

**Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development 2019**

**Major Groups and other  
Stakeholders (MGoS) Preparatory Workshop**




# **Voluntary National Reviews and the Role of Major Groups and other Stakeholders**

**Emily Hosek**

**United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs**

**16 April 2019**





## What is a Voluntary National Review (VNR)?

---

- Voluntary National Reviews are part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's follow-up and review mechanism.
- The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive **reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels**, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79)

# Principles of Voluntary National Reviews

## Voluntary

encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

## State-led

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

## Platform for partnerships

including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

## Learning experience

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

## National circumstances

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

## Open, Inclusive, Transparent

Facilitates communication with all stakeholders



## UN Secretary-General's voluntary common reporting guidelines

---

- To promote comparability and consistency and help countries structure their VNRs, the Secretary General has developed a set of common reporting guidelines.



# SG's Guideline Highlights

## VNRs should:

- ✓ be **open, inclusive, participatory and transparent** for all people and will **support reporting by all relevant stakeholders**.
- ✓ be **people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights** and have a particular focus on the **poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind**.
- ✓ maintain a **longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors** and **support countries in making informed policy choices**.
- ✓ Help to **mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships, support the identification of solutions and best practices** and **promote the coordination and effectiveness of the international development system**.

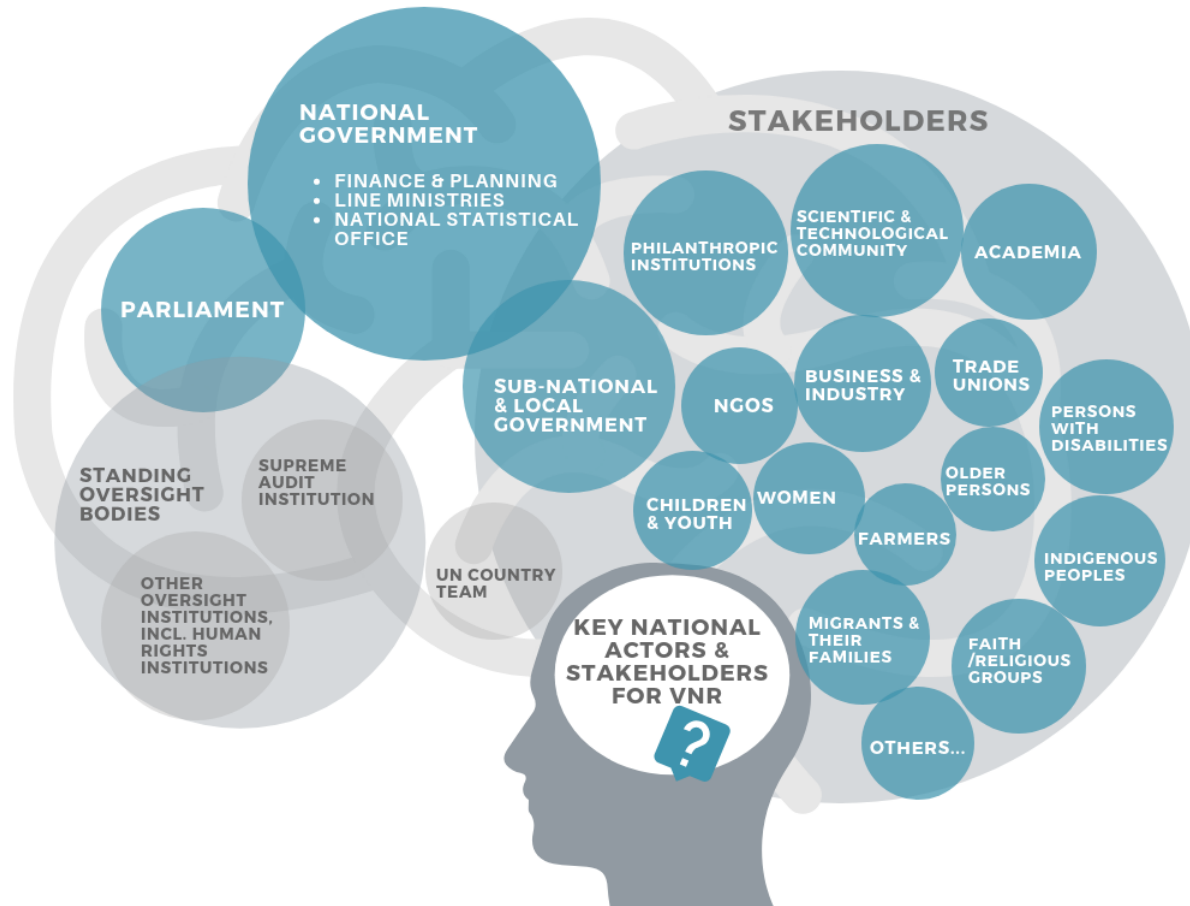
# How can the VNR process support national implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

- Catalyzes action!
- Strengthens political will, national ownership, institutions and coordination
- Identifies areas where support is needed
- Provides an important communication tool
- Changes mindsets
- Draws lessons and provides critical reflections on the process
- Provides impetus to continue national implementation after the VNR has been presented at the HLPF



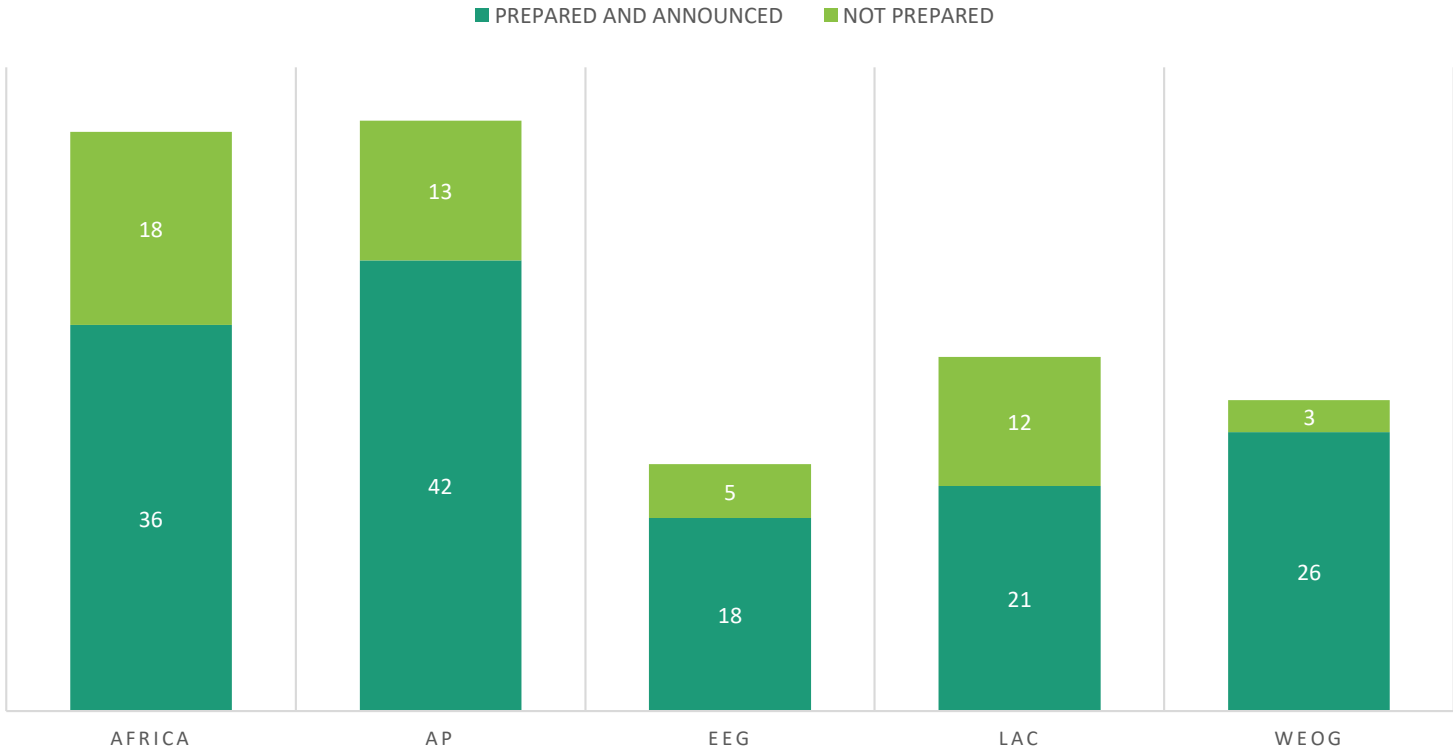
**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

# Who is engaged in the VNRs?



# Global Status of VNRs

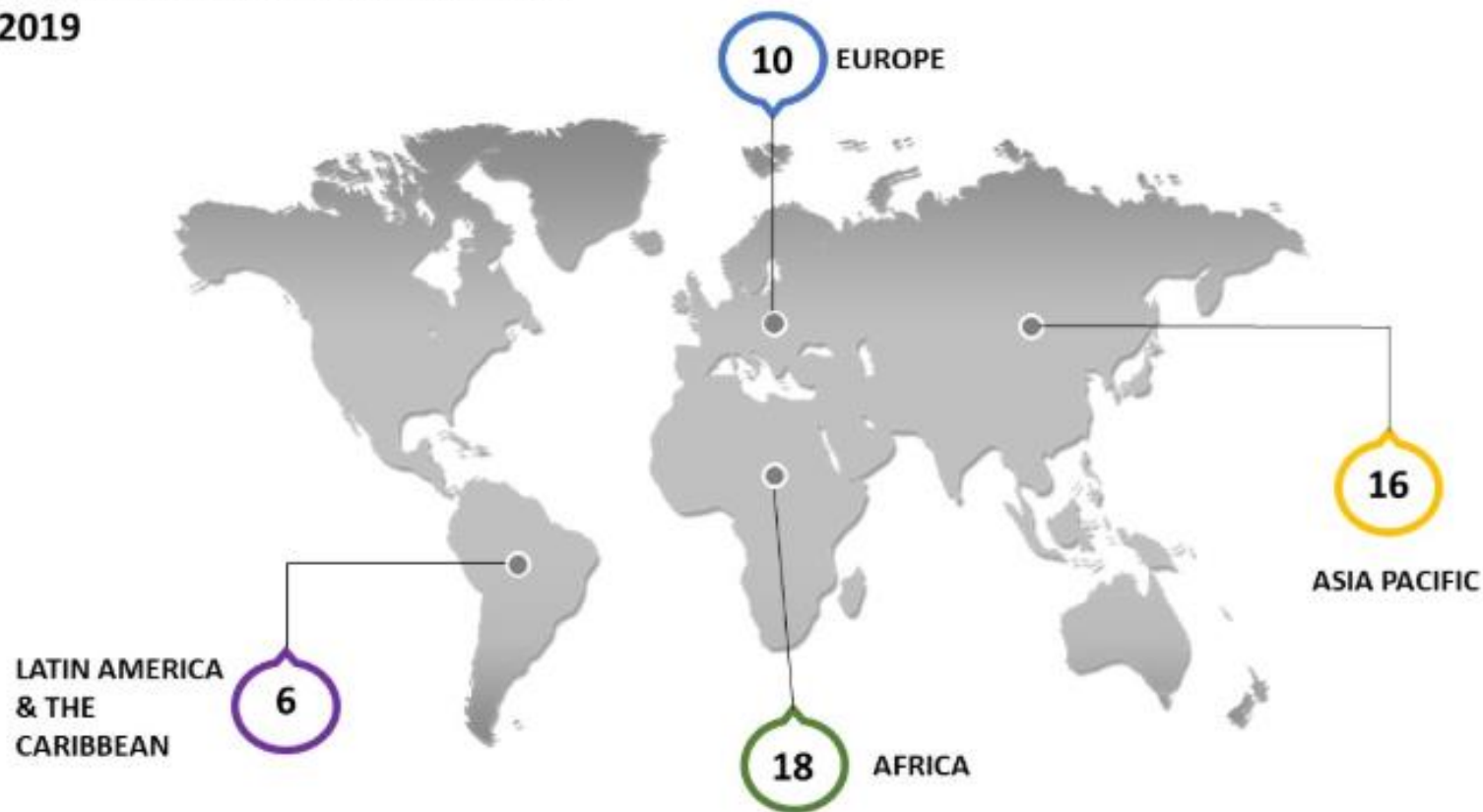
## STATUS OF VNRs 2016 - 2019





# Regional Division of 2019 VNRs

## VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS 2019

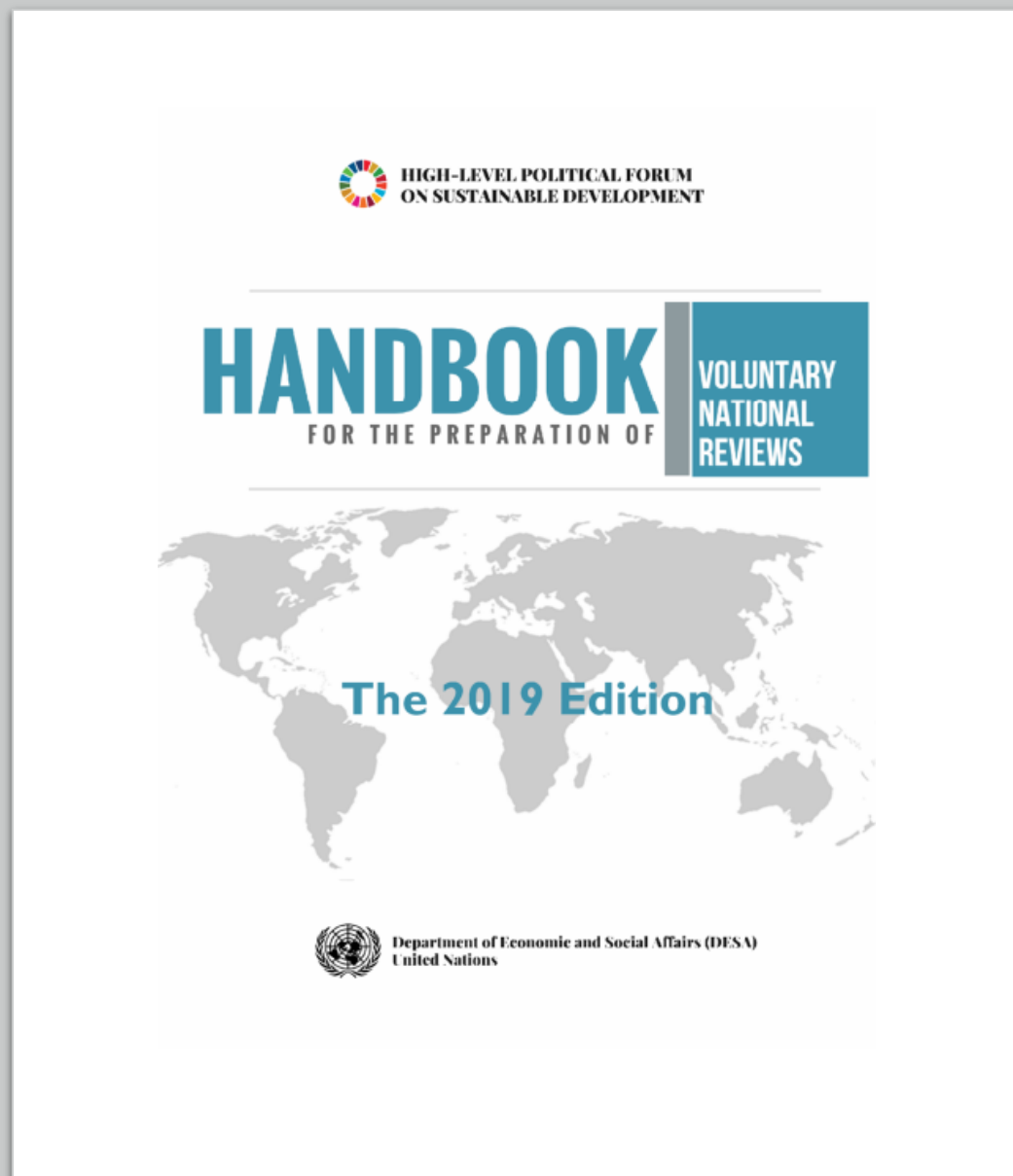


# 2019 VNR Countries

FIRST TIME PRESENTERS (40)			SECOND TIME PRESENTERS (8)
Algeria	Iceland	Rwanda	Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iraq	Saint Lucia	Chile
Burkina Faso	Israel	Serbia	El Salvador
Cambodia	Kazakhstan	South Africa	Guatemala
Cameroon	Kuwait	Timor-Leste	Indonesia
CAR	Lesotho	Tonga	Philippines
Chad	Liechtenstein	Tunisia	Sierra Leone
Congo	Mauritania	Turkmenistan	Turkey
Cote d'Ivoire	Mauritius	UK	
Croatia	Mongolia	Tanzania	
Eswatini	Nauru	Vanuatu	
Fiji	New Zealand		
Ghana	Oman		
Guyana	Pakistan		
	Palau		

# VNR Handbook

- Supplement to the SG's guidelines
- Provides basic, practical information on the steps that countries may take when preparing VNRs
- Available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish



# Best Practices in VNR Development

- Engage a broad range of stakeholders early on
- Focus on quality, not quantity
- Include a statistical annex
- Address implementation **of all 17 SDGs**
- Include analysis, lessons learned and detailed examples
- Avoid mere listings of strategies and programmes
- Showcase both **strengths and weaknesses**
- **Identify areas where additional support is needed**
- **Spell out the next steps in implementation**

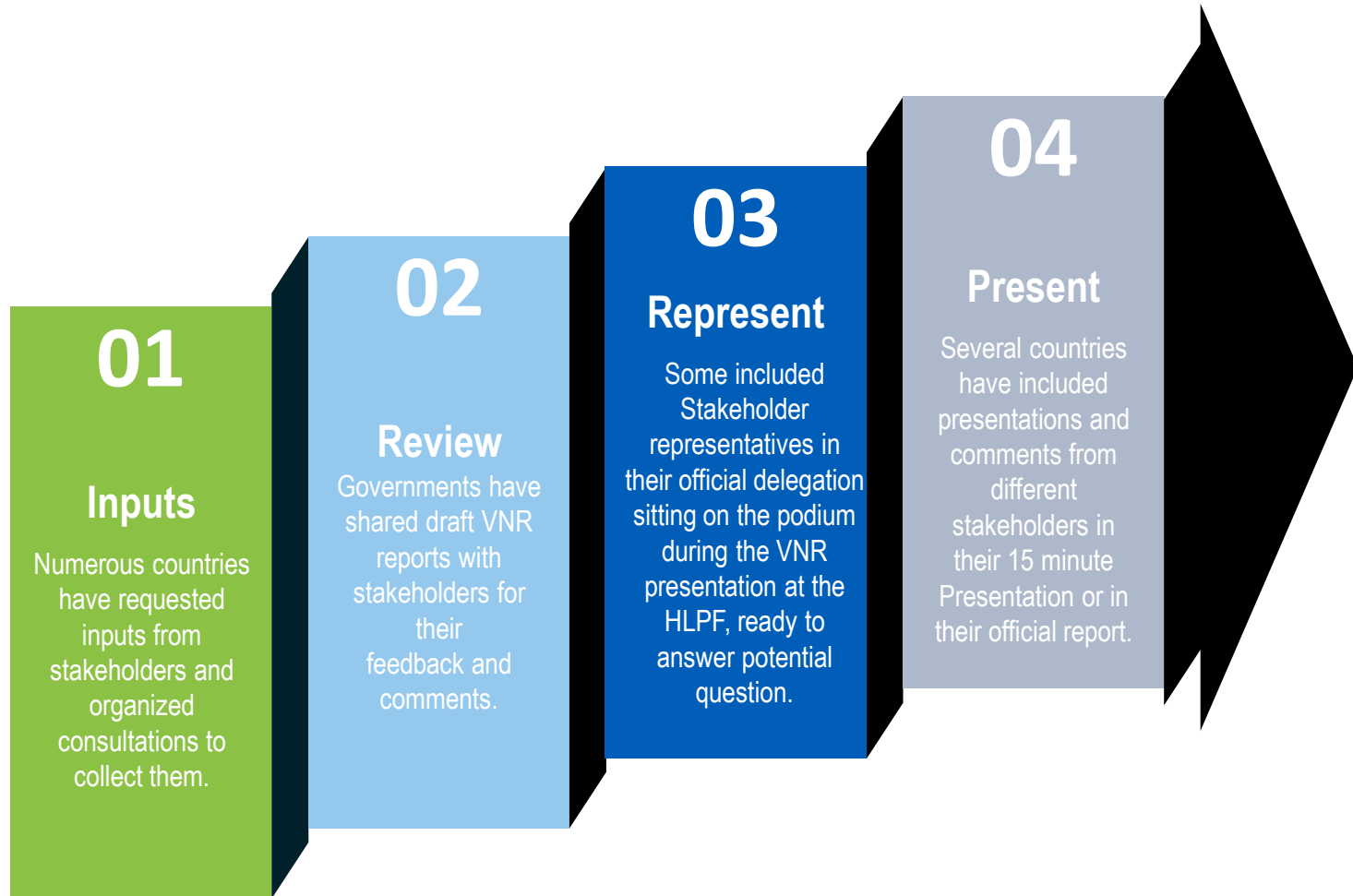




# Stakeholder Engagement in the VNR Process



# Stakeholder Engagement in VNR Process



# Levels of Participation - Inform



In the **Maldives**, the government works with the official “Public Service Media” in disseminating information related to the SDGs. Capacity building workshops have been organized for journalists from various media in order to enhance and develop their skills to report on the SDGs.



In the **Netherlands**, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) launched the Municipalities4Global Goals campaign to promote awareness of the SDGs among municipalities and help them contribute to the goals.

# Levels of Participation - Consult



In **Sierra Leone**, consultations were held both in the capital and in each of the country's districts. The consultations engaged officials from the federal government, parliament, local governments, the private sector, trade unions, civil society and universities on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.



**Brazil** established the online portal "Participa.br", a social media instrument providing participation tools for citizens, networks, social movements and organizations, enabling dialogue among governmental bodies and society, through public consultations, debates, conferences and online events.



**Chile**, in cooperation with UNDP, designed focus groups that sought to prioritize the voice and participation of different populations such as persons with disabilities, immigrants, and indigenous peoples.

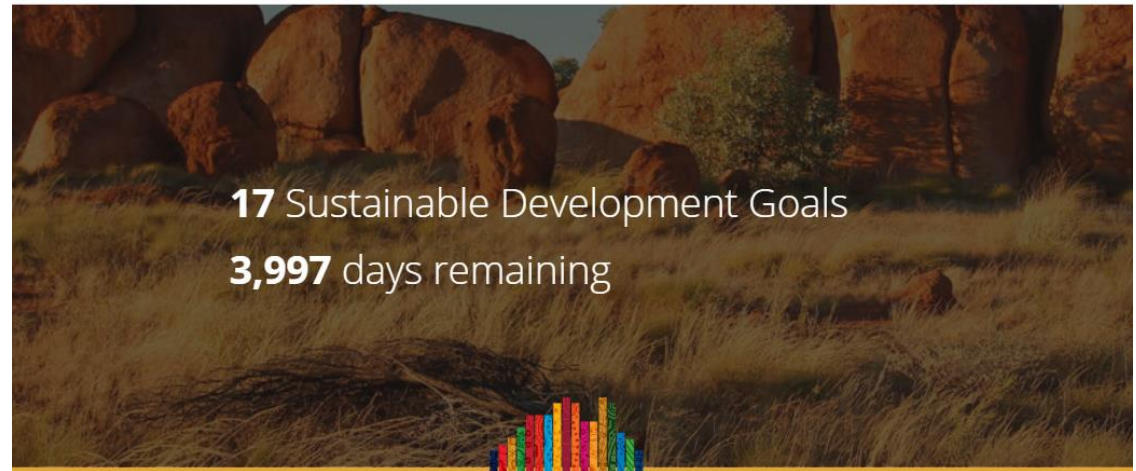
# Levels of Participation – Consult/Involve



About us The Goals Projects Partners Resources News [+ Add your project](#)

The **Australian government** along with **Global Compact Network Australia**, have set up a website to provide Australia with a live and ongoing platform to centralize and showcase action being taken across government, business, civil society and academia to advance the SDGs in the Australian context.

Organizations that are undertaking concrete initiatives to help Australia deliver on the Sustainable Development goals are invited to submit case studies to the platform's database which include the initiatives' impact.



Find out how Australian organisations are doing their part to help Australia meet the Sustainable Development Goals, or [add your own case study](#).



For More Information- <https://sdgs.org.au/>

## Levels of Participation- Involve/Collaborate



The **Estonian** Sustainable Development Commission is an advisory body consisting of civil society umbrella organizations and covers different fields of sustainable development. The Commission meets 4-5 times per year to discuss drafts of strategic action plans before they are adopted by the government and to publish focus reports with policy recommendations.



In **Norway**, the indigenous peoples' assembly, the Sámeddigi (Sami Parliament) engages in dialogues on the 2030 Agenda with line ministries and formal consultation mechanisms. Consultations have strengthened the Sámediggi's role as a representative voice for the Sami people and increased the awareness of Sami issues within the government. Sami culture is taken into consideration in policies particularly for fisheries and ecosystems protection, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources.



# How to get engaged when your country is presenting a VNR

VNR focal points on website

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>

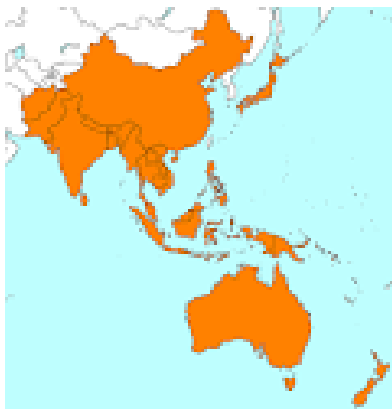
- Find out about opportunities for engagement (coordination structures, stakeholder engagement plans)
- Plan engagement with other civil society organisations
- Participate in national consultations
- Review the VNR report
- Engage at the HLPF
- Follow-up with government – call for a dialogue



## Voluntary National Reviews

Engaging in national implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals  
- a civil society quick guide

# Regional MGoS Coordination Mechanisms



<http://asiapacificrcem.org/>



Latin American Regional Coordination  
MGoS Coordination Mechanism

# Resources



- UN Secretary-General's updated [voluntary common reporting guidelines](#) for VNRs at the HLPF
- [Handbook](#) for VNR Preparations
- [Q&A](#) for VNRs at the 2019 HLPF
- VNR Synthesis Report [2018](#), [2017](#) and [2016](#)
- Register to join the Major Groups and other Stakeholders HLPF Coordination Mechanism [here](#)
- All the above can be found at HLPF VNR database <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>
- Together2030 [Report on civil society engagement in VNRs](#)
- [“Progressing National SDGs Implementation: An Independent Assessment of the Voluntary National Review Reports Submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018”](#) by the Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC)

# Thank you!

Emily Hosek

UN DESA Office of Intergovernmental Support and  
Coordination for Sustainable Development

We look forward to your participation!

For the latest information and to register (May 2019),  
visit <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>

Contact link on website



---

**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

---