



**United
Nations**

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

VNRs halfway the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Overview and reflections

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Overview

1. The process so far: Global achievement in reaching the SDGs
2. VNR reporting as a tool for implementing the Agenda
3. Towards a new generation of VNRs:
 - ECOSOC/HLPF Review
 - What have the VNRs done well?
 - How can they be improved?

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An overview of global SDG reporting

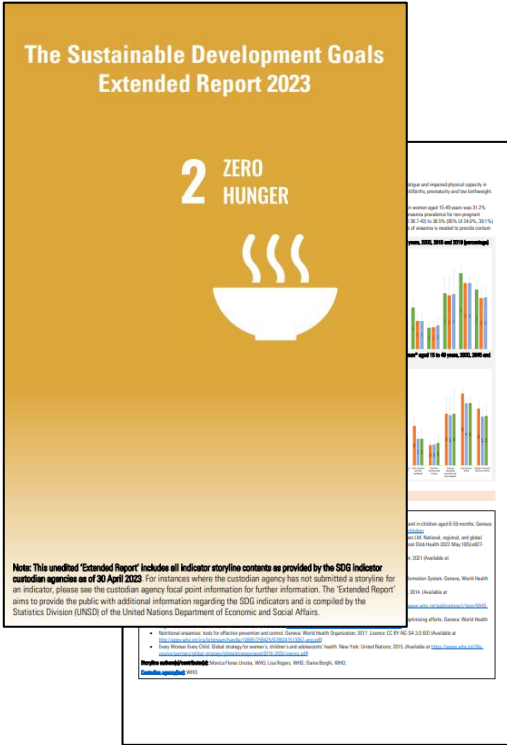
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/>



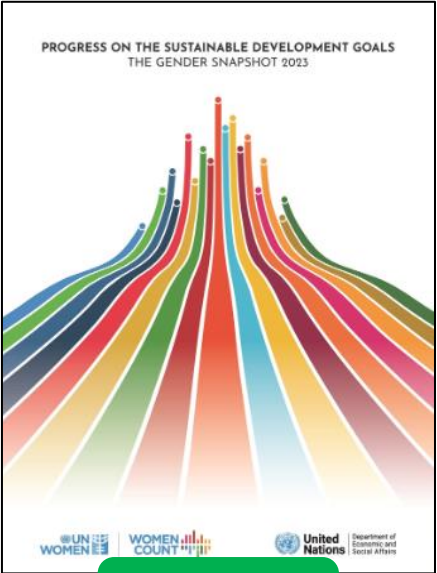
Available in all 6 languages



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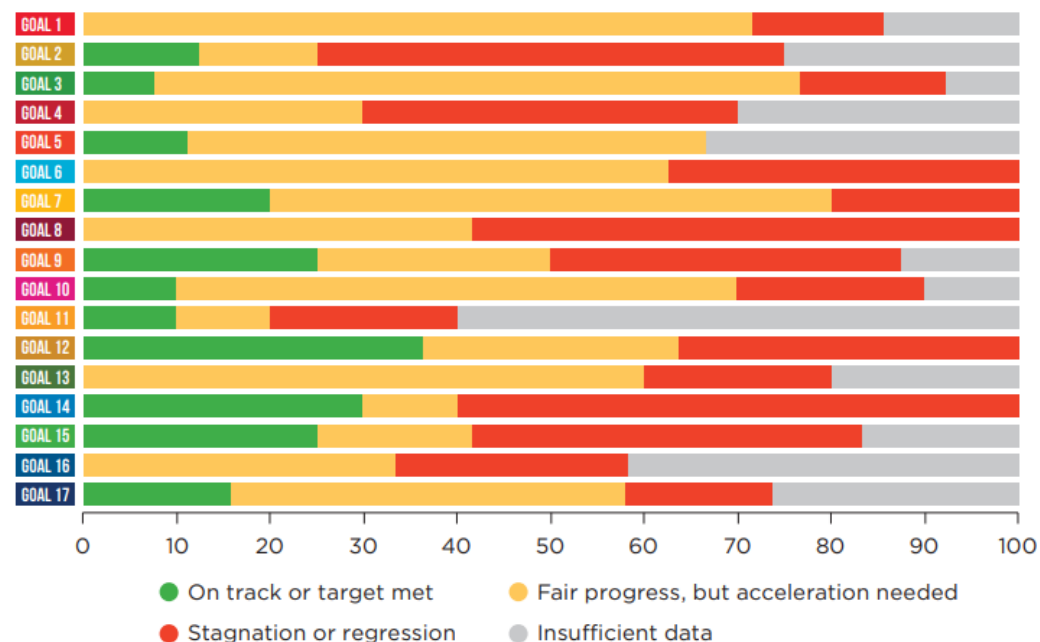
Available in ENG, FR, SPN



Progress on the SDGs in a nutshell

- Green - Only 15% of SDG targets are currently on track for achievement by 2030
- Yellow - about 50% are moderately-to-severely off track
- Red - over 30% are either stagnant or moving in the wrong direction.

Progress assessment for the 17 Goals based on assessed targets, 2023 or latest data (percentage)



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High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

HLPF oversees a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level (2030 Agenda, para 82)

- Convened annually in July under the auspices of ECOSOC, and every 4 years under auspices of the GA (SDG Summit)
- Follow-up and review at the HLPF informed by an annual SDG Progress Report
- Carries out thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues.
- Reviews of national progress (VNRs)
- Adopts ministerial declaration (every July) & political declaration under GA (every 4 years)



40 VNR presenters at the 2024 HLPF

Number of Times Presenting/Region	1 st Time (2)	2 nd time (20)	3 rd Time (14)	4 th Time (5)
African States (16)	<u>South Sudan</u>	Congo (Republic of the), Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, <u>Libya</u> , <u>Mauritania</u> , Mauritius, South Africa	Chad, Kenya, Namibia, Uganda, Zimbabwe	Sierra Leone
Asia-Pacific States (10)	<u>Yemen</u>	Micronesia (Federated States of), <u>Oman</u> , Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, <u>Syrian Arab Republic</u> , Vanuatu	Lao PDR, Nepal,	
Eastern European States (3)			Armenia, Georgia	Azerbaijan
Latin America & Caribbean States (9)		Belize, Brazil, Ecuador,	Costa Rica, Honduras, Peru,	Argentina, Colombia, Mexico
Western Europe & other States (2)		Austria	Spain	

What do the VNR reports actually say?



2023 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report



[2023 VNR Synthesis Report](#) - Key Conclusions for 2023

1. Governments adapt existing institutional and coordination frameworks. Many have created new mechanisms to elevate the SDGs to the highest levels of Government.
2. **More countries include statistical annexes in their reports, or provide narratives based on data.**
3. The reports focus on national efforts to overcome setbacks from Covid-19, conflict and climate change.
4. Many examples of stakeholders implementing inclusive and homegrown solutions at local levels.

2024 HLPF

2024 HLPF: 8 - 17 July 2024, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

Ministerial Segment: 15-17 July

Theme: "Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions".

Review in-depth:

- **Goal 1.** Poverty
- **Goal 2.** Hunger, food and nutrition
- **Goal 13.** Climate change
- **Goal 16.** Peaceful and inclusive societies, justice for all
- **Goal 17.** Means of implementation



2023 High-Level Political Forum & High-Level Segment of ECOSOC

Days

SDGs under review

VNRs

EU Voluntary Review

WHO WAS THERE?

More than 110

Heads of State or Government, Ministers,
Vice Ministers and Ministerial Level Officials

overall

134

Keynote speakers, panelists, lead discussants,
respondents, moderators, youth speakers, in
townhall, panels and fireside chat

181

Statements
in general debate

to talk about



More than **800**
MGoS & NGOs
accredited
to ECOSOC

12
Special
Events

16
VNR
Labs

204
Side Events
141 in person
& 63 virtual

19
Exhibitions
at UNHQ

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ECOSOC and HLPF Review

- Takes place every four years to review the structure of the Economic and Social Council and the HLPF – including the VNRs
- Sets structure of all meetings including themes and goals to be reviewed.
- Could review a call for “new generation” of VNRs as called for by the Secretary-General in his [SDG Progress Report](#):
 - “[...] nationalization of the Goals has not yet had the necessary “normative and institutional impact.” (*para 52*)
 - [...] It is essential for our attention to shift from reporting national action to an international audience to strengthening national accountability for progress and transformation. [...] (*para 58*)
- Expected to complete its work in May.
- Additional opportunity: Summit of the Future, September 2024.

Summit of the Future, Sept 2024

- Aims to address new pathways of global multilateral governance, including Security Council reform
- Will adopt a Pact for the Future, which will include
 - Declaration on Future Generations
 - Global Digital Compact
- Currently being negotiated in New York
- **Not** a successor or replacement for the 2030 Agenda

What have the VNRs done well?

15



- **Nearly universal uptake:** 188 countries presenting over 360 reports so far; 123 countries reporting for a second, third or fourth time this year
- **Strong political interest:** high representation at HLPF; intense efforts to prepare reports at national level; many voluntary local reviews; more outreach
- **Increasingly robust data sets** made available internationally and nationally
 - **IAEG-SDGs:** 17 Goals, 169 targets and 231 unique indicators
 - A global **SDG Indicator Database**
 - Regional dashboards, including by ESCAP
 - Ever stronger links of national statistical systems to reporting: **Wiki**

We must stay the course!

How can a good thing be made even better?



- Better links between development planning and national targets.
- Indicate how the SDGs are making an impact at the national level.
- Taking pride in achievements made is great, but...
- Greater level of consultations and creating ownership with major groups and other stakeholders
- Ensure the VNR report is used after its presentation in July and becomes truly embedded in national policy.
- Address, and advocate for, gaps in means of implementation
- Contribute to transitional change in the environmental Goals
- **What do you think?**

Agreed principles VNRs

Voluntary

encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led

country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships

including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience

facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances

reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

Possible additional principles?

Embedded in data

based on robust consistent data sets

Link to national strategies

ensure that the VNR process aligns with existing national planning processes – even when done separately

Stronger accountability

review and evaluate what has worked since the first report and what has not, due to domestic, not external factors

Link to national budgeting

show how targets are funded by means of implementation

Transitional change

show how the national goals set will help achieve the SDGs nationally

What do you think?

**What has been your experience
preparing a VNR?**

Thank you!

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