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Compilation of main messages for the 2019 voluntary national reviews

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat transmits herewith the main messages of voluntary national reviews presented by 47 States members of the high-level political forum on sustainable development at its 2019 meeting, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#) and [70/1](#).

* [E/HLPF/2019/1](#).



Algeria

[Original: French]

Accountability, a culture of peace, diversity and plurality in support of sustainable development in Algeria

Algeria was fully and actively involved in the negotiation process and in the various consultations and initiatives relating to the Sustainable Development Goals at the national, regional and international levels. Algeria naturally joined the consensus on the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals platform in view of its importance in placing sustainable development at the heart of the common vision for the world and the future of our planet.

This is a natural extension of the commitment of Algeria to the Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000. Algeria made significant progress in the pursuit of those Goals by adapting its sectoral policies to the requirements of sustainable development. Specifically, Algeria eradicated extreme poverty, established an inclusive social protection system, developed and expanded access to basic infrastructure, achieved universal primary education and reduced infant and maternal mortality, thus meeting the vital needs of its citizens and bringing to prominence their demands with regard to democracy and good governance, demands which are even now being expressed peacefully.

Building on its achievements and using an approach based on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development, Algeria intends to capitalize on the collective awakening to new aspirations in order to create the proper conditions to attain the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 by enabling its citizens to exercise their fundamental political rights as necessary to fulfil their national destiny. More sustained efforts, speedier implementation and more inclusive implementation mechanisms will also be required to enable Algeria to adapt to the broader scope of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To that end, after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the international community in September 2015, Algeria took ownership of the 2030 Agenda and, in order to provide strong national responses commensurate with the concerns and challenges posed by that Agenda, established in 2016 an interministerial coordination committee under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. That committee is composed of the various national ministries, institutions and bodies responsible for monitoring and evaluating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in Algeria.

As part of the committee's activities, the voluntary national review was made possible by the contributions of the ministries involved in fulfilling the Goals. The review was informed by consultations with elected officials, as well as civil society and private sector organizations, including during workshops to raise awareness of the Goals organized in partnership with the United Nations system.

On the basis of the methodology reflected in the United Nations handbook for the preparation of voluntary national reviews, the report sets out the progress made by Algeria in taking ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals, integrating them into national development programmes and establishing institutional mechanisms and tools to achieve them. To evaluate progress, as comprehensive reporting on the Goal indicators was not possible, the report draws on national indicators. It thus highlights the lack of adequate data to cover all of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators and the difficulty of interpreting some of those indicators in the absence of a methodology established for that purpose. Reporting under all targets and on progress towards some Goals was hindered as a result.

The periodic voluntary national review shows clear signs of a social transformation in Algeria that combines accountability, a culture of peace, diversity and plurality. This trend attests to the progress made in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda. Tangible results have been achieved for the majority of the Goals, in particular those responding to the vital needs of citizens, owing to massive public investments. Mechanisms to improve the quality of social services have been designed to enable men and women to participate in building their country by addressing the persistent challenges of economic diversification, climate change, and responsible consumption and production.

Algeria is also participating in efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional and international levels through global solidarity within the framework of South-South cooperation that involves, inter alia, documentation, training and sharing and dissemination of good practices in various fields.

Azerbaijan

[Original: English]

Building opportunities for inclusive and sustainable economic growth for all and leaving no one behind are a priorities for Azerbaijan, and we have demonstrated a firm commitment to transitioning to sustainable development and aligning our national development strategy to the Sustainable Development Goals. The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development facilitated the preparation of the voluntary national review. Along with the series of meetings with all stakeholders, a set of guidelines was prepared by the working groups of the Council and presented to each line ministry to identify specific work falling within their respective areas of responsibility that contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Achievements to share

- Thanks to its continuous efforts to establish a sustainable development model, the Government of Azerbaijan approved a strategic road map for the social and economic development of the key sectors with short-term (by 2020), medium-term (by 2025) and long-term (beyond 2025) target outlooks.
- Azerbaijan was one of the first countries in the region to undertake the mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support mission aimed at creating a road map outlining definitive steps to be taken to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Azerbaijan was named among the top 10 reformers in the World Bank Group's *Ease of Doing Business Report 2018*, allowing the country to secure 25th place as a favourable investment destination among 190 countries.
- Azerbaijan is investing in innovation initiatives and innovative ideas within the spectrum of Sustainable Development Goal accelerators. In 2018 alone, the national innovation contest attracted 220 proposals from young Azerbaijani entrepreneurs, researchers and scientists focused on solutions to some of the pressing challenges towards the implementation of the Goals.
- In October 2018, Azerbaijan hosted the first high-level forum on sustainable development, a platform to discuss practical solutions to challenges involving inclusive economic growth, productive employment, gender equality, youth participation and peaceful coexistence and justice for all, as well as access to clean resources and tackling climate change.

- The Agency for the Development of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises was launched in 2018 and has already started the process of drafting regulatory acts to establish Small and Medium-sized Enterprise Development Centres.
- Active labour market policies and social protection play a crucial role in the achievement of the Goals. Assuring equal access by all to public and social services, the Government established the Sustainable and Operative Social Protection Agency.

Lessons learned

- Along with the nationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals and the alignment of the existing strategies with prioritized targets and indicators, we should work on a new development strategy (2020 to 2030) based on predefined Goal accelerators and integrate those in our State budget.
- In ensuring the complete and integrated implementation of the Goals, the participation of businesses in the process is indispensable. Awareness-raising, more stringent regulation of environmental issues, increasing private sector financing for the Goals and harnessing corporate social responsibility funding are among the main issues ahead.

Challenges and areas where support is needed

- Statistical framework and other data-related complexities remain a significant challenge for the country to define our targets for the prioritized Sustainable Development Goal indicators, while we seek beneficial partnerships to increase the impact of our investments and interventions in these areas.
- The Armenia-Azerbaijan Nagorno-Karabakh conflict represents a serious threat to peace, security and cooperation in the South Caucasus. Armenia continues to use military force against Azerbaijan by occupying one fifth of its territory and preventing the Azerbaijani internally displaced population from returning to their homes. It disregards Security Council resolutions [822 \(1993\)](#), [853 \(1993\)](#), [874 \(1993\)](#) and [884 \(1993\)](#), which reaffirm that the Nagorno-Karabakh region is an inalienable part of Azerbaijan and call for immediate, full and unconditional withdrawal of the occupying forces from all occupied territories of Azerbaijan. Addressing the challenges associated with the conflict through its lasting political settlement in accordance with the above- mentioned Security Council resolutions will be a significant contribution to the implementation of the Goals.
- Azerbaijan endeavours to protect and restore its land ecosystems and promote their sustainable use. However, low environmental awareness is one of the bottlenecks to progress in fighting climate change and protecting the environment.
- The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals also requires widespread application of the principles of the circular economy – such as efficient and responsible resource consumption, waste management and symbiosis among the major industries currently dominating the country's economy.

Conclusion

Azerbaijan will continue its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda with a view to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The country will strive to preserve macroeconomic stability by allocating resources in such a manner as to increase the share of the private sector in the overall economy, reducing economic dependency on

oil and gas production thus promoting diversification of the economy, accelerating resource mobilization and integrating sustainability practices into the overall national development strategy.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]

Bosnia and Herzegovina is fully committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is the most comprehensive global sustainable and transformational development agreement for all United Nations Member States and has the Sustainable Development Goals at its core. It helps countries to commit, align and measure their respective contributions to such an ambitious yet crucial endeavour.

Bosnia and Herzegovina embarked on its participatory and exploratory 2030 journey in 2016. It will present the way it has implemented the process thus far and the results to date at the high-level political forum to be held in New York in July 2019. In the case of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the 2030 Agenda is equally about peace as it is about development. Given the country's governance structure, it is more about the connective and collaborative process that the 2030 Agenda has helped to unlock than about the end destination itself.

Bosnia and Herzegovina is committed to becoming a member of the European Union family. European Union accession, the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals are perceived as mutually reinforcing and complimentary processes that encourage institutions and citizens to strive for a better society and a future where no one is left behind and where people, prosperity, peace, partnership and care for our planet are at the core of a better and common future.

At the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina's 2030 Agenda efforts is the elaboration and adoption of the Sustainable Development Goal Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is being developed through an extensive and reiterative consultative process with various institutions, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and citizens at large. This document will inform all strategic planning processes that the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska, the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Brčko District are embarking upon in 2019. This voluntary national review informs on the process undertaken in the country, which to date has engaged thousands of people.

The 2030 Agenda is a change-maker in so many ways for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its timing and universality offer a unique opportunity to approach development holistically and its connectivity enables the governments to work together, learn from each other and develop strong and open partnerships. This is a priceless process.

The Imagine 2030 initiative provided an opportunity for citizens across the country to co-create the future. Their perspectives helped shape Vision 2030 and the development pathways that the country is to embrace. Through dedicated data analysis, we developed a better understanding of the country's baseline position. This allows us to focus and increase efforts to improve the quality of life and prosperity for all, including future generations, but not at the expense of the nature world and the environment.

We are learning by doing. The 2030 Agenda calls for introspection, conversation and dialogue, adaptation, innovation, creative and adaptive business and, above all, collective action and efforts by every individual and every form of human organization, ranging from families and communities to the private sector, government and global networks.

We anticipate change and the use of our collective foresight to find solutions to the most pressing issues that the world and each of our countries are facing. We are transforming our systems, our perspectives and ourselves in order to change our possibilities. It is an exciting time that offers a lifetime opportunity to change the course of development so that it becomes sustainable and to the benefit of all.

It is our great honour to be part of this amazing transformative agenda and a member of the global family. We are obliged for the sake of future generations to do something today and therefore must choose the path less travelled on this journey of discovery. We do not have all the answers, but we are striving to get to them in time and at a scale that really matters.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]

I. Background

Burkina Faso aligned the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development with its national economic and social development plan, which was implemented through 14 sectoral policies and local development plans

The voluntary national review was the outcome of a participatory and inclusive process based on consultations with all stakeholders at the national level.

II. Progress made in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Goal 4

In Burkina Faso, progress was achieved as a result of measures relating to free basic public education, the construction of 6,351 pre-primary, primary, post-primary and secondary school classrooms between 2016 and 2018, the recruitment of 59,933 primary, post-primary and secondary school teachers between 2007 and 2018, and the establishment and opening of institutions of higher education in the 13 regions. The gross primary school enrolment rate increased from 83.7 per cent in 2014/15 to 90.7 per cent in 2017/18; the gender parity index was 1.00 at the primary level, 1.12 at the post-primary level and 0.75 at the secondary level in 2017/18.

Goal 8

Several initiatives carried out to boost the economy had the following effects: (a) between 2014 and 2018, the rate of growth of gross domestic product per person employed increased from 0.1 per cent to 8.8 per cent; (b) the unemployment rate stood at 4 per cent in 2015; (c) the employment rate increased from 63.4 per cent in 2014 to 80 per cent in 2015; (d) 87,715 decent jobs were created between 2016 and 2017; (e) in 2017, 14,429 applicants, 41.1 per cent of whom were women, received funding from the support fund for vocational training and apprenticeships.

Goal 10

Burkina Faso took the following action to reduce inequalities (a) establishment of the project to support the development of local economies and the Sahel emergency programme, which have promoted the establishment of commercial and water infrastructure, health centres and schools; (b) the establishment of growth poles; (c) the granting of loans of CFAF 25,657 billion for women.

Goal 13

In the area of adaptation to climate-related uncertainties, Burkina Faso has the following mechanisms (a) three early warning systems for climate, environmental, meteorological and agricultural information; (b) a framework law on the prevention and management of risks, humanitarian crises and disasters; (c) a national multi-hazard plan covering preparation for, and management of, disasters and humanitarian crises; and (d) a national climate change adaptation plan.

Goal 16

Burkina Faso established the High Council for Reconciliation and National Unity and the High Council for Social Dialogue to promote social cohesion. It also increased budgetary allocations for security and defence to effectively combat terrorism and violent extremism.

The ratio of security personnel to inhabitants increased from 1 to 995 in 2016 to 1 to 758 in 2017 while the rate of implementation of the recommendations made to Burkina Faso during the second cycle of the universal periodic review in 2013 stood at 92 per cent in 2017; and the average distance to a court of first instance decreased from 60.3 km in 2015 to 59 km in 2017.

Goal 17

For optimal resource mobilization, the country established electronic procedures, introduced standardized invoicing, and held a conference of partners of Burkina Faso in Paris in 2016 for the financing of the national economic and social development plan. Thus, the average rate of generation of own-source revenue stood at 13.02 per cent during the 2016–2018 period, and official development assistance increased from CFAF 649.31 billion in 2016 to CFAF 663.11 billion in 2017.

III. Challenges and outlook

The major challenges to be addressed are: (a) increasing financial resource mobilization; (b) combating growing insecurity in some parts of the country; (c) strengthening the national statistical system; (d) increasing the energy supply; (e) developing socioeconomic infrastructure; (f) developing production bases and increasing the competitiveness of production sectors and the processing of national products.

Cambodia

[Original: English]

Introduction

Under the motto, “Nation, Religion, King”, the Royal Government of Cambodia has, over the last 20 years, pursued a progressive development agenda. This period has seen recovery from a protracted conflict and genocide, the rebuilding of infrastructure and human resources and, above all, the rebirth of the spirit of the Khmer people. Carrying this forward and continuing our Millennium Development Goal achievements, Cambodia enthusiastically supports the sustainable development agenda.

Progress to date

Along with other Member States, the Royal Government of Cambodia endorsed the Sustainable Development Goals at the General Assembly in 2015, working since

then to adapt the Goals to Cambodia's context to craft a fully nationalized framework – the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals.

Cambodia's highly consultative voluntary national review process began in late 2018, led by the Ministry of Planning. It adopted a whole-of-government approach, drawing in ministries and local administrations, and a whole-of-society approach fully open to civil society and business actors. The voluntary national review reports on efforts to: adapt and deliver the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals through the establishment of institutions and mechanisms; their integration within the National Strategic Development Plan 2019–2023 and public budgeting; and Sustainable Development Goal advocacy and citizen engagement.

The voluntary national review also reviews the progress to date of all Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals, with an in-depth review of the six prioritized Goals (education, decent work and growth, reduced inequalities, climate action, peace and institutions, and Sustainable Development Goal partnerships). Moreover, these six each figure within the strategic planning priorities of the Royal Government of Cambodia, as set out in the Rectangular Strategy IV and the National Strategic Development Plan. The Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes that it is early in the implementation process and that sustained efforts are needed and has set out concrete delivery proposals on management oversight, monitoring and evaluation and resourcing.

Opportunities and challenges

Going forward, Cambodia faces both opportunities and challenges. Here, we highlight three major issues:

The first is the resourcing and economic underpinning of the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals. Cambodia's economy remains buoyant – growth, investment and public revenues are strong – and provides a solid basis. Driving these trends are deeper changes in the economy towards high value added, and the emergence of a young and dynamic population. Yet, maintaining this path also presents challenges, including how to finance the ambitious Cambodian Sustainable Development Goal agenda and growing public expectations, alongside declining overseas aid.

Second is the overarching threat posed by climate change, which has implications for many Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals. While the Royal Government of Cambodia has sought to both mitigate and adapt to climate change, Cambodia remains highly exposed to the severe weather events and ongoing global warming. This and the need to combat environmental degradation in a rapidly developing country is a key priority.

Finally, there are several governance dimensions to be addressed. Cambodia has made significant investments in public management reform and systems-strengthening. Through various instruments, the Royal Government of Cambodia is building effective tools for oversight and delivery, but it is acknowledged that gaps remain, particularly in relation to data and monitoring and evaluation. Moreover, given that the delivery of the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals must be the business of all actors, the Royal Government of Cambodia will seek to reach out to civil society, enterprises and citizens, to inform, educate and engage meaningfully.

Key messages

The Royal Government of Cambodia reiterates its support for the Sustainable Development Goals, and its ambition to maintain rapid development by carrying through necessary reforms. The Cambodian Sustainable Development Goal

Framework offers a strong starting point, providing baseline, milestone and end-line data and arrangements for delivery at the strategic level. This is coupled with a commitment to the Framework's consolidation and regular updating.

The Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals fully reflect Cambodia's longer-term "Visions", which seeks progression to an upper-middle-income country in 2030 and then a high-income-country in 2050, while leaving no one behind and preserving Cambodia's natural resource endowment. The Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals have been fully integrated within planning and policymaking via the National Strategic Development Plan and, most innovatively, within budget strategic plans, where the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goal targets provide key performance measures.

In closing, the Royal Government of Cambodia recognizes that much remains to be done if the ambitions of the Cambodian Sustainable Development Goals are to be fully realized. In the coming years, we will seek to sharpen the focus on implementation, through the prioritization of actions, enhancing governance, effective resourcing and building genuine partnerships.

Cameroon

[Original: French]

In Cameroon, progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals is being accompanied by updating of development policies and strategies, to facilitate their integration. In addition, with a view to establishing an economic and financial programme with the International Monetary Fund, an interim development strategy was prepared, taking into account the adapted Goals. With regard to security, the country has, since 2014, faced repeated attacks by the terrorist group Boko Haram in the north, the influx of refugees from the Central African Republic to the east and, since 2017, an internal crisis in its north-western and south-western regions. All these factors, which affect domestic resource mobilization capacities, are having a negative impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite these challenges, progress has been made in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the area of education, despite the significant increase in enrolment, considerable progress was made in expanding access, reducing disparities and achieving gender parity. A new sectoral strategy for education linked to Goal 4 is being developed. However, low effectiveness and inadequate retention rates are hindering the achievement of universal enrolment. With regard to higher education, the development of vocational courses remains a challenge. The quality of education continues to be affected by the inadequate quality and quantity of necessary infrastructure and the shortage of teachers.

Economic growth slowed to 3.5 per cent in 2017, compared with 4.5 per cent in 2016 and 5.2 per cent in 2015, primarily owing to a 17 per cent decrease in oil production. The medium-term outlook is positive, however: after increasing to 3.8 per cent in 2018, growth is projected at 4.4 per cent in 2019 and at 5 per cent over the medium term. Nevertheless, these achievements and growth projections are well below the 7 per cent required to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals. Thus, the Government intends to improve conditions so that the private sector can build on public investment in order to drive growth, including by promoting greater diversification of the economy.

Reducing inequality remains a major challenge. The Gini coefficient rose from 39 per cent in 2007 to 44 per cent in 2014, reflecting an increase in inequality, with a higher incidence in rural areas. The poverty rate fell slightly from 39.9 per cent in

2007 to 37.5 per cent in 2014. However, the level of poverty varies considerably from one region to another and remains more pronounced in the Far North region. In order to reduce inequality and precariousness, plans are under way to expand the coverage of social protection measures and to improve the effectiveness of distributive policies.

To combat climate change, the country ratified the Paris Agreement, developed its national strategy for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries (REDD+), and aims to reduce its emissions by around 32 per cent. In addition, climate change is being taken into account in the national agricultural investment plan. However, a lack of financing for alternative activities to avoid deforestation, the main contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, as well as inadequate environmental data production capacities, remain the primary obstacles.

The quality of policies and institutions has improved markedly since 2016, according to the World Bank Country Policy and Institutional Assessment indicators. However, the Ibrahim Index of African Governance for Cameroon decreased from 4.68/10 in 2007 to 4.40/10 in 2016, reflecting a decline in the quality of governance. While the main challenges are to accelerate decentralization and improve the security situation in some parts of the country, there has been a general reduction in serious crime.

In order to effectively mobilize resources and partnerships, the country aims, after a development finance assessment, to increase domestic resource mobilization by expanding the tax base, revitalizing South-South and triangular cooperation, bolstering private sector resource mobilization, and implementing innovative financing mechanisms.

Key measures for the successful achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals are their incorporation them in the budget, and strengthening of the statistical framework for monitoring progress.

Central African Republic

[Original: French]

As a vast landlocked country covering 623,000 km² in the heart of the African continent, and with a small population of 5.189 million inhabitants as at 2018, the Central African Republic has enormous potential in terms of national resources but remains paradoxically very poor. It has been ravaged by several decades of recurrent military and political conflicts, resulting in significant population movements over the past five years. The challenges of creating jobs for youth and women, and the proliferation of weapons, including small arms and light weapons, are also obstacles to the stabilization of the country.

The restoration of constitutional order in March 2016, marked by the establishment of republican institutions, facilitated the development of reconstruction and stabilization policies under the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan for the Central African Republic 2017–2021, based on 3 pillars and 11 strategic objectives. Despite the efforts made, armed groups occupy a large part of the territory, perpetuating a climate of insecurity and exacerbating inequality and poverty.

The initiative to contextualize and prioritize Sustainable Development Goal targets was carried out in an inclusive manner in June 2018. It demonstrated that the three pillars of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan for the Central African Republic were aligned with 57.9 per cent of the targets for the selected priority Goals (Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17), which are aimed at fostering the necessary conditions

for promoting the rule of law, access to justice and the establishment of effective institutions, ensuring high-quality education and a prosperous economy, and reducing inequalities, which are essential factors for peacebuilding.

According to analyses, implementation of the National Plan f resulted in modest progress for the country in the areas of education, the economy and justice. Specifically, the proportion of children under the age of five years whose births had been recorded in the civil registry system rose from 60.7 per cent in 2015 to 62 per cent in 2018; gross rates of enrolment of boys and girls in primary school increased from 108 per cent and 84 per cent, respectively, in 2016 to 129 per cent and 103 per cent, respectively, in 2018; and primary school completion rates for boys and girls rose from 54 per cent and 40 per cent, respectively, in 2016 to 59 per cent and 42 per cent, respectively, in 2018. Official development assistance continues to be the country's main source of support because, thanks to the satisfactory implementation of the economic and social programmes established with technical and financial partners, the real growth rate of gross domestic product has remained at more than 4 per cent over the last three years, with a rate of 4 per cent recorded in 2018; and primary expenditure as a share of overall expenditure increased from 48.8 per cent in 2015 to 55.4 per cent in 2018. Unsentenced detainees as a proportion of the overall prison population also decreased from 90 per cent in 2015 to 72.6 per cent in 2018. Remittances by migrants increased from CFAF 707 million in 2015 to CFAF 2.4 billion in 2018.

However, much remains to be done to fully restore State authority, reconciliation and gender equality. The illicit financial transfers that fuel armed groups, the crime rate and the level of psychological and sexual violence have reached worrying proportions in the occupied regions, owing to the virtual absence of State authority. Corruption is still endemic and represents an obstacle to economic recovery. Women's participation in social and political life is very low, with a wage gap of CFAF 33,315 between men and women, equivalent to 18 per cent of the average salary of a civil servant. Global warming, deforestation and land degradation have affected the agricultural production system. In addition, the drying up of watercourses has considerably increased navigation times on the Ubangi River, disrupting the supply of basic necessities at affordable costs.

With regard to outlook, robust measures such as the establishment of the Special Criminal Court, the implementation of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic, the acceleration of implementation of the strategy to restore State authority, the establishment of good governance, and the strengthening of bilateral and multilateral cooperation are necessary for restoring the rule of law and sustainable prosperity, a critical condition for implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Chad

[Original: French]

A landlocked country in central Africa with a total area of 1,284,000 km², Chad has an estimated population of 15.8 million (2019), of whom 50.6 per cent are women and a significant proportion are young people. Despite its vast natural resources, Chad remains among the least developed countries.

With a view to improving the quality of life of its citizens, the Government of Chad has devised "Vision 2030, the Chad we want", which is divided into three national development plans. The first plan, which covers the period 2017–2021, is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals to a degree of 70 per cent.

Efforts to achieve the Goals were delayed by the collapse in oil prices from 2014, poor security conditions caused by Boko Haram from 2015 and the presidential elections of 2016. Action was first taken in 2017 and progress accelerated in 2018 with the creation of a coordination platform that carried out the participatory and consensus-based exercise of adapting the Goals to the context, prioritizing the targets and preparing a road map.

In March 2019, the country completed its first national report on the Goals, which highlighted that there were baselines for 54 per cent of the indicators. The following problems were identified following analysis of the indicators selected for the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019: a deterioration in education access and quality (primary school enrolment fell from 2.4 million in 2013 to around 2.2 million in 2016 and only 18 per cent of pupils in the final year of primary school attained an adequate reading level in 2014), weak economic growth (GDP growth was 2.8 per cent in 2018 compared with -3.8 per cent in 2017); greater inequality (the Gini coefficient increased from 39.4 in 2003 to 43.3 in 2017), and climate change measures that have yet to have an impact in a fragile security and institutional context, with inadequate means of implementation.

The current rate of progress allows for optimism in the areas of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (the proportion of women in the National Assembly has increased from 2 per cent in 1997–2002 to 15 per cent today and the legal framework has advanced considerably), integrated water resources management and the promotion of sustainable industrialization for the benefit of all, even though that is dependent on strengthening the economic fabric. In addition, while progress is being made on some indicators, much remains to be done to improve health and well-being and to preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems that are vulnerable to climate change and desertification.

A few priorities were identified in the self-assessment performed by the National Assembly on monitoring achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the need to better define the scope of action of the special commission of the National Assembly responsible for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, the monitoring of progress remains limited due to insufficient data and a weak coordination mechanism. The current reform of the statistical system and the design of the second national strategy for the development of statistics present opportunities to provide data on the relevant indicators and strengthen statistical production.

The overall cost of implementing the 2017–2021 national development plan, the main tool for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, is estimated to be close to \$10 billion, but resource mobilization remains inadequate. Domestic resources will cover 11 per cent of the total cost while international agreements in progress will cover another 22 per cent. That leaves a gap of 67 per cent, to be sought from the private sector (29 per cent) and technical and financial partners (38 per cent).

In line with its commitment, Chad will continue its efforts to reduce social inequalities, improve well-being, protect the environment and diversify the economy. The voluntary national review represents an important milestone in fulfilling this commitment, which must continue towards the full alignment of development policies and strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals at both the national and local levels.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]

Chile is committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The 2030 Agenda is an opportunity to seek consensus and collaborative action on current global challenges, such as ending poverty, improving and expanding education, addressing the consequences of climate change and defending democracy and human rights. It is the appropriate framework for bringing about sustainable development in its social, environmental and economic dimensions and fulfilling the pledge to “leave no one behind”.

Since its return to democracy, Chile has enjoyed steady economic and social growth, as evidenced by the decline in unemployment and poverty rates. This is the result of, among other factors, a stable strategy that is focused on an open economy and prioritizes public spending on social policies, which has stimulated economic growth.

Notwithstanding these results, we want to move towards more sustainable, inclusive and holistic development for all. To meet this challenge, we need to develop and implement public policies and regulations that have a long-term perspective in terms of social, environmental and economic issues. All segments of Chilean society will need to be committed to working together to find multisectoral, collaborative solutions at all levels.

Chile is implementing the 2030 Agenda as it would a government policy, cognizant of the fact that the Agenda can only be implemented through partnerships based on the shared ambitions of civil society, the private sector, academia and the State. We have adopted this approach across the board for addressing the various aspects of sustainable development. Our most pertinent challenges – including holistic development, the concerns of indigenous groups, child protection and a new health care model – are being addressed through national agreements with multiple actors and through innovative initiatives such as “Compromiso País”, in which the public and private sectors work together to find solutions to complex social problems.

In order to respond to the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, Chile has chosen to strengthen its institutional framework for implementation. In addition, it is important to pave the way for the development of an implementation strategy for the 2030 Agenda in Chile, with a view to promoting ownership of the Agenda at the national and local levels.

With regard to social issues, the considerable progress made in recent years in terms of reducing poverty needs to be supported by sustained gains in the improvement of opportunities for various vulnerable groups. Accordingly, Chile has revised its institutional framework and introduced policies and laws to enable it to address those and other social challenges, with the participation of civil society and other actors.

We have also implemented major environmental plans, strategies and legislation. The fact that the twenty-fifth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be held in Chile is evidence of our commitment to addressing global challenges, protecting the environment and fighting climate change. Our commitment is also reflected in the progress made in the area of renewable energy and our efforts to transform our energy mix and protect the oceans, among other things.

With regard to the economy, progress has been made and adaptive capabilities have been deployed in the face of highly dynamic scenarios. In terms of the actions taken by the State, it is worth highlighting the creation of new institutions and

programmes to, among other things, promote entrepreneurship and create decent jobs, streamline investment projects and boost productivity and innovation. We anticipate challenges associated with the digital transformation, the participation of women in the labour market, the development of small and medium-sized enterprises and sustainable growth, all of which are issues that we plan to focus on at the 2019 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, to be held in Chile.

In short, the undertakings and commitments of the 2030 Agenda are broad and ambitious, and we cannot achieve them in isolation because they are shared challenges and outcomes. Collaboration and cooperation within and between countries, with a focus on people, prosperity and the planet, is essential.

Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]

The Republic of the Congo, a signatory of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the United Nations in 2015, officially launched the Sustainable Development Goals on 12 December 2016. These global goals were then adapted to the context through a participatory process involving all national entities. As a result, 14 goals, 74 targets and 113 indicators were prioritized for the period covered by the 2018–2022 national development plan.

The status of progress in the Congo towards the six Goals selected for the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2019 is as follows:

Goal 4: The Congo is committed, through its national development plan, to comprehensively reforming its education system in order to increase its human capital. The proportion of children finishing primary school with adequate levels of literacy and numeracy was 18 per cent in 2015; the target for 2030 is 72 per cent. In 2015, the gender parity index was 0.96 at the middle school level and 0.78 at the high school level, which is slightly below the target for 2030 (≥ 1).

Goal 8: The Congo is relying on inclusive economic growth based on a diversified economy and a competitive private sector. In 2015, per capita GDP growth in real terms was 3.1 per cent, below the target of 7 per cent for 2030. GDP growth from tourism was 9.1 per cent in 2015, or less than one percentage point below the target rate for 2030. The unemployment rate in 2015 was 9.36 per cent for men and 10.72 per cent for women, with a target of 7 per cent for 2030.

Goal 10: Reducing inequality and poverty are given priority in the national development plan. Several measures, such as free health care for specific vulnerable groups and the Lisungi project, embody this government aim. A total of 3,400 households and households and older persons received quarterly cash transfers via the Lisungi project in 2017.

Goal 13: The Congo is committed to effective climate change action and disaster risk reduction. To date, the Government has created 17 protected areas covering a surface area of 4,350,418 hectares. Forest cover in the Congo is 65 per cent and the deforestation rate is 0.005 per cent.

Goal 16: The Congo has made good governance, especially in the areas of security and justice, the linchpin of its development strategy. The number of intentional homicides per 100,000 male habitants was 8 in 2018, with a target of 4 for 2030. The proportion of the population who suffered physical, psychological or sexual violence in 2015 was 0.017 per cent in 2015, 0.007 percentage points higher than the target for 2030.

Goal 17: The Government places a strong emphasis on strengthening national statistical capacity. The legal framework governing statistics in the Congo is Act No. 36-2018 of 5 October 2018, which establishes the rules regarding the preparation, production and dissemination of official statistics. To support implementation of this law, the Government is committed to providing the country with a national development strategy on statistics.

In 2015, the budget for building statistical capacity was \$4.7 million. The Government plans to allocate \$27.27 million in the year 2030.

The Congo is facing serious difficulties in its implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The main problems relate to building statistical capacity, coordination of civil society activities, involvement of the private sector and financial resources mobilization. The Government has decided to integrate the cost of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with the cost of implementing the national development plan.

Despite the weaknesses of the national statistical system, the country has worked to provide data on many of the selected indicators.

With the aim of evaluating progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and strengthening the performance culture, an institutional framework is being put in place to evaluate the national development plan and hence the Goals themselves.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]

Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals, Côte d'Ivoire focused on incorporating them into its national development plan and into sectoral and local policies. To that end, multi-stakeholder thematic groups were set up and a road map was drafted and executed in an inclusive manner.

With a view to ensuring ownership of the Goals, activities to raise awareness among and mobilize stakeholders have been carried out since 2016, so that each citizen becomes a responsible actor who contributes to achieving a balance between the quality of the environment, economic efficiency and social progress. As a result of this process, 40 targets were prioritized and 11 catalysts were identified.

One of the main catalysts is the 2019–2020 national social programme, which comprises 156 actions and measures, including 12 key measures, at a total cost of 727.5 billion CFA francs.

Average annual growth in Côte d'Ivoire was 8.5 per cent between 2012 and 2018, making it the most dynamic economy in West Africa and one of the best performers at the global level. Per capita GDP increased by over 30 per cent in real terms between 2012 and 2018 and the poverty rate was 46.3 per cent in 2015, compared with 51 per cent in 2011.

The country is facing several challenges, particularly in terms of sharing the fruits of growth, strengthening social cohesion, providing disaggregated data, mobilizing funds, adapting planning to the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals and mobilizing society.

In order to maintain strong, diverse and sustainable economic growth, the Government will take robust and concurrent action to lower the fertility rate, improve human capital, create decent and sustainable jobs and establish good governance, with the aim of benefiting from the demographic dividend.

Côte d'Ivoire is also planning to carry out a structural transformation of its economy by developing sustainable agriculture and inclusive value chains; to uphold fundamental principles and rights for workers; to improve health and safety at work; and to ensure environmental protection, with a view to increasing the productivity of all economic sectors.

The adoption of the law on compulsory schooling reflects the commitment to ensuring that all children aged 6 to 16 years have access to education and remain in the education system, the provision of formal education and the creation of alternatives tailored to the needs of specific groups of children, in particular the needs of Islamic educational establishments.

Reducing gender equality is a major focus of education policy with the aim of keeping girls in school and improving their learning environment, especially in subject areas that will lead to their empowerment and their participation in national development.

To combat the threat of climate change, Côte d'Ivoire plans to build resilience, create opportunities for investment that are resilient to climate change and to make the green economy a source for the creation of decent jobs through implementation of the current national strategy.

With the reform of the disaster risk reduction sector, the institutional framework and the risk prevention mechanism can be strengthened. This system will make it possible to establish good knowledge of exposure and vulnerability factors, assess the risks and the likelihood of losses and assist populations in the event of natural disasters.

For the purposes of sustainable natural resources management, the State is carrying out georeferencing and is emphasizing speed and security in the processing of administrative actions regarding urban and rural land.

The Government is committed to reducing regional disparities and to upholding the rule of law and the legal existence of every citizen by combating corruption and establishing strong institutions.

The Government has undertaken to establish a sustainable financial sector that is accessible to everyone. It has therefore decided to make the microfinance sector a major actor in financial inclusion, which will support the traditional banking sector and the insurance sector, with a view to restructuring and revitalizing the economic and financial fabric.

The Government reaffirms its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to take the necessary measures to align its 2025 and 2030 plans with them.

Croatia

[Original: English]

Introduction

In addition to its responsibility for the national implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Croatia is fully committed to the comprehensive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both within the framework of the United Nations and within the framework of the European Union where, together with other States members of the European Union, it coordinates and develops its views regarding sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Goals in the national framework of strategic planning

Bearing in mind the complexity of the 2030 Agenda and its inevitable impact on overall social and economic development, the Government of Croatia, with a view to coordinating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the highest level of the executive branch, established the National Council for Sustainable Development.

The establishment of the Council ensures the political importance and visibility of the long-term process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, as well as compliance with other policies, strategies and activities of the Government of Croatia.

Integrated approach to sustainable development and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The 2030 National Development Strategy is being drafted, and its adoption is expected in the first quarter of 2020. Creating the National Development Strategy, and the establishment of an integrated system of strategic planning will, for the first time in Croatia, enable access to long-term development planning at the national, local and county levels. The National Development Strategy is a key Croatian strategic document for the period until 2030 and will constitute the basis for the design and implementation of public policies and the realization of the vision of Croatia as an open and globally competitive country.

Involvement of citizens in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

In the process of the elaboration of the 2030 National Development Strategy and determining the strategic framework for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, numerous communication activities, participatory workshops, conferences and round tables on the subject of “Croatia 2030: The Croatia we want” target different groups of stakeholders in sustainable development (from the public sector, civil society, academia and the private sector to children and young people). In cooperation with the Croatian Chamber of Commerce and the competent state administrative bodies, a conference entitled “Support Sustainable” was organized, aiming for a multisectoral consultation process on the content of the first voluntary national review.

Setting up a monitoring framework

In order to create a complete framework necessary for the effective monitoring of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, an information system for strategic development planning and management was set up with a view to fully integrating electronic collection and storage of the statistical and financial data required to monitor and report on the implementation of strategic planning documents at all three national levels, which includes monitoring the implementation activities that contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda in Croatia.

For the purpose of disseminating the results and the status of the realization of the key indicators of sustainable development among the general public, the Internet portal of the State Bureau of Statistics was created and modelled on the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.

Meeting the objectives of the 2030 Agenda

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals are a development plan for Croatia in the next 10 years, a framework and a tool for a better future.

The SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018 ranks Croatia 21st out of 156 countries. Such a starting position gives Croatia a good chance of becoming, together with other States members of the European Union, one of the leaders in the transition to sustainability, both by becoming involved in setting global standards and consequently achieving its own social and economic benefits.

Challenges and further steps

In order to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, further action will be focused on:

- Further development and improvement of the institutional set-up, with a well-defined organization, coordination and control structure
- Defining the intervention logic to link together strategic objectives, planned implementation mechanisms, structural reforms and strategic projects within the framework of the National Development Strategy and funding sources
- Building national statistical capacity
- Conducting permanent information and educational activities to raise awareness about sustainable development and life and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and global levels.

Eswatini

[Original: English]

Introduction

Eswatini is committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 of the African Union. It acknowledges the importance of achieving the development goals contained in these agendas. The theme of the 2030 Agenda, “Empowering people, ensuring inclusiveness and combating inequality” resonates with the aspirations of Agenda 2063, particularly “a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development”.

An enabling environment is imperative for effective implementation. The Government has revised the National Development Strategy (Vision 2022) to incorporate emerging regional and global development issues.

The process

This report derived from desk reviews and stakeholder consultations with ministries, civil society, the private sector, academia, donors, youth, women and persons living with disabilities. The key messages are clustered into five areas: (a) reducing poverty, inequality and vulnerability; (b) natural resources, climate change and environmental sustainability; (c) human capital development; (d) good governance for prosperity and inclusive and sustainable growth; and (e) partnerships and collaborative efforts.

The key messages

Reducing poverty, inequality and vulnerability: Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2 and 10

Poverty declined from 69 per cent (2000) to 58.9 per cent (2017); however, inequalities and vulnerabilities exist. The Gini coefficient is 0.51, with 10 per cent of the wealth shared by the poorest 40 per cent of the population. Reforms were

implemented through legislation and grants, for example, the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.

Successes: Intervention measures through grants for orphaned vulnerable children and funds for poverty reduction, regional development and youth enterprise.

Challenges: Sustainability of interventions, adaptation to climate change and targeting for social grants.

Areas for support: Market facilities, harnessing science, technology and innovation for returns, and monitoring and evaluation for social protection.

**Natural resources, climate change and environmental sustainability:
Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 12, 13, 14 and 15**

The country is endowed with natural resources; however, the risk of climate change exists in most sectors.

Successes: Enabling policy environment, with the National Water Policy (2018); transboundary water agreements with Mozambique and South Africa; the Climate Change Policy (2016); and the Energy Policy and Master Plan (2018).

Challenges: Water pollution in rivers, costly and inefficient energy technologies and lack of adaptation to climate change.

Areas for support: Water point mapping, monitoring mechanisms, energy-efficient technologies and climate-smart capacity.

Human capital development: Sustainable Development Goals 3 and 4

Sustainable skills development is essential for citizens' well-being and economic development. The Government is expected to provide high-quality, relevant, accessible, affordable, equitable and socially acceptable services.

Successes: Declines in national HIV incidence from 238 per 1,000 (2014) to 136 per 1,000 (2017) and tuberculosis infections from 565 per 100,000 (2014) to 389 per 100,000 (2017); subsidized and free medical services, for example, antiretroviral therapy and prevention of mother-to-child transmission; free primary education with school-feeding programmes.

Challenges: Maternal and child mortality rates remain high; non-communicable diseases are an emerging challenge; limited medical supplies; and compromised quality of education, dropouts and teenage pregnancies.

Areas for support: Specialized skills development, medical health supplies and specialized equipment, non-communicable disease services, technical and vocational education and training, harnessing of information and communications technology in education, and infrastructure for education.

**Good governance for inclusive and sustainable growth and prosperity:
Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9 and 16**

Eswatini aspires to achieve a high standard of living through sustainable and inclusive economic growth, science, technology and innovation, infrastructure development, employment creation and access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprise development.

Successes: The unemployment rate declined from 28.1 per cent (2014) to 23 per cent (2016) and youth unemployment declined from 51.65 per cent to 47.4 per cent; development of the national micro, small and medium-sized enterprise policy (2018) ensuring increased access to finance for youth; establishment of the Royal Science

and Technology Park for the promotion of innovation and micro, small and medium-sized enterprise incubation; special economic zones for foreign direct investment (FDI); and a peaceful nation.

Challenges: High Internet costs, poor infrastructure maintenance and few industrial zones; a small non-diversified manufacturing sector; dwindling FDI; and perceived corruption, crime and violation of human rights.

Areas for support: Investment in research and development, data collection and surveys, information and communications technology, skills development for industrialization, and capacity-building in judiciary-related institutions.

Partnerships and collaborative efforts towards sustainable development: Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 17

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals benefited from donor support. South-South cooperation provided funding for the Participatory Poverty Assessment and the United Nations provided specialized support. Donors supported funding for infrastructure development in education, health, energy and agriculture, etc.

Successes: The National Aid Policy (2000) guides the flow and utilization of donor support.

Challenges: Inability to access concessional funding whereas challenged by a high poverty level, inequalities, vulnerability and a fiscal crisis. The middle-income status is not favourable for increased donor support.

Areas for support: Resource mobilization and capacity-building.

Fiji

[Original: English]

Fiji recognizes the transformative and the development ambition of the Sustainable Development Goals and considers that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, taken together with the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, provides a framework for achieving a sustainable, prosperous and peaceful future for the world and its peoples. While the Goals represent a global response to global challenges, Fiji considers them to be nationally relevant and capable of having a transformative impact on the quality of life of all Fijians.

Fiji's approach to sustainable development

The sustainable development principles underpinning the Sustainable Development Goals have long been the underlying principles for Fiji's national development. In implementing the Goals, Fiji has adopted a whole-of-government approach and has utilized national development planning as the primary instrument to drive forward the implementation of the Goals. In 2017, The Government launched its Five-Year and 20-Year National Development Plan with the vision of transforming Fiji. The National Development Plan is the outcome of a nationwide consultation process that involved the private sector, civil society, community groups, government and the general public, reflecting the aspirations of the Fijian people and their Government's commitment to a transformed Fiji. Mainstreamed and integrated within the various thematic areas of the National Development Plan are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals – 15 Goals are explicitly integrated into the corresponding 29 strategic priorities of the National Development Plan, while Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production) and Goal 13 (climate

action) are treated as cross-cutting issues across the Plan. Consequently, the implementation of the Goals and its monitoring hinge on the National Development Plan processes.

At the sector level, the Goals have already been integrated into sectoral strategic plans and policies in many sectors, including but not limited to education, health and agriculture. Fiji also recognizes that, while the Government holds the important responsibility of achieving the Goals, it is in everyone's interest and everyone's responsibility, including private individuals, private enterprises, non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations, to advance the sustainable development agenda. Working with these multiple stakeholders, the Government of Fiji is helping to advance socioeconomic development and the empowerment of all Fijians.

People

In the quest to create a transformative Fiji, unprecedented investment has been undertaken in the education sector through the introduction of free education, free textbooks and subsidized transportation to school. This is the single most important vehicle to empower young Fijians, including the disadvantaged. Maternal and child mortality rates have been reduced, the density of health workers has increased, and universal health coverage is the highest among the Pacific Island countries. Non-communicable diseases have become a health pandemic.

Prosperity

The strong and sustained growth momentum experienced over the years places Fiji in a very opportune space to embrace a new wave of development with shared prosperity and inclusiveness at its heart. The Fijian economy has achieved nine years of consecutive growth – an extraordinary achievement in the country's post-independence history. This unprecedented economic growth is resulting in declining poverty and inequality and has enabled massive investment in infrastructure, allowing access to markets and opportunities.

Planet

Fiji is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and has been vocal about this in the international arena. Fiji's global leadership on two important Sustainable Development Goals on climate change and oceans has been demonstrated through the co-hosting of the 2017 Ocean Conference and the Fijian presidency of the twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Fiji's political leadership in these areas will be critical for building momentum on climate and ocean action and for the mobilization of resources to climate-vulnerable countries. Fiji is a signatory to a number of climate change-related international agreements and has integrated climate change into the National Development Plan to bolster climate and ocean action at the local level.

Peace

On a per capita basis, Fiji's financial commitment towards the expansion of legal aid services ranks Fiji as a world leader in funding access to justice. This gives more low-income earners in Fiji greater opportunity to seek legal advice and enjoy the security, assurance and full protection of the law, creating an equal society.

Partnerships

Successful partnership with private individuals, private enterprises and non-governmental and civil society organizations has been fundamental in delivering

critical services in Fiji. These range from large-scale infrastructure projects to community-based development initiatives.

Ghana

[Original: English]

National ownership

The Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into the national development agenda and the budget. The Goals are being implemented through the decentralized planning system, which allows for the participation of all stakeholders, including traditional authorities, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, United Nations agencies and other development partners.

Institutional arrangement

A three-tier structure – the High-Level Ministerial Committee, the multi-stakeholder Implementation Coordinating Committee and the Technical Committee – provides oversight, coordination and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, respectively, across the public and non-state sectors. The Ghana audit service carries out Goal-related assessments, while the national human rights institution ensures that rights are protected. With over 300 members, the civil society organizations’ platform on the Goals serves as the focal point for engagement among civil society organizations, the private sector and government. To support the President’s role as the co-chair of the Secretary General’s Eminent Group of Advocates, a Sustainable Development Goal Advisory Unit has been established in the office of the President.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships

Ghana’s whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda has fostered partnerships and stakeholder collaboration. Partnerships among business leaders, traditional authorities and government have been institutionalized. Engagement with youth has been enhanced through the civil society organizations’ subplatform on youth.

Awareness creation

Ghana is implementing a communication strategy to increase public awareness. Media sensitizations and targeted engagements have been held with schoolchildren, street children, young people, market women, artisans, persons with disabilities, commercial drivers and farmers’ groups. The Government is partnering with the media and civil society organizations to scale up awareness and knowledge on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Leave no one behind

Significant disparities in income, access to basic services and decision-making exist across the country. Those at risk of being left behind include vulnerable women and children, unemployed youth, persons with disabilities, the aged, rural populations, those in precarious employment and people in hard-to-reach areas. Efforts to reach those furthest behind include expanding the coverage of the social protection system, improving infrastructure, increasing productivity in the agricultural sector, promoting youth development and vigorously pursuing a decent work agenda.

Synergies across the Goals

The interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals create co-benefits that can be leveraged for effective policy and investment decision-making, and trade-offs. The Government's promotion of clean cookstoves (Goal 2) will reduce health risks (Goal 3), particularly for women (Goal 5) and create jobs (Goal 8), while having a positive impact on climate (Goal 13) and terrestrial ecosystems (Goal 15). The intensive use of agrochemicals to boost agricultural productivity poses risks to water resources (Goal 6), human health (Goal 3) and soil health and ecosystems (Goal 15), which are being addressed through education on the proper application of inorganic fertilizers and good irrigation practices and the promotion of large-scale compost plants.

Progress in the implementation of the Goals

In general, 67 of the 101 indicators that Ghana is currently monitoring have showed improvements since 2013, while about 20 worsened. Between 2013 and 2017, Ghana achieved a decline in the proportion of the population living below the international (13.6 per cent to 11.9 per cent) and national poverty lines (24.2 per cent to 23.4 per cent), while child poverty was unchanged at 28.3 per cent. The prevalence of stunting was 18 per cent in 2017, down from 19 per cent in 2014. Maternal deaths reduced from 358 per 100,000 live births (2015) to 310 (2017). Gender parity in basic education has been achieved and access to secondary education improved through the implementation of the Free Senior High School Policy. The unemployment rate increased from 5.2 per cent in 2013 to 14.1 per cent in 2017; however, the environment for job creation has improved with the passing of the new Companies Act. The Right to Information Bill has been passed into law to improve access to information.

Data

Ghana has developed a National Data for Sustainable Development Road Map with three priority objectives: filling data gaps; encouraging data use; and strengthening the entire data ecosystem. Administrative data are being harnessed to generate timely and disaggregated information for monitoring. Ghana is also exploring new sources of data – geospatial and call details records from the telecommunication industry. A quality assurance framework is also being developed with civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to fully leverage data within the ecosystem. A national Sustainable Development Goal reporting platform has been launched to make disaggregated data available.

Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]

2019 voluntary national review: “The road to sustainable development”

In 2014, Guatemala approved its National Development Plan, “K’atun: Our Guatemala 2032”, and in 2016 it turned its attention to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, integrating 99 targets, including 16 strategic targets, into its National Development Plan and grouping them into 10 national priorities. The 2019 national voluntary review includes an analysis of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in terms of the 10 national priorities. The review, which covers the first five years of the National Development Plan, was prepared by public institutions, municipalities, development councils, international partners, the business sector and civil society.

Ensuring access to high-quality, relevant and equitable education is a challenge for Guatemala. The problem is that the competencies and skills required for all-round personal development are not being developed adequately. At present, the national achievement indicators for reading and mathematics show that less than half of the assessed students are obtaining the expected results. The public perception is that initiatives such as the School Meals Act and the refurbishment of classrooms have helped to improve access to education, particularly at the preschool level. However, secondary school education requires further attention in order to improve quality, cut dropout rates and reduce the proportion of pupils who have to repeat a school year and the number of over-age students.

Limited access to decent, high-quality employment is one of the chief concerns of the people of Guatemala, in particular the younger generation. While the unemployment rate in 2018 was just 2.8 per cent, 7 out of 10 employed persons work in the informal sector. Inter-institutional measures aimed at diversifying and upgrading the skills of the labour force have been introduced. Such measures should be strengthened, as should efforts to generate formal employment. The business sector has participated actively in documenting practices that promote decent employment and investment in long-term priorities, and it has helped to draw up a national competitiveness strategy for the period 2018–2032 and a law on promoting entrepreneurship.

In 2014, the human development index score for Guatemala was 0.492, below the Latin American average, placing it 127th out of 188 countries. Reducing inequality is central to fostering development and achieving target 10.2 of the Sustainable Development Goals, and is one of the key objectives of the National Development Plan, which seeks to guarantee access to public goods and services and reduce the coverage gap for indigenous groups, women, persons with disabilities and individuals living in rural areas. Guatemala is located in a region with various characteristics that make it highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Accordingly, it recognizes the need to integrate adaptation and mitigation principles into planning at all levels, so that the country can continue to make progress in this area, through such initiatives as the Framework Law and National Action Plan on Climate Change.

With regard to the priority area of peace, justice and strong institutions, which is covered by Sustainable Development Goal 16, the Government has undertaken various initiatives for open government and budgeting. Government departments have been restructured. In 2018, a population census was conducted for the first time in 14 years. In addition, a referendum has been held in which the majority of people voted to submit the claim against Belize relating to land and insular territories and maritime areas to the International Court of Justice for settlement.

With regard to violent crime, figures indicate that some progress has been made, with a reduction in property crime and the homicide rate, which fell from 29.5 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2015 to 22.4 in 2018. However, in view of the public perception that security is inadequate and confidence is low, there is a long way to go in terms of building strong institutions and ensuring access to justice. Guatemala has implemented various instruments in accordance with international standards and has passed legislation aimed at improving public management, including through specialized courts to serve the needs of particular population groups.

In recent years, the foundations have been laid and the conditions created for our long-term future; over the next five years the focus will be on effective and consolidated implementation.

Guyana

[Original: English]

A people-focused and driven agenda for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana has consistently prioritized sustainable and inclusive development over recent decades. Institutionalizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, forms key components of development planning cycles. Guyana's long-term development strategy, entitled the "Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040", reflects the principles of a green agenda within safe and secure borders and highlights the need for resilient development for all its citizens. It is based on the delivery of quality education and health care, social protection, new economic opportunities, justice and political empowerment while protecting the natural environment.

Guyana has undertaken a suite of reforms designed to achieve this vision across the whole-of-government and is committed to continuing along this trajectory. All stakeholders – the private sector; civil society; communities, especially indigenous communities and people in vulnerable situations; and development partners – are involved so as to ensure that no Guyanese is left behind. This principle of inclusivity was demonstrated in extensive stakeholder consultations to ensure national ownership and a participatory approach to policymaking within the context of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040, thus reinforcing the commitment to participation and empowerment.

Progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

While economic growth has remained positive over the last decade, its impact on poverty reduction is uncertain, since the last national poverty assessment was done over 12 years ago. Notwithstanding, a raft of interventions, including those targeting single women, youth, the disabled and indigenous communities in remote areas, has been implemented to reduce poverty levels across both coastal and hinterland regions.

Programmatic interventions towards advancing the Sustainable Development Goals include: climate adaptation and mitigation efforts, through multisectoral approaches such as smart-health facilities; environmental education awareness and resilient agriculture; education curriculum reform, reviewing teacher quality and performance and expanding the use of information technology in classrooms; expanding access to a wider range of health services to hinterland communities; promoting community participation through local government elections and greater decentralization of central government service delivery; economic diversification through the expansion of service sectors and non-traditional agriculture lines of production, tourism and construction industries; and adapting cleaner energy and resilient infrastructure for expanded connectivity and trade facilitation.

Constraints to development

Guyana's geography creates a range of geopolitical and other challenges for all sectors. Guyana's border controversies continue to put the country at risk for security issues and increased migration. Additionally, the 751,000 residents of Guyana are distributed unevenly over 214,970 km². This impedes greater inclusivity and equitable distribution of social benefits, given the marginal costs of delivery in rural, hinterland and remote areas. Climate change has brought increased rainfall, leading to intense flooding in many areas on the one hand and drought on the other. The pace of education reform is hindered by lack of human capacity, a factor that was inimical

to the achievement of Goal 5 of the Millennium Development Goals; yet, it remains critical to realizing all of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Guyana requires significant human capital development and institutional strengthening in all sectors, particularly in light of the anticipated economic, environmental and social changes that the country is expected to undergo with an emerging oil and gas sector.

Partnerships for implementation

Financing the Sustainable Development Goals will remain a challenge, especially given the major gaps in structural resilience and an already expanded domestic resource mobilization effort that has proven insufficient to date. The involvement of the local private sector and civil society organizations as development partners, though meaningful, requires further strengthening taking into account that the scale of the local private sector is limited.

The United Nations country team, complemented by the support of traditional donors and other development partners, has been collaborating with Guyana in the implementation of the Goals. Increased South-South cooperation has also enabled access to new sources of finance and technical cooperation.

Monitoring progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

Guyana will continue to monitor progress on the Sustainable Development Goals within the context of the Green State Development Strategy: Vision 2040 to assess progress on its achievement of the 2030 Agenda. National data systems' strengthening, including frequent national surveys, is needed to inform evidence-based policy, planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. This means, among other things, that the country will need to reform its National Statistical System, including building the relevant capacities for data collection, analysis and reporting.

Iceland

[Original: English]

Iceland is fully committed to implementing the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development both nationally and internationally. The Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into government policy on social, economic and environmental affairs, with a particular emphasis on building a peaceful and just society, free from fear and violence.

Domestically, the Government aims to identify and better serve marginalized groups in society and to build partnerships to address the large environmental footprint of modern lifestyle. Iceland is still a net contributor to climate change, but is heading for carbon neutrality at the latest in 2040.

Internationally, Iceland shares its expertise in gender equality, land restoration and the use of sustainable natural marine and energy resources through its international cooperation, contributing to global progress on Goals 5, 7, 13, 14 and 15. The promotion of human rights for all, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, is a cornerstone in Iceland's foreign policy and its international development cooperation, in line with the 2030 Agenda and the Government's domestic priorities. In particular, Iceland has been a vocal champion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, a key driver for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Process

An inter-ministerial working group leads the work of the Government of Iceland towards implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. It has mapped Iceland's position for all 169 targets and specified 65 priority targets that will guide the authorities in implementing the Goals in the coming years. Data have been gathered for 70 of the indicators for the Goals, which are based on a defined methodology, but more work remains to strengthen the statistical foundation of the Goals in Iceland.

The Goals serve as guiding principles in Iceland's development cooperation, as the Government's main goal in development work is to reduce poverty and hunger and to promote general welfare based on gender equality, human rights and sustainable development. New initiatives aim to build public-private partnerships in international development cooperation, as the Goals will not be met unless the private sector is a part of the solution.

Strong emphasis has been placed on integrating the Goals into the Government's five-year fiscal strategy. Linking Goal targets directly to specific government policy objectives offers an opportunity to map the means of implementation of specific targets, estimate the funding allocation for the Goals at any given time and anticipate potential synergies and trade-offs. Additionally, efforts are being made to actively involve local authorities in their important role in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

Inclusion

The Government acknowledges that implementing the Sustainable Development Goals will require a concerted effort by many different stakeholders. Therefore, the Government has focused on consultation and cooperation on the implementation of the Goals, both internationally as well as nationally. The Icelandic Youth Council for the Sustainable Development Goals gives young people a platform to express their voice to policymakers. Children have the right to have their views heard and child participation is crucial for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Iceland's voluntary national review report was made available in the Government's electronic consultation portal to invite the opinions of various parties. This feedback was taken into account in writing the final report. Further and more effective consultations with various stakeholders is planned on a regular basis.

Challenges

Iceland is a Nordic welfare State with a relatively high standard of living. For 10 consecutive years, Iceland has been ranked both the world's most peaceful country and the one with the greatest gender equality.

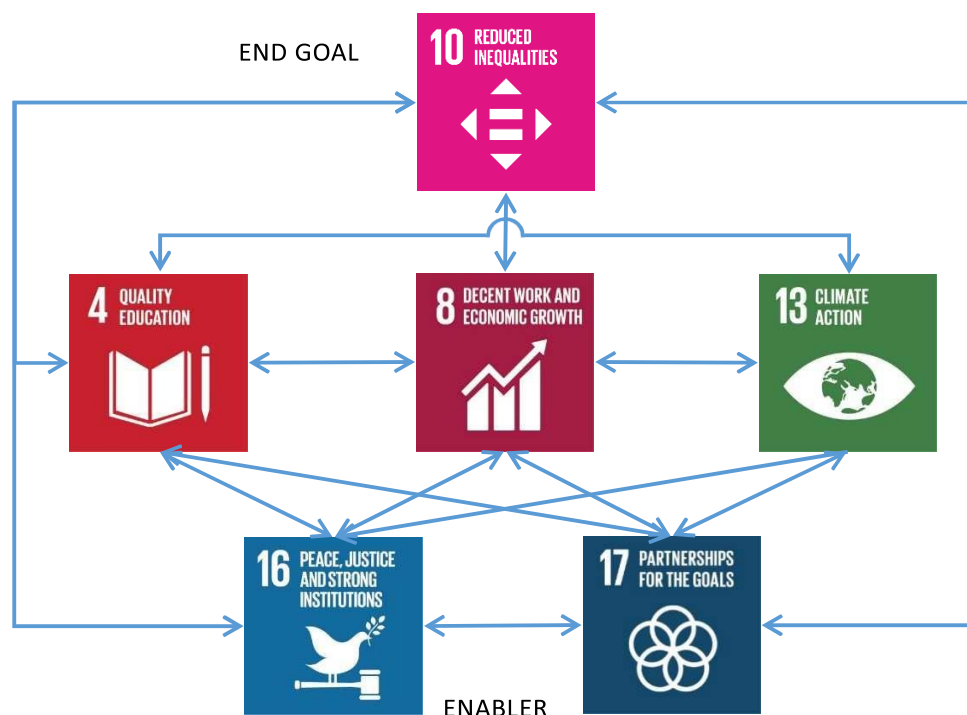
Despite real success in many areas, Iceland still faces a variety of challenges and has a way to go before achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goal targets. The voluntary national review report attempts to give a clear picture of Iceland's main challenges for each of the 17 Goals, with the aim of identifying marginalized groups, such as immigrants and persons with disabilities, in order to leave no groups or individuals behind. Climate change is one of the major challenges in Iceland, as well as responsible consumption and production.

The voluntary national review sets out the next phase of Iceland's implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including the ambitious Government Action Plan on Climate Change, which is an example of a coordinated policy laid out by seven ministers in consultation with various stakeholders.

Indonesia

[Original: English]

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality in Indonesia



For the Republic of Indonesia, implementing the national development agenda is implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The Goals are institutionalized from the highest national level to subnational entities and integrated into national and subnational development planning. This is a massive collaborative endeavour between government and non-state actors designed to serve 264 million people – a third of whom are children – comprising 1,300 ethnic groups across 17,000 islands.

Indonesia has been successful in reducing inequality, complemented by sustained and inclusive economic growth and accountable governance. Poverty has been reduced to a single digit for the first time in history, job opportunities and access to education have increased at all levels, and greenhouse gas emissions and disaster risks have been reduced.

This voluntary national review was developed with an inclusive approach through online and offline consultations. This is our story:

Inclusive and consistent economic growth

- The gross domestic product grew consistently by 5 per cent annually (2014–2018).
- In 2015–2018, the unemployment rate decreased, with the unemployment rate for women having dropped from 6.4 per cent to 5.3 per cent, and 9.38 million jobs were created.
- In 2014–2018, the poverty rate decreased from 11.25 per cent to 9.82 per cent and the Gini ratio decreased from 0.413 to 0.384.

- In 2014–2017, financial inclusion increased from 36 per cent to 49 per cent, with an increase in financial access for the poorest from 22 per cent to 37 per cent.

Achieving near universal education

- In 2015–2018, the adjusted net attendance rate for pre-primary education increased from 79.4 per cent to 83.3 per cent; and the gross enrolment rate increased from 91.17 per cent to 91.52 per cent for junior secondary school, from 78.02 per cent to 80.68 per cent for senior secondary school and from 25.26 per cent to 30.19 per cent for tertiary education.
- Gender parity in all levels has almost been achieved, with access to primary and junior secondary school being almost equal across income groups.
- Almost half of youth participate in formal and non-formal education.

Sustaining climate action and managing disasters

- Low carbon development has been mainstreamed in the national development planning agenda.
- During 2010–2017, greenhouse gas emissions were reduced by 22.5 per cent from a cumulative baseline of 13 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, and their intensity was reduced by 27 per cent from a baseline of 560 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per billion rupiah.
- During 2010–2017, enhanced disaster management reduced the number of deaths and missing persons, with a decrease in direct economic loss of 7 trillion rupiahs. The Disaster Risk Index has been reduced by 23.97 per cent (2018).

Realizing access to justice and inclusive institutions

- Indonesia's Democracy Index increased from 62.05 (2016) to 72.49 (2017).
- Indonesia's Anti-Corruption Behaviour Index increased from 3.59 (2016) to 3.66 (2018).
- Birth registration covered 83.55 per cent of all children, 77.4 per cent of children in the poorest households and 71.92 per cent of children under the age of five (2018).
- In 2015–2018, plus-minus 45,000 legal aid and plus-minus 83,000 non-litigation activities were provided for the poor.

Innovative development financing

- Innovative instruments, including green sukuk, blended finance, Islamic charity and social impact investments have leveraged resource flows from both public and private sources.
- The Sustainable Development Goal Financing Hub was established to reduce financing gaps and implement innovative financing sources through multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Broad, inclusive national process and strategic global partnership

- Parliament has been involved since the early stages of the conceptualization of the Sustainable Development Goals, whereas the Supreme Audit Board is involved in the evaluation and review of the implementation of the Goals.

- Nine Sustainable Development Goal centres have been established in prominent national universities.
- South-South and triangular cooperation have been strengthened with more partner countries, acknowledging the nexus among peace, humanitarian assistance and development.

Overcoming challenges

- The remaining general challenges are universal access and equal opportunity and treatment for all. Strong concerns include limited access to responsive public services, unequal quality education and economic opportunity, limited compliance of public services with national standards, and inadequate data and information.
- On good governance: corruption, lack of access and quality of public information, and lack of inclusive data in policymaking and implementation.
- On disaster risks and climate change: issues affecting disaster preparedness, energy diversification and efficient use of natural resources.
- On domestic resource mobilization: more innovation is needed in tax compliance and administration.
- Specifically for vulnerable groups: preventing violence against children and providing equal opportunities for youth and people with disabilities.

The way forward

Indonesia's development priorities include strengthening human development through poverty reduction and improvement in basic services; reducing regional disparities through connectivity and maritime development; increasing economic value added and job creation; and overcoming the digital divide.

Iraq

[Original: Arabic]

In September 2015, when the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals were adopted by all the Member States of the United Nations, Iraq was focused on combating terrorist groups and dealing with the consequences of falling world crude oil prices. Nonetheless, Iraqis never gave up hope for a better future.

This first voluntary national review of the high-level political forum testifies to that commitment. It showcases the experience of a strong nation that has chosen life and development and placed its faith in its sorely tested people. Even amid the tumult of war, they have shown a dogged determination and have never faltered in their pursuit of sustainable development. At the same time, they acknowledged the need for an extraordinary effort to properly balance the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, preserve peace, protect the rights of all people and future generations and ensure that no one is left behind.

As the principal implementing party and coordinator for achieving the Goals, in line with the country's Vision 2030 programme, the Government of Iraq is firmly convinced that implementing the Vision will help to empower a wider range of national actors, expand national dialogue and broaden partnerships. It is committed to supporting initiatives by civil society organizations, universities, trade unions and other stakeholders.

This review is the product of a series of consultations that helped to bring together valuable insights on priorities and challenges from, among others, the Council of Representatives of Iraq, academic circles, civil society, the private sector and women's and youth groups.

The Ministry of Planning has the overarching task of coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Goals. To that end, it has established a national sustainable development commission to coordinate economic, social and environment action between national and local government bodies and in conjunction with the private sector, civil society and international organizations, and thereby ensure that all the country's social groups and regions participate in and benefit from advances in development. The Ministry is working hard to raise awareness of the Goals, promote their localization and incorporate them into national and local planning, while obtaining the support of development partners to implement them.

The focus of this first voluntary review is on progress made to date and emerging challenges concerning implementation of the priorities of Vision 2030 and related Sustainable Development Goals, namely human development (Goals 1, 3, 4 and 5), good governance and safe society (Goal 16), economic diversification (Goals 8 and 9) and environmental sustainability (Goals 6, 11 and 13). They are being implemented through various plans and strategies, including the National Development Plan for the period 2018–2022 and the Iraq Government Programme. As the review shows, the National Development Plan, for instance, corresponds to more than 70 per cent of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The dearth of available data, including disaggregated data, poses a major challenge to building indicators and monitoring progress on achievement of the Goals. Some 70 per cent of the relevant indicators are currently unavailable. That said, the data to hand indicate that school enrolment and fertility rates have improved, while levels of child and maternal mortality have diminished. Poverty levels have fallen in relative terms, in spite of the sharp increase experienced during the recent crisis and war on terrorism. Considerable efforts are being made to expand the coverage of social protection programmes for the poor and marginalized. Efforts to empower women and curb violence against them have led to some improvement in gender-related indicators, although much remains to be done in terms of improving women's participation.

Major steps have also been taken to improve governance and the rule of law, including through greater administrative decentralization, the establishment of a high council for combating corruption and the reform of financial management and service delivery systems. Iraq is also striving to create a favourable environment for the private sector, which, it is expected, will help to carry out major projects and alter the country's development trajectory, including by reducing its reliance on oil.

Faced with a formidable water crisis, Iraq is endeavouring to manage water resources more efficiently and restore environmental sustainability to its lake areas and vast marshlands.

Iraq clearly continues to face many challenges on the road to sustainable development. Although the Government has facilitated the return of more than two thirds of those displaced by the crisis, some 2 million people have not yet returned to their homes. The cost of reconstruction, estimated at \$88.2 billion, will be a substantial burden. Iraq has yet to achieve political stability, strengthen national dialogue or create inclusive and accountable frameworks for government at the federal and local levels. It must address considerable demographic pressures, the water crisis and the effects of climate change. All those challenges, however, should

serve as a catalyst for stepping up efforts and expanding partnerships to enhance gains, while learning from past failures.

Israel

[Original: English]

Harnessing innovation to leave no one behind

Israel is a vibrant, multicultural society, with 9 million inhabitants who speak 35 different languages. Ongoing development is at the heart of Israeli society. Since the establishment of the State, Israel has absorbed waves of immigrants, over 3.2 million, often refugees or penniless. Israel's land area is 22,072 km², with an average population density of 400 people per square kilometre. Over 90 per cent of the country's population lives in urban areas.

Sustainable development in Israel is not a luxury or a catch phrase – it is vital in order to improve the well-being of present and future generations. This is one of the reasons that Israel attributes great importance to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the processes they engender.

Fuelled by a dynamic entrepreneurial spirit, robust technological infrastructure and a highly skilled human workforce, Israel produces solutions in all three pillars of sustainability. Innovation is one of Israel's most valuable resources and its breakthrough solutions in fields such as communication, the Internet, medical systems, agriculture, biotechnology, security, water desalination, wastewater treatment and recycling, water management, digital printing and more have long facilitated sustainable development in Israel and globally. Israel's vision is to continue to nurture its culture of innovation and expand it to all people in need on our planet and to give practical expression to the noble value of leaving no one behind.

To that end, Israel is investing, both domestically and abroad, in innovation to leave no one behind. For instance, the Israel Innovation Authority partnered with several other government entities and created tailor-made research and development support tracks. Examples include the GCI – Grand Challenges Israel Incentive Programme focused on humanitarian health, agritech and water challenges in developing nations, the Assistive Technology for the Disabled Incentive Programme to improve the quality of life of the disabled and ease their integration into society, and the Diverse Startups: Incentives Programme for Ultra-Orthodox and Minority Entrepreneurs.

As a society with a broad cultural, ethnic and religious mix, the Government has to continually search for creative and culturally sensitive ways to provide equal opportunities for all. As the statistical annex to Israel's report shows, there is substantial work yet to be done to close gaps in areas such as employment, income disparity, literacy, and mathematical and information and communications technology skills. There is also a need to address the gender gap, for example by increasing personal security and lowering poverty levels for women.

As a recent report by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development shows, Israel's economic growth is strong. The standard of living is on the rise and income inequality is down, but a high percentage of working poor still remains. As a result, major investments are being made to increase workforce skills and education, to encourage entrepreneurship and to create small and medium businesses among low-income groups.

The preparation of Israel's first voluntary national review required intensive scoping and mapping, not least in order to discover the extent and the variety of our cooperation with developing countries on projects that are aligned with the

Sustainable Development Goals. These projects, carried out both by our official aid agency and by many other bodies, include disaster relief, setting up field hospitals, the introduction of water technologies, and increasing the availability of food and off-grid solar energy solutions to developing countries. Israel is currently working to update its development policy, which will also take into account work on the Goals.

The Israeli non-governmental sector took part in and actively contributed to the round-table discussions on the Sustainable Development Goals and the voluntary national review over the past 18 months. Israel has yet to examine how each sector can implement and use the Goals to guide their work, as well as how to pursue the ongoing stakeholder engagement process with the Government.

Like many other countries, Israel embarked on this process while the institutional arrangements were being developed. The 2030 Agenda was presented at the Government's Heads of Strategy Forum – a cross-governmental committee led by the Prime Minister's National Economic Council, the body responsible for formulating Israel's strategic economic and social goals. A government decision is currently being prepared to continue the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into the Government's strategic planning and to realize the vision of leaving no one behind through Israeli innovation.

Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian]

Main message

Since achieving independence, Kazakhstan has demonstrated its commitment to the principles of sustainable development. A country rich in natural resources, it is investing in a sustainable future. That means structural economic investment, investment in social infrastructure and institutional development. The country provides universal access to free education and health care, social protection is guaranteed for vulnerable social groups and systematic advances are being made in the area of gender equality.

The adherence of Kazakhstan to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is consistent with the country's transition to sustainable development. The comprehensive Sustainable Development Goals embrace many facets of economic and social development.

Although some progress has been made, Kazakhstan faces a range of challenges and problems, such as the need to ensure that economic development is sustainable, press on with institutional reform, preserve biodiversity and adapt to climate change. Regional disparities in economic development, personal income and the quality of education and health care constitute another pressing issue. In addressing those matters, Kazakhstan will be guided by the principles underlying the Goals.

Joint efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Kazakhstan

Kazakhstan is committed to achieving the Goals at the national level with the participation of civil society and the business community. Each Kazakh national has an important contribution to make and a duty to do so.

Kazakhstan has considerable experience in involving the public in the resolution of sustainable development issues. The closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site was a case in point. That initiative was seen globally as a major step towards a nuclear-free world and provided the bedrock for subsequent government policy.

The partnership between the State and business is evolving and the foundations for social entrepreneurship are being laid. That in turn is fostering the involvement of vulnerable groups in the life of the country.

With regard to public participation, efforts to achieve the Goals in Kazakhstan were put on a formal, structured footing in 2018 with the establishment of a sustainable development coordinating council within the Government and five interdepartmental working groups. The public and non-governmental sectors and international organizations are all represented in each of those entities. Public participation in the coordination of those efforts has thus been assured in Kazakhstan. All stakeholders took an active part in the preparatory consultation process for the voluntary national review and in the integration of the indicators for the Goals into, and their adaption to, the statistical monitoring system for the achievement of the Goals.

Localization of the Goals in Kazakhstan will be addressed through broad public participation. Kazakhstan, the ninth largest country in the world, must take into account the characteristics of each of its 17 regions. By their active participation, Kazakh citizens will make a tangible contribution to the achievement of the Goals and help to make the principle of leaving no one behind a reality.

The advanced system of State planning in Kazakhstan forms the basis for success in achieving the Goals. The way in which all the relevant strategies and programmes are linked will facilitate the seamless integration of the targets and indicators of the Goals at the national and regional levels. Further harmonization of strategic and budgetary planning will ensure that the necessary financial resources are made available to meet the Goals. At the same time, private investment and technical support by international organizations will play an important role.

Regional and global initiatives

Kazakhstan sets great store by helping to promote sustainable development worldwide. It has carried out major initiatives as part of its foreign policy in the following areas:

- (a) Peace (renouncing nuclear weapons, reducing tensions in world hot spots, building intercultural and interreligious dialogue and so forth);
- (b) Clean and affordable energy and green technology for all (the Green Bridge Initiative, the International Centre for Green Technologies and Investment Projects and Expo-2017);
- (c) Improved public services (the Regional Hub of Civil Service in Nur-Sultan);

Moreover, United Nations House in Almaty, which opened its doors in May 2019, should contribute to the achievement of the Goals in the Central Asian countries and Afghanistan in broad terms by increasing coordination and deepening synergies between all the regional and subregional United Nations offices located there.

For more than 20 years Kazakhstan has, since its transition from recipient to donor country, provided some \$540 million in aid to developing countries, including through a joint programme with the United Nations Development Programme to help 45 African countries to achieve the Goals.

A full overview of the current situation and measures taken by Kazakhstan to achieve the Goals is contained in the voluntary national review. It provides a brief survey of all the Goals and a more in-depth account of the six thematic Goals.

Kuwait

[Original: Arabic]

By the time the Sustainable Development Goals were adopted, Kuwait had already achieved the Millennium Development Goals. It has made tangible progress in eradicating poverty and hunger, providing universal education and bridging the gender gap in education and other areas. It has made comprehensive health care a reality and achieved remarkable progress on a range of health indicators, including reduced infant, child and maternal mortality and the large-scale provision of water and sanitation services. It has also made significant strides in economic and social development, with a focus on the environment and maintaining its firm commitment to global partnership and international solidarity.

Kuwait formally adopted the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015 and thereafter incorporated them into its first development plan under the 2035 Kuwait Vision. The Goals thereby became an integral part of the national institutional development framework and planning, budgeting and administrative structures. The involvement of government agencies, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders at the policy and institutional levels has been encouraged and resources have been allocated to create a broad base of support for achieving the Goals.

The establishment of the National Committee on Sustainable Development and National Observatory for Sustainable Development has been key to the integrated institutional approach for achieving the Goals as a national participatory undertaking. The General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development, in conjunction with the Central Statistical Bureau, has held 13 national workshops for more than 66 government agencies and non-governmental and private sector bodies, providing an opportunity to identify national sustainable development priorities and discuss with various stakeholders their role in achieving the Goals. The Goals and related targets have also been incorporated into the national development plan for the period 2015–2020.

The Government has worked to promote national awareness of the transformative scope of the Goals and their laudable aim, encapsulated in the slogan “leaving no one behind”. It has set out strategies for overcoming challenges by strengthening the private sector, reducing the economy’s reliance on oil, balancing the budget, creating conditions to stimulate foreign direct investment and updating infrastructure. Kuwait has also carried out strategic development projects to achieve the Goals and related targets.

Several successes have been recorded on a number of the Goals, including the six selected for in-depth review this year under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”. Over the years, Kuwait has laid the foundations for its integrated social policy and rolled out comprehensive social protection programmes, leading to higher living standards. It has also ensured universal access to basic services such as clean drinking water, electricity, health care, education, transport and other amenities. It has put together capacity development programmes to empower vulnerable groups and ensure that they have the means to be self-reliant and economically productive.

Kuwait is firmly committed to the rights-based, across-the-board development of human capital with an emphasis on equal opportunities, dignity, and economic, social and environmental sustainability. It is also committed to fostering peace and human dignity around the region and throughout the world, as well as to global partnership and international solidarity. In that context, in 1961, it set up the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the country’s principal official development aid (ODA) mechanism. To date, the Fund has allocated more than \$19 billion in the

form of donations and grants to more than 106 countries around the world. Kuwaiti ODA increased between 2012 and 2017, allowing the country to maintain a funding level in excess of two per cent of gross domestic product at a time when falling oil prices were exerting downward pressure on national revenue.

For the 2019 voluntary national review of implementation of the Goals, the Government convened a series of workshops and national seminars early on and throughout the drafting process. Those events brought together a variety of stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the private sector and United Nations partners. The seminars constituted open forums enabling all involved to participate actively in preparatory work and discussions, provide the requisite information and data, and participate in the revision and amendment process leading to the final version of the review.

The voluntary review constitutes a powerful statement of this mission. It underscores the determination of the country's leaders, its strategic and institutional policy framework and the participatory approach that the Government intends to pursue in the short, medium and long term. The aim is to achieve the best possible sustainable human development outcomes for all and thereby to fulfil the 2035 Kuwait Vision and the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Lesotho

[Original: English]

Domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals and the voluntary national review process

Lesotho is highly committed to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goal agenda, which is operationalised through the National Strategic Development Plan II, 2018/2019–2020/2022/2023. The National Strategic Development Plan II is also aligned with Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan.

The preparation of the National Strategic Development Plan II and the voluntary national review process has been very inclusive, with a multi-stakeholder consultative and validation approach led by the Government of Lesotho.

Through the National Strategic Development Plan II, the country set employment creation and inclusive growth as the overriding goal for combating poverty and inequality. The key pillars for achieving this goal are:

- Promoting inclusive and sustainable growth (all 17 Sustainable Development Goals)
- Strengthening human capital (Goals 3, 4, 5 and 10)
- Building enabling infrastructure (Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11)
- Strengthening governance and accountability (Goals 5, 16 and 17)

The cross-cutting themes are environment and climate change, gender, vulnerability and marginalized groups.

Sustainable Development Goal coordination mechanisms

The multi-level National Coordination Structure on Sustainable Development has been established, the highest level being the National Oversight Committee, which is chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. There are also different multi-stakeholder technical groups, as well as the parliamentary forum.

Leaving no one behind

Despite Lesotho registering moderate economic growth between 2010 and 2016 and having a relatively good social protection system in Africa, poverty levels (49.8 per cent), unemployment (25.3 per cent) and inequality are high. For these reasons, the Government of Lesotho has made combating poverty and addressing the underlying issues the key priority. It also recognizes the need to pay special attention to the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, youth, the elderly and people living with disabilities, as well as closing rural-urban disparities.

Climate change and building resilience

Lesotho has extreme climatic conditions characterized by droughts and other natural hazards having significant implications for health, agriculture, food security, poverty and vulnerability. For a country with 70 per cent of its population depending on agriculture and given the economic importance of its unique biodiversity, including water, climate change is one of the major sources of vulnerability. Due to limited resilience, 28 per cent of the population is food insecure and will need humanitarian assistance in 2019.

Lesotho's National Resilience Strategic Framework ensures comprehensive and sustainable climate and disaster risk management, resilience and early warning systems.

Data for the Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the Bureau of Statistics

Lesotho assessed its data and statistical capacity to report, having selected 152 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, with 34 customized for national monitoring and reporting. Lesotho established baselines for prioritized indicators; however, only 53 per cent of the selected indicators had available data, with disaggregation challenges as key.

Building human capital – a healthy, educated and skilled population

The HIV and AIDS pandemic and the incidence of tuberculosis remain the biggest health challenges, with an HIV prevalence of 25.6 per cent among adults (15 to 59 years), compounded by the increasing incidence of non-communicable diseases. Adolescent girls and young women are 15 times more likely to get HIV than adolescent boys. The tuberculosis incidence rate is estimated at 665/100,000, resulting in 70 per cent tuberculosis/HIV comorbidity. There is an urgent need to improve resource-use efficiency and build resilient sustainable health systems and nutrition programmes to improve the health of the population and the grey matter of children.

Lesotho has achieved a net enrolment rate in primary education of almost 90 per cent for girls and boys. However, only 70 per cent of students enrolled in primary education complete the last grade and enrolment in preschool is still only 42 per cent. Significant challenges persist in the quality and relevance of education, which is linked to high youth unemployment, at 43 per cent. Significant investment is required to improve education and the skills base and deal with brain drain.

Political landscape

Following a period of cyclic political instability resulting in three national elections in under five years, the country has committed to inclusive national reforms to guarantee long-term stability and economic transformation.

Partnerships and financing for the Sustainable Development Goals

Lesotho's Partnership Policy is aligned to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and promotes partnerships for development. The Government of Lesotho has developed a financing strategy for the National Strategic Development Plan II and initiated financial resource mapping for the Sustainable Development Goals to analyse investments and the potential funding mechanisms required.

Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

- Mobilization of investment, technical and financial resources, advocacy and partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals
- Strengthening data collection, monitoring and evaluation, and performance management
- Strengthening national capacity for research, technology and innovations
- Strengthening legal, policy and institutional capacities for effective governance.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]

Sustainable development is a key priority for the Government of Liechtenstein. For many years, Liechtenstein has been taking targeted action to promote sustainable economic growth, the careful use of natural resources, the conservation of nature and the landscape and a peaceful, just and inclusive society and to ensure the rule of law.

At the international level, Liechtenstein displays a consistent commitment to promoting sustainable development, whether through protecting and advancing human rights, strengthening the rule of law and fighting impunity for the most serious violations of human rights and international law or through its commitment to environmental protection. Multilateralism is of prime importance to Liechtenstein, particularly when it comes to problems that can be resolved only through international cooperation. That is why Liechtenstein was actively involved in the negotiation process leading up to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and called for it to be of a comprehensive nature. Liechtenstein also advocated for an effective review mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Voluntary reporting to the high-level political forum is an important instrument of this review.

The private sector and civil society also take sustainability very seriously, as shown by a survey that was carried out within the scope of this report. There is a general desire for close involvement in the implementation of the Goals.

This report on the Goals shows that, in general, Liechtenstein is already implementing them effectively. In addition, it has taken significant action in many areas to continue improving sustainability and is even playing a pioneering role with certain projects:

- By consistently promoting solar energy, Liechtenstein has been the “solar world champion” since 2015 with the highest per capita installed photovoltaic capacity.
- Every municipality in Liechtenstein is strongly committed to increasing energy efficiency and has been awarded the title “Energy City”; Liechtenstein is the world's first “Energy Country”.

- With its “Waterfootprint Liechtenstein” campaign, Liechtenstein is aiming to become the first country to provide as many vulnerable people with access to clean drinking water as Liechtenstein has citizens.
- Through the “Liechtenstein Initiative”, the financial sector and government are making joint efforts to end modern slavery and human trafficking.
- Working with the private sector, the “Energy and Climate Pioneers” and “Energy and Climate Workshop” projects are teaching young people about sustainability and empowering them to play an active part in shaping a sustainable future.

The report identifies areas where Liechtenstein has made strong progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular: Goals 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 3 (health), 4 (education), 6 (water), 8 (work) and 16 (peaceful societies).

Some areas have been identified as requiring more work in the area of implementation, although statistical indicators show a positive trend:

- De facto gender equality, especially in politics and professional life, has not yet been achieved (Goal 5).
- There is a high dependence on fossil fuels (Goal 7).
- Consumption and production are too resource-intensive (Goal 12);
- Greenhouse gas emissions are falling but are still too high in terms of the climate objectives set out in the Paris Agreement (Goal 13).

Finally, certain areas in which development is negative have been identified:

- Mobility in Liechtenstein is heavily reliant on individual motorized transport (Goals 9 and 11).
- Biodiversity in Liechtenstein is endangered (Goal 15).

Existing data were used to evaluate the development of individual Sustainable Development Goals in Liechtenstein. The trends were assessed based on the national indicator system on sustainable development, plus some additional indicators. A total of 60 indicators were assigned to the individual Goals. Overall, Liechtenstein’s national indicator system covers few of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators set by the United Nations. In future, it will be necessary to examine how the national indicators can be aligned more closely with the Goals.

Within the framework of international solidarity, Liechtenstein makes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries. It supports projects relating to almost all the Goals, with a focus on education, advancing the rule of law and migration.

The commitment of the private sector in Liechtenstein deserves special mention. Charitable foundations alone spend some 200 million Swiss francs annually on philanthropic projects. A further 2 million Swiss francs is raised by numerous civil society organizations for humanitarian aid and development projects overseas. The Government plans to continue expanding the cooperation between the public and private sector.

Mauritania

[Original: French]

Theme: “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”

In 2016, the Government of Mauritania established its 2016–2030 national strategy for accelerated growth and shared prosperity. The strategy makes inclusion

and empowerment the common thread of government action by combining the promotion of inclusive growth and the launch of targeted programmes to leave no one behind.

To ensure this is sustainable and to accelerate the reduction of inequality, targeted poverty reduction programmes will be supported by a social protection strategy, a social registry for the identification of the poorest households and resilience-building measures, among other resources.

This approach is based on the nexus between emergency relief and development, which ensures synergy and connectivity between development and emergency relief programmes.

An ambitious programme was launched in response to the drought, which covers surface water management, semi-mechanization and the integration of agriculture and livestock farming in areas experiencing food insecurity. Crop irrigation produced good results, thanks to diversification, a stronger infrastructure for processing and conserving agropastoral products, the establishment of an appropriate financial system and the management of all the value chains in the agropastoral sectors.

Moreover, universal access to basic education has improved over the past three years, with gender parity almost being achieved at the primary level. Nevertheless, education quality remains below expectations. Targeted programmes have therefore been established to increase the provision of inclusive and appropriate primary education, which gives a new opportunity to out-of-school children in disadvantaged areas.

Furthermore, gender and human rights have been mainstreamed in government action and the economic and political power of women and persons with disabilities has been strengthened through key empowerment programmes.

In addition, thanks to a proactive infrastructure policy, over 2,600 km of roads and urban highways have been built and electricity generation has increased from 74 MW in 2009 to 420 MW in 2018, of which 42 per cent is clean energy. The country's needs for electricity are being met and a proportion is exported to other countries in the subregion.

This has been accompanied by diversification of the economy thanks to the exploitation of fisheries, agricultural and livestock resources, substantially increasing value added and employment opportunities. Considerable efforts have also been made to develop inclusive economic sectors and promote women's entrepreneurship.

These policies have had a significant impact on the business climate, enabling the country to rise 26 places in the Doing Business rankings over the past three years.

Lastly, the national social transfers programme, "Tekavoul", will ultimately cover the 100,000 poorest households by investing in human capital through a regular cash transfer that is conditional on school attendance and the health of children and their mothers.

Mauritania is aware of the considerable challenges it must address in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. It must significantly increase the resources allocated to the social sectors and establish a universal health insurance system, based on the third-party principle and at a reasonable cost, that provides access to services and medication; work towards a better geographical distribution of the population in order to reduce the cost of investment and provide access to services for all, particularly in rural areas; put appropriate mechanisms in place that encourage women's entrepreneurship through specific financing mechanisms; continue to strengthen the security apparatus to curb the terrorist threat and secure the borders; strengthen the biometric civil registration system used to register the population and

secure data, and extend it to other spheres; and mobilize its own financial resources to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at the regional and local levels.

Nevertheless, the debt burden and the continued decline in official development assistance pose a risk for achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Mauritius

[Original: English]

Mauritius celebrated its 50 years of independence last year.

It has been 50 years of nation-building premised on the core values of good governance, the rule of law and upholding human rights, and territorial integrity.

This first voluntary national review report by Mauritius allows us to take stock of the journey travelled, where the country is currently poised and how we propose to map our future.

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is key to our future development. The Goal mapping exercise we conducted in 2016 identified 222 indicators, which have already been integrated into our national policies. We are now working in the direction of a permanent national structure to monitor continual progress in the Goals.

Our voluntary national review report has some good stories to tell but also speaks of emerging challenges.

Mauritius has moved from being a low-income to an upper-middle-income economy with the ambition of evolving into a high-income country despite its inherent vulnerabilities as a small island developing State devoid of natural resources, subjected to the tyranny of distance, natural disasters and the effects of climate change and highly vulnerable to external shocks and global trends. It has simultaneously invested in its welfare system spanning free education, health care, universal old-age pension and other measures aimed at providing minimum social protection to our people.

It is against this background that the Sustainable Development Goals are being implemented.

Goal 1 aimed at ending poverty in all its forms derives its actions from a Marshall Plan comprising measures such as the minimum wage, negative income tax, income support and social housing to provide relief to the weakest, especially women.

We have overhauled the education system (Goal 4) to make it more inclusive and less elitist. The focus is on quality education for all aligned with the new job market requirements to address youth unemployment and skills mismatch (Goal 8). In this endeavour, we are using technology and innovation to prepare our nation for its next cycle of development (Goal 9).

We are diligently protecting our marine and terrestrial ecosystems in the face of climate change (Goals 13 and 14). While encouraging measures such as community-based coral planting, the Government is at the same time pursuing a programme underpinned by sound marine spatial planning. We wish to bequeath sound blue and green legacies to future generations and to rely on the continued sustainability of our oceans to scale up development.

Over the past 50 years, Mauritius has pitched its development around the building of partnerships. The collaboration among civil society, the public and private sectors and academia in Mauritius is exceptional and has allowed the pursuit of a people-focused development and has consolidated social cohesion. Our voluntary

national review, which involved a close consultative process with different stakeholders, shows that this national partnership is working.

We have built similar partnerships at the bilateral and regional levels. Mauritius and Seychelles were the first to make a joint submission on the sharing of maritime space whilst at the regional level, we host yearly a conference with the Indian Ocean Commission to build partnerships around a maritime agenda.

Global partnerships have a catalytic role to play for Mauritius in the successful advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals as part of its broader national agenda, which encompasses Agenda 2063 of the African Union, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the African Peer Review Mechanism.

Mauritius is aware of its vulnerabilities and challenges in implementing the Goals. A one-size-fits-all approach discriminates against small island developing States, like Mauritius, which require a special, differential and indeed a tailor-made approach and accompanying measures to progress to their next stage of development and not run the risk of regressing towards poverty and indebtedness.

The need for more resilient infrastructure in the face of climate change effects such as flash floods, the sustenance of a welfare system in the face of an ageing population and the need for more funds to build capacity all speak to the challenge of being a middle-income country without easy access to grants or concessional loans.

We seek global partnerships to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and to pursue our unique journey as a multicultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic nation in a spirit of unity in diversity – “*lame dan lame*” (hand in hand).

Mongolia

[Original: English]

Mongolia is one of the first countries to have adopted the Sustainable Development Goals. Six months following the adoption of the Goals by the global community, the Parliament of Mongolia approved its long-term development strategy (Mongolia’s Sustainable Development Vision 2030) reflecting sustainable development.

Despite the early adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, challenges remain. Localizing the complex, interdependent and comprehensive development goals to the national context, prioritizing and mainstreaming them, especially in medium- and short-term development policies and the government budget framework, is work in progress.

Mongolia has a sound foundation for ensuring future sustainable development. Its past economic growth places it amongst the medium-ranking countries and it has been ranked in the high human development category on the Human Development Index since 2015.

But Mongolia remains vulnerable to factors not entirely in its control, as well as factors amenable to policy. An agriculture-based, livestock-dominated economy, with a high dependency on natural resources, Mongolia’s primary, extractive sector-dominant economy is not resilient to external shocks from global commodity price fluctuations. Also, its agriculture is not resilient to natural disasters. These vulnerabilities have had social and environmental consequences, presenting challenges to sustainable development.

Growth needs to be more inclusive, broad-based and cleaner. It has contributed to disparities in various forms such as gaps in social services across regions, limited employment opportunities and inequalities, resulting in poor quality of life for some

groups. Air pollution has become a much-discussed challenge. In addition, Mongolia is significantly impacted by climate change. The frequency of natural disasters is not only directly affecting livelihoods, but also exacerbating environmental degradation, eventually also impacting the economy.

In addressing these development challenges, sound development policy planning that incorporates sustainability will be critical. In light of this, Mongolia is using the Sustainable Development Goals as a compass to strengthen consensus around coherent, coordinated actions within Government and across different stakeholders.

Because of the comprehensiveness and interconnectedness of sustainable development objectives, Mongolia acknowledges the criticality of a whole-of-government plus a whole-of-society approach. In support of this, a nationwide effort is under way to initiate the review of existing policy documents for their alignment with the country's sustainable development agenda as well as the coherence between them. Concrete tools have been developed, and are being institutionalized by the Government, for assessing policies and enabling the alignment of future actions with the Sustainable Development Goals and Mongolia's Sustainable Development Vision 2030. The Government of Mongolia has also initiated multi-stakeholder working groups to identify national Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators. These initiatives have been instrumental in establishing a foundation for the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

While apex-level national structures are in place, future directions need to include stakeholders at multiple levels. A National Council for Sustainable Development led by the Prime Minister and a parliamentary Subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals are in place. The National Development Agency provides technical support on localizing the sustainable development agenda and ensuring policy integration and the National Statistical Office strengthens the evidence base. The next steps will focus on strengthening capacity and coordination across and between different levels of government, private sector, think tanks, civil society and people.

Mongolia's first voluntary national review presents a snapshot of its status on the Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights the risks of disparities preventing or even reversing development gains. The report applies the lens of leaving no one behind, identifying vulnerable groups who are at risk of being left behind. Most importantly, the report highlights the criticality of improving Mongolia's development policy and planning and ensuring policy integration, coherence, prioritization, linkages with financing and effective monitoring and reporting, for the successful implementation of sustainable development.

The report features the issue of air pollution as an example of a complex, multifaceted development challenge that would benefit from a comprehensive analysis through a sustainable development lens to develop effective solutions. Air pollution is an increasingly pressing development challenge in Mongolia affecting public health and productivity while creating considerable costs to the economy. Key bottlenecks are identified to inform more integrated and coordinated policy interventions to address it. The aim of the report is to apply this model to overcome other development challenges in the country.

Nauru

[Original: English]

Nauru is the smallest republic in the world, with a land area of about eight square miles and a population of 12,500. Nauru faces challenges associated with its small size, remote location and narrow production base.

Despite these challenges, the Government is committed to ensuring a sustainable quality of life for all Nauruans. Since 2014, progress has been made in some areas, including improvements in the energy and economic sector. Recent economic growth has enabled investments in major capital works, with the establishment of a new learning village and the refurbishment of the hospital. Recently, the Government was able to provide banking and financial services and established the Intergenerational Trust Fund, which will generate future investment earnings. These developments would not have been possible without the assistance of development partners.

Review process

Nauru has demonstrated its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through the review of its National Sustainable Development Strategy. The voluntary national review is aligned to coincide with the review process to avoid duplicating efforts. The Planning and Aid Division under the Ministry for Finance spearheaded the review process with the guidance of a technical working group that was created to advise and guide the Ministry in the review process.

The consultation was an inclusive and transparent process that engaged diverse groups of stakeholders through a series of stakeholder consultations, including sector-specific consultations, district open forums and questionnaire distributions. A good coverage of participation of elders, youth and people with special challenges was recorded.

The Government recognizes the synergies between the National Sustainable Development Strategy and international frameworks and has ensured that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway are taken into account in the revised National Sustainable Development Strategy, providing a road map for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Challenges

Findings of the review indicated that only 26 per cent of the National Sustainable Development Strategy milestones had been implemented. Factors affecting implementation included, inter alia, lack of funding, staff capacity, weak coordination, land issues and unclear goals.

Nauru's health challenges are severe, with a significant burden of non-communicable diseases. The Government spends a substantive proportion of its budget on curative measures; however, health standards remain poor. In the education sector, enrolment numbers have improved; however, the level of truancy, retention and pass rates are still a concern.

Nauru continues to be affected by challenges, triggered by its vulnerabilities and external factors, including global environmental challenges, external economic shocks and climate change. Climate change has the potential to impact revenue sources received from fisheries, further exacerbating economic vulnerability.

One of the main findings of the review was the need to mobilize access to and management of land. The projected sea-level rise poses risks to Nauru’s communities and key infrastructure, concentrated mainly in the coastal areas. Therefore, relocation to higher ground is imperative and a top priority of the Government. However, relocation will not be possible without the restoration of the higher grounds. Restoration of the higher grounds and the relocation process will continue to be long-term initiatives and will require significant donor support to succeed.

Implementing the Samoa Pathway, the 2030 Agenda and other internationally agreed frameworks with limited resources and capacity remains a challenge. Accessing new sources of financing will be paramount.

Next steps

Following the review, a selection of indicators with baseline benchmarks and quantifiable indicators will be identified by implementing line agencies to measure progress. Further consultations will be undertaken with the Ministry of Finance to design the monitoring and evaluation systems for each priority area. Implementation will be monitored through a three-year medium-term strategic framework linked to a multi-year budget.

A National Planning and Development Committee was established to provide a mechanism for improved coordination and consultation, for monitoring and evaluating policy, and programme implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy. The Committee is chaired by the Minister for Finance and comprises key heads of departments. The Planning and Aid Division and the National Bureau of Statistics provide technical support to the Committee.

Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals will require focus on the implementation of the national priorities identified in the Medium Strategic Framework 2019–2023, improving national statistical systems, strengthening institutions, improving the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and building the national capacities of the Finance Ministry to support line agencies in that regard. Continued support from development partners is an important component in helping us achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

New Zealand

[Original: English]

New Zealand is committed to playing its part at home and abroad to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

He waka eke noa – “We are all in this together” – is a Māori proverb and the title of our first voluntary national review, reflecting the Government’s policy of leaving no one behind.

New Zealand’s first voluntary national review covers all 17 Sustainable Development Goals with a focus on how we deliver the outcomes that are most relevant to New Zealand. The review outlines New Zealand’s approach to the Goals and reflects our commitment to productive, sustainable and inclusive economic development. The report highlights challenges as well as successes and identifies areas where further work is needed.

The voluntary national review reflects the New Zealand context. The special status of Māori as the *tangata whenua*, indigenous people of New Zealand, is of profound importance and fundamental to our national identity. The review

incorporates the concept of *kaitiakitanga*, or guardianship, of our natural environment.

New thinking is required to achieve the vision encapsulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. Rather than measuring progress in purely economic terms, New Zealand is developing a broader set of measures – the Living Standards Framework – that puts sustainable intergenerational well-being at the centre of policymaking and the management of our resources. The Living Standards Framework is an innovative framework for measuring and analysing the dynamics of well-being as well as risk and resilience across a broad range of economic, social and environmental domains.

In parallel, Statistics New Zealand has developed a new set of metrics – Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand. Like the Living Standards Framework, Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand goes beyond traditional economic measures such as income and gross domestic product and includes well-being and sustainable development. Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand will support the Living Standards Framework, as well as monitoring and reporting against the Sustainable Development Goals.

Notwithstanding New Zealand’s overall high standard of living, a proportion of New Zealand households experience poverty or material hardship. We acknowledge that certain groups are overrepresented and we are working to grow and share New Zealand’s prosperity more fairly.

Reducing child poverty is a particular focus. New laws introduced in 2018 create an ongoing focus on child poverty reduction and provide for political accountability for achieving published targets. The Government’s 10-year targets are aimed at reducing child poverty by more than half on both low-income and material hardship measures by 2028. The Government has put in place a range of measures, including the 2017 Families Package, that have boosted the incomes of low-income families. A wide range of initiatives are under way to improve child and youth well-being.

New Zealand supports the Sustainable Development Goals alongside our international partners. In 2018, New Zealand increased its Official Development Assistance (ODA) in response to the 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development finance needs of developing countries. The additional \$714 million New Zealand dollars allocated over four years represents a 30 per cent increase in our ODA, lifting it to a projected 0.28 per cent of gross national income.

New Zealand’s ODA targets countries most in need, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries, with sustainable development a core priority. Sixty per cent of New Zealand’s ODA goes to the Pacific region, with a strong focus on improving prosperity and economic resilience. Sustainable development also informs our approach to trade, the environment and security.

The Sustainable Development Goals are interrelated and cannot be achieved by governments alone. This requires a holistic approach and the participation of all sectors of society. The voluntary national review highlights some of the important work being undertaken across New Zealand and overseas by New Zealand individuals, businesses and community groups to achieve the Goals.

We recognize the contributions made to the voluntary national review by multiple stakeholders, including from non-government sectors. Consultation with non-governmental organizations was undertaken by a range of relevant government agencies. Comment on the review was sought from a stakeholder reference group. Wider public feedback was sought through an online process.

Oman

[Original: Arabic]

Introduction

The concept of sustainability has been at the heart of the vision for the future and successive five-year development plans in Oman since the early 1970s and remains so to this day. Oman was an active partner in all the various regional and international forums and consultations that resulted in the announcement of the Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015. Since then, Oman has endeavoured to translate its international commitment to achieving the Goals by 2030 into long-term strategies and short and midterm plans and work programmes. It should come as no surprise that Oman takes the achievement of the Goals and targets set forth in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so seriously. The 2030 Agenda is a logical extension of the values and principles of sustainability, equality, justice, peace, participation and leaving no one behind by which Omani society has long been guided. That is made amply clear in the country's basic law and in the statements of His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said, which have always informed the country's development planning and programmes. For the purposes of this review, Oman has identified a number of key messages:

Integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into national development plans

The Government of Oman has gone to great lengths to weave the dimensions and goals of sustainable development into its development strategies and plans and to allocate sufficient budgetary resources to ensure their achievement in the medium to long term. The Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda have thus become a central component of the Oman 2040 vision.

Developing the institutional mechanisms needed to implement the Sustainable Development Goals

To ensure the success of the sustainable development strategies and policies that Oman is rolling out, a national committee for the achievement of the Goals has been established. This high-level committee is made up of members of the relevant ministries and government bodies, the Council of Oman and representatives of the private sector and civil society. Among the committee's core mandates is to monitor the process of aligning the Goals of the 2030 Agenda with the broad lines of the national agenda and to draft annual follow-up reports on the Goals.

Promoting public awareness and ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals

In preparing its medium-term plans and long-term vision, the Government relied on broad community participation at the national and local levels. Numerous panel discussions, workshops and dialogue sessions were held with various development partners in order to ensure community ownership of the development agenda. Particularly noteworthy is the All of Oman initiative, which made it possible for all levels of society to have a say in determining the priorities and aspirations of local communities during the drafting of the Oman 2040 vision document.

Measuring and monitoring Sustainable Development Goal indicators

Oman has developed an integrated system to monitor and assess indicators for the Goals and a methodology for assessing progress on the achievement of targets and

providing decision-makers with target and attainment rates on implementation as they arise.

National dashboards have been developed to gauge the indicators for the Goals and, thereby, some 100 indicators at the national level. The results have clearly underlined the progress made in Oman across many of them.

Boosting efforts to address challenges on the road to 2030

Financial challenges are among the chief areas of concern to Oman and have prompted it to embark on a shift in budget allocation processes and the use of programme and performance plans. National priorities are thus directly aligned with the resources required for their implementation. This in turn provides a flexible means of monitoring performance and accountability: funding must be made available, but it must also be allocated judiciously.

Oman is also making a sustained effort to develop technology, ready itself for the fourth industrial revolution and leverage it to achieve the Goals, particularly in the area of job creation and the absorption of new entrants into the labour market.

The Government is firmly committed to the principle of leaving no one behind. In that spirit, it has focused on boosting the role of the governorates and local communities with regard to development in order to achieve balanced growth and ensure that citizens throughout the country benefit.

Data generation is a matter of national priority as Oman strives to implement the 2030 Agenda. The Government has thus set about building a web-based integrated statistical system capable of being updated on an ongoing basis. It is also preparing to carry out censuses and field surveys in order to create the required indicators by 2030.

Conclusion

Oman has underlined in its voluntary national review that it is committed to achieving, within the allotted time frame, the Goals in their three dimensions: economic, social and environmental. Overall and in spite of the not inconsiderable challenges, it is moving confidently in the right direction, benefiting from the positive network of external relations it maintains with its Arab neighbours and at the regional and global levels. It is also strengthened by the broad community participation in the design, implementation and assessment of the plans, policies and programmes put in place to address those challenges and achieve the desired goals.

Pakistan

[Original: English]

Political commitment, institutional readiness – partnerships to scale up

As a demonstration of political commitment and ownership, Pakistan integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development agenda in February 2016. Pakistan was the first such country to do so.

This reorientation in approach was guided, inter alia, by lessons learned from the implementation strategy of the Millennium Development Goals.

A National Sustainable Development Goal Framework was launched in 2018, envisaging a national vision, plan and strategy to optimize, prioritize and localize the full potential of the Goals in Pakistan.

In terms of institutional arrangements, task forces in the national and provincial Parliaments have been established to review progress and facilitate legislative support for implementation.

Seven Sustainable Development Goal Support Units instituted at the level of the federal and provincial governments facilitate vertical and horizontal coordination among the stakeholders.

Notwithstanding economic and financial challenges, Pakistan will continue to work towards achieving the Goals through innovative, targeted and focused implementation strategies in the social, economic and environmental fields.

A key aspect of implementation strategy is strengthening the existing and forging new alliances, leveraging technology and mobilizing finance. Partnership and close collaboration with a broad array of governmental, private, civil society and media actors, supplemented by regional and international support, will continue to be a major feature.

Ambitious plans to alleviate poverty

Commitment to poverty alleviation remains a key focus. Through key interventions and programmes, progress has been made even if challenges persist. Over the last 10 years, the poverty headcount has fallen by 26 per cent and multidimensional poverty decreased by 16 percentage points.

A national poverty alleviation programme – *Ehsaas* (Compassion) – was launched this year to expand social protection and safety nets and support human capital development throughout the country. This programme complements and expands the ongoing robust social protection programme for poor women.

The national resolve to eliminate poverty is firm. The size of assistance for the lowest strata has been enhanced. The National Socioeconomic Registry is being updated to target the poorest more effectively and ensure that no one is left behind.

Committed to eliminating hunger and improving health

Stunting and malnutrition were reduced over the period 2013–2018 by 6 and 9 percentage points, respectively. Recognizing the persistent challenge, greater focus and allocation of resources are being made.

The prevalence of skilled birth attendance improved by 17 percentage points and neonatal mortality rate fell by 10 percentage points during the same period. The Lady Health Workers Programme, with its grass-roots presence, has been instrumental in achieving this improvement.

A new universal health coverage initiative – the *Sehat Sahulat* Programme – was launched this year to provide health insurance coverage for those in need. Health sector reforms are under way, entailing a centralized integrated disease surveillance system and a strong inter-provincial information-sharing mechanism.

From commitment to action – environmental protection and climate change

Even as our carbon footprint is miniscule, the adverse impacts of climate change on Pakistan are enormous and imminent. Climate adaptation has become a forced reality for Pakistan.

These factors notwithstanding, Pakistan has commenced actions to both protect the environment and contribute towards efforts to minimize the adversaries of climate change. Both adaptation and mitigation are reflected in our policy and implementation approach.

Pakistan's Billion Tree plantation over 350,000 hectares was the first Bonn Challenge pledge to hit and surpass its commitment, through national resources. This project has now been scaled up to the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami a five-year country-wide tree plantation drive to restore depleted forests and mitigate climate change.

Moreover, programmes such as Clean and Green Pakistan and Recharge Pakistan have been launched. These nature-based solutions for ecosystem restoration are leading examples of climate action among developing countries, with co-benefits to improve biodiversity and livelihood generation.

Monitoring and evaluation

Periodic monitoring and evaluation of various strands of the Sustainable Development Goals framework remains an important priority. Baselines and targets for all Sustainable Development Goal indicators have been determined since 2018. National data collection tools have been modified to improve data availability, with a focus on the equity and sustainability aspects of the Goals. Transparency will be a major hallmark of the monitoring and evaluation architecture, through the establishment of the Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard.

A national approach anchored in partnerships, aided by technology and facilitated by finance, would catalyse and scale up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Palau

[Original: English]

Progressing with our past towards a resilient, sustainable and equitable future

Introduction

Palau actively participated in formulating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Accordingly, Palau welcomes the voluntary national review as an opportunity to reflect on achievements and acknowledge vulnerabilities while accelerating progress towards a global development paradigm characterized by resilience, sustainability and equity – an “Era of Sustainable Development”.

Over the 25 years since independence, as a small island but large ocean State, Palau has established governance and infrastructure supportive of modern nationhood and evolved from a low-income country in 1994 to a high-income country in 2017. Palau achieved seven of the eight Millennium Development Goals and has played a leadership role in safeguarding the environment for future generations. Other achievements include universal access to quality health care and education, reduction of poverty amidst a growing economy, a sustainably financed nationwide network of protected areas, and enduring regional and global partnerships. Nonetheless, challenges remain owing to vulnerabilities as a small island developing State, global economic forces, and climate change.

Means of implementation

Palau has embraced the Sustainable Development Goals at the highest political level. After mapping global targets and indicators against domestic priorities, Palau has identified 89 targets that comprise the national Sustainable Development Goal framework. The 2019 voluntary national review presents a baseline report against the national framework and outlines a pathway to 2030 and beyond. Next steps include integration of the nationalized Goals into the planning and budgeting framework to facilitate monitoring and timely implementation while building ownership of the Goals at the grass-roots level.

Sustainable development

Palau's sustainable development is the intersection of four interlocking pillars – people, prosperity, planet and partnerships. In the people pillar (Goals 2 to 4), Palau envisages happy, healthy and purposeful lives supported by the prosperity pillar (Goals 1, 8 and 10) characterized by equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth in harmony with nature – the planet pillar (Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11 to 15). The fourth pillar, partnerships and governance (Goals 16 and 17), reflects the interdependence of all pillars and the continuing need for effective governance and partnerships both domestically and internationally. In achieving the 2030 Agenda Goals and targets, Palau has identified challenges in closing gaps, improving quality and enhancing resilience – especially climate resilience.

Closing gaps: There are many Sustainable Development Goal targets that Palau is on track to realize but for which additional effort is needed to maintain good progress. Having achieved universal education, more is needed to ensure quality education for a globalized future (target 4.1). Having achieved universal access to water, more is needed to ensure safety and drought resilience (target 6.1). Having created a national network of marine protected areas, more is needed to protect especially sensitive ecosystems that are still underrepresented in the network, such as mangroves (target 14.5), to conserve near-shore fish stocks (target 14.4) and to sustainably manage terrestrial ecosystems while achieving food security (targets 2.3 and 2.4) and inclusive economic growth (target 8.5) in harmony with nature.

Improving quality: Having achieved basic services, Palau is now focusing on quality. No one goes hungry but many do not have an optimal diet and as a nation, Palau is overly dependent on food imports, resulting in dangerous insecurities (target 2.2). Everyone enjoys modern energy, but Palau aspires towards modern renewable energy (targets 7.1 and 7.2). Palau has built roads but aspires to complete transportation infrastructure that incorporates sidewalks and public transport (target 9.1).

Building resilience: Climate change and the associated natural disasters impact all aspects of life and, without climate-informed development, threaten Palau's economy, infrastructure, environment, health and culture. It is imperative that planning adapt to new climate realities – climate-proofing infrastructure, relocating communities where necessary and building human capital for life in a climate-altered world.

Progressing with our past

Palauans have called our islands home for generations, adapting to change and evolving values and traditions that are foundations for sustainability. As Palau progresses in this “Era of Sustainable Development”, we look to our past to guide our future and commit to progress together, leaving no one behind, linked by our common heritage and values. We seek genuine partnerships with the global community to support us to access technologies, develop innovations and identify financing that supports a resilient, sustainable and equitable future for today and for generations yet to come.

Philippines

[Original: English]

Filipinos aspire to a work-life balance and a comfortable, secure and peaceful life. We developed this long-term aspiration – the *AmBisyon Natin 2040* – following a nation-wide survey conducted in late 2015. This was about the time that we adopted

the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and subsequently crafted the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022. We soon recognized that we need to transform our world by ensuring sustainable development and leaving no one behind in order to live the life we want.

Sustainability and inclusivity are both goals and principles that guide our development strategies. Engaging stakeholders is necessary for an initiative to gain traction and be owned by a broad section of society who are driven to make it work and succeed.

The Philippines' second voluntary national review emphasizes the synergies between the government and non-government actions required to ensure inclusiveness and equality.

The Philippines has employed a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. National actions are grounded in laws to ensure robustness. Cross-sectoral coordination and the orchestration of actions are done through existing institutional mechanisms. Stakeholders are informed and engaged in discussions. Our recently launched Sustainable Development Goal website provides a platform for broader engagement, including with youth and the Filipino diaspora.

The primary catalyst for action is the Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022, and we made sure that the Goals were integrated into the Plan. The Philippine Development Plan has subsequently been cascaded to the whole of government, including at the local level, following Executive Order No. 27 (2017). Nationally determined 2030 numerical targets were identified, which set the required pace of progress in the Goals. These targets are reflected in the results matrices, a companion document of the Philippine Development Plan. The Philippine Statistics Authority monitors the tier 1 indicators through its “SDG Watch”.

While government is both the catalyst and the mobilizer of the policy framework for the Goals, even non-government stakeholders have taken on the responsibility for the 2030 Agenda and delivering the services to the rights holders.

For quality education: The legal framework for institutionalizing the Alternative Learning System has been set. The Department of Education, working with the private sector, has been reaching out to what we call the “last mile”, which includes out-of-school youth and other vulnerable groups, to deliver education services.

For decent work: To allow for a just transition to a greener economy, the Philippines' Green Jobs Act incentivizes enterprises to offer jobs using green production practices. Meanwhile, the Securities and Exchange Commission will require sustainability reports for publicly listed companies beginning in 2020. Private businesses, like Human Nature, are adopting inclusive business models wherein the value chain deliberately involves disadvantaged communities. The Mentor Me programme of the Department of Trade and Industry further promotes mentoring and partnership between small and large enterprises.

To reduce inequality: The conditional cash transfer programme provides targeted interventions to disadvantaged families. Responding to Republic Act 10524, which reserves employment for persons with disabilities, companies such as Lamoiyan Corporation employ handicapped people, who comprise a significant proportion of their personnel. To offset regional disparities, the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities programme provides a support fund for poorer local governments to build access roads and water system projects, among others.

For climate action: The Climate Risk Management Framework provides risk information to enhance adaptive capacity. The Nationwide Operational Assessment

of Hazards (NOAH) project exemplifies the partnership between academia and government in providing timely weather information for disaster preparedness. A ban on single-use plastics is already being implemented in a number of cities and municipalities. A sustainable consumption and production action plan is now being formulated to provide a coherent framework for climate action.

For peace, justice and strong institutions: A major milestone is the ratification of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, which was the result of cumulative initiatives, including those by the international community, to address a long-standing conflict in southern Philippines.

To ensure the effectiveness of partnerships: The Philippines has been conducting the Official Development Assistance Portfolio Review. Still, we make sure that the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is financed mostly from domestic resources.

Pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals requires an ambitious approach that gets everyone behind the goal of leaving no one behind. Involving the different stakeholders today in a very concrete way will determine the attainment of the Goals in the remaining 11 years and on to 2040.

Rwanda

[Original: English]

Twenty-five years ago, the genocide against the Tutsi left Rwanda far behind on all development indicators and its entire socioeconomic fabric destroyed. Rwandans embarked on a rebuilding process driven by a shared Vision 2020 based on three fundamental choices: unity, ambition and accountability. The country undertook several reforms aimed at creating an inclusive and fair society with respect for human rights and the rule of law.

Since 2000, Rwanda has registered inclusive growth, averaging 8 per cent annually, leading to millions being lifted out of poverty and good progress in all development sectors.

Rwanda has integrated Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals into its national development agenda through the draft Vision 2050, the National Strategy for Transformation (2017–2024) and related strategies at different levels.

The preparation of the voluntary national review report followed a consultative approach and provides information on Rwanda's progress, challenges and lessons learned, focusing on Goals 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17 along five thematic areas:

1. Human capital development: In line with Goal 4 focusing on quality of education and learning, the Education Strategic Plan is hinged on: (a) scaling up pre-primary enrolment; (b) improving learning outcomes; (c) improving the relevance of curricula; (d) promoting science, technology and innovation; and (e) access for all, including those with special needs. Progress on nutrition has been made, especially regarding wasting and underweight; however, stunting remains a challenge despite falling from 51 per cent (2005) to 38 per cent (2015). The Government has put in place a multisectoral programme and strategy, the National Early Childhood Development Programme, to eradicate malnutrition.

2. Inclusive economic growth: Economic growth has reduced both income and multidimensional poverty. With a share of 43.5 per cent of the population in the labour force, youth is regarded as a key driver of growth, requiring the economy to accelerate job creation. The National Strategy for Transformation aims to create 1.5

million decent and productive jobs by 2024 supported by the National Employment Programme.

3. Environment and climate change: Rwanda aims to become a green, climate-resilient and low-carbon economy by 2050. A green fund (FONERWA) has been in place since 2012 to mobilize resources. The National Disaster Management Policy has been revised in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, a shift towards a more integrated and anticipatory disaster risk management system in Rwanda.

4. Good governance and access to justice: Citizen participation and homegrown solutions such as *Imihigo* (performance contracts) and *Umuganda* (communities come together to perform activities of public interest) have been key to Rwanda's development. Innovations like the Rwanda Governance Scorecard and the Citizen Report Card have further enhanced citizens' participation and demand for accountability. Rwanda has also operationalized a decentralized civil registration system and reformed its judicial system to further enhance access to quality justice.

5. Strengthening the means of implementation, global partnership and data for the Sustainable Development Goals: More efforts are put into domestic resource mobilization, prudent debt management and macroeconomic stability. Attracting private investments in key development sectors through public-private partnerships will be key to achieving the Goals. The National Strategy for the Development of Statistics and the Data Revolution Policy have been adopted to strengthen statistical capacity in monitoring the Goals. Rwanda also hosts the Sustainable Development Goals Center for Africa.

Leaving no one behind

Women, youth and people with disabilities are represented at all levels of decision-making, with the highest representation of women in Parliament (61.3 per cent) and an equal number of women and men in the Cabinet. The extreme poor are supported through social protection programmes. Rwanda is also piloting the comprehensive refugees' response framework for their socioeconomic inclusion.

Lessons learned

1. Visionary leadership, effective governance and accountability are critical for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Homegrown solutions rooted in the Rwandan culture are resource-efficient and play a major role in enhancing ownership and accelerating development outcomes.
3. A full integration of the Goals in the national planning and monitoring framework is critical for effective implementation.

Areas for support

1. Significant external resources are needed to accelerate the achievement of the Goals and to scale up successful interventions.
2. There is a need to support the national statistical capacity both technically and financially to cover all applicable Sustainable Development Goal indicators (currently producing 60 per cent of the required indicators).

Saint Lucia

[Original: English]

Saint Lucia: Towards sustainable development

In 2015, along with the rest of the global community, Saint Lucia made a commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a small island developing State with significant vulnerabilities to external economic shocks, the impacts of natural disasters and the effects of climate change, Saint Lucia recognizes fully that sustainable development with a focus on people, planet, prosperity, partnerships and peace has to be at the core of our national plans and programmes, in order to meet the needs of present and future generations.

In early 2017, the Government of Saint Lucia established its National Coordination Mechanism for the 2030 Agenda, which comprises a Cabinet Subcommittee of Ministers for the Sustainable Development Goals, who provide policy guidance to the Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee – the governing committee tasked to guide the implementation and monitoring of the Goals in Saint Lucia. The Coordinating Committee is a multisectoral committee co-chaired by the ministries responsible for sustainable development and economic development.

Understanding the need for all actors across society to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the inter-ministerial Sustainable Development Goals National Coordinating Committee is also comprised of representatives from the private sector, academia, youth, civil society and non-governmental organizations. The Committee's mandate provides for mandatory engagement with faith-based and community-based organizations, as well as persons with disabilities, women's groups and the wider public to ensure that no one is left behind.

In April 2018, the Government of Saint Lucia embarked on an inclusive and strategic process to develop the country's Medium-term Development Strategy 2019–2022. The Prime Minister and his Cabinet produced outputs that formed the basis of the work programme of consultative economic and social labs. The labs, which functioned as idea incubators, facilitated interactive discussions among participants from 134 organizations representing the full spectrum of relevant stakeholders and was conducted over the course of a month. They engaged in an iterative process of issue prioritization and the development of solutions-based and actionable implementation programmes, with associated goals and targets around six key results areas.

The key results areas are to be integrated into the Medium-term Development Strategy as national priorities and include three economic areas – tourism, agriculture and infrastructure – and three social areas – health care, education and citizen security. Saint Lucia's overarching environmental priority remains addressing the adverse effects of climate change, which impacts every area of our sustainable development.

Concurrent to the development of the Medium-term Development Strategy, Saint Lucia continues to undertake a number of initiatives, projects and programmes that are aligned with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These initiatives and programmes are not yet structured within the Sustainable Development Goal framework, but they contribute towards the attainment of the Goal targets. For example, Saint Lucia has made meaningful strides in the implementation of Goals 3 and 4 on health and education, with significant progress occurring in advance of the adoption in 2015 of the 2030 Agenda.

Saint Lucia's National Coordination Mechanism for the 2030 Agenda continues to strengthen policy coherence and policy integration at the national level, including through recent collaboration and assistance from the United Nations development system; however, fundamental challenges that limit the effective implementation, monitoring and review of the Goals persist.

As Saint Lucia works to chart a path to sustainable and inclusive development, the financial means by which the Government is to implement its national priorities remain a persistent challenge, with the difficult task of identifying appropriate mechanisms and strategies for financing the Goals. Human, technological and institutional capacity constraints also contribute to a particular set of challenges that retard Saint Lucia's effective implementation of the Goals.

While plans are under way to expand the scope of Saint Lucia's 2020 population census to incorporate a Sustainable Development Goal-focused approach, there is still a critical need to strengthen the national statistical system in order to adequately track and measure progress at the national level.

Saint Lucia's voluntary national review will highlight the progress that the country continues to make and the challenges faced in implementing the Goals under review at the 2019 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development in addition to those Goals that are aligned with our Medium-term Development Strategy.

Serbia

[Original: English]

The Republic of Serbia is firmly committed to promoting an accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the common quest to profoundly transform our world. In the national consultations on the new global development agenda, launched in 2012, its citizens have already voiced unequivocally that the "Serbia We Want" respects and cherishes differences and that it is a peaceful and democratic, socially just and gender-equal, intragenerationally and intergenerationally equitable country in which every individual exercises their right to well-being and prosperity and enjoys the protection of personal dignity and freedom of choice. Within the scope of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (2009–2017) and pursuant to the European Union accession negotiation process started in 2014, Serbia participated actively in the work of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing.

The attainment of lasting prosperity for everyone everywhere within planetary boundaries by growing into sustainability is a clear, strategic, long-term national vision of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Serbia. In 2015, an integrated, networking institutional mechanism was established to build innovative practices in balancing all dimensions of sustainable development.

The Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda coordinates the work of all ministries and State institutions. The partnering endeavour of the Secretariat for Public Policy in mapping the National Strategic Framework against the Sustainable Development Goals resulted in the "Serbia and the 2030 Agenda" document. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia diligently maps, produces or collects relevant national indicators to credibly measure progress on the Goals.

The Focus Group of the National Assembly of Serbia for the Development of Control Mechanisms for the Process of Implementation of the Sustainable

Development Goals, formed in 2017, initiated the first public hearing on the implementation of the Goals. The Assembly creates a legal framework and ensures budgeting for the Goals. Through liaising with local, cross-border, regional and international stakeholders and through inter-parliamentary cooperation, it is becoming the centre stage for public advocacy of the Goals.

Deep structural reforms in Serbia, including the provision of sustainable public finances (the 2030 Agenda financing included), enable the highest-aiming achievement of the Goals. In collaboration with the United Nations development system, the Government identified the interlinkages between the Goals and targets with the *acquis communautaire* through rapid integrated assessment. The mainstreaming, acceleration and policy support mission to Serbia in 2018 provided support to improving the coherence of sectoral and intersectoral government policies for the Goals. The same year, the Inter-ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, supported by the United Nations country team, organized the Subregional Conference on the Promotion and Progress on the 2030 Agenda, providing momentum to the achievement of the Goals throughout the region.

Serbia daringly advances the Goals, determined to contribute to the regional and global transformation by finding solutions to its development challenges, thus ensuring a peaceful, stable, prosperous and sustainable region and Europe in the ever-changing world. A bold, long-term vision of transforming into sustainability within the Serbian strategic framework is laid out in the two pillars: the National Programme for the Adoption of the *Acquis Communautaire*, 2018–2021 and the National Priorities for International Assistance, 2014–2017, with projections until 2020.

Cohesive with the European Union sustainability transformation, the Government of Serbia established six strategic pathways for growing into sustainability for everyone everywhere:

- Connect, partner and integrate Serbia into Europe and the world
- Achieve a faster, inclusive and sustainable growth, based on economic, scientific and innovation resources
- Render efficient and effective public services
- Promote human rights and security
- Education for the twenty-first century
- Transformative digitalization.

Serbia is striving to end depopulation, reduce inequalities, improve social inclusion and solidarity and empower women and girls to achieve gender equality. Undertaking resolute measures to combat corruption, eradicate poverty and make the transition to a carbon-neutral circular economy to meet the nationally determined contributions under the Paris Agreement, Serbia has gone a long way to enhance the living conditions of everyone, of its youth and of future generations first.

Through the broad coordinated network of partners, the mainstreaming of the 2030 Agenda implementation in Serbia evolves through monitoring, reviewing, reporting and following up by the State institutions, local authorities and communities, human rights mechanisms, civil society, social partners, business communities, academia and the research community and bilateral and multilateral development partners within, across and beyond borders. Sustainable possibilities are thus being created by the whole-of-government and whole-of-society for everyone everywhere.

Sierra Leone

[Original: English]

There has been increased appreciation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Sierra Leone. The country recently launched the Medium-term National Development Plan (2019–2023) entitled “Education for Development”. The people-centred plan is aligned to Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals to strategically guide the delivery of services and ensure that no one is left behind in Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone has identified Goal 4 (education) and Goal 16 (justice) as accelerators for pursuing its developmental agenda, based on estimations that both Goals are central in its transformational trajectory.

Currently, basic, inclusive and quality education stands out as the premier development necessity for Sierra Leone. Since August 2018, the Government has allocated 21 per cent of the national budget to the Free Quality School Education programme, to ensure that all children have access to basic and senior school education. Currently, all pupils, even those in remote communities, have access to textbooks for core subjects, other learning materials and improved services, free of cost. The initiative has benefited 2.14 million boys and girls in Government-owned and Government-assisted schools, saving poor parents an appreciable amount of money to start small-scale businesses. Since August 2018, enrolment has increased by approximately 90,000 for primary school and 10,000 for junior secondary school. Enrolment in primary schools for children with disabilities also increased from 26.6 per cent in 2017 to 78.7 per cent in 2018.

As a global pioneer of Goal 16, Sierra Leone hosted the Sixteen Plus Forum Annual Showcase and the first technical consultation on Goal 16 for anglophone African countries in Freetown in November 2018. Sierra Leone co-chairs the Task Force on Justice, which launched the “Justice for All” report in The Hague in April 2019; chairs and co-chairs the g7+ group and the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State-building, respectively, to promote Goal 16 in fragile and conflict-affected countries; and is setting up a Peace and National Cohesion Commission.

The capacity of the Legal Aid Board has been enhanced to provide legal services to low-income Sierra Leoneans. The Board provides legal advice and representation, especially for rural and disadvantaged citizens, including those in pretrial detention and prisons. The number of less privileged persons with access to justice has increased substantially from 25,000 in 2015 to more than 215,000 to date. Issues covered range from child protection and land disputes to criminal cases, domestic violence, rape, defilement and juvenile offences.

Goal 8 on decent work has also received ample attention from the Government. The comprehensive Decent Work Country Programme is now in place and has led to the development of the Labour Market Information System and the National HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy. The programme has also facilitated the domestication of international conventions on the elimination of child labour.

Regarding Goal 10 on inequality, the Government is funding science, technology, engineering and mathematics education for girls and supported the launch of the First Lady’s “Hands Off Our Girls” campaign to end child marriage and reduce teenage pregnancy.

Regarding Goal 13 on climate change, Sierra Leone is enforcing environmental protection compliance through monitoring and other strategies such as the integration of climate change messages into school and university curricula.

On the implementation of the Goals at the subnational level, Sierra Leone has scaled up the “People’s Planning Process” model by putting chiefdom and village-level planning at the centre of the formulation and implementation of all development plans.

On partnership for the Goals (Goal 17), financing for development is significant for effective development cooperation. Sierra Leone recently undertook a development finance assessment that highlights potential public and private financing for the Sustainable Development Goals and the Medium-term National Development Plan. The development finance assessment exercise will pave the way for the development of an Integrated National Financing Framework.

Challenges remain in delivering the Goals in the country, especially limited fiscal space with the domestic tax-revenue-to-gross-domestic-product ratio standing at less than 15 per cent. However, it is encouraging to note that the Government remains relentless in pursuing domestic revenue mobilization and rationalization of expenditure. Efficient public financial management is in force, amongst a range of other structural interventions.

Sierra Leone’s participation in the 2016 voluntary national review process communicated the country’s determination and commitment to minimize poverty, reduce inequality and increase prosperity for all Sierra Leoneans. Sierra Leone continues to work towards this and renews its obligations at this year’s review.

South Africa

[Original: English]

South Africa’s first voluntary national review is testimony to the national commitment to the full and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and includes multi-stakeholder contributions. The review will assist in understanding the impact of policies and programmes towards realizing sustainable development and the considerable developmental challenges that remain. The shortcomings highlighted – particularly the need to improve multi-stakeholder engagement – will be addressed. A national coordinating mechanism has been established for national engagements and reporting on the 2030 Agenda, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan of the Southern African Development Community, in alignment with the National Development Plan.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is in South Africa’s interest: The National Development Plan is closely aligned to the 2030 Agenda. The Plan prioritizes the elimination of poverty, the reduction of inequality and growing an inclusive economy by 2030. The goals of the Plan are aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals and to Agenda 2063 of the African Union and are integrated into Government planning systems and processes at the national, provincial and local levels.

There has been significant progress on our developmental journey since the advent of democracy in 1994: The country is therefore well placed towards meeting the Goals. The National Development Plan has contributed to improved living conditions for millions of South Africans in a context where, for historical reasons, South Africa is amongst the most unequal of societies.

There has been progress in critical areas such as the provision of clean water, electricity, sanitation, education and health: Access to free education for children from poor households has been expanded – over 9 million children attend no-fee schools. Individuals benefiting from the social protection system increased from 3

million in 1994 to 17.5 million in 2018. South Africa has the biggest antiretroviral treatment programme in the world – over 4.5 million people. Inclusive growth is being accelerated by increasing levels of investment and measures to create more jobs.

Other highlights of progress:

- Major strides in addressing gender inequalities: Legislative frameworks aimed at ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls have been developed. The representation of women in the national Parliament increased from 25 per cent in 1994 to 41 per cent in 2016. Approximately 35 per cent of permanent judges are women.
- Acting on climate change: The implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Paris Agreement is of paramount importance. A suite of legislation and policies have been adopted, including a carbon tax, to address climate change and to enhance the country's ability to adapt to ongoing environmental changes. Significant investments are being made in renewable energy, cleaner public transport, energy efficiency, waste management and land restoration initiatives.
- Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all, particularly for the poor: South Africa is among the leaders in the transition to sustainable energy by 2030.
- Conserving the use of oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development: Measures are being implemented to sustainably manage the considerable national marine resources to boost economic growth, job creation and infrastructural development.
- An Integrated Urban Development Framework has been adopted to guide the development of inclusive, resilient and liveable urban settlements.
- Continued investment in and harnessing of science, technology and innovation: In the spirit of leaving no one behind, the science, technology and innovation system continues to invest in programmes that advance the inclusion of girls, indigenous knowledge holders and innovators.

Major challenges remain:

- High levels of inequalities persist (Goal 10).
- Violence against women and femicide continue.
- Discrimination persists.
- Securing a just transition to a low-carbon economy while a high degree of dependence on fossil fuels prevails.

International support is required in the implementation of sustainable development programmes: This support is required notwithstanding that the overwhelming majority of development resources are derived nationally and account for the greatest portion of Government spending.

We all have a role to play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: The implementation of the Goals is inclusive and transparent. Working together with all stakeholders and partners, we can ensure that a better life for all becomes a reality.

Going towards 2030, critical interventions include: disaggregated data; addressing corruption; improved employment opportunities for the most vulnerable, discriminated sectors in society; strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships; eliminating gender inequalities and gender-based violence; and gauging the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]

Timor-Leste's achievements as the newest country in Asia are underpinned by its commitment to reconciliation, inclusion and democracy. Emerging from Portuguese colonial administration and Indonesian occupation, the nation restored independence in 2002, amid a state of ruins where basic services and institutions were burnt to ashes. The country has made the journey from a traumatic independence struggle and period of civil unrest and conflict to become a democratic nation focused on state-building and accelerating progress on sustainable development.

The country championed the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from its inception, advocating for the stand-alone goal on peace, justice and strong institutions. A Sustainable Development Goal road map, produced in 2017, outlined how the global Goals align with Timor-Leste's Strategic Development Plan (2011–2030). The nation's commitment to peace, inclusion and institution-building is the foundation for achieving all the Goals. Timor-Leste recommits its leadership on Goal 16, working for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Reconciliation and inclusion, within Timor-Leste and with its neighbour Indonesia, were immediate priorities. Social transfers to veterans and poor families were established early on, ensuring social cohesion and continued peace. However, women, rural communities, people and children with disabilities continue to face challenges accessing decent jobs and quality education and health care.

The nation is consolidating a culture of democracy, undergoing four democratic and peaceful elections since regaining independence. The creation of independent human rights, anti-corruption and electoral institutions is important progress. Promoting decentralization, building institutional capacity and strengthening the justice sector will help consolidate peace, promote the rule of law and enhance accountability.

With one of the youngest populations in the world and a nascent private sector, there are not enough jobs for the large number of young people entering the labour market. Seizing a potential demographic dividend will require investment in education, skills and the generation of decent jobs, but also a continued decline in fertility rates. Economic diversification and creating jobs in productive sectors, such as labour-intensive manufacturing, tourism and agriculture, will help grow the non-oil economy.

The country has made important progress in health and education, critical for building human capital. Timor-Leste has reduced maternal and child mortality rates, is polio-free, and on track to eliminate malaria. While school attendance rates have increased markedly, with gender parity, access for children with disabilities remains low. In order to equip all young men and women for the labour market, investment is rapidly needed in quality secondary, vocational and higher education.

Tackling high rates of child malnutrition and food insecurity and improving access to clean water and sanitation are vital and require sustained investment. While the number of stunted children (low height for age) is declining, it is still very high. Accelerating improvements in nutrition will make a huge difference to child learning outcomes and productivity. Progress in improving water and sanitation, a key driver of malnutrition, has been made; however, more needs to be done to sustain and scale up these efforts.

The country has made progress in women's representation in the National Parliament and in decision-making positions related to peace and security. However, greater attention is needed to tackle high rates of gender-based violence and enhance

women's economic empowerment. Improving access to justice and promoting greater access to land for women will help increase progress on all the Sustainable Development Goals.

Timor-Leste is saving the proceeds of its natural oil and gas resources for future generations through its sovereign wealth Petroleum Fund. The nation used withdrawals from the Fund to frontload infrastructure, provide electricity and rehabilitate the devastated road network. Ensuring that future withdrawals are used to invest strategically in the drivers of growth – such as human capital and economic diversification – will help reduce dependence on oil.

As a small island developing State, climate-proofing investments and promoting climate adaption are crucial for environmental sustainability and resilience. Timor-Leste believes global action to combat climate change is required, supporting the leadership shown by small island developing States in renewable energy.

At this critical state-building phase, it is vital to make the most of partnerships and carefully leverage domestic and international resources to finance sustainable development. With low levels of public revenue, and overseas development assistance declining, new forms of financing, technology, South-South cooperation and technical support are required.

Tonga

[Original: English]

The ethos of sustainability has historically been at the heart of Tonga's development progress. King Tupou I, who ruled Tonga over 170 years ago, adopted our national motto, "God and Tonga are My Inheritance", which enshrines sustainable development as a way of life. Our motto embodies our inheritance and wealth in the form of our people, our land, and our strong Christian and traditional values underpinning our culture.

The Tonga Strategic Development Framework II, 2015–2025 is embedded within the foundations of our Christian and cultural values. The Framework underscores our approach to sustainable and inclusive growth and is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030 and others. These have been integrated into our national planning processes and supported by a strong monitoring and evaluation framework.

Voluntary national review drafting process and focus

Tonga's voluntary national review is an opportunity to share our endeavours in terms of national development agenda and related Sustainable Development Goals implementation. It highlights that improved coordination amongst stakeholders is and will be instrumental for the effective implementation of our development agenda. It provides information on key issues and selected priority programmes as well as an update on priorities contained in the Tonga Strategic Development Framework II.

- Tonga has prioritized social protection and human rights, with a focus on vulnerable groups. To fully inform policy changes and interventions, Tonga has utilized advanced statistical techniques to enable poverty reporting that is inclusive of smaller island communities and developed a robust multidimensional poverty measure that is reliable, valid and contextually appropriate.

- Tonga continues to honour its commitment to universal health coverage, striving for nationwide coverage and access to quality health-care services. Non-communicable and communicable diseases are ongoing concerns, with high non-communicable disease prevalence, low contraceptive use and sexually transmitted infections. Tonga, however, maintains low maternal and infant mortality and high immunization coverage.
- Regulations are in place to make early childhood education inclusive for children with disabilities and children from other vulnerable groups. Improvement in effective delivery of sustainable development principles and global citizenship are crucial to learning activities. Strengthening access to vocational training as well as accreditation to meet international standards is a priority.
- Tonga will continue to enhance accessibility to sustainable and energy-efficient services. Tonga's energy efficiency target of reducing electricity network losses to 11 per cent of total electricity generation was achieved in 2017. As of date, Tonga has achieved 10 per cent of the 50 per cent share of renewable energy target by 2020.
- To strengthen sustainable economic growth through the use of relevant trade tools and employment opportunities for our people, we will continue to implement relevant structural reforms and further develop productive sectors. We will also promote decent work, including for those in the informal sector, and public-private partnerships for improved service delivery.
- Tonga recognizes the need for equal opportunities for all, in particular vulnerable and marginalized groups, including access to employment, political leadership and social services. This is underpinned by our commitment for all men, women and children to live in an environment free from all forms of violence and exploitation.
- Climate change continues to pose serious threats to the environment and livelihood of the people of Tonga. A National Climate Change Policy and the Joint National Action Plan 2018–2028 provide strategies for climate actions. A Climate Change Trust Fund has been established to strengthen the coping capacities of all vulnerable communities.
- Collective efforts are in place to promote the rule of law and strengthen legal institutions to increase access to justice and judicial independence, through the application of international standards, in line with our capacities and circumstances.
- We remain committed to supporting the implementation of our development agenda through genuine and durable partnerships with development partners, donors and local stakeholders, recognizing that national priorities and systems are critical. Further partnerships remain particularly important in the areas of finance, appropriate technology, technical support, capacity-building and statistics.

Conclusion

We acknowledge that reaching the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 is a challenge for all and that the journey is long mindful of the capacity and resource constraints we face. With adherence to our long-standing cultural and traditional values on sustainable development, we aim to achieve our national priorities in durable partnership with key stakeholders.

Tunisia

[Original: French]

Through the national consultation entitled “The Tunisia we want”, Tunisia contributed to shaping the Sustainable Development Goals.

Tunisia reaffirms its commitment to meeting the goals adopted in its 2016–2020 development plan, which is based on five pillars: reforms and governance; the creation of an economic hub; human development; achieving regional objectives; and the green economy.

The mechanism established to monitor achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is based on good practices applicable to the design and follow-up of development plans. A national technical committee has been set up.

The committee was piloted, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by the Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, which is responsible for national planning, among other areas. The committee is composed of sectoral focal points for the Sustainable Development Goals, representatives of national organizations, civil society and the private sector and academics. It is supported by working groups on the Goals in each ministry.

The preparation of this report enabled all stakeholders to participate in a broad consultation process.

Advances

Tunisia is a young democracy, born of an open and inclusive national dialogue, which earned it the Nobel Peace Prize in 2015.

In 2014, through a participatory and consensus-based process, it adopted a constitution that enshrines the democratic and civil character of the State and the commitment to the universal values of human rights and guarantees all rights and fundamental freedoms, such as freedom of conscience, freedom of expression and freedom of association.

Gender equality is enshrined in the constitution. Gender parity was introduced in the electoral law in 2011 (vertical parity for legislative elections), then reinforced in 2018 with horizontal parity for municipal elections. As a result, 48 per cent of the candidates in the municipal elections of May 2018 were women and 20 per cent of the mayors are women.

The under-5 mortality rate has declined from 57 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 17 per 1,000 live births in 2018.

Through the national programme to assist families in need, cash transfers are paid directly to the poor. Relative to the guaranteed minimum wage, the cash transfer increased from 22 per cent in 2010 to 50 per cent in 2019. The poverty rate has fallen from 25.4 per cent in 2000 to 15.2 per cent in 2015, while the extreme poverty rate has declined sharply from 7.5 per cent to 2.9 per cent.

The State guarantees access to health care services for vulnerable groups: in 2018, 285,000 families benefited from the free medical care programme and 623,000 families received medical care at reduced rates.

Schooling is compulsory and free of charge for children aged 6 to 16 years. The enrolment rate for 2017–2018 was 95.4 per cent (93.8 per cent for boys and 97.1 per cent for girls).

Regional disparities are a challenge for Tunisia. Positive discrimination between regions is a constitutional principle. The 2016–2020 national development plan aims to reduce disparities by 30 per cent, with 75 per cent of public investment allocated to disadvantaged regions (which represent 50 per cent of the population).

Access to electricity and drinking water is almost universal throughout the country.

Challenges

Tunisia is still struggling to revive growth as a means of reducing unemployment.

The pace of economic recovery remains weak.

School drop-out rates, the quality of education and the mismatch between training and the labour market remain a concern.

Illegal migration of Tunisians to Europe and undocumented immigrants are a challenge.

Within the Mediterranean region, Tunisia is one of the countries that is most vulnerable to climate change and water scarcity.

The energy sector is fossil fuel-based and is highly exposed to fluctuations in world prices. Tunisia plans to increase the share of renewable energies in electricity generation to 12 per cent by 2020 and to 30 per cent by 2030.

Next steps

With the support of the United Nations system, Tunisia will redouble its efforts to increase awareness and ownership of the Goals. The government will launch a portal about the Goals, hosted by the Ministry of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, which will offer platforms for sharing information and a discussion forum, among other services.

With the launch of the drafting process for the Tunisia “Vision 2030” document, Tunisia is committing further to integration of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Turkey

[Original: English]

Strong ground towards common goals

Turkey has emphasized its commitment in every occasion to contribute to a sustainable world since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Demonstrating a strong ownership, Turkey was among the first 22 countries presenting voluntary national reviews in 2016.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda was started by linking the Sustainable Development Goals with national development plans and sectoral strategies. Indeed, the concept of “sustainable development” has been embedded in the national development plans since 1996. This accumulated experience, along with strong infrastructure and institutional mechanisms, provides strong ground towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Strategy and Budget Office under the Presidency, in charge of preparing national development plans, coordinated the 2019 voluntary national review

preparations. The process commenced with the highest-level political ownership, upon H.E. President Erdogan's call on all government entities.

During the voluntary national review, the legislative and institutional framework, policies and projects were scrutinized through Sustainable Development Goal lenses. Focus areas were identified for each Goal and targets were examined systematically, with special attention to vulnerable groups. Additionally, practices that served the principle of leaving no one behind were elaborated under a separate heading.

The analysis reveals that most targets have been incorporated into policies and legislation provides an adequate framework for implementation. Considering policy, strategy and legislation, Turkey stands at an advanced level, while there is room for improvement in practices and projects.

Significant progress was achieved in Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 6, 7, 9 and 11. More effort is required to address gaps in implementation, to increase quality of services and to enhance financial and technical capacities.

Regarding monitoring, responsibilities were assigned to ministries for 218 Sustainable Development Goal indicators, and a Sustainable Development Indicator Set comprised of 83 indicators was published in 2019. While the ratio of produced indicators is higher for Goals 3, 7 and 9, further work is needed for the indicators for Goals 1, 2, 12, 13 and 14.

As a middle-income country, Turkey has made progress in all three dimensions of sustainable development and taken fundamental steps in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and addressing the vulnerable. Based on a human-centred development approach and having a younger population, Turkey has achieved remarkable progress in providing better quality, broader and more accessible public services, particularly for education and health care. Policies to reduce interregional infrastructural disparities and promote technological facilities across the country marked an inclusive development pathway.

Looking ahead, Turkey will focus on maintaining the pace of progress and improving the quality and effectiveness of services. With a special emphasis on "competitive production and efficiency", high value-added production will be prioritized. On the basis of the equity principle, efforts will be sustained to distribute increased prosperity among all segments of society. Improving research and development and the innovation ecosystem, ensuring digital transformation and competitive production, strengthening human resources, logistics and other infrastructure required for those targets will be among Turkey's priorities towards 2030.

Turkey promotes the principle of leaving no one behind both at home and abroad and advocates raising the voice of developing countries in international decision-making mechanisms. As an emerging donor, Turkey supports the development efforts of developing countries. The establishment of the Technology Bank for the Least Developed Countries as a United Nations entity in Turkey in 2018 marked target 17.8 as the first global target achieved.

In 2018, with its total official development assistance (ODA) of \$8.6 billion and an ODA/gross national income (GNI) ratio of 1.10 per cent, Turkey was one of the few countries that fulfilled the 0.7 per cent ODA/GNI target. Our development assistance in 2014–2018 exceeded \$38.7 billion, including \$7.3 billion in non-governmental organization grants and private-sector direct investments.

Ever willing to offer a helping hand to those in need, Turkey has responded generously to the influx of Syrians since the onset of the Syrian humanitarian crisis

in 2011. Turkey has granted temporary protection to these people. Hosting the largest refugee population in the world, Turkey has spent more than \$37 billion for the well-being of 3.6 million Syrians to date. They can access public services equally as Turkish citizens, especially for their education, health care and humanitarian needs.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, ownership and engagement of all stakeholders, including the public and private sectors, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, academia and citizens, are essential at all levels. Accordingly, during the voluntary national review preparations, 2,962 representatives were consulted directly from government bodies, 312 non-governmental organizations, 2,000 companies and 50 municipalities. Turkey will continue to pursue its development efforts in an inclusive manner.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]

Main message

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was the result of international efforts to find solutions to current challenges. Turkmenistan, a proactive member of the international community, helped to identify goals for achieving sustainable development and was one of the first States to formally accept all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and adapt them to its national plans and strategies for socioeconomic development.

We see the preparation of our first voluntary national review not only as an important part of the follow-up and review process but also as a chance to invigorate national sustainable development policies. The 2030 Agenda is a key strategy for our country that will make it possible to underscore the social aspect of existing national policies and facilitate balanced development across the three dimensions (social, economic and environmental). Turkmenistan, fully aware of the indivisibility of the Goals, takes a holistic approach to their achievement, as reflected in the voluntary national review.

From the moment it adopted the Goals, Turkmenistan has made marked progress in social policy, deepened market reforms and worked to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change. Indicators on the provision of affordable and high-quality public health-care services and education are promising and measures to improve the health-care system and pursue education reform are ongoing. The country is developing the market economy, all the while emphasizing the social dimensions of economic growth, greening sectors of the economy, using natural resources rationally and adapting effectively to climate change. At the same time, there is a focus on the breadth and depth of national reforms, the need to ensure equal opportunity and full participation by women in the economic, political and cultural life of the country.

A working group, comprising deputy ministry and department heads and representatives of community groups and education and research institutions, has been set up to monitor progress. Its role is to address issues relating to the achievement of the Goals and the monitoring of progress, as well as their further incorporation into the country's national, sectoral and regional development programmes. In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, all stakeholders were involved in the process of preparing the national voluntary review. It reflects the views of, inter alia, community groups, civil society, the private sector and young people and is also the result of productive interaction between Turkmenistan and the United Nations system.

Preparation of the review made it possible to take a fresh look at measures adopted thus far in Turkmenistan and to determine the next steps to be taken in order to achieve the Goals:

- One key lesson learned is that more needs to be done to enhance the country's statistical capacity. Turkmenistan will continue to develop a national system of indicators for the Goals, improve the collection of comprehensive, reliable and disaggregated data and build a database on the Goals. That will mark the culmination of the process of establishing baselines for the implementation and monitoring of the country's strategies and follow-up on progress towards achievement of the Goals. We look forward to continued fruitful cooperation with United Nations agencies and international organizations and their wholehearted support in this regard.
- Financing for development is crucial for implementing the 2030 Agenda. Turkmenistan is improving its public finances, including through better fiscal governance, in order to mobilize domestic resources. Boosting domestic resources, however, must go hand in hand with international aid. Committed to addressing the issue of financing for sustainable development, we feel that it is important to promote partnership and cooperation with the United Nations system, the Bretton Woods institutions and international development banks and to provide middle-income countries with access to concessional and innovative financing. We look to the international community for support in that important endeavour.
- Turkmenistan firmly supports the idea of building peaceful societies by protecting human rights and dignity, promoting disarmament and non-proliferation, fostering global and regional cooperation through regional liaison frameworks and adopting a coordinated approach to global challenges. In addition, it is working on the formulation of a special United Nations programme for the Aral Sea basin as part of efforts to address water and environmental issues in Central Asia.

Turkmenistan cannot implement its initiatives to consolidate international efforts on fundamental global issues in isolation: they require the active engagement of the international community and technical and investment support by international organizations and multilateral banks.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

[Original: English]

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the global goals are about changing the way we think about development – they are about changing our concepts as much as our actions. They have given us a way of talking not only about how you focus on eradicating extreme poverty, but also how you talk about so many of the other things that matter to human lives and the planet. A conversation that would have previously been about incomes has become an invitation to think about values, our responsibilities towards the environment, towards the poorest and most vulnerable, the planet and a fuller conception of human life.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of this has been applying these lessons to how we think about development and politics in the United Kingdom. We are, like every government, trying to do the very difficult task of balancing realism with optimism and all the competing demands and priorities of millions of citizens. The Sustainable Development Goals have helped us not just to compare our programmes abroad with those at home but also to reconsider our approach in the United Kingdom – a vision that is not just about raising incomes but stretches to thinking

about the quality of our cities, the strength of our communities, the air that we breathe, our nature and landscape and the way we preserve our heritage for future generations.

The challenge is to keep this vision connected unflinchingly to reality, to specific people and places. Our voluntary national review charts the journey we have been on, reviewing progress, highlighting achievements and challenges, sharing lessons and identifying next steps. It will outline collective effort and action across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

None of this is easy. It has taught us, as a country that spends 0.7 per cent of gross national income on international development, something about the kinds of pressures that these processes impose on other people's governments. We know just how important transparency is in terms of the public's trust in us and our own understanding of what we are actually achieving. We have learned a great deal about the strengths and occasional weaknesses of our statistical processes. The Office for National Statistics has been able to source good data on most of the Goals – reporting data on 72 per cent of global indicators on the national reporting platform – but data gaps remain. This has reminded us that, if it is sometimes difficult to get data in a very stable developed country, it can be much more difficult to get data in more challenging environments.

Finally, it has reminded us that we do not hold all of the levers, and of how much of sustainable development depends not just upon government but also on civil society and the private sector too.

Three things we are particularly proud of have been the steps we have made recently in terms of increasing employment – including for women and those with disabilities – improving standards in schools, and our progress on climate and environment, having decarbonized more than any advanced economy. But, equally, there are real areas for improvement, thinking for example about ensuring that the housing market works for everybody, mental health, and supporting a growing and ageing population.

The process has further deepened our respect for and understanding of the global goals. Thank you for this opportunity.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]

The United Republic of Tanzania (Tanzania), comprising the Mainland and Zanzibar, embraces the achievement of high-quality and sustainable human development for her citizens. This is engraved in the country's Constitution and in her long-term development visions. There is a strong nationwide partnership and commitment to implementation, monitoring, tracking and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals, backed by a strong political will, collective ownership, integrated planning, and supportive legal frameworks. A whole-of-society approach has been adopted, and a robust national Sustainable Development Goal coordination and monitoring framework, supported by national statistical offices is being developed.

The Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into and are implemented through national medium-term plans, namely, the National Five-Year Development Plan 2016/2017–2020/2021 in the Mainland and the Zanzibar Strategy for Growth and Reduction of Poverty 2016–2020, which also adheres to the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environment). Tanzania is doing reasonably well in Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10 and 16. Goals 7, 9, 11

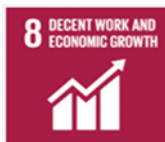
and 12 are likely to be achieved with stepped-up efforts. Goals 1, 13, 14, 15 and 17 will need significant local efforts and international support to be achieved.

Assessment of thematic goals shows that in delivering quality education, strong partnerships among the Government, non-state actors and development partners exist. Primary-level schooling is universal. Budgetary allocation for quality education delivery, especially training of teachers, has been increased. These efforts have facilitated a rapid expansion in enrolment at all levels of education and quality delivery.

Regarding decent work and economic growth, sustained, real and high gross domestic product growth at 6.7 per cent is facilitating decent jobs and sustainable income creation, with the average labour force participation rate at 83 per cent. Innovative employment creation initiatives targeting entrepreneurship skills development, apprenticeship, and technology and business incubator programmes have been established. Efforts aimed at reducing inequalities include the implementation of a strong productive social safety net programme. Increased access to mobile phones and rural electrification has promoted financial and economic inclusion among the rural population. Local government authorities are allocating 10 per cent of their revenues to youth and women's empowerment. Private sector programmes have enhanced women's entrepreneurship skills, thus reducing gender-related income inequalities.

Progress of thematic Goals at a glance

Doing reasonably well



Very strong supportive policy environment; strong partnerships; whole-of-society approach; effective inclusive programmes

Substantial international support needed to achieve Goals



Low scientific capacity to monitor the environment; absence of baseline data



Resource mobilization constraints

Stepped-up local efforts and international partnerships needed to complement domestic efforts in both Goals

Climate action interventions include setting up national carbon monitoring centres and monitoring environmental outcomes, including strengthening weather, climate and hydrological monitoring capabilities. Civil society organizations have been active in reaching smallholder farmers, pastoralists and fishermen, increasing their capacity to make informed decisions in response to climate change. Efforts to promote peace, justice and strong institutions include strengthening legal institutions and law enforcement, as well as the promotion of effective governance and rule of law. These have resulted in a considerable reduction in corruption and the promotion of peace and justice, thereby making Tanzania an important peace negotiator and peacemaker in the region.

In terms of partnerships for the Goals, reforms in the business environment and the investment climate have expanded the scope for improving financing mechanisms and opened innovative means of resource mobilization. The main challenges in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals revolve around data constraints for some indicators and insufficient technical and financial resources to tackle all the hurdles that inhibit the implementation of the Goals. Solving these challenges entails: forging new partnerships for mobilizing innovative sources of financing; capacity-building in resource mobilization and data management; strengthening national statistical capacity; and support for building appropriate technological capability

(diffusion of new technologies, linking generators of innovations and users and providing technology-based equipment for reporting on the environment).

The preparation of this voluntary national review report was inclusive and participatory, involving local government authorities, members of Parliament and the House of Representatives, the judiciary, civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, the private sector, development partners, academia, professional groups, labour associations, women and youth networks and the media. This reflects the participatory nature, strong partnerships and stakeholder commitments that underpin the implementation of national and global development goals.

Vanuatu

[Original: English]

Vanuatu national vision: A stable, sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu

Vanuatu 2030: The People's Plan (the Plan) is the National Sustainable Development Plan for the period from 2016 to 2030 and serves as the country's highest-level policy framework. It is founded on culture, traditional knowledge and Christian principles and builds on Vanuatu's development journey since independence.

The Plan outlines Vanuatu's national development goals and policy objectives in order to translate the national vision into priorities to be actioned. This provides a sound framework to monitor progress, including alignment of the Plan with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

From vision to action

The Vanuatu people have articulated an ambitious but achievable vision for a stable, sustainable and prosperous Vanuatu. With the right policies, investments and collective commitment, we can translate our development aspirations into reality. The Plan translates this vision into specific action-oriented priorities.

The Department of Strategic Policy, Planning and Aid Coordination, in coordination with the Vanuatu National Statistics Office, is responsible for implementing the National Sustainable Development Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and completing the Annual Development Report. The Monitoring and Evaluation Framework is designed to complement the Plan as well as the Final Technical Report on the National Sustainable Development Plan 2016 to 2030.

With this year's theme of "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", I will highlight some of our achievements as well as some Sustainable Development Goal success stories.

Inclusivity and equality

In line with national development priorities, we want equitable development across the country to ensure better access and social development. The implementation of the Decentralization Policy 2017–2027 brings government closer to the people by providing citizens with greater control over decision-making processes and allowing their direct participation in public service delivery.

The Department of Women's Affairs, having given due consideration to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, formulated key gender policies, including: the Vanuatu National Gender Equality Policy 2015–2019; the National Disability Inclusive Development Policy 2018–2025; the Vanuatu Child Online Protection National Strategy Framework for the Republic of Vanuatu 2014–

2021; the Vanuatu National Child Protection Policy 2016–2026; and the Strategy for the Justice and Community Services Sector 2018–2021.

In a Cabinet decision of 2017, the Government endorsed gender-responsive budgeting. The Cabinet also recognized that gender and women’s empowerment should be mainstreamed across ministries. The National Gender Equality Policy 2015–2019 identifies reducing domestic and gender-based violence, enhancing women’s economic empowerment, promoting women’s leadership and equal political participation and building a foundation for gender mainstreaming as its four strategic priorities. This includes a policy of maintaining a quota system for women in municipal councils, ensuring gender balance and providing leadership opportunities for women, which may roll out into national legislative elections.

Education (Goal 4)

Vanuatu’s National Sector Development Plan mandates that every child, regardless of gender, location, education needs or circumstances, must be able to access the education system. The Council of Ministers approved a paper on early childhood education in 2018, with the first phase of the Universal Access Policy being implemented this year (2019) for early childhood to year 10, and in 2020, for years 11 to 13. This policy is aligned with the Free Education Policy for years one to six. The Government has expanded its outreach to ensure access to education through its school grant programme with the aims of strengthening the knowledge required for developing more equitable and efficient education sector plans and building staff within the Ministry of Education and Training. Analysis will also guide the development of a new Vanuatu Education and Training Sector Strategy for 2019–2030.

Climate change (Goal 13)

The National Policy on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction 2016–2030 provides the framework for ensuring that our communities, environment and economy are resilient to the impacts of climate change and disaster risks. Vanuatu strives to be “a global leader in disaster recovery”, as we are now in the process of finalizing the National Disaster Recovery Framework, which maps and links all disaster types and responses to guide recovery efforts.

Justice (Goal 16)

The Vanuatu Government’s National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy is grounded in the People’s Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals providing the framework for the Government’s commitment to eliminate corruption. The National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategy is aimed at strengthening the foundation of Vanuatu society and increasing efficiency and effectiveness while building the trust of the public sector and institutions and paving the way for sustainable economic development and equal opportunity for all people of Vanuatu.

I would like to reiterate that the Government of Vanuatu maintains its commitment not only to implementing government policies as stated in the People’s Plan, but also to monitoring the progress of the National Sustainable Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals and continuing to endeavour to address the issues that hinder development efforts.