



**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP**



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE COMING TO LIFE

STORIES OF COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION AND UN SUPPORT

© United Nations Development Group 2016

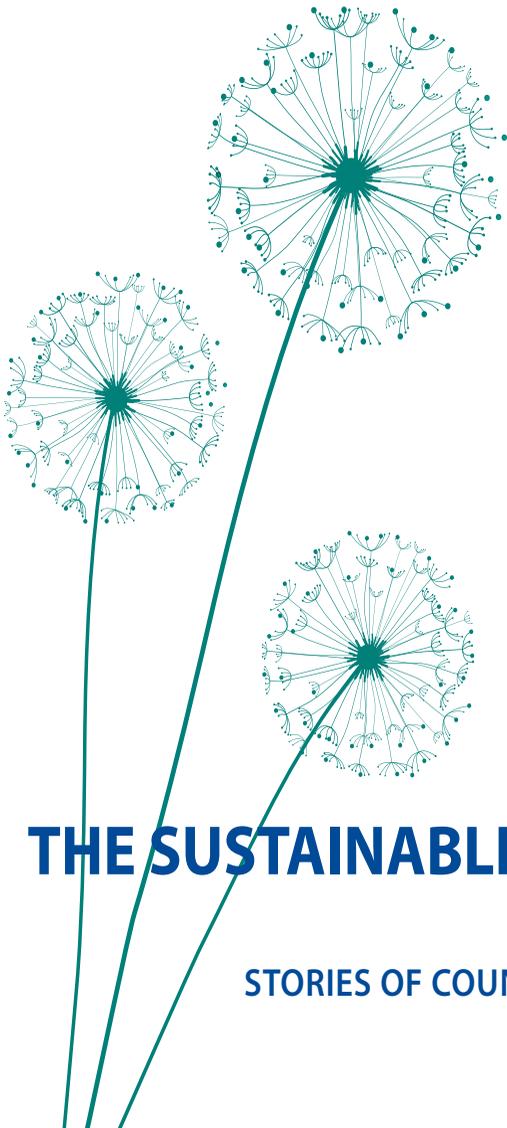
Manufactured in the United States of America

The analysis and recommendations of this publication do not necessarily reflect the official views of the United Nations, its agencies or its Member States. Textual material may be freely reproduced with proper citation and/or attribution to the authoring agencies, as appropriate. All rights reserved for photographic material, which cannot be reproduced in any digital or traditional format without permission except as part of this publication (such as when reposting a PDF file with attribution).

Cover images (from top-left to bottom-right): Salvadoran public servants identify the links between the SDGs and the national Five-Year Development Plan (Photo: Carlos León/ORC). School girls participating in the essay contest on their vision of well-being by 2030 in Balkanabat city, Turkmenistan (Photo: UNFPA Turkmenistan). Young students in Zambia writing their future aspirations for the post-2015 era (Photo: Georgina Fekete/UNDP). SDG flag-raising ceremony at UN House in Brasilia, Brazil (Photo: Fabio Donato/UNDP).



**UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP**



THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE COMING TO LIFE

STORIES OF COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION AND UN SUPPORT

CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	vi
FOREWORD	vii
INTRODUCTION	1
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	1
MAPS: UN support for SDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support	1
Country stories	1
KEY OBSERVATIONS	3
GOOD PRACTICES OF EARLY MAINSTREAMING WITH UN SUPPORT	5
THE WAY FORWARD	8
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE COMING TO LIFE	9
Stories of country implementation and UN support	
Cabo Verde	10
Mauritania	12
Sierra Leone	14
Uganda	16
Egypt	18
Morocco	20
Somalia	22
Indonesia	24
Pakistan	26
Philippines	28
Georgia	30
Montenegro	32
Turkmenistan	34
Brazil	36
Dominican Republic	38
El Salvador	40

ACRONYMS

CSO	Civil society organization
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
ILO	International Labour Organization
MAPS	Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental organization
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
UN	United Nations
UNCT	United Nations Country Team
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization

FOREWORD

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will guide the international community over the coming 15 years. It aspires to ensure prosperity and well-being for all people, while protecting our planet.

The breadth of the Agenda and its level of ambition attest to the challenges of our time that are of concern to countries and people everywhere. Member States spent several years analysing information and negotiating positions to create this common framework, complemented by the most inclusive multi-stakeholder consultation process in the history of the United Nations.

As a result, just six months after their roll-out, evidence abounds that the SDGs are coming to life. Countries around the world are aligning their national development plans with the new goals. Responding to the needs of an integrated and indivisible agenda, they are strengthening capacities to coordinate their work across sectors. And to help ensure an inclusive implementation process, they are designing creative awareness-raising campaigns and forging innovative partnerships to translate commitment into action.

Many governments have called on the UN to support them in this endeavour. The United Nations Development Group (UNDG), comprised of over 30 UN agencies, is responding to these requests, guided by a common approach called 'MAPS' (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support). This approach builds on our long experience in supporting countries to achieve their development objectives. It draws on the insights gleaned from our collaboration to support the Millennium Development Goals and the global consultation process that led up to the creation of the 2030 Agenda.

This publication provides insights into the range of actions and partnerships for the roll-out and implementation of the SDGs at the country level. Rather than being a comprehensive account of the multitude of activities under way, it presents encouraging snapshots from 16 countries across all regions. It speaks to the ways in which governments can lead SDG implementation, identifies entry points for other partners to also own and engage with the Agenda, and highlights how the UN development system can play a critical supporting role.

The 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the first one following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We are pleased that this collection of cases will complement the discussions of the Forum. It reflects our commitment to work together in enabling the exchange of experiences and mutual learning, which are essential for turning the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda into reality on the ground.

Omar Abdi

Assistant Secretary-General and
Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF

Amir Abdulla

Assistant Secretary-General and
Deputy Executive Director, WFP

Magdy Martínez-Solimán

Assistant Secretary-General and Director,
Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP



road

ZAMBIA

By Changu

We want to see development a lot of schools so that a lot of people will be educated and be responsible citizens

WILL IMPROVE IN WELL THE NEXT 2 BE YEARS ST

ZAMBIA NEEDS TO BE HEARD
L CHILDREN SHOULD HAVE
EQUAL VOICE IN ORDER

Young students in Zambia writing their future aspirations for the post-2015 era.
Photo: Georgina Fekete/UNDP

INTRODUCTION

This publication provides a glimpse into the early efforts of 16 countries to bring the global SDGs to life, and the role United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) play in the process. It illustrates how these countries are beginning to integrate the 2030 Agenda into visions, strategies and plans at the national, subnational and local levels. The country efforts include raising public awareness, seeking engagement of different stakeholders, adapting the SDGs to national and local contexts, increasing coherence across policy areas and between levels of government, assessing risk and strengthening monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

[The 2030 Agenda](#)¹ was adopted by UN Member States in September 2015 and officially came into effect in January 2016 at the conclusion of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Agenda strives for a world that is just, rights-based, equitable and inclusive; it commits stakeholders to work together to promote sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development and environmental protection and to benefit all, including women, children, youth and future generations. An integrated approach to sustainable development and collective action is required at all levels to address the challenges of our time, with an overarching imperative of ‘leaving no one behind’ in achieving this ambitious and universal agenda.

MAPS: UN support for SDG Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support

Responding to requests from Member States for coordinated support from UNCTs to the national SDG response, the UN Development Group (UNDG) has adopted the ‘MAPS’ (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) approach, calling for:

- **Mainstreaming** to land the 2030 Agenda at the national and local level, and integrating it into national, subnational and local plans for development, and subsequently into budget allocations;
- **Acceleration** to target national and UN resources at priority areas identified in the mainstreaming process, paying special attention to synergies and trade-offs across sectors (reflecting the integrated nature of the agenda), bottlenecks, financing and partnerships, and measurement; and
- **Policy Support** to ensure that the expertise of the agencies of the UN development system is made available in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The ‘[UNDG Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda Reference Guide to UNCTs](#)’ (Mainstreaming Reference Guide)² was produced as a first output to support UNCTs. It lays out an array of approaches and tools across eight guidance areas that UNCTs can discuss with Member States to adapt the 2030 Agenda to national, subnational and local conditions and realities.

Country stories

The 16 country stories featured in this publication were selected through the facilitation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), on behalf of the UNDG, in consultation with Regional and Country Offices. They represent regionally diverse examples of early country actions on various aspects of applying the 2030 Agenda to their national contexts with UN support.

1 Available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

2 Available at <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/UNDG-Mainstreaming-the-2030-Agenda-Reference-Guide-Final-1-February-2016.pdf>

Africa

- **Cabo Verde:** Initiating the SDG implementation in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) transitioning from least developed country status
- **Mauritania:** Demonstrating early efforts to mainstream SDGs within a new national development strategy aligned with the 2030 Agenda
- **Sierra Leone:** Exemplifying how a crisis-affected country can set the stage for SDG progress with commitment
- **Uganda:** Aligning national and subnational development plans and budgeting with the SDGs and ensuring multi-stakeholder participation

Arab States

- **Egypt:** Aligning the nation's plans with the 2030 Agenda and the African Union's Agenda 2063 and investing in capacity to monitor SDG progress
- **Morocco:** Harnessing the power of multi-stakeholder forums to adapt the SDGs to national and local contexts
- **Somalia:** Embarking on a new national development planning process while establishing a governance structure and statistical system

Asia and the Pacific

- **Indonesia:** Promoting systematic and inclusive approaches to localize the SDGs, monitor progress and raise public awareness
- **Pakistan:** Making progress on the SDGs through commitment and institutional readiness at multiple levels of government
- **Philippines:** Promoting institutional coordination and coherence at national and subnational levels and multi-stakeholder approaches

Europe and Central Asia

- **Georgia:** Prioritizing SDG implementation and efforts towards institutional coordination and policy coherence
- **Montenegro:** Adapting an established National Strategy for Sustainable Development to new global and regional agendas
- **Turkmenistan:** Localizing the SDGs and creating a monitoring system with a phased and inclusive approach

Latin America and Caribbean

- **Brazil:** Engaging multiple stakeholders to implement and track the progress of the 2030 Agenda
- **Dominican Republic:** Establishing a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism and assessing data capacity
- **El Salvador:** Demonstrating ownership to implement the SDGs while raising awareness among development stakeholders



KEY OBSERVATIONS

Early efforts to mainstream the SDGs in national plans and frameworks are happening in all 16 countries

The experiences from the 16 selected countries reinforce the findings from UNDG data collected in early 2016 that show that 95 of the 131 UNCTs have been requested by their host government to provide “support to the national SDG response”. In these 16 countries, the UN has been requested to support efforts to develop strategies for the mapping of existing national plans and frameworks against the SDGs, setting up dedicated government entities to ensure policy coherence, and help with the formulation of long-term visions covering the full duration of the 2030 Agenda. These initial steps of analysis and localization of the Agenda are often accompanied by public awareness-raising campaigns involving a multitude of stakeholders and using technology and social media to break new ground in engaging the public in implementing the SDGs.

The ‘Mainstreaming Reference Guide’ organizes joint efforts by UNCTs in this regard and provides support and technical advice on early mainstreaming efforts of awareness-raising, multi-stakeholder approaches, reviewing national plans and adapting the SDGs to national contexts, monitoring reporting and accountability, and coordinating across government sectors and ministries. Many countries have also started to implement advanced mainstreaming activities, ranging from systematically addressing policy coherence across multiple sectors (horizontal coherence) and at different levels of government (vertical coherence), budgeting for the future, and assessing risks and fostering adaptability. Inspired by the ‘Mainstreaming Reference Guide’ and other tools that have been put in place, UNCTs are ready to support governments to implement this more complex stage of the 2030 Agenda.

Governments are calling on the UN to convene and facilitate inclusive national dialogues with all members of society on SDG implementation

In all 16 countries, leveraging existing partnerships, in particular those developed through the national consultations held to inform the creation of the 2030 Agenda, and building new partnerships are key priorities for governments; many reach out to the UN for support in this endeavour. Partnerships are being strengthened within and outside the government. In the SDG era, both the breadth and depth of partnerships are expanding, given the increasing number and type of partners, including the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), philanthropists and academia. The aspect of Member States engaging with the UN system through the UNCTs comes through in all countries, with many countries establishing systematic partnerships across multiple UN agencies.

The 2030 Agenda has opened up space for an inclusive dialogue with all members of society. It is mobilizing many new interested stakeholders such as youth, digital entrepreneurs, think tanks and journalists. In a few countries, the UN has helped bring on board musicians and celebrities to act as volunteer SDG ‘ambassadors’ and ‘movers’ to popularize the Agenda. In many countries, governments entrust the UNCTs with organizing these public awareness-raising campaigns and interactive dialogues, but they also ask the UN to provide more technical support and early assistance through training and workshops for civil servants and technical staff of government agencies, parliamentarians, mayors and other key stakeholders to familiarize them with the 2030 Agenda and help derive policy conclusions from it.

Measuring progress against the 2030 Agenda presents many challenges, but countries across the board are increasingly ready to take them on and are looking to the UN for support to help them track and report progress

The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational level that are country-led and country-driven. The success of the review system will ultimately be determined by its ability to help translate the Agenda into a nationally owned vision and objectives, leading to transformative action. Data and statistics are an important and integral element of the SDG follow-up and review process at all levels. The availability of and access to high-quality, disaggregated data are essential to measure and achieve the SDGs, in accordance with the fundamental principle of leaving no one behind.³ This requires the UN to deliver shared data, analytics and capacity development for national statistics.

Most of the countries reviewed for this publication have started to localize the SDG global indicator framework, often building on existing collaboration with the UN on national statistical systems and capacities. In 13 of the 16 countries, the UN is supporting efforts to compare the global indicator framework against existing data and find ways to improve the availability of data, including new sources such as big data (e.g. information gleaned from interactions via social media) to fill gaps. This includes a wide range of efforts, from building up a statistics infrastructure in Somalia to designing complex-cumulative indicators in the case of Montenegro, applying the concept of resource efficiency and domestic resource consumption to capture the 'ecological footprint', a country's impact on the planet's natural environment. The empirical evidence from the 16 countries suggests that the UN is a trusted partner when it comes to building the data infrastructure necessary to report against the SDG indicator framework.

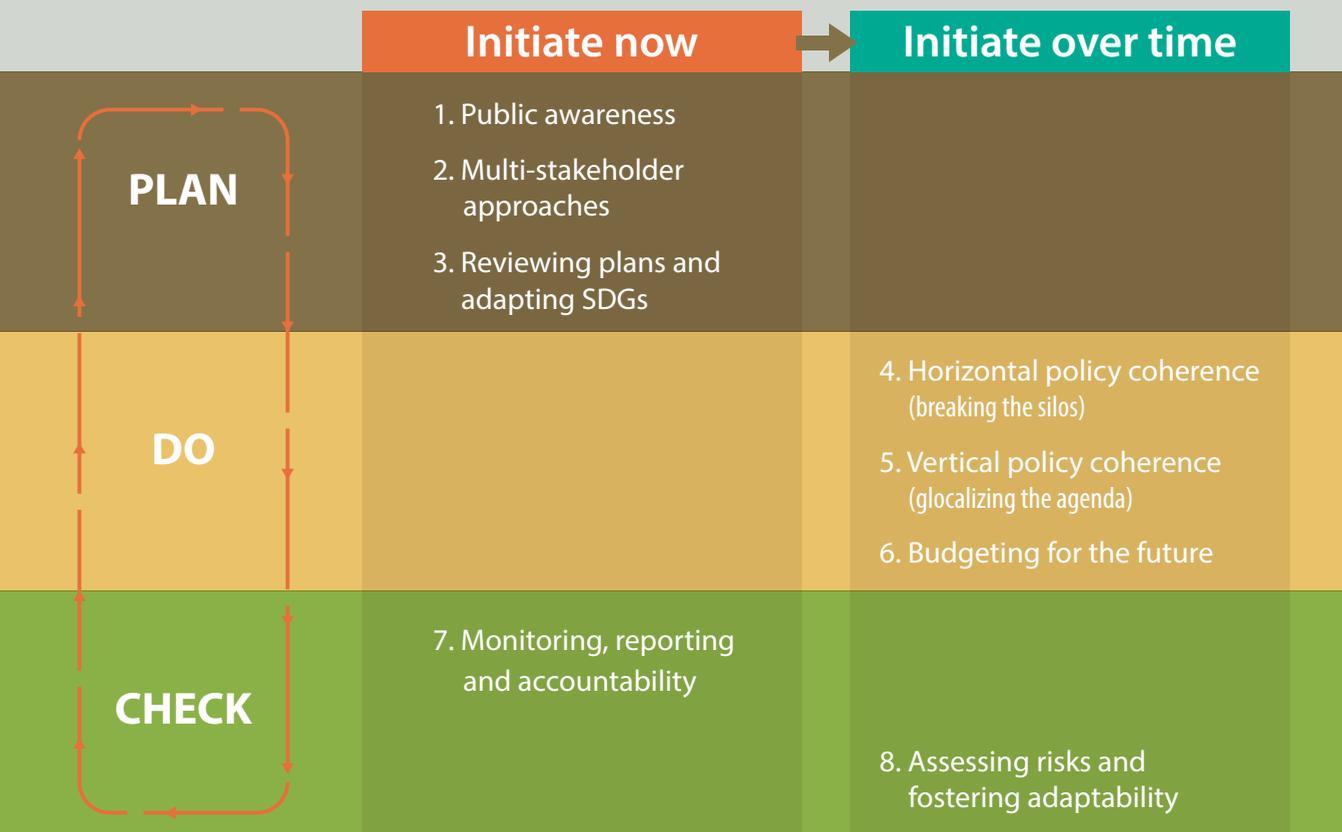
Some of the most innovative examples of early action to mainstream the SDGs and establish risk management frameworks while keeping the longer-term vision in mind come from countries in complex situations

In a strong signal to the rest of the world, some of the most innovative examples of early action come from countries in complex situations. Sierra Leone is still reeling from the effects of the Ebola crisis and a collapse in the price of iron ore, yet it has mainstreamed all the SDGs into its national budget. In Somalia, where governance infrastructure suffered greatly from three decades of internal struggle, the Deputy Prime Minister launched the SDGs with a decision to align the National Development Plan with the SDGs, and with the support of a multi-stakeholder National Development Council. This Plan aims to enable the country to effectively respond to disaster risks and climate change, by including a dedicated chapter on resilience.

³ The 2030 Agenda calls for high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated data by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts (para. 74(g)).

GOOD PRACTICES OF EARLY MAINSTREAMING WITH UN SUPPORT

The 2030 Agenda Mainstreaming Reference Guide - *Areas of Practice*



Source: UNDG

Raising public awareness

Building public awareness of the SDGs and their benefit to national development is a critical initial and ongoing step. Among some of the early actions in this regard are:

- engagement with the media to air and feature TV shows, radio interviews and articles about the SDGs, and providing special training to journalists on the SDGs to ensure objective reporting;
- hosting sports and music events and photo exhibitions with the participation of diverse stakeholders, diplomats, celebrities, the private sector, the general public and media;
- the appointment of eminent individuals and celebrities as SDG ambassadors;
- conducting intensive SDG training for government officials to strengthen the knowledge of public servants on the 2030 Agenda;
- use of social media such as Twitter to hold regular question-and-answer sessions between the government and the public; and
- the production and distribution of SDG-related materials in national and local languages and for different age groups.

Inclusive participation

Central to the quality and legitimacy of a society-wide agenda is the application of multi-stakeholder approaches to develop and implement policies. They encourage and facilitate partnerships between government and nationally and subnationally active stakeholder networks of civil society, universities, think tanks, the private sector and other development actors. Early country actions include:

- ensuring the participation of all relevant government ministries and agencies as well as diverse non-state stakeholders such as women, children and youth, elderly persons, persons with disabilities, the private sector, universities and philanthropists in the national consultations on implementing the SDGs;
- establishing a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism or task force to implement the SDGs; and
- holding regular dialogues between the government and civil society.

Reviewing existing plans and adapting the SDGs to the national context

It is important in the early stages to develop a common understanding of how well existing national, subnational and local development plans and sectoral strategies align — in content and ambition — with the comprehensive scope of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. This will provide the basis for establishing criteria for enhancing national plans while avoiding an *à la carte* approach. Among the early country actions in this regard are:

- performing a mapping exercise, including by conducting Rapid Integrated Assessments⁴ and technical workshops, to determine the extent to which national development plans align with SDG targets;
- prioritizing SDGs and targets based on the national context, and setting time-bound plans;
- setting new national targets and/or indicators which better reflect the national context; and
- adapting national and subnational development plans and strategies to align with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Horizontal coordination and coherence — breaking down the silos

The 2030 Agenda reminds us that the development challenges we face are “interrelated and call for integrated solutions. To address them effectively, a new approach is needed” (para. 13). There is, for the most part, a shared understanding of the inherent interconnectedness and complexity of sustainable development in its economic, social and environmental dimensions. But what has remained most elusive over the years is how to deal with this reality. Among the early actions in this regard are:

- establishing an intergovernmental mechanism which includes the wide variety of development stakeholders to coordinate implementation of the SDGs at the national and subnational level;
- enacting legislation to systematically implement the SDGs and monitor progress; and
- creating an SDG secretariat within the parliament.

⁴ This is a tool developed by UNDP that helps countries assess their readiness to implement the SDGs by reviewing national plans against the SDGs.

Vertical coordination and coherence — ‘glocalizing’ the 2030 Agenda

Creating coherence between the different levels of governance — from global to regional, national and subnational — is essential and complementary to ensuring the multisectoral approach (horizontal coherence). This ‘glocalizing’ of the Agenda within a country is imperative if the SDGs are to be realized with no one left behind in the 2030 time-frame. Early efforts in this regard involve:

- localizing the SDGs at the subnational level through multi-stakeholder consultations on subnational development plans and by training technical staff in local governments to better understand the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs;
- establishing SDG support mechanisms not only at the central government level but at the provincial level;
- including regional planning ministries in the national development working mechanism; and
- conducting public awareness-raising activities and consultations on the implementation of the SDGs in various regions of the country.

Budgeting for the future

The 2030 Agenda states that “cohesive nationally owned sustainable development strategies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks, will be at the heart of our efforts” (para. 63). Advances in outcome-based budgeting and participatory budgeting approaches can enable governments to better align and track fiscal resources with priority goals with the input of multiple stakeholders. Examples of early actions include:

- examining financing instruments and discussing options to reorient existing public expenditures, as well as mobilizing new revenues for implementing the SDGs;
- assessing how to mainstream the SDGs in the budgeting process; and
- co-financing the set-up of SDG support units at the federal and provincial level.

Monitoring, reporting and accountability

Monitoring, reporting and accountability — ‘follow-up and review’, as it is called in intergovernmental discussions — is a core component of the 2030 Agenda, to ensure that the data systems, capacities, methodologies and mechanisms are in place to track progress, with the engagement of the public, parliaments and other stakeholders. Among the early actions are:

- conducting technical workshops to examine the global SDG indicators and identify nationally relevant indicators;
- assessing data gaps and national capacities for the production of statistics to monitor and report on the SDGs; and
- establishing an SDG coordination unit at the national statistics agency to contextualize and set the national indicator framework to monitor progress towards the SDGs.

Assessing risk and fostering adaptability

Identifying risks and emerging issues such as climate change, economic crises and pandemics will be critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda. Careful reflection of lessons learned during implementation and making timely course corrections along the way are integral to effective follow-up and review. Early efforts in this regard include:

- ensuring that the national development plan addresses the adverse impacts of climate change and considers risk management.

THE WAY FORWARD

As countries are acting promptly to adopt and localize the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs for their national and local contexts, the UN stands ready to continue to support Member States, drawing on its convening power, policy expertise and resources such as those contained in the 'Mainstreaming Reference Guide'. The initial experiences observed in the country stories will inform UN support going forward to assist national stakeholders in establishing conducive policy and institutional frameworks, and in identifying and tackling key bottlenecks to achieving the SDGs. In particular, the UN will strengthen its support for the advanced SDG mainstreaming activities, to help countries ensure policy coherence not only at the central but also at the subnational level, mainstream the SDGs into their national budget and address potential risks in development planning for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The need to address a daunting monitoring and accountability challenge remains critical. The UNCTs have already supported 15 Member States for their first Voluntary National Reviews at the 2016 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). The UN will continue to support the Member States in their national SDG reporting. National SDG reports will be an integral part of a participatory and transparent implementation process; they are part of the accountability promise of the SDGs that was born with much social participation, and will be rolled out with the same level of democratic collaboration. In this regard, the UNDG is currently working to develop guidelines for such national SDG reporting. UNCTs are ready to continue their support to strengthen national statistics and data capacities for SDG monitoring and the process of producing country-led voluntary national SDG reports.

The UN is particularly committed to engaging all people and civil society, not only in implementation but also in monitoring progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This commitment builds on the success of the UN in involving millions of people around the world in creating the SDGs. The UNDG initiatives, such as the World We Want 2015 public consultation spaces⁵ as well as the MY World 2015 survey, provided channels that enabled people to report on issues of particular concern to them, to ensure that the global agenda is delivered and felt at the local level. With the establishment of the Global Campaign Center of the UN SDG Action Campaign⁶ in Bonn, Germany, in May 2016, the UN system is even better equipped to continue to support Member States on advocacy and public engagement in implementing the SDGs, together with existing and new partners in the public and private spheres. Successor initiatives, including the MY World 2030 people-led accountability initiative and the World We Want 2030 platform for national and subnational dialogue, will build on the rich lessons learned during the participatory design of the 2030 Agenda.

The UNDG will continue to develop the MAPS approach and provide instruments to enable UNCTs to meet the varied demands at the country level to support the 2030 Agenda by providing integrated policy and analytical support which addresses social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; convene diverse groups of population and support the translation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs into national and local realities; and enhance capacities of individuals, communities and public institutions with a view to achieving sustainable development that leaves no one behind. In addition, the UN will help Member States to share their experiences on SDG implementation and learn from each other along the path towards 2030.

5 These consultations were jointly led by a number of UN entities, including the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Volunteers (UNV), the World Health Organization (WHO) and others.

6 The UN SDG Action Campaign is the United Nations Secretary-General's initiative administered by UNDP on behalf of UNDG.

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ARE COMING TO LIFE

STORIES OF COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION AND UN SUPPORT



National ownership

The Government of Cabo Verde, in partnership with the UN, convened an international conference on the ‘Sustainable Development Goals in Middle-Income and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)’ in June 2015. In the run-up to the UN Sustainable Development Summit, the event contributed to the global discussions on the specific needs of SIDS in the context of the SDGs and the new universal agenda on sustainable development. The conference’s ‘[Praia Declaration](#)’⁷ elaborated on the aspect of national ownership, noting that translating the SDGs into national action in Cabo Verde and other African SIDS will require greater investment in youth and employment, fighting inequalities with a focus on gender equality and women’s empowerment and overall human development. The conference and its declaration also underscored the importance of building the capacity of institutions to collect disaggregated data to inform policy choices and monitor progress across all sections of society.

Following parliamentary elections in March 2016, the country’s new government sought support from the UN to develop a roadmap to place the SDGs at the centre of its national development planning process in the coming years — from design of the new national development plan through to follow-up and review. A very important step was made through a one-day retreat of the Cabinet convened by the Prime Minister to discuss the SDGs and how to translate them into concrete sustainable development results for all people in Cabo Verde. The retreat involved all Cabinet ministers, their close advisers and Cabinet directors — a total of 60 participants. This high-level event signalled the government’s strong ownership of the 2030 Agenda. The retreat closed with the government’s reaffirmed commitment to decentralize the agenda as a strategy to achieve sustainable development throughout the country, and to ensure coherence across national development aspirations, local development needs and the SDGs. It also committed to make the national development process inclusive of all parts of society, to leave no one behind.

Inclusive participation

Following the government retreat, Cabo Verde’s CSO platform, Plataforma de ONGs, invited government and UN representatives to discuss its role in implementing the SDGs and ways to strengthen its capacity to engage effectively to shape the national development agenda. A dialogue between the National Institute of Statistics and CSOs has reaffirmed the critical role that civil society plays in the SDG follow-up and review process, and the need to strengthen its capacity to contribute meaningfully to this process.

Reviewing existing plans and adapting the SDGs to the national context

Building on the international conference and the Praia Declaration, the Government of Cabo Verde held a national workshop on ‘Mainstreaming and Financing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Cabo Verde’. The event helped officers of the Ministry of Finance and Planning and line ministries, as well as other stakeholders, to familiarize themselves with the SDGs. It emphasized the need to identify priority SDGs for Cabo Verde on the basis of the country’s long-term vision, and reiterated the importance of ensuring that this part of the process be underpinned by broad-based consultations, including representatives from government ministries, civil society and the private sector.

In addition, with UN support, a Rapid Integrated Assessment was conducted over the country’s Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy III (2012–2016) against the 116 SDG targets. For the preparatory work to establish the next national development plan, the outcome of the Rapid Integrated Assessment as well as a more detailed analysis of sectoral and subnational plans will be utilized to further identify gaps and priorities for implementation of the SDGs.

7 Available at http://www.un.cv/files/Praia_declaration_final_eng.pdf



Cabo Verde Government retreat in June 2016 to discuss the SDGs and how to integrate them into national policies and strategies (from left to right: President of the Council of Ministers and Minister for Parliamentary Affairs, the Prime Minister and the UN Resident Coordinator). Photo: Anita Pinto/Joint Office of UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF

Monitoring and reporting

Cabo Verde has also been making a significant contribution to the global SDGs, by actively participating in the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs and by providing support to the Praia Group on Governance Statistics, tasked with the methodological development of SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions), which has no established or harmonized methodology. The first meeting of the Praia Group took place in the capital of Cabo Verde in June 2015, where it was officially created with the membership of important statistics institutions worldwide such as Paris 21, the World Bank, the African Development Bank, UNDP, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), UNFPA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Women and a number of Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and African Union countries. This first meeting decided on the construction of a roadmap for the harmonization of governance statistics. The roadmap will be discussed at the second meeting, scheduled for July 2016 in Paris.

Budgeting for the future

Having graduated from least developed country status, Cabo Verde faces a unique set of challenges, most notably linked to reduced access to a wide range of international support measures. To meet these challenges, through the national workshop, the government also examined financing instruments from other countries and discussed options to reorient existing public expenditures and make them more efficient, as well as options to mobilize new revenues from domestic and external, public and private sources.



National ownership and reviewing national plans for adapting the SDGs

The Government of Mauritania undertook a Rapid Integrated Assessment with UN support to inform its new Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity for 2016–2030. The results showed that 92 SDG targets are represented in the existing strategic framework, suggesting good integration so far, with gaps to be addressed. This assessment will inform the formulation of the new strategy, which marks a transition from 15 years of implementing a strategy and policy focused on poverty reduction, to the formulation of a new, ambitious development strategy through to 2030.

In addition, the Ministry of Economy and Finances provided SDG-related training to the new strategy's technical team, using UN tools and modules. This training focused on the challenges of integrating the SDGs into national plans, with particular attention to cross-cutting elements, data and accountability.

Raising public awareness

In October 2015, the Ministry for the Economy and Finance, with support from the UN as part of its 70th anniversary celebrations, gathered participants from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, the government, parliamentarians, financial and technical partners and researchers to launch the 2030 Agenda and discuss future implementation of the SDGs in Mauritania. The celebrations included a free concert by local musicians, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the UN to promote the SDGs and raise public awareness of the role of each citizen to achieve them. The UN system in Mauritania also organized a national photography contest with the theme of the SDGs, giving all Mauritians the chance to depict an SDG of their choice.

An awareness-raising workshop took place in May 2016 to explain the global SDG formulation process and the future mainstreaming of the SDGs into Mauritania's new strategy. The event brought together multiple government departments and the private sector (e.g. the Employers Association and the Chamber of Commerce), civil society (e.g. Platform of Non-State Actors, Organization for the Defense of the Disabled, Observatory of Organizations for Human Rights, the Network for the Social Promotion and Environment Protection, Mauritanian Association for Assistance to the Needy) and international technical and financial partners (e.g. the UN, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and the European Union). The workshop allowed the participants to better understand the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs, to learn about the SDGs and to understand the importance of integrating them into national plans. The participants, based on their field of activity and expertise, also provided recommendations for the whole SDG mainstreaming and implementation process.

Inclusive participation

As part of the celebration of the UN's 70th anniversary, the Ministry of Social Affairs, Children and Family and the UN system collaborated with the Center for Children Living with a Disability to organize a free concert at the Olympic Stadium. The musical group Evolution (with members representing youth from all diverse segments of Mauritanian society) performed a song about the SDGs while children from the Center performed a choreographed dance. Malian refugees also took part in the celebrations, through the musical group Etrane Timbuktu. The participation of children with disabilities and refugees in the performance was an effective way to highlight the commitment to leave no one behind in the process to implement the SDGs.

Furthermore, representatives of marginalized groups, such as the Association for Disabled, Blind and Visually Impaired People, have taken part in the work to mainstream the SDGs into the Strategy of Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity, including in awareness-raising workshops and technical work to prioritize the SDGs.



UNCT Mauritania, communicating on the SDGs, Nouakchott, Mauritania. Photo: UN

National ownership

Despite a devastating decade-long civil war (1991–2001), Sierra Leone made significant progress towards achieving the MDGs. However, in 2014–2015 the country was hit hard by the Ebola crisis as well as a coincidental collapse in international iron ore prices — a key source of fiscal revenues and foreign exchange — presenting a considerable challenge for the country’s Vision 2035 of becoming a middle-income country. Today the SDGs are being implemented against a backdrop of multiple recovery strategies, including the third Poverty Reduction Strategy (Agenda for Prosperity 2013–2018) and the National Ebola Recovery Strategy/Presidential Recovery Priorities (2015–2017). Both strategies are informed by the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States.⁸

Progress is being made on implementing the SDGs, despite the circumstances of recent years, due to strong leadership from the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. In an impressive move, Sierra Leone’s 2016 national budget already reflects all 17 SDGs aligned with the eight pillars of the Agenda for Prosperity.

The government also launched a popular version of the SDGs in the parliament during the national Budget Speech and distributed it to a cross-section of other stakeholders, including civil servants, NGOs and CSOs. With financial support from the New Deal facility,⁹ MOFED provided a briefing to the Cabinet and held several radio talk shows to explain the SDGs to the general public.

Adapting the SDGs to the national context

The Government of Sierra Leone, in collaboration with the UNCT, held a technical retreat in December 2015 to review the SDGs against the landscape of existing strategies and plans, including the Agenda for Prosperity, and to draft an SDG Adaptation Report to be presented at the HLPF in 2016. This retreat included, among others, line ministries, departments and agencies, CSOs and UN agencies.

Raising public awareness

Public awareness-raising efforts also saw early progress in Sierra Leone. To lay the foundation, the UNCT prepared a novel SDG communications strategy which domesticated and simplified the messages of the SDGs. With the communications strategy in hand, the UNCT held two SDG photo and banner exhibitions in the capital city as well as a nationwide campaign at the Universities of Kenema, Bo, Makeni and Njala by engaging with mayors, university teachers and students. In addition, the government also held a national conference, with support from the UNCT, at the University of Makeni in March 2016, to discuss the ways to transition from the MDGs to the SDGs and the challenges facing the country in the SDG era. Another innovative move was the UN Communications Group’s special training to familiarize journalists with the SDGs and facilitate objective reporting of progress and challenges to implementation in light of the Ebola crisis.

8 In 2011, at the Busan Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, the g7+ group of self-identified fragile states, in collaboration with the UN, the Development Assistance Committee of the OECD, the World Bank Group and the African Development Bank — under the aegis of the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding — endorsed the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States. The New Deal aimed to advance progress on the MDGs in fragile contexts by achieving five interlinked Peacebuilding and Statebuilding Goals (PSGs), through international cooperation.

9 The New Deal Facility was established in 2013 to provide coordinated financial and technical support for implementation of aspects of the New Deal. It is managed at the global level by UNDP, in close collaboration with the other partners, including the g7+ Secretariat, the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding and the International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF).

Due to these efforts, key stakeholders are well aware of the SDGs. In particular, SDG 16 on governance gained wide recognition as a critical goal for Sierra Leone as a post-conflict country and a founding member of the g7+, a voluntary association of countries that are or have been affected by conflict and are now in transition to the next stage of development.

Assessing risks and fostering adaptability

Lessons learned from the Ebola crisis and the collapse in international iron ore prices informed the development of the National Ebola Recovery Strategy/Presidential Recovery Priorities (2015–2017). The objective is to ensure that the country maintains zero cases of Ebola while ‘building back better’ national systems for resilience and national development, including preparedness to face future shocks and epidemics. The national strategy comprises seven presidential priority sectors: health, education, social protection, private sector development, water, energy and governance. Implementation of the first phase ended in March 2016, and the second phase started in April 2016. Discussions are under way for the presidential priorities to integrate the SDGs.



School girls in Sierra Leone ponder about SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure). Photo: UNCG

National ownership

Uganda is one of the first countries to align its national planning processes to the 2030 Agenda. In 2014, its government committed to integrating the SDGs into its 2015/16–2019/20 National Development Plan (NDPII), which was formally launched in mid-2015. It estimates that 76 percent of the SDGs are already integrated into the NDPII.

Adapting SDGs to the national context

With the SDGs integrated into the NDPII, the government recognized the importance of further mainstreaming these goals to ensure effective implementation. To this effect, with UN support, it undertook the alignment of subnational development plans with the national plan and SDGs. This involved training technical staff in local governments and extensive quality assurance of the draft plans. These plans are already guiding the budgeting process at the subnational level. The government is now in the process of aligning its sector development plans.

Inclusive participation

Uganda established a National SDG Task Force which meets quarterly and is informed by Technical Working Groups, each with representatives from government ministries and agencies as well as the UN, development partners, CSOs and the private sector. Government-led Sector Working Groups provide input into the Technical Working Groups to ensure a link between Uganda's SDG coordination framework and implementing ministries, agencies and partners.

Institutional coordination

The Office of the Prime Minister has overall responsibility for coordinating the implementation of the SDGs in Uganda, including monitoring, reporting, raising awareness and advocacy. It is currently in the process of developing an SDG coordination mechanism led by four government agencies. Responsibilities have been assigned to each ministry and agency; for example, the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development is responsible for financing the SDGs, the National Planning Authority takes the lead for integrating the SDGs into national, sector and local government planning frameworks, and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics deals with data generation, analysis and dissemination.

Additionally, the UNCT in Uganda has established a coordination structure aligned with the government's coordination framework to support implementation of the SDGs, including a Technical Working Group, comprising UN technical staff, and an SDG Advisory Group, taking the leadership in overseeing the UN's Uganda Road Map on SDG Implementation.

Raising public awareness

In the period leading up to the global launch of the SDGs in 2015, the UN, in collaboration with CSOs and the private sector, delivered media orientation training on the SDGs to 50 journalists from both electronic and print media. The Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda held a press event with Cabinet ministers and development partners for the global launch of the 2030 Agenda, which was followed by a national SDG launch event organized by the government in collaboration with the UN. The national launch included an exhibition of the 17 SDGs by stakeholders, and five eminent Ugandans were engaged to serve as SDG ambassadors to help raise awareness by taking part in this and other SDG

events, as well as voicing radio messages. The Ministry of Information and National Guidance is leading a Technical Working Group which is currently formulating an SDG Popularization, Communication and Advocacy Strategy.

Monitoring and reporting

Three instruments will be used to monitor, evaluate and report on the SDGs in Uganda: the National Standard Indicator Framework, to track progress towards attainment of middle-income status by 2020, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy and the Integrated Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy. The government estimates that only 80 out of 231 indicators in the SDG global indicator framework have data readily available in its current national statistical framework. Efforts are under way, therefore, to develop and integrate other indicators that cover all the relevant SDG targets. Additionally, Pulse Lab Kampala — part of the UN Secretary-General's Global Pulse initiative — and several UN agencies are supporting Uganda's efforts to improve the availability of data to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the SDGs.

Uganda is working to define baselines and monitor and evaluate progress towards the achievement of set targets. It is one of three countries in the region that has been selected to implement the UN Statistics Division project on monitoring and reporting SDG indicators through a strengthened national statistics system. A number of UN entities are supporting this work, including UNICEF, which is supporting efforts to set baselines for Target 1.2¹⁰ by analysing child poverty.



Uganda's Prime Minister Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Ruganda (centre, with yellow tie) with Cabinet ministers and development partners during the press event to mark the global launch of the SDGs in Uganda on 28 September 2015. Photo: UN Uganda

¹⁰ By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round.

National ownership

Egypt has endorsed both the global 2030 Agenda and the regional African Union Agenda 2063, which strives to enable Africa to remain focused and committed to the ideals envisaged in the context of a rapidly changing world. The year 2016 marked a convergence of strategic planning for Egypt. At the national level, Egypt's Vision 2030 was endorsed by the newly elected parliament as the nation's sustainable development strategy. It aims to promote a competitive, balanced and diversified economy based on justice, social integrity and participation. The next 15 years will thus certainly place many important strategic demands on the country, including overcoming structural challenges, mobilizing resources and coordinating efforts to fulfil its national Vision 2030 and its commitments to the regional and global agendas.

Egypt has shown early signs of commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda, and has already taken a number of important steps. In December 2015, the Prime Minister issued a decree to form a national committee, composed of key ministries and state institutions, to follow up on the implementation of the SDGs and to effectively report on progress. The Minister of International Cooperation was appointed as its Rapporteur.

Reviewing national plans and adapting the SDGs to the national context

With support from the UN, the Government of Egypt is conducting a rapid review of its existing strategies, including Egypt Vision 2030 and other relevant sectoral plans. The objective is to assess the level of alignment with the SDGs, identify possible gaps between existing national priority goals and targets and global targets, and highlight areas for change.

Raising public awareness

There has been a significant focus on systematically promoting public understanding of the SDGs. For instance, the UN in Egypt held an 'Open Code for Sustainable Development' camp in September 2015 as part of the Social Good Summit to launch the SDGs in the country. More than 100 children and youth took part in the camp and learned about new web programming and management technologies to develop solutions to help achieve the SDGs. Similarly, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Youth, together with the UN, used the occasion of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in May 2016 — which brought together more than 300 sports celebrities, diplomats, the general public and the media — to support and raise awareness of the SDGs.

Inclusive participation

The government has initiated a multi-stakeholder consultation process with CSOs, major groups from academia, the private sector, special interest groups, children and youth to raise awareness of the SDGs and seek their views and feedback on the SDG implementation. This process builds on the consultative process that Egypt undertook in partnership with the UN and development partners to prepare the post-2015 consultation The World We Want, during which over 17,000 Egyptians participated in shaping the 2030 Agenda.



Egyptian youth came together to support the SDGs during the 'Open Code for Sustainable Development' camp in Cairo. Photo: UNDP Egypt

Monitoring and reporting

The national statistical agency, the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS), has established an SDG Coordination Unit to build capacity and contextualize and set out the national indicator framework necessary to monitor and track Egypt's progress towards achieving the SDGs. With the support of the UN, it is conducting a comprehensive assessment of its capacities and data systems. Egypt is also one of the African countries taking part in the 2016 Africa Data Report initiative¹¹ to assess what is needed to fully realize the data revolution. The report will feed into other SDG initiatives and studies by providing concrete analysis of data issues at national and regional levels.

With the support of the UN and other development partners, the government is looking into evaluating impact and building national capacity to assess the long-term effects of policies on specific SDGs, notably poverty alleviation, food security, child protection, employment and climate change, with the objective of fostering a knowledge base for policy dialogue and evidence-based decision-making.

¹¹ The 2016 Africa Data Report is a joint initiative between the Economic Commission for Africa, UNDP, the International Development Research Centre and the World Wide Web Foundation. The initiative aims to capture the current state of data ecosystems on the continent, to establish in 2016 — as the first year of the SDG era — a baseline against which the progress of the data revolution for sustainable development can be measured in subsequent years.

The constitutional pathway

Morocco's national priorities are derived from its 2011 constitutional reforms with a focus to: complete the democratic transition and strengthen human rights; improve its economic viability, environmental sustainability and social stability; scale up climate change adaptation and energy transition; and consolidate its strategic leadership regionally and globally. For Morocco, the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs has enabled a strategic focus on inclusive development and the environment. As a further testament to the country's commitment to sustainable development, in 2016 Morocco will host the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP22) in Marrakech.

National ownership

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the High Commission for Planning in Morocco, together with a national interministerial committee and the UNCT, organized a national consultation in May 2016 under the theme 'Contextualization of the 2030 Agenda in Morocco: Leave No One Behind'. During the consultations, approximately 500 stakeholders had the opportunity to collectively examine the 2030 Agenda, learn about the country's engagement at the international level and explore their roles and responsibilities to achieve the goals. It was also the first opportunity for high-level public officials to take stock collectively on key national policies and sectoral strategies related to the SDGs.



Participants from CSOs, municipalities and the UN system at the national consultation workshop in Morocco. Photo: UNDP Morocco

Raising public awareness

Close to 200 non-state participants, mainly digital entrepreneurs, children and young people, civil society activists, celebrities, journalists and activists joined the national consultation. The UN also engaged the Royal Institute of the Amazigh Culture to translate the SDGs into the Amazigh language, which in 2011 became an official language of Morocco, alongside Arabic. Social media (#MarocODD) was used to inform stakeholders about the issues to be discussed at the national consultation workshop.

Also, as part of the 'Project Everyone' campaign during the week preceding the UN Sustainable Development Summit, Hit Radio, a leading radio station with approximately 1.8 million listeners per day, partnered with the UN to translate SDG messages into Moroccan Arabic and broadcast them to reach young people.

Reviewing the SDGs and the national context

Thirty-five high-level panellists from the Moroccan parliament, administration, the Ministry of Justice, the Human Rights Council and the Confederation of Business Enterprises gave presentations on the status of the SDGs related to their sectors during the national consultations. The discussions and exchanges among participants collectively examined the work in progress and implementation and monitoring challenges. It also delved into the need for public policy coherence, adequate financing, and monitoring and evaluation systems.

The Planning Commission shared the national framework which addresses the main targets and indicators. An initial analysis by the government revealed that the national statistical system can produce data on about 63 percent of the global SDG indicators. The missing data relate mainly to the SDGs on governance and the environment.

Inclusive participation

The Economic and Social Council, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN system brought together CSOs and national institutions in the consultations. Discussions included how to support local authorities in the development, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and how to effectively engage children and youth and foster awareness and ownership of the 2030 Agenda. The role of CSOs in maintaining the public debate was also highlighted. UN entities such as UNDP, the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNESCO, UNV and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNESCWA) proposed areas of policy support and tools at regional, national and subnational levels in support of contextualizing and accelerating the SDGs in Morocco. With a particular focus on children and youth, UNICEF and UNV organized sessions during and after the national consultations, leading to positive feedback that those sessions helped enhance the civic engagement of young people at the local level.



UNICEF and UNV facilitated a consultation with children and youth to hear their views on implementation of the SDGs in their country and contribute these ideas to the Moroccan Voluntary National Review at the HLPF in 2016. Photo: UNICEF Morocco

National ownership

Somalia is recovering from three decades of internal struggle, which led to large numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, an economy dependent on remittances and international aid, and levels of insecurity that remain among the highest in the world. In January 2016, Somalia's Deputy Prime Minister launched the SDGs, and a decision was made to align the National Development Plan (NDP) (2017–2019) with the SDGs as far as possible. This is a remarkable achievement given that virtually all government institutions disappeared during the conflict, and along with them, the infrastructure and the knowledge about how to manage government itself. In fact, a large part of the population has no living memory of what a government does. A new transitional national government was only established in 2012, and government structures and public service functions were reintroduced in the country step by step. As of mid-2016, only one region still remains in the process of establishing a federal state government.

The recent creation of Somalia's NDP is a noteworthy achievement and provides the foundation for adapting the SDGs to its national context. For the first time in over 25 years, the federal government has engaged in a process to clearly identify national priorities and has developed a strategic national framework to realize them. It adopted the notion of 'national led – national owned', and under this principle embarked on extensive consultations throughout the country.

Adapting SDGs to the national context

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) is the coordinating agency for the NDP. With UN support, it undertook a first exercise to prioritize the SDGs and targets. Taking the SDGs as a basic entry point, a dedicated working group was established to design the results framework for the NDP, as well as to develop the monitoring, evaluation and statistical framework that would be required to gain insight into development progress in the years ahead. The working group is led by MOPIC and includes representation from all the heads of the planning, monitoring and evaluation and statistics departments of the federal ministries, along with a number of UN agencies, including UNDP, UN Women, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF and UNFPA.

Inclusive participation

The process for devising the new NDP has created a foundation for multi-stakeholder engagement. Consultations at the national level involved civil society groups, including women, children and youth, and the private sector. At the regional level, consultations were held with representatives of the government, the private sector, academia and NGOs. For example, the event for the economic pillar was organized by a dedicated coordination group on private sector development. It included participants from the private sector, including six different chambers of commerce, nine federal government ministries, four state Ministers of Commerce and 10 international partners. In June 2016, a dedicated event for women's groups was held with over 60 participants from a variety of women's organizations throughout Somalia. The main recommendations emerging from the consultation included mainstreaming of gender in the key priorities of the NDP, better representation of women both at the political level and in the administration, and the protection of women's livelihoods, since they are disproportionately affected by the security situation. These recommendations will be taken forward in the final NDP.

In an innovative step, the MOPIC regularly holds ‘ask me anything’ sessions on Twitter. The NDP hashtag (#NDPSomalia) was for some time the most active one in Somalia.

These consultation events not only increased awareness of the SDGs but have also helped stimulate action by non-governmental entities. For instance, the Somali Institute for Development and Research Analysis, a think tank based in Puntland, is planning continued engagement with citizens to gain insight into how they perceive progress on the SDGs.

“Planning in a country that is recovering from civil strife needs to bring the whole society together around common national goals, making processes as participatory as possible. The other major impetus behind the NDC is knowledge transfer and better coordination between the centre [federal government] and the federal member states.”

H.E. Mr. Abdirahman Aynte
Federal Minister of Planning and International Cooperation
and Chair of the NDC

Horizontal and vertical coordination and coherence

The NDP process is prompting further national integration of institutions and coordination. For instance, the National Development Council (NDC) has been established. It is chaired by the Federal Minister of MOPIC and is composed of the planning ministries of the federal member states and includes, among others, strong representation from civil society, especially women (Somali National Women Organization) and youth (Somali Youth Council). The NDC serves as a high-level coordination forum and premier technocratic platform for policy discussions on such issues as progress of the NDP, improvement in the aid coordination model and the localization of the SDGs.

Monitoring and reporting

While the planning of the goals and targets is complicated, the main concern is the identification of the indicators where actual data exist that can be used to measure progress. The statistics infrastructure in the country was destroyed and needs to be built up again almost from scratch. In the absence of administratively collected data, this implies that the majority of indicators will need to be collected through dedicated surveys. The working group focusing on the NDP results framework has started discussions on a process that would allow for and stimulate harmonization of the different country-wide surveys that are being planned, to create the necessary time-series data.

UNICEF is also seeking to partner with academia to lead efforts to gather perception data and ensure that participatory monitoring takes place in parallel to government planning and consultation. This effort intends to ensure participation of children, youth and other stakeholders in the NDP process and to build national-level awareness of the SDGs.

Assessing risk and fostering adaptability

The NDP guarantees attention to poverty reduction, sound public finance management as well as an inclusive approach to creating the plan. With attention to the overall political framework, governance, infrastructure and private sector development, the NDP equally includes a dedicated chapter on resilience, tackling disaster risk management and the country’s vulnerability to climate change, but also proposing a framework to solidly coordinate the humanitarian and development work.

National ownership

Indonesia has been involved in the SDGs since their early conception in 2012 when former President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono was appointed as a Co-Chair of the High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Indonesia has expressed its strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. President Joko Widodo's nine national priorities and the country's Medium-Term Development Plans align well with the SDGs. The National Development Planning Agency, Bappenas, performed a mapping exercise for the goals and targets of the national plan with the SDGs, finding that 108 out of 169 SDG targets are matched. Some of the boldest targets, such as ending violence against children, are openly debated and thereby in the realm of the possible to achieve. A Presidential Regulation has been drafted to establish governance mechanisms for the SDGs that are conducive to stakeholder engagement and will guide mainstreaming of the SDGs into sectoral development plans and budgets. The Regulation also ensures the role of provincial government in leading implementation of the SDGs at their level and in the districts under their supervision. It also demands regular monitoring and evaluation reporting from ministries and the subnational level.

Institutional coordination and coherence

Effective January 2016, the government transformed its MDGs Secretariat into the SDGs Transition Secretariat, operationalized with additional support from the UNCT, the Australian government, the Asian Development Bank and the Ford Foundation. It is notable that the Ministry of Health has also created a secretariat to deal specifically with SDG 3 on good health and well-being.

The Planning Office of Indonesia's Riau provincial government has collaborated with UNDP and Tanoto Foundation in localizing the SDGs at provincial and district levels. It held its first multi-stakeholder consultation in May 2016 and has selected three districts to pioneer development of the SDG District Action Plan. Meanwhile, Bappenas, the International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID) and UNDP have been contacted by several provincial and district governments seeking technical assistance and guidance to roll out the SDGs at their level.

Inclusive participation

Indonesia's approach to adapting the 2030 Agenda to its national and subnational contexts is characterized by the participation of a wide range of stakeholders in SDG discussions and a decentralized approach. Following President Widodo's commitment to CSOs in December 2015, the SDGs Transition Secretariat held dialogues with civil society networks such as INFID, and the private sector, to translate that commitment to inclusive SDG governance into a policy framework.

Private-sector organizations in Indonesia have been among the most active partners in launching SDG-related activities. The SDG Philanthropy Platform facilitates dialogue and collaboration on the SDGs. The Association of Philanthropy Indonesia (Filantropi Indonesia), together with the Indonesian Global Compact Network, the Indonesian Business Council for Sustainable Development and the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, have launched the Forum Filantropi dan Bisnis — Indonesia untuk SDGs (the Indonesia Philanthropy and Business for the SDGs), which has a membership of 10 associations representing more than 600 businesses and philanthropic foundations. Also, business, trade unions, the Ministry of Manpower of Indonesia and the ILO jointly hosted a tripartite conference in February 2016 to discuss the impact of various labour policies and institutions on the objectives included in the SDGs, particularly in SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth). Participants acknowledged the critical importance of tripartite social dialogue to achieving inclusive growth and decent work.



In December 2015, the CSO network met President Joko Widodo to talk about implementing the SDGs, the need for a policy framework, more inclusive coordination and a 5- to 15-year action plan. Photo: INFID

By May 2016, two public universities had engaged in the SDGs. The University of Indonesia is collaborating with the Sustainable Development Solutions Network and Bappenas on localizing the SDGs, and the University of Padjajaran has established an SDG Centre to prepare policy recommendations and independent monitoring of the SDGs. A private university, BINUS, has also adapted its community development programme to contribute to SDGs 1 to 8.

Raising public awareness

To raise awareness of the SDGs among young people and children, who represent 25 percent of the Indonesian population, the UN Resident Coordinator in Indonesia appeared in two 30-minute shows on the biggest national TV channel, TV RI, to talk with young children about development in the country and the importance of achieving the SDGs. The UN in Indonesia also created an SDG partnership with Radio Elshinta, one of Indonesia's premier and largest radio networks, generating 25 interviews and articles about the SDGs to date. The information is also cross-posted with other Elshinta channels, including Elshinta TV and Elshinta Magazine. Their postings on social media are shared with over 1.6 million followers on Twitter (hashtag #ElshintaSDGs). The UN has entered into a partnership for the SDGs with the most influential daily newspaper, *Kompas*, and has named a renowned actor and a famous musician as 'SDG movers' to campaign for the SDGs.

Monitoring and reporting

The National Statistical Office (BPS) is assessing its capacity to measure SDG indicators and discussing the establishment of a data monitoring system to record progress against them. BPS estimates that it will be able to supply one third of the data needs for the proposed indicators, and another one third can be found within the data repositories of the technical ministries. A data gap remains for the final third, but BPS is working with the UN to explore the possibility of using big data to fill it.

National ownership

While Pakistan struggled to meet the MDGs, due in part to a lack of awareness and ownership early on in the process, the SDG era is being met with early political commitment and national ownership. Already by February 2016 the National Assembly of Pakistan had passed a unanimous resolution to adopt the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as the national development agenda. The Speaker of the National Assembly constituted Parliamentary Task Forces at federal and provincial levels to oversee and support legislation for the SDGs and assigned the SDG Secretariat to provide support.

Additionally, the federal government and four provincial governments have already committed US\$15.5 million as co-financing to set up SDG Support Units, which aim to coordinate activities at both national and provincial levels. The governments will finance 50 percent of the total project budget of around US\$35 million, which will be used for four main outputs: (i) mainstreaming the SDGs in national policies and plans; (ii) data and reporting; (iii) inclusive budgeting processes and tracking expenditure; and (iv) innovation.

Institutional coordination and coherence

During the MDG era, there were no institutional structures in place to coordinate planning and provide policy coherence. This time, the government has established SDG Support Units at federal and provincial levels with UN assistance, and has created the SDG Secretariat within the parliament. At the provincial level specifically, the government has begun the process of integrating the SDGs, including establishing approaches for the analysis of Annual Development Plans to help identify gaps in progress and financial allocations.



Launch of the SDGs in Pakistan, October 2015 (from left to right: Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator, Hon. Mr. Sikandar Hayat Khan Bosan, Minister for National Food Security and Research, Hon. Prof. Ahsan Iqbal, Minister for Planning, Development and Reform and Hon. Engr. Muhammad Baligh ur Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training). Photo: UNDP Pakistan

Raising public awareness

The launch of the SDGs in Pakistan in October 2015 was marked in the presence of the Minister for Planning, Development and Reform and the UN Resident Coordinator. The country has a devolved governance structure which empowers provinces to plan and implement development interventions. The importance of awareness and ownership at these levels was a key lesson learned from the MDG era.

Accordingly, provincial launches and consultative workshops were held in Sindh and Punjab with a view to raising awareness of the SDGs at the subnational level. Advocacy and awareness-raising materials were developed and disseminated to government officials at national and provincial levels, civil society, UN agencies and other international partners.

Inclusive participation

At the national launch of the SDGs, the government invited non-state partners to discuss the country's SDG roll-out plans. The Parliamentary Task Force on the SDGs also ensured the participation of development partners, including UN agencies, CSOs, think tanks and the media, in a national consultation workshop focusing on malnutrition. In Sindh and Punjab provinces, consultations to launch and prioritize the SDGs at the provincial level involved not only senior provincial officials but also CSOs, think tanks and academia.

Monitoring and reporting

Pakistan was able to produce regular data for 33 of the 60 MDG indicators, while the SDGs have 231 indicators. A preliminary exercise to assess the data gap for the SDGs shows that data are available for 125 indicators at the national level, 71 at the provincial level and 27 at the district level.

The initial assessment portrays a dismal picture of the availability of data at federal level for SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions). Also, the data gaps widen as the analysis moves from the national to the district level. The findings show that data for most of the indicators for SDGs 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 10 (reduced inequalities), 12 (responsible consumption and production) and 15 (life on land) are not available at district level. District-level data are costlier and require greater effort to collect and analyse because of the larger sample size and disaggregation required.



SDGs infographics in the national language (Urdu). Source: UNDP Pakistan



National ownership

The Philippine government has embraced the need for the country to mainstream the SDGs into its next national six-year development plan (2017–2022) and the 25-year development programme called 'Ambisyon Natin (Our Ambition) 2040'. It has led technical workshops to inform the core national-level indicators for effective monitoring of progress against the SDGs.

Institutional coordination and coherence

The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) proposed the creation of the Committee on SDGs to spearhead the national implementation of the SDGs and promote rapid, inclusive and sustained economic growth. The Committee will comprise the heads of various national government agencies, with the Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning as the Chair. In addition, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Board has recently approved a resolution enjoining all government agencies to provide the necessary data support to monitor the SDGs. The Philippines Statistical Development Plan 2011–2017 now includes a separate chapter for the compilation and improvement of national SDG indicators.

“The Philippines pledges to make the 2030 Agenda a reality and to leave no one behind. It is our sacred responsibility to our children and to future generations, and our solemn duty as members of the United Nations.”

Arsenio Balisacan
Former NEDA Director General and
Secretary of Socioeconomic Planning

At the subnational level, the Mindanao NEDA Sub-national Offices have passed a resolution requesting the establishment of an operational and integrated mechanism for the localization of the SDGs within the NEDA. The mechanism will define the development actions and commitments required at the regional/local level to contribute to attaining the SDG targets. The resolution also called for the NEDA Central Office to ensure a highly participatory and consultative process by involving the regions in SDG-related activities through the existing Regional Development Councils.

Raising public awareness

Several CSOs have organized theme- and sector-focused forums and workshops to discuss how the SDG framework could be used to identify issues and interventions for specific sectors and themes. The private sector and business groups have also started advocacy initiatives to increase understanding and the engagement of relevant actors in inclusive business and the broader SDG agenda.

In parallel, the UN continues to support the government in raising public awareness on the SDGs by developing advocacy and information materials, including an SDG presentation template, an SDG 'commitment' wall, SDG selfie boards to support the #GlobalGoals campaign, and an SDG booklet. These communication materials were used in many public awareness-raising events such as the UN's 70th anniversary celebrations, children's and youth events, private-sector events and academic forums.

Inclusive participation

Social Watch Philippines, a civil society network composed of more than 100 CSOs and individuals, is formulating a Spotlight Report with UN support, which will complement the government's Voluntary National Review for the 2016 HLPF. It will be drawn from a series of consultations that will analyse poverty and inequality, the inclusiveness of growth and its environmental implications, and structural

and systemic issues, including multi-stakeholderism and partnership. The results are also expected to feed into the government's national visioning and planning exercise. Business groups are also planning a portal to capture the private sector's contributions to SDG targets.

Monitoring and reporting

In October 2015, NEDA, in coordination with the PSA and with UNDP support, conducted the First Technical Workshop on SDGs Indicators. This event was attended by 269 participants from various national government agencies, CSOs, academic institutions and the UNCT. Then in May 2016 the Second Technical Workshop on SDGs Indicators was convened with over 300 participants to inform the report by the Philippines to the Voluntary National Review for the HLPF in July. At these workshops, the initial list of SDG indicators was examined within the context of the country's development objectives, and relevant indicators that were not included in the list were identified. The participants also assessed whether data on the SDG indicators were available from existing data sources, and prioritized those that should be part of the country's core indicators. Building on such basic mapping activities, 231 global indicators were examined and prioritized in accordance with the national context, while 23 additional national indicators were presented for SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being) and 5 (gender equality). The Department of Labor and Employment also initiated technical workshops with support from the ILO in May 2016 to identify and update indicators for SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth) and other goals covering elements of decent work. This led to a mapping of indicators in the Philippines covering decent work.



The SDGs were launched in the Philippines at the Social Good Summit in September 2015, organized by social news network Rappler with support from the UN. Photo: Alecs Ongcal/Rappler

National ownership

Georgia is enjoying a favourable start to implementation of the SDGs due to the government's demonstrated ownership of the SDG agenda and a national consensus about the importance of the new global goals for the country's development. The Administration of the Government of Georgia has established a working group comprising line ministries and the National Statistics Office to adapt the SDGs to the national context. Strong commitment to make the global goals an essential part of national priorities was clearly voiced at the Social Good Summit in September 2015 organized by the Administration of the Government, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection and the UN, in cooperation with the Government of the Ajara Autonomous Republic, one of the rapidly developing regions of Georgia that has engaged in piloting many of the SDG approaches. With the focus on pressing developmental issues faced by Georgia in the areas of environmental protection, economic growth and urban and rural development, the Summit paid particular attention to the development of national strategies required to address these challenges and the value of international cooperation to enhance the country's role in achieving the global goals. The discussion which had started at the Social Good Summit continued at the SDG Donor Round Table in January 2016.

Inclusive participation

Following a highly participatory Social Good Summit which brought on board government officials, representatives of subnational governments, civil society and the media, UN support to the nationalization of the SDGs continued by assisting an inclusive national dialogue about the Post-2015 Development Agenda. This included a series of introductory meetings in five regions of Georgia that engaged local authorities, NGOs, businesses and the media.

Adapting the SDGs to the national context

To adapt the SDGs to national priorities and challenges, the Government's Administration has prioritized 13 of the 17 SDGs and 79 global targets for the next 5–7 years. Additionally, 40 targets have been translated and adjusted, and 5 new national targets have been set, while the government intends to define all 17 SDGs as a permanent national priority. National and local CSOs provided inputs into identifying priority areas, and the government is continuing the dialogue process. The UNCT has held a series of consultations with the Government's Administration and all line ministries to provide feedback on the nationalization process, including specific targets and indicators.

Raising public awareness

Building on the successful engagement of approximately 10,000 Georgians during the national consultations in 2013 to inform the creation of the 2030 Agenda, the government, together with the UN, is considering creating an online digital platform for interactive data collection and visualization of



SDG leaflet for public consultations, produced in the framework of the project 'Inclusive Dialogue for Post-2015 Agenda Implementation' carried out by the Civil Development Agency (CIDA), together with the Administration of the Government and the UN in Georgia.

Source: UNCT Georgia

the SDGs and the Georgian nationalization process. Crowdsourcing tools such as the MY World survey, including an online platform and an SMS voting service, offer the opportunity to collect fresh data on the Georgian public's stance on the SDGs. Leaflets and guides are being developed in the Georgian language to raise awareness among local communities and municipalities. Additionally, introductory meetings were held in five regions of the country, with the aim of raising awareness of the SDGs among local governments and the private and civil sectors.

The UN has also partnered with the national NGO Civil Development Agency (CiDA) to support local-level outreach round tables, and a panel discussion was convened on the SDG agenda at the international conference 'Promoting Corporate Social Responsibility in Georgia' together with CiDA and the UN Global Compact.

Horizontal and vertical coordination

The establishment within the Government's Administration of two new units in 2014 greatly enhanced the government's capacity to lead the nationalization process and provided the UNCT with clear entry points and partners to support the SDG process. The Planning and Innovations Unit has led the nationalization process and horizontal policy coordination, while the Donor Coordination Unit has led the interface between the Government's Administration and international organizations.

Monitoring and reporting

With the support of the National Statistics Office of Georgia (Geostat), a reliable information base has been analysed to set the baseline indicator for each target. Geostat has worked with the line ministries to collect the relevant data and analyse weaknesses of disaggregated statistics. As of early 2016, nearly 120 indicators have been identified as having baseline data. Still, the lack of statistical data remains a challenge to setting reliable quantitative indicators.



Students from different Georgian universities take part in the MY World information sessions in Mtskheta. Photo: David Khizanishvili/UNDP

National ownership

Montenegro's ambitions as an 'ecological state' pursuing a sustainable development path stem from the 1990s and were reflected as early as 1992 in the text of the Constitution. This interest was further reflected in the country's high level of participation in global debates on the formulation of the SDGs, particularly through the Open Working Group, where the views of 12,000 people from national consultations 'Montenegro – the Future I Want' were presented.

The UN Montenegro and the civil sector collaborated closely with the government in the ambitious consultation process with the people of Montenegro, which included the most marginalized populations. In close cooperation with the UN, the government launched the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the UN, using a jointly developed animation entitled ['We have a plan'](#).¹²



Snapshot from a video animation 'We have a plan' which contextualizes the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Source: UN Montenegro/Government of Montenegro/Impuls company

Institutional coordination

In 2002, Montenegro established a National Council for Sustainable Development, which acts as an advisory body to the government for implementing sustainable development policies, while the line ministry responsible for sustainable development is in charge of implementation. Chaired by the President and consisting of 25 members (representatives of ministries, local authorities, the business sector, public institutions, civil society and independent experts), the National Council provides recommendations to the government for implementing sustainable development policies; harmonizes sectoral policies with the principles, objectives and measures of sustainable development, climate change and integrated coastal zone management; and amends the existing regulations and adopts new regulations for the harmonization of socio-economic development and conservation of natural resources with sustainable development policies.

Since the adoption of the first National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) in 2007, a new strategy has been proposed to reform the institutional set-up, in order to further strengthen capacities at the Ministry for Sustainable Development and Tourism and the public administration and improve their cooperation with national and international partners. The existing National Council was thus reformed as the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Changes and Integrated Coastal Zone Management, covering more diverse and integrated issues.

Reviewing existing plans and adapting the SDGs to the national context

A draft version of the NSSD 2030 was adopted by the Government of Montenegro, and a mapping of the indicators and targets proposed for each goal against existing national statistics was completed.

¹² Available at <http://www.un.org.me/news/1231/267/We-Have-a-Plan>

Public consultations with a broad spectrum of relevant stakeholders have been held, and the NSSD has fully aligned national goals with the 2030 Agenda. The Strategy was adopted by the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in June 2016, while the final adoption by the government is expected in mid-2016. The previous NSSD and MDG Progress Reports were used as important inputs to the new NSSD 2030. Discussions held within the Open Working Group on SDGs, intergovernmental negotiations and the outcomes of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda influenced the content and timing of the Strategy. A longer time horizon was adopted to align it with the 2030 Agenda, and ‘governance and financing’ for sustainable development was given a central position. The UN contributed to the development of the new NSSD, and it is expected to be further involved in setting up a national monitoring and evaluation system to track progress in implementing the NSSD Action Plan. Moreover, the government and UN Montenegro developed a new plan of cooperation for 2017–2021, taking the 2030 Agenda as a starting point for UN interventions in the country. They are currently working on developing an online hub that will *inter alia* help to communicate the SDGs and engage with partners in their implementation of the NSSD.

Monitoring and reporting

Monitoring and reporting on implementation of the NSSD has been taken seriously. An integrated NSSD monitoring framework proposes using 231 global SDG indicators, 281 national indicators, 9 composite indicators, and 36 other indicators provided by international organizations that are relevant to Montenegro.

Overall, 42.3 percent of the global set of SDG indicators will be tracked through existing or newly accessible data by 2018, since the preparation of the First National Report on NSSD implementation is planned in 2019. It is anticipated that by 2024, 74.7 percent of SDG indicators will be regularly monitored and reported on. Specific tasks are being assigned for the collection and storage of input data for the statistical indicators, as well as protocols for exchanging data and ensuring compatibility. The need for improved capacity is highlighted if reporting on the full range of indicators of sustainable development is to be realized.



A discussion on implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the government and partners, as part of a strategic discussion on a new government–UN programme of cooperation for 2017–2021. Photo: Miloš Vujović/UN

Reviewing existing plans and adapting the SDGs to the national context

The Government of Turkmenistan hosted 17 days of national consultations during March 2016 in collaboration with the UN. This was a novel beginning to the country's journey towards 2030. Each full-day session was jointly led by a government ministry and the UN and provided an opportunity to adjust the SDGs or define national indicators. On average 9 to 10 national ministries and departments were represented at each meeting, along with two representatives from the National Statistical Office.

These consultations led to 121 out of 169 global targets being recommended for adoption without modification, while an additional 27 targets were modified; 109 of the 231 global indicators were recommended for adoption without modification, and 50 were modified. In addition, 39 national indicators were formulated, resulting in a total of 198 indicators. This list of recommendations is being submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers for formal approval. Through the consultations, line ministries were able to openly exchange views and hold intersectoral discussions on sensitive topics, including discrepancies in data and HIV/AIDS indicators. The consultations provided an opportunity for capacity development by discussing in depth what each goal, target and indicator meant for the national context. They also contributed to building trust between the government and the UN for the work to follow.

Inclusive participation

During the process of defining the 2030 Agenda, Turkmenistan, with support from the UN, held country consultations to discuss the lessons learned from the implementation of the MDGs, to inform the public of the global discussions on the SDGs and seek their inputs into the 2030 Agenda. These consultations engaged with diverse stakeholders such as parliamentarians, academics, youth and school children (the Youth Union), women (the Women's Union), private-sector actors (the Union of Manufacturers and Entrepreneurs), and NGOs working with persons with disabilities. The consultations resulted in a very high level of government awareness of the SDGs and contributed to moving quickly to roll out the SDGs with a whole-of-government approach.

National ownership

The Government of Brazil has been a long-standing champion of sustainable development as the host of the 1992 Earth Summit and the 2012 Rio+20 Conference. The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) has represented the Mercosur countries and Chile on the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Indicators and has been elected as the new Chair of the UN Statistical Commission, actively contributing to the task of developing the SDG indicators at the global level. Both IBGE and the Interministerial Working Group on the Post-2015 Development Agenda — encompassing 27 ministries and bodies of federal administration — have undertaken consultations with different stakeholders to reflect Brazil's contribution to implementing the SDGs.



SDG flag-raising ceremony at UN House in Brasília, Brazil. Photo: Fabio Donato/UNDP

Inclusive participation

The UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (RIO+ Centre) relaunched the Rio Dialogues space in 2015 with a focus on an interactive SDG space for Brazilian youth to learn about the SDGs and how to get involved. There have been several outreach and live events to help support the effort, which has attracted considerable interest from universities and other groups. In 2016, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, there has been intense work to design a new institutional arrangement at the national level, with the aim of involving different stakeholders in implementing and following up the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs.

Institutional coordination

The Task Force on the Post-2015 Development Agenda (whose name was later changed to Task Force on the 2030 Agenda) was established in December 2014 to facilitate cooperation between the Brazilian federal government and UN entities on the issues of the new agenda. The Task Force is co-chaired by the Brazilian federal government, represented by the Ministry of External Relations, and brings together a full complement of UN entities including UNDP, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Women, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO, UNODC, UNIDO, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), ILO, UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR-CERRD), UNICEF, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNV, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG)/UNDP. In addition, the Brazilian Committee of the Global Compact Network is an observer member representing the private sector.

Monitoring and reporting

One of the main purposes of the Task Force is to contribute to identifying national social, economic and environmental indicators related to specific SDGs and their targets. In September 2015, the Task Force issued its publication 'Following-up the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Initial inputs from the United Nations System in Brazil on the identification of national indicators related to the Sustainable Development Goals'. Sixteen thematic groups covering SDGs 1–16 worked over nine months to produce the report, identifying around 570 indicators and highlighting data gaps regarding relevant information needed to follow up certain SDG targets. In 2016, the Task Force is planning to review its publication in light of the global indicator framework. This publication presented available national indicators as inputs for the follow-up process on the SDGs targets, which will be led by the Brazilian government. The Task Force will also launch a set of glossaries containing key terms and expressions used in the formulation of the SDGs and their targets.

National ownership

In February 2016, the Government of the Dominican Republic issued a Presidential Decree to enact a High-Level Inter-institutional Sustainable Development Commission with the mandate to oversee and implement the 2030 Agenda. The goal of the Commission is to integrate the SDGs into all planning instruments, particularly the National Development Strategy 2012–2030.

Institutional coordination

The Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD) is the line ministry in charge of implementing the 2030 Agenda. Recognizing the integrated nature of the Agenda, the UNCT has created an inter-agency coordination mechanism, led by UNDP, to monitor and provide support to national counterparts for the SDG mainstreaming process as well as strengthening the government's capacity to analyse the new development agenda.

Inclusive participation

The High-Level Inter-institutional Sustainable Development Commission is made up of government ministers, the private sector and NGO representatives engaged in work in all three pillars of the Agenda: social, economic and environmental. Two important institutions are part of the Commission: the National Council for the Elderly (CONAPE) and the National Council for HIV/AIDS, which represent populations that have traditionally received insufficient attention in public policy. The goal is to ensure that all sectors participate and put forward the main challenges they face. As such, there is a need to ensure that all groups in society have a space in the process of aligning, designing and implementing the SDGs as well as in the mechanisms developed to monitor and measure progress.

“We know sustainable development will neither happen overnight nor will it be the result of government intervention only. It is a common compromise: government, private sector and civil society. We all need to take part in the process of cultivating good and sustainable development.”

H.E. Mr. Temístocles Montás
Minister of Economy, Development and Planning

Raising public awareness

The government is committed to systematic action to improve public awareness about the 2030 Agenda. In January 2016, the second edition of the Dominican Diplomacy Forum focused on the SDGs and the promotion of mainstreaming the sustainable development agenda into diplomatic exchanges and cooperation. In June, during the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in Santo Domingo, the UNCT supported the government to raise awareness of SDG challenges, in collaboration with PAHO-WHO, UNDP and UNICEF. Similarly, the Latin America and Caribbean Social Development Forum (Santo Domingo, November 2016) will feature discussions about the SDGs and the related challenges and opportunities for social development.

Reviewing existing plans and adapting the SDGs to the national context

As part of the UN support to the High-Level Inter-institutional Sustainable Development Commission, the UNCT has started a Rapid Integrated Assessment to determine the country's level of preparedness to implement the 2030 Agenda. The results will inform the Commission's work and guide high-level recommendations.

Monitoring and reporting

The government launched an online platform to monitor the MDG indicators in 2013, just two years before the 2015 deadline. In contrast, for the SDGs the National Office of Statistics and MEPyD already have a proposal for the new SDG online platform, with plans to launch it in 2017 to ensure an early start to the monitoring process.

The National Office of Statistics has assessed national capacities for the production of statistics to monitor and report on the SDGs. It indicates that the government has full capacity to report on 27 percent of the global SDG indicators. For 34 percent of the indicators, there is little national information gathered for their calculation or the information available is deficient. For the remaining 39 percent of indicators, there is no national information available; therefore, complex methodological changes and substantial investments are required.



SDG flag-raising ceremony with the UN Resident Coordinator and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs (MIREX) and Economy, Planning and Development (MEPyD) in the Dominican Republic. Photo: César Sánchez/UN



National ownership

On the initiative of the President of the Republic, Salvador Sánchez Cerén, El Salvador decided to give a special boost to the implementation of the new 2030 Agenda in the country. Since the President's participation at the UN Sustainable Development Summit, the processes of adopting and implementing the 2030 Agenda have been guided from the highest level by the Presidency of the Republic, and operationally delegated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency.

Adapting the SDGs to the national context

The current Five-Year Development Plan (2014–2019) has already been studied and analysed in relation to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Among several similarities found, it is of particular interest to note that SDGs 8 (decent work and economic growth), 4 (quality education) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) clearly embody the three main priorities defined in the Plan: (i) productive employment generated through sustained economic growth; (ii) inclusive and equitable education; and (iii) effective citizen security.



*President Salvador Sanchez Cerén meets with representatives of the UN system in El Salvador, prior to the series of SDG workshops for public servants.
Photo: Carlos León/ORC*

In this context, on 15 December 2015, the Government of El Salvador and the UN signed a Memorandum of Understanding — the first of its kind — for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The first step identified in this process was to jointly develop comprehensive training on the 2030 Agenda for government officials, which involved 488 public servants from 71 national institutions. Significant contributions from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency enabled fruitful coordination with other national institutions and the successful provision of technical assistance.

Based on the UN's MAPS approach and the SDGs Roadmap, devised by Salvadoran public institutions as a country-specific guide for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, further initiatives aimed at fostering national ownership of the 2030 Agenda are now under way.

Raising public awareness

Numerous SDG awareness-raising initiatives have been organized with the international community, CSOs and the public and private sectors, at both national and local levels. In particular, under the auspices of the Presidency, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency, together with the UNCT, organized a series of training workshops for Salvadoran public servants on each of the 17 SDGs. These workshops aimed to: (i) develop, strengthen and complement public servants' knowledge on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs; (ii) promote a comprehensive understanding of the SDGs; (iii) analyse the links among the institutional strategic plans of the public institutions involved, the government's Five-Year Development Plan (2014–2019) and the 2030 Agenda; and (iv) create a dialogue space to exchange expertise and answer questions or concerns.

Inclusive participation

The development of the first phase of SDG mainstreaming in El Salvador is guided by a commitment to ensure the highest possible level of inclusive participation. These efforts are feeding the enthusiasm for the new 2030 Agenda, building on the results already achieved through the consultation and localizing phases, in which more than 4,000 Salvadorans shared their perspectives and ideas about the 'El Salvador We Want' as part of the UN SDG Action Campaign.

In addition, the creation of an integral and comprehensive National Council for Sustainable Development has been called for within the government, to foster synergies among the variety of development stakeholders, at the national and subnational levels, for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Monitoring and reporting

To overcome the monitoring and reporting challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda, the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have been working with the UN to review the complete list of SDG indicators, as a first step towards defining national targets. This work includes the development of a second series of workshops with Salvadoran public institutions, aiming at fostering multilateral dialogues on the issue and generating the seed for the creation and implementation of a one-of-its-kind national development agenda for the SDGs.



Salvadoran public servants identify the links between the SDGs and the national Five-Year Development Plan. Photo: Carlos León/ORC

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was produced under the guidance of the UNDG Sustainable Development Working Group, co-chaired by Omar Abdi, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, UNICEF; Amir Abdulla, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director, WFP; and Magdy Martínez-Solimán, Assistant Secretary-General and Director, UNDP. It would not have been possible without the contributions and commitment of agency colleagues across the UN system, and in particular in the UN Country Teams.

Individual cases were authored by UN colleagues at the country level, and the drafting of the publication was supported by Sorie Lee (UNDP) and by Darren Swanson (NovelFutures.com), with contributions from Alexander Freese (UNDOC), Nicole Igloi (UNDP) and Rosemary Kalapurakal (UNDP). The publication was edited by Jon Stacey (The Write Effect, UK) and designed by Sebastian Villar.



UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT GROUP

