

# Role of Parliaments in the 2030 Agenda

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# THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- On 25 September 2015 world leaders agreed to the new agenda:
  - Builds on lessons from the MDGs
  - Through 17 transformative sustainable development goals
  - To build people-centred, inclusive, peaceful and prosperous societies
  - To end all poverty, everywhere, in all its dimensions





# An indivisible tapestry of thinking and action...

" The 17 goals represent an indivisible tapestry of thinking and action that applies in every community everywhere in the world. They are universal... and also indivisible. Though they are presented as individual goals, they actually represent a total, completely intertwined lattice of action that is relevant for every human being everywhere. "

DAVID NABARRO  
Under-Secretary General  
Special Adviser on 2030 Agenda





...requiring integrated policy approaches



# Whole-of-government and whole-of society embedded throughout the agenda





# Role of Parliaments



## Law-making

- Review existing legislation, propose amendments and/or draft new legislation
- Ensure legal frameworks exist to enable the achievement of the SDGs



## Budgeting

- Review budget allocation for achievement of the SDGs
- Ensure fiscal and other economic policies are aligned to the national SDG plan
- Analyze effectiveness of government expenditure on SDG achievement



## Oversight

- Overall oversight of SDG implementation through Parliamentary Committees
- Verify necessary data related to SDG implementation is collected and gaps addressed
- Readjust Parliamentary Committee's own interventions



## Representation

- Reach out to constituents and identify gaps and weaknesses in SDG implementation
- Ensure no one gets left behind by hearing the voices of the excluded and marginalized

# Examples from the Region



## Law-making

- **Australia**
  - Adoption of legislation around anti-discrimination and employment laws that prohibit differential pay (SDG 5)
- **Lao PDR**
  - Approving the Water and Water Resources Law in 2017 (SDG 6)
- **Kiribati**
  - Passing new law on early childhood care and education in 2017 (SDG 4)



## Budgeting

- **Bhutan**
  - Adoption of resolution in 2017 that commits to mobilize adequate resources to ensure parliamentary oversight of the SDGs



## Oversight

- **India**
  - Systematically tracking actions taken by the government to address recommendations put forward by Parliamentary Committees
- **Solomon Islands**
  - Inquiry into the quality of services provided by the government around health (SDG 3), climate change (SDG 13), and combatting crime and violence (SDG 16)



## Representation

- **Japan**
  - Establishment of special committees or organizing meetings on the SDGs by different political parties representing the broader population
- **Tonga**
  - Consulting stakeholders through field visits to review status, policies, opportunities and challenges for sustainable development in the agriculture and fisheries sector (SDGs 2 and 14)



# Overview of Parliamentary Engagement in Asia and the Pacific

- Parliaments in the region mostly engage in SDGs from a law-making, oversight or representation perspective
  - Engagement from budgeting perspective is lacking
- Parliaments have created both new (Thailand) and/or use existing (Nepal) institutional arrangements to follow up on the 2030 Agenda in several countries
- Insufficient data around coordination efforts by parliaments
  - Particularly with respect to working with other oversight institutions, national statistical bodies or international and regional bodies
- SDGs are still perceived as the exclusive domain of the executive branch and/or a ministry-driven exercise

## Nature of engagement

Consulting MPs on implementation  
(Bangladesh)

Including MPs as part of multi-stakeholder groups supporting implementation and review  
(Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Nepal)

MPs directly participating in SDG monitoring processes  
(Azerbaijan)

Discussions and parliamentary hearings as part of SDG monitoring process  
(India, Nepal, Tajikistan)



# Follow Up & Review: Guiding Principles

Voluntary and country-led

Track progress in a holistic and integrated way

Longer-term orientation

Support reporting by all relevant stakeholders

People-centered, gender sensitive, respecting human rights, leave no one behind

Building on existing platforms and processes

Rigorous, evidence-based, high quality data

Enhance capacity-building support for developing countries

“Active support” by the UN system and other multilateral institutions

# Voluntary National Review: The Process





# Voluntary National Reviews concept

- Voluntary national reviews (VNRs) are part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- The VNRs are intended to track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs and targets, in all countries, in a manner that respects their universal and integrated nature and all dimensions of sustainable development

# VNR countries at the 2020 HLPF (June 2019)

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

- 24 countries presenting for the first time:
- Austria, Bolivia, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, DPRK, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Micronesia, Mozambique, North Macedonia, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Zambia
- 22 countries presenting for the second time:
- Argentina, Armenia, Bangladesh, Belize, Colombia (3rd), Costa Rica, Finland, Georgia, Honduras, India, Jordan, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Niger, Panama, Peru, Qatar (3rd), Samoa, Slovenia, Uganda, Zimbabwe.

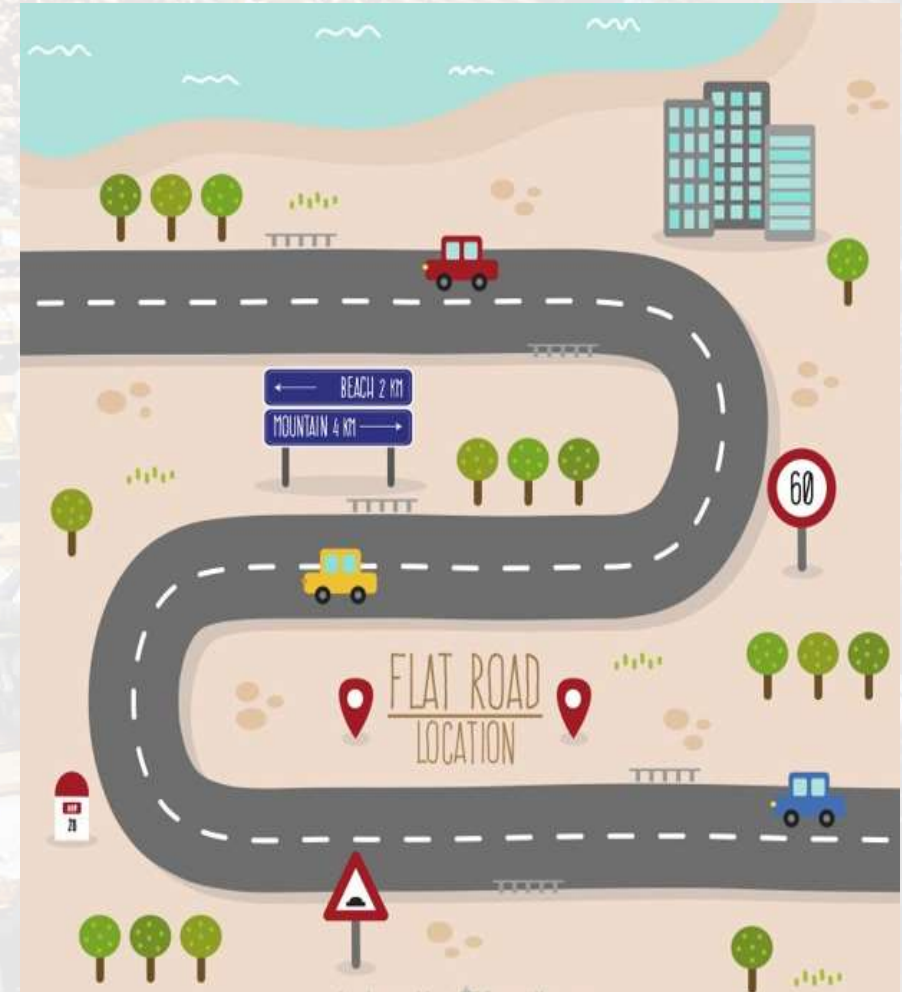


# VNR elements

<b>Voluntary</b>	encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries
<b>Country-led</b>	country-driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels
<b>Rigorous and based on evidence</b>	informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated
<b>Learning experience</b>	facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process
<b>National circumstances</b>	reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners
<b>Open, Inclusive, Participatory</b>	Including supporting reporting on progress by all relevant stakeholders

# VNR roadmap - 4 basic phases

- ❑ Phase 1: *Planning (including setting scope & structure) & institutionalizing*
- ❑ Phase 2: *Gathering inputs, data*
- ❑ Phase 3: *Writing & review*
- ❑ Phase 4: *Presentation & follow up*





# Voluntary National Review: Opportunities



# Strengthening Parliamentary Engagement in the VNRs

- Key questions to consider:
  - How is parliament involved in the preparation of the VNR and implementation of the SDGs?
  - How does the institutional framework incorporate the parliament and its interests?
  - How is the parliament working together with the various levels of government and other stakeholders to achieve the goals and targets?
- Key entry points:
  - Initial preparation and organization
    - MPs should engage when VNR work plan/road map is being developed
  - MPs should be part of multi-stakeholder consultation groups
  - Parliament could receive annual reports/presentations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda



# Thank you

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