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Agenda Item 4: Specific Issues

Draft Paper – Structures and Processes for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Mediterranean Countries

Note by the Secretariat

Following the interactive session on “Implementing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) at the National Level” held at the 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019), the Secretariat consulted remotely the Members of the Commission representing Contracting Parties to collect inputs from their respective experiences at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).

Most Contracting Parties provided interesting inputs on the three following elements: one transformational thing done in terms of transposition, implementation and/or monitoring of the SDGs at national level; one challenge encountered for transposing, implementing or monitoring the SDGs, and possible solutions; one lesson learned from the Volunteer National Review (VNR) experience at the HLPF. Those inputs are included in the annex of this draft paper.

Based on the evidence collected from 16 Mediterranean countries, the Secretariat drafted this synthesis paper, which is submitted to the Committee for review under Agenda item 4: Specific issues (see Working Documents UNEP/MED WG.483/3 and WG.483/4). This draft paper identifies commonalities among Mediterranean countries in terms of transposing, implementing, and monitoring SDGs at national level (achievements, challenges, lessons learned), as well as national specificities that can be useful for other countries, following a peer learning approach.

This draft synthesis paper is submitted for consideration and comments by the 22nd Meeting of the MCSD Steering Committee towards its finalisation and possible submission for discussion to the 19th Meeting of the MCSD.

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Draft Paper – Structures and Processes for Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Mediterranean Countries

Background

1. In the Mediterranean, the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system is equipped with mechanisms for sustainable development that echo the global ones, namely:

Global	Regional (Mediterranean)
2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)	Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)
High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)	Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)
Volunteer National Review (VNR)	Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)
SDG Indicators; SDG Index and Dashboards	Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard

2. The **Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSD)** was created in 1995 in the aftermath of the Rio Conference (1992), as the multi-stakeholder advisory body of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (i.e. 21 riparian countries and the European Union / EU) and as a forum for experience sharing and peer learning. The MCSD gathers on an equal footing not only government representatives (22) but also stakeholders (18) from various categories: local authority networks, civil society/Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), socioeconomic actors, Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs), the Scientific community, and Parliamentarians. The MCSD assists the Contracting Parties in their efforts to integrate environmental issues in their socioeconomic programmes and to promote sustainable development policies in the Mediterranean region. Acting as a forum for experience sharing and peer learning, the MCSD was instrumental in integrating the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD).

3. The **Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD) 2016-2025** was adopted by all Mediterranean countries at the 19th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 19) (Athens, Greece, 9-12 February 2016) (Decision IG.22/02) as a strategic guiding document for all stakeholders and partners to translate the 2030 Agenda at the regional, sub-regional and national levels. The MSSD provides an integrative policy framework for securing a sustainable future for the Mediterranean region consistent with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The MSSD Vision is the following: “*A prosperous and peaceful Mediterranean region in which people enjoy a high quality of life and where sustainable development takes place within the carrying capacity of healthy ecosystems. This is achieved through common objectives, strong involvement of all stakeholders, cooperation, solidarity, equity and participatory governance*”. As highlighted in its subtitle “*Investing in environmental sustainability to achieve social and economic development*”, the MSSD is underpinned by the conviction that investment in the environment is the best way to secure long-term sustainable job creation and socio-economic development;

4. The **Simplified Peer Review Mechanism (SIMPEER)** is an innovative incentive for promoting dialogue between volunteer Mediterranean countries on national structures, processes and policies for sustainable development. This peer review mechanism supports Contracting Parties in streamlining their work for implementing in synergy sustainable development policies and environmental obligations, the MSSD and SDGs. SIMPEER and peer learning experiences facilitate the transposition, implementation and monitoring of the MSSD and SDGs at the regional and national level, improving effective coordination between governmental departments. SIMPEER has the potential to support the preparation and follow-up of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) presented by Contracting Parties at the UN High-Level Policy Forum (HLPF), which aim at facilitating the exchange of national experiences, successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to mobilizing multi-stakeholder support and

partnerships for accelerating the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation. SIMPEER helps Contracting Parties to identify common obstacles in the implementation of their national strategies on sustainable development, such as the existing silos between the various ministerial departments, and find possible solutions, such as the establishment of a unique governance framework at national level and an effective coordination mechanism to implement the 2030 Agenda.

5. The **Mediterranean Sustainability Dashboard** is a living list of indicators, most of which corresponding or being linked to SDG Tier I Indicators, aiming at monitoring the implementation of the MSSD. The indicators are regularly populated by Plan Bleu Regional Activity Centre (UNEP/MAP), using existing sources of information and data, to showcase observed trends, produce analytical factsheets, and prepare regional assessment and foresight studies on the interactions between environment and development. On-going work on the dashboard includes the integration of SCP indicators related to circular, green and blue economy.

Introduction

6. The 18th Meeting of the MCSD (Budva, Montenegro, 11-13 June 2019) addressed the implementation of the MSSD and SDGs at the national level through a governance perspective. The interactive session focused on national structures, processes, and experiences for sustainable development, in particular through SIMPEER experiences and VNRs presented at the HLPF. Representatives of Contracting Parties reported on transformational initiatives undertaken to transpose, implement and monitor SDGs and the MSSD at national level, as well as on challenges encountered and lessons learned.

- The Contracting Parties that went through SIMPEER pilot and second editions are the following: France, Montenegro and Morocco in 2016-2017, and Albania, Egypt and Tunisia in 2018-2019.
- All Contracting Parties went through the VNR process at the HLPF:

Albania (2018)	Greece (2018)	Montenegro (2016)
Algeria (2019)	Italy (2017)	Morocco (2016, 2020)
Bosnia and Herzegovina (2019)	Israel (2019)	Slovenia (2017, 2020)
Croatia (2019)	Lebanon (2018)	Spain (2018)
Cyprus (2017)	Libya (2020)	Syrian Arab Republic (2020)
Egypt (2016, 2018)	Malta (2018)	Tunisia (2019)
France (2016)	Monaco (2017, 2020)	Turkey (2016, 2019)

7. After the 18th Meeting of the MCSD, the Secretariat consulted remotely the Contracting Party-MCSD Members to collect inputs from their respective experiences at the HLPF around the three following questions:

- i. One transformational thing done in terms of transposition, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs at national level?
- ii. One challenge encountered for transposing, implementing or monitoring the SDGs, and possible solutions?
- iii. One lesson learned from the VNR experience at the HLPF?

8. Based on collected inputs (Annex I) and on SIMPEER Draft Summary Report 2016-2019¹, the purpose of this paper is to highlight synthesis elements, covering commonalities among Mediterranean countries in terms of transposing, implementing and monitoring SDGs (achievements, challenges, lessons

¹ Plan Bleu (2020). Simplified Peer Review Mechanism of Sustainable Development Strategies in Mediterranean Countries. Summary Report 2016-2019 – Paper No 20.

learned), as well as national specificities that can be useful and inspirational for other countries, following a peer learning approach.

Lessons learned and challenges of governance for sustainable development in the Mediterranean

9. The key synthesis elements are the following:
- Ministries or departments in charge of environmental affairs are often the most aware and active national bodies to promote and implement SDGs and the MSSD at national level, but they are not in a coordinating position;
 - Contracting Parties experienced common challenges in implementing SDGs at the national level, including those related to coordination and effective mobilization of all governmental actors. There is a need to strengthen inclusive and institutional set-up towards efficient multi-stakeholder governance frameworks to break the “silo effect” created by thematic and sectoral (vs. integrated and systemic) approaches;
 - There is a lack of capacities and resources in national administrations to address the SDGs adequately, in particular for monitoring programmes to follow SDG indicators;
 - Multi-stakeholder partnerships, national/local fora on sustainable development, and engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental actors and other stakeholders are critical to address the above-mentioned challenges.

Departments in charge of environmental affairs are often the most aware and active national bodies to promote and implement SDGs at national level, but they are not in a coordinating position

10. In the countries which voluntarily participated in the SIMPEER exercises, sustainable development and the environment explicitly feature in national constitutions. In each country, the National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) or similar strategies are backed by the highest State authority and administered by a national authority; the higher ranked the latter is, the more the other ministerial departments feel accountable to deliver the strategy.

11. SIMPEER pilot edition (2016-2017) reported the following elements:

- In Montenegro, the NSSD until 2030 was adopted in 2016 by the government, as the result of a 4-year multi-stakeholder dialogue process initiated after the Rio+20 Conference (2012). The NSSD is led by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism under the supervision of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM), which is chaired by the Prime Minister.
- Adopted in 2017, Morocco’s NSSD 2016-2030 is part of a proactive national policy framework defined by clear institutional references, i.e. the 2011 Constitution and Framework Law N°99-12, that make sustainable development an explicit goal for the country’s development policies. The NSSD was prepared under the supervision of the Delegated Ministry in charge of the Environment. An inter-ministerial platform gathering all government departments facilitates the monitoring of the implementation of the sectorial action plans and the Administration Exemplary Pact;
- In France, the National Strategy for Ecological Transition towards Sustainable Development 2015-2020 (SNTEDD) was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 4 February 2015. In 2018-2019, a community of about 300 public and private stakeholders from various categories took part in jointly drafting a national roadmap, taking into account the SDGs. This work was supervised by a steering committee, involving the national government and CSOs, and co-chaired by the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs.

12. SIMPEER second edition (2018-2019) reported the following elements:

- The Albanian government adopted the second National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI-II 2015-2020) in 2016 as a key component of the integrated planning system. This strategic document reflects the vision, priorities, targets and resources towards social and economic development, together with the country's ambition to join the EU. As a planning instrument that coordinates development objectives with those of accessing the EU, the NSDI-II sets out the national vision for sustainable development. Albania also launched the process of establishing a national roadmap for the SDG implementation, identifying roles and responsibilities of key institutions and other stakeholders;
- In 2015, when the political roadmap based on Egypt's new constitution was being introduced, the country began developing its vision for a better future by devising its NSSD: Egypt's Vision 2030. The main aim of the Strategy is to secure a competitive, balanced and diversified economy for Egypt based on innovation and knowledge, founded on justice, social integrity and participation. It calls for a balanced and diverse system of ecological governance that invests in both natural resources and human capital to deliver sustainable development and improve the quality of life of the Egyptian people. It is a State-driven process, including a large participation of relevant stakeholders. Egypt also established a national committee chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development for the institutional transposition, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs;
- In Tunisia, following key articles of the new Constitution (2014) focusing on the environment and natural resources, the NSSD 2016-2020 reflects the focus areas of the SDGs, including the green economy. The NSSD was built on a participatory process called "The Tunisia we want", in parallel of international consultations on post-2015 targets and SDGs. The NSSD was produced in new social and political circumstances featuring a policy of decentralization, with local democracy captured into the constitution. This boosts the emergence of a collective local governance for development in general and the preservation of natural resources in particular.

13. Experiences reported by Malta (Annex I) are particularly interesting: Malta's experience with SDG implementation shows that the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs results in coordination challenges at every level of the decision-making process often leading to divergences arising from different sectoral interests. It therefore requires the strengthening of existing mechanisms and establish clear mandates for vertical coordination (between national, local and regional levels) and horizontal coordination (between Ministries, entities and departments). The commitment of Malta to align its budget measures with SDGs was announced by the Prime Minister in September 2019, whereby the Maltese government expressed its commitment to ensure that, as of Budget 2020, the measures therein will be aligned to SDGs.

14. Other relevant experiences from Annex I include the following key elements:

- In Algeria, SDGs are included in the 2017-Government's Development Plan. In 2016, an inter-ministerial coordination committee was set-up under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Bosnia and Herzegovina raised the challenge of harmonization due to the complexity of the constitutional organization, with many ministries, various institutions and levels of decision-making;
- In Croatia, the National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD) was constituted by the government in order to coordinate and monitor the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation. The NCSD is chaired by the Prime Minister and gathers all Ministers. The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is the national coordinator and administrative body of the Committee;
- In Cyprus: *to be completed.*
- In Greece, a key transformation is related to the institutional mechanism set up to coordinate efforts for adapting the SDGs at national level. The visibility that the SDGs received through the VNR experience provided the opportunity to truly anchor sustainable development at the highest political level;
- In Israel, a governmental decision prepared by the Prime Minister's Office required the incorporation of relevant SDGs into national strategic priorities. An inter-ministerial committee was set

up by the Prime Minister and headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environmental Protection to prepare the VNR;

- In Italy, the NSSD was adopted by the Council of Ministers and officially approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming; the drafting of the NSSD was a collective effort, coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and all line Ministries, including other national authorities, civil society representatives and relevant stakeholders;
- In Libya: *to be completed*
- In Lebanon, the government's engagement towards the 2030 Agenda has accelerated after presidential election and a national conciliation government was formed in 2016. Established in 2017, the National Committee chaired by the Prime Minister for coordinating national efforts to integrate SDGs in sectoral strategies is complemented by sub-committees (thematic groups) and a Parliamentary Committee for monitoring progress;
- In Monaco: *to be completed.*
- In Slovenia: *to be completed.*
- In Spain: *to be completed.*
- The Syrian Arab Republic prepared the first national report on sustainable development (VNR 2020) in cooperation with various government agencies, private sector and civil society organizations;
- Turkey reported that the VNR experience was transformative to get a high-level political ownership of SDGs, perform stocktaking analysis, build partnerships with UN organizations, public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens, and develop a National Database for Best Practices and Projects in the context of a wide national consultation.

15. The integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the SDGs requires an in-depth discussion on the inter-connection between the various goals and targets. The cross-cutting nature of the SDGs results in coordination challenges at every level of the decision-making process often leading to divergences arising from different sectoral interests. It therefore requires the strengthening of existing mechanisms, establishing clear mandates for vertical coordination (from national to local levels) and horizontal coordination (between Ministries, sectors).

16. The governmental action is also hampered by internal constraints of the state administration. The internal functioning is often compartmentalized and lacks a transverse momentum, while environment and sustainable development affairs are systemic by definition. Links between the state administration and local authorities should be also strengthened towards a common culture on sustainable development and transformative actions on the ground, at the scale of territories and communities. Public administration should seize opportunities to be exemplary in social and environmental matters, e.g. greening public procurement. They can adopt organizational and operating approaches that are more sober in their material consumption and respectful of the environment.

17. In that regard, the Pact on the exemplarity of public administration developed in Morocco can be considered as a good practice: The first strategic axis of the NSSD aims at encouraging the public administration to deploy an exemplary eco-responsible approach in order to encourage and promote sustainable development practices among all economic and social stakeholders at national level. An Administration Exemplary Pact has been developed and several actions have been undertaken, including: the development of a methodological guide and a toolbox for ministerial departments; the adoption of the Pact during the first meeting of the Strategic Committee for Sustainable Development (22 February 2019) under the leadership of the Head of Government; the distribution of the Circular No 08/2019 from the Head of Government to all public administrations urging them to prepare environmental audits of their buildings; the introduction of a new section in the Hassan II Prize for the Environment dedicated to administrations which have made the Pact a reality; the decision to introduce green vehicles in the public

administration fleet to reach at least 10% of new acquisitions from 2019. Actions undertaken by the Department in charge of the Environment focused on environment-friendly use of resources such as energy, water and paper; the Department reduced consumption of water by 50% by installing taps with infrared sensors; produced 22% of its electrical energy consumption from renewable energies (photovoltaic panels); reduced fuel consumption by purchasing five electric cars in 2019; contributed to recycling by setting-up a paper sorting system at source

18. SIMPEER experiences demonstrated the ability of the national authority in charge of the environment and/or sustainable development to mobilize other public entities, local authorities, civil society organizations, academic circles and the private sector – the latter being the most challenging to engage with. Similarly, all the participating countries shared a firm commitment from the national authority responsible for the environment, coupled with the proactive and voluntary involvement of national teams tasked with designing, implementing and monitoring the NSSDs.

19. However, most of the Contracting Parties which replied to the online consultation (see Annex I) reported issues in terms of effective coordination between governmental departments. Among the common difficulties and obstacles in the implementation of their NSSD, there are still silos between the various ministerial departments, calling for the establishment of a unique governance framework at national level and an effective coordination mechanism to implement the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Contracting Parties experienced common challenges in implementing SDGs, in particular those related to coordination and effective mobilization of all governmental actors, and the enhanced engagement of civil society organizations and other stakeholders to address these challenges.

20. Beside the fact that the 2030 Agenda and SDGs benefit from an unprecedented commitment, it is critical to strengthen inclusive and institutional set-up towards efficient multi-stakeholder governance frameworks to break the “silo effect” created by thematic/sectoral approaches.

21. NSSDs are generally integrated and can be considered as “umbrella strategies”; they strengthen or influence sector strategies to ensure the incorporation of sustainable development principles into public policies, providing a common, shared vision of development sustainability. In view of successfully going beyond NSSD conception towards its actual implementation, the procedures and recommendations should feature in sector-specific policies via various mechanisms and instruments: e.g. regulations, economic instruments, information strategies and communication campaigns, and working arrangements for public and private bodies. When the government defines these measures, this provides an institutional and legal basis and the required mandate to mobilize all the public sector stakeholders to jointly deliver the NSSD. There also needs to be an action plan setting out priorities and actions to be undertaken, as well as responsibilities and budgets to enhance stakeholder involvement when delivering the NSSD.

22. The role of the ministerial department tasked with overseeing the delivery of the NSSD (i.e. Ministry of the Environment, Sustainable Development, or other authority such as Prime Ministry or Ministry of Foreign Affairs) is crucial in the dynamic process to implement the NSSD. This role should be stepped up by a communication plan developed as a plea focused on the various ministerial department responsibilities and stakeholder interests rather than generic sustainable development concepts. Since the NSSD goes beyond environmental concerns by also including social and economic dimensions, it requires increased ministerial joint-working arrangements. It also requires further coherency among various authorities tasked with coordination and dialogue, such as councils, commissions and other bodies with specific focus, e.g. gender, youth.

- The Committee of Senior Officials for Sustainable Development (HFDD: *Hauts Fonctionnaires au Développement Durable*) established by the Environmental Code in France may be inspirational for other countries. The process of drawing up the National Strategy of Environmental Transition Towards Sustainable Development (SNTEDD) was led by the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) under the Ministry in charge of the Environment, in association with the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) and the Senior Officials for Sustainable Development. An Inter-Ministerial

Delegation for Sustainable Development, placed under the responsibility of the Ministry of the Environment by the Prime Minister, manages the Committee of Senior Officials for Sustainable Development and serves as its permanent Secretary. In each ministry, the HFDD is responsible for applying the National Strategy within his/her ministry and for promoting sustainable development actions in his/her field of expertise, through sector-based strategies for sustainable development. The network of HFDDs meets at least four times annually; it publishes an information letter accessible on the Ministry of the Environment website.

- The case of Algeria is also interesting: the most transversal strategy that covers almost all the SDGs is the National Strategy for the Environment and Sustainable Development 2019-2035 and its Action Plan 2019-2022 in the process of being adopted. The national strategy expresses a shared and consensual national vision for sustainable development, which brings together nineteen recently adopted sectoral thematic strategies, plans and programmes. The Strategy has the potential to serve as a reference framework to operationalize the SDGs implementation.
- Italy reported that one of the main areas for improvement is in the field of policy coherence and policy effectiveness, which need to be strengthened at all levels. To do so, Italy has requested assistance in the field of policy coherence for sustainable development to the European Commission and the OECD through the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme. This programme aims at supporting the development of an action plan for policy coherence for sustainable development. The outcomes will feed into the revision of the NSSD and will help equip policymakers and key stakeholders with the necessary institutional mechanisms and policy tools to enhance sustainable development.

There is a lack of capacities and resources in national administrations to address the SDGs adequately, in particular for monitoring programmes to follow SDG indicators.

- Albania: The process of implementing the SDGs would require adequate resources and mechanisms to use national indicators and data for monitoring purposes. Strengthening statistical capacities at the national level is an important challenge. Monitoring SDGs requires not only a well-coordinated institutional mechanism but also a robust monitoring system, to assess performance toward meeting the SDG targets at both national and local levels;
- Algeria: At the end of 2018, 71 indicators produced from national sources were available, representing only 30% of the total of SDG indicators. The National Statistic Information System (NSIS) faced with a two-fold challenge: strengthen statistical production oriented towards the SDGs and set-up a national statistical platform on sustainable development. In order to consolidate the NSIS, thematic, scientific and technical working groups were set up in 2016 to support the Inter-ministerial Committee for the coordination and monitoring of the SDGs implementation.
- Bosnia and Herzegovina: SDGs may be monitored via 45 nationally adapted SDG targets and 108 indicators. We are far of the 247 SDG indicators.
- Croatia: There is a lack of capacities and competences to monitor the SDGs; the Croatian Bureau of Statistics has launched a portal on SDGs and developed 30 indicators until now.
- Cyprus: *to be completed.*
- Egypt developed an environmental monitoring network to monitor and evaluate environmental indicators, and reported that SIMPEER is an effective tool for experience sharing, providing technical support for monitoring and evaluating the national progress for achieving SDGs;
- France: An Annual Report is prepared by the Environmental Observation and Statistics Department of the General Commission for Sustainable Development (Ministry of the Environment) supported by the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE); the annual report is sent to the Parliament after the submission to the National Council on Ecological Transition;

- Greece: A big challenge has been the setting up of a monitoring mechanism for tracking progress in implementing the SDGs. A list of around 160 indicators (selected from the global SDGs indicator framework and adjusted to national priorities and aligned with what Ministries could regularly measure) has been endorsed for the quantitative monitoring. These indicators are endorsed by all Ministries and by the National Statistical Authority;
- Israel: Major efforts were invested in compiling a comprehensive statistical annex of the VNR (2019). A comprehensive report, comprising around 50% of the indicators collated by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics can now serve as the basis for informed decision-making on national priorities for 2030. Another important tool is Israel's Wellbeing Indicators which are measured annually and presented to the government, and will continue to support policymaking in achieving the SDGs;
- Italy: The Ministry for the Environment is mandated on a yearly basis to report on the state of play and actions undertaken to implement the NSSD. The report is submitted to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in particular the Department for Economic Planning and Coordination, and transmitted to other relevant national authorities. In 2018, the Ministry of the Environment set up a working group with the objective of selecting indicators to monitor and measure the implementation of the NSSD within the broader framework of the SDG indicators used by the National Statistics Institute.
- Lebanon reported a challenge related to the lack of access to data;
- Libya: *to be completed.*
- Montenegro: In 2017-2018, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism implemented the project "*Establishing an integrated system for reporting on the progress in the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development*", building on the UNEP Indicator Reporting Information System (IRIS) for 33 priority indicators. Montenegro reported difficulties in using IRIS;
- Morocco: The system for monitoring the NSSD implementation has been defined. Each NSSD objective includes a number of indicators. The publication of populated indicators is the responsibility of the High Commission for Planning (*Haut Commissariat au Plan*);
- Monaco: *to be completed.*
- Slovenia: *to be completed.*
- Spain: *to be completed.*
- Syrian Arab Republic: Due to crises, it was not possible to extract statistic data in the last years to build a database for calculating SDGs indicators;
- Tunisia: There are only 50 indicators followed by the Tunisian Observatory of the Environment and Sustainable Development (OTEDD);
- Turkey: Availability of indicators is an important challenge. Responsibilities were assigned to ministries for 218 SDG indicators. TurkStat published a press release in February 2019, including only 83 indicators selected from the global list. While the ratio of produced indicators is higher for SDGs No 3, 7 and 9, further work is needed for SDGs No 1, 2, 12, 13 and 14.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships, national/local fora on sustainable development, and engagement of civil society organizations, non-governmental actors and other stakeholders are critical to address the above-mentioned challenges.

23. Despite participatory and inclusive processes experienced for drawing up NSSDs, the actual involvement of stakeholders beyond governmental actors remains a challenge to translate strategic documents into effective policies and actions. Leadership from the highest State authorities does not remove the need to ensure that other stakeholders are included in participatory governance mechanisms. Meeting the sustainability challenge implies innovative approaches that promote social dialogue and the participation of professionals and citizens. Partnerships with local authorities, socio-economic actors,

CSOs and the scientific community need to be further strengthened, as well as citizen fora to raise awareness of the general public and initiate dialogue on critical sustainable development issues.

24. As per SIMPEER conclusions, involving all actors and stakeholders in designing and delivering the NSSD helps overcome changes in political agendas. Defining annual action plans that specify achievable targets and set the pace of transition as part of a participatory and inclusive process constitutes another way of making the strategy a public policy document which transcends electoral agendas and is not bound by the duration of political mandates.

25. The development of local (municipal) sustainable development strategies improves ownership of the principles promoted and actions recommended under the NSSD. Informing, training and raising awareness of local authorities and stakeholders is essential for the NSSD to become the document of reference for local development planning and to ensure citizen engagement in actions for sustainable development. Involving local stakeholders in implementing strategic sustainable development instruments also constitutes a major challenge related to the decentralization process. According to the subsidiarity principle, the role of local and regional authorities no longer focuses solely on delivering policy and development plans devised centrally. Local stakeholders have responsibilities in development planning at a level where interactions between sustainability principles are more tangible and visible. The systemic approach lends itself more easily to smaller areas as part of a bottom-up approach. Central administration's role remains crucial to support local authorities in harnessing these new responsibilities by providing structural directions, capacity building, planning tools, participation, consultation, funding, and suitable review processes.

26. Being logically driven by the market and the desire to make profits, the private sector can contribute to NSSD implementation through relevant considerations regarding profitability and improving production conditions. Incentives for businesses along with communication campaigns would facilitate ownership of the NSSDs and sustainability considerations by the private sector. Promoting experiences of large corporations which have adopted sustainable development principles would generate a snowball effect within the national economic fabrics.

- Albania: One of the priorities of the Government is the transformation of services delivery through the citizen-centric approach. With the vision of providing “high quality services for citizens and businesses in a transparent, effective, and efficient way through the use of modern technologies and innovative services”, the overall framework for the modernization and transformation of institutions and practices of public administration supports the achievement of SDG 16 “Peace, justice and strong institutions”. In addition, consultation of the civil society, through a specific national council and specialized councils (e.g. gender, youth), is required to review all strategies and programmes submitted for adoption by the government;

- Algeria: The VNR report was drafted following consultations with elected officials, including at local level, CSOs and the private sector, during awareness-raising workshops on the SDGs organized in partnership with the UN system.

- Bosnia and Herzegovina: “*At the heart of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Agenda 2030 efforts is the elaboration and adoption of the SDG Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is being developed through an extensive and reiterative consultative process with various institutions, CSOs, the private sector, academia and citizens at large. (...) The ‘Imagine 2030’ initiative provided an opportunity for citizens across the country to co-create the future*” (Key messages from Bosnia and Herzegovina’s VNR 2019, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/bosniaherzegovina>).

- Croatia considered “*closer collaboration with different stakeholders (academia, youth)*” as a solution towards the delivery of SDGs and 2030 Agenda, and “*awareness about the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships*” as a lesson learned from the VNR experience;

- Cyprus: *to be completed.*

- Egypt provided capacity building for governmental bodies, NGOs and the private sector to ensure their participation in achieving SDGs, considering that “*coordination mechanism between all stakeholders can effectively accelerate the progress towards the implementation of sustainable development programs, plans, and policies*”;
- France: Act 2009-967 of 3 August 2009 requires consultation with five types of non-state representatives (local authorities, employers, trade unions, citizens, and Members of Parliament), and consultation with qualified individuals (e.g. expert workshops) and the general public (online consultations) to draw up the NSSD. In addition, stakeholders are invited to promote their actions on the occasion of the Environment Week, which was introduced in 2003; since 2014, this event has merged with the EU Green Week, held on the UN World Environment Day, celebrated each year on 5 June.
- Greece: In preparing its VNR, Greece has endorsed a whole of society approach, with a strong stakeholder involvement in the mapping and stock taking process for defining the national starting point and priorities for adapting the SDGs, enhancing transparency, partnership and accountability. Greece’s VNR presentation at the 2018 HLPF was delivered not only by the Minister of Environment and Energy as the Government’s representative, but also by the President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece, representing stakeholders, and by the Chair of the Environment Committee, an elected representative of the National Parliament.
- Israel: Stakeholders from all sectors participated in the inter-ministerial meetings to prepare the first VNR. Moreover, a broad coalition of civil society bodies was set up, including dozens of mainly social and environmental organizations which have organized consultations and provided a report on future cooperation with the government. A more intensive joint government and stakeholder process will be carried out during the coming phases of implementing the 2030 Agenda.
- Italy: In addition of a permanent parliamentary committee for the implementation of 2030 Agenda set up in 2018, the preparation of the NSSD was instrumental in engaging governmental actors with the youth, civil society organizations and local authorities in the context of the National Forum for Sustainable Development; this forum was established by the Ministry in charge of the Environment as a dialogue platform between the institutions and civil society. The revision of the NSSD will commence in 2020, through an open-ended participatory process involving all levels of government (local and central) and main stakeholders, with the support of the academic and research sector.
- Lebanon: A Parliamentary Committee reviews progress of SDGs implementation and is in charge of mapping the existing legislation against the SDGs. Three national workshops were conducted with government officials, the private sector and CSOs’ representatives to raise awareness on the SDGs. CSOs held regional consultations and a national website for SDGs was created and populated.
- Libya: to be completed.
- Malta: The Maltese Government is aware that “*establishing SDG implementation platforms composed of key stakeholders including civil society is essential in managing cross-sectoral coordination and overcoming difficulties and increasing accountability*”. The government has established a coordination mechanism underpinned by the Sustainable Development Act to create a framework through which sustainable development is mainstreamed across all workings of the government. Bodies, such as the Guardian of Future Generations and the Sustainable Development Network, also aim at fostering exchange of views and national dialogue on sustainable development in Malta.
- Montenegro: Stakeholder participation was planned in each phase of the development of the NSSD until 2030, in particular through consultative meetings and a public hearing. Representatives of two NGO’s, three universities and three independent experts are members of the National Council for Sustainable Development. Challenges remain at the implementation stage to involve all stakeholders and to make them active and fully involved in implementing the NSSD, particularly the private sector.

- Morocco: The NSSD 2016-2030 development process involved all stakeholders through bodies such as the Economic, Social and Environmental Council and the Mohammed VI Foundation for Environmental Protection, including stakeholder consultation and workshops. The NSSD Objective 11 seeks to “*Strengthen the action of environmental and sustainable development NGOs and increase their involvement in implementation, monitoring and assessment processes for NSSD projects*”. The preparation of the VNR was also based on a consultation process with all stakeholders; these consultations facilitated the awareness and ownership of the SDGs in Morocco.
- Monaco: *to be completed.*
- Slovenia: *to be completed.*
- Spain: *to be completed.*
- Syrian Arab republic: “*Raising the Syrian society’s knowledge about the importance of SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a positive experience in preparing the first national report for sustainable development (VNR 2019) reveals that the key to success in the implementation process is the engagement, commitment of all the stakeholders at the national and local levels, comprising the private sector, institutions, organizations, civil society, academia, development partners, and various government agencies*”.
- Tunisia: The body for sustainable development and protection of the rights of future generations established by the 2014 Constitution and created by Organic Law No 60/2019 represents an opportunity for the integration of the SDGs into development plans. Article 129 of the Constitution stipulates that “*The Authority for Sustainable Development and the Rights of Future Generations is imperatively consulted for draft laws relating to economic, social and environmental issues, as well as for development plans. The Authority can give its opinion on questions that fall within its area of competence*”. The preparation of the VNR took place as part of a consultation process with all stakeholders: the workshops and meetings that were organized allowed the awareness and ownership of the SDGs by all stakeholders.
- Turkey: As a transformational things done for VNR process, Turkey reported the following: “*a high-level political ownership, performed stocktaking analysis, built partnerships with UN organizations, public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens, and done effective consultations, developed a National Database for Best Practices and Projects (400 good practices and projects from public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and municipalities so far)*”.

Conclusions

The following conclusions builds on the SIMPEER Summary Report 2016-2019 (2020).

27. The circumstances in which NSSDs are implemented have considerably changed since the MSSD, the SDGs and the Paris Agreement were adopted. Most countries have stepped up the pace of change, prioritized and integrated sustainable development principles in their development planning processes. The importance UNEP/MAP puts on sustainable development through the work of the MCSD together with related actions and programmes could become a must for environmental integration rather than a choice, to meet the needs of the Contracting Parties that would have to comply with far more stringent political conditions for sustainable development than in the previous decades.

28. The MSSD is very relevant to the discussion and delivery of the SDGs in the Mediterranean countries, which have aligned their development goals with SDGs and appropriate cross-cutting topics. As such, the MSSD forms a link between national and global levels, especially to fine-tune objectives, strategic guidelines and actions based on SDG targets. The same need for alignment also applies to the MSSD monitoring mechanism (and the NSSDs), as the indicators must be closely aligned with the global discussion on monitoring the implementation of the SDGs, while recognizing Mediterranean specificities.

29. The SIMPEER experience forms a major contribution from the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system in relation to broader debates about sustainable development in the region.

It constitutes a solid base to use when developing the Convention's operational arrangements at Contracting Party level. SIMPEER can help the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system to further integrate its work with the SDGs. The core environmental aspects addressed by the Convention could be bolstered by social and economic considerations, by working jointly with partners likely to provide this added value, and by completing its environmental work with related social and economic aspects.


30. SIMPEER also highlighted that the private sector constitutes a specific stakeholder group of great importance to the future work of the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system. The private sector could become a close partner to the system, contributing to making its work a reality by providing technological solutions and the means to implement them towards a more circular economy.


31. In light of the above considerations and according to the SIMPEER experience, the UNEP/MAP – Barcelona Convention system could play a more active role in the transition to sustainable development in the Mediterranean. It can provide support and assist the efforts of the Contracting Parties to incorporate sustainable development principles into their national strategies and implement them. It can also provide a platform for monitoring purpose and peer learning, i.e. exchanging best practices and experiences.

Annex I



Questionnaire filled-in by Contracting Party-MCSD Members



Annex I: Questionnaire filled-in by Contracting Party-MCSD Members

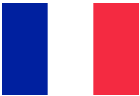
Three key questions:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. One transformational thing done in terms of transposition, implementation and/or monitoring of the SDGs at the national level? 2. One challenge encountered for transposing, implementing or monitoring the SDGs, and possible solutions? 3. One lesson learned from the VNR experience at the HLPF? 			
Country	VNR/HLPF and/or SIMPEER	Inputs from MCSD Member or his/her alternate	Synthesis
Albania  (June 2019)	VNR (2018) SIMPEER 2018-2019	<p>The National Strategy for Integration and Development 2015-2020 (NSDI II) is organized around the EU integration as the overarching goal; 13 cross-cutting foundations on good governance, democracy and rule of law; and four main sectoral pillars. A set of about 40 sectoral strategies, adopted by the government complement, this strategic policy framework. The NSDI II implementation is monitored through three sets of national monitoring indicators: (i) specific to EU integration; (ii) covering the 40 sectors, sub-sectors and major programs included in the NSDI-II; and (iii) macroeconomic indicators. The SDGs are integrated into NSDI II, including an annex which shows the linkages between the pillars and sub-themes with the SDGs.</p> <p>Through a UN Rapid Integrated Assessment tool, the level of integration of SDGs into NSDI II and the various sectoral strategies was conducted in 2016. It has shown that out of the 169 SDG targets, 58 targets are aligned with the national policy, 72 targets are partially aligned, 19 targets are not aligned, and 20 targets are not relevant for Albania. As a result, it is estimated that alignment of the SDG targets in the national policy in Albania is around 60%.</p> <p>The more recently adopted or revised national strategies include a better perspective from the SDG lens of the national priorities, a feature that under the guidance of the Director of Development and Good Governance (DDGG) would be especially prominent with the next strategic planning framework starting in 2020. To succeed in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the 2030 national vision, Albania will engage in the process of establishing a roadmap for the SDG implementation, which would help in identifying roles and responsibilities of key institutions and other stakeholders in the process. The SDG roadmap shall include financial implications and would ensure further mainstreaming of the SDG implementation with the national policies and strategies.</p> <p>The process of implementing the SDGs would require adequate resources and mechanisms to use data and national indicators for monitoring purposes. Strengthening statistical capacities at the national level is an important challenge in the process. Assigning institutional responsibilities for setting goals and targets aligned with national policies, monitoring and reporting progress in the SDG implementation process, supported by strengthened statistical capacities, are key to success. A broader framework of domestic indicators should complement the NSDI-II indicators framework in order to enable adequate monitoring capabilities of the SDGs implementation. Monitoring progress with the SDGs requires not only a well-coordinated institutional</p>	<p>➤ One transformational thing:</p> <p>The National Strategy for Integration and Development 2015-2020 (NSDI II) is organized around the EU integration as the overarching goal; 13 cross-cutting foundations on good governance, democracy and rule of law; and four main sectoral pillars.</p> <p>To succeed in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the 2030 national vision, Albania launched the process of establishing a roadmap for the SDG implementation, which will help in identifying roles and responsibilities of key institutions and other stakeholders in the process.</p> <p>Under the innovative good governance approach, one of the priorities of the Government to achieve sustainable economic and social development, the focus is the transformation of services delivery in Albania through the citizen-centric approach.</p> <p>➤ One challenge:</p> <p>The process of implementing the SDGs would require adequate resources and mechanisms to use data and national indicators for monitoring purposes. Strengthening statistical capacities</p>


		<p>mechanism but also a robust monitoring system, equipped with all the necessary instruments and capable to assess performance toward meeting the SDG targets at both national and local levels. In order to fulfill the spirit of leaving no-one behind of the 2030 Agenda, the available information needs to be disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, and geographical location to the maximal extent possible.</p> <p>Under the innovative good governance approach, one of the priorities of the Government to achieve sustainable economic and social development, the focus is the transformation of services delivery in Albania through the citizen-centric approach. The overall framework for the modernization and transformation of institutions and practices of public administration in the country, with the vision of providing “high quality services for citizens and businesses in a transparent, effective, and efficient way through the use of modern technologies and innovative services”, supports the achievement of Goal 16, particularly SDG Targets 16.5 and 16.6.</p> <p>The theme “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies” of Albania’s VNR in 2018 focused primarily in the set of goals and achievements around the key government priorities on sustainable development, as defined in the NSDI II, as well as on selected success experiences. These government priorities, as defined in the NSDI II 2016-2020, include: Innovative and citizen-centered public services (good governance); Recovery and financial consolidation of the energy sector (energy); Fostering innovation and competitiveness (Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and domestic investments); Integrated water management; Integrated land management; Financial structural reform.</p>	<p>at the national level is an important challenge in the process.</p> <p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <p>Albania’s positive experience with the SDGs, reveals that the key to success in the implementation process is the engagement, commitment of all the stakeholders at the national and local levels, comprising a broad and diverse spectrum of institutions and organizations from central government, local government units, business organizations, civil society, academia, development partners, UN agencies and other domestic and donor organizations active in the country. Albania’s VNR 2018 has been disseminated to the public for consultation and has built on the feedback received from various institutions and organizations. To enhance the implementation of 2030 Agenda, all relevant institutions need to be fully committed in the process.</p>
<p>Algeria</p>  <p>(Nov. 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2019)</p>	<p>Transposition, mise en œuvre et suivi des ODD :</p> <p>Les ODD sont inscrits dans le Plan de Développement du Gouvernement (2017). Cet engagement est réitéré dans les différents Plans d’actions gouvernementaux. Ainsi, les Plans d’action adoptés par le Parlement en 2014 et 2017 renvoient au développement durable dans plusieurs de leurs axes. A travers ces plans, le Gouvernement affiche sa volonté de « <i>renforcer la politique environnementale du pays, dans le cadre d’une vision stratégique intégrée, devant aboutir à un développement durable alliant l’occupation appropriée du territoire national au déploiement équilibré des activités productives</i> ». Bien que ces Plans d’actions ne fassent pas directement référence au Programme 2030 et aux ODD, tant la sécurité alimentaire, la transition énergétique, que l’emploi des jeunes et des femmes par exemple sont explicitement présentés comme parties intégrantes des objectifs nationaux et figurent en bonne place dans l’agenda d’actions du Gouvernement.</p> <p>La stratégie la plus transversale qui couvre presque l’intégralité des ODD est la Stratégie Nationale pour l’Environnement et le Développement Durable (SNEDD 2019- 2035) et son Plan d’actions (PNAEDD 2019-2022) en cours d’adoption. La SNEDD exprime une vision nationale partagée et consensuelle pour le développement durable qui fédère dix-neuf stratégies, plans et programmes thématiques sectoriels récemment adoptés. La SNEDD est structurée en 7 axes stratégiques, 19 objectifs, 34 actions prioritaires et une centaine d’indicateurs de performance. Les sept axes portent sur l’amélioration de la santé et de la qualité de vie, la préservation du capital naturel et culturel, le développement de l’économie verte et circulaire, l’augmentation de</p>	<p>Evolution pour transposer, mettre en œuvre et suivre les ODD :</p> <p>Mise en place des Groupes de Travail Thématique, Scientifique et Technique (GTST) auprès du Comité interministériel de coordination et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des ODD en vue de mobiliser des communautés scientifiques nationales autour du suivi et de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 à travers leur mise en réseau tout en adoptant une démarche partenariale et interdisciplinaire.</p> <p>Défis rencontrés et solutions :</p> <p>La mise en place, en 2016, d’un Comité interministériel de coordination sous l’égide du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE) et dans lequel sont présents les différents</p>

	<p>la résilience face à la désertification, l'amélioration de la résilience aux changements climatiques, la sécurité alimentaire et la gouvernance environnementale. La SNEDD pourrait servir de cadre de référence pour opérationnaliser un nombre important d'ODD.</p> <p>L'Office National des Statistiques, qui constitue l'institution centrale du Système National d'Information Statistique (SNIS), est chargé, entre autres, de produire et contextualiser les indicateurs de développement durable et coordonner à cet égard les travaux statistiques menés. La performance de ces institutions nationales dans la production des indicateurs du Programme universel de développement durable est évaluée par le niveau de couverture des indicateurs ODD selon divers critères et par comparaison internationale.</p> <p>Afin de consolider le SNIS dans sa dimension de développement durable, il a été décidé de mettre en place des Groupes de Travail Thématique, Scientifique et Technique (GTST) auprès du Comité interministériel de coordination et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des ODD en vue de mobiliser les communautés scientifiques nationales autour de la mise en œuvre et du suivi du Programme 2030 à travers leur mise en réseau, tout en adoptant une démarche partenariale et interdisciplinaire.</p> <p>A fin 2018, 71 indicateurs produits à partir de sources nationales sont disponibles, représentant 30% du total des 232 indicateurs d'atteinte des cibles de développement durable.</p> <p>Défis rencontrés et solutions possibles</p> <p>L'examen des indicateurs ODD a permis de mettre en évidence les défis que le système statistique national doit relever en termes de couverture des indicateurs ODD, de fréquence de publication, de désagrégation et de territorialisation. Consciente de l'importance d'un système statistique performant dans le processus de suivi-évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030, l'Algérie s'attèle à mettre en place un cadre national intégré d'indicateurs de suivi des ODD qui permette d'éclairer l'action publique pour la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030. Le SNIS se trouve ainsi face au double défi de :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • renforcer la production statistique orientée vers les ODD, en termes de volume et de qualité. Dans cette perspective, l'Algérie s'est fixée comme objectif la couverture de la quasi-totalité des indicateurs de type Tiers 1 d'ici son prochain examen volontaire national ; • mettre en place une plateforme statistique nationale qui va constituer le guichet unique d'information statistique sur le développement durable. <p>La production nationale de données se déploie autour de plusieurs axes complémentaires :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produire les données nécessaires à la couverture des indicateurs internationaux pour contribuer à la mise en place du cadre mondial d'indicateurs de suivi des ODD ; • élaborer des indicateurs nationaux ou « proxy » maîtrisés approchant au mieux les indicateurs internationaux lorsque ces derniers ne peuvent pas être couverts dans toutes leurs dimensions par les données existantes ou lorsque leur méthode de calcul est encore en cours d'élaboration ; • élaborer le cas échéant des indicateurs nationaux ou « complémentaires » qui complètent les indicateurs internationaux en étant davantage adaptés au contexte national et aux politiques et stratégies nationales de développement durable ; 	<p>ministères, institutions et organismes nationaux, concernés par les ODD avec pour prérogatives le suivi et l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et la préparation de l'Examen nationale volontaire a permis l'appropriation des ODD par les parties prenantes.</p> <p>Leçons acquises :</p> <p>Inscrit dans le cadre des activités de ce Comité, l'Examen national volontaire a été rendu possible grâce aux contributions des départements ministériels impliqués dans la réalisation des ODD. Il s'est nourri des consultations avec les élus et les organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé, notamment lors des ateliers de sensibilisation aux ODD organisés en partenariat avec le système des Nations Unies.</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • améliorer, dans chacun de ces cas, la fréquence de publication des indicateurs retenus ; • territorialiser et désagréger les indicateurs de développement durable afin de mieux rendre compte et de traiter les écarts de développement entre les groupes de population et entre les territoires, ce qui donne toute la pertinence à la stratégie de l'Algérie en matière de développement durable dont le principe cardinal est de ne laisser personne ni aucun territoire pour compte. <p>Ce cadre national d'indicateurs se veut être nécessairement dynamique. Il s'adaptera ainsi à l'évolution des politiques nationales de développement durable ainsi qu'aux révisions du cadre mondial des indicateurs par les Nations Unies, notamment celle devant s'effectuer en 2025.</p> <p>Retour d'expérience au FPHN : Afin de s'appropriier le Programme 2030 et d'apporter des réponses nationales fortes à la mesure des enjeux qu'il véhicule et des défis qu'il porte, l'Algérie a mis en place en 2016 un Comité interministériel de coordination sous l'égide du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE) et dans lequel sont présents les différents ministères, institutions et organismes nationaux, concernés par les ODD avec pour prérogatives le suivi et l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030.</p>	
<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina</p>  <p>(June 2019)</p>	VNR (2019)	<p>In addition to framing the Bosnia and Herzegovina's policy agenda in a sustainable development perspective, strategic planning processes are expected to be rolled out in the second half of 2019 at national and local levels. The VNR builds on the work of the Government and its national partners, in cooperation with the UN system. Synthesized analysis of Bosnia and Herzegovina's sustainable development challenges describes the country's post-conflict and EU accession contexts, including key development trends, opportunities and bottlenecks, and presents four sustainable development pathways that can focus development policies and programming, indicating how sustainable development may be achieved in the country: 1. good governance and public sector management, 2. smart growth, 3. investing in a new social contract, and 4. human capital for the 21st century. Progress may be monitored via 45 domesticated (i.e. adapted to Bosnia and Herzegovina conditions) SDG targets and 108 domesticated SDG indicators. In addition to identifying those global SDG indicators that are most relevant for Bosnia and Herzegovina, baseline (2015), intermediate (2023), and terminal (2030) values for these indicators are proposed. The national framework for transposing SDGs at the national level will also offer overview of SDG financing trends and issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including suggestions in this respect. A specific challenge is related to the complexity of the internal constitutional organization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with many ministries, various institutions and levels of decision making, etc. Harmonization is a real challenge.</p>	<p>➤ One transformational thing:</p> <p>Identification of four sustainable development pathways: 1. good governance and public sector management, 2. smart growth, 3. investing in a new social contract, and 4. human capital for the 21st century</p> <p>➤ One challenge:</p> <p>Harmonization due to the complexity of the institutional and administrative set-up</p> <p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <p>Strategic planning processes for framing the national policy agenda for sustainable development</p>
<p>Cyprus</p> 	VNR (2017)	TO BE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED


<p>Croatia</p>  <p>(June 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2019)</p>	<p><i>Institutional set-up, national governance framework:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD) was constituted by the Government of Croatia in order to coordinate and monitor the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation. The National Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister, and members of the Committee are Ministers. • The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is the national coordinator and administrative body of the NCSD, responsible for submission of the VNR. • The Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds is the operative body that prepared the first VNR report. • VNR preparation involved ministries, business sector, and civil society organizations. • The Croatian Bureau of Statistics has launched a portal on SDGs and developed 30 indicators until now. <p><i>How is the Agenda 2030 integrated in the national environmental policy?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 2030 Agenda gives new wind of support for many policies like water management, waste management, marine and biodiversity protection, low carbon transition, and adaptation to climate change; • The new overarching National Development Strategy 2030 has mapped national priorities against SDGs. <p><i>What are the challenges in terms of SDGs transposition at national level?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of capacities and competences to monitor the SDGs; • Lack of capacities and financial resources to implement complex, financially demanding environmental and climate policies and SDGs; • To convince sectors not only to reduce their pressure on the environment and climate but also to improve biodiversity and climate status. <p><i>What are the solutions?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer collaboration with different stakeholders (academia, youth); • Recognize and award front runners in SDG implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One transformational thing: Relevant institutional set-up, with the creation of the National Committee for Sustainable Development, and strategic planning (National Development Strategy 2030) ➤ One challenge: Lack of integrated capacities to implement and monitor environmental SDGs ➤ Lessons learned: Awareness about the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships
<p>Egypt</p>  <p>(June 2019)</p>	<p>VNRs (2016, 2018)</p>	<p><i>One transformational thing:</i> Egypt established an institutional frame for transposition, implementation and monitoring the SDGs through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of responsible entities for collecting data, monitoring and evaluating the progress for achieving the SDGs; • Setting-up of a national committee for following-up the governmental plans and programs headed by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One transformational thing: Establishment of a specific institutional framework. ➤ One challenge: Lack of technologies for achieving sustainable development.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing links between the national budget and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, providing financial resources needed; • Development of an environmental monitoring network to monitor and evaluate environmental indicators; • Providing capacity building for governmental bodies, NGOs and the private sector to ensure their participation in achieving SDGs. <p>One challenge: The need to transfer expertise and technology for sustainable development policy coherence, promoting coordination and complementarities across sectors.</p> <p>One lesson learned: Coordination mechanism between all stakeholders can effectively accelerate the progress towards the implementation of sustainable development programs, plans, and policies.</p> <p>SIMPEER is an effective tool for experience sharing, providing technical support for monitoring and evaluating the national progress for achieving SDGs.</p>	<p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <p>Identification of coordination mechanisms for achieving the SDGs.</p>
<p>France</p>  <p>(June 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2016) SIMPEER (2016-2017)</p>	<p>France developed three generations of national strategies on sustainable development since 1997, based on a strong political commitment to the ecological transition, a real potential for green jobs and decoupling economic growth to energy use, and a robust institutional and legislative framework for governance on sustainable development.</p> <p>France considered SIMPEER as an opportunity to showcase how the 2030 Agenda and SDGs are implemented at the national level, following the success of the UNFCCC COP 21, with the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and as one of the European leaders for environmental research and eco-innovation for water, waste and climate change mitigation technologies.</p> <p>The National Strategy of Ecological Transition Towards Sustainable Development (SNTEDD) 2015-2020 was designed on a cross-cutting and long-term vision to meet the interdependent challenges of ecological transition and sustainable development. A robust and complex governance mechanism was established to facilitate the implementation of this strategy, including the coordination by the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) under the Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) and the Senior Officials for Sustainable Development (HFDDs) that, in each ministry, are responsible for applying the National Strategy within their ministry.</p> <p>As far as the monitoring process is concerned, an Annual Report is prepared by the Environmental Observation and Statistics Department (SOeS) of the General Commission for Sustainable Development (Ministry of the Environment) supported by the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE); the annual report is sent to the Parliament after the submission to the CNTE.</p> <p>The General Commission for Sustainable Development is in charge to coordinate a roadmap for implementing SDGs through an inclusive process mobilizing the civil society, private sector, decision-makers, scientists and citizens, to set the French Vision for 2030, and to elaborate actions plan for each SDG.</p>	<p>➤ One transformational thing:</p> <p>Establishment of a complex governance mechanism, complemented by a robust monitoring system</p> <p>➤ Challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting intersectoral approach for addressing the integrated nature of the SDGs (breaking silos); • Involving the private sectors in order to develop an approach of corporate social responsibility <p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very new experience involving all public and private actors; an intensive work to build a common and consensual 2030 Vision; but still a lot of efforts are needed to implement this vision in an operative and concrete program of actions. • The awareness of the links between all SDGs and the importance of the crosscutting approach to achieve the SDG Targets.


		<p>France is finalizing its Vision for 2030: a booklet will be completed with an indicative roadmap for each SDG; these roadmaps include a diagnosis and strategic priorities, a priority action programme, identifying levers for action. The SDG 14 roadmap is in line with several MSSD Strategic Directions. For each of the SDG 14 Targets, actions and objectives that have been validated by the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Sea (CIMER), which is chaired by the Secretary General of the Sea (under Prime Minister). An annual follow-up of the roadmaps is planned.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High necessity to communicate to all public, societal and private sectors about the impacts of inappropriate behaviors on several aspects.
<p>Greece</p>  <p>(June 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2018)</p>	<p>The SDGs have offered to Greece a new transformative vision for responsive and accountable governance, for inclusive institutions and for growth founded on a sound environmental basis. Greece has linked the objectives of the 2030 Agenda with its national roadmap after the economic crisis, and, therefore, the SDGs are fully embedded in the country’s revised Growth Strategy endorsed in May 2019.</p> <p>One transformational thing:</p> <p>The key transformational thing Greece did is related to the institutional mechanism set up to coordinate efforts for adapting and implementing the SDGs at national level. Even though the first NSSD of Greece was drafted back in 2002, the visibility that the SDGs received provided the opportunity, for the first time, to truly anchor sustainable development at the highest political level ensuring ownership. In this context, in preparing for the first VNR, Greece has endorsed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • firstly, <i>a whole of government approach</i>, with an active operational Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee, steered by the General Secretariat of the Government, which is a key centre of government entity, close both to the Parliament as well as to the administration, • and secondly, <i>a whole of society approach</i>, with a strong stakeholder involvement in the mapping and stock taking process for defining the national starting point and priorities for adapting the SDGs, enhancing transparency, partnership and accountability. <p>This approach was evident also by the fact that Greece’s VNR presentation at the 2018 HLPF was delivered not only by the Minister of Environment and Energy as the Government’s representative, but also by the President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece, representing stakeholders, and by the Chair of the Environment Committee, an elected representative of the National Parliament.</p> <p>One challenge encountered:</p> <p>The first main challenge faced relates to the fact that all government units and agencies had to be motivated, coordinated and taken on board in defining the national priorities for transposing the SDGs and then for gathering data on the SDGs implementation. As the country has been facing an economic crisis with very urgent pressing priorities, such as high unemployment rates, particularly for youth, the problem of the “brain drain”, social inequalities etc., it had been challenging to mobilize different administration units to endorse and commit to the SDGs as a priority and not as an “add on”.</p> <p>It also took some effort to convince Ministries to adopt a more cross sectoral approach to use the SDGs for ensuring overall policy coherence for sustainable development. The fact that since December 2016, the General</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One transformational thing: Relevant institutional mechanism set up to coordinate efforts for adapting and implementing the SDGs at national level ➤ One challenge: Mobilizing various administration units to endorse and commit to the SDGs as a priority and not as an “add on” ➤ Lessons learned: The VNR experience, even though very intensive, has been overall a very positive and beneficial one, especially for breaking the silos in the way line Ministries have been operating so far, in order to address cross-sectoral issues as well as in raising awareness and ownership of all involved stakeholders and of the society at large in implementing the SDGs

	<p>Secretariat of the Government has been assigned by law the task of monitoring and coordinating national efforts in implementing the SDGs, has been very helpful in mobilizing and coordinating all involved government units for a whole-of-government approach.</p> <p><i>One lesson learned from the experience at the HLPF:</i></p> <p>The VNR experience has been overall a very positive and beneficial one, especially for breaking the silos in the way line Ministries have been operating so far, in order to address cross-sectoral issues as well as in raising awareness and ownership of all involved stakeholders and of the society at large in implementing the SDGs. Since all SDGs are interconnected, the same interconnectedness should be required between national actors and Ministries.</p> <p>Another important point that goes beyond the national level, is that one of the key functions of the VNRs is their strong peer-learning element. Countries have to try to benefit as much as possible from other countries' experiences in preparing for their VNR but also in its follow up. Greece has benefitted a lot from interacting with past presenters when preparing for the country's first VNR and, to this end, several roundtables with partner countries have been organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2017 to receive advice and tips for the VNR presentation and for the elaboration of a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs.</p> <p><i>Specific challenges in implementing the SDGs and defining possible solutions:</i></p> <p>A big challenge has been the setting up of a monitoring mechanism for tracking progress in implementing the SDGs. A list of around 160 indicators (selected from the global SDGs indicator framework but adjusted to national priorities and circumstances and aligned with what Ministries could regularly measure) has just been endorsed for the quantitative monitoring of progress. These indicators are endorsed by all Ministries and by the National Statistical Authority. At the same time, a more active involvement of the National Parliament in the follow-up and review of progress from a more political point of view, has been pursued.</p> <p>Capitalizing on the VNR experience, Greece is now developing a 4-year National Implementation Plan for the SDGs consistent with the National Growth Strategy that will encompass quantitative and qualitative monitoring aspects.</p> <p><i>Main challenges faced in the preparation of the VNR report:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One big challenge are the strict deadlines in submitting the VNR highlights first, then the full report and then the visuals, so indeed starting the process as early as possible helps a lot. • It was difficult to coordinate all line Ministries for the actual drafting of the report, so having a center of government entity with a broader overview of political priorities but also with technical drafting capacities coordinating the whole endeavor is very helpful. • Greece tried to ensure the involvement of the widest possible array of stakeholders in the elaboration of our VNR report. • Finally, in drafting the VNR report, the UNSG Guidelines have been followed to the extent possible as they provide a good checklist for comparability and consistency between countries. It was also decided to 	
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		<p>include several practical successful examples of policy integration, linking more than one SDGs on cross-cutting issues, in the VNR report.</p>	
<p>Israel</p>  <p>(July 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2019)</p>	<p>The VNR preparation has been a demanding process but also an opportunity to accelerate the work towards a national mechanism for implementing the 2030 Agenda. An inter-ministerial committee was appointed by the Prime Minister and headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Each Ministry contributed its own inputs to the relevant Goals, enabling them to take ownership and become familiar with the SDGs and the global experience, case studies and methodologies available. Each ministry shared programs and national targets to implementing the SDGs in Israel and depending on their status and familiarity with the SDGs were also able to identify gaps and opportunities for the near and long term.</p> <p>Governmental bodies who work closely with international bodies were more receptive to the SDGs. For example, through their active involvement in UN Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Construction launched a multi-stakeholder process on implementation of Goal 11, or the Ministry of Health, through its work with the World Health Organization, was familiar with Goal 3. This crucial ownership process has already progressed on all levels.</p> <p>Major efforts were invested in compiling a comprehensive statistical annex, to complete the scoping and mapping and identify how Israel can measure its progress. A comprehensive report, comprising around 50% of the indicators collated by Israel’s Central Bureau of Statistics can now serve as the basis for informed decision making on national priorities for 2030. Another important tool is Israel’s Wellbeing Indicators which are measured annually and presented to the government, and will continue to support policy-making in achieving the SDGs.</p> <p>One of the most interesting outcomes of this first of its kind scoping and mapping process was the emergence of the connection between innovation and the <i>Leave No One Behind</i> concept as a central organizing theme across the government. As a society with a broad cultural, ethnic and religious mix and constrained by various challenges, such as resource scarcity, innovation has played a crucial role in enabling Israel’s unique development experience. Israel considers innovation, from technological to social innovation, as a potent channel for the implementation of SDGs both at national and global levels and for ensuring no one is left behind.</p> <p>Similarly to other countries, facing the challenge of preparing the first VNR, meant that the main focus was on a government activity and as a result, the government run process of stakeholder consultation was incorporated into the work of the inter-ministerial committee and not as a separate process. Stakeholders from all sectors participated in the inter-ministerial meetings. Moreover, a broad coalition of civil society bodies was set up, including dozens of mainly social and environmental organizations which have organized consultations and provided a report on future cooperation with the government. A more intensive joint government and stakeholder process will be carried out during the coming phases of implementing the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>The biggest challenge has been to make progress in parallel to the development of a national mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs.</p>	<p>One transformational thing:</p> <p>Inter-ministerial cooperation was central to the process. An inter-ministerial committee was set up by the Prime Minister and headed by the the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Each line Ministry contributed its own portion of the VNR, which enabled them to take ownership and become familiar with the relevant SDGs and methodology.</p> <p>➤ One challenge:</p> <p>One challenge has been to make progress in the development of a national mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs. On July 14, 2019, a government decision was approved, requiring incorporation of relevant SDGs into the Strategic Priorities, prepared by the Prime Minister’s Office and adopted by each incoming government. Annual reporting on implementation of this decision is required. This decision creates synergy between the SDGs and the government’s strategic priorities.</p> <p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <p>The importance of building on initiatives recognized as being of strategic priority and demonstrating the added value of SDGs. Identifying these linkages in a clear and concise manner as in our Main Message: <i>Harnessing Innovation to Leave No One Behind</i> which identifies Israel’s relative advantage and main driver for achieving the SDGs.</p>


		<p>After providing the initial update to the MCSO on the SDG implementation, government decision 4631 was passed on the 14th of July 2019, requiring incorporation of relevant SDGs into the Strategic Priorities, prepared by the Prime Minister’s Office and adopted by each incoming government. Annual reporting on implementation of this decision is required.</p> <p>The Barcelona Convention was mentioned a number of times in the Israel VNR, especially in Chapter 14, Oceans, and particularly in the contexts of EcAp, IMAP, monitoring program, and Marine Litter and its role in informing domestic policy.</p>	
<p>Italy</p>  <p>(Sept. 2020)</p>	<p>VNR (2017)</p>	<p><i>One transformational thing:</i></p> <p>Pursuing the SDGs, as spelled out in the 2030 Agenda, represents one of the key priorities of the Italian Parliament and Government. Italy has implemented several initiatives to advance on the 2030 Agenda in terms of transposition, implementation and monitoring SDGs at national level.</p> <p>The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), adopted by the Council of Ministers and officially approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming (CIPE) in 2017, is the overarching strategic framework to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Italy and the national reference framework for planning and programming policies and for environmental assessments (SEA, EIA). Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) is one of the guiding principles and tools.</p> <p>To better reflect the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, the drafting of the NSDS was a collective effort, coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS) in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and all line Ministries, including other national authorities, civil society representatives and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>The NSDS timeframe is set at 2030, while IMELS provides to CIPE a yearly review. The Strategy is periodically updated, every three years.</p> <p>The NSDS is an update of the former Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002-2010) broadened to integrate the economic and social dimension and guide action towards the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda vision. It is structured on the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: “People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership” and it identifies “sustainability vectors” as key crosscutting areas that are essential to guide, manage and monitor the integration of the SDGs into national policies, plans and projects. These vectors include: (i) Common knowledge (ii) Monitoring and evaluating policies, plans and projects; (iii) Institutions, participation and partnerships; (iv) Education, awareness and communication; (v) Modernizing public administration and restructuring public expenditure. The NSDS covers both the domestic dimension and the principles and purposes of international cooperation, in line with the Italian three-year Programming Document for International Cooperation.</p> <p>The NSDS builds on a multi-level dimension promoting both vertical and horizontal coordination. In order to decline the strategic objectives at local level, the NSDS calls on Italian regions to develop regional sustainable development strategies and define local actions and objectives to fulfill the national commitments. IMELS supports regions and local authorities in this endeavor through financial contributions and technical assistance in</p>	<p>TO BE COMPLETED</p>




	<p>the design and evaluation of regional and metropolitan strategies for the implementation of 2030 Agenda and NSDS objectives at the territorial level.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the Strategy, Italy established several cutting-edge institutional mechanisms to coordinate the implementation, incl. the <i>Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia</i> and the National Commission for Sustainable Development within the Presidency of the Council of Ministries. A permanent parliamentary committee for the implementation of 2030 Agenda has been set up in 2018, while IMELS has established a dialogue platform between institutions and civil society, i.e. the National Forum for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>Italy also already took some important steps towards policy coherence for sustainable development in particular with the recent approval of the reform that transformed the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming (CIPE) into the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming for Sustainable Development (as of 1st January 2021), to foster the mandate to coordinate policies towards 2030 Agenda objectives.</p> <p>The revision of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development will commence in 2020, through an open-ended participatory process involving all levels of government (local and central), main stakeholders and with the support of the academic and research sector.</p> <p><i>One challenge for transposing, implementing or monitoring SDGs:</i></p> <p>Italy has focused significant efforts on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both internally and abroad. According to the European Commission, over the past 5 years, progress has been relevant in most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the field of good health and well-being (SDG3), affordable and clean energy (SDG7), responsible consumption and production (SDG12) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16). On the contrary, in the area of poverty reduction, inequality and life on land (SDGs 1, 10, and 15) there is a mixed picture, with some indexes worsening in the short run. Overall, Italy performs below the EU average in most of the indexes related to quality of education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), economic growth (SDG8) while it performs better than average on clean water and sanitation (SDG6), sustainable cities (SDG11) and responsible consumption (SDG12).</p> <p>Since February 2020, the health crisis caused by the eruption of the Covid-19 pandemic has left Italy, Europe and the world with unprecedented economic and social challenges. In this context, the 2030 Agenda provides vision and a solid roadmap towards recovery which requires further efforts at national and regional level as many challenges still lay ahead to better reflect the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the 2030 Agenda. One of the main areas for improvement is in the field of policy coherence and policy effectiveness which needs to be strengthened at all levels.</p> <p>To do so, Italy has requested assistance in the field of policy coherence for sustainable development to the EC and the OECD through the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme. The Programme, by screening Italian recovery policies and institutional framework against their capacity to progress steadily towards sustainable development, aims at supporting the development of an action plan for policy coherence for sustainable development. The outcomes of which will feed into the revision of the Italian NSDS which is due in</p>	
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		<p>2021 and will help equip Italian policymakers and key stakeholders with the necessary institutional mechanisms and policy tools to enhance sustainable development.</p> <p><u>About monitoring the SDGs at national level:</u> According to the Decree that adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Ministry for the Environment is mandated on a yearly basis to report on the state of play and actions undertaken to implement the strategy. The report is submitted to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in particular the Department for Economic Planning and Coordination, and transmitted to other relevant national authorities. In addition, in March 2018, the Ministry for the Environment set up a working group with the objective of selecting a number of indicators to monitor and measure the implementation of the NSSD within the broader framework of the SDG indicators used by the National Statistics Institute. The group, composed by representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance and by members of the National Statistics Institute and the Agency for Environmental Protection, have issued a report, submitted to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, describing the reference framework, the methodology used to select the indicators and the final set of selected indicators. Finally, the Ministry for the Environment is supporting regional and local authorities to decline at territorial level the strategic objectives contained in the NSSD. In this endeavour, specific focus is given also to ensure consistency and coherence with the national framework in the selection of indicators.</p> <p><i>One lesson learned from the HLPF's experience:</i></p> <p>Italy presented its first VNR in 2017, focusing mostly on the multi-stakeholder process that led to the adoption of the NSDS. The VNR was presented by a trio composed by IMELS, MFA and a representative of civil society to better reflect all actors involved in the drafting of the NSDS and its subsequent implementation.</p> <p>The process leading to the presentation of the VNR has been one of the most important takeaways of this exercise. Peer to peer learning sessions among VNR candidates, multi-stakeholder dialogues and inter-ministerial coordination have been all valuable experiences on which we have built upon in the following years. The VNRs have proven to be an added value in terms of follow up and review at international level, showing the commitment of many high-level government representatives to the 2030 Agenda. Italy strongly supports the VNR process and believes in the added value of the HLPF as an essential tool to ensure an effective follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>Italy will be called again to present the VNR in 2021 and will be looking forward to describing fulfillments since 2017 as well as future perspectives for the coming four years (2021-2025).</p>	
<p>Lebanon</p>  <p>(June 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2018)</p>	<p>Lebanon is an upper middle-income country with a democratic political system. Its liberal economy largely relies on services, and its society is characterized by cultural diversity and openness. After a new President was elected in October 2016 and a national conciliation government was formed in December 2016, the government's engagement towards 2030 Agenda has accelerated. Lebanon presented its VNR at the HLPF on 18 July 2018.</p> <p><i>Transformational actions:</i></p>	<p>➤ One transformational thing:</p> <p>Establishment of a National Committee for coordinating national efforts to integrate SDGs in sectoral strategies, plus sub-committees (thematic groups) and a Parliamentary Committee for monitoring progress and mapping existing legislation,</p>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formed in 2017, the National Committee for SD is chaired by Prime Minister and includes two DGs and four representatives from civil society and private sector. It coordinates national efforts to integrate SDGs in strategies and was in charge of the VNR preparation. • Sub-committees (thematic groups) have been established along the pillars of the 2030 Agenda, with Partnership mainstreamed, and a dedicated statistical taskforce set up. • A Parliamentary Committee reviews progress of SDGs implementation and is in charge of mapping the existing legislation vs. SDGs. A legislative institutional mechanism was established to follow-up and advance progress towards the SDGs in Lebanon. • Three workshops were conducted with government officials, private sector and CSO’s representatives to raise awareness of the SDGs. CSOs held regional consultations and a national website for SDGs was created and populated. <p>Lebanon achieved at least seven MDG targets, mainly in health, primary education and gender equality in education. The remaining targets showed mixed results, were not applicable or were not expected to be achieved on time—the most salient of which relate to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. The socio-economic situation has been exacerbated by the impact of the crisis in Syria: while Lebanon has shown exceptional solidarity, this has come at a high cost, compounded pre-existing development challenges and stretched Lebanon beyond its limits.</p> <p>Progress towards ‘People’ SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty rates: Already high before the Syrian crisis, the poverty rates have worsened. The communities that host the displaced Syrians lack the resources and capacity to address the increased demand for public and social services. This has not halted the government’s efforts to create a better environment for all, including through national programs that enhance social assistance for the most vulnerable citizens. The government also continues to offer numerous types of social services, such as health, education, universal subsidies for electricity, bread, tobacco farmers, interest subsidies for housing and other productive sectors. The government also provides various social protection schemes to its own employees and the formal private sector through the national social security funds (NSSF). • The quality and coverage of health services: Targets related to maternity and children under five years of age score well and reproductive health services are accessible to nearly all Lebanese. The government’s strategy ‘Health 2025’ will provide universal health coverage. SDG targets have been integrated in the plans and strategies of the Ministry of Public Health. • Education sector: Lebanese citizens, especially male and female youth, have very high literacy rates, and a 90% enrolment rate has been achieved in primary education—mainly because primary school education is compulsory and free in public schools. • Gender: For the first time in Lebanon’s history a Minister for Women’s Affairs has been appointed. Women’s participation in political and economic spheres is slowly improving. 	<p>accelerating engagement towards the 2030 Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One challenge: Engaging public institutions in an inclusive, transparent, and enforcement culture ➤ Lessons learned: The VNR experience has been very important specially by raising the entire Lebanese society knowledge about the importance of SDG and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
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	<p><i>Progress on “Planet”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment: The government is striving for better environmental conditions for the citizens. Lebanon has shown its commitment towards international environmental conventions and set out its agenda on natural resource management and protection. Land management, water and air pollution, and solid waste management remain the main impediments to environmental sustainability. Lebanon has an environment protection law, a national biodiversity action plan, and an action plan for SCP for the industrial sector. • Climate change: Following its signature of the Paris Agreement, Lebanon seeks to have dedicated legislation to address climate change. Several policies and pieces of legislation contribute towards its climate change commitments such as those on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and air pollution. • Water: The Capital Investment Programme includes projects to increase water supply, improve existing systems, and provide additional surface water sources. The water sector strategy intends to increase coverage of the wastewater collection network and treatment capacity. • Energy: The country is slowly moving towards increasing reliance on renewable sources, and has recently started planning for offshore petroleum resource exploration. <p><i>Progress on “Prosperity”</i></p> <p>Complementing its efforts to create employment opportunities, the government is working on a labour strategy to improve the protection of workers, especially in the informal sector. A strategic plan to expand the domestic market and increase industrial exports is also operational.</p> <p>Facing rapid urban expansion, the National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory remains the country’s overarching framework for urban development. Work is also underway on traffic and congestion through a large public transport project in Beirut and its suburbs.</p> <p><i>Progress on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”</i></p> <p>The government is fully aware that none of the SDGs can advance without “peace, justice, and strong institutions”. To that end, a new parliamentary elections’ law that ensures a wider representation based on proportionality was ratified in 2017. The law to fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism coupled with the legislation on tax transparency and access to information were ratified. The law to criminalize torture was also ratified, as well as that on establishing a National Human Rights’ Institute.</p> <p>Improving government statistics will constitute a cross cutting reform to facilitate mapping of SDGs and their targets, and will ultimately serve to improve policy-making.</p> <p>Lebanon’s sector strategies and plans incorporate some of the SDGs. The creation of the national committee and process of writing the VNR have further focused ministries’ attention on the importance of integrating SDGs and 2030 Agenda principles into their planning. A few ministries, such as Public health and Industry, have already made headway along these lines.</p> <p><i>Challenges and recommendations</i></p>	
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		<p>Lebanon’s past performance towards the MDGs was mixed. While notable progress was made in education and health, and the country had a relatively good record on gender equality, important development challenges remain, including poverty reduction and environmental sustainability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges encountered in preparing the VNR: Short timeframe (less than one year); Limited knowledge of SDGs and 2030 Agenda by stakeholders; Difficulty in the consolidation of inputs by large number of stakeholders. • National key challenges: corruption and lack of transparency and good governance in public institutions, lack of law enforcement, outdated legislation, centralization, lack of access to data, impacts of the Syrian crisis, absence of comprehensive social protection strategy. • Key recommendations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Address corruption and enhance transparency and accountability within public institutions and moving forward towards an e-government that supports this endeavor along with access to information; ➢ All SDGs related strategies, programs and projects need to be context-based on local and national priorities and needs; ➢ Raise awareness on good citizenship is essential to ensure active engagement and local ownership of the SDGs; ➢ Protect the environment especially in relation to waste and waste water remains essential to safeguard Lebanon’s natural resources and ensure basic rights to a healthy living. Further support farmers through sustainable agriculture is a necessity; ➢ Support most vulnerable segments through the development and implementation of a comprehensive social protection strategy and plan; ➢ Address unemployment, especially among the youth and in rural areas affected by the impacts of the Syrian crisis; ➢ Upgrade the educational system and infrastructure; ➢ Enhance the capacities of decision-makers, including Ministers, Parliamentarians and Mayors, on the SDGs so that they can integrate them in development planning; ➢ Actively engage CSO’s throughout the development and implementation of the SDGs; ➢ Update legislations and policies and ensure law enforcement; ➢ Proceed with decentralization reforms at the local level, especially at the municipal level to support implementing the SDGs. 	
<p>Libya</p> 	<p>VNR (2020)</p>	<p>TO BE COMPLETED</p>	<p>TO BE COMPLETED</p>

<p>Malta</p>  <p>(June 2020)</p>	<p>VNR (2018)</p>	<p>One transformational thing: Integrating the SDGs into the National Budget Process</p> <p>The commitment of Malta to align its budget measures with SDGs was announced by the Prime Minister in September 2019, whereby the Maltese Government expressed its commitment to ensure that, as of Budget 2020, the measures therein will be aligned to SDGs. The aims behind the SDG alignment which will be conducted annually are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen and consolidate the planning process by Ministries through the integration of the SDGs in the planning phases of a policy, programme, project or initiative; and • Establish milestones in Action Plans, through which Ministries will be expected to contribute towards mainstreaming sustainable development practices whilst also addressing SDGs Indicators. <p>One challenge: Malta's experience with SDG implementation shows that the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs results in coordination challenges at every level of the decision-making process often leading to divergences arising from different sectoral interests. It therefore requires the strengthening of existing mechanisms and establish clear mandates for vertical coordination (between national, local and regional levels) and horizontal coordination (between Ministries, Entities and Departments).</p> <p>Establishing SDG implementation platforms composed of key stakeholders including civil society is essential in managing cross-sectoral coordination and overcoming difficulties and increasing accountability. In order to tackle this, the Maltese Government has established a coordination mechanism underpinned by the Sustainable Development Act. The purpose of this Act is to create a framework through which sustainable development is mainstreamed across all workings of Government. Bodies, such as the Guardian of Future Generations and the Sustainable Development Network, also aim at fostering exchange of views and national dialogue as well as overseeing the implementation of sustainable development in Malta.</p> <p>One lesson learned from the HLPF's experience:</p> <p>The main lesson which was acquired from this exercise was that the mainstreaming of sustainable development has to undertake the three pillars together. This means that the workings have to be cross referenced with more than one SDG and also across several ministries. This paves the pathway for more policy coherence and accountability.</p>	<p>TO BE COMPLETED</p>
<p>Monaco</p> 	<p>VNR (2017, 2020)</p>	<p>TO BE COMPLETED</p>	<p>TO BE COMPLETED</p>
<p>Montenegro</p>  <p>(July 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2016) SIMPEER (2016-2017)</p>	<p>Institutional and strategy framework for Sustainable Development in Montenegro</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and ICZM (4 WGs) • Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism – Division for Mediterranean Affairs 	<p>➤ One transformational thing: Beyond the key role of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management that supervises the implementation of the NSSD</p>


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro 2007-2012; National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2030 <p>National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) until 2030</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted on 7 July 2016 by the Government of Montenegro, as the result of a 4-year multi-stakeholder dialogue process initiated after the Rio+20 Conference (2012) • Led by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism under the supervision of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and ICZM • Based on the assessment of implementation of the 2007-2012 NSSD and in the context of Montenegrin contribution to global debate on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda • Uses positive experiences from global, European and Mediterranean • Transposes the 17 SDGs, 167 out of 169 targets and list of 241 (232) indicators identified by UNSD for global monitoring of sustainable development <p>Montenegro participated in the SIMPEER pilot edition (2016-2017), which provided recommendations related to: Leadership and ownership, Governance and stakeholder participation, Resources and means of implementation.</p> <p>From July 2017 to July 2018, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism implemented the project “Establishing an integrated system for reporting on the progress in the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development”:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IRIS (Indicator Reporting Information System) system installed on the server and programmed for 33 priority indicators • A new application has been created to upload data to the IRIS system, which can also be used for fast data sharing and monitoring over the reporting process • A translated manual for the use of IRIS; a manual for using the Indicator Upload System and reporting on 33 priority indicators; and a bilingual footage of trainings conducted by UNEP on the use of IRIS • Recommendations: platform is quite complicated for use (possible only with continuous IT support); Instead of accelerating and facilitating the process of reporting, the current version of IRIS makes the process unnecessarily complicated; it is recommended to start building a “national” application <p>Next steps – Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further strengthening of institutions in charge for NSSD implementation • Establish the system of sustainable financing for the implementation of the NSSD • Further strengthening of monitoring system related to the NSSD implementation • Harmonization of sectoral strategies in order to ensure that they are in line with NSSD • Further strengthening of partnerships for successful implementation of NSSD. 	<p>until 2030, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism implemented the project “<i>Establishing an integrated system for reporting on the progress in the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development</i>” in 2017-2018.</p> <p>➤ One challenge:</p> <p>Establish the system of sustainable financing for the implementation and monitoring of the NSSD until 2030</p> <p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <p>Having in mind obligations towards future generations and experiences of key international actors on sustainability, it is necessary in the period until 2030 to establish four-dimensional sustainable development concept of the use of national human, social, natural and economic resources.</p> <p>VNR process has shown full integration of the 2030 Agenda into the national context in Montenegro and importance of securing implementation of the ambitious NSSD until 2030, with special focus on prioritized next steps, in first line financing for sustainable development, governance for sustainable development and monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the NSSD.</p>
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<p>Morocco</p>  <p>(July 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2016, 2020)</p> <p>SIMPEER (2016-2017)</p>	<p>Transposition, mise en œuvre et suivi des ODD :</p> <p>La nouvelle Constitution de 2011 a consacré le développement durable en tant que droit pour tous les citoyens du Maroc. La Charte Nationale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable élaborée en 2010 a été formalisée dans une Loi Cadre adoptée par le Parlement en février 2014. Conformément à ses dispositions, une Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable (SNDD) a été élaborée à travers une large concertation avec l'ensemble des parties prenantes : le secteur public, les opérateurs privés et la société civile.</p> <p>Conformément aux dispositions de la Loi Cadre N° 99-12, la SNDD a été élaborée, entérinée par le Conseil National de l'Environnement (CNE) en juillet 2016, présentée au Conseil du Gouvernement le 1^{er} juin 2017 et au Conseil des Ministres sous la présidence de S. M. le Roi Mohammed VI le 25 juin 2017.</p> <p>La SNDD vise à concrétiser une vision d'une économie verte et inclusive au Maroc d'ici 2030. Sept enjeux majeurs ont été identifiés comme piliers de la SNDD 2030 et ont été déclinés en 31 axes stratégiques et 137 objectifs avec des indicateurs précis, ce qui fait d'elle un outil de référence et de convergence des politiques publiques visant le développement durable.</p> <p>Un cadre de gouvernance de la SNDD a été mis en place par le Décret N° 655.17.2 portant création du Comité Stratégique du Développement Durable dont la publication a été faite au BO N° 6660, en date du 29 mars 2018. Ce décret a permis l'institution de deux comités : (i) le Comité Stratégique du Développement Durable, constitué des Ministres et présidé par le Chef du Gouvernement et ayant un rôle politique et d'orientation stratégique ; (ii) le Comité de pilotage ayant pour mission le suivi et l'accompagnement de la mise en œuvre de la SNDD sur le terrain, et qui est constitué par les Secrétaires Généraux des différents départements ministériels et présidé par le Secrétariat d'Etat chargé du Développement Durable.</p> <p>Ce cadre de gouvernance a été élargi à travers l'adoption d'un projet de décret (publication au bulletin officiel en cours) qui a permis la mise en place, en plus des deux comités susmentionnés, d'un comité national présidé par le Chef du Gouvernement et dédié au suivi des ODD.</p> <p>Défis rencontrés et solutions possibles :</p> <p>Un défi majeur a été de savoir dans quelle mesure la mise en œuvre de la SNDD permettrait de concrétiser les ODD. Pour répondre à ce défi, une étude a été lancée dont les principaux résultats sont les suivants :</p> <p>Sur les 64 cibles ODD liées aux moyens et sur les 105 cibles de résultats, 45 et 99 cibles sont considérées comme pertinentes pour le Maroc ;</p> <p>Ainsi, les cibles prioritaires pour le Maroc sont au nombre de 144 dont 99 cibles de résultats et 45 cibles de moyens ;</p> <p>Sur les 144 cibles retenues pour le Maroc, 103 sont prises en charge par la SNDD 2030.</p> <p>Pour relever le défi et concrétiser les cibles des ODD, une évaluation de la SNDD sera réalisée en 2021 pour réorienter le plan d'actions de ladite stratégie et élaborer un nouveau programme pour accélérer l'atteinte des ODD d'ici 2030.</p>	<p>➤ One transformational thing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSSD until 2030 adopted in 2016 for a green and inclusive economy and as a tool for reference and convergence of public policies towards sustainable development; • Creation in 2018 of the Strategic Committee for SD (government) and the Steering Committee for follow-up and support in the field (SG of ministries); National SDG Monitoring Committee (ongoing). <p>➤ Challenges and solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible gap NSSD vs. SDGs. A study has shown that, out of the 144 SDG Targets selected for Morocco, 103 are taken into account by the NSSD. An assessment of the NSSD will be carried out in 2021 to update the action plan towards SDGs achievement. <p>➤ Lessons learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultations to prepare the VNR enabled stakeholder ownership of the SDGs. • Morocco's participation in the HLPF contributed to consolidating and strengthening the implementation of the SDGs through the exchange of experiences.
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<p>Slovenia</p> 	<p>VNR (2017, 2020)</p>	TO BE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED
<p>Spain</p> 	<p>VNR (2018)</p>	TO BE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED
<p>Syrian Arab Republic</p>  <p>(July 2020)</p>	<p>VNR (2020)</p>	<p>1. One transformational thing:</p> <p>The Syrian Arab Republic prepared the first national report for sustainable development, which presents the current situation of the SDGs at all dimensions, and identifies options for suggested policies, procedures and plans to reach the desired level which contributes to achieve the SDGs at the national level. The report was prepared in cooperation with various government agencies, private sector and civil society.</p> <p>2. One challenge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The crisis which happened in Syrian Arab Republic has led to decrease in the levels of progress in basic infrastructures, health services, education, improving the living conditions of citizens, rural development, and strengthening the role of women in all sectors; - The national efforts to achieve development also faced a major challenge represented by the imposition of some countries and regional entities of unilateral coercive economic measures against the Syrian Arab Republic since 2011 and up to date illegally and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, and its decisions, as these measures inflicted tremendous losses on the Syrian economy, the capabilities of the Syrian state, civil society and the private sector; - Due to crises, we could not extract statistic data in the last years to build a database for calculating SDGs indicators. <p>3. One lesson learned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A positive experience in preparing the first national report for sustainable development, revealing that the key to success in the implementation process is the engagement, commitment of all the stakeholders at the 	TO BE COMPLETED

		<p>national and local levels, comprising the private sector, institutions, organizations, civil society, academia, development partners, and various government agencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising the Syrian society knowledge about the importance of SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; - The awareness of the links between all SDGs and the importance of the crosscutting approach to achieve the SDG Targets; - The HLPF was an opportunity to share experiences with other countries. 	
<p>Tunisia</p>  <p>(July 2019)</p>	<p>VNR (2019)</p>	<p>One transformational thing:</p> <p>La nouvelle Constitution de 2014 consacre le développement durable et le droit des générations futures parmi les droits fondamentaux des citoyens tunisiens (Article 12). La Constitution prescrit la constitutionnalisation du droit à l'eau et la responsabilité conjointe de l'État et de la société dans la préservation des ressources en eau (Article 44), de la sécurité climatique (Article 45), d'un environnement sain (Article 45) et prévoit la mise en place de cinq instances constitutionnelles indépendantes dont une de développement durable et des droits des générations futures.</p> <p>La Stratégie Nationale du Développement Durable (SNDD 2016-2020) s'inscrit dans le long terme au niveau des principes et des orientations générales mais se donne un horizon temporel de plus courte durée en termes d'objectifs à atteindre et d'actions. Au regard du contexte politique et social, des urgences identifiées dans la phase de diagnostic et des profondes réformes institutionnelles qu'implique la nouvelle constitution, l'horizon de la SNDD a été limité à l'année 2020.</p> <p>La SNDD adopte la vision élaborée par la Tunisie dans le cadre de l'exercice « La Tunisie que nous voulons » réalisé au cours des concertations menées à l'échelle internationale pour l'identification des objectifs de l'après-2015, les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) adoptés par la Communauté internationale en juin 2015.</p> <p>L'intégration des impératifs de développement durable dans le plan quinquennal de développement 2016-2020 a conduit à l'identification de « l'économie verte comme moteur du développement durable » et à la prise en compte de certains défis identifiés dans la SNDD 2016-2020 comme axes prioritaires d'intervention et de réforme.</p> <p>Le plan de développement 2016-2020 vise un nouveau modèle de développement qui réunit l'efficacité, l'équité et la soutenabilité avec les cinq axes de réformes suivants :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Axe 1 : Bonne gouvernance, réforme de l'administration et lutte contre la corruption. • Axe 2 : D'une économie à faibles coûts à un hub économique. • Axe 3 : Développement humain et inclusion sociale. • Axe 4 : Concrétisation des ambitions des régions. • Axe 5 : L'économie verte, pilier du développement durable. <p>L'alignement des ODD avec le cadre de la planification et les stratégies nationales s'est traduit par :</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One transformational thing: <p>Following key articles of the new Constitution (2014) focusing on the environment and natural resources, the National Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2020 reflects the focus areas of the SDGs, incl. the green economy as sustainable development driver. Considerations for implementation at local level are key in the national strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ One challenge: <p>The major challenge in relation to SDGs implementation and monitoring is of a governance nature due to the various stakeholders that have to work in synergy. Ownership of the SDGs by these stakeholders is also a challenge. Tunisia relies on opportunities offered by regional and international frameworks to overcome those challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lessons learned: <p>Tunisia's voluntary national report is the result of a consultation process with all categories of stakeholders. The workshops and meetings that were organized as part of the preparation of the VNR supported the SDGs ownership. Tunisia's participation in the HLPF contributed to strengthening the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The HLPF was an opportunity to share experiences with other countries.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Une intégration des ODD dans le plan quinquennal de développement et les stratégies nationales. L'Analyse Rapide Intégrée de ces documents indique que sur les 105 cibles retenues, 84 cibles, soit 80%, sont couvertes par les objectifs/actions du plan dont 49 cibles sont parfaitement alignées. • L'incorporation de l'Agenda 2030 dans les politiques et les cadres nationaux (plan, stratégies). Une réflexion au niveau national est engagée pour l'élaboration de la nouvelle stratégie Tunisie 2030 avant l'achèvement du plan quinquennal 2016-2020. L'enjeu de l'incorporation des ODD dans les plans quinquennaux de développement est d'engager l'économie du pays dans un nouveau modèle de croissance respectueux des principes de la croissance inclusive, du bien-être social et de la viabilité environnementale. • Une Intégration des ODD à l'échelle locale. La parution du code des collectivités locales le 29 mai 2018 consolide les principes de développement durable à l'échelle locale. <p>Le pilotage des ODD est partagé entre le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE), le Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement (MALE) et le Ministère du Développement, de l'Investissement et de la Coopération Internationale (MDICI). Le pilotage technique des ODD et la coordination entre les différents acteurs se fait par les ministères concernés.</p> <p>Le développement d'une vision 2030 de la SNDD sera lancé très prochainement, la SNDD actuelle venant à échéance en 2020. Elle devra intégrer explicitement les ODD, tout en priorisant et contextualisant leur déclinaison au niveau national. La révision de la SNDD qui doit se faire en 2020 en même temps que l'élaboration du prochain plan quinquennal de développement pourrait être l'occasion d'aligner les trois processus afin que, d'une part, la nouvelle SNDD fasse clairement référence à la mise en œuvre des ODD et en constitue la déclinaison et la priorisation au niveau national et que, d'autre part, la SNDD éclaire le processus de planification national pour y intégrer la dimension de durabilité. Le rôle des différents ministères et des autres composantes du gouvernement, mais également des autres parties prenantes du secteur privé et de la société civile devra également être mieux clarifié et renforcé dans la nouvelle SNDD.</p> <p>L'instance de développement durable et de protection des droits des générations futures établie par la Constitution de 2014 et créée par la loi organique N° 60/2019 représente une opportunité pour l'intégration des ODD dans les plans de développement. L'article 129 de la Constitution stipule que « l'Instance du développement durable et des droits des générations futures est impérativement consultée pour les projets de lois relatifs aux questions économiques, sociales et environnementales, ainsi que pour les plans de développement. L'Instance peut donner son avis sur les questions qui relèvent de son domaine de compétence ».</p> <p>One challenge:</p> <p>Le défi majeur rencontré dans la mise en œuvre et le suivi des ODD en Tunisie est la gouvernance du dossier (multiples intervenants) et l'appropriation au niveau national par les différents secteurs, associatif et privé, des ODD.</p> <p>La Tunisie est appelée à saisir les opportunités offertes par les accords et les cadres régionaux et internationaux relatifs au développement durable pour mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030.</p>	
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		<p>One lesson learned:</p> <p>L'élaboration du rapport national volontaire (RNV) de la Tunisie s'est fait dans le cadre d'un processus de consultation avec toutes les parties prenantes. Les ateliers et les réunions qui ont été organisés dans le cadre de la préparation du RNV ont permis la vulgarisation et l'appropriation des ODD par les différentes parties prenantes. La participation de la Tunisie au FPHN contribue également à consolider et renforcer la mise en œuvre des ODD au niveau national. Le FPHN est une occasion pour la Tunisie d'échanger des expériences avec d'autres pays en matière de mise en œuvre et du suivi des ODD et saisir les opportunités offertes pour mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030 au niveau national, qui représente un défi majeur.</p>	
<p>Turkey</p>  <p>(July 2020)</p>	<p>VNR (2016, 2019)</p>	<p>Transformational things done for VNR process: Having a high-level political ownership, performed stocktaking analysis, built partnerships with UN organizations, public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens, and done effective consultations, developed a National Database for Best Practices and Projects (400 good practices and projects from public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and municipalities so far).</p> <p>Challenges: Enhancing technical and financial capacity is a big challenge to implement SDGs. Availability of indicators is another challenge. TurkStat published SDG Indicators of Turkey with a press release in February 2019 including 83 indicators selected from the global list.</p> <p>Lesson learned: Engaging all relevant partners as early as possible is important not only for the VNR process but also for future implementation of the SDGs.</p> <p>Implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been started by linking SDGs with National Development Plans (NDPs) and sectoral strategies. Indeed, the concept of “sustainable development” has been embedded in the NDPs since 1996. This accumulated experience, along with strong infrastructure and institutional mechanisms provide a strong ground towards SDGs.</p> <p>The Strategy and Budget Office under the Presidency, in charge of preparing NDPs, coordinated the 2019 VNR preparations. The process commenced with the highest-level political ownership, upon H.E. President Erdogan's call on all government entities.</p> <p>During the VNR preparation, legislative and institutional framework, policies and projects were scrutinized through SDG lenses. Focus areas were identified for each SDG and targets examined systematically with a special attention to vulnerable groups. Additionally, practices that served the principle of “leaving no one behind” were elaborated under a separate heading.</p> <p>The analysis reveals that most SDG targets have been incorporated in policies, and legislation provides adequate framework for implementation. Considering policy, strategy and legislation, Turkey stands at an advanced level, while there is room for improvement in practice.</p> <p>Significant progress was achieved in SDG1, SDG3, SDG6, SDG7, SDG9 and SDG11. More effort is required to address gaps in implementation, to increase quality of services, and to enhance financial and technical capacities.</p>	<p>➤ One transformational thing: Having a high-level political ownership, performed stocktaking analysis, built partnerships with UN organizations, public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens, and done effective consultations, developed a National Database for Best Practices and Projects</p> <p>➤ One challenge: Enhancing technical and financial capacity to implement SDGs</p> <p>➤ Lessons learned: Engaging all relevant partners as early as possible is really important not only for VNR process but also for future implementation of the SDGs</p>

	<p>Regarding monitoring, responsibilities were assigned to ministries for 218 SDG indicators and Sustainable Development Indicators Set comprised of 83 indicators was published in 2019. While the ratio of produced indicators is higher for SDG3, SDG7 and SDG9, further work is needed for SDG1, SDG2, SDG12, SDG13 and SDG14 indicators.</p> <p>As a middle-income country, Turkey has made progress in all three dimensions of sustainable development and taken fundamental steps in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and addressing the vulnerable people. Based on a human-centered development approach and having a younger population, Turkey has achieved remarkable progress in providing better quality, broader and more accessible public services, particularly for education and healthcare. Policies to reduce inter-regional infrastructural disparities and promote technological facilities across the country marked an inclusive development pathway.</p> <p>Looking ahead, Turkey will focus on maintaining the pace of progress, and improving the quality and effectiveness of services. With a special emphasis on “competitive production and efficiency”, high value-added production will be prioritized. On the basis of equity principle, efforts will be sustained to distribute increased prosperity among all segments of society. Improving R&D and innovation ecosystem, ensuring digital transformation and competitive production, strengthening human resources, logistics and other infrastructure required for those targets will be among Turkey’s priorities towards 2030.</p> <p>Turkey promotes “leaving no one behind” principle both at home and abroad, and advocates raising the voice of developing countries in international decision-making mechanisms. As an emerging donor, Turkey supports development efforts of developing countries. The establishment of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries as a UN entity in Turkey in 2018 marked SDG17.8 as the first global target achieved. In 2018, with its total ODA of 8.6 billion USD and ODA/GNI ratio of 1.10%, Turkey was one of the few countries that fulfilled 0.7% ODA/GNI target. Our development assistance in 2014-2018 exceeded 38.7 billion USD, including 7.3 billion USD in NGO grants and private sector direct investments.</p> <p>Ever willing to offer a helping hand to those in need, Turkey has responded generously to the influx of Syrians since the onset of Syrian humanitarian crisis in 2011. Turkey has granted temporary protection to these people. Hosting the largest refugee population in the world, Turkey has spent more than 37 billion USD for the well-being of 3.6 million Syrians to date. They can access to public services equally as Turkish citizens, especially for their education, healthcare and humanitarian needs.</p> <p>To achieve SDGs, ownership and engagement of all stakeholders including public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens are essential at all levels. Accordingly, during VNR preparations, 2,962 representatives were consulted directly from government bodies, 312 NGOs, 2,000 companies and 50 municipalities. Turkey will continue to pursue its development efforts in an inclusive manner.</p>	
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