National SDG monitoring mechanisms and processes

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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

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.
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

**National SDG Council** (chaired by Prime Minister)
- Establish direction for SDG implementation, set national agenda and milestones and prepare reporting to UN High Level Political Forum

**Steering Committee** (chaired by Director General of EPU)
- Formulate SDG Roadmap, monitor progress of targets, identify issues and report to National SDG Council

**Working Committee - INCLUSIVITY**
- Goal 1: No Poverty
- Goal 2: Zero Hunger
- Goal 5: Gender Equality
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequality

**Working Committee - WELL-BEING**
- Goal 3: Good Health & Well-being
- Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
- Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

**Working Committee - HUMAN CAPITAL**
- Goal 4: Quality Education

**Working Committee - ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**
- Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation
- Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy
- Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
- Goal 13: Climate Action
- Goal 14: Life Below Water
- Goal 15: Life on Land

**Working Committee - ECONOMIC GROWTH**
- Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth
- Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

*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

- 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)

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

Collect and analyze Data
- Collect data from the NSS and assess data availability and gaps

Establish SDG monitoring coordination body
- Coordinated by NSO, work with entire national statistical system to map SDG indicators availability

Address data Gaps
- Explore other data sources to fill in data gaps

Prepare 2021 VNR
- Present SDG progress and challenges in achieving the SDGs using data in the VNR

Present your VNR
- Tell your data stories in VNR presentation (infographics, visualizations, maps, etc.)
Addressing Data Gaps and strengthening national statistical capacity for evidence-based VNRs

The Cape Town Global Action Plan for Sustainable Development Data

Ensure political commitment for funding of data and statistics
Address technical and institutional gaps and increase capacity
Develop an innovative funding mechanism

Dubai Declaration: Supporting the Implementation of CTGAP

Ensure political commitment for funding of data and statistics
Address technical and institutional gaps and increase capacity
Develop an innovative funding mechanism
Improve coverage, frequency and availability of quality data

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Thank you.