



# First Global Workshop for the 2024 Voluntary National Reviews

4-5 December 2023 – Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

*Session 2: Are your institutional frameworks fit for purpose for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?*



**United Nations**

Department of  
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Social Affairs

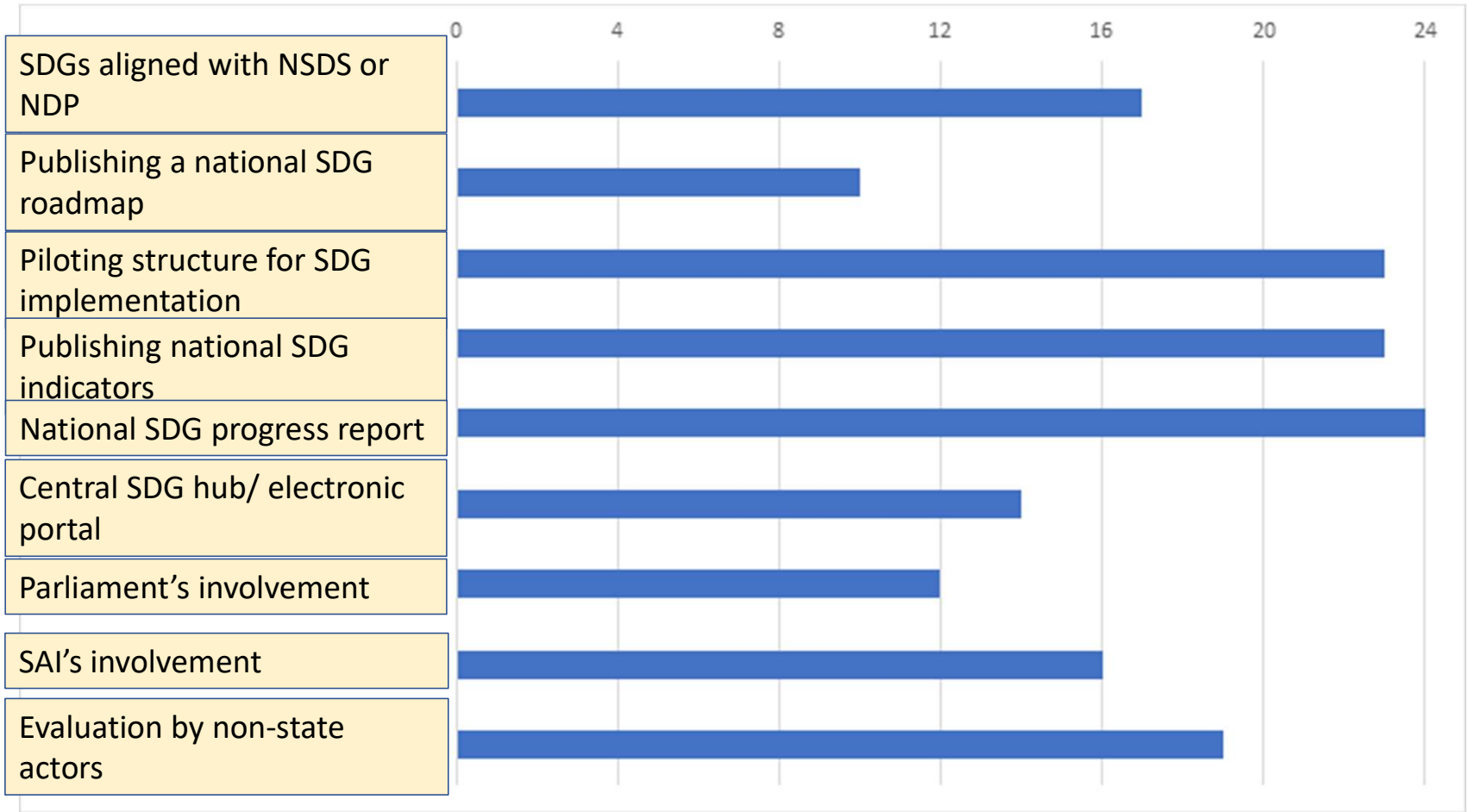
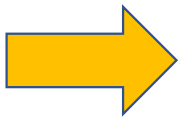
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## Milestones: an approach to assessing SDG institutionalization

<p><b>Integration of the SDGs into a national sustainable development strategy (NSDS) or national development plan (NDP)</b></p>	<p><b>Publication of a national SDG roadmap / action or acceleration plan for SDG implementation</b></p>
<p><b>Creation of a high-level piloting structure for SDG implementation in government</b></p>	<p><b>Creation of a central SDG hub – electronic portal</b></p>
<p><b>Publication of national SDG indicators</b></p>	<p><b>Involvement of parliament</b></p>
<p><b>Government reporting on SDG progress at the national level</b></p>	<p><b>Involvement of the supreme audit institution (SAI)</b></p>
<p><b>Evaluation by non-state actors</b></p>	

**DPIDG research  
sample of 24  
diverse countries**

**Number  
of  
countries  
having  
achieved  
each by  
2020**



# Example: India's official SDG Portal

Source:

<https://www.niti.gov.in/index.php/overview-sustainable-development-goals>

## COMPETITIVE FEDERALISM

- ▶ Aspirational Districts Programme
- ▶ State Rankings
- ▼ SDGs
  - ▶ India MPI: Baseline Report
  - ▶ SDG India Index 2020-21
  - ▶ An Overview of SDGs
  - ▶ Dashboard e-Guide
  - ▶ FAQs
  - ▶ India's Commitment to the SDGs
  - ▶ SDG Conclave 2020
  - ▶ SDG India Index Report, 2019-20
  - ▶ Mapping of the Ministries for Goals and Targets
  - ▶ National and Regional Consultations
  - ▶ NITI Aayog's Role
  - ▶ SDG India Index Dashboard
  - ▶ Seminar on Sustainable Development Goals and their Evaluation
  - ▶ United Nations High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development



Implementation (MoSPI). The framework consists of nationally defined indicators responding to national priorities and needs. National acceptability was an important criterion used in selecting the indicators. There is scope for improving the framework by adding/deleting/modifying indicators with the improvement in the Statistical System and availability of data. A High-Level Steering Committee (HLSC) has been instituted to periodically review and refine the NIF in keeping with emerging monitoring requirements.

The first NIF Baseline report (as on 2015-16) was released by MoSPI in 2019, with its first progress report in March 2020. The reports contain data snapshots, metadata definitions, computation formulae, data including sources, unit of measurement and periodicity. Each of the 297 indicators have been mapped with respect to the periodicity of data availability, baseline reference period and data sources.

#### SDG India Index & Dashboard

The importance of monitoring progress on SDGs cannot be overstated. Towards this end, NITI Aayog developed the SDG India Index first in 2018 to measure progress, rank the performance of the State/Union Territories (UTs) and trigger remedial action. The first SDG India Index covered 13 out of 17 SDGs (excepting Goals 12, 13, 14 and 17) in 2018, while the 2019 edition was far more comprehensive, covering all the 17 Goals. The Index is an aggregate measure which is amenable to understanding and use by everyone – policymakers, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders.

SDG India Index provides critical insights on the country status of SDGs, along with a comparative assessment of the performance of all the 37 States and UTs. It is a useful development tool to:

- Support States/UTs to benchmark their progress against the national targets and performance of their peers and devise improved strategies to achieve the SDGs by 2030.
- Support States/UTs to identify priority areas to modulate their initiatives and investments as well as to measure incremental progress.
- Highlight data gaps across SDGs and identify areas for building individual and systems capacity for better data management.

#### SDG India Index & Dashboard, 2019-20

The second edition of the Index is based on data on indicators for the first 16 goals while a qualitative assessment has been made for Goal 17. The indicator base has been substantially widened to cover 100 indicators, which are largely drawn from the National Indicator Framework (NIF). Out of the 100 indicators, 40 were adopted from the 2018 version and the remaining 60 were sourced from NIF or were suitable refinements. Updated values have been used for indicators wherever available. It is accompanied by a dashboard which is in the public domain and hosts state-of-the-art visualisation and analysis tools for data at the national and State/UT level to collect and analyse feedback. The dashboard enables the government, civil society, think tanks and academia in carving out useful insights which the States/UTs can use for faster progress under the SDG framework.

The Index is designed to function as a tool for focused policy dialogue, formulation and implementation, and moving towards development action pegged to globally recognisable metrics. It has helped in highlighting crucial gaps related to monitoring SDGs and the need for improving statistical systems at the National/State/UT levels.

**In light of the mapping at the national level, State governments have also mapped the schemes and programmes implemented by them, in addition to the Centrally Sponsored Schemes, with the SDGs. Along with the schemes, the implementing departments are also mapped.**



#### Going Forward on the Index

While the SDG India Index 2019 continues to be the key instrument to assess the progress of the States/UTs in adopting and implementing the SDG agenda, it will be improved upon in several ways including the following:

- The Index does not cover SDG 17 owing to the unavailability of suitable data at the State/UT level. While a qualitative assessment of the progress under the goal has been included in the latest version, quantitative data may be covered in future.
- As more data becomes systematically available, the Index would include more indicators with higher frequency and greater granularity data which is also disaggregated by gender, community, social category, urban-rural and other classifications. It will be a constant endeavour to include data from all reliable and robust sources in keeping with the requirement of data comparability and authenticity.

#### Positive outcomes of the Index

The Index is playing a key role in driving the SDG agenda in India. The results of the ranking were highly publicised by the media throughout the nation. It raised awareness on SDGs on many levels – within government, media, researchers and civil society organisations. In many States/UTs, after the release of the Index report, structured SDG reviews were initiated. Some governments instituted high-level committees to oversee SDG adoption. The Index also pushed SDG localisation in some States/UTs to the subsequent level where district-level monitoring was initiated, thereby promoting healthy competition among districts.

#### Monitoring at the State Level

States shoulder the primary responsibility for follow-up and review at the state, district and sub-district levels about progress made in implementing the SDGs. It is thus important for States to develop their own State Indicator Framework

#### SDG INDIA INDEX DASHBOARD



## **Involvement of parliaments**

- **Contributing to SDG coordination at the national level (e.g. involvement in national institutional coordination mechanisms)**
- **Receiving reports from governments on sustainable development progress for approval or comments**
- **Drafting laws/resolutions and making budget proposals aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs**
- **Following up on recommendations provided by SAIs**
- **Contributing to the alignment of national plans/policies with the SDGs**
- **Contributing to the preparation of a national SDG strategy/SDG roadmap/action plan**
- **Contributing to the preparation of national progress reports on SDG implementation (e.g. VNRs)**

# Example: Romania's VNR – role of Parliament

## *Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development of Romanian Parliament*

The Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development, set up in 2016 as part of the Committee for Foreign Policy of the Chamber of Deputies, supports policy coherence for sustainable development and provides a framework for debate to monitor the state of implementation of the *Romania's Sustainable Development Strategy* and of other public policies that may contribute to sustainable development. The Sub-Committee advances legislative initiatives to support Romania's sustainable transformation, analyses such draft legislation in view of their impact on the sustainable development goals, and, where appropriate, submits review or adjustment proposals to the Committees concerned. This structure is a bridge between Department of Sustainable Development and the Parliament of Romania.

### **Box 3** Activities of the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development

- To develop reports and recommendations on public policies for sustainable development in Romania
- To organise public debates and hearings on sustainable development issues
- To promote cooperation between public institutions, the private sector and civil society for sustainable development
- To participate in international conferences and events on sustainable development and exchange of best practices
- To cooperate with other parliamentary structures and international organisations to promote sustainable development
- To develop draft legislation and amendments to existing legislation to ensure sustainable development in Romania

## NEXT STEPS

### **Making better use of tools to anticipate, assess and address impacts of policies on sustainable development**

- Elevate the Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development to a Parliamentary Committee to strengthen its convening power and impact

Source: 2023 VNR, pp. 26, 79

## Assessing institutional arrangements for the SDGs

### Evaluations

- Evaluate policies, strategies, programmes that explain why targets are achieved or not achieved, and whether and how they relate to one or more SDGs
- Variation in existing evaluations
  - Case of Finland: institutionalized regular independent assessments of its government's performance in implementing the SDGs
  - Provisions in SDG strategies and/or regulatory frameworks
  - Alignment of national or sector evaluation systems with SDG follow-up and review systems



## Assessing institutional arrangements for the SDGs

### Performance audits by supreme audit institutions

- IDI's Auditing SDGs initiative – more than 70 performance audits of preparedness for SDG implementation, most of which covered, inter alia, institutional arrangements; some SAIs have moved to conduct audits of implementation.
- Audits not specific to SDGs can still be valuable.

### *Impacts*

- Morocco's government created the National Commission for SD in response to the SAI's recommendation to set up a mechanism for coordinating and defining responsibilities in the SDG monitoring process.
- Croatia's 2023 VNR specifies actions taken in response to recommendations in the SAI's audit report on the country's SDG preparedness.



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**Thank you**