



Country Case Studies from Event

“Strengthening Post-VNR Best Practices on SDG16”

An online webinar hosted by the [TAP Network](#) and [UNDP](#)
 Tuesday, 10 March 2020 at 12:00-1:30pm GMT

Case Studies by Country:

Country	Approach
Georgia	<p>Institutional mechanisms established during a VNR have frequently evolved after the VNR. Georgia, for example, belonged to the relatively small number of 22 “early moving” countries that conducted their first VNR immediately after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. At the time, it had not been possible to already set-up the necessary institutional mechanisms to coordinate the implementation of the Agenda. In 2017, the Government of Georgia introduced its SDG architecture, including a multi-stakeholder SDG Council, thematic working groups and an Annual Forum where the members of the SDG Council come together to share and debate experiences related to SDG implementation. The practice of an Annual SDG Forum has since then been adopted by a number of countries.</p>
Germany	<p>While Germany had already institutionalized mechanisms to coordinate government activity and engage with other stakeholders on sustainable development since the early 2000s, after the VNR in 2016, Germany also newly established an annual Sustainability Forum as multi-stakeholder dialogue forum organized by the Chancellery.</p> <p>Peer reviews and other forms of peer exchange are increasingly seen as a tool to foster mutual learning and encourage follow-up action. Germany has conducted an international peer review, headed by Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and former Administrator of the UNDP, which offered crucial orientation regarding the further development of the German Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) and encouraged all engaged parties in Germany to increase the level of ambition and accelerate implementation.</p>
Guatemala	<p>There are examples of countries taking immediate follow-up action after the VNRs. Guatemala committed to host a series of workshops after the HLPF to discuss recommendations evolving from the VNR process and to then communicate these recommendations to sector ministries.</p> <p>Guatemala has also looked to strengthen its institutional mechanisms during the second VNR. For its 2019 review, Guatemala changed its VNR processes from a solely government-led approach to a whole-of-society approach, which involved representatives from local government, CSOs, the private sector, and congress. This adjustment fostered more meaningful multi-stakeholder engagement in the review processes and enabled the government to collect far more usable data than it had in 2017. In designing its policies for 2020 since its most recent VNR, the ministry took into account the results from the country’s review and used these to develop the goals of its new government for the next four years.</p> <p>Coordination and engagement with the different branches of government continues to be a challenge. However, this coordination and broader stakeholder engagement was also good opportunity to not just improve the report but to also increase general buy-in and commitment the SDGs. For example, in 2019, a meeting was coordinated between the presidency, the judiciary, the congress, and other stakeholders to sign a public commitment to SDGs and the country’s national development priorities.</p>

Mexico	<p>Mexico is another example of a country taking immediate follow-up action after the VNRs. Mexico involved the Ministry of Finance during follow-up to map all applicable budget lines and programs with SDG indicators to better visualize how opportunities and synergies for sustainable development may be driven through the budgetary process.</p> <p>Mexico also looked to strengthen its institutional mechanisms during the second VNR. For example, Mexico adopted broader consultation processes during their second VNR compared to their first VNR. In its words, Mexico's VNR evolved from government strategies to national strategies.</p>
Mongolia	<p>Mongolia is an innovative example for using the VNR to develop concrete next steps and policy recommendations. The country decided to focus on a particularly pressing sustainable development issue and review it in an integrated manner. Their 2019 VNR includes one chapter dedicated to air pollution. They have conducted a systems analysis of drivers, bottlenecks and impacts and developed short- and long-term actions needed to tackle air pollution.</p>
Togo	<p>In 2017, civil society in Togo created an alternative report for the VNR and AIFJL conducted an online survey to identify how youth organizations were doing to accelerate action on SDG16. Unfortunately, the findings from these efforts were never included in the national government's review. In 2018, better internal coordination helped to allow civil society's involvement in all phases of the review process—thanks in particular to a dynamic team of young people from civil society who pushed for inclusion. Several CSO actors took part in the HLPF in New York with the support of the government.</p>
UK	<p>The ONS has embarked on an innovative initiative to make UK data around the SDGs more readily accessible to the its government and other interested stakeholders within the country and elsewhere around the world. It's Open SDG and National Reporting Platform, which is a free-to-reuse, open source SDG reporting and monitoring solution developed in collaboration with the US government and the Center for Open Data for Enterprise. The software is completely customizable and a number of other countries around the world are replicating and customizing this site for their own contexts.</p> <p>The UK has actively worked to share this site with other countries and provide technical support to national statistics offices and other stakeholders interested in creating their own platforms to house their country's data on the SDGs. Currently, there are around 13 countries who have created or are working to create their own platform based on the UK's Open SDG website. The ONS team is working with some of these countries directly to implement their platforms, while others are utilizing the self-help instructions for creating their own site which the ONS has published directly on the platform. The UK is happy to provide support to other countries interested in undertaking their own initiatives to create similar platforms and can host in-person country workshops or provide remote support depending on what the country needs and what supports the ONS has available.</p>