

High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, convened under the auspices of the Council – **Voluntary National Reviews** Meeting Minutes

17-19 July, 2017

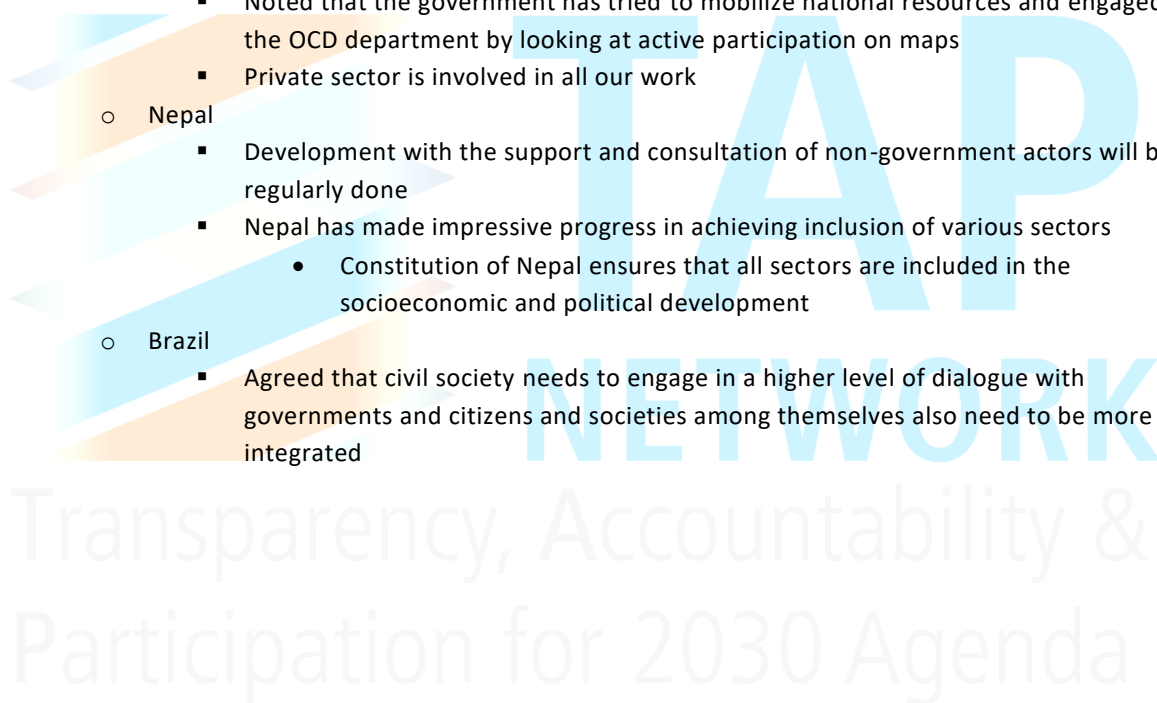
Voluntary National Reviews I – Brazil, Luxembourg, and Nepal

(17 July, 11:00 – 12:30)

- **Luxembourg**
 - Stated the official adopted report of implementation of Agenda 230 in May
 - Noted the next stage in the VNR process is a gap analysis to establish a new national fund for sustainable development
 - Expected to come out in the spring of 2018
 - Added that all public and private stakeholders and pioneers in sustainable development will play an important role in this implementation process.
 - National and local civil societies play an important role in national endeavors and development education
 - Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15709Luxembourg.pdf>
- **Nepal**
 - **Nepal directly mentioned SDG16, noting that funding on Goal 16 comprised of 10% of budget towards SDG implementation**
 - Rigorous consultation process over the including private sector, academia, and civil society were involved in the presentation of the report
 - Noted that Nepal is among the first countries to produce a preliminary legislative report in 2015 even before the formal
 - Presented mapping process of the 17 SDGs into the 5 strategies of the development plan
 - Noted that a total of 1200 Nepali programs and projects are being implemented in the current fiscal year
 - 10% of budget towards goal 16
 - Added that women in civil service and policy making positions expected to increase four fold
 - Capacity building throughout implementation phase and shared responsibility and accountability
 - Noted that three high level committees have been formed to help the implementation of the 2030 agenda

- At the apex is the committee chaired by the prime minister himself as well as civil society and other stakeholders
- Added that the government is drafting a document towards a baseline report
- Challenges
 - Noted the fact that SDGs are interlinked pose major implementation challenges for low income countries like Nepal
 - Added that the process of quickly mainstream sdgs into the provincial and local level planning and budgeting
 - Inadequate database will hinder the monitoring of progress
 - Triangular partnership between government, private sector and development partners is effective in some fronts though there needs reform to prove effective in other places
 - Noted that the mobilization of political will at national level, forging a strong partnership at regional and international levels will be crucial for achieving the SDGs
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16513Nepal.pdf>
- **Brazil**
 - Stated that commission on implementation of the SDGs consists of 16 members
 - R8 represent social actors from networks of ngos to entities representing the private sector and academia
 - Chosen in a transparent and democratic matter
 - Allow for participation of under entities from government and societies
 - Noted support of creation of subnational commissions to contribute to localizing the 2030 agenda
 - Noted need to highlight future creation of a national system of information which will facilitate flow of information between brazil and international organizations
 - Stated that Brazilian national review incorporates important contributions form external factors such as CSOs
 - civil societies have played a key role in process of disseminating and localizing sdgs
 - civil society working group for 2030 agenda, special thanks
 - of 2030 agenda depends on availability of implementation means in a matter that is compatible with the sdgs
 - the gathering here of countries civil societies private sector and international organizations strengthens the idea that we are on the right track towards agenda 2030
 - Full Report: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15806Brazil_English.pdf
- **Reflection on Presentations**
 - Women's Major Group
 - Represents group of CSOs from Brazil, Luxembourg and Nepal among others
 - Encourages all three governments to continue to work with all citizens and all levels of civil society to ensure more meaningful engagement

- Governments need to go further to have all civil societies involved in sdg implementation progress
- Gulf between ambition and national policies which prevent civil society
- Clear implementation strategy with commitment to engaging and empowering the csos clearly outlined
 - How do these countries ensure that blablalbalba for CSOs is well enforced
- NGO Major Group
 - Great concern of civil society that much money is flowing towards tax havens instead of going towards the strengthening of CSOs
 - What other actions will be taken to prevent money laundering and corruption
- **Responses**
 - Luxembourg
 - Noted that the government has tried to mobilize national resources and engaged in the OCD department by looking at active participation on maps
 - Private sector is involved in all our work
 - Nepal
 - Development with the support and consultation of non-government actors will be regularly done
 - Nepal has made impressive progress in achieving inclusion of various sectors
 - Constitution of Nepal ensures that all sectors are included in the socioeconomic and political development
 - Brazil
 - Agreed that civil society needs to engage in a higher level of dialogue with governments and citizens and societies among themselves also need to be more integrated



Voluntary National Reviews II – Monaco, Japan, and Indonesia

(17 July, 12:30 – 14:00)

• **Monaco**

- Noted that assistance was carried out with partnerships with all development stakeholders
 - This assistance is a concessional tool without any economic self interest
 - Focus on the LDCs, with difficulty attracting any other type of financing
 - Monaco allocates 65% of financing to 7 LDCs exclusive as a donation
- Added that the government of Monaco works closely with NGOs, state and non-state actors, and businesses
 - Noted that policies that are made are in line with the needs of environmental actors and of NGOs
- Stated that Monaco encourages discussion, which takes place in a variety of institutional for a within the principality
- Floor Opened for Questions
 - Scientific and Technological Community Major Group
 - It is only possible to achieve sustainable development with meaning involvement with worldwide participations?
 - What steps have you taken in the core design implementation and monitoring of national policies, including through data collection
 - How does Monaco ensure efforts to collected desegregated data for peoples in situations of marginalization?
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15697Monaco.pdf>

• **Japan**

- Noted work towards implementation a “SDG promotion headquarters” as well as held multistakeholder meetings
- Stated that by combining wisdom of various stakeholders including civil society, business, and government, Japan will strive for the SDGs at home and abroad through the “PPAP” (Public Private Action for Partnership) program
- Added that key to achieving SDGs is the empowerment of children and youth
- Noted that the establishment of a forum of dialogue with NGOs and CSOs in partnership with the youth
- Floor Opened for Questions
 - Japan Youth Program for Sustainability, UN major group for Children and Youth
 - How can there be guaranteed an institutionalized space where a meaningful engagement takes place that ensures voice of the marginalized and are reflected in implementation and policies
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16445Japan.pdf>

- **Indonesia**

- Noted that a presidential decree has been adopted earlier this month to establish SDG implementation and an inclusive national cooperation team under the president's direct leadership
 - All stakeholders are involved, including 4 participation platforms
 - Government and parliament
 - Philanthropy and business
 - Civil society
 - Organizational media
- Noted efforts towards advancing partnership across all stakeholders and all levels with regards to data
 - Partnerships with banking for implementing health of Indonesia
 - Increases accuracy, encourages financial inclusion
- Added that having valid and reliable data is kept requisite to making informed policies
 - Our database is continuously certified and validated
- Added that progress was only made possible through international stakeholders including parliament, civil society, philanthropy, business academy,
 - The Indonesian government would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the formulation of Indonesia's national voluntary review
- Floor opened for Questions
 - No questions related to SDG16
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15705Indonesia.pdf>

Transparency, Accountability & Participation for 2030 Agenda

Voluntary National Reviews III – Costa Rica, The Netherlands, Bangladesh, and Kenya

(17 July, 15:30 – 17:30)

- **Costa Rica**

- Noted that Costa Rica was the first country in the world to sign a collective commitment at the high level to achieve the SDGs, with three branches of republic, faith based organizations, universities, local governments, and private sectors acting as witnesses
- Added that working groups have been set up including with civil society
 - In terms of accountability, this is carried out through the SDG advisory committee and the SDG forum
- Full Report:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15846Costa_Rica.pdf

- **The Netherlands**

- SDGs at home and abroad are interlinked, in line with the universal nature of the SDGs
 - Added that the country is firmly committed to supporting other countries achieving the SDGs
- Noted that the Netherlands' VNR highlighted cooperation between other actors, including our fellow small island states
- In Curacao the central government partnered with the youth program in the implementation process of the 2030 Agenda
 - Partnerships are at the forefront of our sustainable development
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16109Netherlands.pdf>

- **Bangladesh**

- Noted that the Sustainable Development Goals are aligned with the Bangladesh 5 year plan from 2015 to 2020
- Noted documents which work towards SDG implementation
 - Mapping of ministries
 - Data analysis
 - External tracker to track SDG implementation
- Added that different stakeholders, consultations, presentations, workshops on implementation, and discussion with youth is all a part of the national steps towards the 2030 Agenda
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15826Bangladesh.pdf>

- **Kenya**
 - Stated that the government works in collaboration with various partners, CSOs, various ministries, agencies, private sector, as well as other public sector organizations
 - Noted that implementation has come with challenges, one of the key challenges is an inadequate disaggregated data, we will be reviewing the national statistical system to allow for more and better data collection
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15689Kenya.pdf>

- **Reflection on Presentations**
 - No questions in relation to SD16



Voluntary National Reviews IV – Chile and Malaysia

(17 July, 17:30 – 18:30)

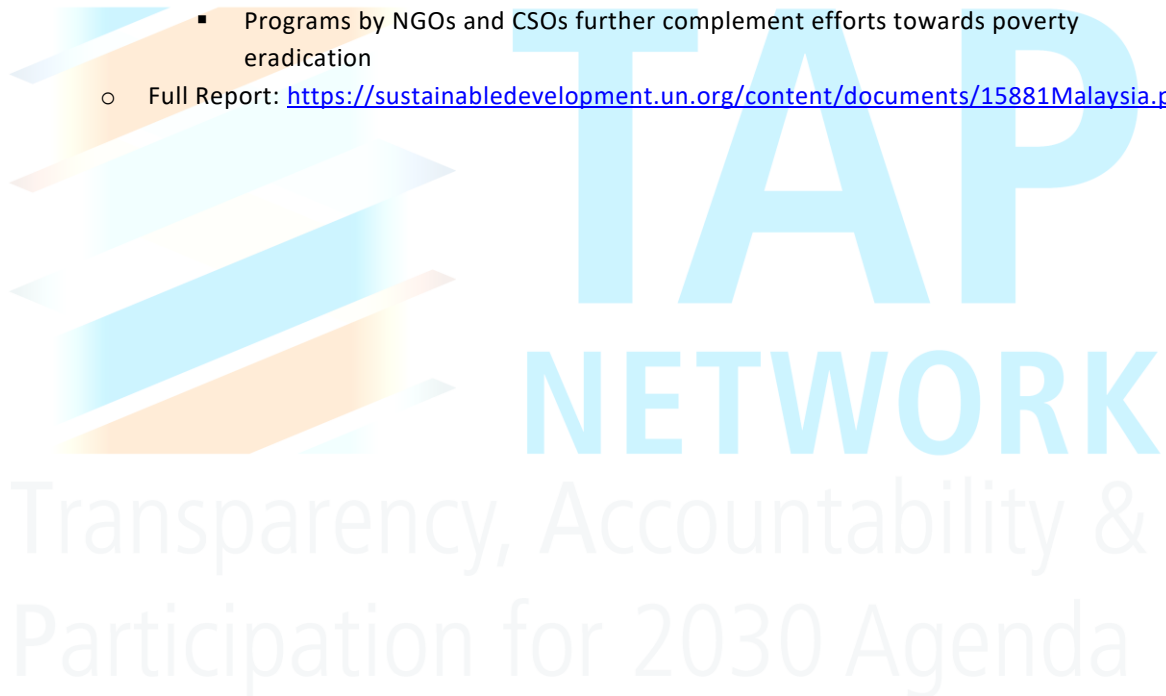
- **Chile**

- Noted that the process involved working together with academia, civil society, and government agencies and private sector in a process of mainstreaming and participation both in the regional and national levels
 - Active civils society within nation
- 4 major pillars of SDG implementation
 - Achieving sustainable and inclusive economic and social development
 - Reducing inequality and poverty
 - Addressing climate change
 - Bolstering institutions and democracy
 - These reflect our major political challenges to the present and future
- Noted that there can be citizenship and social citizenship without exclusion of any kind for participation
- Stated importance of strengthening partnerships with sustainable development for adequate means of implementation
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15776Chile.pdf>

- **Malaysia**

- Emphasized that the people are at the center of all sustainable development efforts
- Stated 3 pillars of NEM (domestic development) policy
 - High income
 - Inclusivity
 - And sustainability
 - These are unsurprisingly in parallel with 3 themes of SDGs: economy, social, and environmental
- Added that no section of Malaysian society is left behind by participation in economic growth
- Mapping and conducting studies of data readiness and gap analysis with civil society to align SDGs with the 11th Malaysian plan
- Floor Opened for Questions
 - Indigenous Peoples Major Group
 - What can Malaysia give pertaining to rectifying the lack of disaggregated data on development and land matters impacting indigenous peoples
 - Children and Youth Major Group
 - CSO of Malaysia acknowledge that the government has engaged with us during the VNR process
 - But it must go beyond consultative inputs - it must be a genuine partnership in sustainable and just development

- NGO Major Group
 - Strengthening CSO partnership into a more meaningful expression to see impact in terms of delivery and implementation also in sub-regional and local levels
- The department of statistics of Malaysia is to collect and tabulate quality data, and data from the civil society organizations will be checked as well
- The Malaysian government goal is to give priority to targeted groups through various inclusive programs including capacity building
- Particularly with the CSOs we will work together to see all issues pertaining to targeted groups
- Participation of non-state actors is imperative
 - We are adopting engagement with all communities from all sections of society in formulating TN50, our development aspiration for the next 30 years
 - Programs by NGOs and CSOs further complement efforts towards poverty eradication
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15881Malaysia.pdf>



Voluntary National Reviews V – Belgium, Benin, and Peru

(18 July, 9:00 – 10:30)

- **Belgium**

- **Belgium invited a youth representative from Belgian civil society network to speak**
- Stated that the government wishes to work together with civil society organizations in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
- Noted that all relevant stakeholders should collectively define the level of ambition Belgium needs to implement the SDGs in each of its 3 dimensions
- Fighting the gender gap is one of the priorities of Belgium
 - Stated that there is no sensible argument to say that a woman cannot decide what to do with their own body
- Full Report: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15721Belgium_Rev.pdf

- **Benin**

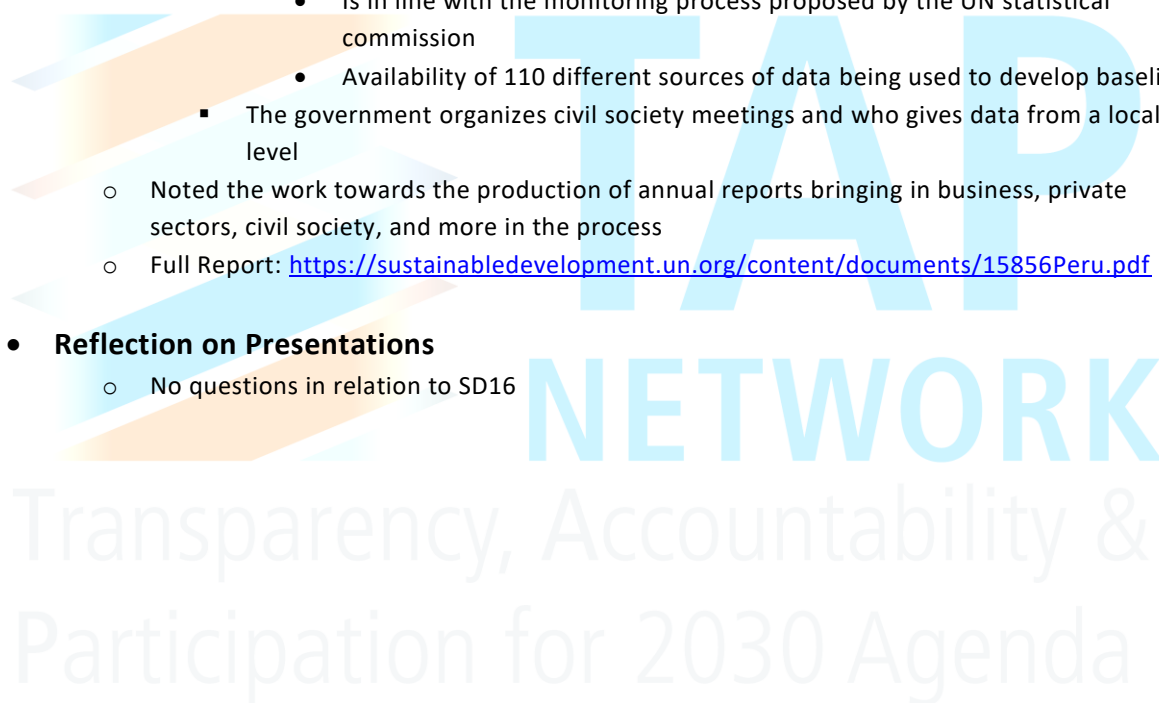
- **Benin explicitly mentions SDG16 in VNR Process**
 - Use of SDG 16 for cross sectoral programming monitoring
 - CSO and the private sector depending on their interests will be involved in the sectoral groups
 - Funds through streamlining
 - With regard to domestic resources measures are taken to improve and secure mobilization through fighting corruption, digital procedures, and tax loopholes
- Noted that the government of Benin is involved in cooperation with development partners through aspiring documents
- Stated desire to popularize and democratize the ideas around the SDGs
 - Awareness has been raised ten and the government has the elaboration of the national development planning process
- Added that the drafting of the third generation of the national strategy for the possibility to measure the achievement was recently made in lieu with the SDGs
- Noted that framework on law and public/.private partnerships was voted in early 2017 to encourage private sector participation with the SDGs
- Presented six steps towards national SDG implementation
 - Set up monitoring and evaluation system
 - Identify and project target level for 2020, 2024, and 2030
 - Alignment of National Development Plan with priority targets
 - Alignment of sectoral strategies
 - Develop advocacy document for resource mobilization to finance the SDGs
 - Continue with outreach of awareness activities in the whole communities of Benin
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15901Benin.pdf>

- **Peru**

- Stated that the government of Peru was involved in meetings with highest level experts from all parts of society in Peru to ensure policy coherence
- Added that the Peruvian forum for national agreement establishes state policies
 - A mechanism created in 2002 as a way to bring together representatives of political parties, states, and civil societies
- Noted the creation of a strategic planning cycle for continuous improvement
 - Within this is an organization for monitoring progress, including the national statistics institute
 - This organization has monitored our progress on the sdg indicators
 - Is in line with the monitoring process proposed by the UN statistical commission
 - Availability of 110 different sources of data being used to develop baselines
 - The government organizes civil society meetings and who gives data from a local level
- Noted the work towards the production of annual reports bringing in business, private sectors, civil society, and more in the process
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15856Peru.pdf>

- **Reflection on Presentations**

- No questions in relation to SD16



Voluntary National Reviews VI – Guatemala, Italy, and Zimbabwe

(18 July, 10:30 – 12:00)

- **Guatemala**

- Guatemala is working with civil society organizations and NGOs, and emphasizes citizen participation.
- Noted that efforts are being made in raising knowledge of the SDGs through regional workshops aimed towards various organizations for marginalized peoples
 - 5 state process involved 144 workshops and participation of 1200 individuals
- Also noted efforts towards undertaking analysis of the capacities that the countries have to report on the indicators enshrined in the prioritized sdg agenda
- Noted importance of statistical information as well as generate partnerships for development, meanwhile integrating SDGs into this national agenda has generated methodologies to ensure our work is really felt on the ground
- Added that the fight against corruption is key
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16626Guatemala.pdf>

- **Italy**

- **Italy invited a civil society representative to speak on their involvement in the SDG implementation process**
- Presented integrated policies called the NSDS shares goals and ac actions for an integrated policy
 - People
 - Planet
 - Prosperity
 - Peace
 - Partnership
- Noted that the prime ministers council is in charge of coordinating strategy with collaboration of other ministries
- Added that participation is fundamental to assure full respect to the principles of agenda 2030
 - Minister of environment will coordinate a forum regarding the internal dimension open to civil society to experts and representatives of institutions
 - Civil society will be involved in every aspect of cooperation
- Further noted that such sectors and themes reflect the integrated nature of the agenda and advocates that will be carried out revenue to the sdgs and targets
- Added that governance, democracy, and human rights, are among those at the heart of the Italian development strategy
- Stated that all sectors including civil society contributed their ideas to the final version of the 3 year document, which is in the process of updating for the 2017-2019 period

- Italian civil society representative (Italian alliance for sustainable development est feb 2016) ASVIS
 - This organization now gets together more than 170 organizations of Italian civil society
 - Especially 2nd level organization such as research foundations, trade unions, etc
 - Largest ever created alliance of Italian civil society
 - More than 300 experts working in different working groups
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16341Italy.pdf>
- **Zimbabwe**
 - Noted that the SDG process involved extensive consultation with government ministries, private sector, development partnerships, UN organizations, civil society, women's groups, the youth, and others
 - Presented the ZUDAF 2016 – 2030 program, which has initiatives in 6 areas, including good governance
 - Stated that sustainable development is consistent with Zimbabwe's development vision and is at the core of the nations policies
 - Noted baseline data for selected indicators for the institutional framework
 - Institutional framework includes SDG working groups
 - They report to a steering committee which consists of the minister for macroeconomic planning, as well as civil society, private sector, and UN members
 - Parliament plays oversight role and facilitates sdg implementation
 - Strengthening stakeholder participation in all processes and at all levels, i.e. national, provincial, and district level
 - Noted the following next steps:
 - Enhance private sector involvement to bridge financing gap
 - Improve the involvement of local authorities to create critical mass around sustainable development
 - Increase public awareness, knowledge, and perceptions of SDGs
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15866Zimbabwe.pdf>
- **Interactive Dialogue**
 - Representative from Thailand
 - Would like further elaboration on data and statistical collection on the engagement of general public on SDGs for Guatemala
 - Moderators did not allow civil society to speak due to the disturbances (fire alarm) in the meeting earlier taking note of the time

Voluntary National Reviews VII – Czech Republic, Jordan, Thailand, Argentina

(18 July, 12:00 – 14:00)

- **Czech Republic**

- **The Czech Republic invited a Czech NGO representatives to emphasize vision of civil society towards the SDGs and the relationship between NGOs/CSOs and the Czech government**
- Noted that the Sustainable Development Goals requires good governance to meet citizen needs
 - Added that disagreeably, the target is still far from reality
 - Noted transparency of public institutions
 - Added that it is worrying that the Czech Republic are far behind the best scoring European countries
 - Added that cooperation matters for the 2030 agenda
- Stated that public institution business and CSOs are principles of sustainable development
 - need to bring sdgs closer to the people and share our best practices in doing so
- Noted that the Czech Republic had a 'Sustainable Development Goal contest' for each individual SDG
 - 215 projects applied, noting that as proof of a great appetite for global goals action
 - Stated that cooperation is needed between public and private sector
- Representative of from a Czech NGO - vision for sustainable development agenda
 - Value longstanding relationship between NGO/CSO and the government of the Czech Republic
 - 17 partnership for goals is vital
 - All goals are intertwined
- Noted need to cooperate across social sectors in the fields from the global to local level
- Added that the largest challenge still ahead of with implementation as well as how to get closer to the public and how to get broad support from there
- The Czech Republic works with other ngos, government to find legislative solutions, and private sector to find common ground
- Questions
 - NGO Major Group
 - Noted appreciation approach to include strengths and weaknesses
- Full Report:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15717Czech_Republic.pdf

- **Jordan**

- **Jordan directly mentions SDG16 in a short promotional video highlighting 'on the ground' progress on SDG implementation in the nation, as well as general strong language on citizen participation**

- Noted the use monitoring framework for or national integrated development plan to monitor the implementation of the SDGs
- Added that the government has strengthened participation with NGOs and we have worked with 2 working groups as part of the Ngo to ensure freedom of expression
- Noted interlinkages between working groups and conduction of good mapping to ensure that all are aligned fully with the SDGs
- Stated that roadmap was developed with participation of all stakeholders and NGOs and UN Agencies
- Noted the challenges faced
 - Technical capacity gaps and need to strengthen the national statistical system
- Presented video from the average people in Jordan highlighting the SDGs and their process on the ground in Jordan
 - Including SDG16 stating youth and their well-being as the backbone of the development agenda (by a young Syrian refugee girl living in Jordan)
- With the help of the UN system our national statistical system we build on that
 - Noted that there is a big gap in the data and that there is need to build the capacity of the statistical department – and this is not unique to Jordan many countries are having issues on this type of report
- Noted that regarding inclusivity of all stakeholders, Jordan is a strong believer in open government, and government measures towards SDG implementation fully involve all stakeholders, publishing all reports positive and negative.
- Added that the government will be disclosing all of our data on our website
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16289Jordan.pdf>
- **Thailand**
 - Noted that roles of private sector and civil society and local community youth are vital
 - Added that committee on SDG implementation consisting of private and civil society had the single goal to increase the economy and income of people in our communities
 - This led to good governance as one of the tenets
 - The mantra is the people to do the work, the private sector to drive the sector, and public sector to provide necessary support
 - The private sectors contribution, although small, can grow into something more substantial if we all in the sector work together
 - Noted want for cooperation between government and all private sectors and civil society with the goal to improve over the next 6 months
 - Noted a need to meet statistical capacity
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16147Thailand.pdf>
- **Argentina**
 - Stated that the monitoring the SDGs is made up of relevant feasible core of goals and indicators going down towards 3 levels
 - Noted that this progress is people centered because it seeks to help in poverty and decrease inequality
 - Cross cutting because it protects right focus, inclusion of everybody

- Participatory because both state and non-state actors are included
- Added that the central government counts on provinces to bring about csos and assist in production of specific documents
- Noted that the Argentine government encourages civil society to enhance their role in the development of the SDGs
 - They have many participatory organizations and so we have a strategy for participation linked with civil society and the community
 - More than 10000 formal and informal ngos were brought into the picture
 - And the alliance of a CSO coordinated by the center for the study of women
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16117Argentina.pdf>



Voluntary National Reviews VII – Belarus, Portugal, and Uruguay

(18 July, 15:30 – 17:00)

- **Belarus**

- Noted that in order to fully monitor sdgs there is a need disaggregate-able data which calls the need for a national data system
 - Work is under way to set up this system
- Added that Belarus is making progress in advancing multilateral initiatives including one presented by our president
- Floor Opened
 - Representative of the Russian Federation
 - Questions regarding the participation of non-state actors in the implementation of the SDGs
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16357Belarus.pdf>

- **Portugal**

- **Portugal directly mentioned civil society reporting and its implementation through public consultation led by Portuguese civil society**
- Recognized the need for more attention to peace, security and good governance, with an emphasis on fragile states
- Noted a joint multi stakeholder effort towards achieving the 2030 agenda
- Added that a council of ministers is in a mechanism equal with civil society
 - Cross-sector coordination requirements open to all stakeholders
- Noted that the VNR is an implementation support tool
 - It gives baseline info on the main national and regional policies, plan and strategies that contribute to achieving sdgs
- Presented the crucial role of the national statistical institute and agency for development cohesion
 - Which provides technical support to commissions and coordinating ministries
- Noted that a public consultation took place in 2017 in a process led by Portuguese civil society for shadow reports
- Added that the NGO and social economy have joined efforts for specific partners to put in the real world the goals and targets of the SDGs
- Full Report: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15766Portugal2017_EN.pdf

- **Uruguay**

- Stated that the democratic index with low corruption and under indicators place Uruguay in the top spot
- Noted method of creating 10 working groups tied to 17 SDGs

- Added that national and global, public and private partnerships are all need to take forward the 2030 agenda
 - Stated that it cannot expect to be a one size fits all approach
- 50% of indicators are immediately available to measure
- Strategic planning on state level and all levels of government, and also in national budget there is a link with the sdgs
- Added that Uruguay have developed a portal for transparency and streamlined the SDGs
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15781Uruguay2.pdf>



Voluntary National Reviews IX – Sweden, Nigeria, and Panama

(18 July, 17:00 – 18:30)

- **Sweden**

- **Sweden directly referenced SDG 16 early in their VNR presentation**
- Reported that Sweden a lot of SDG16 emphasis in the past, such as women's right to vote
- Noted that building transparent and accountable institutions has been key
 - Added the influence of a strong dynamic innovative private sector
- Noted that social partners are well organized and have a focus on finding solutions through negotiations
- Added that through a democratic and political path, Sweden has made a firm model with the ambition to provide access to all sdfs for all citizens
 - Many of these are from local self governance
 - Local and regional levels are also significant with working together with local businesses and civil society
- Stated that global and local goals intertwined
- Added that Sweden's challenges is unsustainable consumption and production patterns
 - Challenges related to inequality remain and have actually in some cases risen over time
- Noted that solidarity is a cornerstone of our work
 - Sweden has strengthened policy coherence that gives essential place to the rights perspective and the perspective of the poor
- Summarized that Sweden has local engagement and a broad engagement in all sectors of society for the fulfillment of the agenda
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16033Sweden.pdf>

- **Nigeria**

- **Nigeria invited head of a national civil society organization to speak on behalf of the civil society community working on attainment of the sustainable development goals**
- Stated that CSOs should be a key part of the construction of the VNR
 - Nigerian people and women in particular are very active in the implementation of the SDGs
 - It is important to state that insecurity has negatively affected the implementation of the SDGs
- Called on worldwide leaders to actively engage wit 2030 agenda by providing an environment for planning, budgeting and allocation for resources rather than military spending
- Noted that data requires multi-stakeholder collaboration
 - Nigeria called on all partners to support disaggregated data for the implementation for the SDGs

- Noted need to create awareness for the general public
- Monitoring and ensuring transparency in the implementation of the SDG process needs to be at all levels
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16029Nigeria.pdf>



Voluntary National Reviews X – Honduras, India, Maldives

(19 July, 9:00 – 11:00)

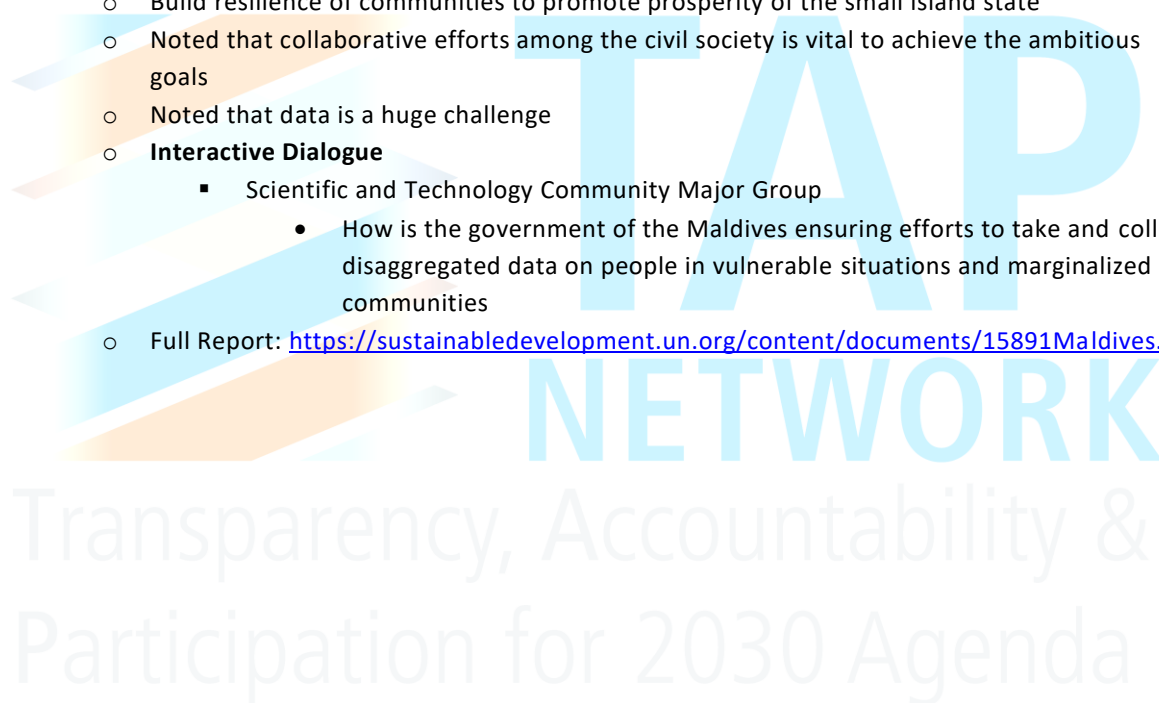
- **Honduras**

- Noted the participation of workers, peasant farmers, NGOs, academia and also the private sector in our country
 - Added that both in high level committee and technical committee Honduras has a considerable degree of participation from that part of society
- Noted the implementation of the third open government plan in Honduras
 - There again civil society, private sector, and academia are involved
- Announced is a new secretary of state for human rights will be adopted and will start working as of next year
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15871Honduras.pdf>

- **India**

- In the introductory video there was no mention of the SDGs, and the speaker explains that:
 - National goals have greater resonance with the people
 - There is greater ownership since the programs are seen as homegrown
- Noted there were 5 key stakeholders in the SDG implementation process, including
 - Government
 - Speaker of parliament
 - Parliament hosted several forums of SDGs
 - Ministry of statistics and program implementation
 - Prime Minister sees progress and implementation
 - Sub national governments
 - Local bodies taking the lead in implementing development initiatives
 - Village level / citizens
 - Consultation on this level
 - Civil society
 - playing critical role independently and through partnership with government
 - Corporate sector
 - actively originating consultations and initiative action on various SDGs
 - Academia
- Noted focus on SDG1 Poverty Elimination
- Added that global partnerships for sustainable development were important
- **Interactive Dialogue**
 - Representative of Belarus

- Question regarding challenges of implementing sustainable development in a large country
- What is the approaches, how do you get statistical indicators together to monitor whether you are implementing the SDGs
- National institution which coordinates the work on the SDGs
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15836India.pdf>
- **The Maldives**
 - Stated that integrated process in the Maldives is built upon the successful implementation of the MDGs in the country
 - Added that stakeholder engagement and participation is important in the realization of the SDGs
 - Build resilience of communities to promote prosperity of the small island state
 - Noted that collaborative efforts among the civil society is vital to achieve the ambitious goals
 - Noted that data is a huge challenge
 - **Interactive Dialogue**
 - Scientific and Technology Community Major Group
 - How is the government of the Maldives ensuring efforts to take and collect disaggregated data on people in vulnerable situations and marginalized communities
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15891Maldives.pdf>



Voluntary National Reviews XI – Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, Belize and Denmark

(18 July, 11:00 – 12:45)

• **Azerbaijan**

- **Azerbaijan did not mention civil society or any SDG16 related issues**
- Noted that several state programs are initiated to further transform society
 - Or particular importance are the poll lowering state programs
 - State program on maternal and child health
- Added that National coordination council for sustainable development was established by the prime minister
- Stated that Azerbaijan aligns SDG to national priorities in order to mainstream together
- Stated that Armenian aggression against Azerbaijan has cost us hundreds of millions of dollars, which has been detrimental to the SDG implementation process
 - If Armenia does not want to be called an aggressor then do not be an aggressor
 - Two days ago an Armenian sniper has killed a young Azerbaijani girl
- **Interactive Dialogue**
 - Armenia
 - Armenia protesting that mention of Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict has nothing to do with the HLPF
 - Wished Azerbaijan to make genuine efforts to address their problems including massive corruption, lack of accountability, and crack down on human rights and civil society organization to ensure good governance on all levels
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16005Azerbaijan.pdf>

• **Afghanistan**

- Noted that Nationalization process of indicators and the global targets have been reviewed by different stakeholders with realization of national context and circumstances
 - 125 targets
 - 190 indicators
 - Have been divided into 8 national budget sectors and 17 subsectors to clarify sdgs to respective ministers
- Noted that national coordination committees, and others lead process of coordinating and monitoring sdgs in Afghanistan
- Stated that consultations resulted in crucial impacts of planning process of subnational entities
- Noted that their VNR report has been in consultation with various stakeholders
- Expanded advocacy and outreach activities at subnational levels
 - We can see data sources and budget entities, CSO surveys – all this data will come to the SDG secretariat

- **Interactive Dialogue**
 - Nothing of note in relation to SDG16
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16277Afghanistan.pdf>
- **Belize**
 - **Belize made a mention of SDG16 in their Voluntary National Review presentation**
 - Stated that governance and citizen security is an integral part of improving quality of life for all Belizeans living now and in the future
 - It is part of four broad critical success factors
 - Enhance governance and improve citizen security, Belize endeavors to strengthen institutional engagements linking to national decision making progress
 - This covers sdfs 16 and 10
 - Stated that to support implementation growth and SDG strategy establishing a coordination committee was vital
 - Noted that both state and non-state actors are consulted in the steps taken towards the 2030 agenda
 - **Interactive Dialogue**
 - Nothing of note in relation to SDG 16
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16389Belize.pdf>
- **Denmark**
 - **Denmark invited a representative from their national CSO organizations to present, commend and criticize actions towards civil society**
 - Denmark promises to keep country as one of the least corrupt countries in the world and continue to work together with peace keeping efforts
 - Noted that partnerships that are cross cutting are a priority to all of our efforts
 - Danish CSO representative will represent the VNR process:
 - Unfortunately many other countries crack down on civil society
 - I am honored to be challenging by government to be the leader I know we can be
 - We encourage all member states to treat their civil society in the same way that Denmark does
 - We call governments to develop a proper gap analysis the pins down targets where Denmark needs to step up efforts both nationally and in our global responsibility
 - Noted that status report are published regularly
 - Added that statistics Denmark has made the first statistical report on the global indicators which is included in our VNR report
 - Noted that regarding CSOs and how to better involve all participants to be a crucial part of change is still a learning process.
 - Noted that there is hope that the SDGs can be seen by other countries as a domestic policy rather than an international policy
 - **Interactive Dialogue**
 - NGO Major Group
 - Speaking on behalf of CSO organizations in Denmark

- As documented by civil society, Denmark still has a long way to go
 - Share the ministers ambition that civil society is strongly involved
 - However we have yet to see an approach to fully engage CSOs
 - Documented that vulnerable groups in Denmark are discriminated against, such as disabled and minority communities such as immigrants and refugees
- Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16013Denmark.pdf>

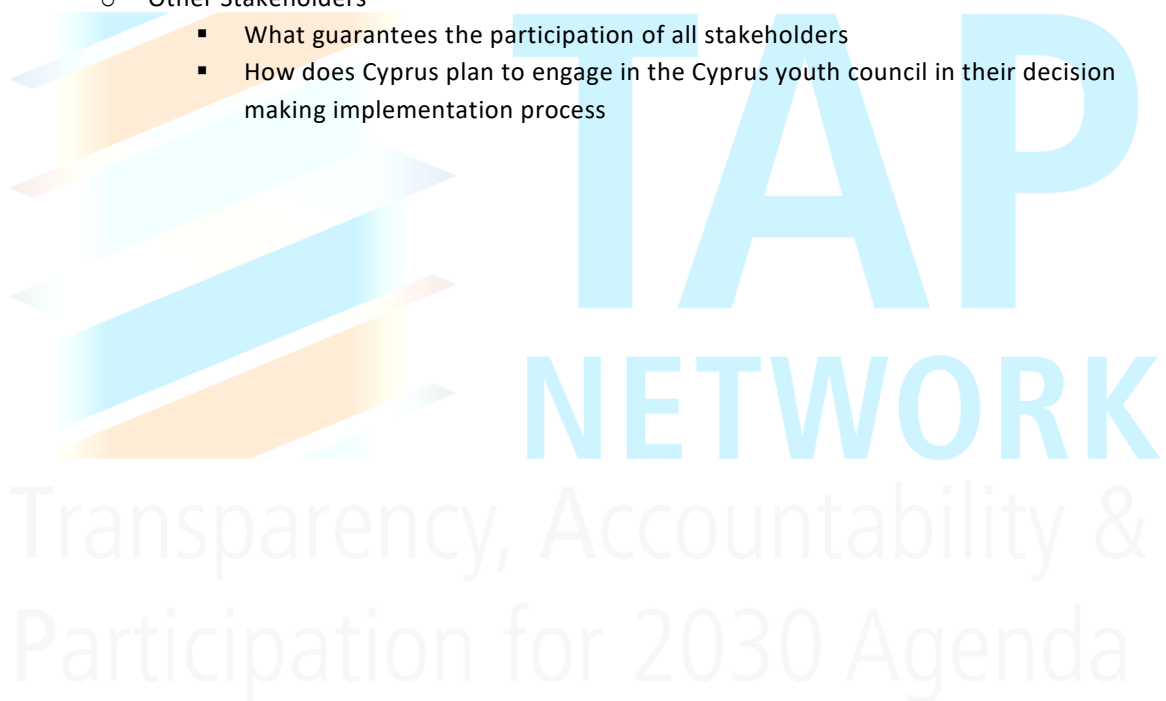


Voluntary National Reviews XII – Togo and Cyprus

(18 July, 12:45 – 14:00)

- **Togo**
 - **Togo directly mentions civil society reports and civil society organizations in their Voluntary National Review in addition to noting extensive civil society participation**
 - Noted that Togo has been chosen to host the first African symposium on SDG governance
 - Stated that the Togolese government wishes to call upon all partners working on the implementation of the SDGs
 - Added that Togo has been chosen along with Belize to experiment with the local level sdg implementation
 - Noted that shadow reports have been conducted by Togo CSOs
 - Invite stakeholders to come to government, but government must also reach out to all corners of the nation
 - Eight civil society representatives have come and four have been paid by the government so yes this is fruitful but we feel that there can be even more participation for all stakeholders from Togo
 - Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10503togorapport.pdf>
- **Cyprus**
 - **Cyprus involved a representative of the Cyprus Civil Society Organization on Development and Social Integration to present a section of the VNR presentation regarding involvement of other stakeholders in Cyprus SDG implementation**
 - Indicated that Cyprus are on a good course to meet targets through legislation or other policies
 - Noted a nation-wide focus on youth
 - Cyprus Civil society organization on development and social integration will speak on the involvement of other stakeholders in Cyprus
 - CSOs in Cyprus try to advance currently their capacity addresses, mainly related with awareness, education, and social injustice
 - CSO field is still young and inexperienced as there has only been progress after EU accession however we developed our skills to access local citizens through grassroots activities and also with the help of the government there has been incorporated in the decision making process
 - SDGs through civil society:
 - Raise awareness vertically and horizontally to the people
 - Sustainable development education through schools for future youth, advocacy and activities to promote global citizenship education
 - We try with the collaboration with min of foreign affairs and education to develop a dedicated government authority on sustainable development

- Challenges:
 - Institutionalization of CSOs
 - Both government departments and CSOs need to deepen collaboration
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15886Cyprus.pdf>
- **Questions**
 - NGO Major Group
 - Question quality of engagement as it seems uneven and patchy and weak institutional arrangements for meaningful diverse civil society actors
 - Shadow reports should also be posted on the UN website
 - Civil society must be allowed to be able to hold governments accountable
 - Other Stakeholders
 - What guarantees the participation of all stakeholders
 - How does Cyprus plan to engage in the Cyprus youth council in their decision making implementation process



Voluntary National Reviews XIII – Botswana, Qatar, Slovenia, Tajikistan, El Salvador

(18 July, 15:00 – 17:15)

○ **Botswana**

- Noted that all necessary institutional mechanism have been established for the successful implementation of the SDGs in Botswana
- Added that technical working groups operationalize all government programming throughout the economy are being taken on board for monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs
- Steps
 - Development of plan of action by a roadmap
 - Implementation through building on existing programs
- Noted various initiatives to the rural peoples for their development and inclusion
- Added that several interventions are in place to help beneficiaries to make poor and vulnerable families
- Questions
 - Working Group on Workers and Trade Unions
 - Where will there be civil society in areas such as for people led data collection
 - There is little civil society mentioned
 - There is an inherent disconnect between the agenda and actions of government at national level
- Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16397Botswana.pdf>

○ **Qatar**

- **Qatar failed to mention civil society in VNR presentation, including question and answer session**
- Stated that Qatar does not view the issue of economic, social, and environmental progress from a purely internal perspective
- Added that Good governance and sovereign rule of law entrenching human principles, achieving social justice and non-marginalization is all important for sustainable development
- Noted Qatari interest in the children and youth reflects indicators
 - We set aside 20% of revenues to education sector
 - Takes extra care of socioeconomic activities of the youth
- Questions
 - Children and Youth Major Group
 - How is Qatari civil society involved in the conversation of agenda 2030 and their engagement in writing the national report?

- Full Report:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16517Qatar_EN.pdf

- **Slovenia**
 - **Slovenia invited a representative of the Slovenia NGO Platform, a member of civil society, to speak in the VNR presentation**
 - Stated that the VNRs are an important step of creating monitoring system for sdg implementation
 - Noted that while there are several gaps that need to be addressed Slovenia is on a good track towards activating the sdgs
 - Added that Slovenia encourages and actively promotes diverse and inclusive partnerships with civil society and the private sector
 - Representative of Slovenia NGO platform gave speech
 - Slovenia had tens of events with several hundred citizens able to and had participated in discuss the future we all want
 - Realize gaps
 - We don't want to make this a one-time process but to find a way to organize stakeholder engagement on a more permanent basis
 - **Questions**
 - UN stakeholders on NGO
 - Thanks for involving CSO in process
 - Address following points:
 - We urge to dialogue with all stakeholders in all diversity aside from just civil society
 - Will there be further regular transparent consultations with the diversity of stakeholders to strengthen participation in the development and implementation of the upcoming national strategy?
 - Full Report: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16313Slovenia.pdf>

- **Tajikistan**
 - Noted local government importance as an instrument for integrating SDGs
 - Added that close coordination and partnership is needed
 - Ensured committed approach to raising awareness of civil society, particularly youth, about sdgs for their interest
 - Full Report:
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16021Tajikistan.pdf>

- **El Salvador**
 - 2 institutional levels
 - Political coordination based on management cabinet
 - Technical coordination with a group in which 71 state institutions coordinated by the foreign ministry and technical planning and secretariat of the presidency

- Stated that the statistical capability to measure respective indicators, availability of funding to deepen knowledge and connection with priorities identified in the consultations with non-state actors
- Added that the private sector and organizations of civil society should take place for 2030 agenda at the center of dialogue
- Noted that all sectors have been participant on their relative themes
- Added that the government of El Salvador suggested there be free space where many actors can meet and share their long term vision of agenda 2030 beyond political changes for the implementation process
- Full Report:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16649RNV_El_Salvador_1307_2011_2PP.pdf

