

An abstract graphic composed of numerous overlapping triangles in various shades of green and blue, creating a complex, crystalline structure that tapers downwards.

# **Knowledge Exchange on Approaches and Tools for the Voluntary National Reviews**

*Summary of approaches and tools*

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## Summary of approaches and tools

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## CDP

[CDP](#) is a global environmental impact non-profit working to secure a thriving economy that works for people and planet. Through our global disclosure system, we have the most comprehensive collection of self-reported environmental data in the world. High quality, relevant information is the fundamental basis for action and CDP works directly with companies, investors, cities, states and regions to measure, understand and address their environmental impact.

Over 8,000+ companies, representing over 50% of global market value, and 800 cities, states and regions responded to our climate change, water security and forests [questionnaires in 2019](#). This disclosure process and resulting data both fuels and tracks the global progress towards building a truly sustainable economy and drives the implementation of the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals.

As member states take steps towards building a climate safe, deforestation free, water secure future, CDP environmental data can provide the bedrock for ambitious action and preparing VNRs.

## Danish Institute for Human Rights

The Danish Institute for Human Rights ([www.humanrights.dk](http://www.humanrights.dk)) is the national human rights institution (NHRI) of Denmark. Since 2015, the Institute has taken the lead on showing the concrete links between human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the development of innovative tools.

A key tool which can help states in the follow-up and review of the SDGs is our SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer (<https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/>) which is a searchable database that links monitoring information from the international human rights system to the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It allows users to explore the recommendations and observations of international human rights monitoring bodies, including the UPR, and how they relate to the implementation of the SDGs and their 169 targets in specific countries. This also allows governments to strengthen policy coherence and boost resource efficiency by building on the synergies between the two agendas.

## Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies

The VNR process, a highly recognized HLPF exercise, is increasingly featuring whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. Constructive multi-stakeholder engagement through existing or new SDG advisory bodies in the VNR process can strengthen such approaches and the quality of the VNRs. The Global Forum ([sdg-advisorybodies.net](http://sdg-advisorybodies.net)), launched at the 2019 HLPF, aims to help strengthen national councils and similar multi-stakeholder bodies where they exist, and – with resources such as twinning and mentoring with long-standing and enduring councils – encourage the formation of such bodies there they do not exist, but would be welcomed. Benefitting from the collective knowledge of the Global Forum membership, national governments, and their advisory bodies, it will help multi-stakeholder advisory bodies to be better positioned to deliver SDGs in general and VNRs in particular, through shared knowledge on national sustainable development policy-making, peer-exchange, shortcuts to understanding policy cycles, and institutional capacity building, and by elevating access to communities of practitioners.

## Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)

As developer of the most widely adopted global standards for sustainability reporting, GRI is committed to the implementation of SDG target 12.6. Through the Action Platform Reporting on the SDGs, GRI and UN Global Compact, together with partners, have developed three reporting tools, based on existing corporate reporting standards and principles, to enable measuring and reporting on the SDGs:

- [“Integrating the SDGs into corporate reporting: A Practical Guide”](#) and [“An Analysis of the Goals and Targets”](#) are meant to be used together as part of a company’s regular reporting cycle to disclose impacts on and contributions to the SDGs.
- [“In-focus: Addressing Investor Needs in Business Reporting on the SDGs”](#) provides additional insights on how business can disclose SDG-related information in an investor-relevant way

These tools have formed the basis for GRI to engage with several governments to support integration of private sector SDG data in the national review processes, and ultimately VNRs.

## International Migration Organization (IOM)

To help countries understand what well-managed migration policies might look like in practice, IOM worked with The Economist Intelligence Unit to develop the Migration Governance Indicators (MGI, <https://migrationdataportal.org/overviews/mgi#0>), a standard set of approximately 90 indicators. The MGI can help countries identify good practices, areas with potential for further development, and can offer insights on the policy levers that countries can use to develop their migration governance structures. The MGI was developed to help countries assess the comprehensiveness of their migration governance framework and their efforts to achieve progress on SDG Target 10.7, which calls upon all countries to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and the mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies. The MGI can also help countries take stock of how much progress they are making in relation to other migration-relevant SDG targets, such as reducing remittance transaction costs, recruitment costs and trafficking in human beings. To date, 67 countries and three cities have decided to conduct MGI assessments.

In collaboration with partners, IOM’s Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC) developed the Global Migration Data Portal (<https://migrationdataportal.org>). The Portal aims to serve as a one stop-shop to access timely and comprehensive statistics on international migration by different data providers. The SDG section highlights those targets related to migration and how data are being collected at global and regional levels. The tools section includes available guidance material, such as handbooks, that countries can draw on. The content is available in English, Spanish, German and soon in French.

IOM has also published a guide to help policymakers integrate the migration aspects of the SDGs into local and national development planning. Effective migration governance is a key success factor for the achievement of the SDGs, and many SDG targets can only be achieved if migration and migrants are considered. This guide enables policy makers to systematically connect migration and development policies. The publication was developed with the support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. It is available on the IOM website ([publications.iom.int](http://publications.iom.int)) and on M4D Net ([migration4development.org/en](http://migration4development.org/en)).

## International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

As the United Nation's specialized agency for Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is on a mission to assist countries to transition into the digital era, help bridge the persisting digital divides, bring digital inclusion to all, and make use of the full potential of ICTs for the achievement of the SDGs.

New and emerging technologies – from the Internet of Things to artificial intelligence to blockchain to 5G - hold great potential for human progress, enabling innovations in areas such as health, education, agriculture, energy, water, transport, cities, climate action, digital financial services and e-government, among many other. These technologies will be essential for the realization of every single one of the SDGs. Central to ITU's strategy to leverage the power of ICTs to accelerate progress on the SDGs is the "four I's" framework based on building Infrastructure, securing Investment, promoting Innovation and ensuring Inclusivity.

### ITU key ICT4SDG tools:

- [ICT Facts and Figures](#) published annually, features estimates for key telecommunication/ICT indicators, informing public and private-sector decision makers;
- [ICT Price Baskets \(IPB\)](#), is a composite tool that combines fixed-telephone, mobile-cellular and fixed-broadband tariffs into one measure and compares it across countries.
- [ICT Development Index \(IDI\)](#) is a composite index that combines 11 indicators into one benchmark measure, used to monitor and compare developments in ICT between countries and over time;
- [ITU SDG Mapping Tool](#) is a stocktaking and mapping tool of all ITU initiatives and activities related to the SDGs, including the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Stocktaking and other stakeholder's ICT activities impacting on the SDGs.
- [WSIS Stocktaking Database](#) registers activities of stakeholders working on the implementation of WSIS outcomes and share knowledge and experience of projects by replicating successful models designed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The [WSIS - SDG Matrix](#) maps the inter-linkages of the WSIS Action Lines with the SDGs;
- [AI Repository](#), Following the success of the first AI for Good Global Summit, ITU has launched a global Artificial Intelligence (AI) repository to identify AI related projects, research initiatives, think-tanks and organizations that can accelerate progress towards the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- [Connect 2030 Agenda for Global Telecommunication/ICT Development](#), are high-level strategic goals and targets set to contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and meet the SDGs;
- [ITU Academy](#) is an initiative intended to assist developing countries by making available ICT education, training and development opportunities at the highest possible levels of quality
- [Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development](#) aims to boost the importance of broadband on the international policy agenda, expanding broadband access in every country as key to accelerating progress towards national and international development targets, and defines practical ways in which countries —at all stages of development —can achieve this, in cooperation with the private sector.
- [EQUALS Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age](#) contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Agenda through actions and evidence-based research aimed at closing the global gender digital divide. Its [Global Digital Gender Equality Action Map](#), shows, there are hundreds of initiatives taking place around the world by many different groups, organizations and industry to bring digital tech to women, and women to digital tech.

## Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

The IPU is the global organization of national parliaments.

At the global level, the IPU encourages parliamentary engagement in the production of VNRs and participation of parliamentarians in the HLPF. Each year the IPU sends a survey to parliaments in the countries submitting a VNR to assess the level of their engagement in the process.

At the regional level, the IPU organizes annual parliamentary seminars, which aim to raise awareness about the SDGs and facilitate sharing of good practices. These seminars culminate in the production of outcome documents that indicate strategic priorities for parliaments in a given region.

At the national level, the IPU provides capacity-development support to parliaments seeking to enhance engagement on the SDGs. Additionally, the IPU produced an SDG self-assessment toolkit with UNDP. The toolkit provides parliaments with the framework to evaluate their readiness to engage on the SDGs, identify good practices and areas for improvement, and subsequently formulate an action plan.

## INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI)

The INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) is a non-for-profit autonomous body of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) [www.intosai.org](http://www.intosai.org) . IDI envisions effective, accountable and inclusive SAIs making a difference in the quality of public sector governance and service delivery for the value and benefit of citizens. <http://www.idi.no/en/about-idi/strategies-and-plans> .As independent external oversight bodies, SAIs contribute to the follow-up and review of the SDGs within the context of each nation's specific sustainable development efforts and SAIs' individual mandates. Since 2016, IDI and its partners have cooperated extensively to support SAIs in conducting high quality audits of SDGs. The following tools and approaches have been employed in providing this support

- **Global guidance** on performance audits of national preparedness for implementation of SDGs is available on IDI website in four languages. <https://www.idi.no/en/idi-library/global-public-goods/auditing-sustainable-development-goals>
- **Awareness raising and multi stakeholder engagement** – IDI has partnered with UNDESA to conduct annual SAI Leadership and stakeholder meetings from 2017-2019 in conjunction with UN HLPF.
- **Support to 73 SAIs across the world in conducting performance audits of preparedness for the implementation of SDGs.** IDI's audit support includes eLearning courses, facilitating stakeholder engagement, peer and expert review of audit plans and draft reports, online working areas, onsite support visits and independent quality reviews. The results of these audits are documented in an IDI publication titled 'Are Nations prepared for implementation of the 2030 Agenda' – Supreme Audit Institutions Insights and Recommendations (<http://www.idi.no/en/elibrary/cpd/auditing-sustainable-development-goals-programme> ).
- **IDI's SDG Audit Model** – IDI is currently developing an audit model to audit implementation of nationally agreed targets linked with one or more SDG targets. This model will be available in Arabic, Spanish, French and English in 2020.
- **From 2020 to 2023 IDI will support more than 30 SAIs in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Pacific and Arabic speaking region in auditing nationally agreed targets linked to SDG targets.**
- **IDI will also help SAIs in engaging with key stakeholders to facilitate the implementation of SAI recommendations for enhancing implementation of SDGs.**

## Minority Rights Group

Inclusion auditing (IA) is used to review programmes that have not captured disaggregated data on factors that increase the risk of being left behind. It is a post hoc assessment of who has been reached by interventions and is most useful as a learning tool that raises awareness of groups being left behind and WHY this is the case.

- 1) Systematic sampling is used to compare beneficiaries of an intervention by one or more marginalisation factor (e.g ethnicity, religion, caste, persons with a disability, LGBT, and older people) compared to their proportion of the potential target population.
- 2) Where those at risk of marginalisation have benefitted at least in line with their proportion of the population, process tracing is used to ascertain and celebrate what enabled this. Where those at risk did not benefit equally, process tracing is used to understand and weight contributory factors for different groups.

## OECD

### OECD-UNDP Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs

Building on the comparative advantages of the OECD and UNDP, [the Global Hub on the Governance for the SDGs](#) aims to support countries, upon demand, in strengthening leadership capacities and governance practices for implementing the SDGs. The Global Hub will feature: 1) a Knowledge Platform, which will serve as a one-stop-shop for countries to draw on, interact and learn from each other when addressing governance challenges to deliver on the SDGs; 2) SDG Leadership Knowledge Activities tailored to country-specific needs, and 3) SDG Governance Accelerator Actions to provide country-specific time-based implementation support.

### PCSD Online Toolkit

The [PCSD Online Toolkit](#), provides analytical tools as well as guidance to enable policy-makers and stakeholders to screen policies, organisational structures and policy-making processes, and to identify strengths and areas for improvement in light of the good practices and principles identified in the forthcoming [OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development](#). It aims to serve as a basis for stimulating an open dialogue across stakeholders on what works and what does not, and on what changes are needed, if any, to strengthen their current institutional mechanisms, systems and processes to enhance policy coherence in the implementation of the SDGs.

### Measuring Distance to SDG Targets Study

The OECD Statistics Directorate report on [Measuring the Distance to the SDG Targets](#), aims at assisting countries with national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It draws on the UN IAEG Global List of Indicators, providing a high-level overview of strengths and weaknesses by assessing the distance that countries need to travel to meet each target, and a mapping of the data gaps and statistical agenda ahead in view of the SDGs. The latest edition was published in May 2019 and covered OECD countries. It was used by several countries in preparation of their VNRs. A methodology is currently under development to help countries beyond the OECD assess their distance from target using an international benchmark, and can be adapted to needs and priorities.

## Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

*Given the central role human rights play in the effective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its pledge to leave no one behind, OHCHR has developed tools and approaches that can support reporting on the status of SDG implementation, identifying groups that may be at risk of being left behind, and can help reduce reporting burdens through connecting the 2030 Agenda and human rights reporting.*

These mechanisms, approaches and resources are:

### [Reporting under the international human rights bodies and mechanisms](#)

All States report to international human rights mechanisms. These processes carry a wealth of information and data relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and reporting on progress made.

- **Universal Periodic Review documentation** (State-driven peer review of the human rights records of all UN Member States): [www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx).
- **Human rights treaties' documentation** (status of implementation of the human rights treaties States have ratified): [http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx](http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx)

### [Universal Human Rights Index \(UHRI\)](#)

The OHCHR online database [Universal Human Rights Index](#) compiles recommendations from all UN Human Rights Mechanisms and allows for searching against specific Sustainable Development Goal targets, groups of persons affected and/or themes. This information can assist States in analyzing who may be at risk of being left behind in their country, as well as mapping systemic, recurring and unresolved issues that may impede the realization of the 2030 Agenda. Information can also be exported in excel sheets, which helps process and cluster the information. Link: <http://uhri.ohchr.org>

### [Promoting meaningful and inclusive participation](#)

Meaningful multi-stakeholder participation plays a crucial role in creating an enabling environment for sustainable, equitable and inclusive development. [Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs](#), developed under the auspices of the UN Human Rights Council, and [recommendations for the participation of civil society in the implementation of Agenda 2030](#), developed by the UN Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, provide practical guidance on how meaningful participation can be ensured, including in a VNR context.

### [National mechanisms for reporting and follow up](#)

All States have established structures or processes for human rights reporting, which in their most institutionalized form are called [national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up](#). States may find it useful to link up these structures with processes and mechanisms dedicated to the 2030 Agenda implementation and reporting. This can improve coherence and strengthen the quality of reports as well as minimize reporting burdens and further ensure meaningful participation.

### [Human rights-based approach to data \(HRBAD\)](#)

Data collection, disaggregation and analysis is a crucial tool in SDG implementation and reporting on progress made. However, as devising disaggregation of indicators (or not) is not a norm or value-neutral exercise, [human rights-based approach to data](#) has much to offer - it can help bring together relevant data



stakeholders and develop communities of practice that improve the quality, relevance and use of data and statistics consistently with international human rights norms and principles.

**OHCHR can produce a one-page overview of relevant documentation, information and links for each VNR country. For more information, please contact Aleksandra Plesko at [aleksandra.plesko@un.org](mailto:aleksandra.plesko@un.org).**

## Overseas Development Institute (ODI)

The Overseas Development Institute (ODI) is an independent, global think tank established in 1960, working on international development and humanitarian issues. In the Equity and Social Policy (ESP) programme within ODI, our research and policy engagement focuses on identifying and overcoming challenges to the ‘leave no one behind’ agenda of the SDGs by 2030 – and to reach those who are furthest behind first.

We have done this through

- Piloting a set of [‘leave no one behind’ stocktakes](#) in the roads, education and health sectors in Kenya, Ghana and Nepal. These innovative, multidisciplinary studies explore how fit for purpose a country’s data, policies, financing and politics are to meet the leave no one behind objective. The methodology can be adapted for use by any country to examine its own status on ‘leave no one behind’.
- Analysing [Voluntary National Reviews to provide guidance](#) on how to improve on reporting on ‘leave no one behind’
- Publishing an [annual index which reviews the readiness](#) of 159 countries to ‘leave no one behind’, assessing and monitoring the extent to which government systems are set up and ready to meet their leave no one behind commitment enshrined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- Convening and co-convening regional forums under Chatham House rules to guide discussion between governments and CSOs from different countries on how to improve implementation on ‘leave no one behind’
- Advising national country governments planning agencies on alignment of national policies on ‘leave no one behind through in-depth long-term studies’

## PURE Consulting

Beginning early in 2015, PURE Consulting <http://www.purecsr.no/?lang=en> has advised private sector enterprises including stakeholders from civil society, academia and municipalities on implementing SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. PURE has developed an approach and a methodology that has convinced nearly 100 large private sector companies including municipalities and civil society organisations to work on and with the SDGs using them to alter their business policy and strategy accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

As most clients find the 17 goals and 169 targets overwhelming and too many, our approach begins with a set of guiding questions illustrating the necessity of understanding the SDGs as integrated, interlinked and indivisible. This illustrates that the SDGs functions as an excellent planning tool. Set in the context of well-used and accepted business planning models, richly illustrated with visible models and well-designed, meaningful graphics, in which SDGs and targets are interjected, we begin by asking:

*1 – To which goals are you already contributing through your daily business operations? How can you enhance the positive effects and reduce possible negative consequences? Without realising it, stakeholders*

already work with several goals: transport companies deal with infrastructure, energy, urban issues, employment; shipping with social issues, they affect health, infrastructure, energy, water, inland and oceans etc

2 – *In which goals do you see innovation opportunities and which goals would you like to deal with in addition?* The client will add a few more goals, our challenge is to link these to the ones already mentioned.

3 – *Which goals represent risks to you – of the ones you have identified and the ones in which you see opportunities.*

This approach leads to a discussion of practically all 17 SDGs with a focus on key SDGs central to the production-line of the various companies and which they feel comfortable in furthering.

Our model proceeds with an in-depth cooperative analysis of the company based on six key areas:

1. Mapping the company's status regarding traditional sustainable policies and structure
2. Situation analysis
3. Value-based materiality analysis
4. Developing a strategy
5. Implementation and innovation
6. Value-Creation and KPIs

Impact assessments, risk assessments, investment necessities are integrated and slowly a new business plan emerges based on the SDGs where the KPIs become clearly defined in the context of sustainability.

With support from the Norwegian Research Council, PURE is adapting this model digitally to be used in particular for SMEs as they often think that applying the SDGs to their business is costly and takes time. Using a digital tool will make the process less costly and more efficient and help SMEs see the value of using the SDGs to become sustainable and profitable.”

## Save The Children

### *Tracking & accelerating progress for the furthest behind*

Save the Children exists to help every child reach their full potential. In more than 100 countries we make sure children stay safe, healthy and keep learning.

The pledge to Leave No One Behind is a commitment by all actors to put those furthest behind first and ensure that all targets are met for all segments of society. The current failure to narrow the gap between those children who are furthest behind, and the rest of society is acting as a brake on overall progress and threatens to undermine the entire Agenda 2030.

On current trends more than 4 million children will die under the age of five in the year 2030<sup>1</sup> with mortality rates for children in the world's poorest 20% of households typically two to three times the level for the wealthiest 20%, and 40% above the global average. The idea that a child should have less chance of survival because they are born into a poor household is inconsistent with the basic precepts of universal human rights and justice. The principle of *Leave No One Behind* is essential to achieving the SDGs for every last child.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/gb/reports/policy/still-left-behind-low-res.pdf>

Save the Children has developed the [GRID Child Inequality Tracker](#) to:

- **identify children being left behind,**
- **monitor progress for the most marginalised and deprived children, and**
- **build public and political understanding about the importance of reaching them.**

GRID is a powerful tool that can help actors track the levels of inequality within and between countries, show trends and projections of inequality over time, to show the impact of intersecting inequalities on progress for children who are part of more than one disadvantaged group and map exclusions across regions using quantitative and qualitative data.

## UNDP

UNDP offers various tools and methodologies that help prepare or follow up on VNR reports.

- To **MAINSTREAM** the 2030 Agenda at national level, these include
- [The Rapid Integrated Assessment](#) (RIA) to assess how aligned a country's policies are with the SDGs
- [The Localizing SDGs platform](#) with tools to initialize, institutionalize and strengthen capacities locally
- [The Parliamentary Handbook on the SDGs with good practices and tools from around the world](#)

To **ACCELERATE** progress, these include

- [The SDG Accelerator and Bottleneck Assessment Tool](#) (ABA)
- [The International Futures Global Forecasting tool](#) (IFs), jointly with the Pardee Center in Denver
- [The Development Finance Assessment](#) (DFA) to get an overview of sources of development finance
- Framework to Engage Stakeholders in SDG processes, based on the principles of SDG 16 (forthcoming)
- [Global Dev Hub](#) helps partners organize online consultations with multiple stakeholders
- [Leave No One Behind framework](#) to assess and address different dimensions of LNOB

To provide **POLICY SUPPORT**

- [The Multidimensional Poverty Index](#) (MPI) assesses the nature of poverty with ten different indicators
- [The Poverty Risk Analysis tool](#) estimates the risk of people falling back into poverty
- [Climate, Land, Energy and Water Systems](#) (CLEWS) models these highly interlinked areas
- [SDG 16 National Monitoring Methodology](#) to monitor SDG 16 in three steps at country level
- [SDG 16 Reporting Guidance](#) to draft a VNR chapter on SDG 16 chapter

## UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

**Creating a seat at the table** – a planning and assessment tool for stakeholder engagement for the 2030 Agenda, developed by ESCAP and IAP2 to respond to the need for practical indicators of meaningful engagement.

The tool supports the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development around stakeholder participation, inclusion, integration and transformation. For each of the four dimensions, practical indicators of quality engagement are defined that identify specific factors to be built into planning, delivering and managing effective engagement processes.

An assessment guide supports assessment of planned or delivered engagement process by defining whether practices are below standard, minimum acceptable standard, or leading practice. The planning and assessment tool draws on professional practice and insights from diverse stakeholders and has been adapted and tested over a two-year period.

The full tool can be found here: <http://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org/>

## UNESCO

**Beyond commitments how do countries implement SDG 4** Produced under the auspices of the SDG - Education 2030 Steering Committee, this special report shows the different ways that countries have taken on the challenge of implementing SDG 4 at the national level. It showcases good practices from countries that have reflected SDG 4 in their policies since 2015 and suggests a new framework for assessing the extent to which their policies match their 2030 commitments in the future.

**Meeting commitments: are countries on track to achieve SDG 4?** Co-produced with the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, this paper highlights the first ever projections for SDG 4 targets. A third of the way to 2030, it shows that the world is drastically off track. By 2030, one in six children, adolescents and youth will still be out of school. Only six in ten young people will be completing secondary education.

**Building bridges for gender equality** The 2019 Gender Report is based on a monitoring framework first introduced in the 2016 Global Education Monitoring Report. In addition to focusing on gender parity in education participation, attainment and learning achievement, the framework examines broad social and economic contexts (gender norms and institutions) and key education system characteristics (laws and policies, teaching and learning practices, learning environments, and resources). The framework also looks at the relationship between education and selected social and economic outcomes.

**Migration, displacement & education: Building bridges, not walls** The 2019 GEM Report continues its assessment of progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on education and its ten targets, as well as other related education targets in the SDG agenda.

UNESCO also conducted a global survey of countries to understand what laws exist on the right to information and how these are being observed. The survey found that 125 countries have enacted right to information laws - Powering Sustainable Development with Access to Information: Highlights from the 2019 UNESCO Monitoring and Reporting of SDG Indicator 16.10.2

UNESCO is also analyzing progress achieved related to SDG 11 (water) and SDG 14 (oceans) through our two global reports: United Nations World Water Development Report – coordinated by UNESCO's World Water Assessment Programme and Global Ocean Science Report – 2020 version will be launched at the Ocean Conference in Lisbon (2-6 June 2020)

UNESCO is also working to support countries to integrate culture into their sustainable development policies and strategies to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. [Culture of the 2030 Agenda](#).

## UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund)

### UNFPA Support to SDG Implementation and VNR process

The United Nations Population Fund provides substantive advocacy, policy, technical and programming support to countries in support of the implementation of the 2030 agenda & the VNR process, including guidance on implementing the ICPD in line with the SDGs

Specifically, UNFPA is supporting countries towards (a) ending preventable maternal deaths; (b) ending unmet need for family planning; and (c) ending gender-based violence and harmful practices as its priorities for 2030, accelerating achievement of SDGs 3 and 5 specifically.

UNFPA has launched a substantive costing exercise on SDG targets at the Global level and is developing a national SDG costing toolkit to support countries. UNFPA SDG costing factsheet <https://sites.google.com/unfpa.org/costing30s/home>

UNFPA convenes annual regional workshops to build capacity of national statistical offices and line ministries to collect data and report on all SDGs.

It also provides significant technical and resource support to Censuses in country, noting that Census data accounts for a significant proportion of data on SDG Indicators nationally.

UNFPA census strategy: <https://www.unfpa.org/publications/unfpa-strategy-2020-round-population-housing-censuses-2015-2024>

Data disaggregation for SDGs: <https://www.unfpa.org/resources/measuring-disability-migration-and-marriage-registration-recommended-questions-inclusion>

Finally, UNFPA conducts, in partnership, in-country surveys to generate data on SDG indicators 5.6.1 and 5.6.2 and leads the methodological development and reporting on these indicators.

## UN Foundation

The United Nations Foundation (UNF) has worked to build and sustain political support and alignment on the 2030 Agenda among member states, the UN system, and civil society leaders and experts around the world, including in the monitoring of SDG progress. We have done this through:

- Off-the-record convenings both in New York and at the regional levels, around preparing VNRs, stakeholder inclusion and promoting new evidence and reports;
- Our convenings have routinely been able to bring in leading experts; create a safe space for diplomats, UN officials, and policy makers to grapple with tough questions; and help them sharpen their focus on the most important policy and political issues that need addressing;
- Reviews of past VNRs; and

Informed by the above conversations and data, we can provide good practices and challenges we have observed countries experiencing in implementing the SDGs and reporting on their progress.

## UN Global Compact

### Global Compact Local Networks

Launched in 2000, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies to align strategies and operations with Ten universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anticorruption, and take actions that advance the Global Goals. With over 13,000 participants based in over 160 countries and almost 70 country-level Local Networks, the UN Global Compact provides guidance, best practices, tools and resources that are evolving how companies do business responsibly and keep their commitments to society.

Our Local Networks are uniquely positioned to support Member States in their preparation for Voluntary National Reviews to be presented at the High-Level Political Forum. They convene companies of all sectors and sizes, build their capacity on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, and provide them with guidance and tools to engage in policy dialogue and partnerships with Governments, the UN system and civil society.

For more information on the UN Global Compact please visit <https://www.unglobalcompact.org>

## UN Habitat

The United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) is the custodian of the several targets of the SDG11 on sustainable cities and the urban components of other SDGs and is the focal point of the UN system for urbanization.

Through a mobile application, UN-Habitat has bridged the gap between citizens and governments in over 800 cities in Brazil and currently expanding to Bolivia and Peru and has facilitated a participative consultation on the implementation of the targets and indicators of the SDG11.

The data gathered from the application informs the design of public policies to improve public management. They are also cross-referenced with official data from other national and international institutions to track the progress in cities towards the achievement of SDG11 and other related SDGs.

Furthermore, the tool aims to:

- strengthen bottom-up accountability and transparency processes;
- guide local authorities and policymakers in enhancing public policies and public management;
- bridge the communication gap between public authorities and the citizens;
- optimize limited resources through innovative consultative processes to scale up citizen participation;
- raise citizens' awareness on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through technology and innovation.

## UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)

UNIDO maintains a [statistics data portal](#). UNIDO is also the custodian agency for maintaining the database for indicators under SDG 9, and publishes the [Statistical Indicators of Inclusive and Sustainable Industrialization](#) which presents the source, methods of compiling the SDG 9 indicators, and describes the baseline scenario with currently available data. UNIDO publishes the [Competitive Industrial Performance \(CIP\) Index](#) and report twice a year. The CIP report assesses and benchmarks industrial competitiveness across economies to help identify the strengths and weaknesses in national manufacturing sectors.

UNIDO and GIZ joined forces to develop an integrated methodological toolbox and a capacity-building package for industrial diagnosis - [EQUIP \(Enhancing Quality of Industrial Policy\) toolkit](#) aims to support policymakers in developing countries to formulate and design evidence-based strategies for inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

The UNIDO [Industrial Analytical Platform](#) (IAP) features data on selected indicators of industrial development and provides relevant research by leading experts in the field in an accessible format. It is aimed at supporting a wide range of stakeholders, including government, regulators and policymakers to better understand the various dimensions of industrial development in countries.

The [Industrial Development Report Series](#) (IDR) is a bi-annual flagship publication of UNIDO, covering the latest developments and trends in the area of industrial development in a global context. The 2020 report examines “Industrialization in the Digital Age” (to be launched in early November 2019)

## **UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS)**

OHRLLS is entrusted with the responsibility of advocating for the sustainable development agenda of the most vulnerable countries of the UN membership. This advocacy work rests primarily on the programmes of action for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS, which are integral part of the 2030 Agenda, and which contain commitments towards these countries.

Essential aspects of the office’s mandate pertain to enhancing coherence and synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the programmes of action for LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS and promoting coherence in the implementation and follow up of these global frameworks at the national, regional and global levels. To this end, OHRLLS developed, in one of its flagship publications, a unifying reporting and monitoring framework for the programme of action of the least developed countries (LDCs) and the SDGs. The same tool is being designed for the programme of action for small island developing states (SIDS) and the SDGs.

The office also established two networks of national focal points: one for LDCs and another for SIDS. Composed of national officials involved in the localization of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs as well as their national implementation, monitoring and review, these groups facilitate information and experience sharing, networking, monitoring and reporting of the implementation the programmes of actions and the 2030 Agenda and increased participation of the representatives from the most vulnerable countries to HLFP.

Further, OHRLLS has served as an interface linking global commitments on sustainable development to national implementation. One example of such achievement is in the area of graduation from LDC category, which is the overarching goal of the Istanbul Programme of Action. As the chair of the inter-agency task force on graduation, OHRLLS has brought together UN system organizations, the World Bank and WTO in providing advisory services to Sao Tome and Principe and the Solomon Islands in the articulation of their graduation and smooth transition strategies. This stream of work brings about coherence of UN system supporting the graduating countries at the global, regional and country levels.

## UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA)

### Africa Day at the HLPF

The United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA), in collaboration with the African Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, United Nations Institute for Economic Development and United Nations Development Programme, organizes the annual Africa Day at the HLPF. This event, that started in 2018 in New York, provides a bridge between regional and global processes and in this respect serves as a platform for amplifying Africa's voice and marshalling support for the priorities of the continent. **Africa Day at the HLPF** is an important mechanism through which to encourage showcasing good approaches, tools and practices among African countries, especially those undertaking a VNR, and strengthen peer learning during the HLPF through evidence-based tools and national or sub-regional experiences. The Africa Day aims also to disseminate the outcomes of the annual Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (ARFSD), share good practices, challenges and lessons learned; promote engagement with all stakeholders; and promote stronger coordination among partners.

### United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM)

In September 2008, the General Assembly in its resolution 66/293 established the **United Nations Monitoring Mechanism (UNMM)** to review commitments made toward Africa's development by both African countries and their development partners. Specifically, the UNMM is designed to track progress and shed light on the fulfilment of these commitments in critical areas for Africa's sustainable development and inclusive growth. It builds on existing monitoring mechanisms on African development, synthesizing the work of many disparate analytical observatories and processes currently in place in a way that ensures synergies and complementarities between these mechanisms and the UNMM. OSAA, serving as the Secretariat of the UNMM, is working on strengthening the link between the mechanism and the 2030 Agenda and the AU's Agenda 2063, follow-up and review existing frameworks at the regional and global levels, particularly through more interaction and alignment with the HLPF and the ARFSD. OSAA therefore links the thematic focus of the biennial UNMM report to the thematic focus of the HLPF, allowing the opportunity both to follow up the outcomes of the previous HLPFs during the review cycles by adding a specific perspective on Africa and to feed into the preparations for the upcoming HLPF.

## University of Bergen

### **Universities as tools for Transformation:**

Universities have a crucial role on the road to a transformed world: Research and Higher Education represents the starting points for sustainable development. Given our mass higher education, universities shape a large number of young people's minds through norms and values, and through their employment. Universities do this to a much larger degree than any other social institution. Perhaps the only way to revert social development in time to reach the goals for 2030, is through the mass impact new forms of SDG oriented education can give.

We see the cooperation between universities in Norway, what we have called the SDG Norway-university initiative, on how to manage SDG reforms as a specific tool for change. Through a unique university collaboration, we inspire disciplines to focus on the SDGs, overcome epistemological barriers, seek a more holistic approach, and when necessary, develop new types of academic interactions and disciplines. In 2020 we will launch a platform for sharing of best practice in the development of SDG reforms in Higher Education.



## UN Volunteers (UNV)

### Integrating volunteer contributions into voluntary national reviews

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) works with UN Member States and other stakeholders to support evidence on whole-of-society approaches in their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

Globally, more than one billion active volunteers make economic and social contributions to development processes at scale. From 2016 to 2019, 69 VNRs highlighted the role of volunteers in achieving national priorities. Countries have highlighted the diversity of volunteer efforts – from extending services to those often left behind, to designing and testing innovations to local problems, to gathering data and providing feedback on SDGs progress.

UNV continues to support countries preparing VNRs in several ways. Practically, UNV can:

- Package relevant knowledge and evidence on volunteering in the national context (including national statistics on volunteer work where available)
- Convene volunteering stakeholders at national level to collate and validate data and inputs for specific themes or Goals
- Facilitate volunteer-led data collection processes with target groups (e.g. youth or rural communities) to fill data gaps for the VNR processes.

## UN Women

### Data disaggregation

Key strategies for ensuring the 2030 Agenda delivers for women and girls during implementation, follow-up and review include:

- Improving gender data, statistics and analysis to effectively monitor progress for women and girls across all goals and targets.
- Prioritizing gender-responsive investments, policies and programmes to align action with the principles, values and aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

Leaving no one behind means the benefits of sustainable development reach everyone. Currently, however, across countries, women and girls who experience multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination are often the furthest behind. Differences related to wealth, location and ethnicity, for example, combine to create deep pockets of deprivation across a range of SDGs from access to education and health to clean water and decent work. Data should be systematically disaggregated by sex and other characteristics including age, class, ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, migration status and others relevant in national contexts to adequately capture the realities of disadvantaged groups, including hidden or hard-to reach groups.

For further information: UN Women, *“Turning Promises into Action: Gender equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”* <http://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/sdg-report>

## World Blind Union

The [Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities](#) produced [toolkit on VNRs](#) for organizations of persons with disabilities (DPOs) produced by International Disability Alliance and CBM. The objective is for DPOs to engage in the monitoring and review of the SDGs at the national, regional and global levels with step-by-step guidance, suggestions and templates for building advocacy campaigns and strategies to participate in the monitoring mechanisms of the SDGs.

The Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities also established the [Disability Data Advocacy Working Group](#) to provide a global platform for information exchange, learning and dialogue, sharing of good practices, and collaboration on disability data collection, disaggregation, and analysis. The primary focus is to enhance DPO engagement in data collection and disaggregation efforts. An important outcome has been a shift toward supporting persons with disabilities and DPOs to transition toward evidence-based advocacy to engage in VNRs at the national and regional levels.

## List of Participants

Organization	Name of Participant	Title
CDP	Helen Finlay	Senior Global Policy Manager
Danish Institute for Human Rights	Andres Dahlberg	Adviser
Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies	Ruben Zondervan	Executive Director of the Stakeholder Forum
Global Reporting Initiative	Tina Nybo Jensen	Manager, Policy & Strategic Relations
IOM	Susanne Melde	Senior Analyst, Global Migration Data Analysis Centre (GMDAC)
ITU	Mario Castro Grande	Senior External Affairs Officer
IPU	Aleksandra Blagojevic	Programme Manager for International Development
INTOSAI Development Initiative	Yudi Budiman	Manager, Professional and Relevant SAIs Department
Minority Rights Group	Claire Thomas	Deputy Director
OECD	Ernesto Soria Morales	Senior Policy Analyst, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Public Governance Directorate
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Pure Consulting	Jan-Gustav Strandenaes	Senior Adviser
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UNDP	Julia Kercher	Senior Expert
UNDP	Assem Andrews	Policy Specialist – Knowledge Management
UN ESCAP	Katinka Weinberger	Chief, Environment and Development Policies Section, Environment and Development Division
UNFPA	Nkeiruka Didigu	Inter-agency Affairs Specialist
UN Foundation	Kavita Desai	Advisor on Sustainable Development and Global Policy
UN Global Compact	Kim Gabrielli	Executive Director of the Global Compact Network Norway
UN OHRLS	Oumar Diallo	Senior Officer
University of Bergen	Annelin Eriksen	Professor, Vice-Rector for Global Relations
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World Blind Union	Jose Viera	Chief Executive Officer