



APRM- DESA Continental Workshop

Strengthening Institutional Capacities in Africa for Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063: Follow-up to the 2023 SDG Summit

Maame Agyeben

Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

26 - 28 October 2023

Voluntary National Reviews

Follow-up and review

47. Our Governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets over the coming 15 years. To support accountability to our citizens, we will provide for systematic follow-up and review at the various levels, as set out in this Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. The high-level political forum under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council will have the central role in overseeing follow-up and review at the global level.

79. We also encourage Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels which are country-led and country-driven. Such reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

The VNRs: Some Numbers

329 VNRs have been conducted to date

- 22 in 2016, 43 in 2017, 46 in 2018, 47 in 2019, 47 in 2020 42 in 2022, 44 in 2022 and 39 in 2023

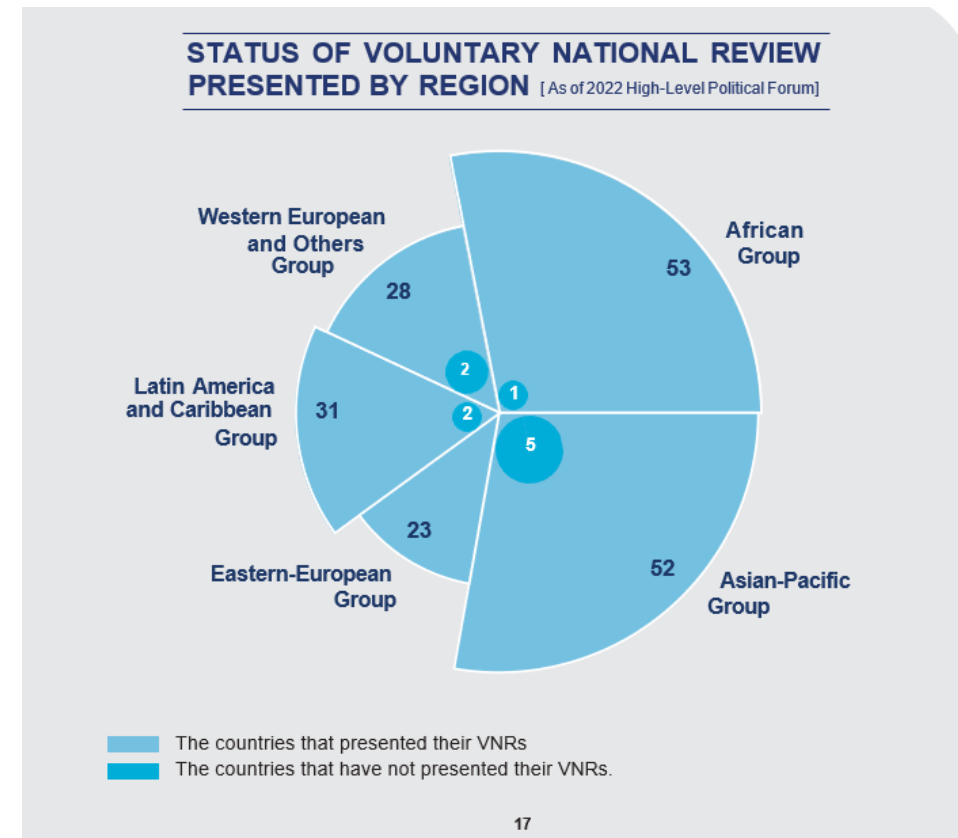
3

188 countries have presented VNRs with **123** countries having conducted more than one VNR. The European Union conducted a voluntary review in 2023.

9 countries have not yet presented a VNR

In Africa: **94** VNRs have been presented by **53** countries. **18** countries have presented **1** VNR, **30** countries have presented 2 VNRs, **4** countries have 3 VNRs and **1** country has 4 VNRs.

43 countries will present their VNRs in 2024.



Link to VNR Database: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries>

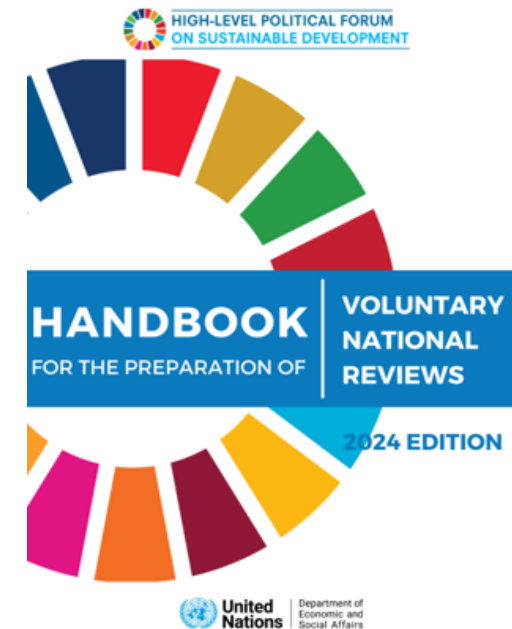
43 VNR presenters at the 2024 HLPF

Number of Times Presenting/Region	1 st Time (2)	2 nd time (22)	3 rd Time (14)	4 th Time (5)
Africa (17)	South Sudan	Congo (Republic of the), Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Mauritania, Mauritius, South Africa	Chad, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe	Egypt, Sierra Leone
Asia Pacific (11)	Yemen	Micronesia (Federated States of), Oman, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, State of Palestine, Syrian Arab Republic, Vanuatu,	Lao PDR, Nepal,	
Eastern Europe (4)			Armenia, Estonia, Georgia,	Azerbaijan
Latin America and the Caribbean (8)		Belize, Brazil, Ecuador,	Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru,	Argentina, Colombia
Western Europe and Other Groups (3)		Austria, Israel	Spain	

Support to VNR preparatory process

UN DESA in cooperation with UN country teams, regional commissions and regional and subregional organizations as appropriate conducts a preparatory process for VNR countries through:

- 3 global workshops
- Regional and subregional workshops in UN regions
- Individual assistance upon request from countries
- Preparation of synthesis report of VNR reports each year
- SG voluntary common reporting guidelines
- Handbook on preparation for VNRs updated each year



Timeline for 2024 Voluntary National Reviews



Principles of Voluntary National Reviews

Voluntary

encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led

country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships

including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience

facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances

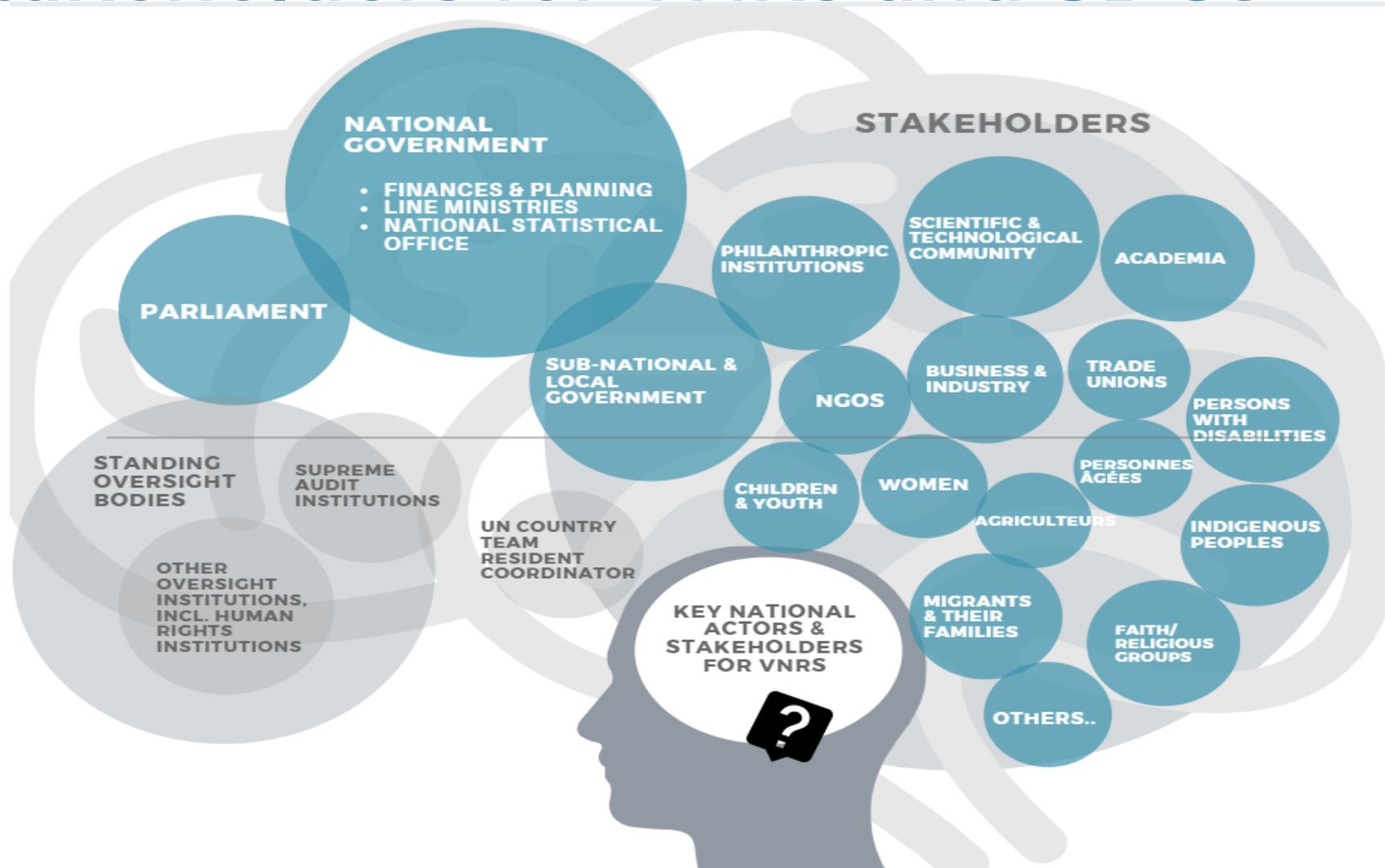
reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

Rigorous and based on evidence

informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated

Stakeholders for VNRs and SDGs

8



INTRODUCTION

Updated Secretary- General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for VNRs

1. Opening statement, highlights, introduction
2. Methodology and process for preparing the report
3. Policy and enabling environment
 - a. Ensuring ownership of SDGs
 - b. Integrating SDGs in national frameworks
 - c. Integration of 3 dimensions of SD
 - d. Leave no one behind
 - e. Institutional mechanisms
 - f. Systemic issues and transformative actions
4. Progress on goals and targets and evaluation of policies and measures
5. New and emerging challenges
6. Means of implementation
7. Conclusion and next steps
8. Annexes

New elements in italics underlined

Source: [Updated voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the HLPF](#)

Main benefits of conducting a VNR



Sharing lessons learned & experiences with other countries



Measure SDG implementation and facilitate alignment with other frameworks



Advance the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda



Mobilize partnerships



Strengthen SDG awareness

Maximizing benefits of a VNR

11

- *“The VNR process has allowed us to re-assess our development patterns, specifically the policy and institutional mechanisms since the 1990's, whether they are conducive to sustainable development and build stakeholder engagement around it.”*

- Embed VNRs into institutions and link the VNRs to report to other mechanisms and conventions
- Undertake costing analysis for SDGs and align with national budgets
- Strengthen policy coherence, interlinkages among SDGs and assess trade-offs
- Monitor SDG implementation including through parliaments and supreme audit institutions
- Measure impacts of strategies and policies put in place
- Report at the national level before and after a VNR presentation at the HLPF
- Strengthen VNR follow-up by implementing lessons learned from other countries at HLPF

Strengthening Institutional Capacity

- Challenges: Impact of COVID-19 and emerging crises; high unemployment, rising debt, decreased industrial activity, disrupted supply chains; policy coherence; climate action; monitoring and capacity building; SDG financing gap; gaps in data collection and disaggregation
- Effective implementation of the interlinked SDGs requires integrated policymaking and effective institutional arrangements
- The implementation of the SDGs requires the involvement of various institutions at the national and local levels - stakeholder inclusion in all aspects of VNRs
- Increasing alignment of SDGs with national development plans and processes,
- Increasing integration of subnational and local reviews / VLRs
- Use of innovative and non-traditional data methods
- Utilize VNR as a living document to provide feedback to policy and institutional development

Seychelles 2020 VNR

13

The SDGs have been mainstreamed into key national planning and developmental documents in the Seychelles such as the Vision 2033 and the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2019-2023. These key strategies provide frameworks for achieving sustainable development through the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions. The NDS has six pillars and SDGs, the African Union’s Agenda 2063 and SAMOA Pathway have been mapped onto each pillar and each goal.

4. Innovative Economy

2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals



Agenda 2063 goals

- 2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation
- 4. Transformed economies
- 18. Engaged and empowered youth and children

5. Economic Transformation

2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals



Agenda 2063 goals

- 1. A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens
- 4. Transformed Economies
- 5. Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production
- 6. Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth
- 9. Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are established and functional
- 10. World Class Infrastructure criss-crosses Africa

SAMOA Pathway

- 1. Sustained and sustainable, inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all
- 16. Means of implementation, including partnerships

1. Governance

2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals



Agenda 2063 goals

- 8. United Africa (Federal or Confederate)
- 11. Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched
- 12. Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
- 13. Peace, security and stability is preserved
- 14. A stable and peaceful Africa
- 15. A fully functional and operational APSA
- 20. Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development

2. People at the Centre of Development

2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development Goals



Agenda 2063 goals

- 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and wellbeing for all citizens
- 2. Well educated citizens and skills revolution underpinned by science, technology and innovation
- 3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens
- 18. Engaged and empowered youth and children

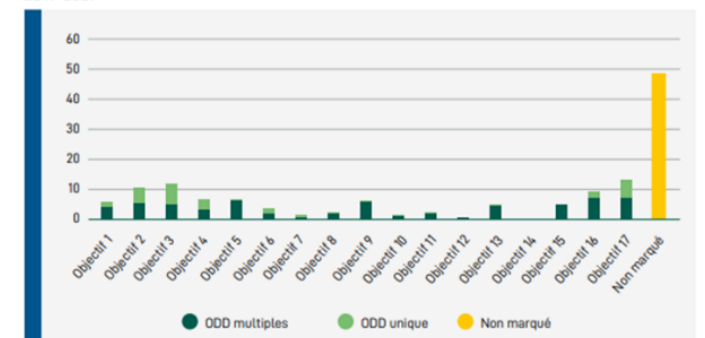
SAMOA Pathway

- 11. Health and non-communicable diseases

Burkina Faso 2023 VNR

- **Burkina Faso's** VNR report includes a chapter on how the country has responded to several crises and emergencies, such as the security crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The VNR report outlines measures that country have taken to promote good economic governance and address the humanitarian crisis,
- In Burkina Faso the SDG targets are achieved through the implementation of the National Development Plan (PNDES 2016-2020), which includes a costing of implementation. There is an assessment of the internal resources, i.e. total public revenue through taxation, as well as external resources, innovative financing, public-private partnerships, foreign direct investment.

Graphique 49 : Répartition des ressources allouées par Objectif de développement durable de 2019-2021



Botswana 2022 VNR

- In **Botswana** the institutional mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs have evolved since the adoption of the 2030 agenda.
- Botswana's initial approach was to map and align the relevant SDG targets and indicators to existing programmes and projects that addressed specific national development priorities.
- The country has since developed SDG Planning Guidelines to facilitate the transition to a more structured and systematic mainstreaming of specific SDG targets in national and sector-level plans.
- The guidelines also assist in strengthening the capacity to collect administrative data to improve SDG monitoring in the country.

Figure 7: Five stages of the SDG Planning Guidelines



Rwanda 2023 VNR

16 In **Rwanda** home-grown solutions have been designed to track and measure effectiveness of service delivery and accountability across the board. These include **the Rwanda Governance Scorecard, the Citizen Report card** among others. The set of key performance measures tracked and evaluated through these studies inform policy, delivery measures, monitoring and evaluation functions. The results of citizen satisfaction from the scorecards are included in specific institutions or sector's score of performance contracts "Imihigo" to further link monitoring, evaluation, service delivery and accountability functions.

3.2.3 Homegrown solution for delivery

Imihigo (Performance Contracts)

A home-grown solution

Imihigo is the plural of Umuhigo, a Kinyarwanda word that means **"to vow to deliver."** This is an approach implemented in 2006 to planning, monitoring and evaluation ensuring that both the central and local government are delivering on their commitments.

Comoros 2023 VNR

- Comoros has worked to institutionalize stakeholder engagement. Thematic Dialogue Groups (TDGs) constitute platforms for intersectoral consultation and coordination, bringing together all stakeholders, including various ministries, civil society, and the private sector, to ensure cross-cutting synergy.
- These TDGs serve as institutional mechanisms to ensure the interconnectedness of SDGs and their implementation.

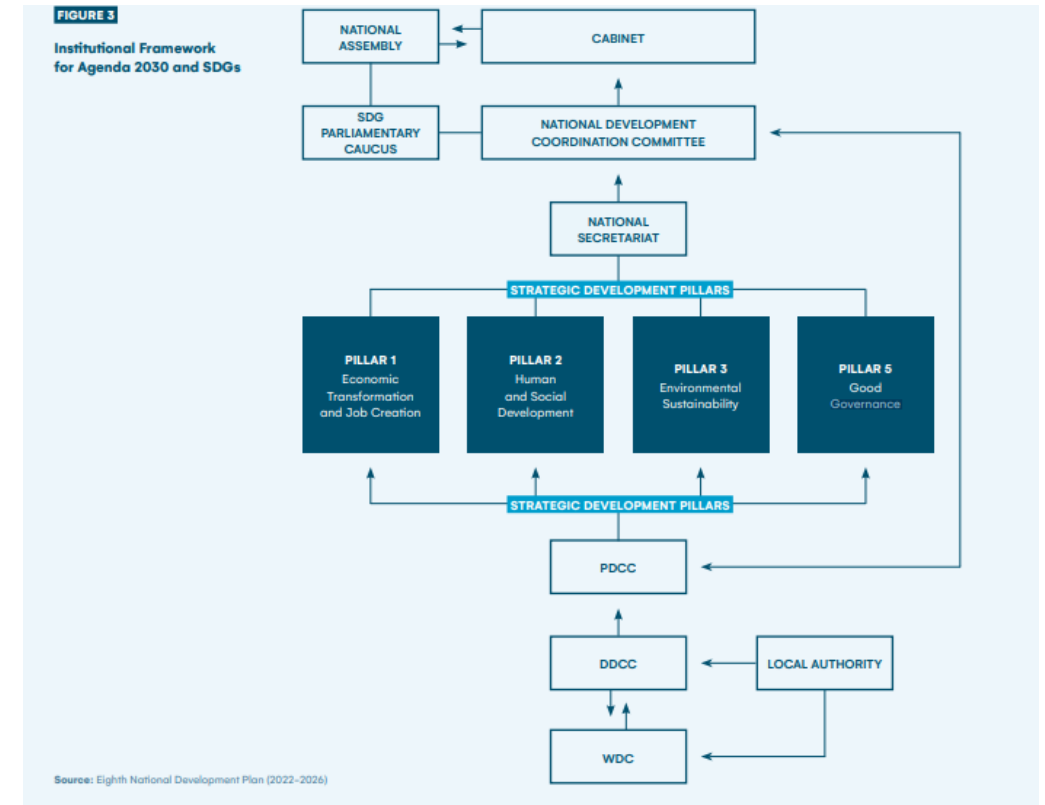
3.1 Gouvernance du processus de l'ENV



COUNTRY EXAMPLE

Zambia 2023 VNR

- Good governance remains a key pillar of **Zambia's** institutional framework for the 2030 Agenda
- Zambia has established a National SDGs Coordination Framework – institutional framework to guide and oversee the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs.
- Key to this framework was the incorporation of various stakeholders, including government departments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and development partners.



SDG Summit & Political Declaration

- **Political Declaration** negotiated and adopted by consensus:
 - Stresses that achievement of SDGs is in peril
 - Commits to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions
 - Sets out many areas where action is required
 - Particularly identifies **financing** and reform of financial institutions as key ingredients for moving forward
 - Recognizes that the VNRs “have generated valuable lessons learned and have helped countries monitor progress and integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into national plans and policies”
 - Commits to fully support UN development system
 - Looks forward to the 2024 Summit of the Future

Thank you