



United Nations

DESA
Statistics Division



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

National SDG monitoring mechanisms and processes

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Workshop on Preparing Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews for 2021 HLPF
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Data and Evidence-Based Voluntary National Reviews

- VNRs should be **underpinned by data** and should be **evidence-based**.
- In 2020 VNRs, majority of countries incorporated data into their reviews, and **over half** of all VNRs in 2020 include a Statistical Annex.
- Data and statistics on the SDG indicators are used to present progress achieved and challenges encountered in reaching the goals and targets.
 - ✓ Present baselines or comparison from previous VNR reports
 - ✓ Present progress and evidences for policy making using tables and graphs in the VNR report
 - ✓ Provide more details in **statistical annex**
 - ✓ Refer to useful tools such as **online SDG data reporting platforms**
 - ✓ Prepare a **national SDG indicator report** as a separate document to further support their VNRs

Data Challenges identified in VNRs

- **Data gaps** and **the lack of data for key indicators** were frequently cited as difficulties in preparing evidence-based VNRs
 - ✓ The selection of statistics presented doesn't always reflect national SDGs or policy priorities stated elsewhere in the same VNR.
- **Need for timely data** for swift policy interventions by governments and development partners.
- Many countries highlight the need to produce **disaggregated data to address LNOB**, but also stress they are facing difficulties in producing sufficiently disaggregated data
- Countries highlight the need for **increased financial and technical support** to have sufficient data and statistics to produce a more evidence-based VNR and to monitor the SDGs.

Elements for inclusive, country-led national reviews and reporting

Building blocks of a national SDG review



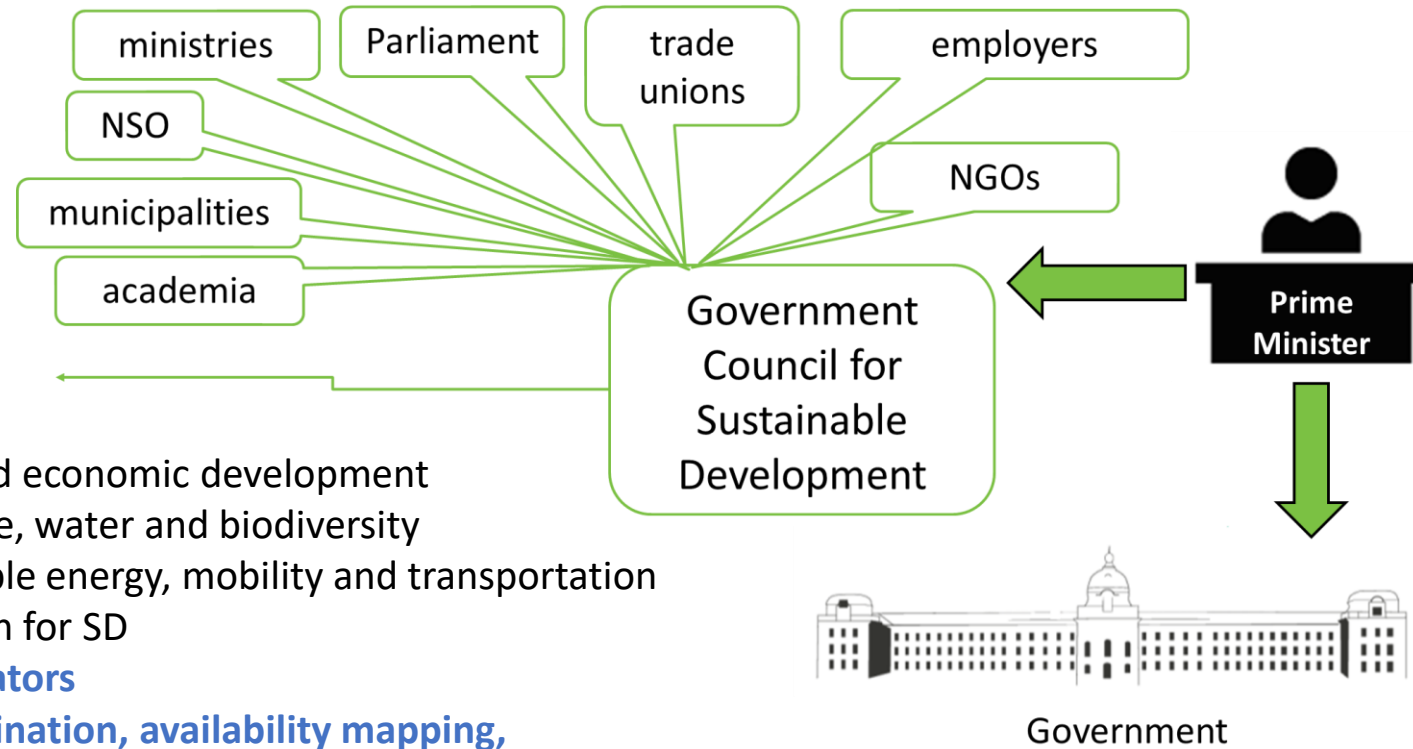
- ❑ Core principles in the 2030 Agenda, including **universality, leaving no one behind, integration and indivisibility, human rights and national ownership**, are central to SDG follow-up and reviews, and should be applied at each stage of the process
- ❑ Country-led national review processes can deepen ownership by being **broadly participatory**, involving national and local authorities, civil society, the private sector
- ❑ The integrated nature of the SDGs implies that national review processes should **advance understanding of links across the goals and targets**. Reviews may help define mechanisms to minimize trade-offs and maximize synergies
- ❑ A **Human Rights Based-Approach to Data** would help bring together relevant data stakeholders and develop communities of practice to improve the quality, relevance and use of data and statistics consistently with international human rights norms and principles
- ❑ Dialogue between **policy makers and data producers** is key to develop the national SDG indicators and monitoring process

National SDG indicators and monitoring process



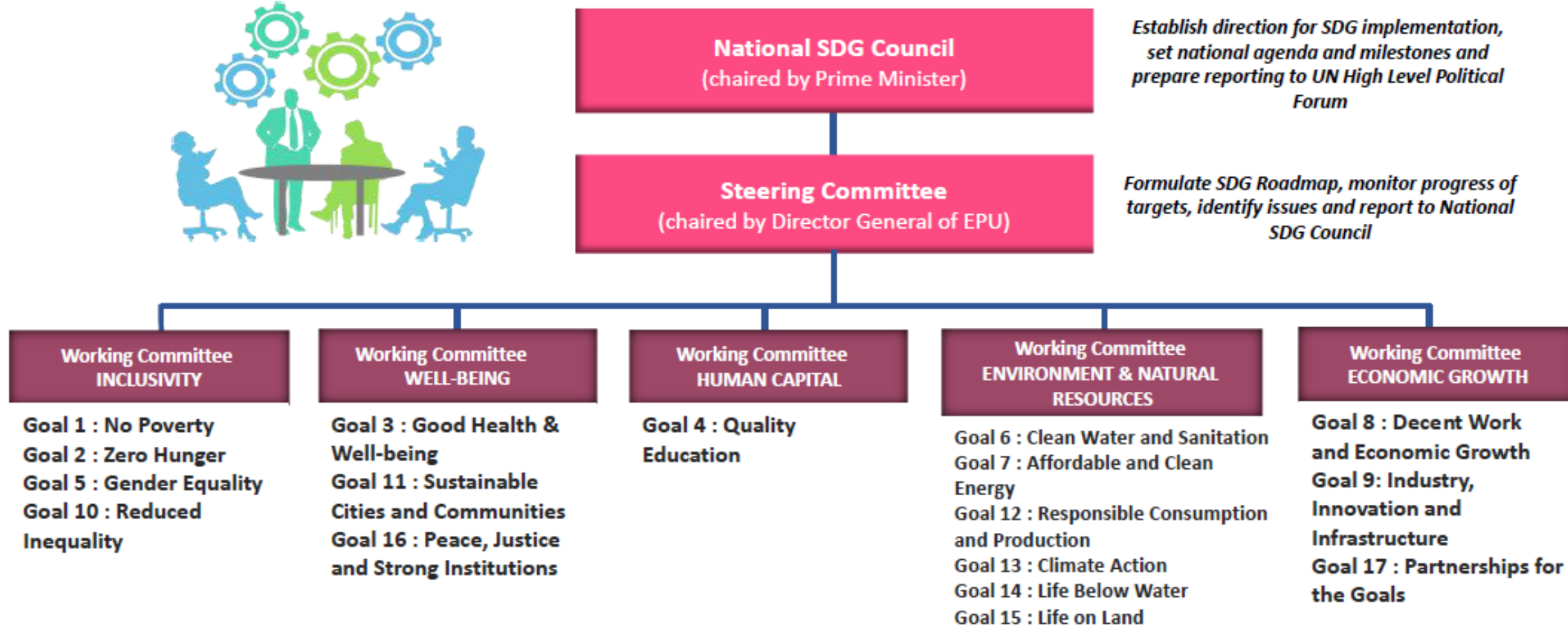
- ❑ A well-defined process is needed to prepare national SDG indicators and monitoring
- ❑ The **national statistical system** is central to this process and **national statistics office** plays a critical coordinating and quality assurance role
- ❑ National SDG indicators are based on **national priorities** and **development plan**. The global indicator framework can be a starting point.
- ❑ A **mapping exercise** is the crucial starting point to help ensure a more systematic, inclusive and integrated approach to the implementation of national SDG indicators
- ❑ The national SDG indicators should be prepared by the national statistical office with some metadata information
- ❑ To the largest extent possible, measurement of the indicators should reflect **international statistical practice and standards**
- ❑ Eventually, the mapping exercise will help in developing a clear set of **strategies and national action plan** for the development of statistics

Good Example of Institutional Mechanisms for SDG Monitoring: Czech Republic



- ❖ Committee for social and economic development
- ❖ Committee for landscape, water and biodiversity
- ❖ Committee for sustainable energy, mobility and transportation
- ❖ Committee for education for SD
- ❖ **Committee for SD indicators**
 - **Better data coordination, availability mapping, development of indicators (Czech Statistical Office, Other data providers from state statistical system or out of state statistical system)**

Good Example of Institutional Mechanisms for SDG Monitoring: Malaysia



Department of Statistics Malaysia is the focal point for data on SDGs, establishing a SDG task team to

- Identify and establish a strategic technical framework between DOSM and other ministries / agencies involved in the development of SDG indicators.
- Review the development of SDG indicators for the purpose of research, planning and policy formulation by the government

Data for VNR assessment

- **Mapping of available indicators**
 - Data availability
 - Data sources
 - Methodology
 - Frequency
 - Level of disaggregation
- Participatory process led by NSO

Elements that shape SDG monitoring

Legal framework for data process and data sharing: Statistical act, Information Act etc.

SDG monitoring coordination body

- Discuss indicators, data sharing and responsibilities, data flow mechanisms
- Develop strategies and plans for statistical capacity building

NSS coordination agency (often National Statistical Office)

- Compile and disseminate data and metadata for SDG indicators
- Control data quality
- Establish SDG data platform

Provide feedback on data quality



Share data at aggregated or micro data level, and metadata

Members of national statistical system (NSS)

Ministry A

Ministry B

Agency X

Ministry C

Approaches/elements to data sharing

At formal level:

- Legal basis
 - Formal agreement or Memorandum of Understanding
 - Exchange of letters
 - Coordination committees
- Does not always lead to action/implementation



At practical level:

- Focal points in MDAs
 - Practical template, for example in excel
 - Detailed questionnaire
 - Electronic exchange
- Needs to be structured/regulated



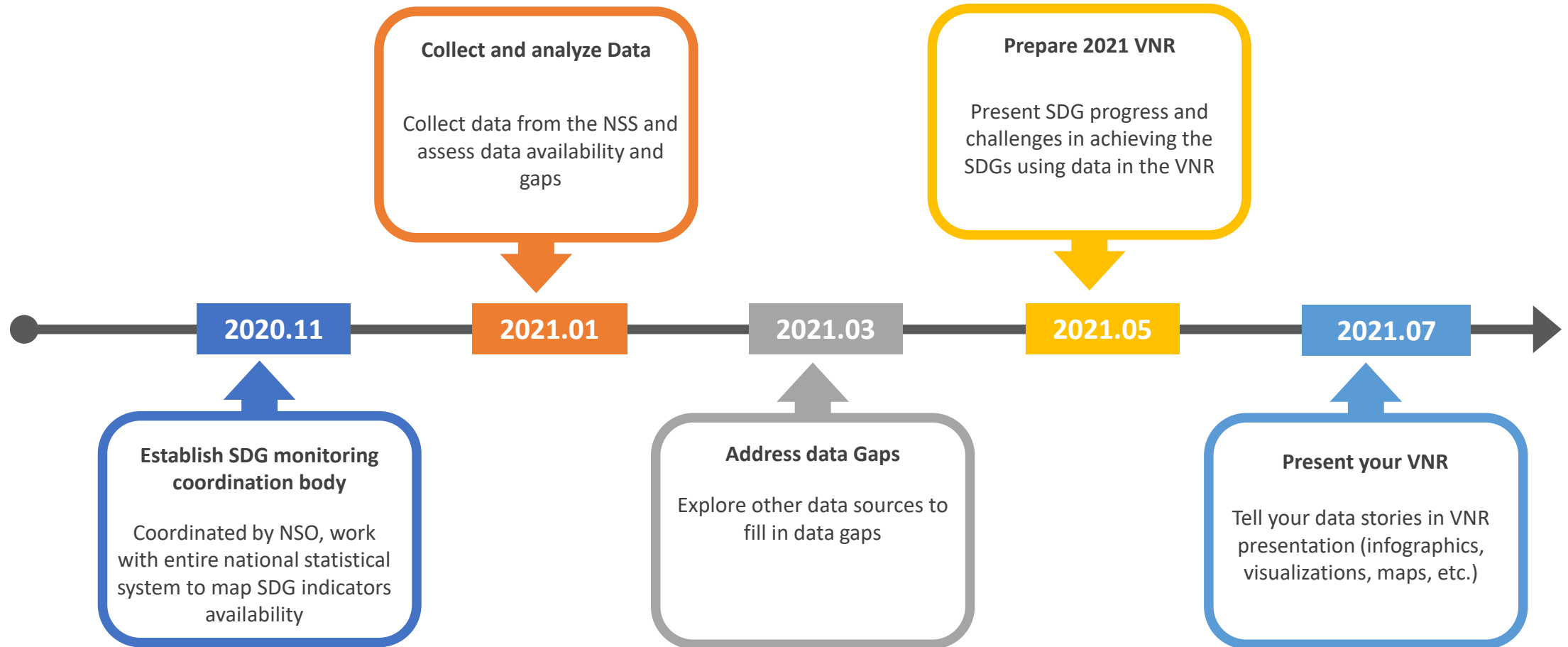
- Which indicators
- Disaggregation
- Periodicity
- Format
- Means of transition
- Metadata

Quality assurance and assessment

- Establish processes where **quality is assessed at every stage**.
- Establish **feedback mechanisms**
- Consider **external control** – peer reviews or similar
- Collaboration across agencies – can consider giving NSO a quality assessment role – giving all data a quality stamp before publishing.
- Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics ([here](#))
- Quality assurance guidance tool available [here](#)

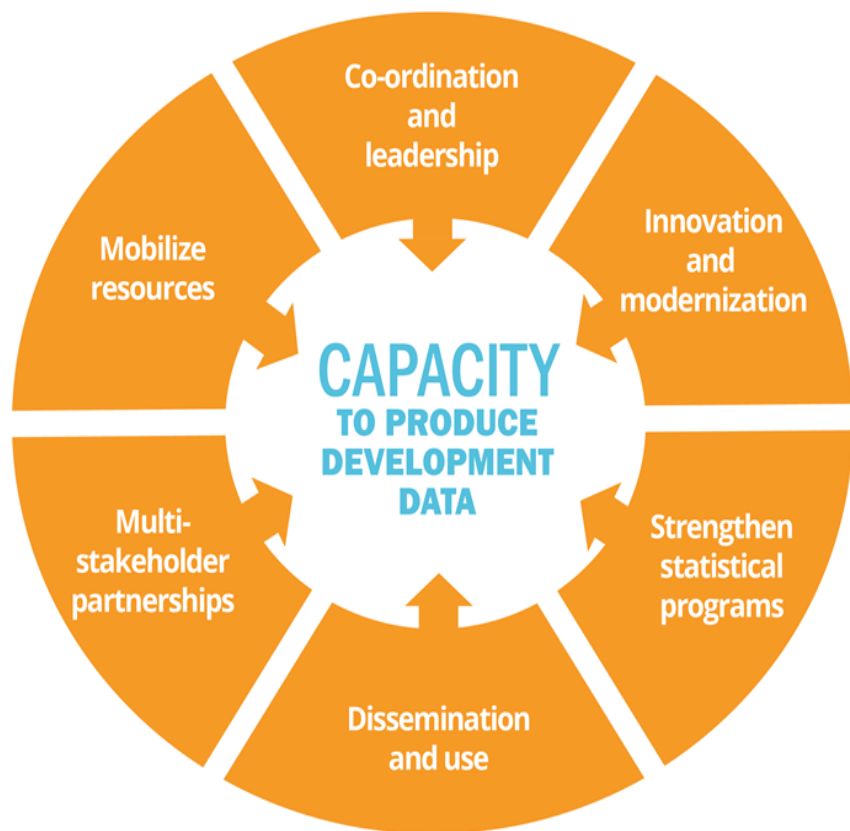


Develop a Data Roadmap for 2021 VNR

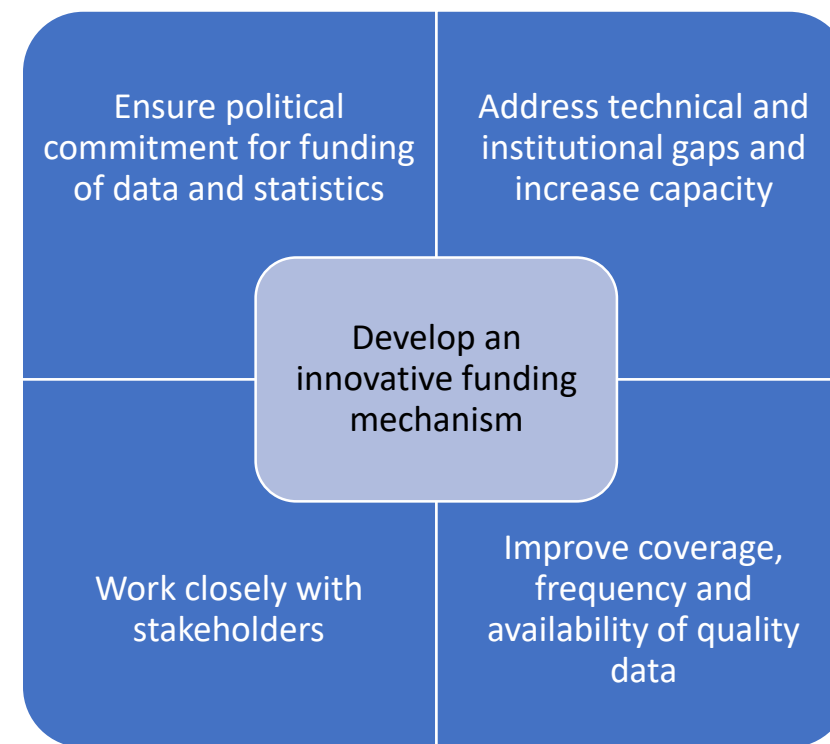


Addressing Data Gaps and strengthening national statistical capacity for evidence-based VNRs

The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data



Dubai Declaration: Supporting the Implementation of CTGAP





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Thank you.