

2030 Agenda

- Positions the **Beijing Platform for Action** as a foundational framework for sustainable development.
- Recognizes that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls will make a crucial contribution to progress across all Goals and targets and that the **systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in implementation is crucial**.
- **Commits to a world in which every woman and girl enjoys full gender equality** and all legal, social and economic barriers to their empowerment have been removed
- Commission on the Status of Women (60) in 2016 provided guidance for national, regional and global reviews of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to ensure synergies between the Beijing Platform for Action and the gender-responsive follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. Further elaborated in subsequent agreed conclusions



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VNRs are part of the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Key elements are:

- voluntary and country-led, national ownership
- maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps, emerging issues
- mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships
- people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights, focus on the poorest, most vulnerable, those furthest behind
- Build on existing platforms and processes, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities.
- Evidence-based, informed by country-led evaluations
- High-quality, accessible, timely, reliable data disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts
- Active support of the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions
- Conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels
- Consult with indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector, parliaments and other stakeholders

VNRs in ESCWA

Algeria (2019)

[Bahrain](#) (2018, 2023)

Egypt (2016, 2018, 2021)

Iraq (2019, 2021)

Jordan (2017, 2022)

[Kuwait](#) (2019, 2023)

Lebanon (2018)

Libya (2020)

Mauritania (2019)

Morocco (2016, 2020)

Oman (2019)

State of Palestine (2018)

Qatar (2017, 2018, 2021)

[Saudi Arabia](#) (2018, 2023)

Somalia (2022)

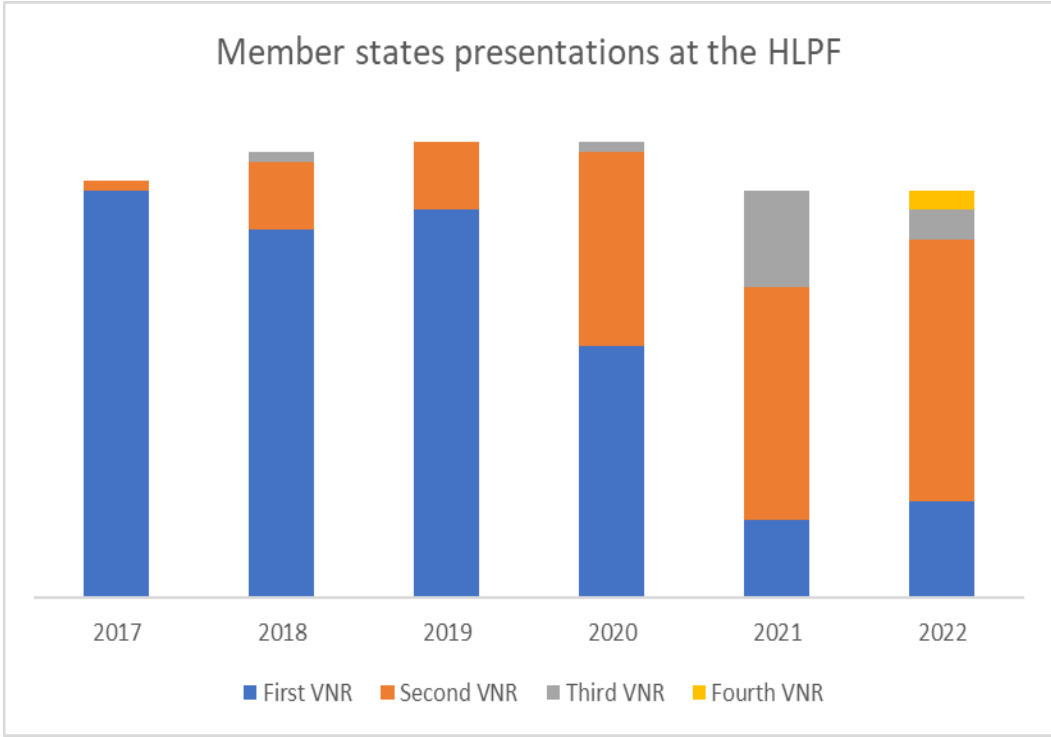
Sudan (2018, 2022)

[Syrian Arab Republic](#) (2020, 2023)

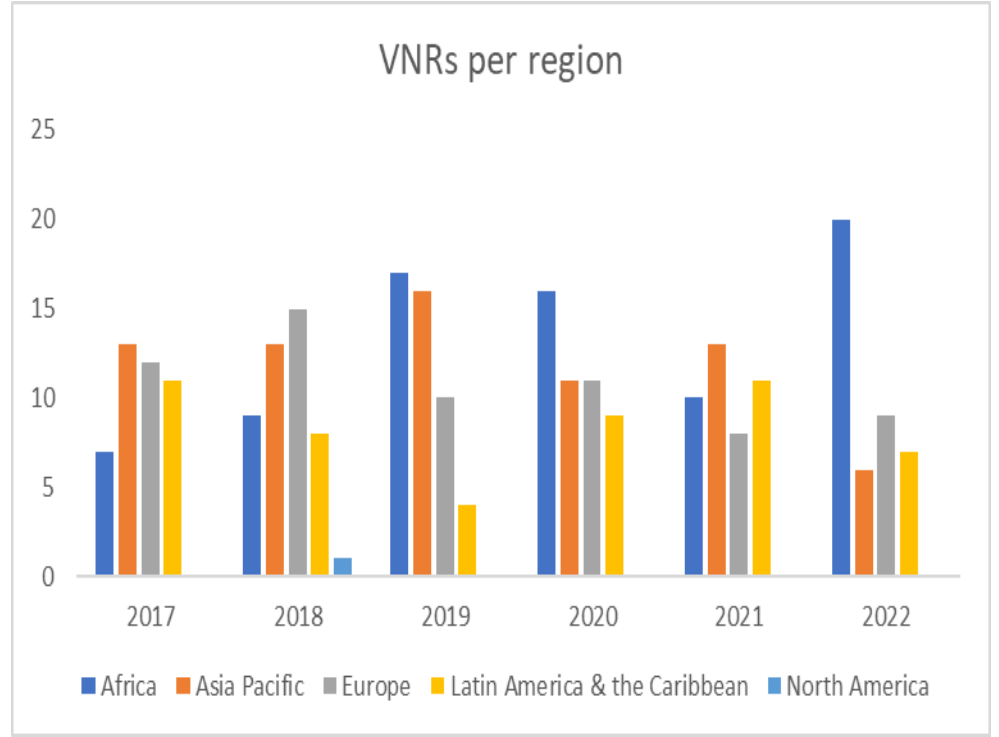
Tunisia (2019, 2021)

United Arab Emirates (2018, 2022)

Member states presentations at the HLPF



VNRs per region



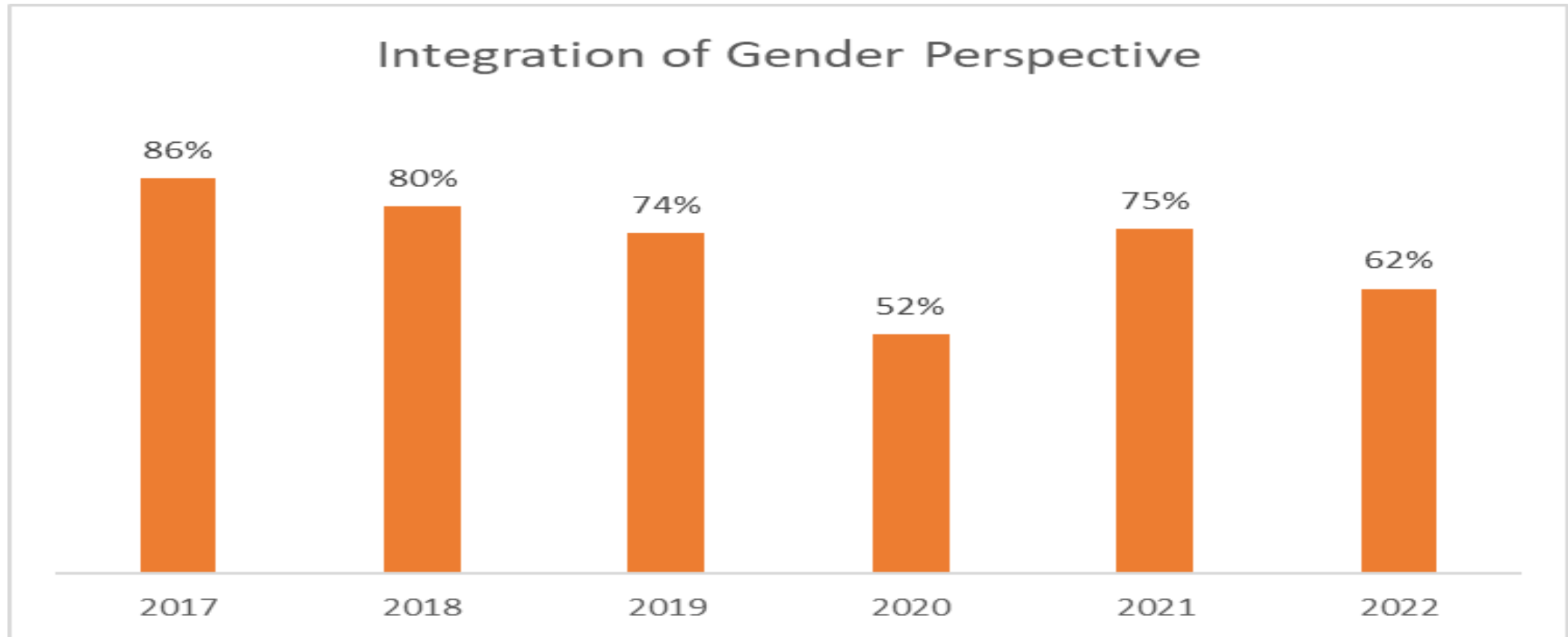
Guiding questions for analysis

- Institutional arrangements: Which office/ministry coordinates 2030 Agenda implementation? Are there national coordination mechanisms or task forces/working groups? Is national gender equality mechanism involved?
- Does the country have national sustainable development plan/strategy? Gender equality strategies? Linkages?
- Which SDGs are listed? SDG 5?
- What is the alignment with other processes such as Beijing+25/30, CEDAW, UPR, national action plans on 1325, climate change related reporting (NDC, NAPs)
- Were there national/subnational consultations for VNRs?
- Reflection of gender statistics and disaggregated data
- Financial resources are available implement the measures proposed in the VNR? Gender-responsive budgeting
- Consultations with civil society organizations

In the early years (2016-2018)

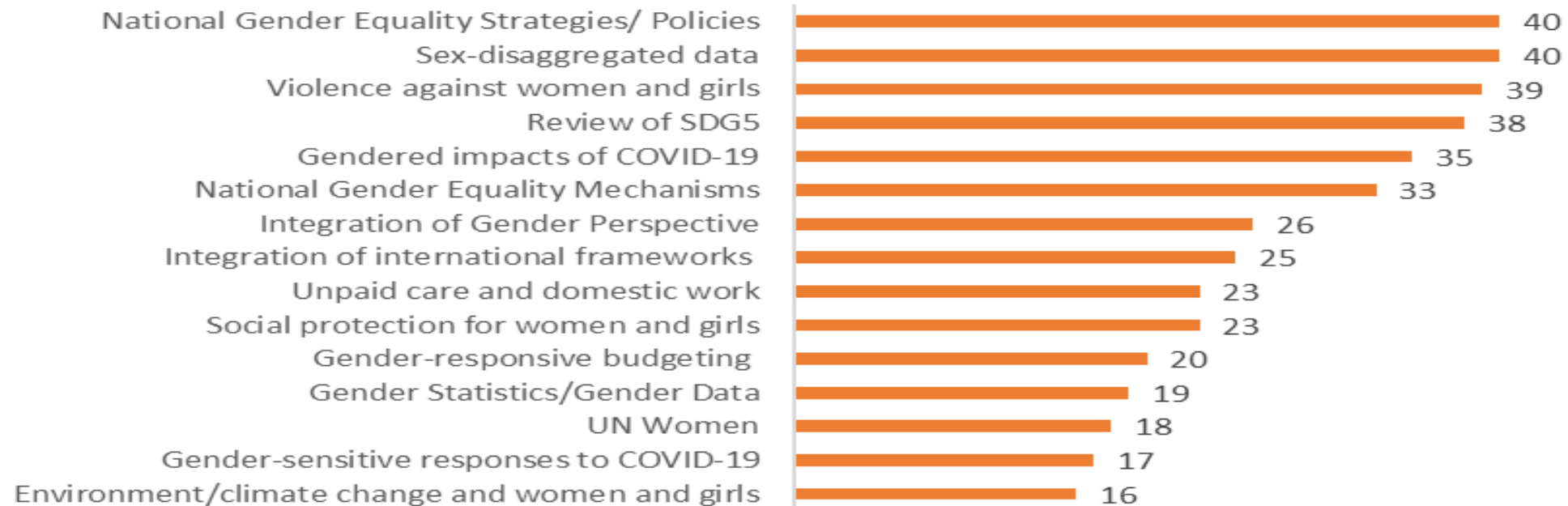
- Not all countries addressed gender issues
- Gender equality and empowerment of women as a crosscutting issue in most VNRs, but very little information on mainstreaming gender perspectives in the development and implementation of national sustainable development strategies
- Separate section on gender equality issues; reference to SDG5
- Reference to national mechanisms for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women
- Use of sex-disaggregated data, less information on gender-statistics
- Role of civil society organizations
- Some countries highlight specific challenges: negative social norms and gender stereotypes, violence against women and girls, including harmful practices, women's unemployment, gender pay gap, unpaid care and domestic work, lack of data
- Although all countries recognized the importance of 'localizing' the SDGs, efforts to engage at the sub-national level vary widely.

Percentage of VNRs that integrate a gender perspective



Reflection of gender issues

Summary of 2022 VNR analysis



2019-2022

- More in-depth focus on progress and challenges related to gender equality issues; discussion about specific national programmes such as a national programme for female entrepreneurship or adoption of gender quotas in elections or other public offices.
- Variety of reflections on **SDG5** - focus on all targets or selected targets only
- References to **national gender equality policy or strategy** and national gender equality mechanisms – not all report about both.
- References to the importance of **gender-responsive budgeting** vs reporting on actual implementation
- Stronger reflection on **national monitoring and evaluation framework** that integrates SDG indicators. Most countries mentioned sex-disaggregated data or presented such.
- COVID-19 was a prominent theme with most VNRs listing at least one impact of the pandemic on the lives of women and girls and about half referring to gender-sensitive responses taken to mitigate the COVID-19 crisis
- Nearly all VNRs mention **violence against women and girls with references to concrete** measures, such as specific legislation, national and local plans and initiatives, prevention strategies or the strengthening of services.
- **Increase of reference to unpaid care and domestic work (but few measures listed)**
- Inclusion of **social protection** for women and girls and specific actions such as scaling up of social protection programmes and safety nets with predominantly female beneficiaries.
- Fewer references to women and girls and the **environment/climate change**.
- **Availability of data** in general was a cross-cutting issue across almost all VNRs.

Long-term analysis

- Women and girls are consistently referenced under the principle of leaving no one behind.
- SDGs that mention women the most often: SDG5 (gender equality), SDG8 (decent work and economic growth) and SDG10 (reduced inequalities).
- Strongest reflection of gender perspective during years when SDG 5 is under review (2017 and 2022) – including national gender equality strategies/policies, national gender equality mechanisms. Less attention in 2020 when all SDGs were under review
- Increasing references to national gender equality mechanisms over the years
- Increasing evidence that SDGs are being more progressively integrated into national development plans and strategies. From focus to outlining countries' future plans to implement the sustainable goals, subsequent years provided information on measures taken and progress achieved.
- More recent reports include also sub-national reviews.
- Persisting challenges: Nearly all countries throughout the years have incorporated data in their reviews and on average, around half of the reports submitted each year include a statistical annex. Nevertheless, data challenges including inadequate data disaggregation; challenges related to data collection, processing and dissemination; lack of adequate financial resources to strengthen national statistics capacity