

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Private Sector's Engagement in SDGs and VNRs in the Arab region

Preliminary results

7th Workshop on Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region
Beirut, 18-19 October 2022



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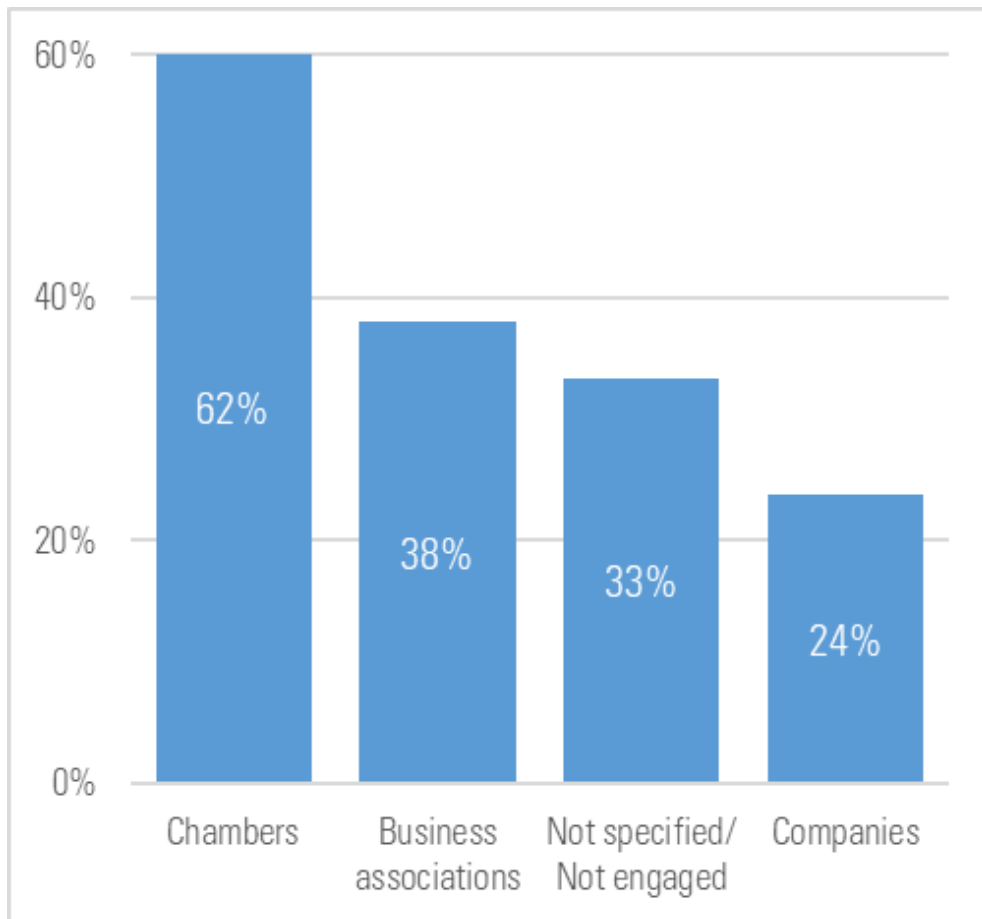
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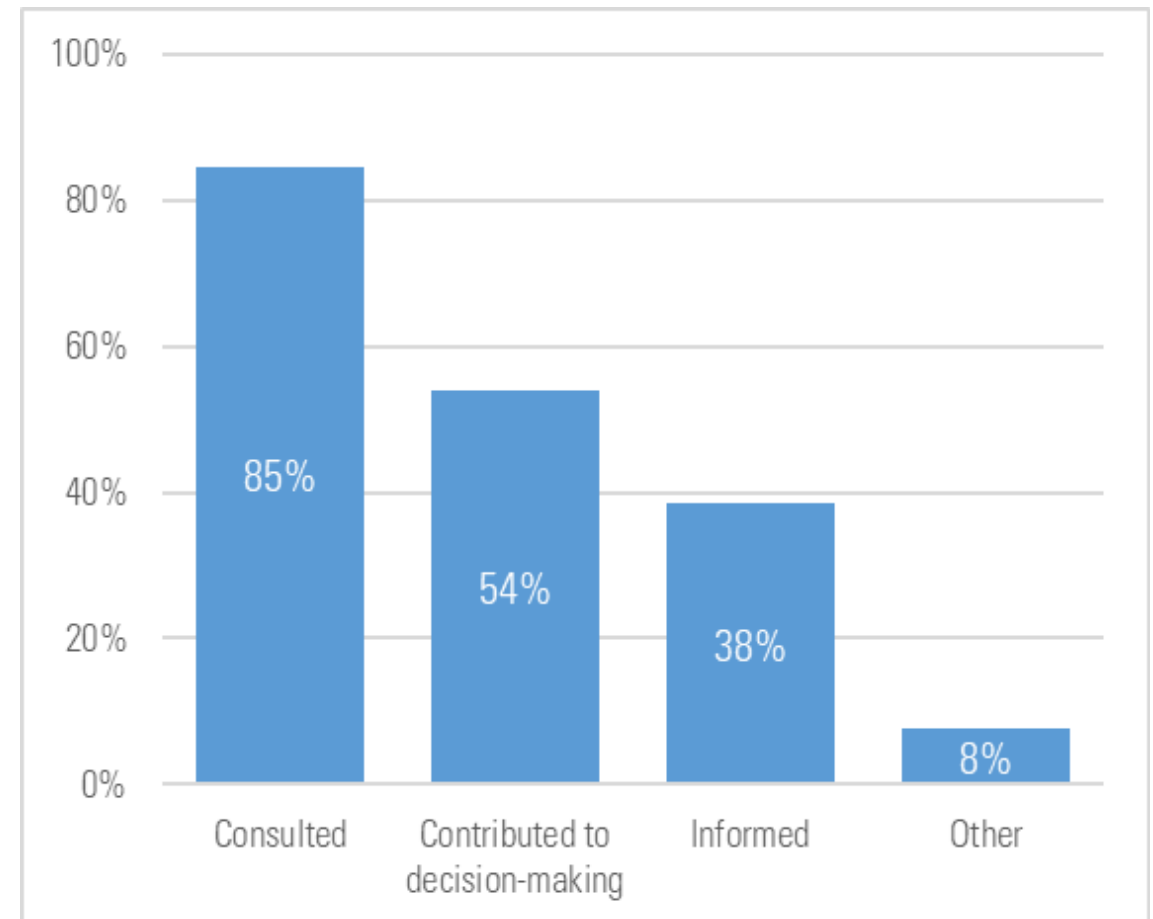
2030 Agenda Institutional Structures

A large majority of countries (86%) have engaged the private sector as part of the institutional structure for the 2030 Agenda

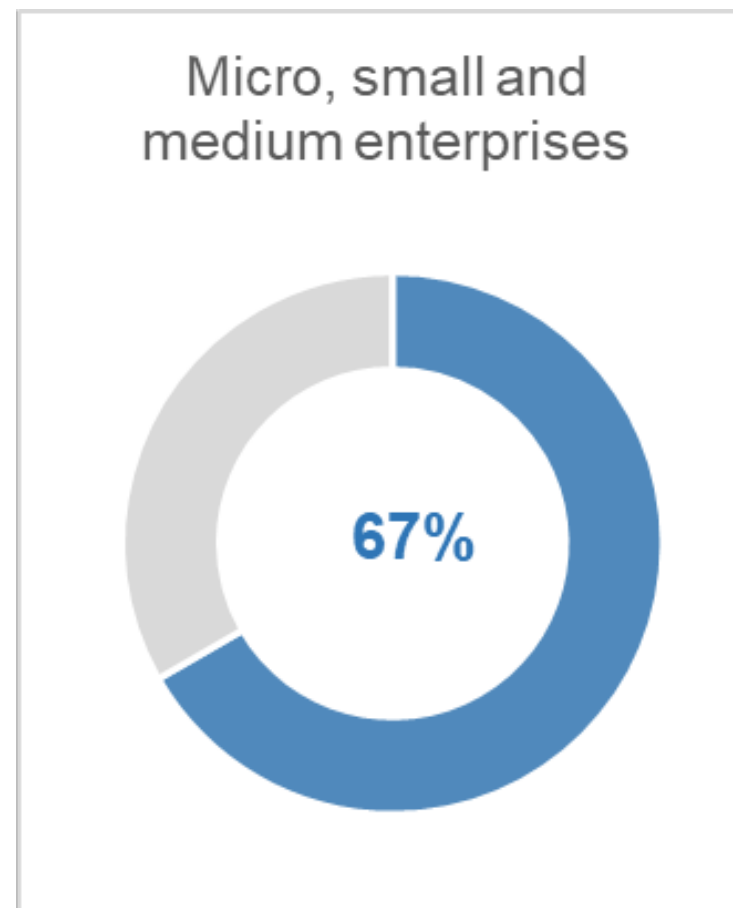
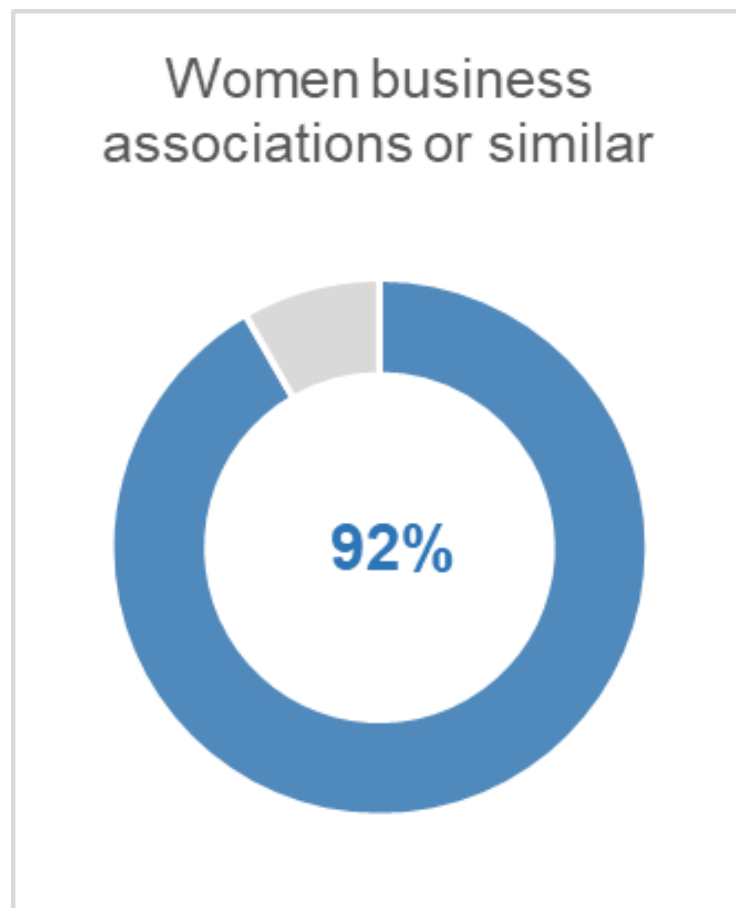
Chambers of commerce and industry are the most common type (**62%**) of private sector representatives in SDG institutional structures



In most cases (**85%**), the private sector was consulted; in about half of case, the private sector contributed to decision-making



Women business associations were involved in most countries (**92%**); whereas the participation of MSMEs is lacking in a third of countries





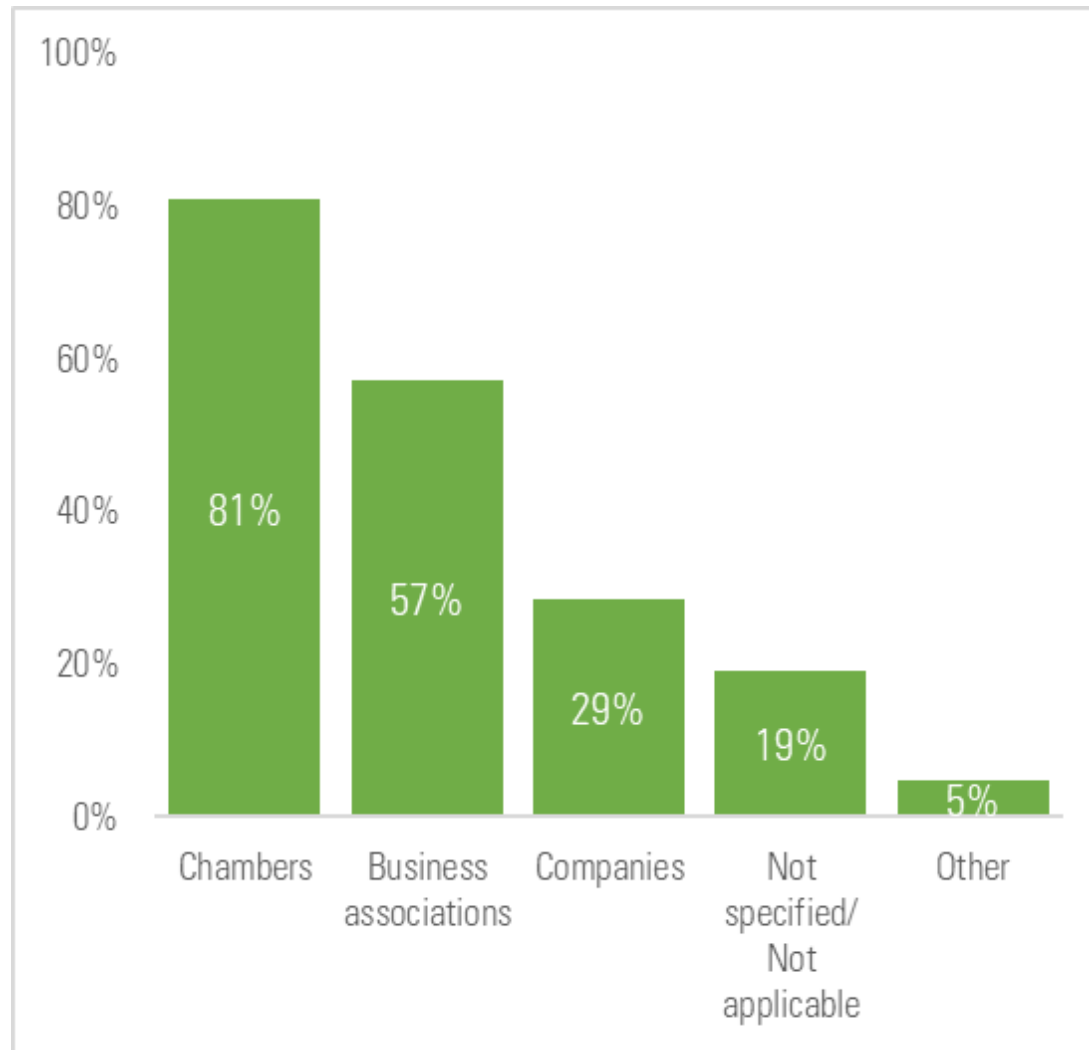
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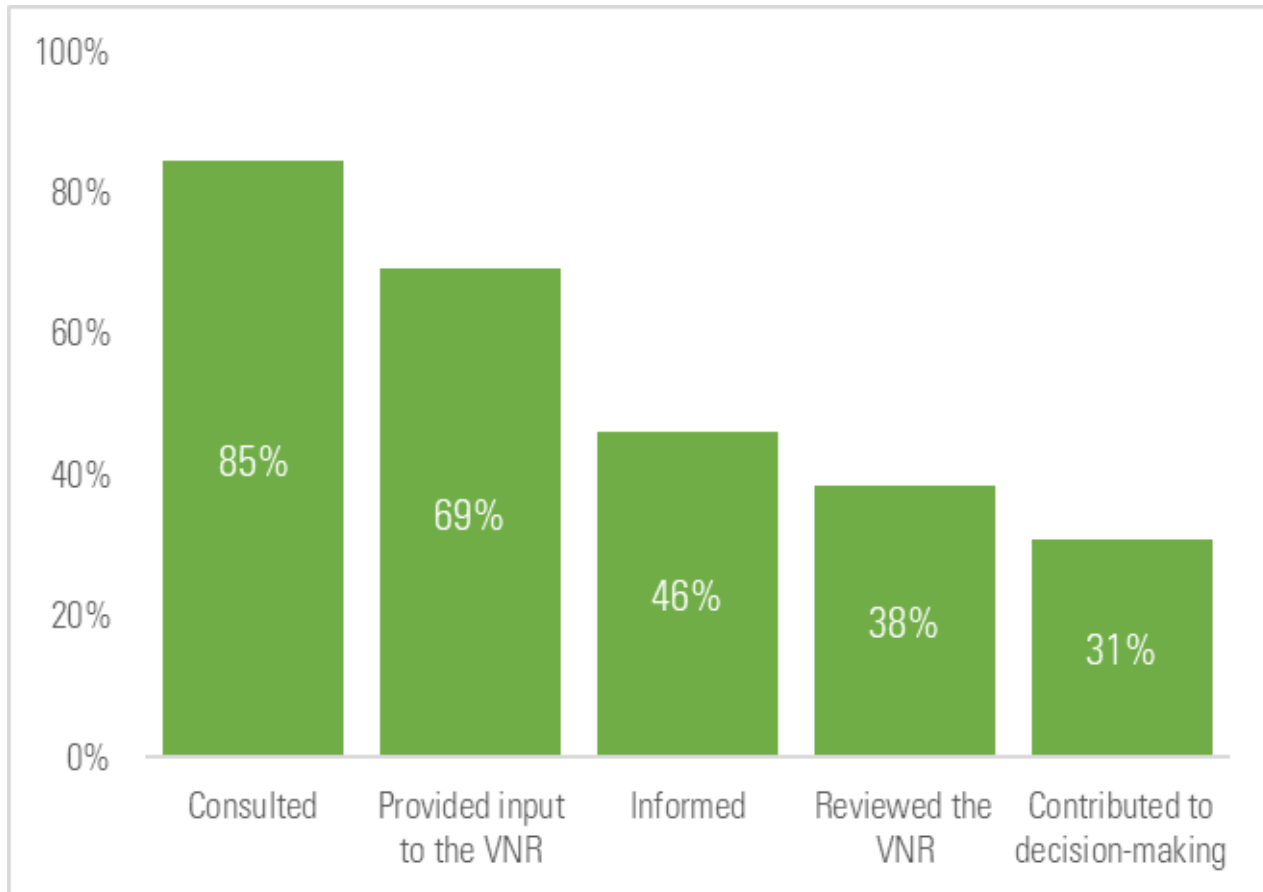
The VNRs

18 countries (86%) have indicated that the private sector was part of the VNR institutional structure, either as representative members or as observers.

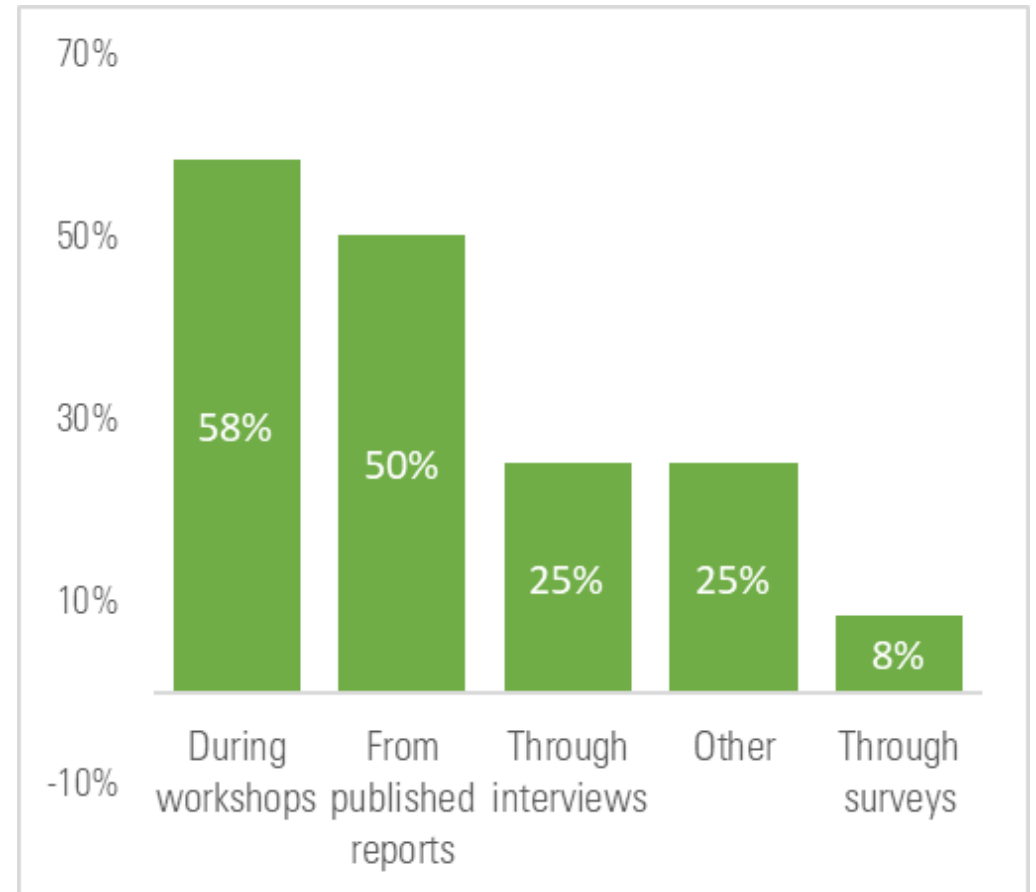
Chambers of commerce and industry were the most engaged in the VNR institutional structure in 81% of countries



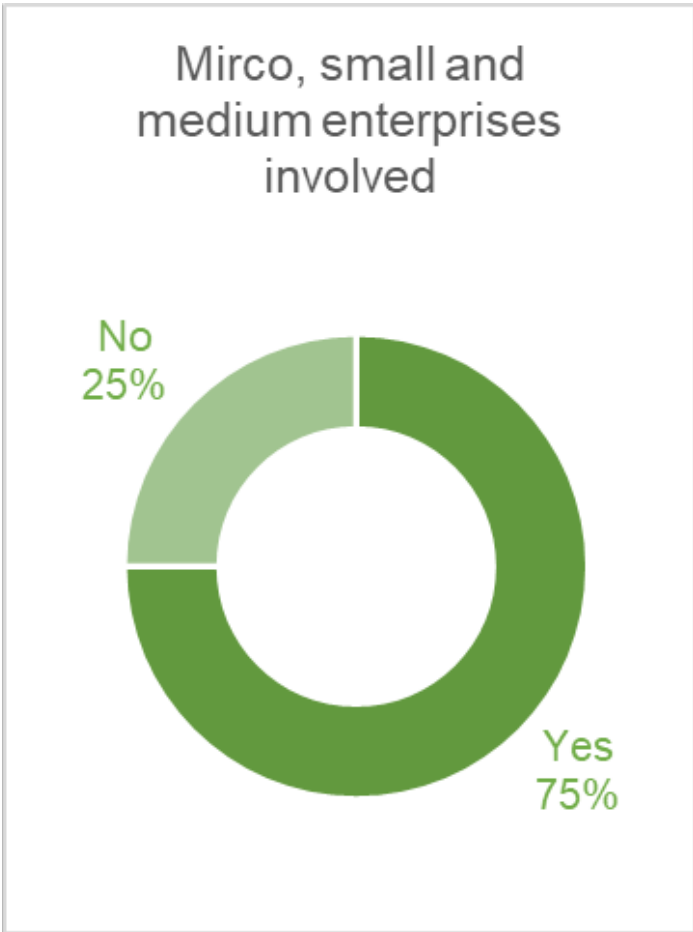
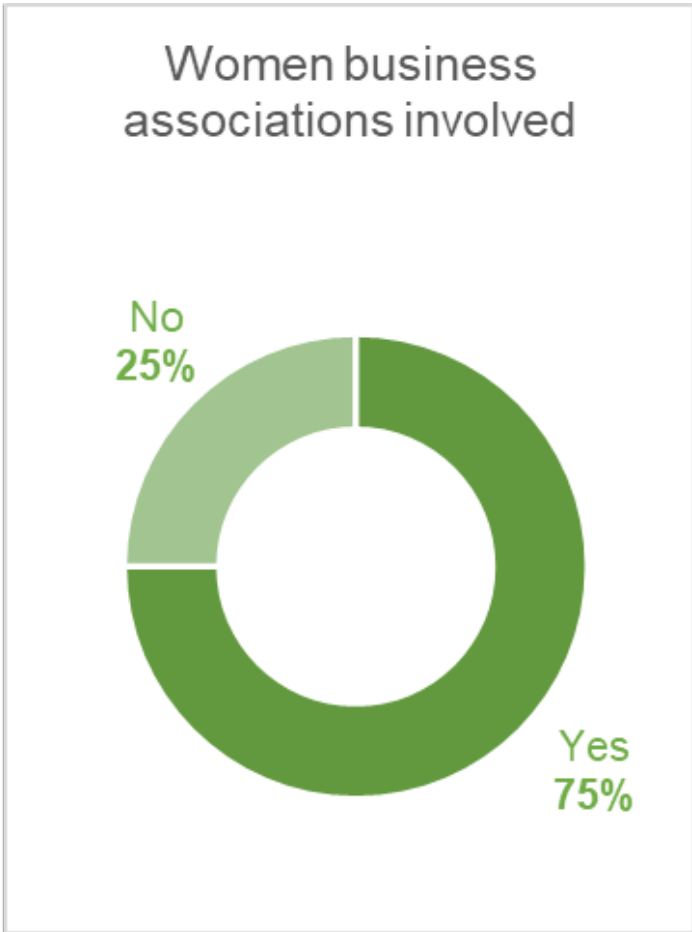
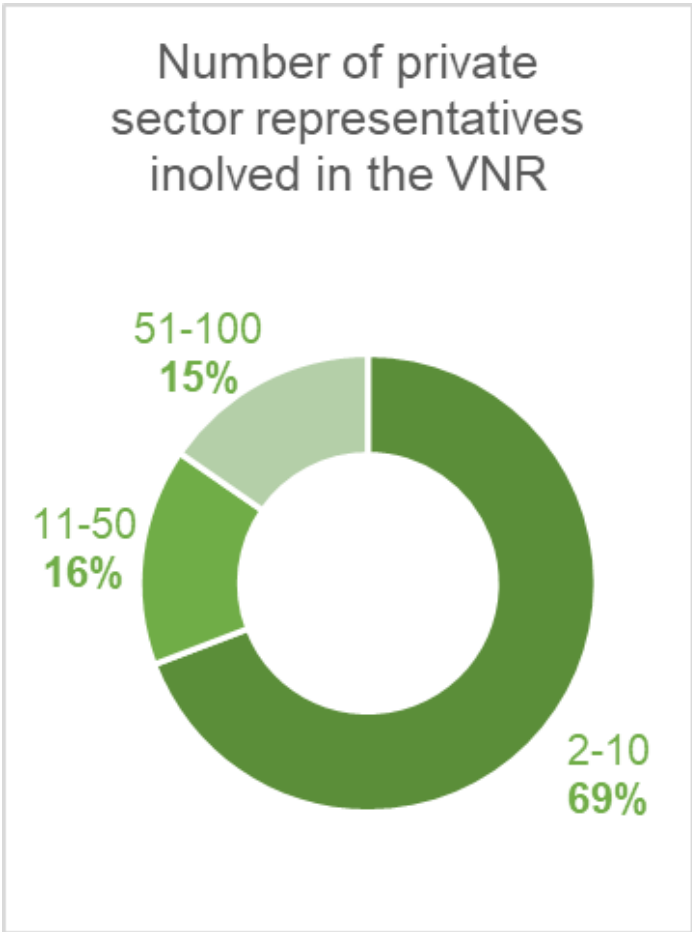
In most cases, the private sector was consulted (**85%**) on the VNR followed by providing input to the report (**69%**)



Information was collected mostly during workshops (**58%**) followed by published reports in **half** of the countries.

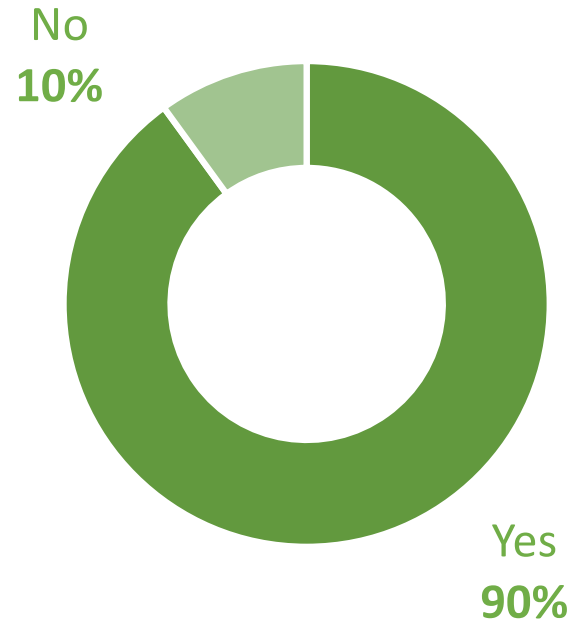


Sizes and types of private sector engagement in the VNR process

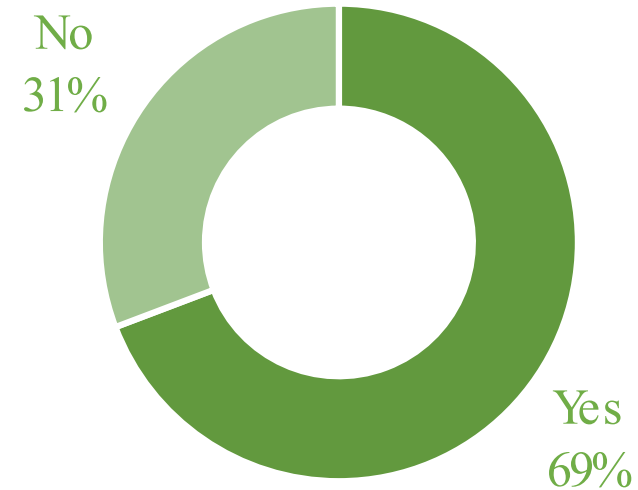


Post-VNR engagement

VNR included plans or recommendations to enhance private sector engagement



Communication with private sector maintained following the VNR



What we know



- Good private sector engagement in most Arab countries
- Wide representation through chambers and business associations
- Attention to women businesses
- VNR includes recommendations on private sector

- Greater difficulty in engaging MSMEs
- Consultation rather than contribution to decision-making
- Small reach in the VNR process
- Some difficulty to maintain engagement post-VNR
- Recommendations limited

What we still don't know

- Is the private sector a real development partner?
- What about the role of the private sector in the policy cycle from planning to implementation and monitoring?
- Is there a real common understanding of the roles of the various stakeholders? What about financing?
- Are SMEs actually involved?
- What is the quality and impact of the participation in VNR?
- Is communication with the private sector limited to the VNR process only? What happens after the VNR is concluded? How are challenges addressed?



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Thank you