



National coordination mechanisms for SDGs and data flows

United Kingdom

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Department for International Development
Policy oversight of the SDGs

**Office for National
Statistics**

Responsible for reporting UK
data on the Global Indicators via
the National Reporting Platform

Cabinet Office

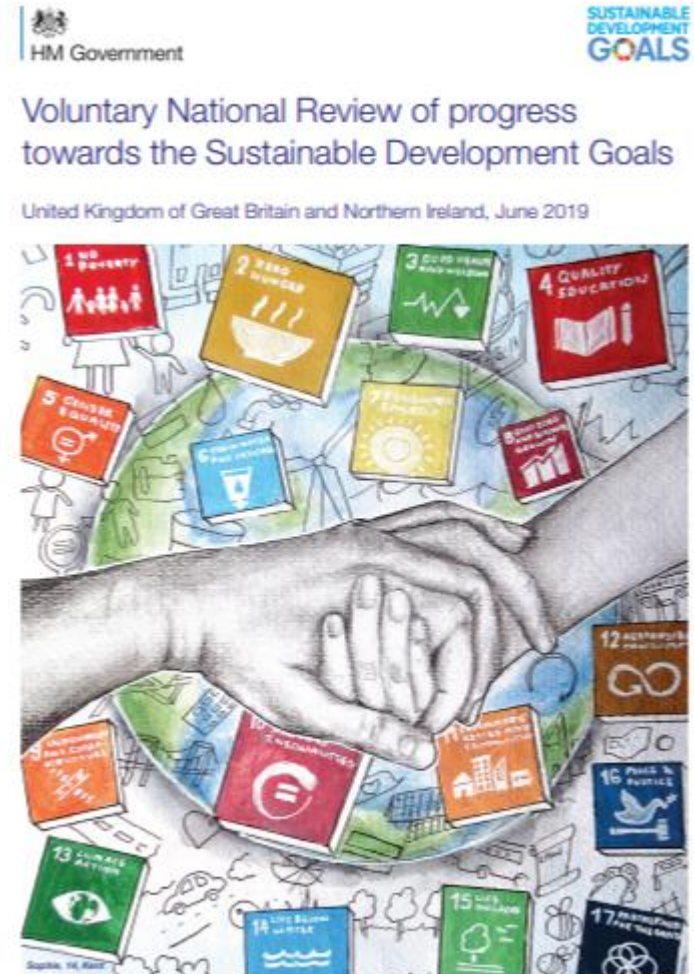
Supports co-ordination on
domestic policy matters



Each Government Department is responsible for embedding the SDGs into their Single Departmental Plans (SDPs), and each Goal-focussed VNR chapter was led by a department



- ‘Whole of UK’ story – included Devolved Administrations and non-government activity
- Covered all 17 SDGs clearly and accessibly
- Balanced account – shared lessons and recognized areas for further work on implementation
- Report underpinned by data
- Learnt valuable lessons on data





Cross-government statistics sub-group set up to support members of the Interdepartmental VNR group to fulfil their VNR and SDG reporting responsibilities.

The group aimed to ensure that all departments, which were leading or contributing to a VNR chapter, were consistent in their approach to using data, and that each chapter was underpinned by robust and appropriate data through application of the [statistics code of practice](#).

The cross-government statistics group for the VNR:

- Shared and solved issues related to data
- Shared innovative examples of data use
- Shared different chapter approaches to data use
- Fed back anything that was relevant to all departments via weekly drop-ins



The importance of data

“All of the core activities of government involve data, including making decisions on individual cases; tracking the outcomes of policies; and deciding on the need for new policies.

“And these data serve a wider public purpose too: helping a huge range of people (citizens, parliamentarians, media, businesses, voluntary organisations) make sense of the world and make important decisions in their work and their life.”

Source: [UK Code of Practice for Statistics](#)

Case study: Designing a free, reusable and customisable national reporting platform for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

“Open SDG” is a reporting platform developed for managing and publishing data and statistics related to the Goals. Built exclusively with open-source libraries and tools, it is freely available for any country or organisation to reuse and can be hosted and maintained using free services.

The Open SDG platform is the result of collaboration between the US Government, the UK Office for National Statistics, and the non-profit Center for Open Data Enterprise. It merges early versions of the US and UK platforms, including new options for data visualisations and multilingual functionality. It is free, can be modified to fit a variety of user needs, and comes with many customisable tools and features. Several other countries around the world have adopted the Open SDG platform, including Ghana, Poland, Armenia and Rwanda.



380 organizations were engaged through:

- Inviting case studies from organizations and individuals from across the UK
- A programme of outreach to raise awareness of the VNR and the opportunities to participate
- Goal-focussed engagement events and activities undertaken by lead UK government departments
- Sector-specific engagement events supported by the Emerging Findings and Further Engagement (EFFE) document





Worked well

- VNR underpinned by data
- DFID and ONS collaborative working on data
- Senior official goal champions
- Cross-government statistics group, especially overlap with policy groups

For consideration, how to:

... address data gaps, disaggregation and trends

... sustain and continue to enhance cross-Whitehall structures and engagement on SDG data

... sustain and continue to enhance meaningful exchange across the policy/analysis interface