AN INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT OF THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM IN 2017

Progressing National SDGs Implementation

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Agenda

09:00 - 09:05	**Introduction - Fraser Reilly-King**
09:05 - 09:35	**Presentation of Report**

- Methodology and general remarks - Shannon Kindornay

Focus on specific report findings:

- Universality & Integration: Naiara Costa, Together 2030

- CSO engagement & Enabling Environment: Deirdre de Burca, IFP

- Leave No One Behind: Oli Henman, A4SD and CIVICUS

09:35 - 09:55	**Questions and answers**
09:55 - 10:20	**Panel discussion - Comments to report and its findings**

- Adrián Moreira Muñoz, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica

- Karen Del Biondo, European Commission

- Hitomi Rankine, UN-ESCAP

- Florence Syevuo, SDGs Kenya Forum

10:20 - 10:40	**Questions and Answers**
10:40 - 10:45	**Wrap up and closing remarks - Fraser Reilly-King**

A review of best practice

Civil society initiative to review best practice in SDG implementation and VNR reports

- Action for Sustainable Development; Bond; CAFOD; Canadian Council for International Co-operation, International Forum of National NGO Platforms; Together 2030; and WWF-UK.

Approach

- Review of 2017 voluntary national reviews (42 reports, 45 countries)

- Best practice against 10 pillars that cover policy, institutions, stakeholder engagement, implementation challenges and reporting

- Examined adherence to the UN guidelines for reporting

Current status of SDG implementation

- Foundational elements in place
  - National policies and plans
  - Institutional mechanisms
  - Consultation
  - Partnership development
  - Monitoring and evaluation of progress

Key findings

- Less focus on the principles of the 2030 Agenda

- Inclusion of non-state actors in governance patchy but engagement standard practice

- Assessment of policies and/or data though details on results limited

Key findings

- Most cover all dimensions of sustainable development but linkages between goals and dimensions less prominent

- Policy coherence does not feature strongly in the reports

- Data to leave no one behind an issue though most countries have identified populations at risk of being left behind

Key findings

- Awareness raising on the SDGs ongoing
- National priorities identified in consultation with non-state actors but not yet matched to national targets and indicators
- National priorities tend to reflect all dimensions of sustainable development
- National targets and indicators yet to be selected
- Wide variation in localisation

Key findings

- National priorities and VNRs prepared in consultation with non-state actors

- Details on consultations more limited

- Little reporting on challenges and best practices in implementation undermines goals for the follow-up and review process

- Historic development issues prominent as challenges in implementation – capacity development, trade, ODA provision

Key findings

- Many countries have yet to show a whole of society approach to implementation
  - CSOs most engaged, opportunity for parliament to play a greater role

- Opportunity for countries to submit national VNR reports that outline contributions from all stakeholders, not just the national government

Key findings

- Information on data availability not consistently reported

- Data gaps apparent, especially for disaggregated data

- National level reporting through parliament, department reports and SDG portals

Reporting according to UN guidelines

- Majority of countries include most elements of the common reporting guidelines

- Exceptions thematic analysis and statistical annex

- Reports not structured according to guidelines

- Limited details on challenges and lessons learned, best practice, details on areas in which countries would like to learn from others and identification of priorities for support

Reporting according to UN guidelines

Challenges in reporting

* Integration of the three elements of sustainable development

* Majority of countries did not cover all goals

* Overlap between means of implementation and SDG 17

* Significant repetition with details in the wrong places

* Insufficient information on next steps

UNIVERSALITY & INTEGRATION

CSO ENGAGEMENT & ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

Universality and integration

- Civil society are taking VNRs very seriously.

- Reporting from all countries – good signal that universality is translating into reality.

- However, 42% of UN Member States have not yet volunteered yet (March 2018).

- Reporting on all SDGs – Needs to reverse trend of limited reporting.

- From governance structures to measuring progress.

- Interlinkages and integration still a challenge.

CSO engagement and enabling environment

- The inclusion of non-state actors including civil society in governance is patchy.

- A minority of countries formally included civil society and other non-state actors in governance arrangements.

- For countries that have formally included non-state actors, representation is more prominent in technical working groups rather than on councils or committees.

- Most countries simply note their commitment to engage non-state actors.

CSO engagement and enabling environment

- VNRs do not address the issue of an enabling environment for civil society, nor other challenges that CSOs face in contributing to the SDGs.

- Civil society reports themselves indicate barriers to effective CSO participation:

  - i) lack of awareness of the SDGs by general public, and

  - ii) limited finance for CSO activities.

CSO engagement and enabling environment

- Looking forward, need to consider the following:
  - ways in which an enabling environment for civil society is being created at national level.
  - Formalise non-state actor engagement in governance structures.
  - Generate national VNR reports that outline contributions from all stakeholders, not just governments
  - Ensure that Goal 17 of the SDGs is fully implemented
  - Develop innovative ways to raise awareness and engagement of the SDGs among general public
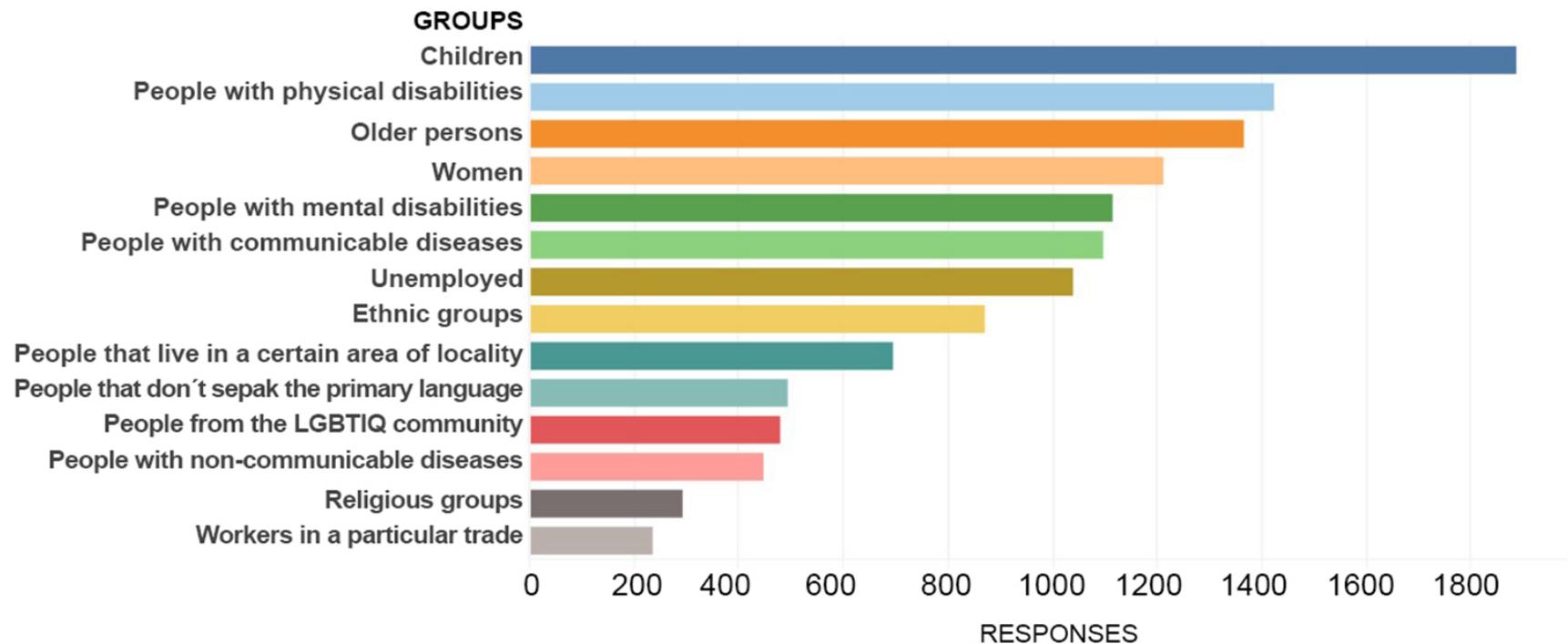
Leave No One Behind Theme

- Not all countries presented on LNOB:-
  - 33 countries identified those at greatest risk of being left behind
  - Only 14 included info on availability of data and 11 suggested the need for further data disaggregation
- Numerous aspects are covered under this theme, including diverse indicators: gender, geography, disability, income, age
- Important to consider inter-sectional challenges, e.g. a woman in rural community with a disability

Leave No One Behind Key Demographics

Most marginalised groups (experiencing highest levels of poverty, discrimination or violence)

Source: Leave No One Behind Partnership, 2017

Leave No One Behind Data

- Difficult to measure those who are left behind as government data is still limited

- Given the inter-sectional nature of the theme, there needs to be some sort of matrix reporting on overlapping issues

- Some individuals/communities do not appear in official statistics

- Potential for Citizen Generated Data to fill these gaps?

SDGs KENYA FORUM
For Sustainable Development

Reactions to the findings of "Progressing National SDGs implementation"

By: Florence Syevuo-Coordinator

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Preamble

- The SDGs Kenya Forum & GCAP Kenya, welcome and applaud this report

- It offers a valuable assessment of country case studies as presented during the VNR sessions, a unique inquiry into what worked best, gaps within reporting countries SDGs Implementation and in the VNR Process

- The review reveals that the majority of countries are on the right track, appearing to have established foundational elements for implementation including awareness raising, multi-stakeholder engagement and monitoring and reporting of 2030 Agenda.

Highlights from the report

- Most VNR Reports do not address the enabling environment for civil society (and the increasingly shrinking space that is available to civil society organizations around the world), nor other challenges that CSOs face in contributing to the 2030 Agenda;

- Weak Role of Parliamentarians and other stakeholders (Private Sector, Development Partners, Media, Academia) primarily contributing to the 2030 Agenda..

Highlights from the Report

- Need to actively engage regional review as part of follow-up and review of Agenda 2030, of the 41 countries reporting in 2017, none referred to peer learning or review activities at the regional level in relation to 2030 Agenda implementation.

- We Support including a Chapter in VNR report to LNOB that details how we can reduce domestic inequalities.

- Page 47 summary highlights worrying trend among many countries' lack of serious commitment to eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity and the issue of investing on effective data and statistical systems.

THANK YOU!

Questions?