundation. The latter is a mandatory legal framework that defines which business activities are approved as sustainable and which are not. To get an activity approved as sustainable, it must meet criteria set out in the framework that represent the level needed to reach the SDGs within 2030. To be approved, the activity must also comply with the criteria to "do no significant harm" to other SDGs as well as ensure social safeguards. The main purpose of this legislation is to create the transformation of the finance sector making sure that all business activities will be conducted in a coherent way, resulting in achieving the Paris agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

The EU Green Deal could be copied by all countries as it provides concrete solutions to financing the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement and includes all stakeholders.
Key elements are:

- Long term planning
- Transition to circular economy
- Economic growth detached from resource use
- Continued work with Sustainable Finance activities
- Mobilization of at last € 1 trillion in investments over the course of the next 10 years

We have more than ten years' experience in training and planning for transitions to sustainable development, with governments, private sector, academia and civil society. At all levels.

An Overview of the Taxonomy

Our company has several times explained EU's "Green Deal and Sustainable Finance Action Plan with the Taxonomy Regulation." These laws and regulations that EU now has enacted will set the direction and pace for all stakeholders, official and non-official. in society. Based on thorough research and with a forward looking strategy, the new legislation will become an integral element of all strategies for sustainable development, be they from the national government, from a municipality, urban or rural, from a thriving business or other non-state stakeholders. The key elements of the Taxonomy will provide opportunities for any stakeholder, the issue will be to know and understand the Taxonomy.

The EU is making the Taxonomy mandatory for all EU members. But they will also make sure that any trading partner, nations and companies alike, will have to comply with these laws. From this point of view, it will also be incumbent upon all stakeholders, official and non-official, to have insight into and understand the Taxonomy.

The Taxonomy is laid out in a number of important documents and is being analysed and made into a set of comprehensive documents. We have broken down some of the key elements in the Taxonomy, and the legislation of the Taxonomy can schematically be presented the following way:

EU's Green Deal – a tipping point?

What is the European Green Deal?

An Outline of Training Sessions

We suggest using the EU's Green Deal as a role model on an action-based solution that will take global efforts dealing with the sustainability challenges to a new level. The EU's motto in this context is: «leading by example through Greening processes and setting standards for sustainable growth». This means:

1. Define goals and areas to work with.

2. Define actions in categories, such as:

   a. new legislation, or changes in existing legislation, e.g. a new climate law, sustainable finance regulations, review of Trans-European Network-Energy regulation and Construction-products regulation;
   b. Political initiatives, policies and guidelines, e.g. Carbon Border Tax, EU Industrial Strategy, Circular Economy Action Plan, Strategy on Sustainable and Smart Mobility, Biodiversity Strategy, Chemicals Strategy, EU Forest Strategy etc;
   c. Prepare an investment plan covering national budgets as well as public and private investments;
   d. Create committees and new roles where needed, to drive and monitor the actions to fulfil the 2030 goals;
   e. Define a plan to support a just and inclusive transition;
   f. Setting standards for sustainable growth across global value-chains. When the taxonomy refers to "Do No Significant Harm" and social safe-guards, it refers to the directives of the UNPGs – the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights, and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, both to be employed by all companies irrespective of size and geographical position.
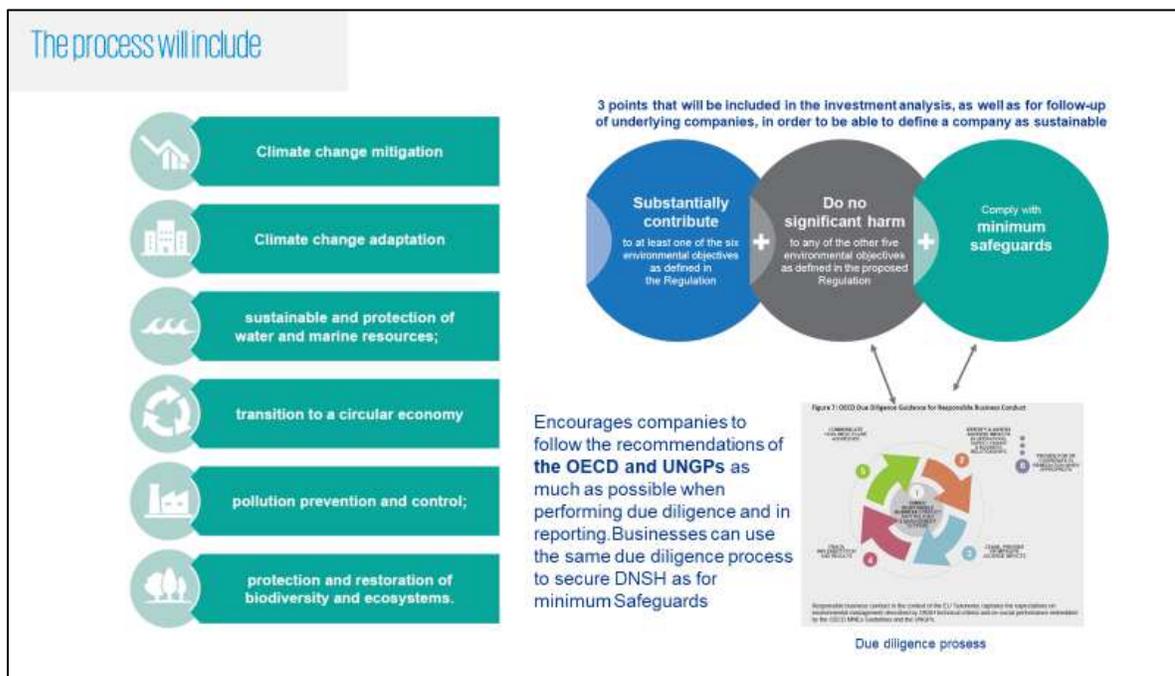
3. Using diplomacy, trade and development cooperation to advance climate action.

   This EU has manged to agree, across member states, on initiatives at high levels as well as on detailed actions in a coherent way. Consequently, it should be possible for any nation to conduct a similar sustainability strategy with a complete set of action plans.

Conclusions

Back in 2015 business was still sceptical to sustainable development and what this entailed. Investors tended primarily to look for opportunities to increase performance, regardless of its level of sustainability. A few reports made efforts to identify opportunities found in sustainable development in general and in the 2030 Agenda in particular. One such report estimated that global demands for new, sustainable infrastructure could amount to more than $90 trillion between 2015 and 2030 in revenues.

According to its estimates, this would almost double the estimated $50 trillion value of the world's existing stock. In fact, the report inferred, the world could literally be rebuilding its infrastructure over the next 15 years. The vast scale of what's needed, combined with fiscal constraints in the public sector, suggested in the report's view, that private-sector financing would be crucial to such investments. Corporate and institutional investors could provide $1 trillion to $1.5 trillion in additional private capital for sustainable projects—up to half of the annual investment gap[4].

The report also identified a number of the constraints making it anywhere from difficult to impossible for the private sector to engage. One such set of constraints were regulations and laws.

The report is engaging and optimistic. But when it states that we would literally be rebuilding our world's infrastructure over the next 15 years, it may seem to fail to ask serious questions such as: does the world have the necessary resources to do that? Are so-called green infrastructure constructions based on proper environmental impact assessments? Does such investment also develop social safeguards? From an approach in 2015 with a seemingly myopic focus on an unbridled enhancement of performance, we have arrived at a much more knowledge-based understanding of the implications of the 2030 Agenda and the role of various stakeholders in financing and implementing the agenda.

The understanding of the complexity including the opportunities have developed exponentially over the past few years. The EU with its new Green Deal and the Taxonomy has made a concerted effort to address the issues of sustainable development with leadership and visible directions, making its approaches coherent as well as science based.

A large global network of banks and investors working closely with the UN, now claims that:

"Private finance and investment are of central importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, to date, private investment in areas critical for implementation of the SDGs is vastly insufficient. Additional resources are urgently needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The bulk of the required investment will need to be long-term. The incentives for institutional investors, commercial banks, capital market actors and corporations are driven by shorter time horizons such as dividends or quarterly reporting requirements, that prioritize short-term shareholder value. Shifting a small amount of assets to long-term investment in sustainable development could provide much needed resources for the achievement of the SDGs. At the industry level, extending performance benchmarks, investment mandates, and corporate board

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[4] https://www.mckinsey.com/business-functions/operations/our-insights/next-generation-of-infrastructure

structure are high-impact actions that can be used to unlock investment into sustainable development."[5]

We have the competence to explain the challenges and opportunities in today's efforts to finance the 2030 Agenda.

Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future/Pure Consultancy

Approach/tool: A 2030 risk analysis, planning, impact assessment and implementation methodology to achieve transformative change

With the SDGs and Agenda 2030 as framework, using existing KPI or materiality analysis for the private sector, risk analysis and due diligence for investment activities, risk analysis and impact assessment for municipalities and urban areas and participatory methodology for civil society, a strategic approach engendering transformative change with implementation is made possible. This involves all SDGs with relevant targets. At the outset activities from key KPIs, or municipal plans, or NGO visions are mapped to see how they relate to corresponding SDGs with interrelationships between existing plans and all SDGs. Further analysis will point to key areas of transformative change: integrated indivisible, interlinked, environmental, social and economic issues, including focussing on the 5 P's as overarching targets. If a business, NGO or municipality decide to focus on only 1 SDG, during impact assessments the need is to makes sure activities will do no harm to the other 16.

Link: **https://stakeholderforum.org/**

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the International Trade Centre (UNCTAD-ITC)

Approach/tool: SDG Trade Monitor

ITC, UNCTAD and WTO are the custodian agencies of 6 trade-related SDG indicators. The SDG Trade Monitor has been developed to streamline statistical coordination processes within the UN System and provide an interactive one-stop-shop to track down the progress made in the area of international trade.

The SDG Trade Monitor allows for comparison of national and regional trends using multiple data visualization approaches and selection criteria (country, partner, product). Trade policy makers can use it to conduct customized analysis on official trade-related SDG indicators and other complementary indicators to gain a more extensive understanding of the trade dimension in the SDG agenda.

Links:

https://www.sdgtrade.org/en

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[5] https://www.gisdalliance.org/our-work/mobilize-finance-investment

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Approach/tool 1: SDG Corporate Tracker (SDG CT)

SDG Corporate Tracker measures the contribution of the business sector to the SDGs on an online platform that enables the collection of information to identify this progress. Specifically, it 1) collects data in a standardized method for the analysis and monitoring of the contribution to the 2030 Agenda; 2) develops tools that capture information using GRI Standards as reference that also guide the company's reporting exercise; 3) launches an online platform to report information and manage knowledge about companies' sustainable practices; and 4) prepares analysis reports using the information gathered.

Links:

https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/
https://www.businesscalltoaction.org/toolkits/sdg-corporate-tracker-colombia
https://tracking.ods.gov.co/login

Approach/tool 2: Accelerating Finance for the SDGs and Covid-19 Recovery

Financing the SDGs requires significant transformations within the global financial system, and within entities that own, manage or regulate financial flows and transactions. UNDP offers a comprehensive package of methods and tools in support of the organization's SDG Integration offer to enable governments, the private sector and international financial institutions to accelerate financing for the SDGs.

Links:

https://sdgfinance.undp.org/
https://sdgimpact.undp.org/
https://inff.org/

Approach/tool 3: Development Finance Assessment

The Development finance assessment (DFA) is a tool developed by UNDP to support governments as they respond to covid-19 and establish integrated national financing frameworks to finance the agenda of building forward better with greater sustainability, resilience and inclusivity.

Approach/tool 4: Integrated Financing Frameworks (INFF)

INFFs are a powerful planning and delivery tool to finance sustainable development at the national level. They look at the full range of financing sources – public finance and tax, aid flows, borrowing,

and private investments – and lay out a strategy to increase investment, manage risks, and achieve sustainable development priorities. In short, INFFs are a tool to operationalize the Addis Ababa Action Agenda at the national level. UNDP is leading technical support for INFFs at the country level, in 58 countries, working together with RCOs and UNCTs to align support with financing the COVID 19 recovery. 15 Agencies collaborate on INFFs.

Link: **https://inff.org/**

Approach/tool 5: SDG Investor Maps

SDG Impact has been developing investor maps to provide investors with country-level market intelligence that highlights key intersections between development need, policy priorities, and investor interest. SDG Investor Maps provide localized insight into sectors and market conditions that advance the SDGs. The methodology identifies Investment Opportunity Areas (IOAs) and business models that could advance the SDGs.

Links:

https://sdgfinance.undp.org
https://sdgimpact.undp.org

United Nations Global Compact

Approach/tool: Global Compact Local Networks

Global Compact Local Networks are country-level alliances of private-sector companies that commit to the advancement of the SDGs. They can serve as natural partners to Governments in private sector stakeholder consultations, as well as share information on the private sector contribution via case studies and corporate data.

Link: **https://www.unglobalcompact.org/**

IV. Localization of SDGs

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Approach/tool: Monitoring and reporting: Yearly report of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments to the HLPF "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" / Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD V) on "The Localization of the Global Agendas" / "Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews – volume 1" / Voluntary Local Reviews / Voluntary Subnational Reviews facilitated by UCLG. All of them are available at: **https://www.gold.uclg.org**

The tools contribute to monitoring and reporting SDG localization by local and regional governments (LRGs) around the world. Their value lies in the fact that they contribute to ensuring local governments increase mobilization and involvement in the localization process of SDGs and to

the monitoring and reporting process developed by national governments when developing their VNRs, as well as to global reporting processes. By involving LRGs themselves in the VNR processes and collecting data and information generated at the local level, the reports offer more accurate information and facilitate the acknowledgment and value of the different realities of society and territories. They contribute to better inform policy-making that responds to the needs and aspirations of communities and thus achieve the SDGs. All the tools point at the use of "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approaches as a key component of SDG localization as the 2030 Agenda itself acknowledges (par. 34, 45, SDG17).

Link: **https://www.beyondtheoutbreak.uclg.org/**

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Approach/tool: UN DESA Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews

The Department of Economic and Social affairs (UN DESA) is committed to ensuring robust monitoring and review of progress of SDG implementation at all levels. Local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR), modelled after the Voluntary National Reviews of national governments. Cities as diverse as New York, Helsinki, Bristol, Buenos Aires, and Shimokawa have completed a VLR.

UN DESA organizes global capacity building workshops for peer learning opportunities for those cities and regions that have already conducted a VLR and to those only starting or interested in the journey.

UN DESA has also made available the Global guiding elements for the Voluntary Local Reviews, which draw from the Secretary-General's common voluntary guidelines for the VNRs. These elements are not meant to be restrictive, but at minimum, give a checklist of issues that could be reflected in the process. They also aim at fostering a dialogue between the VNRs and VLRs.

Links:

https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews
https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/GlobalGuidingElementsforVLRs_FINAL.pdf

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN Habitat)

Approach/tool: UN-Habitat approach to Voluntary Local Reviews

UN-Habitat has developed a fully-fledged methodology to support local and regional governments in preparing Voluntary Local Reviews based on the evidence collected through the direct support provided to different cities such as Moscow and Florence. Specific attention is dedicated to the multilevel dimension of SDG reporting and on how to link local and national processes. Connecting VNRs and VLRs can substantially enhance national reporting processes by providing territorial data on SDG progresses, allowing for a deeper understanding of local realities, while enhancing multilevel coordination and therefore policy coherence and effectiveness. This is why UN-Habitat is

collaborating with United Cities Local Governments and other partners including UNDESA on the second volume of the Guidelines for VLRs that will be dedicated to the connections and interlinkages between VNRs and VLRs, with the specific aim of providing insights on how to strengthen the monitoring and reporting system nationally.

Link: **https://unhabitat.org/**

V.   Synergies and Integration

Joint UNDP and UNICEF MAPS Project Team

Approach/tool: Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support for the SDGs (MAPS)

Integrated approaches are essential to address today's complex and interconnected challenges – inequalities, climate change and the cascading effects of COVID-19. The UNSDG Mainstreaming Acceleration and Policy Support for the SDGs (MAPS) approach was launched in 2016 as a UN interagency effort to support national Governments in their efforts to achieve the SDGs. More than 50 countries, including VNR countries, have benefited from MAPS support, helping them take stock of progress towards the SDGs and identify areas where acceleration is needed. As we enter the Decade of Action, the UNSDG Task Team on Integrated Policy Support is revamping the MAPS approach with a greater focus on policy integration and acceleration. The SDG Accelerator Toolkit is being updated, and a technical e-course was launched in September 2020 to strengthen the capacities of UN Country Teams and governments to apply integrated analytical tools and multi-stakeholder collaboration models in UN Cooperation Frameworks and national plans for the SDGs.

Link: **https://www.sparkblue.org/MAPS**

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)

Approach/tool: SDG Synergies Tool

SDG Synergies is a practical tool for understanding how groups of policy areas and targets interact, using systems thinking. Designed by researchers at the Stockholm Environment Institute originally to support governments in implementing the SDGs, SDG Synergies could be invaluable within and beyond the field of sustainability.

To date, it has been used by national and regional governments around the world.
Based on a participatory, discussion-based scoring process, SDG Synergies develops a cross-impact matrix of interactions between targets: how progress on one might affect progress on the other, and vice versa. With intuitive controls, it is then possible to regroup and rank these interactions to explore different aspects of the system.

The visualizations and analyses can, for example, inform decisions about how to prioritize implementation of different targets, or how best to manage potential trade-offs. They can also help to identify what cross-sectoral collaborations would be most productive.

Links:

https://www.sdgsynergies.org
https://www.sei.org/topic/sustainable-development-goals/

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Approach/tool: SparkBlue and Collective Intelligence

Collective intelligence is shared or group intelligence that emerges from the collective efforts to collaborate on decision making. SparkBlue is UNDP's corporate collaboration platform and hosts consultations on policies, strategic plans, etc, with diverse audiences and stakeholders.

Links:

https://www.undp.org/
https://www.SparkBlue.org

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)

Approach/tool: Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT)

The IPRT is a web application developed by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in response to the needs of African countries to simultaneously adopt and integrate both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into their national development and enable them to report their progress in a harmonized way.

Link: **https://www.uneca.org/**

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

Approach/tool: ESCAP's VNR Toolbox

ESCAP's assistance to the VNR formulation process includes a national SDG progress assessment dashboard supporting analysis whether a country is on track meeting the 17 SDGs, tools to help calculate SDG investment requirements, and an Excel-based model to assist countries in designing integrated policies in the recovery from COVID-19, a classification and regression tree methodology to measure inequality of opportunity and identify those left behind, and a methodology to apply systems thinking to integrate the SDGs into national planning. Support to the VNR production process is provided through a Stakeholder Engagement Planning and Assessment Tool, guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews supporting SDG localisation and capacity at city and subnational level,

and on-site and online training for VNR capacity development to developing a VNR plan and roadmaps. facilitate peer-learning, ESCAP also hosts a Twinning Programme, bringing together countries that are planning to develop VNRs with ones that have already presented VNRs.

Links:

https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/

https://www.unescap.org/resources/assessing-impact-covid-19-asia-and-pacific-and-designing-policy-responses-excel-based

https://sdghelpdesk-elearning.unescap.org/thematicarea/detail?id=11

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)

Approach/tool: SDG Knowledge and Learning Platform

The platform has four components: Read, Watch, Learn & Collaborate. It offers an extensive set of knowledge material on the 2030 Agenda, the 17 SDGs, and the follow-up and review of the Agenda. The K&L Platform is the first knowledge platform to provide decision-makers in the Arab region with a comprehensive set of open resources and learning materials on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Arabic and English. Not only does it target decision-makers in the Arab region, but also UN staff members, parliamentarians, a wide range of regional and international institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, and academic and research centers, among others. It links to a search engine—Manara—that is one of a kind, utilizing the latest advancements in online knowledge depositories on all matters related to sustainable development.

For the VNR, the K&L Platform dedicates, under Collaborate function, a discussion forum made available for the members of the Community of Practice (facilitated by UNESCWA) to peer learn and share experiences and good practices.

Links:

https://www.unescwa.org/
https://www.arabsdg.unescwa.org

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Approach/tool: UNITAR-UNDESA- Training toolkit on strategic planning and policy coherence for SDGs

This UNITAR-UNDESA-ECLAC training toolkit provides a set of training materials and guidance on how to undertake an integrated analysis of SDG interactions, assess policy scenarios on coherence and develop a truly integrated overarching national strategy for the implementation of the SDGs using UNDESA methodology. New modules under development cover policy coherence through better alignment in budgeting and M&E issues.

UNITAR and UNDESA are also developing currently an e-learning course using this methodology with updates relevant to the recovery from COVID-19. The e-course will be delivered in its facilitated version in spring 2021."

Link: **https://unitar.org/event/full-catalog/toolkit-integrated-policies-and-policy-coherence-sdgs**

VI. Data

International Trade Centre (ITC)

Approach/tool: SheTrades Outlook

SheTrades Outlook is a first of its kind tool on business, trade and gender. Developed under the SheTrades Commonwealth programme, SheTrades Outlook allows governments and other stakeholders to assess, monitor, and improve the extent to which the institutional ecosystem supports women's participation in the economy, especially business and international trade. The tool enables cross-country comparisons based on measurable indicators and sharing of good practices. In 2019, Outlook was rolled out in 25 Commonwealth countries. ITC is currently working on the second phase of the project, with the goal to expand to further 10 countries. SheTrades Outlook relies largely on national surveys of public and private sector initiatives. An average of 20 national institutions per country contribute data to the tool.

Links:

https://www.intracen.org/
https://www.shetrades.com/en
https://www.shetrades.com/outlook

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)

Approach/tool: 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean Regional knowledge management platform

The Regional knowledge platform for the 2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean was developed jointly by 18 entities of the UN System in the region, with the purpose of facilitating the regional implementation, monitoring and statistical follow up of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. It was launched in June 2020 and includes more than 1, 500 information resources are available.
The knowledge platform includes background information on the 2030 Agenda, the institutional architecture for the implementation of the Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean; and an entry by SDG and by Country, which provide information on institutional mechanisms, VNRs, SDG indicators and more. ECLAC invites you to visit the platform at www.agenda2030lac.org, available in Spanish and English and accessible through mobile devices or a desktop.

Link: **https://www.cepal.org/en**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

Approach/tool: UNESCO methodology on SDG Indicator 16.10.2 (Public Access to Information)

UNESCO and its Institute for Statistics developed a methodology to help measure and report on Indicator 16.10.2. The methodology was endorsed by 39 Member States constituting UNESCO's Intergovernmental Council of International Programme for the Development of Communication. The methodology consists of a survey developed in consultation with experts and concerned organizations. It consists of a National Questionnaire (targeted at ATI oversight bodies) and an Institutional Questionnaire (targeted at three public authorities).The survey was piloted in 2019 in 43 countries, with the findings presented the same year at a side-event during the UN's High-Level Political Forum. In 2020, as many as 69 countries responded to the survey on a voluntary basis.

Link**: https://en.unesco.org/**

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Approach/tool: Population data platform, using census data to monitor the SDGs, SDG costing methodology

Leveraging the census for geographic disaggregation of the SDGs and data layering techniques to reach those furthest behind (LNOB). A crucial tool for strengthening the evidence within the VNRs in the decade of action.

Links:

https://www.unfpa.org/
https://unfpa-covid-unfpapdp.hub.arcgis.com/
https://www.unfpa.org/data/demographic-dividend#0
https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/PSA_Guide_1.pdf
https://pdp.unfpa.org/intimate-partner-violence/
https://www.unfpa.org/census
https://unfpa-covid-unfpapdp.hub.arcgis.com/

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

Approach/tool: Industrial Analytical Platform (IAP)

The UNIDO Industrial Analytical Platform (IAP) features data on selected indicators of industrial development and provides relevant research by leading experts in the field in an accessible format. It is aimed at supporting a wide range of stakeholders, including government, regulators and policymakers to better understand the various dimensions of industrial development in countries

and around the globe using the platform's unique Data Explorer. UNIDO offers in-situ capacity building on the tool whilst efforts are ongoing to develop eLearning material on the Platform.

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)

Approach/tool: StaTact, data planning tool for SDG monitoring

StaTact is a web-based application enabling National Statistical Offices and government decision-makers work together to address pressing and most relevant data gaps on SDG indicators in a short time period. StaTact provides an online collaborative environment to discuss and analyze data issues, plan for solutions and track progress on implementation. Can be used in preparation for VNRs as national indicator frameworks are being reviewed and statistical annexes are being prepared. Provides a feature for sharing good practices between countries.

Link: **https://unitar.org/event/full-catalog/toolkit-integrated-policies-and-policy-coherence-sdgs**

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)

Approach/tool: A gender statistic dashboard on COVID-19

The dashboard is a compilation of indicators useful for informing gender-responsive policy action on COVID-19. It is an inter-agency collaboration that has benefitted from the inputs of ILO, ITU, UNCTAD, UNDP, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, WFP, WHO and many others.

Links:

https://data.unwomen.org/resources/covid-19-and-gender-monitor

https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/progress-on-the-sustainable-development-goals-the-gender-snapshot-2020-en.pdf?la=en&vs=127

https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-covid-19-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5142

VII. Engagement of Stakeholders

German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE)

Approach/tool: International Peer Review

The Federal government of Germany has mandated the German Council for Sustainable Development with the facilitation of the international Peer Review 2018 on German sustainable development strategy – for the third time after 2009 and 2013. The Chair of the International Peer Review Group, Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand, former Administrator of UNDP, has presented the group's report to German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Annual Conference of the German Council for Sustainable Development in 2018.

The group of international experts has met twice in Berlin, having extensive stakeholder consultations and group discussions. This was accompanied by a survey prior to these consultations as well as document review. To apply the methodology is straight forward and even under COVID-19 conditions can be applied virtually and at lower costs and significantly contribute to constructive feedback of VNR reports or National Sustainable Development Strategies or policy processes, linking both elements.

Link: **https://www.nachhaltigkeitsrat.de/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018_Peer_Review_of_German_Sustainability_Strategy_BITV.pdf**

Mecanismo de participación SC en Foro Regional LAC / FEIM

Approach/tool: Experience in Latin America & Caribbean, national, regional and global regional

We'll share the experience we have had at national level in LAC countries and how we want to incorporate this in the Regional Forum organized by ECLAC and how we did in the HLPF. We'll express methodology to increase commitment of CS, governments & multilateral agencies in the three levels.

Link: **http://feim.org.ar/**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

Approach/tool: Walking the Talk: Engaging Stakeholders in implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda: A framework to analyse the quality of stakeholder engagement (UNDP/UNDESA)

To be launched by UNDP and UNDESA in January, it is a tool for governments, non-state actors, and development partners alike, and ideally jointly, to examine the quality of stakeholder engagement practices. Its objective is to help improve stakeholder engagement practices, foster dialogue between implementers of a practice and stakeholders, and support learning across countries.

Links:

https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home.html
https://www.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home.html
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos

United Nations Foundation

Approach/tool: Off-the-record convenings with a cross section of stakeholders to engage in lessons learned, explore new research and analysis, and curate strategies and solutions.

The United Nations Foundation has worked to build and sustain political support and alignment on the 2030 Agenda among member states, UN system, civil society, and global experts, including monitoring of SDG progress. We have done this through:

• Off-the-record convenings around preparing VNRs; strengthening stakeholder engagement and inclusion; promoting new evidence and reports; leaving no one behind; supporting the Decade of Action for Delivery; the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs;
• Our convenings bring together experts, diplomats, UN officials, and stakeholders focusing on the most important policy and political issues that need addressing;
• Building upon the first cycle of the HLPF and informed by the above conversations and data, we can provide good practices and challenges, connecting SDG implementers to engage and build on their reporting;
• We work strategically using creative programming to elevate critical issues and the narratives around LNOB, safeguarding civic space, and the SDGs Decade of Action.

Link: **https://unfoundation.org/**

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)

Approach/tool: Integrating volunteer contributions into voluntary national reviews

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme works with UN Member States and other stakeholders to support evidence on whole-of-society approaches in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

Globally, millions of active volunteers make economic and social contributions to development processes at scale. From 2016 to 2020, 101 VNRs highlighted the role of volunteers in achieving national priorities and the positive contributions they make to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Countries have highlighted the diversity of volunteer efforts – from extending services to those often left behind, to designing and testing innovations to local problems, to gathering data and providing feedback on SDGs progress.

UNV continues to support countries preparing VNRs in several ways:

• Providing data and evidence on volunteering in the national context (including national statistics on volunteer work where available) at our Knowledge Portal – **http://knowledge.unv.org/**
• Providing additional information on national statistical data of volunteer work at

- Convening volunteering stakeholders at national level to collate and validate data and inputs for specific themes or Goals
- Facilitating volunteer-led data collection processes with target groups (e.g. youth or rural communities) to fill data gaps for the VNR processes.

Each year UNV provides an updated guidance note on integrating volunteer contributions to the SDGs. The 2021 version will be available at knowledge.unv.org in December 2020. To see how countries have recognized volunteer contributions to date you can access the Global Synthesis Report on Integrating Volunteering into the 2030 Agenda online.

Link: **https://www.unv.org/**

Water Institute

Approach/tool: Multi stakeholder approach

In 2018 working with a number of stakeholders we developed charter for multi-stakeholder partnerships a set of multi-stakeholder partnership principles. This was undertaken because we the last UN agreement on principles was in 2003. URL: **http://msp-institute.org/projects/msp-charter** After that I edited a book on Stakeholder Democracy which looked at examples of multi-stakeholder policy processes and partnerships that have been a success.

Links:

https://thewaterinstitute.org/
http://waterinstitute.unc.edu/
https://www.govdisasters.com

VIII. VNRs Analysis and Reporting Including Using of Science

Committee for Development Policy

Approach/tool: Integrated approach to leaving no one behind

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has conducted analyses of the VNR reports since 2017. The following findings could contribute to making the VNRs a more effective tool in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda:

- Leaving no one behind: describing strategies to implement the pledge to leave no one behind and for "reaching the furthest behind first" and reflecting on practices and policies that may be pushing certain groups of people even further behind are fundamental for the VNRs to be useful in the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. In many previous VNRs, when reference is made to

strategies to leave no one behind, countries focus on social protection or policies directed at specific groups. This is important, but it is also imperative to embed the objectives of leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first in macroeconomic, technology and productive sector policies and strategies.

- Evidence-based reporting and inclusive review processes: VNRs will be more effective as policy instruments if they are based on inclusive national and subnational processes; and if reports are evidence- and data-based and include concrete actions that have been undertaken and lessons that have been learned and can be shared with other countries, including on how to harness synergies and address trade-offs in policy objectives.

CDP analysis of the VNRs can be found at: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/voluntary-national-reviews.html"

Link: **https://cdp.un.org**

Cooperation Canada

Approach/tool: Progressing National SDGs Implementation

"Progressing National SDGs Implementation" is an independent assessment of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). Commissioned by civil society and prepared by Cooperation Canada, the report is in its fifth edition in a regular series that identifies ten key pillars that we believe are essential to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The report also recognizes emerging good practice and sets out a range of conclusions and recommendations with respect to how countries can both improve their implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and use the HLPF as an opportunity for mutual peer learning, knowledge exchange and support. The review analyzes VNRs in English, French, Spanish, Russian and Arabic, and provides a comparative assessment of how VNR reporting has been evolving since 2016.

Link: **https://cooperation.ca/**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) / Partners for Review (P4R)

Approach/tool: Partners for Review (P4R)

Partners for Review (P4R) is a transnational multi-stakeholder network dedicated to dialogue and peer learning related to SDG follow-up and review processes. Different formats have been established to foster exchange and mutual learning: Regular Network conferences addressing a plethora of VNR related aspects; the Peer exchange format brings together multi-stakeholder country teams of 3-5 VNR countries for intensified exchange during the VNR preparation process; creation and provision of VNR related learning material; creation and support to specific partnership arrangements (e.g. national data partnerships); taylor made VNR country support on demand.

Link: **https://www.partners-for-review.de/**

Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful Just and Inclusive Societies

Approach/tool: Guide to Report on SDG 16 in VNRs & Mainstreaming SDG 16. Using the VNR to Advance Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Two guidance resources on reporting/monitoring/mainstreaming SDG 16 in VNRs.

Links:

https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/GA%20flyer_July%202020.pdf

https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-guide-report-sdg16-voluntary-national-reviews.

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Approach/tool: Revised IPU survey on parliamentary engagement in the VNRs 2020

An eight-question survey, administered directly to the parliaments of the countries who participated in the 2020 VNR session, designed to assess the extent to which parliaments were engaged in the national review process.

Link: **https://www.ipu.org/**

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) / United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Approach/tool: SDGs in Crisis / fragility sensitive VNRs

Published Issue Brief: SDGs in Crisis: Emerging findings from VNRs of SDG implementation in FCAS, and forthcoming in-depth Lessons Learned

Link: **https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/crisis-prevention-and-recovery/sdgs-in-crisis---lessons-learned-in-fragile-settings.html**

University of Bergen

Approach/tool: The university sector and research institutions as providers of scientific advice for VNRs

The global role of research and knowledge is crucial to achieving the goals, subgoals and targets set in the 2030 Agenda. All countries should include the university sector in its VNR process. By

collaborating with universities, each country will be able better to measure and analyse national achievements towards the 2030 Agenda.

- With the 2030 Agenda setting so-called maturing targets to reach during the upcoming decade, the scientific community must be brought in to actively give science-based advice to reach these targets. There is an urgent need to have a plan on how to include universities and research institutions in this;
- Science-based knowledge must combine with local knowledge for maximum effect. To achieve this, the scientific community must work closely with local stakeholders to align diverse knowledge across sectors, borders, scientific disciplines, etc. Governments must accommodate this and make sure to create appropriate arenas;
- Scientists must be included in the national delegations at HLPF and other high-level meetings, conferences and forums. Some countries have already successfully included scientists in their delegation (e.g. Norway, Sweden, Switzerland). Including scientists in official delegations will strengthen VNR reporting and make this more accountable;
- One way to attain transformative social development in time for 2030 is through new forms of SDG-oriented education. States should look at their national curriculum on all levels of education to implement this, including reporting on progress in the VNRs;
- Establish nationwide cooperation between universities to ensure broad sector engagement with the 2030 Agenda and to provide scientific advice on the VNRs;
- The Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, which starts in 2021, is a prime example of how science can contribute. It should be considered if this type of initiative could be extended to other sciences beyond ocean sciences as well;
- The role of university networks in the 2030 Agenda has been growing, with several of these taking part at HLPFs, including the International Association of Universities (IAU) and the International Science Council (ISC). These networks must be given speaking slots in high-level forums in the upcoming decade of implementation of the SDGs;
- The important role of United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) must be raised further to create awareness among academic institutions and education authorities globally;
- States should develop best practice scenarios for science diplomacy and science advice pertaining to sustainable development and STI, and report on this in VNRs;
- In a process of science-policy innovation, global networks in Norway's university sector exceed thematic and geographical scope of government policy, and expand Norway's global partnerships for the SDGs, by engaging on an equal footing with universities in developing countries. We suggest this model is implemented in the 2030 Agenda and VNR process.

Link: **https://www.uib.no/en/sdgbergen**

University of Bern, Centre for Development and Environment (CDE)

Approach/tool: National implementation of the 2030 Agenda building on an integrated and inclusive approach

To contribute to the concept and the implementation of the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2019 framework at the national level, we propose a partnership based and knowledge driven set of pragmatic steps (see Breu et al. 2020). This process strongly builds on the GSDR framework to combine different levers to realize transformative change in contextually

relevant entry points to support the definition of national 2030 Agenda strategies and action plans for policy. The ambition is to establish 'good practice' in support of national development strategy plans, commitment to and high-quality standards in drafting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and monitoring progress on different entry points towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. The process involves country-based civil society actors, private sector and scientific community, and uses network analysis methods to identify transformative pathways and get insights on how to implement the SDGs in an integrated manner in the national context.

Link: **https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11625-020-00856-0**

IX. Links to the 2-minute VNR Approach/Tool Pitch Video

Danish Institute for Human Rights
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1G-ez9RBosTLJML-McnL_uWRrSVFR37li/view?usp=sharing

Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
https://youtu.be/VJZU8MGAbIQabout

Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bbF0Ns2S7kY&feature=youtu.be

International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030)
https://youtu.be/cTO4H5Eq2s4

International Labour Organization (ILO)
COVID response and suite of analytical and policy tools
https://youtu.be/bixMirikstU

International Trade Centre (ITC)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYkG357_POM

Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)
https://youtu.be/7k-S6ihKQys

Joint UNDP and UNICEF MAPS Project Team
https://www.sparkblue.org/MAPS

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
https://youtu.be/QsDaL3TiGF4

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence Against Children (OSRSG/VAC)
https://youtu.be/j8v9qV_uYyE

Pure Consulting
https://vimeo.com/477042298

Save the Children
https://youtu.be/BVOibYiLyTc

Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI)
https://youtu.be/N-Ed_99rm6U

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
Creating a Child Sensitive & Child Inclusive Voluntary National Review
https://youtu.be/kAFtv2RG4uI

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
SDGs in Crisis / fragility sensitive VNRs
https://youtu.be/aeULWQxT5ME

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
SparkBlue and Collective Intelligence

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-tI-RaVkW_Q&feature=youtu.be

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)
2030 Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Management Platform
https://youtu.be/OiQq8Kt1Iqc

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)
https://youtu.be/hrXOgctoUjs

United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA)
https://youtu.be/OBjSGIj86iQ

United Nations Foundation
https://app.box.com/s/jqzxghsuxy4vh8npdjapkxewwvjj8r5l

United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR)
https://youtu.be/xvJZDiOy6Qo

United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)
https://youtu.be/_huDJIWbaNs

United Nations Secretary-General's Independent Accountability Panel (IAP) for Every Woman, Every Child, Every Adolescent
https://iapewec.org/reports/annual-reports/iap-2020-report/accountability-framework/

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7-49YlhtMw&feature=youtu.be

University of Bergen

https://vimeo.com/476281247

University of Bern

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cB2c18VDo3Wcs-cWG767ND2sh9fpnETz/view?usp=sharing

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