



STRENGTHENING POST-VNR BEST PRACTICES ON SDG 16



Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 breaks new ground in development thinking as it is the first time that Peace, Justice and Inclusion are being addressed in an explicit global development goal with detailed targets. It is widely acknowledged that SDG 16 is both an end in itself and a crucial part of delivering sustainable development in all countries [1]. The 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Report and the SDG Summit Political Declaration highlighted that despite increased advocacy and implementation, SDG 16 indicators are largely trending in the wrong direction. The first thematic review of SDG 16 at the High-Level Political Forum in July 2019 highlighted the urgent need for increased political and financial investment in SDG 16+ and the necessity of having better data and systems in place to track and document progress on SDG 16.[2]

Member States are increasingly reporting on their implementation of Agenda 2030 through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). The number of countries presenting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) during HLPF have more than doubled in four years, from 22 in 2016 to 50 in 2020. With more countries reporting for the second and third time, the VNRs are getting more comprehensive have more detailed breakdowns of progress on SDG 16[3]. Member States still mention SDG 16 data availability, collection and statistical capacities at country-level as challenging.

Overall, there is a growing tendency to approach the VNR reporting as a process including a broad array of national stakeholders. There is both demand from member states and great opportunity to strengthen focus on SDG 16 as part of the VNR process - as an enabling goal of the Agenda 2030 and to promote SDG 16 principles of accountability and inclusion as part of the preparation and follow up to the VNR presentations at the HLPF. The Secretary-Generals updated Voluntary common reporting guidelines on VNRs includes notable additions and changes which present new opportunities to support more inclusive, participatory and efficient VNRs and to emphasize important human rights and LNOB aspects.

UNDP and the Transparency, Accountability, and Participation (TAP) Network have initiated a partnership to further explore emerging best practices and challenges related to advancement of SDG 16 as part of VNR process, with focus on the post-VNR follow up and how this can be linked to national planning and development processes. Country experiences are being collected to feed into a new resource to be launched in June 2020 to inspire member states and national stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector on how to include reflections on post-VNR follow up on SDG 16 as part of their VNR process.

[1] Global Alliance (2019). "Enabling implementation of 2030 Agenda through SDG16+: Anchoring Peace, Justice and Inclusion". [2] SDG 16 Rome Conference (2019). "Outcome: Key Messages and Recommendations". [3] White & Case (2019). "Review of the 2019 Voluntary National Review Reports".



KEY OBJECTIVES:

- Harness good examples and lessons learned to inspire governments, civil society, and other relevant stakeholders working at the national and sub-national level to understand and engage in more coordinated and inclusive post-VNR processes on SDG 16.
- Provide a space for national governments and diverse stakeholders to strategize and develop common advocacy priorities and action plans around SDG 16 post-VNR follow-up
- Catalyze experimentation and innovative problem solving around the implementation and monitoring of SDG 16, and the 2030 Agenda more broadly.

NEXT STEPS:

- An online survey has been launched to collect best practices and lessons learnt from relevant respondents. Please click [here](#) if you would like to contribute.
- The Post-VNR Best Practices resource will be launched in May 2020.
- National Workshops are planned to take place in the fall 2020.
- One to two-day national workshops will take place in select countries that presented VNR reports in July 2019 or 2020. and will include a facilitated discussion on post-VNR follow up on SDG 16 with participation from governments, youth, civil society, businesses and human rights institutions through various formats.

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