



UN Environment / FLEDGE

Voluntary National Reviews: The Environmental Dimension

Policy Brief

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Executive Summary:

By focusing on the extent to which the environmental dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has been addressed in the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) submitted by countries to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017, the policy brief uses a set methodology to review all the voluntary national reviews submitted by 64 countries in 2016 and 2017. Though early in the timeline, the two cycles of reviews indicate the growing interest of member states to focus on actions related to environmental dimension of achieving the SDGs. The brief also provides an overall assessment of the VNRs as a review mechanism and suggests recommendations to strengthen the reporting of the environmental dimension moving forward.

1. Introduction

The SDGs place sustainability at the heart of the development agenda, a major departure from the Millennium Development Goals. Recognizing the need to address the complex links between development and environment, the SDGs fundamentally endorse the thinking that meeting environmental objectives is as vital to sustainable development as meeting social and economic objectives. The SDGs recognize that sustainable socio-economic development is deeply intertwined with the responsible management of natural resources, mitigation of climate change and the promotion of resilience and disaster risk reduction.

For the purposes of this paper, we define the ‘environmental dimension’ as the range of pressures, causality, relationships, and dynamics related to natural resources and nature that potentially influence the achievement of the SDGs.

With about three years since the adoption of the SDGs the time has come to review how countries are progressing in achieving the SDGs. Such a review is now possible through the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process, which is the primary follow-up and review mechanism on the implementation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Each year, member states opt to present their progress

through a report and a presentation at the annual High Level Political Forum (HLPF), convened under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

This policy brief will provide an overview of the principles guiding the VNRs and their preparation process. This will be followed by general observations on the 2016 and 2017 VNRs, an analysis of the key trends on the environmental dimension as seen in the VNRs and will conclude with recommendations for the way forward.

2. Principles for the VNRs

Below are the principles laid out for the VNRs in the 2030 Agenda¹:

a.	They will be voluntary and country-led, and will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities. As national ownership is key to achieving sustainable development, the outcome from national level processes will be the foundation for reviews at regional and global levels, given that the global review will be primarily based on national official data sources.
b.	They will track progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, in all countries in a manner which respects their universal, integrated and interrelated nature and the three dimensions of sustainable development.
c.	They will maintain a longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors and support countries in making informed policy choices. They will help mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships, support the identification of solutions and best practices and promote coordination and effectiveness of the international development system.
d.	They will be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders.

¹ Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*”, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

e.	They will be people-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind.
f.	They will build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplication and respond to national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities. They will evolve over time, taking into account emerging issues and the development of new methodologies, and will minimize the reporting burden on national administrations.
g.	They will be rigorous and based on evidence, informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability and geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.
h.	They will require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries, including the strengthening of national data systems and evaluation programs, particularly in African countries, LDCs, SIDS and LLDCs and middle-income countries.
i.	They will benefit from the active support of the UN system and other multilateral institutions.

3. Preparing VNRs

The UN Secretary-General issued a set of voluntary guidelines in 2016 to help countries prepare the VNRs². The suggested structure of the VNRs consists of: an opening statement with key messages; a synthesis of the process and findings; an introduction that sets the context describes and the objectives of the review; the methodology and process used; the policy and enabling environment; critical initiatives taken by the governments to achieve the SDGs; means of implementation; steps that are being taken

² Proposal for Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF as Presented in the Annex of the Secretary-General’s Report on Critical Milestones towards Coherent, Efficient and Inclusive Follow-up and Review at the Global Level. Issue brief. Accessed April 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.

to enhance implementation; and a concluding analysis. The guidelines also suggest that countries include a statistical annex with data using the global SDG indicators³. Though these guidelines are available for countries to use, not all countries have used the guidelines in preparing the VNRs.

In 2017, in a majority of VNRs, countries included SDG-specific analysis and reviews. About a third of countries addressed all the SDGs. A similar number of countries covered SDG 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 14 (life below water) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) that were subject to in-depth review at the 2017 HLPF. Other countries included a set of goals of their own choosing, based on national priorities.

“No uniform way of reporting on SDG-specific implementation in the VNRs exists, and countries chose numerous different methods depending on their national circumstances.”⁴ - UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2017

4. Methodology for the assessment of the environmental dimension in the VNRs

To understand the level of integration or recognition of the environmental dimension in the implementation and review process, we analyzed the 2016 and 2017 VNRs using the following criteria:

- a) Countries that did not mention or indicate actions related to the environmental dimension;
- b) countries that broadly recognized the environmental dimension though do not mention specific actions;
- c) countries that undertook or are undertaking specific actions to realize the environmental dimension;
- and d)

³ Proposal for Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF as Presented in the Annex of the Secretary-General’s Report on Critical Milestones towards Coherent, Efficient and Inclusive Follow-up and Review at the Global Level. Issue brief. Accessed April 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>.

⁴ *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews 2017*. Report. February 2018.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf.

countries have demonstrated integration of the environmental dimension into national and local actions.

With a total of 64 countries⁵ that finalized and submitted their VNRs during the HLPF 2016 and 2017 sessions, this assessment of the environmental dimension provides an overview of how countries have addressed the environmental dimension of the SDGs in their VNRs. For those countries that are currently finalizing the VNRs, this assessment may help to further strengthen the environmental issues related to SDGs.

5. Observations on the 2016 and 2017 VNRs

A total of 22 countries presented VNRs at the forum in 2016 and a total of 43 countries presented their VNRs in 2017.⁶ In 2016, the HLPF theme, “*Ensuring that no one is left behind,*” emphasized stakeholder engagement through collaborative partnerships, technology use as well as resource mobilization for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, the HLPF theme, “*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*”, reviewed the following Goals in depth: 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 14 (life below water) along with Goal 17 (partnership for the Goals), which is reviewed annually.

Thirteen out of 22 (or 59%) of the countries that reported to the forum in 2016 can be classified as developing countries. In 2017, this percentage rose to 67%⁷, indicative of a positive trend of developing countries taking a proactive role in the review mechanism.

⁵ Without double accounting for Togo, which presented the VNR in both 2016 and 2017, the total country VNR contributions were 64.

⁶ In 2016, the following countries presented their VNRs: China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela presented VNR reports.

In 2017, the following countries presented their VNRs: Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Botswana, Chile, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Luxemburg, Malaysia, Maldives, Monaco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Slovenia, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Uruguay and Zimbabwe. Togo presented VNR reports in 2016 and 2017

⁷ Based on World Bank country classifications

In 2017, 18 out of the total 43 VNR countries (or 42%) provided inputs on 'goals of own choice', meaning that the countries focused on national priority goals in the 2030 Agenda. Some also decided to report on priority goals.⁸ This is arguably indicative of the extent to which countries are engaging or accommodating the SDGs, according to their national contexts.

Overall, three typical steps of SDG implementation have been identified in VNRs at the initial SDG mainstreaming stage. These include:

1. Reviewing of existing strategies and plans and identifying areas for change:
 - at this stage, there is a mapping of existing strategies and plans at the national, sub-national and local levels against the global SDGs and targets to identify gaps, and provide the basis for areas for change;
2. Setting of nationally-relevant targets: This stage ensures targets set are for nationally-adapted and inclusive SDGs that are achievable, yet ambitious, and are relevant to the national realities at hand.
3. Strategy and plans formulation, using integrated systems thinking: at this stage recommendations and the insights from the above steps are incorporated into strategies and plans to match ambition and commitments with resources and capacities. The process may also include SDGs nationalization through legislative process.

Key issues highlighted from our examination of the VNRs are as follows⁹:

- 1) The VNRs largely consist of reports of summaries of actions undertaken under reported SDGs but this summary is not a review. The VNRs are not evaluative in nature and hence do not contribute to the knowledge base of good and sustainable

⁸ *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews 2017*. Report. February 2018.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf.

⁹ Balakrishna Pisupati 2018 *Supporting Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): Options for Informed Reviews*. FLEDGE, India.

practices. The same can be said of the 2016 and 2017 VNR synthesis prepared by the UN Department of Economic Social Affairs.

In reporting activities or programs undertaken under a particular Goal, most countries have only addressed a selected few targets. With each country having their prerogative to design their own unique path to the attainment of the SDGs, it is not necessary that the program(s) undertaken and reported by a government to accomplish a particular Goal match all the targets stated in the SDGs or reflect a government's urgent priorities. It is also not a given that all targets in a stated Goal are relevant to a particular country. This can be a challenge since this approach overlooks the multi-dimensional and interlinked nature of the SDGs.

- 2) The underlying theme of the SDGs, "Ensuring that no one is left behind", has a human centered approach, which though extremely crucial can forsake the needs of the environment, ecology and biodiversity are not addressed satisfactorily if we need to be inclusive.
- 3) Though many institutions, ranging from those belonging to the UN system to local community-based organizations, have significant activities related to implementation of actions on SDGs at national level, the VNRs are silent on their contributions and do not necessarily include such actions and their impacts, making the VNRs incomplete both in content, detail and impact.
- 4) Amongst the three dimensions of sustainable development - economic, social and environment - the social dimension has been addressed largely in terms of demographic equality, ignoring many other aspects such as culture. The 'social' dimension also involves challenging normative ideas of modernity compared to traditional practices.

6. Trends on the environmental dimension in 2016 & 2017 VNRs

Country categories in terms of progress towards SDG implementation is tabulated in the Annex Table. In addition to categorizing countries, the Table highlights implementation strategies, plans, and initiatives, as well as national legislations regarding the environmental dimension.

Both 2016 and 2017 VNRs indicate a trend in aligning SDGs into already existing national plans as opposed to developing up new strategies. For example, Indonesia's long-term Development Plan 2015-2019 takes into account the three dimensions of development namely; social development, economic development and environmental development. Italy has nationalized SDGs into its National Sustainable Development Strategy 2017/2030. The strategy captures a new vision towards a circular, low-emission economy resilient to climate impacts. It also prioritizes the fight against biodiversity loss and alteration of fundamental biogeochemical cycles (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and land use change).

The 2016 and 2017 VNRs recognize the nexus between the environment and economic growth, with countries highlighting the importance of natural resource management to economic growth. For instance, Botswana recognizes the effects of rapid economic growth on the environment and thus has developed a policy to address the economic-environment conflict – National Resource and Conservation.

In the 2016 VNR reports, countries presented a general view of the measures put in place to address the various aspects of sustainable development. During the 2017 HLPF, under the theme “*Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*”, the Forum introduced in-depth reviews of specific goals.¹⁰

Interestingly, the majority of the 2017 VNRs had a thematic focus on Goal 14 *Life below Water*, which includes VNRs by Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Cyprus,

¹⁰ Goals reviewed in-depth in 2017: 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14 and 17 (which is to be reviewed annually)

Egypt, Estonia, France, India, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Togo, Tajikistan and Sweden. These VNRs' environmental dimensions focused on Goal 14 *Life Below Water*. Landlocked countries that presented VNRs, particularly, Afghanistan, Botswana, Nepal, Uganda and Zimbabwe excluded Goal 14 from their analysis or based it on their national realities.

For example, Ethiopia – a landlocked country, that has faced significant famine and water scarcity challenges mentioned their commitment to Goal 14 – Life below water - in the context of securing water resource systems like rivers and dams. Ethiopia's 2015 famine and poor performance in agriculture in that year, is part of the reasons, the country is committed to combatting climate change Goal 13 (a goal not reviewed by the 2017 HPLF).

Other landlocked countries like Botswana mentioned the environmental dimensions as it relates to their national realities. Botswana's VNR report described progress made in implementing SDGs 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals) with a focus on poverty, excluding Goal 14 (life below water) from the analysis. Botswana recognizes the vital link between sustainable natural resource management and economic growth, mentioning the environmental dimension - particularly effective management of natural resources - only as it relates to eradication of poverty – Goal 1.

In 2017, countries with marine ecosystems highlighted various initiatives and actions taken to protect marine ecosystems and derive benefits from the blue economy. For example, Bangladesh has developed waste reception facilities at ports and contingency plans to fight oil spillage. It has also identified Marine Ecological Critical Areas, created a Coastal Green Belt, formulated a National Fisheries Policy, created an inventory of marine biological resources, and developed technology to produce seeds for culturing fish, to achieve SDG targets within Goal 14.

Belize finalized an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan which will ensure sustainable coastal resource use. *Marine Access* which aims to build good stewardship and improve fishing practice was rolled out across its territorial waters in 2016. Costa Rica's *Submarine Life Initiative* has been developed to improve the sustainable management of marine resources.

Interestingly, the focus on mainstreaming and integrating the environmental dimension of SDGs into actions is more prominent in the VNRs that were submitted in 2017. Climate change and its associated extreme weather events were the most often-cited challenges at the 2017 HLPF that undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development. Various countries introduced their efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change through, for example, promoting resilient infrastructure and energy efficiency. Natural resource management and giving women and other marginalized groups equitable access to natural resources were cited as important to realizing SDGs 1 and 2 on poverty and hunger eradication. The positive correlation between a healthy environment, including clean water and air, and SDG 3 on ensuring healthy lives was also recognized. Some countries focused directly on SDG 14 on oceans and emphasized their support for the declaration "Our ocean, our future: call for action" adopted by the high-level UN Ocean Conference held in New York in June 2017.

While some countries made specific mention of actions taken to implement the environmental dimension of SDGs, some do recognize that economic growth hinges on sustainable management of natural resource management.

For example, Afghanistan has mentioned its plans for improved food production which includes: short-term plans for establishing and conserving forests, pastures and orchards, rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources management and watersheds to improve agriculture production, as well as long-term plans of restoring, protecting forests, pastures, production of non-fruit saplings and establishment of green belts in 34 provinces worth US\$324 million. Though aimed at improving food production, the plans depict Afghanistan's recognition of the importance of the environmental dimension of the SDGs.

Georgia on the other hand, recognizes how economic growth could put considerable pressure on natural resources and the environment. Therefore, it focuses on sustainable economic development as important for the country from the perspective of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources¹¹. Georgia expressed commitment to obligations under international environmental agreements.

Some countries have taken specific action to implement the environmental dimension of the SDGs by setting nationally relevant environmental targets and formulating national environmental strategies and plans.

For example, Azerbaijan has adopted policies that minimize pollution and improve environmental protection to ensure environmental safety, promote efficient and sustainable use of natural resources, utilize alternative energy sources and achieve energy efficiency, identify solutions to global environmental problems at the national level, and expand relations with international organizations for the implementation of environmental dimension of SDGs.

The Czech Republic has adopted an ambitious national Climate Protection Policy aimed at ensuring a gradual transition to a low emission economy by 2050. Colombia formulated a Green Growth plan which aims for sustainable consumption and production, climate change mitigation, ecosystem protection and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial natural capital and provides concrete actions for the SDGs. In May 2016, the Starting (Norwegian parliament) adopted a Norwegian Action Plan for Biodiversity, aimed at achieving the Aichi targets, and debated a new white paper on securing an efficient and climate-friendly energy supply.

In addition to the above, some countries have reported to be making significant progress in integrating the environmental dimensions of SDGs into their national policies and

¹¹ *First Voluntary National Review on Implementation of the Sustainable Development*. Report. March 2018. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10680SDG_Voluntary_National_Review_Georgia-.pdf.

development plans. In addition to the creation of enabling policies, these countries are actively implementing environmental dimensions of SDGs through projects, initiatives and laws and financing mechanisms.

Egypt, Kenya and Portugal have introduced environmental issues into their educational and learning curricula at school and University levels. Portugal has also set up financial instruments and mechanisms to strengthen the environmental dimension. The Environmental Fund is Portugal's financial instrument to support environmental policies to achieve the SDGs and fulfil the commitments on climate change, water, waste and nature conservation and biodiversity.

Belize's new plan is historical for the nation, as it is the first time that the subject of development has been treated as a comprehensive process involving social and environmental dimensions¹². Egypt is committed to taking the necessary measures to preserve the environment, rationing its use of natural resources, and guarantee the rights of future generations thereto. Sierra Leone has been mindful of SDG interconnectedness, as confirmed in its current poverty reduction strategy paper, the Agenda for Prosperity, which can be broadly divided into economic, social, environmental and political governance dimensions.

7. Conclusion (recommendations and way forward)

It is pertinent to recognize that countries are currently streamlining and consolidating the preparation of VNRs with a few of them preparing annual consecutive VNRs (such as Togo). Though there is general guidance available for countries on VNRs, there is no structured format for presenting information. This is also true of countries' usage of agreed indicators since the VNRs do not necessarily inform clearly how and when the indicators have been used.

¹² Belize's First Voluntary National Review for the Sustainable Development Goals 2017. Report. March 2018. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/16389Belize.pdf>.

In this context, this brief provides an overview of how countries have reviewed implementation of actions with regard to the environmental dimension of the SDGs. The brief provides a quick review of actions and programmes initiated and implemented by countries with regard to environmental issues.

United Nations Division for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) Synthesis Report for the 2017 VNRs recognizes that “the deep commitment to the integrated nature and indivisibility of the Goals is evident from all the reports.”¹³ This may be so but the levels of integration of the environmental dimension vary across the board and its significance is strongly based on the national contexts.

Although the HLPF as a platform provides an opportunity for inputs from intergovernmental bodies, regional processes, major groups and other stakeholders, it is an important caveat that there is no formal space in which civil society and major groups and stakeholders directly contribute to the VNR reporting. Major civil society actors may be or are engaging in the environmental dimension of the SDGs but if this is not duly noted in the VNR through the state-led mechanism of coordination and reporting, it would not be accounted for. This brings to question the extent to which the VNRs are an accurate reflection of ground reality as civil society stakeholders can be instrumental in SDG-related processes in certain countries.

Looking ahead, at the 2018 HLPF, 47 countries will present their national reviews. Four of these will be conducting their second review at the HLPF (Colombia, Egypt, Mexico, and Switzerland) and one country its third (Togo).¹⁴ The more that countries commit to reporting each cycle of HLPF, the more data and information can foster effective accounting of the progress towards SDGs.

¹³ *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews 2017*. Report. February 2018.
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf. Page XI

¹⁴ *Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews 2017*. Report. February 2018.
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17109Synthesis_Report_VNRs_2017.pdf.

Considering the above, the following recommendations are suggested for consideration by member states to further strengthen the environmental dimension in the VNRs.

1. Considering that environment is a cross-cutting issue that is relevant to all the SDGs, countries could identify specific actions across SDGs that relate to the environment besides addressing specific environmental dimension of each SDG. This means making the environmental dimension across all SDGs well-known, with potentially a road map or a concrete action framework. This, in fact, is in line with the discussions during the Open Working Group that negotiated the SDGs.
2. While national policies and strategies related to environmental dimension of SDGs are widely quoted in the VNRs, it will be helpful if the VNRs could address specific actions as well as introduce a mechanism to evaluate and report on the actions on the ground. For this the reporting frameworks should be flexible and inclusive. In addition, countries need to focus on specific actions related to the environmental dimension while undertaking the reviews.
3. With minimal information on how countries are using the globally agreed indicators, it is appropriate to conclude that it may be recommended that additional guidance is provided to countries to focus on using the environmental indicators in preparing the VNRs. In addition to UN Environment, other relevant UN agencies with mandate on the environment should prepare joint programmes to help countries mainstream the environment dimension into SDGs more effectively. The role of UN Environment Management Group in this process should also be considered.
4. The discussions and outcomes of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) relate to dimensions of SDGs in all its forms. Currently, there is no formal platform being provided during the HLPF to discuss the outcomes, making the outcomes of UNEA not fully reflected in the SDG related in-depth discussions at HLPF. Although in 2018, a speaking role is expected to be given to the President of the Environment Assembly at HLPF, this would be more of a politically symbolic act rather than substantive deliberation of environmental issues at HLPF. The written inputs from UNEA submitted annually by UNEA President to ECOSOC President are also compiled into the "Report of the Secretary-General on synthesis of

voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the ECOSOC and other intergovernmental bodies” but the importance of this synthesis compared to other official reports for HLPF remains questionable. In this context, it will be pertinent for Member States to consider the agenda of UNEA that could potentially align itself with the discussions anticipated at HLPF so that the outcomes and actions align themselves. Members of the Bureau of the UNEA should also play a more active role in delivering key messages from UNEA at HLPF.

5. Countries should also be encouraged to involve stakeholders when preparing their VNRs so that more grounds level realities can be captured in the official government reports (this is to respond to the observation made above regarding lack of civil society participation in the VNRs).
6. If VNRs are to be used as a barometer for assessing progress towards realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs, then it is time for countries to prepare or seek specific inputs in dealing with the environmental dimension across the SDGs, considering the science-policy-practice links.

The environmental dimension can certainly be further strengthened within the VNRs though the trends seen in submissions made by member states in 2016 and 2017 indicate some progress. If one considers environment as a critical and key pillar of sustainable development, there is a need for countries to strengthen the environmental dimension of SDGs both in action and reporting through the VNRs.

Annex: Tables

These set of tables – following the set methodology – complement the analysis carried out in the Policy Brief - *The Voluntary National Reviews: the Environmental Dimension*

Countries with recognition of the importance environmental dimension of SDGs

1.	Afghanistan (VNR 2017)	Although the Afghan VNR does not directly mention the environmental dimension of SDGs, Afghan government's short-term plans and long-term plans for improved food production, are consistent with the goals within the environmental dimension. Afghan short term plans for establishing and conserving forests, pastures and orchards, rehabilitation and conservation of natural resources management, watersheds, to improve agriculture production, as well as long term plan of restoring, protecting forests, pastures, production of non-fruit saplings and establishment of green belt in 34 provinces worth 324 million dollars, though aimed at improving food production, depicts of Afghanistan's recognition of the importance of the environmental dimension of the SDGs.
2.	Benin (VNR2017)	Benin highlights the lack of data and monitoring mechanisms, "particularly critical for the environmental dimension of SDGs". Amongst the four "accelerating targets" which have been prioritized by the country of Benin is the target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world In terms of action, the country is planning to develop a monitoring and evaluation mechanism based on results and evidences, covering all key areas "including environment and climate change".
3.	Botswana (VNR2017)	Botswana's VNR report described progress made in implementing SDG1,2,3,5,9 and 17 with a focus on poverty. Botswana recognizes the vital link between sustainable natural resource management and economic growth. Botswana has made Sustainable Environment a key pillar of the county's developmental focus
4.	Georgia (VNR2016)	Economic growth is a basis for Georgia's welfare which may bring considerable pressure on natural resources and the

		<p>environment. Therefore, sustainable economic development is important for the country from the perspective of environmental protection and rational use of natural resources. Internationally, Georgia has signed several environmental agreements, resulting in international obligations and access to international scientific and technological knowledge and funds.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Honduras (VNR2017)</p>	<p>As for governance and the actors involved in the Sustainable Development Goals, Honduras has decided to set up two commissions: a high-level commission tasked with taking strategic decisions and addressing challenges that arise during the process; and a technical commission to provide advice and follow up on the decisions taken. Both commissions are made up of key actors from the public sector, the private sector, workers' and farmers' organizations, academia, organized civil society, and municipal governments. Their main challenge is to ensure the sustained involvement of all actors. As for existing coordination mechanisms for implementing the 2030 Agenda, the sectoral cabinets are a fortress and should play a greater role in achieving the Goals. Their task is to define, create and ensure the sustainability of institutional linkages, along with their mechanisms for the comprehensive implementation, c Implementation of joint initiatives involving the Government, various national actors and international cooperation, with an innovative approach to integrating and analytically addressing the Goals in the areas of: (i) Food security; (ii) Education; (iii) Drinking water and sanitation; (iv) Modernization of the State and accountability; (v) Partnerships for development.</p> <p>Main challenges to be addressed: Coordinated budgeting and planning with a review, analysis and strengthening of technical capacities, development planning models, and their connection to the budgetary resources needed to achieve the Goals. That will urgently require coordinated work between the Ministry for General Government Coordination, the Finance Ministry and the National Congress; (Decentralization of the 2030 Agenda by central and municipal Governments during their planning and budgeting processes in order to achieve the prioritized Goals. To achieve this, strategies for awareness-raising, planning, oversight, follow-up and assessment of the indicators for the prioritized targets, and an appropriate communication plan, will be needed: coordination, follow-up</p>

		and assessment of multidimensional, intersectoral and inter institutional policies and measures. Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13, and 17;
6.	Madagascar (VNR2017)	<p>A National Development strategy had been finalised just before the definition of the SDGs. The report intends to create a link between both. The environmental dimension of SDGs is recognised but not more than other dimensions of development. There is however emphasise on natural resources and natural capital accounting (because they benefit from an important project focused on this). In the National Development Plan 2015-2019, there are five strategic areas amongst which only the last one relates to the environment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Governance, rule of law, devolution, Security, democracy and national solidarity 2. Preserve macroeconomic stability and support development 3. Inclusive growth and local anchoring of development 4. Human capital adapted to development process 5. Natural capital valuation and strengthening of resilience to natural disasters
7.	Panama (VNR2017)	<p>The successful establishment of Panamá 2030 was the product of the joint efforts of industry, workers, non-governmental organizations, churches, academic institutions, indigenous peoples, political parties and Government institutions, all representing their sectors' interests to the National Consultations for Development. The priority goals under the plan are Goal 3, 4, 8 and 16. However, it does recognize the key role of environmental sustainability as a transversal line, harmonizing economic rationality in its forms of productivity and competitiveness while articulating the policies around climate change mitigation actions and their social impact.</p>
8.	Philippines (VNR2016)	<p>Results of Consultations for the Philippines' Post-2015 Development Agenda: identified Five pillars where progress is most needed to build a rights-based, equitable and sustainable society, one of them being - Environmental sustainability, climate change and disaster risk management (urban and land use planning; reduce vulnerabilities to risk sources in the environment; green growth strategies to address pollution and environmental degradation).</p>

9.	Venezuela (VNR2016)-	The eco-social dimension of the national model expresses the political will for the harmonized promotion of social, environmental and economic dimensions on which the 2030 Agenda is based. (Original report in Spanish)
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Countries that are taking action to implement the environmental dimensions of SDGs through National environmental policies and strategies

10.	Azerbaijan(VNR-2017)	Building on the progress made towards implementing MDG Goal 7; Ensuring environmental sustainability, Azerbaijan has acted to implement environmental dimensions of SDGs. The Environmental Issues thematic working group, which includes representatives from government agencies, operationalize the environmental dimensions of SDGs. <i>Azerbaijan 2020: Outlook for the Future</i> " Development Concept, prioritizes areas of intervention for Azerbaijan until 2020 and guides the state's environmental policy. Azerbaijan has adopted policies to; minimize environmental pollution and improve environmental protection to ensure environmental safety, promote efficient use of natural resources to meet the needs of the current and future generations, utilize alternative energy sources and achieve energy efficiency, identify solutions to global environmental problems at the national level, and expand relations with international organizations, for implementation of environmental dimension of SDGs. In relation to the HLPF Reviewed Goal 14, Azerbaijan has identified key areas of intervention particularly, the environmental situation in the Absheron peninsula and the Caspian Sea, as well as the acquisition and safety of freshwater resources as strategy to implement Goal 14.
11.	Belarus (VNR 2017)	Acted to transform its economic model by introducing principles of green economy and has also prioritized environmental sustainability.
12.	Belgium (VNR2017)	Belgium aims to protect, develop and recover valuable plants and animals and their habitats under the <i>EU's Natura 2000</i> program. At the Flemish level, the setting of specific targets and implementation measures is taking place through a strongly participatory multi-stakeholder dialogue involving regional and local levels. A national action plan to combat marine litter is being prepared. The action plan will also contain several cleaning activities such as the removal of fishing nets from ship wrecks. The Flemish government has set a target to reduce the leakage of litter to the marine environment by

		<p>75% by 2025. The Flemish government plans on updating the current <i>Maritime Spatial Plan (2014-2020)</i> for the period up to 2026, as well as the development of a Long Term Vision on the North Sea with the overall objectives to be achieved by 2050.</p> <p>Belgium is a member of the Fiji-created Group of Friends of Oceans and Seas in New York, and also of the Group of Friends Oceans in Nairobi, which takes SDG 14 as its frame of reference for information exchange between permanent representatives and experts.</p> <p>Belgium's <i>My2050</i>, a simplified educational calculation tool was launched in 2016, in addition to an online calculation tool for experts. It helps secondary school pupils and citizens reflect about the possibilities involved in a transition to a low-carbon society. In order to accompany young people in particular, a team of especially trained climate coaches is available to interested schools (13.3)</p> <p>Belgium's <i>BeBiodiversity strategy</i>, implemented since April 2017 in partnership with the private sector, aims to move markets towards more biodiversity-friendly products, working simultaneously on the supply and demand sides. Belgium supports CSOs in the implementation of various projects on sustainable forest management. The Flemish Fund for Tropical Forests currently supports several small-scale and locally anchored projects in Latin-America. Other projects are directed towards the restoration of forest ecosystems in Ecuador or at facilitating cooperation between the government and local communities in Southern Surinam on issues such as legal protection of priority areas, access to land and a recognized monitoring role for local communities (15.1, 15.2).</p>
13.	China (VNR2016)	<p>China is in pursuit of green development by promoting green low carbon development model and lifestyle, protecting ecological systems. China identifies environmental protection and eco-security as one of its key areas in the implementation of the environmental dimension of SDGs</p>
14.	Costa Rica (VNR 2017)	<p>Costa Rica (VNR 2017) has acted to implement the environmental dimension of SDGs. Costa Rica has set up national frameworks supporting Goal 14 on Marine conservation. Costa Rica's <i>Submarine Life Initiative</i> has been developed to improve the sustainable management of marine resources. (Original document in Spanish)</p>
15.	Colombia (VNR2017)	<p>In addition to identifying importance of green growth to development, Colombia formulated the Green Growth plan</p>

		<p>which aims for sustainable consumption and production, climate change mitigation, ecosystem protection and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial natural capital and provides concrete actions for the SDGs.</p>
16. Czech (VNR2017)		<p>Czech(VNR2017) has taken urgent action to combat climate change and the Czech Government adopted an ambitious national Climate Protection Policy aiming at ensuring a gradual transition to a low emission economy by 2050. Its creation and implementation aim mainly at achieving the commitments made under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (target 13.2). The Strategy of Adaptation to Climate Change was completed with the National Action Plan approved by the Government in January 2017. Goal 15 and Targets 15.1, 15.2 and 15.3 are addressed under the Strategy 2030 of the Ministry of Agriculture and the protection of mountain ecosystems is also included in national policies.</p> <p>Czech Republic efforts to protect biodiversity and the creation of favorable conditions for terrestrial ecosystems are close to the target levels. The Resilient Ecosystem area also addresses environmental aspects of SDG 2, 11 and 12.</p>
17. Denmark (VNR2017)		<p>Denmark has acted to implement the environmental dimension of the SDGs and has set national targets and indicators in line with the environmental dimensions of SDGs.</p> <p>The Danish Family Planning Association (DFPA) works with partners from the Global South and North to integrate efforts on sexual and reproductive health and rights (target 3.7), population dynamics, health (SDG3) and gender (SDG5) with environment (SDG15) and climate change adaptation (target 13.1) using a human rights-based approach.</p> <p>In Denmark, 10 municipalities are involved in the Green Generation project, which involves public awareness initiatives, developing “green” curricula, and increased cooperation between different municipal departments, mainly the departments of environment and education.</p>
18. El Salvador (VNR2017)		<p>El Salvador has played a proactive role in the transition from the Millennium Development Goals to the post-2015 development agenda through a series of consultations with various social groups in the lead-up to the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, at which the General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides a comprehensive, complete and indivisible guide to</p>

		<p>sustainable development. The Government of El Salvador therefore decided to step up its efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals by placing the 2030 Agenda at the heart of public policy and integrating it into the five-year development plan. The Government of El Salvador is promoting a process of dialogue with various actors with a view to establishing long-term development agreements that address slow economic growth, the weakness of public finances and the problems of violence and crime. At this stage, the 2030 Agenda is clearly an important instrument for dialogue and consultation. El Salvador has prioritized nine Goals, namely, Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 16 and 17; as well as 29 targets from the other Goals.</p>
<p>19.</p>	<p>Ethiopia (VNR2017)</p>	<p>Ethiopia is acting to preserve water ecosystems. The water resources policy and strategy of the country give the directions for the efficient and appropriate harnessing of the water resources of the country including embarking on development interventions that would respond to droughts and flood control efficiently.</p> <p>Ethiopia has progressed in the construction of Renewable Energy (hydropower, geothermal, solar and wind). Ethiopian government is working towards fostering Green-Industry development and encouraging socially responsible and environmentally safe sustainable manufacturing industries through building of industrial parks and clusters. These efforts depict the progress towards achievement various goals and targets within the environmental dimension of SDGs.</p>
<p>20.</p>	<p>Finland (VNR2016)</p>	<p>According to the updated national strategy, Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development, Finland's challenges regarding sustainable development include the safeguarding of the welfare state while the population ages; the sustainability gap and changes in the economy; high carbon dioxide emissions relative to the size of the population; the protection of biodiversity; and the sustainable, fair and efficient use of natural resources. The challenge is to create a sustainable economy that generates welfare and contributes to the quality of life and that, at the same time, leads to a reduction in detrimental impacts on the environment. Finland's main challenges, however, apply to environmental, economic and employment questions, and, to a certain extent, to gender ones. Energy intensity, domestic materials consumption, production-based energy-related carbon dioxide emissions, terrestrial protected areas and the unemployment rate are among the</p>

		<p>indicators that lower Finland’s performance in SDGs 7, 8, 12, 13 and 15.</p> <p>Finland has promoted the use of composite indicators for sustainable development in support of policy discussions. In particular, the ESI (Environmental Sustainability Index, 2001–2005) and SSI (Sustainable Society Index, 2006–2014) have promoted the overall assessment of sustainable development, while facilitating itemized analysis based on various dimensions.</p>
21.	Guatemala (VNR 2017)	<p>As part of this analysis, the baselines have been established for the 36 indicators for which statistical information is available, while the targets have been agreed for a smaller number of indicators. This process continues in the country and will be extended to the 200 prioritized indicators. It is important to emphasize that as part of the review a section has been incorporated in which the State responds to each of the areas of development. For this, the actions are identified according to the contributions: public sector, private sector, civil society and international development actors. It also includes a section describing the perception of young people about each of the areas of development envisaged in the six SDGs. (1,2,3,5,9,17)</p>
22.	Indonesia (VNR2017)	<p>Indonesia has acted towards implementation of the environmental dimension of SDGs. Indonesia designated 17.9 million hectares for Marine Protected Area (MPA). MPA ensure sustainable management of nursery ground and spawning grounds which consistent with SDG number 14 on marine conservation.</p> <p>Indonesia has made significant strides towards SDGs implementation which includes, creating national ownership through stakeholder engagement as well as systematic framework of SDGs implementations. Indonesia’s long-term (<i>Development Plan RPJPN-2015-2019</i>) has integrated various topics in the 2030 Agenda encompassing 3 dimensions of development namely; social development, economic development and environment development. In light of the reviewed goals at HPLM, Indonesia designated 17.9 million hectares for Marine Protected Area (MPA). MPA ensure sustainable management of nursery ground and spawning grounds which consistent with SDG number 14 on marine conservation.</p>
23.	Iran (VNR2017)	<p>Iran’s adoption of the SDGs, nonetheless coincides with a broad national effort to integrate and mainstream the environment and sustainable development elements contained in Iran’s 6th National 5-Year Development Plan (6th NDP), President Rouhani’s “Environment</p>

		<p>Government”, and the General Environmental Policies of the Supreme Leader. Strong links have been established between the 6th NDP and the SDGs through supporting documents which have been incorporated into the development plan including; The Climate Change Plan. Prior to the UNFCCC, COP21, Iran announced its intended nationally determined contribution(INDC) of a 4% unconditional reduction of GHGs emissions by 2030 below its business as usual scenario. Iran also offered an additional 8% reductions subject to removal of all sanctions coupled with provision of adequate financial resources, development and technology transfer, know-how and capacity building. In order to ensure that Iran achieves these contributions, a special annex has been incorporated into the 6th five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan to address all policies and programs related to climate change. On climate adaptation, Iran is implementing various green economy activities in full coherence with its National Adaptation Plan, NAP, under the general policies of resilient economy.</p>
24.	Italy (VNR2017)	<p>Italy has put in place National Strategies (Strategic Goals) to halt biodiversity loss, ensure sustainable resource management, create resilient communities and territories and protect landscapes. Italy has nationalized SDGs into its vision National Sustainable Development Strategy 2017/2030. The Strategy shapes new vision towards circular low emission economy resilient to climate impacts. It also prioritizes fight against biodiversity loss, alteration of fundamental biogeochemical cycles (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and land use change. Italian government has prioritized ensuring environmentally sustainable economic development</p>
25.	Mexico (VNR2017)	<p>The strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would be led by the Office of the President of the Republic. Currently there are cabinets and inter-ministerial commissions in Mexico that are already addressing issues such as climate change or social development, and that were designed for previous governments. Mexico is redoubling efforts under the leadership of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), support of international organizations like the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the work of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).</p>

26.	Montenegro (VNR2016)	<p>Diversity of geological base, landscape, climate and soil, as well as the very position of Montenegro on the Balkan peninsula and Adriatic sea, created conditions for formation of biological diversity with very high values, that puts Montenegro among biological "hot-spots" of European and world's biodiversity Montenegro has the National Strategy for Sustainable Development as a step towards making an effort to materialize and make concrete the constitutional commitment of Montenegro to be an ecological state.</p> <p>Ecological footprint analysis for the country has been identified as one of the ways for resolving the problems of non-sustainable trends of national development, which were identified through baseline assessment and related analysis of problems and causes and DPSIR analysis and for responding to the challenges UN 2030 Agenda on sustainable development introduced into national policy for sustainable development.</p> <p>Statistically, 79% of SDGs related to natural capital recognized through National Strategy on Sustainable Development (NSSD) measures and sub-measures.</p>
27.	Norway (VNR2016)	<p>Sustainable natural resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation are priority areas for Norway. Integrating climate and environment concerns into all our SDG follow-up efforts is key to achieving lasting sustainable development results. In May 2016, the Storting (Norwegian parliament) adopted a Norwegian Action Plan for Biodiversity, aimed at achieving the Aichi targets, and debated a new white paper on securing an efficient and climate-friendly energy supply. Norway will continue to share its experience and assist developing countries' efforts to manage and protect marine and other natural resources, including fisheries, forests, and energy.</p>
28.	Nigeria (VNR2017)	<p><i>Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)</i> was created to ensure adoption of global best practices in the provision of maritime services. The agency's key areas of focus include effective Maritime Safety Administration, Marine Pollution Prevention and Control, Cybotage enforcement, Maritime Capacity Development using modern tools that guarantee efficiency and effectiveness. Nigeria is committed to implementing environmental program that are geared towards sustainable environment which covers the ocean and marine. These programs include to implement projects under the Great Green Wall initiative to address land degradation and desertification, implement environmental initiatives in the Niger Delta region (e.g., continue the Ogoni Land clean-up</p>

		and reduce gas flaring) as well as raise a Green Bond to finance environmental projects.
29.	Qatar (VNR2017)	<p>Qatar has acted to implement the environmental dimensions of SDGS through various laws and strategic plans. <i>Qatar National Vision QVN 2030</i> is built on pillars which include, Environmental development, which aims to ensure harmony and consistency between economic, social development and environmental protection. It deals with global environmental issues such as climate change, global warming and its economic and social impacts.</p> <p>In order to ensure equal access to natural resources such as water and energy, Qatar's first <i>National Development Strategy</i> of the <i>QNV 2030</i> adopted promotion of efficient water use. Attention was given to climate change, improving air quality, reducing gas combustion and increasing environmental awareness. Attention was also given to oceans, seas and marine resource, the conservation and enhancement of fisheries stock, protection of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity, waste reduction as well as construction of corridors for green space.</p>
30.	Republic of Korea (VNR2016)	<p>In January 2016, the Third National Basic Plan for Sustainable Development, which is updated every five years, was established by consultations with 26 government ministries and agencies. The Third Plan envisions a "harmonized development of the environment, society, and economy." It also outlines 14 strategic targets around four overarching goal areas including: healthy land; integrated and safe society; inclusive creative economy; and global prosperity.</p>
31.	Samoa (VNR2016)	<p>Based on regional prioritization under the Pacific Framework for Regionalism, the following goals are given emphasis including at national level as well, under environmental considerations; Goals 13, 14 and 15.</p> <p>Goal 15 – Land and ecosystems the relevant Key Outcomes in SDS are 13 and 14: that deal with improved land use planning, management and administration for private & public spaces and improved use of natural resources for long term flow of benefits are directly relevant to the goal.</p>
32.	Sierra Leone (VNR 2016)	<p>Evidence of negative effects of climate change is increasingly becoming clear— sea levels are rising; massive floods are becoming more frequent; and we are fast losing life in our surrounding environment including plants and animals that are extremely important for our survival. Sierra Leone is reported to be the third most vulnerable country to effects of climate change, after Bangladesh and Guinea-Bissau.</p>

		<p>Balancing the Economic, Social and Environmental Dimensions of Sustainable Development:</p> <p>1) Improve environmental governance and increase use of environmental impact assessments and other policy monitoring instruments.</p> <p>Increase the capacity of Sierra Leone’s Environmental Protection Agency.</p>
33.	Uganda (VNR2016):	<p>Uganda is developing a green growth development strategy to operationalize green growth initiatives espoused in the Uganda Vision 2040 and the second National Development Plan (2015/16-2019/20). The strategy describes how Uganda will pursue sustainable production and consumption patterns, create green jobs, mitigate and adapt to climate change and decouple economic growth from environmental degradation. This however requires leap frogging in terms of technology to embrace clean technologies that are more efficient, effective and emit less greenhouse gases. Capacity building in terms of skilling the youth in utilization of green technologies is pertinent in this endeavor. Equally important is appropriate technology transfer to ensure leap frogging and pursuit of development along a low carbon path.</p> <p>Uganda’s National Climate Change Policy assigns two key responsibilities of coordination to institutions at the national level, and implementation to sectors and local governments. Whilst remarkable progress has been made at all levels, financial and technical capacity gaps at the national level are augmented at the local government levels.</p>
34.	Uruguay (VNR2017)	<p>Uruguay described progress made in implementing SDG1,2,3,5,9 with a focus on poverty, domestic violence and gender equivalence. Since 2005, levels of poverty have been in steady decline. The determining factors of that decline have been economic recovery and the implementation of social policies focusing on reducing poverty, improving income distribution and encouraging social inclusion.</p> <p>The social policies include the following:(a) Establishment and institutional consolidation of the Ministry of Social Development; and The Emergency Plan and Equity Plan, Health-care reform: the National Integrated Health System, whose principles include universalization of coverage; Education: increasing coverage from birth to age five; Rights of children and adolescents (in which Uruguay plays an international role); The gender perspective included in a number of public policies: quota for representation of women in various spheres; Legislation on sexual and</p>

		<p>reproductive health rights. The health of the population of Uruguay has been improving in recent years. However, non-communicable diseases remain a source of concern. At the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, the President of Uruguay called for a global partnership for Design and implementation of the system for innovation and scientific and technical development (establishment of the National Innovation and Research Agency); Uruguay recognizes the link between sustainable natural resource management and economic growth.</p>
<p>35. Zimbabwe (VNR 2017)</p>		<p>Zimbabwe has prioritized Goal 13 on <i>Combating climate change</i>, in recognition of the devastating effects of climate change related events on its Agrarian-based economy. Zimbabwe is a signatory to the following multilateral environmental agreements, among others: the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD) and 45 its Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety; Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in addition to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Kyoto Protocol. Zimbabwe also signed the 2016 Paris Agreement although it is yet to ratify it.</p> <p>The Government launched its National Climate Change Response Strategy that includes REDD+ as one of the mitigation options for reducing greenhouse gases under the forestry sector. The National Climate Change Response Strategy provides a framework for a comprehensive and strategic approach on aspects of adaptation, mitigation, technology, financing, public education and awareness. It will help to inform Government on how to strengthen the climate and disaster management policies.</p> <p>Government has embarked on the process of developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) which seeks to develop medium to long term approaches for reducing vulnerability to climate change impacts and facilitating the integration of climate adaptation into ongoing planning processes at national and sub- national levels.</p> <p>The Constitution includes environmental rights where by every Zimbabwean has the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of current and future generations through reasonable legislative and other measures; that prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote</p>

		conservation and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources, while promoting economic and social development.
36. Turkey (VNR2016)		<p>Turkey, through its 10th National Development Plan has prioritized environmental dimensions of SDG. In the Plan, adapting and combatting climate change are to be maintained in line with the principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities” and “respective capabilities” while considering national circumstances. By evaluating the effects of climate change and all activities in catchments on water quantity and quality, measures for saving water, combatting drought and preventing pollution are put emphasis between the years 2014-2018.</p> <p>In the Plan, maritime safety is given utmost importance. It is planned to establish safe maritime navigation corridors. In the fisheries sector, carrying out efficient resource management based on scientific data is one of the main objectives. Environmental sustainability is given high priority taking into consideration the aqua cultural activities. Additionally, institutional capacity will be strengthened throughout the Plan.</p>

Countries which through actions, policies, laws, programmes, initiatives have effectively integrated the environmental dimension into national and local actions.		
37. Argentina (VNR2017)		<p>The report summarizes several analyses that highlight the possibilities and difficulties in the current Argentine context in implementing policies with a future horizon of achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In particular, the report addresses a selected set of SDG aimed at ensuring economic, social and cultural rights related to the compliance with general and specific obligations pertaining to international human rights laws, within an Argentine regulatory and institutional context.</p> <p>The legislative and judicial branches work in strategic partnership with the Council in order to create a favorable legal environment for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda; ensure that government budgets reflect the commitments undertaken by the executive branch; mobilize resources for implementation; and encourage citizen participation and accountability. The</p>

		<p>“localization” of implementation initiatives at various levels of government requires coordination between policies and efforts at the local and national levels. The Council has organized multiple activities aimed at raising awareness and encouraging the participation of civil society organizations and the private business sector in implementation efforts. It has also urged national ministries and institutions to collaborate with civil society and the business sector to obtain inputs and achieve synergies in implementation efforts and in the monitoring of progress. As for academia, in 2017 the Council encouraged universities to begin considering strategies for the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals. In that connection, it signed an agreement on joint action in February 2017.</p> <p>The national Government is working to align its own priority goals and initiatives and the Sustainable Development Goals with the program and activities under the 2018 budget. Through this process, an estimated budget will be developed for each activity and necessary adjustments will be made to ensure its effective implementation. This relationship will be set out in the State management dashboard overseen by the Ministry of Modernization and the leadership of the Cabinet of Ministers. The approach includes all the 1 to 17 SDGs.</p>
38.	Bangladesh (VNR2017)	<p>Bangladesh is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDG. Bangladesh has developed waste reception facilities at ports and contingency plan to fight oil spillage, identified Marine Ecological Critical Area, Created Coastal Green Belt, Formulated National Fisheries Policy, developed inventory of marine biological resources and developed technology for production of seed for culturing marine fish, to achieve SDG targets within Goal 14.</p> <p>An integrated coastal and ocean management policy and framework will be developed and run by a special task force at the highest level of the Bangladesh government to ensure proper coordination and integration among different ministries and line agencies.</p>
39.	Belize (VNR2017)	<p>Belize is actively implementing the environmental dimensions of SDGs, including the setting up of a national framework supporting SDG 14. Fisheries</p>

		<p>Resource Bill has been drafted, which addresses concerns in Goal 14 on Life below water.</p> <p>Belize finalized Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan which will ensure sustainable coastal resource use.</p> <p>Marine Access which aims to build good stewardship and improved fishing practice was rolled out across territorial waters in 2016.</p>
<p>40. Brazil (VNR2017)</p>		<p>Brazil is actively implementing the environmental dimensions of SDGs through various programs and national plans. The Program for Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity has been developing actions to expand coverage, strengthen and structure the management of conservation units in coastal and marine zones; to reduce the risk of extinction of endangered species, and control invasive alien species. Regarding protected areas, the targets include, by 2019, the consolidation of 11 federal conservation units, and the expansion of the marine and coastal protected area system from the current 1.5% to 5% of the Brazilian marine territory (equivalent to 17.5 million hectares). The Program for Oceans, Coastal Zone and the Antarctic promotes the qualification of human resources, research, monitoring and logistics necessary for generating knowledge about marine resources and their sustainable use, especially concerning the Antarctic, as well as the development of actions that enabled the implementation of the National Policy for Sea Resources (PNRM). The Integrated Coastal Management Project (Orla Project) – one of the instruments included in the National Coastal Management Plan – is an action focused on organizing coastal areas. Thus, the updating of the macro-assessment of 100% of the coastal zone is in progress, to be achieved by 2019. In the case of the Orla Project, the goal is to increase from 5% to 20% the total number of coastal Municipalities with defined guidelines for use and occupation of coastal areas, enabling them to face the conflict between the fragility of coastal ecosystems and the rise of disorganized and irregular use and occupation of seafronts, as well as the increase of erosive processes and contaminating sources Brazil's Vessel Monitoring System (VMS), which includes tracking of more than 2,000 vessels, being used in enforcement actions on the Brazilian coast to fight illegal fishing.</p>

<p>41. Chile (VNR2017)</p>	<p>Chile actively implementing through national environmental policies as well as laws. Chilean government has mainstreamed the environmental dimension of SDGs in national planning, taking various actions for the realization of the environmental dimension of SDGs. Chile's national environmental policy establishes conditions and incentives to strengthen sustainability by ensuring quality life, environmental equity and ecosystems protection as well as by promoting green growth strategy through national action plan on climate change. Chile's national program for sustainable consumption and production and market based instruments for environmental management is aims to ensure sustainable consumption patterns. Efforts to protect biodiversity include the national biodiversity strategy, a legislative process establish a Biodiversity and Protected Areas, the Recycling Promotion Act. Chile's local environmental management and strategic environmental assessment are advancing through sustainable territorial management.</p>
<p>42. Cyprus (VNR 2017)</p>	<p>Cyprus has devised various mechanisms for the implementation of the environmental dimension of SDGs. Cyprus applies policies incorporated horizontally into economic strategies. Coherent plans have been established and are implemented regarding: Greenhouse gas emission reduction and adaptation; Effective liquid and solid waste management; Protection of water resources; Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity; Enhancement of resource efficiency; Transition towards green economy and green labor market and Integration of environmental dimension into developing activities. Additionally, Cyprus has included "clean and green energy" in its energy balance. "Green economy" is promoted through appropriate schemes to encourage the use of renewable energy sources and energy savings and the proper management of all waste streams. National Strategy for Climate Change Adaptation was formulated and approved by the Ministerial Council. The Strategy aims at enhancing the adaptability of Cyprus on observed and projected climate change, and effectively preventing and addressing the negative impacts of climate change. A relevant Action Plan has been prepared for the implementation of the</p>

		<p>National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, which includes a series of medium term actions expected to be implemented by various Ministries /Departments. Cyprus promotes regional cooperation for protection from marine pollution.</p>
43.	Egypt(VNR2016)	<p>Egypt has taken active action to implement the environmental dimensions of SDGs. Egypt's Edu Camp is a European–Egyptian project, "Education for sustainable development beyond the campus" which aims to introduce key sustainable development principles into teaching and learning in the Egyptian public schools. (a) Developing ESD resource kits for schools to provide activities for teachers and students which link the existing school curriculum to the local community. The kits include activities related to biodiversity, agriculture, energy, and water. Eight SDGs, out of seventeen total are consistent with corresponding pillars in Egypt's sustainable development strategy: health, energy, social justice, education and training, urban development, economic development, the environmental pillar, transparency and efficient Government institutions. Three out of sixteen SDGs, namely SDG 13, to take urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts, SDG 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development, and SDG 15, to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss, are included and addressed under one pillar of Egypt's strategy, the environmental pillar. A Sustainable Development Unit has already been established at the Ministry of Environment to foster the achievement of the sustainable development strategy and the SDGs, with emphasis on the environmental dimension, similar Units are currently being established within other line ministries.</p>
44.	Estonia(VNR2017)	<p>Estonia has in place mechanisms for active implementation of the environmental dimensions of SDGS. To direct better the fields of climate change adaptation and climate change alleviation in 2014, the Estonian Climate Policy and Development plan for adaptation to climate change was initiated.</p>

		<p>Estonia contributed 5.8 million EUR in 2011-2015 to the sustainable development of its partner countries. Most of it (80%) was assets to support developing countries in alleviating climate change.</p> <p>Within the framework of the Baltic Sea Action Plan and the European Union Marine Strategy Framework Directive, Estonia plans activities for marine conservation. Species conservation action plans are being adopted to improve the condition of protected species and to plan and priorities necessary activities for species survival. The Estonian Environmental Board introduces and carries out nature conservation policy.</p> <p>The Estonian Environmental Agency collects and stores environmental information. The Estonian Forestry Development Plan 2020 aggregates measures to preserve the diversity of flora and fauna in forests and to use forests in a versatile and effective manner, including the aim to increase forest growth and carbon sequestration through timely reforestation.</p>
<p>45. France(VNR2016)</p>		<p>France is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs through national-level law and other various initiatives. The French bill for the restoration of biodiversity, nature and landscapes, provides for the ratification of the Nagoya Protocol.</p> <p>France is implementing programs to protect its natural heritage and is extending protected areas, which cover more than 34% of total land area (SOeS).</p> <p>France proposed a reform of global environmental governance, which has seen the scaling up of the United Nations Environment Program. In the scientific field, France made a strong commitment to set up the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES).</p> <p>France possesses an exclusive economic zone of 11 million km², 97% of which lies in the overseas dependencies. This is the second-largest EEZ in the world, which gives France special responsibility in this domain. France applies the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP), the foundational document, which closely links environmental protection and economic activities.</p> <p>France's National Strategy for the Sea and the Coast (SNML) is a strategy paper for the protection of the environment, successful stewardship of marine resources and integrated, concerted management of activities relating to the sea and the coast. It contains a</p>

		<p>long-term vision of the integrated policy on the sea and the coast consistent with Goal 14</p> <p>To improve our knowledge of the contribution of ecosystems to the creation of national wealth, France's Ministry of the Environment has launched the French evaluation of ecosystems and ecosystem services (EFESE).</p>
<p>46. Germany</p>		<p>It is clear from Germany's submission that it is one of the leading countries in promoting and integrating the environmental dimension in sustainable development. Whether it is the promotion of sustainable lifestyles, livelihoods and production methods, protecting and conserving biological diversity, or ushering in a global energy shift – or 'Energiewende' – as is known in German, a move away from fossil fuels towards renewable energy, greater energy efficiency and an overall reduction in energy consumption. The environment is interlaced and integrated in the achievement of each SDG.</p> <p>The National Sustainable Development Strategy provides a key framework for implementing the three dimensions of sustainable development – social, environmental and economic – in a balanced manner and on clearly outlining the global impacts of national policies through closer consideration of the international dimension.</p> <p>The German Government is committed to a minimum 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, 55% by 2030, 70% by 2040 and 80-95% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels. In order to enable Germany to meet its climate target for 2020, the German Government adopted a Climate Action Programme 2020, including a National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency, in late 2014. The document lists around 100 measures in all GHG-relevant sectors (energy; buildings; transport; industry; commerce/trade/services; circular economy and waste management; agriculture). In the German Strategy for Adaptation to Climate Change (Deutsche Anpassungsstrategie, DAS), the German Government has spelled out the risks posed by climate change, stated the needs for action, defined appropriate objectives and developed potential adaptation measures with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of natural, social and economic systems and maintaining and improving their adaptive capacity. The National Climate Initiative (NKI), which supports broad-based</p>

		<p>climate actions in Germany, and the DAS funding program for adaptation projects will be continued. Following Germany’s current amendment of the Federal Fertilizer Ordinance nutrient inputs into watercourses and marine waters from agricultural fertilizer application are to be reduced. With the implementation of the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, an EUwide good environmental status of the marine waters is to be achieved by 2020.</p> <p>The German National Strategy on Biological Diversity sets out around 330 targets and 430 concrete measures to be taken in sixteen fields of action. The Forest Strategy 2020 aims at achieving a sustainable balance between the diverse and increasing demands made on forests and the forests’ functional capacities. In implementing the Forest Strategy, greater emphasis is given to the protection objectives of the National Strategy on Biological Diversity. Germany’s Research for Sustainable Development (FONA3) framework program, improves knowledge and decision-making tools for maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem services.</p>
<p>47. India(VNR2017)</p>		<p>India, having played a vital role in the shaping of SDGs has made tremendous efforts in the implementation of the environmental dimension of the SDGs. Indian parliament organized forums focused on development issues key among them, climate change. India’s SDG strategies include substantially reducing the emission intensity of GDP, tapping non-fossil fuel energy sources and creating additional carbon sink. India’s National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, in collaboration with stakeholders is implementing climate change adaptation strategies for sustaining agricultural productivity.</p> <p>The government of India has put in place several strategies for the realization of the Blue Revolution including; strengthening marine research, developing eco-friendly marine industrial and technology base as well as implementation of the National Fisheries Action Plan. Coastal ocean Monitoring and Prediction systems which track marine pollution levels have been put in place.</p> <p>India’s <i>Sagarmala</i> program improves port connectivity and provides support for the development of deep sea fishing vessels and fishing processing centers.</p>

48.	Japan (VNR2017)	<p>Japan is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs. Japan has set national targets and indicators for, Conservation of Environment, including Biodiversity, Forests and the Oceans (related SDGs: 2, 3, 14, 15) Government of Japan mapped out the Basic Environment Plan, which is its direction toward the integrated improvement of the environment, the economy and society. The Plan for Global warming countermeasures was developed in line with Japan's Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) and the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (held in December 2015). In addition, the Fundamental Plan for establishing a Sound Material-Cycle Society and the National Biodiversity Strategy of Japan 2012-2020 had already been developed and are serving as the basis for various policy measures, which are underway. These Plans and Strategy are consistent with the environmental dimension of SDGs.</p>
49.	Jordan (VNR2017)	<p>Jordan is actively implementing environmental dimensions of SDGs through strategies and laws which includes; <i>Water for life: Water strategy in Jordan</i> and the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Law and by law on manufacturing, importing and trading of biodegradable plastic bags. Jordanian government has put in place improved infrastructure at hazardous wastes dumping sites.</p>
50.	Kenya (VNR2017)	<p>Kenya is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs and nationalized various SDGs through law, programs and strategic plans. The Climate Change Act 2016 establishes the Climate Change Council. The Act highlights the climate change response measures and actions, the roles of each of the stakeholders in mitigating effects of climate change and how to engage the public. The Forest Conservation and Management Act, 2016 provides for the conservation and management of public, community and private forests and, areas of forest land that require special protection. Forest play a critical role as Carbon dioxide (CO₂) sink as well as building resilience to climate change. Fisheries Management and Development Act 2016 and continue to enforce</p>

		<p>controls for exploitation of fisheries resources. The Act provides for the conservation, management and development of fisheries and other aquatic resources and seeks to enhance the livelihood of communities that depend on fishing. The Act gives guidance on importation and exportation of fish and fish products, fish quality and safety.</p> <p>Kenya government established Green Schools and Commercial Tree Growing for a Green Economy programmer. Kenya launched the Bamboo Development and Commercialization Strategy (2014-2017), Green Economy Assessment Report and Sustainable Environmental and Restoration Programmed.</p> <p>A total of 1,331 ha. of degraded land was reclaimed in Turkana, West Pokot and Garissa counties. Because of the construction of 3,700 water conservation and harvesting structures, an additional 5,200ha were reclaimed during the period under review.</p>
<p>51.</p>	<p>Luxembourg (VNR2017)</p>	<p>Luxembourg has a strong strategy with environmental dimension at the heart of the development planning, sustainability being mainstreamed in all areas of national action.</p> <p>There are 5 key basic principles that are highlighted from the beginning and they are almost all environmental and integrated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Maintain quality of life and high level of human development for population living and working in Luxemburg ; personal fulfilment through empowering and responsible freedom 2.Respect ecological, social and cultural rights of future generations and those of other nations on the planet (timeless and international responsibilities) ; 3.Respect of ecological rights and regenerative capacity with regards to the use of available natural resources; 4. Protect social cohesion through equity and solidarity ; 5.Preserve prosperity through the development of sustainable growth through diversification and socio-ecological innovations ; <p>It highlights the adverse impacts of Luxembourg’s economic growth and urbanization on ecosystems and biodiversity. It also recognises the increase in CO2 emissions and air pollution from cars and their negative impacts on the environment.</p>

		<p>There have a climate compact with local governments to fast track the transition in the energy and climate sectors. A « Climate finance Task force » was set up with public and private stakeholders to develop an integrated climate action strategy for the country. Sustainable transport and mobility, land use and biodiversity are highlighted. SDGs 6,7,8,9,10,11,12,12 and 15 are brought together in one priority area “protect the environment and fight climate change”.</p>
<p>52. Malaysia(VNR2017)</p>		<p>Malaysia is actively implementing the environmental dimensions of SDGs through a series of laws, initiatives, programs and strategies. Malaysia is implementing policies and enforcing regulations that support sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems, partnering with NGOs in advocating sustainable use of marine and coastal resources and establishing marine protected areas</p> <p>Government Green Procurement (GGP): This focuses on Government purchases of environmentally-friendly products and services to spur demand for green industries. The Government Green Procurement initiative is intended to create demand for green products and services, encouraging industries to raise both the standards and quality of their products to meet green requirements. The Malaysian Carbon Reduction and Environmental Sustainability Tool (MyCREST) was adopted in 2016 to quantify carbon emissions and sustainable impacts of the built environment. Malaysia is currently formulating the Malaysia SCP Blueprint, which will provide a comprehensive framework for the implementation and assessment of SCP in priority areas.</p> <p>Malaysia has introduced policies and measures to sustainably manage marine and coastal areas, including the National Coastal Zone Physical Plan (NPP-CZ) and the Coral Triangle Initiative Malaysia National Plan of Action (CTI-NPOA). Illegal fishing practices, overfishing and harmful fishing practices are mitigated through the National Action Plan of Management of Fishing Capacity and the National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing.</p> <p>Malaysia is implementing Goal 14 through the Eleventh Malaysia Plan Strategic Thrust 4 and the “game changer” of “Embarking on Green Growth”. This is being further supplemented by other sectoral plans and</p>

		<p>policies such as the National Policy for Biological Diversity 2016–2025.</p> <p>Malaysia has taken commendable steps to protect its biodiversity with the formulation of various policies and legislation such as the National Policy for Biological Diversity 2016–2025, National Forestry Policy 1978 (Amendment 1992), Second National Mineral Policy 2009, Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 (Act 716), National Parks Act 1980, Biosafety Act 2007 and others. The National Policy for Biological Diversity 2016–2025 provides the framework for continuous conservation, sustainable utilization and sharing of biodiversity benefits in a fair and equitable manner.</p>
53.	Maldives(VNR2017)	<p>Maldives is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs through project and strategic plans, put in place. Maldives has incorporated climate change adaptation and mitigation into sectoral planning and development. The Climate Change Policy Framework 2015 (MCCPF) is the key policy document in this regard. The Tourism Adaptation project (TAP) is aimed at identifying the climate change adaptation measures that will be required for the tourism sector. Green Climate Fund was initiated to support vulnerable communities in Maldives to manage climate change induced water shortages during the dry season. Waste Management Policy was formulated to manage ocean waste in a sustainable and feasible manner. The initiative will result in the establishment of waste management centers on all inhabited islands by the end of 2018. National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2016-2025) was formulated to mainstream biodiversity concerns into national development planning. Maldives has designated 42 protected areas and has successfully designated one of its atolls (Baa atoll) as a United Nations Educational Scientific Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Biosphere Reserve.</p>
54.	Monaco (VNR 2017)	<p>The environmental dimension of SDGs is well covered, with a focus on aspects that are relevant to such a small industrialized country : Health, environment and well-being, clean industry and energy efficiency – and climate mitigation, natural resources and oceans, pollution, are the main highlights.</p>
55.	Nepal (VNR2017)	<p>Building on the progress made towards implementation of MDG7 Nepal is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs. Nepal has made good progress on MDG 7 with the proportion of forested</p>

		land increasing from 39.6 percent in 2000 to 44.5 percent in 2015, the proportion of the population using an improved source of drinking water increasing from 73 percent in 2000 to 83.6 percent in 2015 and the proportion of the population using sanitation facilities increasing from 30 percent in 2000 to 81 percent in 2015. Nepal has mainstreamed SDGs into sectoral plans which includes Forest Sector Strategy (2015-2025) provides strategic direction and overall guidance to optimize potentials of forest ecosystems, biodiversity and watershed, in line with the environmental dimensions of SDGs
56. Netherlands(VNR2017)		<p>Netherlands is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs through a series of strategies, plans and laws.</p> <p>The <i>Energy Agreement for Sustainable Growth</i> aims at increasing the share of renewable energy from 5.8% in 2015 to 14% in 2020. The agreement also includes new targets in keeping up with the Paris climate goals for 2050. The Netherlands' <i>National Waste Management Plan and National Raw Material</i> are part of government's program for a Circular Economy in line with Goal 12.</p> <p>Netherlands' <i>National Adaptation Strategy</i> (2016) targets reducing greenhouse gas emission In line with EU targets to 80%-95% below 1990 levels by 2050, in line with Goal 13.</p> <p>The country's two main current climate policies, the Climate Agenda (2013) and the National Adaptation Strategy (2016), set targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, in line with EU targets, to 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050. To significantly reduce North Sea pollution, the Netherlands has developed a marine strategy based on the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive.</p>
57. Peru (VNR2017)		In connection with the with the 2030 Agenda, the proposed outline makes explicit reference to peace, prosperity and the building of links with people and the planet, along with the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed outline addresses the main aspects of sustainable development and contains input and preliminary thoughts on the future of the country, with a focus on people and a desire to pursue full development that leaves no one behind, retaining a balance between economic development and environmental protection that tackles climate change.

		<p>The voluntary national report describes the progress that Peru has made in implementing the 2030 Agenda and building its vision of the future. Achieving the desired results requires the Peruvian State to meet the multiple challenges involved in translating the proposed outline for the future into action in the national context. That includes the process of ensuring that individuals and institutions in the country genuinely understand the need to guarantee full enjoyment of fundamental rights, the need to the achieve national sustainable development targets, and the way in which those targets are connected with the Sustainable Development Goals. Goals, 1-17</p>
<p>58. Portugal (VNR2017)</p>		<p>Portugal has aligned its national strategies in line with the environmental dimensions of SDGs. Through various strategic plans, programs and projects abroad, Portugal is actively implementing the environmental dimensions of SDGs.</p> <p>PNGR 2014-2020 establishes the strategic guidelines for the prevention and management of waste with a view to protecting the environment and development of the country.</p> <p>The Strategies, National Waste Management Plan (PNGR/ 2014-2020), the National Strategy for Environmentally Responsible Public Purchasing (ENCPE 2020) and the National Strategy for Environmental Education 2020 (ENEA 2020), though aimed achieving Sustainable consumption and production, are steps towards environmental conservation.</p> <p>The National Climate Change Program2020-2030 seeks to ensure sustainable path of reduction of green-house gas emission, ensuring compliance with the commitments national mitigation.</p> <p>Portugal's Sea 2020, protects marine ecosystem and species.</p> <p>The Environmental Fund, is Portugal's financial instrument to support environmental policies to the achievement of SDGs and the fulfilment of the commitments on climate change, water, waste and nature conservation and biodiversity.</p>
<p>59. Slovenia (VNR2017)</p>		<p>Slovenia is actively implementing the environmental dimensions of SDGs through various strategies, laws and National Plans. A green economy is Slovenia's strategic objective. Reliable, sustainable and effective energy use (EEU) and renewable energy sources (RES)</p>

		<p>is one of the main principles of the development of the Slovenia's energy sector. The simultaneous priority increases in EEU and RES will enable a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs), which is also a part of Slovenia's commitments within the international 2020 climate and energy package and the commitments from the Paris Agreement to be implemented by 2030. As a maritime state situated on the Adriatic Sea and in the broader Mediterranean region, Slovenia recognizes challenges related to the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources. Slovenia's <i>National Environmental Action Programme</i> has been in force since 1999, providing for the measures that have already contributed to the achievement of targets of Goal 14.</p> <p>Slovenia is committed to implementing the European Marine Strategy Framework Directive (56/2008/EC) as well as obliged to implement the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). In 2016, Slovenia adopted the Water Management Plan in the Adriatic River Basin. Moreover, the implementation of measures to achieve and maintain the good status of coastal water began in 2016, that are a part of the Water Management Plan in the Adriatic River Basin District. Slovenia is responsible for implementation of the Maritime Spatial Planning Directive that obliges the EU Member States to establish the process of maritime spatial planning and prepare a maritime spatial plan by 2021.</p>
60.	Switzerland(VNR2016)	<p>In April 2016, the Federal Council adopted the report entitled: "Green Economy – Federal measures for a resource-conserving, future-proof Switzerland" which assesses the implementation of the 2013 Green Economy Action Plan and outlines the further development of the green economy on the existing legislative basis</p> <p>Action Areas and Objectives: Natural resources (SDGs 2, 6, 14, and 15) Switzerland has an ecological infrastructure of reserves and habitat networks in place. Improvements have been made to both the state of undeveloped areas and the conservation status of wildlife.</p>
61.	Thailand (VNR2017)	<p>Thailand has integrated the environmental dimensions in its national plans. Building on the achievements in the MDG7(Environmental Sustainability), Thailand has made significant progress towards implementation of</p>

		<p>goals and targets within the environmental dimension. Thailand's Sustainable consumption and production patterns advocates for balanced lifestyle that promotes growth and conserves the environment at the same time. Thailand's <i>SCP Roadmap 2017-2036</i> further promotes the concepts in different sectors and implemented various medium-term plan and strategies on green industry, chemical and waste management, environmental management, green procurement as well as green labelling schemes to ensure achievement of SDG 12. Thailand has also integrated measures on climate change to the grassroots level' 17 provinces and 32 municipalities have developed climate action plans for their municipalities complementing the Provincial Disaster risk reduction plans. Coastal reforestation program has resulted in 5.24% increase in mangrove forest areas during 2004-2014. Thailand has also put in place marine resource and ecological management regimes. Thailand has set a target of increasing forest area from 31.6% to 40% through various forestation schemes.</p>
<p>62.</p>	<p>Togo (VNR 2016 and 2017)</p>	<p>Togo is actively implementing the environmental dimension of SDGs. Considering the HLPF Reviewed Goals progress made with regards to the environmental dimension of SDGs. For sustainable exploitation of marine ecosystems, the government of Togo established the National Agency for State Action Maritime Matters which aims at safeguarding maritime interests, effectively combating maritime insecurity in its maritime space and developing its blue economy. Togo is in the process of implementing a program for integrated coastal management and protection against coastal erosion.</p>
<p>63.</p>	<p>Tajikistan (VNR2017)</p>	<p>Building on successful MDG7 implementation, Tajikistan includes Climate change as a cross sectional issue. The goal of environmental sustainability (MDG 7) has also been achieved, but in a narrow interpretation included in the MDGs. GHG emissions in Tajikistan are less than one ton per person per year, and the share of country emissions across the region is only 5%. This is mainly due to the use of Hydro resources provide environmentally friendly energy. Environmental protection demonstrates certain success as depicted by the decrease of emission rates and increase in forest covers in Tajikistan.</p>

<p>64. Thailand (VNR2017)</p>	<p>Thailand has integrated the environmental dimensions in its national plans. Building on the achievements in the MDG7(Environmental Sustainability), Thailand has made significant progress towards implementation of goals and targets within the environmental dimension. Thailand's Sustainable consumption and production patterns advocates for balanced lifestyle that promotes growth and conserves the environment at the same time. Thailand's <i>SCP Roadmap 2017-2036</i> further promotes the concepts in different sectors and implemented various medium-term plan and strategies on green industry, chemical and waste management, environmental management, green procurement as well as green labelling schemes to ensure achievement of SDG 12. Thailand has also integrated measures on climate change to the grassroots level' 17 provinces and 32 municipalities have developed climate action plans for their municipalities complementing the Provincial Disaster risk reduction plans. Coastal reforestation program has resulted in 5.24% increase in mangrove forest areas during 2004-2014. Thailand has also put in place marine resource and ecological management regimes. Thailand has set a target of increasing forest area from 31.6% to 40% through various forestation schemes.</p>
<p>65. Sweden(VNR2017)</p>	<p>Sweden is actively implementing the environmental dimensions of SDGs through national legislation, strategic plans and various initiatives. In March 2017, the Government submitted a bill to the Riksdag for a climate policy framework for Sweden. This framework is a central part of Sweden's work to live up to the Paris Agreement. The climate goal proposed in the bill means that Sweden should have no net emissions of greenhouse gases by 2045. The Government provides local support for climate investments through the Climate Leap initiative. The initiative started in 2015 and has provided support for just over 480 different measures to reduce green-house gas emissions in different parts of the country. In December 2016, actors with regional development responsibility were commissioned to produce regional action plans to integrate and strengthen the climate and environmental perspectives of regional growth work for the period 2017–2020. In 2016, Sweden adopted measures entailing that at least 10 per cent of its marine areas are</p>

		<p>protected. Together with Fiji, Sweden initiated the major UN Ocean Conference in New York in June 2017, which aims to promote the measures necessary to achieve Goal 14. Swedish forestry legislation and the environmental objectives system have provisions and goals that cover almost all aspects of goal 15.</p>
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