



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

2021 KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE ON APPROACHES AND  
TOOLS FOR THE 2022 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

## SUMMARY OF APPROACHES AND TOOLS



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

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## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

### Global coalition of thirteen civil society organizations

#### **Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Progressing National SDGs Implementation report series

*Progressing National SDGs Implementation* is an annual, independent review and analysis of how governments are implementing the 2030 Agenda. This study examines the VNR reports submitted to HLPF every year, as well as a sample of related civil society reports. The review provides an assessment of progress on SDGs implementation, identifies best practices, and suggests improvements to VNR reports and processes. We also provide recommendations for how governments, civil society organizations (CSOs) and other stakeholders can improve their efforts towards 2030 Agenda implementation and reporting.

Our reports aim for three main contributions:

- 1) Informing the reporting and tracking system of the UN to improve the VNR processes and reports, strengthening accountability around 2030 Agenda implementation;
- 2) Raising awareness of good practices amongst governments planning to carry out a VNR, and providing examples of lessons they can draw from when establishing governance and institutional mechanisms, policies, programs and partnerships to support implementation;
- 3) Informing CSOs through examples of parallel reporting, highlighting key issues to be considered when improving civil society's reporting on 2030 Agenda implementation, and functioning as an advocacy tool to promote adoption of best practices at country level, ensuring civil society's engagement in the full cycle of VNR processes.

#### **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

No.

#### **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

No, our reports are available online at no cost.

## **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

Any data generated based on the use of the *Progressing National SDGs Implementation* reports' methodology is owned by the persons generating such data. However, when data and text present in the series of *Progressing National SDGs Implementation* reports are cited, the reports should be properly accredited for authorship.

## **What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

We do not have specific considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings arising from the use of the *Progressing National SDGs Implementation* reports, given that the analysis is based on VNR reports, which are in turn publicly available.

## **International Health Partnership for UHC 2030 (UHC2030)**

### **Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

The State of UHC Commitment Country Profile Dashboards (Baseline Dashboard and Progress Dashboard), UHC Data Portal, UHC2030

[UHC2030's State of UHC Commitment](#) provides a multi-stakeholder consolidated view on the state of progress being made towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) at country and global levels. The review is political, country-focused and action-oriented. It complements the more technical and global [UHC monitoring report](#) focusing on UHC indicators on service coverage and financial protection.

The review follows the [UHC Political Declaration's Key Targets, Commitments and Follow-up Actions](#) . It supports national accountability and advocacy processes to ensure political leaders are held accountable for their [UHC commitments](#).

[UHC Data Portal](#) provides a snapshot of the state of individual country UHC commitments and an overview of global progress to facilitate cross-country comparisons. The baseline dashboard draws on data from 2015 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.

UHC2030 is currently updating the country profiles to present UHC commitments' progress, and a new dashboard will be publicly available this December before [the International UHC Day](#) to help country stakeholders assess the latest status of UHC commitments and track their progress

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

SDG Target 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage), 3.c (Health Workforce & Health Financing) and 3.d (National & Global Health Risks)

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

No, our dashboard is a free online tool and publicly accessible.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The dashboards are developed as Global Public Goods.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

Please reference UHC Data Portal, UHC2030 (<https://www.uhc2030.org/what-we-do/knowledge-and-networks/uhc-data-portal/>). No approval is required in the use of data for preparing VNR reports.

## **Major Group & Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism**

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Civil Society Reports & National Dialogues

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

The Major Group & other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism provides support to national civil society bodies in the formulation and development of independent reports, to provide inputs from diverse stakeholders to the national VNR processes.

The engagement follows an annual cycle which begins with an open call for interest from all stakeholders in each VNR country and includes advice and support on national engagement mechanisms, independent reporting and presentation of views at the HLPF.

In the 2022 cycle, this process will start in November 2021 and will seek to connect national bodies from all stakeholder groups to share expertise, prepare independent reports and also provide timely inputs to national VNR reporting.

The support is guided by experienced members of key major groups and benefits from a number of practical tools and approaches such as:



- Regional exchange processes linked to the regional SD Forums, including regional stakeholder platforms such as APRCEM and ARMMGoS;
- Experience of civil society spotlight reports and People’s Scorecards, including a toolkit and webinar series;
- Link to wider expertise of civil society on national monitoring of human rights violations;
- Provision of resources for national partners to host national level dialogues in order to gather stakeholder views for reports.

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

The approach of the MGoS CM supports all SDGs.

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

There is no cost to countries, the budget is already provided but this approach would work as a complementary process alongside the national VNR preparation.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The data belongs to each national coalition of stakeholders.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The national dialogues and independent reports are freely available and are intended to provide timely inputs to the VNR assessment process.

**SDG Nederland**

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

SDG Road Trip

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) often seem big and far away, while change starts in our own communities, local and nearby. That is why SDG Netherlands brings the goals to local people, citizens, youth. By using the slogan **“Think Global, Act Local”** we activate a ‘broad movement’ of people.

We do this with the **SDG Road Trip**: driving with a big SDG bus and huge 'living SDG dress' (see pictures below) to cities and villages throughout the Netherlands. We join festivals, sustainability meetings, markets of residents' initiatives. In the bus (and surrounding it), we organize SDG games and other activities to inspire people. They start dreaming: what if I were to be the mayor of my town... What would I want to change? How does this relate to the SDGs? What can I contribute myself?

On the interactive map on our website everyone can see when the SDG bus will be near their city/town. In over 10 locations we also have 'Local SDG Coalitions': a group of local volunteers who actively apply the SDGs and organize activities to activate their whole community.

Information regarding the SDG Road Trip and the SDG Dress:

<https://www.sdgnerderland.nl/stedentrip>

Everyone can request SDG Netherlands to send the bus to their location.

### **More information (our website unfortunately is in Dutch only)**

Information regarding the SDG Road Trip and the SDG Dress:

<https://www.sdgnerderland.nl/stedentrip>

Information on local SDG action:

<https://www.sdgnerderland.nl/lokale-sdg-actie/>

### **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

All 17

### **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

We gladly share our experiences for free with anyone interested. When organizing the SDG Road Trip in your own country, there are of course costs involved to set everything up.

### **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

SDG Nederland

### **What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The goal of our 'tool' is not primarily to gather data, but of all the data that we gather along the way (during the SDG Road Trip and conversations with civil society), we are glad to openly share it with anyone interested.

## United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

### **Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

SDG localization: monitoring and reporting from the bottom-up

Localizing the SDGs is a necessity to meet the global sustainability commitments, since local and regional governments (LRGs) are responsible for implementing over 65% of the SDG targets. The 2021 edition of the Localizing the SDGs report by the Global Taskforce of LRGs is the most comprehensive monitor to date of the efforts of LRGs worldwide to achieve the SDGs – while responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. UCLG has just developed Guidelines for the elaboration of Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) to support LRG associations in advancing country-wide analyses of the state of SDG localization from the bottom-up. In just two years, the 15 VSRs that have been elaborated in 15 countries from four continents represent the voices of over 16,000 LRGs. These bottom-up monitoring and reporting tools have proven very effective in improving multilevel dialogue, as well as in making visible subnational data, challenges and lessons that may otherwise remain too granular for VNRs to pick up. Moreover, UCLG, together with UN Habitat, has also elaborated two volumes of the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews, the latest focusing on the link between local and national SDG reporting.

### **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

The Global Taskforce annual report bring the actions of LRGs worldwide to implement such SDGs to the spotlight. The Guidelines for VSRs and VLRs focus on capacity building, both of a majority of LRGs in a country as well as individual LRGs.

### **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

No financial implications.

### **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The data generated by the annual report of the Global Taskforce of LRGs and the Guidelines produced by UCLG is open. The data generated by LRGs when producing VLRs, or by LRG associations when producing VSRs is owned by the LRGs and their associations, who then decide whether it is open or not. All reports to date are however public and distributed freely.

### **What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

No particular confidentiality considerations regarding the materials produced by the Global Taskforce of LRGs nor UCLG. When mobilizing data from particular VLRs or VSRs, it is convenient to confirm with the LRG or LRG association that has produced the documents.



## LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

### Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)

#### Tool/Approach/Methodology:

- 1) The Human Rights Guide to Sustainable Recovery
- 2) The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer
- 3) The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs
- 4) The SDG 4.7 – Human rights education monitoring tool

**The Human Rights Guide to Sustainable Recovery** is an online resource with information on how to achieve a sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It summarizes critical response and recovery actions to be taken by states; provides examples of how human rights standards underpin the SDG targets; provides links to relevant guidance for each SDG.

<https://www.humanrights.dk/tools/human-rights-guide-sustainable-recovery>

**The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer** is a user-friendly online database which shows the links between the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms and the SDGs. The country specific recommendations contain valuable input to 2030 Agenda implementation and propose concrete ways to reach those furthest behind. The tool can help VNR countries report on progress towards human rights obligations and SDG commitments.

<https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/en/>

**The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs** is a free searchable online database connecting specific provisions of more than 50 human rights instruments to the SDG and specific SDG targets. This can help VNR countries connect their human rights and SDG reporting as they can click and see how the 2030 Agenda and human rights instruments are linked.

<https://sdg.humanrights.dk/>

**The SDG 4.7 - Human rights education monitoring tool** can help keep track of national human rights education implementation.

<https://www.humanrights.dk/tools/sdg-47-human-rights-education-monitoring-tool>

#### More:

<https://www.humanrights.dk/tools>

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

They support all SDGs and targets.

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

All tools are free, user-friendly and online.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The tools are not data collection tools and hence data generation/ownership is not an issue. Users can use the tools to generate downloadable reports (e.g. of country specific recommendations tagged to a specific SDG).

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The tools draw on openly available information (e.g. recommendations coming out of human rights monitoring mechanisms) and are not used to collect data. Hence, there are no confidentiality issues).

## **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS)**

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Global AIDS Monitoring (GAM), including National Commitments and Policy Instrument (part A filled by governments and B by civil society)

Global AIDS Monitoring Report has been a set of instruments evolved since 2004 in monitoring the progress against targets set in the Political Declaration of UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on HIV in 2001 and consequently UN HIV High Level Meetings (HLMs) in 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021. The tool comprises of national system reporting on key indicators and reporting tool called National Commitments and Policy Index (NCPI, was later called National Commitments and Policy Instrument, part A to be filled in by government and part B to be filled in by partners, particularly civil society). While the indicator-based reporting helped to established one of the best databases in public health, the NCPI carries its unique value as a transparent and inclusive tool to collect the views and feedback from civil society in monitoring the national response on HIV from policy and service delivery point of view. This data collection effort has led to a unique partnership with Georgetown University/O'Neill Institute, which transform data further into country ratings and averages, showing which countries are falling behind the others, and in which areas. This helps civil society and other key stakeholders to

advocate for improvements in rights-based approaches to public health and national HIV responses.

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

Yes, Ending AIDS as part of SDG3.

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

UNAIDS with the technical support of MTAG (Monitoring Technical Advisory Group) reviews and updates the guideline and tools. UNAIDS and national AIDS programme, as well as PEPFAR and GFATM invest in human resource, tool development, facilitation and surveys (i.e. National AIDS Spending Assessment/NASA) and studies in completing the GAM.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

National data owned by national government, reports to UNAIDS which then makes it publicly accessible on its <http://aidsinfo.unaids.org/s>

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

Governments and National experts have been consulted in the development of the tool and methodology. No personal data were collected. The aggregate national data and UNAIDS HIV data are made available for public use, inspiring the use in holding governments accountable on progress towards the SDGs.

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

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Reflecting human rights considerations in the VNR reports

- 1) Data on rights and vulnerable groups at your fingertips: Universal Human Rights Index;
- 2) Checklist for a Human Rights-Based Approach to Socio-Economic Responses to COVID-19;
- 3) Country-specific documents for VNR countries.

**Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI)** is an online tool that gives easy access to recommendations of international human rights mechanisms per country. You can search through recommendations by SDGs and SDG targets and specific groups, making the identification of linkages between relevant SDGs and human rights straightforward. Link: [uhri.ohchr.org](http://uhri.ohchr.org)

In the context of COVID-19, countries are encouraged to make use of the **Checklist for a HRBA to Socio-Economic Responses to COVID-19** to help report on whether socio-economic responses and recovery plans apply a human rights-based approach, which in turn strengthens the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Link: [tinyurl.com/COVID19-HRBA-checklist](https://tinyurl.com/COVID19-HRBA-checklist)

OHCHR can prepare, upon request, **country-specific documents** providing an overview of the international human rights mechanisms' work with hyperlinks to the relevant country pages. Examples are available [here](#). In case of interest, contact [aleksandra.plesko@un.org](mailto:aleksandra.plesko@un.org).

**Other relevant tools/approaches include:**

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

Human Rights Indicators tables with SDG Indicators  
[www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG\\_Indicators\\_Tables.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf)

Summary table: Linkages between the SDGs and human rights  
[www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG\\_HR\\_Table.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG_HR_Table.pdf)

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

All SDGs and all SDG targets

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

There are no financial implications – UHRI is freely accessible to the public and readily available online; NRTD and VNR country documents are available upon request, but there are no direct financial implications.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

Data is in the public domain

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The UHRI is a tool that includes public data and is open to everyone. The NRTD is a tool developed for States and it is the individual State's decision on what information they include in the system and whether they wish to make any of the information open to the public.

## Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)

### Tool/Approach/Methodology:

Prioritizing women's, children's and adolescents' health and rights as part of COVID-19 response and recovery

**Advocacy and accountability brief *Rise, Respond, Recover*** summarizes the latest status and trends of key areas related to women's, children's and adolescents' health and well-being. It aims to promote coordinated action among global and national partners to recognize and overcome the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women, children and adolescents and to accelerate progress to meet the SDGs.

The **Call to Action on COVID-19 campaign** orchestrated by the 1,200 member organizations of PMNCH supports governments to protect and advance the health of women, children and adolescents within national COVID-19 response and recovery plans through strengthened political commitment to develop effective policies and legislations, mobilize greater and smarter financing; and ensure increased and better equitable service delivery. This approach identifies seven action areas where coordinated action is needed urgently to protect the delivery of sexual, reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health services a central element in Universal Health Coverage, as well as to address the underlying causes of disparity, including gender inequality to prevent the COVID-19 pandemic becoming a lasting crisis for most vulnerable and to accelerate progress towards delivering on the SDGs and leave no one behind. This Call to Action also provides comprehensive support for a global Call to Action for Adolescents, recognizing the power and promise of young people to shape our common future.

As countries proceed with VNR process, please refer to:

- [Advocacy and Accountability brief](#) on women's, children's and adolescents' health;
- [Call to Action on COVID-19](#), with [COVID-19 and WCAH toolkits](#);
- [Call to Action for Adolescents](#);
- [Health budget literacy, advocacy and accountability for universal health coverage](#): toolkit for capacity-building;
- Forthcoming – Accountability compendium.

<https://pmnch.who.int/>

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

SDGs 3, 5 and 17, and also SDGs 1,2, 4, 5, 6, 10, 16

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

No.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The respective stakeholders and some data and information gathered would be public good.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

This may be decided by national authorities and stakeholders themselves. Some of the data and information gathered would be a public good and excellent for peer learning.

## **Save the Children**

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

How to Prepare a Child-Led Complementary Report for a Voluntary National Review

As torchbearers of the 2030 Agenda, children and youth are critical stakeholders in SDG implementation. In 2020, Zambia presented its first VNR. A coalition of child rights focused organisations prepared a complementary report scrutinizing realities on the ground for children in Zambia. In addition, a child-led complementary report was developed, which included innovative use of photos and digital consultations. This Case Study examines the process for developing this child-led report and explores how children were given space and opportunity to identify issues of concern and were in control of the process from the outset. It draws on lessons learned and opportunities for countries that would like to engage young people in the VNR process.

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

It supports the entire VNR process.

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**



The tool is free to use. However, countries will need to allocate sufficient budget to cover the expenses of capacity-building and facilitating child participation.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

If undertaken by the country, the government can use the data as part of its VNR, with adequate consent from participants.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

Sufficient safeguarding and safety protocols must be in place to ensure that children can participate in a safe, inclusive and child-friendly manner.

<https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/how-prepare-child-led-complementary-report-voluntary-national-review-case-study-zambia>

## RESEARCH SUPPORT AND UN SYSTEM SUPPORT

### Committee for Development Policy

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Integrated approach to leaving no one behind

The Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has conducted analyses of the VNR reports since 2017, with the objective of reflecting on what the reports as a group tell us and don't tell us about the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The general approach adopted by the CDP in its analyses of VNRs has been to review how the VNRs presented each year have considered, or failed to consider, selected cross-cutting principles, goals or targets. The methods used for the content analysis include searches for references to specific terms, software-assisted contextualized word searches and focused analyses of specific sections of reports.

The CDP report provides points for consideration by governments and other stakeholders participating in the 2021 VNRs. The recommendations are aimed at enhancing the role of the VNRs as an effective instrument in accelerating SDG implementation.

The CDP analysis of VNRs can be found at:

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/voluntary-national-reviews.html>

<https://cdp.un.org>

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

The CDP’s analysis of VNRs addresses the pledge to “leave no one behind”, with variations in themes and focus each year. The review of VNR reports from 2020 focused on:

SDG5 (Gender equality), SDG10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG12(Sustainable Consumption) as well as pandemic preparedness, productive capacity and structural transformation.

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

No.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The analysis relies exclusively on open information presented in the VNRs. The report, findings and data presented are all open and free to use by governments and other stakeholders participating in the 2021 VNRs.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The analysis relies exclusively on open information presented in the VNRs. The report, findings and data presented are all open and free to use by governments and other stakeholders participating in the 2021 VNRs.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

SDG 16 Survey

The [SDG 16 Survey](#) jointly developed by UNDP, UNODC and OHCHR provides a coherent survey instrument that countries can use to measure progress on many of the survey-based indicators under SDG 16. It has been pilot tested in eight countries and covers the thematic areas of: Access to Justice (OECD, UNDP, UNODC), Corruption (UNODC), Governance (UNDP), Discrimination (OHCHR) and Human trafficking (UNODC) and Violence (UNODC). The Survey can be used to fill the data gaps for the national monitoring and reporting of SDG 16 and help inform the design of evidence-based policies and programmes.

## **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

SDG 16 with a focus on the following indicators:

- 10.3.1 / 16.b.1 - Discrimination
- 11.7.2 - Sexual harassment
- 16.1.3 - Physical, psychological or sexual violence
- 16.1.4 - Perception of safety
- 16.2.2 - Trafficking in Persons
- 16.3.1 - Violence Reporting
- 16.3.3 - Access to civil justice
- 16.5.1 - Bribery
- 16.6.2 - Satisfaction with public services
- 16.7.2 - External Political Efficacy

## **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

There is no cost for the use of the tool/methodology but there are costs involved in implementing the survey nationally. The custodian agencies are also available to provide technical support.

## **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The country owns the data and can make the decision on whether to share or not. The statistics generated from the data is used for SDG global reporting.

## **What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The survey is conducted in line with national laws and policies guiding confidentiality and are strongly recommended to adhere to the fundamental principles of official statistics and the human rights-based approach to data.

## **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)**

### **Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Resource and learning webinar series recordings: [Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#).

In December 2020, UNDP, the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network launched a

first-of-its-kind resource on *'Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies'*. This Resource outlines practical guidance on how to utilize the VNRs to mainstream SDG16 into national and local planning and actions. It explores ways and means of utilizing the SDG16 framework to strengthen the preparatory and follow-up work of VNR processes, and in doing so highlights important cases and examples from around the world.

A virtual learning series was held in the early part of 2021 which brought together key SDG16 stakeholders together to further look at how to Mainstream SDG16 at all levels. It provided a forum for a diverse group of stakeholders involved in the SDGs and VNR process to share practical tools, capacity-building guidance, opportunities for collaboration and dialogue.

**Links:**

<https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<https://www.sdg16hub.org/group/mainstreaming-sdg16-virtual-learning-series/about>

**Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

It is based on SDG 16 principles with a strong focus on human rights and the LNOB agenda therefore supporting progress on all SDGs.

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

There is no cost attached to the resource itself.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The data belongs to the user, in line with national regulations UN rules.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The resource provides guidance to national partners for their use as they see fit.

## United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) & United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

### Tool/Approach/Methodology:

WHAT IS A 'GOOD PRACTICE'? A framework to analyze the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda

Launched by UNDP and UNDESA in 2021, this **tool seeks to enable governments, stakeholders, and development partners alike to examine and strengthen the quality of their stakeholder engagement** practices at different stages of the 2030 Agenda cycle, including during **preparation or follow-up of VNRs**. It is comprised of a review matrix and a user guide and includes guidance on the implications of **COVID-19**. It is available in English, French and Spanish. The tool helps improve stakeholder engagement practices, foster dialogue, and supports the sharing of lessons learned and good practices.

### Links:

<https://www1.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/what-is-good-practice.html>

<https://sdgs.un.org/publications/what-good-practice-framework-analyse-quality-stakeholder-engagement-implementation-and>

### **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

It is based on SDG 16 principles but seeks to support progress on all SDGs.

### **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

There is no cost attached to the tool itself. Using the tool may require funds, e.g. to organize consultation workshops, but this is up to the user and not a requirement.

### **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The data belongs to the user, in line with national regulations UN rules.

### **What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The tool seeks to generate information that is nationally owned. The user guide of the tool recommends how users should go about questions of ownership and confidentiality.

## United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

### **Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Methodology to measure and report on Access to Information, SDG 16.10.2 & Strengthening monitoring and reporting on the Safety of Journalists, SDG 16.10.1 through:

1. Support to the creation and strengthening of national multistakeholder mechanisms focused on monitoring and reporting attacks against journalists, and/or prevention, protection and prosecution;
2. Supporting civil society in the preparation of shadow reports.

### **On SDG 16.10.2:**

UNESCO 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 metadata has also been approved by the UN Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDG). The methodology consists of a survey developed in consultation with experts and concerned organizations. It consists of a National Questionnaire (targeted at Access to Information oversight bodies). 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. In 2021 102 countries responded to the survey.

Website: <https://en.unesco.org/themes/monitoring-and-reporting-access-information>

### **On SDG 16.10.1:**

#### **Tool/ approach/ methodology n°1: Promoting national multi-stakeholder mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on SDG 16.10.1**

UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication (IPDC) has [supported](#) the creation of national monitoring and reporting mechanisms on safety of journalists. These initiatives have reached varying stages and take different forms according to the country context, but some common elements are a consultative process among stakeholders, assignment of national focal points, training of key actors in monitoring and data collection, creation of a multi-stakeholder body such as a working group or committee and consensus on an information platform. Some country experiences to highlight include Brazil, Iraq, Kenya, Pakistan and Palestine.



## **Tool/ approach/ methodology n°2: Shadow reports on SDG 16.10.1**

In response to lack of State reporting, UNESCO's IPDC has supported the production of civil society-led shadow reports on status of SDG 16.10.1 as it pertains to journalists and associated media personnel. In 2021, two major multi-country reports were issued. Voces del Sur (VdS), a regional initiative comprising CSOs based in Latin America, presented its third [Shadow Report](#) monitoring SDG 16.10.1 across 13 countries in the region. The report is drawn from a system of "alerts" gathered, registered, and reported by VdS partners based on 12 common regional indicators. In a second UNESCO supported project, the Netherlands-based NGO Free Press Unlimited published shadow reports prepared by partner groups on Colombia and Indonesia as well as a selection of countries in South Asia and Africa. The reports highlight the monitoring work of CSOs and point to ongoing infringements on the safety of journalists and public access to information. As a follow up, FPU is preparing a guide for shadow reporting. Shadow reports offer valuable information to national governments and to international bodies monitoring progress toward SDGs as well as open the door to greater coordination between States and civil society.

## **Tool/ approach/ methodology n°3: Journalist Safety Indicators**

In 2013, UNESCO developed the [Journalist Safety Indicators](#) (JSIs) as a tool to assess the extent to which relevant actors are enabling the safety of journalists. The indicators review available data, disaggregated where possible, on attacks against journalists, existing legislation that protects or impinges on journalists' ability to do their work safely and responses by stakeholders with the aim of identifying gaps national and international actors should focus on to promote safety of journalists. JSIs implemented recently include Cambodia, Colombia and Kazakhstan among other countries. The JSIs methodology can be useful to actors engaging in the 2022 and other future HLPFs for information collection as well as for informing a road map to advance SDG 16.10.1.

## **Tool/ approach/ methodology n°4: UNESCO Director-General Report on Safety of Journalists and the Danger of Impunity & Observatory of Killed Journalists:**

The primary tool within the UN system for monitoring the killings of journalists is the UNESCO Director-General's [report](#) on the safety of journalists and the danger of impunity. The report includes the responses received from concerned Member States about judicial follow up to the killings of journalists and analyzes data on these cases, including gender-disaggregated data. Data is also updated and available online via on the [Observatory](#) of Killed Journalists.

## **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

SDG 16.10.1 & SDG 16.10.2

**Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

No.

**Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

Openly licensed data and published in a yearly report, see:

<https://en.unesco.org/themes/monitoring-and-reporting-access-information>

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

The total score of each country is not assigned to any level category (e.g.: low, medium or high). However, it will contribute to global aggregates, in which data will be interpreted using the sum formula to show overall trends. The trends will illustrate the state of Access to Information implementation.

**United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR)**

**Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

Integrating disaster risk reduction through a risk-informed and prevention-oriented approach to achieve the 2030 Agenda

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, an integral part of the 2030 Agenda, applies to disasters caused by natural or man-made hazards, as well as related environmental, technological, and biological hazards and risks.

Disasters are not “natural.” Droughts, hurricanes, and other hazards, including those exacerbated by the climate crisis, do not become disasters until they impact vulnerable and exposed socioecological and technological systems, and exceed local coping capacity. The COVID-19 pandemic has provided further insight into the characteristics and interactions of systems leading to disasters. Developing capabilities to successfully meet the known and unknown challenges of the future, guided by the Sendai Framework, is necessary to achieve the SDGs. This requires analysis, collaboration, and risk-informed and prevention-oriented action across sectors, a systemic view of risk, and governance systems that incorporate adaptive systems-based approaches<sup>1</sup>. New tools for risk-informed decision-making are essential to allow human societies to live and thrive in uncertainty<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> UNDRR 2021 (GAR Special Report on Drought 2021)

<sup>2</sup> UNDRR 2019 (GAR 2019)

Integrating disaster risk reduction, through a risk-informed and prevention-oriented approach in the preparation of a Voluntary National Review can reveal how risks – and the disasters that they trigger – impede the attainment of sustainable development.

### **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

COVID-19 and the climate emergency demonstrate the systemic nature of risk and the potential for cascading social, economic, environmental, and political impacts across systems and borders. Risk's systemic nature means that it cuts across the Sustainable Development Goals and their interlinkages; it can be influenced by decisions made on the trade-offs and co-benefits between them. The General Assembly has recognized the “urgency of implementing the Sendai Framework as an integral part of the 2030 Agenda,” and that “the interrelation of risks across multiple dimensions and scales and potential unintended negative consequences should inform development policies and investments, emphasizing that these policies should be oriented towards building resilience and achieving sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals.”<sup>3</sup>

Guided by the questions put forward in this document, this would be a contribution of inestimable value to protecting progress towards outcomes and goals of the 2030 Agenda. Transdisciplinary in nature, DRR promotes coherence, and can guide recovery from COVID-19 that is not only sustainable but resilient. It can be used to assist States and stakeholders examine policies and investments, to renovate risk governance and risk management mechanisms and approaches, adopting measures that redress vulnerability and exposure of people and assets, such that risk is reduced even prevented, and the impacts of hazards minimized or even eliminated.

It should be noted that the monitoring of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal targets 1.5, 11.5, 11.b and 13.1 is through the Sendai Framework, of which UNDRR is the custodian agency, drawing attention to the synergies in implementation, while reaffirming that the implementation of the Sendai Framework will have benefits across the Sustainable Development Goals

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oZpGmzXYI38BociFEiSN3-0MAdMn4sF7/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=116435214603525189052&rtpof=true&sd=true>

### **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

There are no financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the list of suggestions for incorporating DRR into the 2022 VNRs.

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<sup>3</sup> A/RES/75/216

### **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The analysis generated by the use of the list of suggestions for incorporating DRR into the 2021 VNRs will be owned by those performing the exercise.

### **What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

VNRs will be owned by those performing the exercise. There are no further considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from the use of the approach.

## **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://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/>

## **University of Minnesota**

### **Tool/Approach/Methodology:**

SDG-SMART (adapted from One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit – OH-SMART)

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires a multi-sectoral approach that integrates efforts across public, private, non-profit, academic and community-based actors at the international, national, sub-national and community levels. One Health is an integrative approach to addressing complex challenges at the intersection of humans, animals, and the

environment. [The One Health Systems Mapping and Analysis Resource Toolkit \(OH-SMART\)](#) has been promoted by the World Health Organization, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health as a key tool for analysis and action planning to strengthen multi-sectoral systems and achieve national goals as laid out in the [Tripartite Zoonoses Guide](#) and the Global Health Security Agenda. OH-SMART has been successfully used in 19 countries to analyze and strengthen multi-sectoral systems from the intergovernmental level (pan-arctic regional planning) to the local level (Food Sovereignty Action Planning with an indigenous community in Minnesota). National and sub-national systems addressed include climate resilience, food system strengthening, medical device cybersecurity, antimicrobial resistance action planning, infectious disease action planning, Multi-sectoral Coordination Mechanism strengthening and One Health workforce planning. OH-SMART can be flexibly adapted by local stakeholders to support multi-sectoral systems strengthening activities related to SDG implementation and assessment (SDG-SMART).

### **Does your tool/approach/methodology support a particular SDG or target?**

SDG-SMART supports implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by promoting a more coordinated and collaborative approach to implementing all SDGs across public, private and academic actors at the international, national, sub-national and community level. It can also be used as a framework for strengthening systems to address priorities identified during VNRs, as well as monitoring progress toward achieving those priorities.

SDG-SMART is readily applicable across multiple SDGs, as the tool:

- Helps all stakeholders develop a clearer, shared understanding of the nature of the challenge;
- Supports knowledge exchange between stakeholders to identify opportunities for partnership work, or potential barriers that can be addressed to facilitate success;
- Helps stakeholders identify key priorities and develop a collaborative action plan;
- Creates a framework for collaborative governance;
- Offers a step-by-step approach that can be applied across a diverse set of cross-sectoral challenges.

### **Are there any financial implications or cost to countries for the use of the tool/approach/methodology?**

The tool is under a no-cost license. The only cost is to have local facilitators trained in the tool and to pay for implementation of the tool in the country (this could be a workshop or a longer iterative process).

### **Who owns the data generated by use of the tools/approach/methodology?**

The country/stakeholders implementing the toolkit.

**What are your considerations on confidentiality and national ownership of the data and findings from use of the tool, methodology or approach?**

All the information and plans generated are shared back with the local implementing team/organization in the form of a report for their use. The research team will not publicly share data generated in the process without prior consent.

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