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**Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development**

Compilation of main messages for the 2022 voluntary national reviews

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat transmits herewith the main messages of voluntary national reviews presented by 44 States members of the high-level political forum on sustainable development at its 2022 meeting, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#), [70/1](#) and [70/299](#).***

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Andorra

[Original: French]

Introduction

The Principality of Andorra is submitting its second voluntary national report, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the status of achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the country. After submitting its first report in 2018, Andorra established various sustainable development initiatives, such as the National Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2019) and the Equal Treatment and Non-Discrimination Act (2019). However, the economic and social consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic posed a great challenge for the country, which had to adapt its policies to establish a more resilient, inclusive and environmentally friendly development model.

Effects of the COVID-19 pandemic

The economy of the Principality of Andorra is based on an important tertiary sector related to tourism. The restrictions to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus have therefore had a big impact on the country's economy. For example, in 2020, Andorra saw a 40 per cent drop in tourist numbers, resulting in a 10.2 per cent reduction in real gross domestic product (GDP), a 50 per cent increase in unemployment and a 12 per cent decrease in State revenue. Meanwhile, in 2020 the public deficit stood at -99.2 million euros, equivalent to 3.9 per cent of GDP, while in 2021 it amounted to 77.8 million euros, or 2.8 per cent of GDP.

From the outset, the principles of solidarity and co-responsibility have formed the basis of the Government's efforts to promote the protection of citizens. Various social and economic protection policies, which will be detailed in this report, were therefore established following the economic shutdown.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the consequences of global crises have only highlighted the existing vulnerabilities of the country. The need to accelerate economic diversification and promote an energy transition to move towards a development model that is resilient, inclusive and sustainable has become essential for the future of the Principality and its citizens.

Faced with this new scenario, the Government of Andorra launched, in July 2020, an inclusive participatory process to develop an action plan for the period 2021-2023 (Horizon 2023).

Horizon 2023 action plan

Fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Horizon 2023 action plan is a set of policies and measures planned by the Government of Andorra to provide an immediate response to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a view to moving towards economic recovery that lays the foundation for more sustainable development.

Horizon 2023 comprises 77 measures under 20 initiatives based on three pillars, namely, well-being and cohesion, economy and innovation, and alliances for change.

The Horizon 2023 programme also takes into account the negotiations for an association agreement with the European Union, which should enable the establishment of a legal framework for the creation of new economic sectors and the internationalization of already existing ones through participation in the European internal market. It also covers the candidacy of Andorra to become a United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization biosphere reserve, which should drive the tourism model to change into a new sector that is more environmentally friendly and that enhances the culture, landscape and environment of Andorra.

Ownership of the 2030 Agenda

The integration of the 2030 Agenda continues to be a priority for the Government of Andorra. True ownership of the Goals cannot be contemplated without the full participation of Andorran society. The Government is fully aware of the need to promote development that ensures the well-being of future generations. During the drafting of this report, and with a view to assessing the level of knowledge and integration of the Agenda, the Government of Andorra launched a new national survey. Unlike in 2018, the feedback from citizens and the exchange of experiences with local authorities were remarkable and proved to be indispensable for this exercise.

This second national report, which builds on the measures announced in the first report (2018), describes the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on development policies and also provides an analysis of good practices for, and challenges to, achieving the Goals of the 2030 Agenda, all while reporting on the implementation of the Horizon 2023 action plan.

Argentina

[Original: Spanish]

Background

In September 2015, Argentina adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and began the process of its implementation. By adhering to the 2030 Agenda, the country committed to monitoring progress and accountability at the global, regional and national levels. In 2017 and 2020, it submitted its national voluntary reviews to the corresponding high-level political forum on sustainable development. Argentina will present its third voluntary national review to the high-level political forum in 2022.

Achievements

In December 2019, the President of Argentina, Alberto Fernández, took office against a backdrop of social and economic vulnerability driven by unsustainable foreign debt (in terms of the amount owed and the repayment schedule), subsequently exacerbated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Under strong State leadership, policies focused on people, social justice and democracy were introduced. The changes in the Government's circumstances, policies and priorities led in June 2020 to a new process to align the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals with national strategies, driven by the National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies and carried out under the National Inter-Agency Commission for the Implementation and Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Argentina notes that the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the 2030 Agenda means that it is essential to cover the 17 Goals as a whole, as they are all equally important. Moreover, the principle "Leave no one behind" is not limited to the disaggregation of data, but requires a comprehensive approach.

The national matrix for implementing the 2030 Agenda and monitoring progress was established, including indicators, public policies aimed at achieving the targets of the 17 Goals and budgetary investments linked to related interventions. This

resulted in a higher degree of coverage of the targets for each Goal and critical area, which reflected their focus on people and the expansion of rights.

The National Inter-Agency Commission's presence in the provinces, municipalities and other local governments continues to expand, drawing on lessons learned and promoting coordination and feedback at the national level. Forums for dialogue and work created with civil society and public and private companies are being established through partnerships. Continued participation in settings, such as the Forum of the Countries of Latin American and the Caribbean, the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the community of practice of countries presenting their national voluntary reviews, has resulted in peer-to-peer guidance and learning.

Challenges

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Argentina developed early isolation measures and then mandatory preventive social distancing measures to prevent the spread of the virus and the associated loss of health and human life. It also adopted many measures to reduce the economic, social and health impact of the pandemic. The actions that are currently being taken are aimed at ensuring a more sustainable, supportive and just recovery. In the coming years, the country will have to increase its efforts in an adverse national and international context, in particular owing to the high debt level taken on by the previous Government, which limits the potential for development. However, the recent agreement with the International Monetary Fund ensures that the payment of commitments will be based on economic growth, without relegating social investment or limiting rights. Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals remains a challenge and a prospect on the horizon for our country. For this reason, in the short term we plan to deepen (a) the coordination with other actors of the State, academia, civil society, private business sector companies and United Nations entities; (b) the territorialization of the 2030 Agenda; and (c) participation in exchange and accountability forums such as the Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR), the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), communities of practice, the Regional Implementation Forum on Sustainable Development in Latin America and the Caribbean and the high-level political forum on sustainable development. As stated by President Fernández in his speech at the opening of the Congress sessions in March 2020, the goal is to reach all by first reaching those who are furthest behind.

Belarus

[Original: Russian]

Main message of Belarus for the second voluntary national review

Since the end of 2020, Belarus has been implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development against the backdrop of unprecedented illegal unilateral economic sanctions, which are being actively imposed by Western countries. These actions not only are preventing Belarus from implementing the 2030 Agenda, but also run counter to the Charter of the United Nations and the core United Nations human rights conventions. Maintaining unilateral economic sanctions against Belarus will undo the results achieved towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The current level of progress made by Belarus towards achieving the Goals is quite high, standing at almost 80 per cent.

Belarus was ranked fifty-third in the human development index in 2019 and is categorized as a very high human development country. In the Sustainable Development Goals Index, Belarus ranks twenty-fourth (out of 165 States).

The Goals have been integrated into the National Sustainable Development Strategy of the Republic of Belarus until 2035 and are also aligned with government socioeconomic development programmes.

The level of monitoring and evaluation of the Goals is high in Belarus. A national platform has been created for reporting on the Goals; access has been ensured to 229 of the 267 global indicators; and 166 indicators are in line with global levels.

A unified regional list of indicators for the Goals was compiled comprising 145 indicators (85 are on the national list of indicators and 26 reflect the specifics of regional development).

Goal 4. The revised Education Code of the Republic of Belarus, the vision for the development of the education system of the Republic of Belarus until 2030 and the State education and youth policy programme for the period 2021–2025 are in effect.

The adult literacy rate is 99.8 per cent. The enrolment rate of preschool-age children in pre-primary education is 100 per cent. The proportion of employed people who have received primary, general secondary and vocational education is 99 per cent.

Belarus ranks seventeenth out of 163 countries on the indicator “Access to basic knowledge” in the Social Progress Index for 2021.

Belarus also ensures gender parity in education. A framework for lifelong learning is being implemented. Access to education for students with special needs is guaranteed, and inclusive education has been developed.

Goal 5. The implementation of gender policy in Belarus is based on upholding national interests, taking into account the universally recognized principles of international law and human rights, and supporting the traditional values and cultural foundations of Belarusian society.

Belarus is one of 22 countries in the world where the human development index for women is equal to or greater than the equivalent indicator for men. Belarus ranks thirty-first out of 162 countries according to the gender inequality index and thirty-third out of 156 countries according to the *Global Gender Gap Report 2021* of the World Economic Forum.

The proportion of women in leadership positions is about 50 per cent, and support is provided to women entrepreneurs.

Belarus is implementing its sixth national gender equality action plan, covering the period 2021–2025.

A national model for reproductive health and family planning is being developed and includes the establishment of a men’s health service. Belarus is rated among the top 25 countries in terms of good conditions for mothers.

Goal 14. Belarus is located on the watershed of rivers belonging to the basins of two seas, namely, the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea. Being landlocked, Belarus contributes to life below water through the protection of transboundary rivers, contributing to the preservation of the waters of the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea.

Belarus has established the principle of basin water resources management, which involves managing river basins and improving the ecological status of surface water bodies. This work should result in 75 per cent of water resources being accorded the ecological status of “good and above”.

Goal 15. Belarus is one of 10 forested countries in Europe.

A national action plan for the preservation and sustainable use of biological diversity for the period 2021–2025 is in effect.

A draft law of the Republic of Belarus on the management of genetic resources has been prepared, and its adoption is scheduled for 2022.

A regulatory framework for conservation areas, including those of a transboundary nature, is in place. The construction by Poland of barriers to prevent crossings on the Polish-Belarusian border, some of which will affect the territory of Belovezhskaya Pushcha, a World Heritage site of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, gives rise to uncertainty regarding the preservation of this relict forest, its biodiversity and the ecosystem that has developed.

Particular attention is being paid to the protection and use of peatlands and the achievement of land degradation neutrality. The area of land affected by various types of soil degradation, including agricultural land exposed to radioactive contamination following the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant, has been decreasing every year.

Goal 17. To establish sustainable partnerships in Belarus, a framework for achieving the Goals has been developed, involving representatives of government agencies, parliament, business and civil society, and collaboration is under way with United Nations agencies and other international and regional partners.

The concept of public-private partnerships has been enshrined in the revised Constitution of Belarus, and significant work has been done to encourage and promote such partnerships.

Belarus builds cooperation with States in the international arena on the basis of partnership. Belarus advocates the development of global thematic partnerships in international organizations and actively participates in this process. Through the efforts of Belarus, a global partnership on combating trafficking in persons has been established at the United Nations.

Botswana

[Original: English]

Institutional structures in place for integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into the national development planning process

Botswana successfully integrated the Sustainable Development Goals into national development frameworks. The Sustainable Development Goal planning guidelines serve as a tool for mainstreaming the Goal indicators into Botswana's medium- and long-term development frameworks. Nine ministries piloted the guidelines; as a result, several indicators moved from the easily feasible category to the measurable category.

Following the establishment of a national steering committee and technical task force, the parliamentary Special Select Committee was set up to ensure sufficient resourcing and accountability for delivering the Goals.

Financing strategy for the Sustainable Development Goals being developed

A gender-responsive and climate-smart financing strategy for the Goals is being developed. Several good practices have been adopted in that regard, including zero-

based budgeting, results-based budgeting and the integrated national financing framework.

Progress towards gender equality, but challenges remain

Botswana has made strides towards achieving gender equality, boasting a gender parity index for access to primary education of 0.95. Progress has also been achieved on sexual and reproductive health and rights indicators. There has been a decline in AIDS-related deaths, from 5,300 in 2017 to 5,100 in 2020. The total fertility rate has declined from 3.0 to 2.8 births per woman, and the contraceptive prevalence rate has increased from 53.0 per cent in 2017 to 64.7 per cent in 2020. Legislative reforms such as the Sexual Offenders Registry Act of 2021 have been enacted to address violence and exploitation. In addition, coordinative mechanisms such as an interministerial committee have been established to address gender-based violence. However, such violence remains a challenge, with one in three women experiencing it in their lifetime. Pockets of unmet family planning needs exist; 17 per cent of women of reproductive age have an unmet need for family planning. Although women constitute the largest proportion of the labour force, 55.4 per cent of them remain unemployed compared with 49.6 per cent of men. Despite legislative and policy reform, Botswana's share of women involved in public-sector decision-making and political leadership remains low. Women hold only 18 per cent, 11 per cent and 25 per cent of seats at the local government, parliament and Cabinet levels, respectively.

Achieving inclusive and quality education

The public-private partnerships in the education sector have fostered an inclusive policy environment and strengthened collaborative approaches to teaching and learning. Botswana is implementing multilingualism and aiming for improved access to education for learners with disabilities. In effect, Botswana has developed a diversified education product that recognizes the different needs of learners.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) catalysed the deployment of resources for online education, prompting partnerships with the private sector to scale up digital access and ensure the continuity of education.

Despite high primary- and secondary-school enrolment rates, early childhood and tertiary education lag behind. Though Botswana's public expenditure on education stands at 7.1 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), the level of investment in tertiary education is six times the level for basic education. Meanwhile, 63.4 per cent of tertiary students come from the top two income quintiles. There is a need to focus on pre-primary and primary education to strengthen the basic foundations for lifelong learning.

Strengthened sustainable environment financing

Biodiversity management is central to Botswana's development agenda, utilizing approximately 3 per cent of GDP. Tourism contributes approximately 12 per cent of GDP, most of which is attributable to biodiversity, given that 40 per cent of the land mass is protected.

Botswana initiated public-sector budgeting and financing reforms and developed a biodiversity finance plan. It also developed a community-based natural resources management programme to benefit communities. The national environmental fund is in place to provide community organizations with grants for implementing biodiversity conservation projects. To ensure integrated land-use management that supports the maintenance of natural capital, the national spatial plan is being rolled out.

Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

The pandemic had a significant impact on the achievement of the Goals, with an increase in unemployment and a marked slowdown in economic activity. The negative economic impact of COVID-19 resulted in reduced foreign reserves.¹

In response, the Economic Recovery and Transformation Plan was developed to boost economic activity and incomes and expand productive capacity. Notable initiatives emerging from the Plan include a private sector recovery plan and support for the informal sector. The Plan is also built on broad-based partnerships and outlines its own means of implementation.

Cameroon

[Original: French]

Despite the difficult situation in the country, Cameroon continues to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was taken into account in the design of the National Development Strategy 2020–2030. Although results have fallen short of expectations, the Government intends to promote sustainable and inclusive development based on high-quality human capital.

As part of the regular monitoring of progress towards the achievement of the targets of the 2030 Agenda, Cameroon will submit its second voluntary national report, which was produced in a participatory and inclusive manner. This report provides an analysis of the factors supporting positive trends and those hindering progress in various sectors since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

In education, in addition to the qualitative and quantitative shortage of infrastructure and teachers, which is higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa, education policy has been strongly influenced by COVID-19, which led to the temporary closure of schools and the suspension of in-person classes. To cope with this, integrated national distance-learning arrangements were put in place through the media, the Internet and the distribution of teaching materials. Thanks to special budgetary allocations for the sector and the mitigation measures adopted by the Government, in-person classes resumed before the official examinations began. These response measures have not benefited all learners, however, owing to their vulnerabilities and difficulties in obtaining access to information and communications technology.

Regarding gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, gender-based violence increased with the COVID-19 pandemic and the related psychosocial shocks. In 2020, nearly 62 per cent of women and girls were exposed to domestic violence and about 56 per cent had reduced access to livelihood opportunities. In addition, the increase in the price of basic commodities had a negative impact on the market basket. The Government has adopted mitigation measures, including the implementation of projects to strengthen the empowerment of women and girls.

Regarding the oceans and seas, the steps taken by the Government to police the environment and restrict maritime activities owing to the COVID-19 pandemic have made it possible to reduce marine pollution, in particular from land-based sources. The steps taken to combat the use of non-compliant plastics have reduced the density of sea debris and marine pollution from nutrients. In addition, the production and transplantation of mangrove seedlings, the restoration of mangroves and the cleaning

¹ Approximately 60 per cent of the eligible population is fully vaccinated.

of water bodies invaded by water hyacinth have contributed to the restoration of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Progress has been made in the preservation and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems by increasing the forested land and protected areas that are managed and integrating the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity into national development frameworks. The reduction in human activity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, however, left more space for wildlife, with a greater risk of interactions between species and thus the emergence of other zoonotic diseases.

In terms of resource mobilization and partnerships, the State's budgetary revenue exhibited an upward trend over the period 2015–2021, owing largely to the good performance of tax revenue, whose share of budgetary revenue increased from 55 per cent in 2016 to 79 per cent in 2021 thanks to ambitious tax reforms. There has also been an increase in official development assistance flows to Cameroon, in particular for the implementation of the COVID-19 response plan. In contrast, foreign direct investment has fallen owing to the pandemic and security disruptions in some parts of the country.

Despite the measures taken by the State, several challenges that Cameroon is committed to addressing remain, including:

- The establishment of a strategic intelligence system and mechanisms for adapting and responding to shocks and changes;
- The production of human capital capable of supporting the ambition of economic development;
- The exploitation of new niches for financing the economy;
- Support for the monitoring of the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Côte d'Ivoire

[Original: French]

Côte d'Ivoire, under the high aegis of His Excellency Alassane Ouattara, President of the Republic, has focused on incorporating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063 into its development plans and into sectoral and local policies. The aim of the National Development Plan 2021–2025, implementing the United Côte d'Ivoire vision, is thus to accelerate the structural transformation of the economy to raise Côte d'Ivoire to the rank of an upper-middle-income country by 2030.

To foster ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals, activities to raise awareness among and mobilize stakeholders have been carried out since 2016 to enable every citizen to contribute to achieving a balance between the quality of the environment, economic efficiency and social progress.

As a result of this process, 40 priority targets and 11 catalysts were identified. One of the main catalysts is the National Social Programme 2019–2020. With a view to accelerating poverty and inequality reduction, the Programme has been extended to cover the period 2022–2024.

The implementation of the National Development Plan 2016–2020 has led to a substantial reduction in poverty and has increased access for communities to health, education, employment, drinking water and sanitation services. These achievements have helped to consolidate economic growth despite the adverse global environment.

The resilience of the Ivorian economy to external shocks, combined with the effectiveness of the economic and health response plan, made it possible to contain the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve a growth rate of about 2 per cent in 2020, compared with a 2 per cent contraction in sub-Saharan Africa.

Notwithstanding its achievements, the country faces challenges related to ensuring the access of communities to basic social services, maintaining strong, inclusive, diversified and sustainable economic growth, developing the private sector and mobilizing domestic resources to finance the Goals.

To strengthen resilience and combat fragility, the State intends to accelerate the structural transformation of the economy by increasing opportunities for wealth and job creation, in particular for young people and women.

The Government will maintain a high-quality and accessible health system, support the implementation of universal health coverage, implement strategies to ensure better acquisition of knowledge and basic skills by learners and step up efforts to combat illiteracy.

The Government is also continuing its efforts to empower women and girls by developing human capital through school enrolment and retention, and improving their sexual and reproductive health and financial inclusion.

The Government will also focus its efforts on managing, securing and mobilizing water resources. It will facilitate equal access to electricity for all citizens and promote renewable and clean energy for sustainable development.

The Government will pursue a robust policy to ensure access to decent work for all, including young people and persons with disabilities, with improved labour market governance and access to decent housing for all.

To address the threats of climate change, Côte d'Ivoire will maintain a healthy living environment through eco-citizenship practices, create climate-resilient opportunities for investment and make the green economy a source of decent jobs through the implementation of its "green pact" under the national sustainable development strategy.

Côte d'Ivoire will also develop sustainable agriculture and inclusive value chains by promoting close coordination between agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and fishing activities and climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts.

With a view to producing factual and disaggregated statistical data, the State is committed to financing major statistical operations and to implementing the reform of the national statistical system.

Lastly, the Government has launched the process of localizing the Goals with the support of the United Nations system. To this end, the lessons learned from the pilot project in the Gbéké region will be built upon and replicated throughout the country through partnerships between civil society, local authorities and the private sector.

Djibouti

[Original: French]

Voluntary national review: for perfect harmony between the objectives of the National Development Plan of Djibouti and the Sustainable Development Goals

I. Introduction

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, Djibouti has supported the spirit and principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

and has worked towards the full achievement of the Goals, integrating them, since 2016, into the priorities and objectives of its Vision Djibouti 2035 policy and its five-year development plans, including the Accelerated Growth Strategy for the Promotion of Employment 2015–2019 and the “Djibouti Inclusion, Connectivity and Institutions” National Development Plan 2020–2024.

II. Alignment of national development priorities and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

The level of alignment of the Accelerated Growth Strategy and the Djibouti Inclusion, Connectivity and Institutions plan with the targets of the Goals is good, at more than 80 per cent. Of the 107 targets to be prioritized, 55 have been selected for Djibouti taking into account its specificities and its development priorities.

Of the 55 priority targets, 53 are well aligned with the country’s strategic priorities defined in the Djibouti Inclusion, Connectivity and Institutions plan.

In Djibouti, efforts to achieve and monitor the Goals are carried out through the institutional mechanism for monitoring the Vision 2035 and the five-year development plans.

III. Major progress in the achievement of the priority Sustainable Development Goals

In line with the principle of leaving no one behind, Djibouti has made significant achievements in supporting the most vulnerable groups through the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, the creation of the National Agency for Persons with Disabilities and the inclusion of refugees in the national health and education systems.

With the implementation of the “Aiming for Quality” Education Master Plan 2010–2019 and its three-year action plans, significant progress is being made in education access, equity and quality.

- Between 2015 and 2020, the gross enrolment rate increased by 17.95 per cent in primary school and by 15.41 per cent in secondary school. The ratio of girls to boys was 0.87 in primary school and 0.81 in secondary school in 2020.
- This progress has been achieved as a result of free and compulsory schooling for children aged from 6 to 16, the construction of local schools, the launch of preschool, incentives for children from disadvantaged backgrounds and families, improved curricula and teaching methods, and better trained teachers.

As a result of national strategies for the total abandonment of female genital mutilation, the prevalence among women decreased significantly in the past decade, by 22.4 per cent.

- The Family Code Act of 2002 has protected young girls from early marriage and women from all forms of domestic violence (12.6 per cent in 2019).
- In terms of decision-making, the percentage of women parliamentarians is 2.5 times higher and the number of women ministers has doubled since 2015.

The proportion of women in leadership positions has doubled since 2017, to 24.8 per cent in 2019.

Regarding the management and protection of marine and coastal ecosystems, 40 hectares have been restored and 125,000 mangroves have been planted on 114 hectares. The surface area of existing marine protected areas increased by 42 per cent in 2019, to 83,535 hectares.

As part of efforts to preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, the surface area of important sites for terrestrial biodiversity was extended to 680 hectares, with six terrestrial areas protected to date.

- Official development assistance for the preservation and sustainable use of biodiversity has increased by \$8.8 million since 2017.

Foreign direct investment has doubled since 2015, reaching \$265 million in 2018. Internet access increased from 14.1 per cent in 2015 to 24.8 per cent in 2019.

IV. Major challenges

Despite the progress made, results in the achievement and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals are mixed in several sectors, and there are gaps both in the ownership of the Goals and their integration into sectoral policies and in the availability of the necessary data.

Managing the economic consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which are compounded by the conflicts in the Horn of Africa, is the biggest challenge facing the public authorities.

Dominica

[Original: English]

Building the world's first climate-resilient country

The Commonwealth of Dominica is a small island developing State in the Caribbean, spanning 751 km² with 148 km of coastline and a population of 72,000. It is the only Caribbean island to have retained a colony of pre-Columbian population, the Kalinagos. We are called the “nature island of the Caribbean” because of our lush rainforests, 365 rivers and Morne Diablotin, the Caribbean’s highest mountain.

The cornerstone of our development, as a small island, is putting our people first, ensuring development that is equal, inclusive and aimed at leaving no one behind. Our focus on development that is equal, responsive and ahead of its time with regard to women’s empowerment dates as far back as 1978 when we gained independence in a process led by Dame Eugenia Charles, who was later elected in 1980 as our first female Prime Minister, becoming the first female Prime Minister in the Caribbean as well. With 44 years of independence behind us, the preparation of the present voluntary national review is timely and allows us to take stock of our journey so far and to assess our current development progress.

Our first voluntary national review reflects and reaffirms our commitment to advancing the global agenda. We believe that our people must decide the future of Dominica, and the preparation of the review embodies this thrust, as stakeholder engagement has been an important part of the process.

The United Nations places Dominica in the high human development category with a human development index value of 0.742, positioning the country at 94th out of 189 countries. We have recorded positive indicators across several development spheres, including improvements in fiscal discipline and management; reduction of poverty; expansion of housing; improvements in educational outcomes; reduction of infant mortality; improved access to safe water; and gender equality. In the area of governance, we have made advances in the rule of law and public-sector modernization and we have enhanced our foreign policy.

Our story of development, however, cannot be told without mention of our vulnerability to the effects of climate change and other exogenous shocks, such as the

coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has further underscored the multi-hazard environment in which we exist. A little short of five years ago, in 2017, Dominica was devastated by Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane, which resulted in losses amounting to 226 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), causing significant destruction to every sector and community. This event followed on the heels of Tropical Storm Erika, in 2015, which cost Dominica 96 per cent of its GDP. The COVID-19 pandemic created new challenges and impacted the expected gains that would have strengthened Dominica's recovery post-Hurricane Maria.

In 2020, Dominica's GDP contracted by 11 per cent, and the country only achieved a modest recovery of 3.7 per cent of GDP in 2021. These disasters not only had an impact on the country's physical environment and economic growth trajectory but also exposed Dominica's socioeconomic vulnerabilities, inflicting hardship on our people. Nevertheless, these disasters provided us with a unique opportunity to review our development pathway, create new solutions and set new ambitions to advance our development prospects. We remain focused and on track.

We recognize that development, underpinned by a resilience agenda, is key to sustainably uplifting Dominicans towards our shared vision for the future. Over the past several years, the Government has promulgated three key documents to achieve that end: National Resilience Development Strategy Dominica 2030; Dominica Climate Resilience and Recovery Plan 2020–2030; and disaster risk financing strategy. These documents, which represent our road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. Implemented together, they will enhance policy coherence and help us to aggressively identify key enablers and critical 'accelerator points' for lagging Goals.

As we work to prioritize resilience and to create enduring prosperity for our people, we will be leaning heavily on the knowledge, perspectives and experiences of our partners around the world. We, too, have much to offer, and through this process we will share our experiences, recommendations and solutions as we journey to build the world's first climate-resilient country and become the gold standard in resilience for small island developing States.

El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]

El Salvador has encouraged ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals through development-oriented processes. First, it has made a commitment to sustainable development at the highest political level, under the leadership of the National Council for Sustainable Development, coordinated by the Vice-President of the Republic. Second, it has established a national Goals prioritization that reflects the country's primary needs and has been in place since 2015. Third, it has adopted institutional strategic planning instruments, together with a corresponding budget, that contribute to the promotion of sustainable development. Among other instruments, the Social Development Plan for 2020–2024 and the 2030 Digital Agenda include specific commitments related to the achievement of the Goals, aimed at attaining gender equality and upholding human rights.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) crisis has become an opportunity to promote a style of public management that leaves no one behind. Thus, El Salvador implemented a welfare strategy that has ensured improved quality and access to food security; the provision of educational services with a focus on bridging the digital divide; the improvement, expansion and innovation of health services, including free access to COVID-19 vaccines; the implementation of social and economic recovery

measures through supporting microenterprises and small businesses, generating employment, strengthening the capacity to ensure labour rights and implementing a labour market information system, among others; and the improvement of support for purchasing or improving housing.

With a focus on the medium and long term, we are working towards institutional transformation to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and optimize people's living conditions. Under the leadership of the First Lady of El Salvador, by means of the "Born with Affection" Act and the "Growing Together" policy, efforts are being made to improve the health system for women and children. At the initiative of the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele, and with a view to promoting strategic territorial investment and generating conditions that preserve people's dignity, the Municipal Works Directorate was established to improve coordination with municipalities and ensure transparency in the use of funds. In addition, the Master Plan for Agricultural Recovery, which seeks to address one of the structural causes of forced migration in the rural sector, ensure food security and contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 1 and 2, was launched in 2021. The Secretariat for Innovation has promoted State ownership with regard to digital transformation in order to generate timely data for decision-making for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The El Salvador Agency for International Cooperation was also created to achieve greater alignment of cooperation with national priorities. El Salvador is committed to the achievement of Goal 8 on decent work, diversifying the production matrix to generate a favourable investment climate for agricultural, tourism, energy and digital development.

As a middle-income country, El Salvador faces challenges in meeting the Goals by 2030. The country therefore continues to make calls in different high-level forums to facilitate access to resources and initiatives that contribute to an early structural transformation, including through debt sustainability.

It also promotes adaptation to climate change and recognizes the responsibility of human beings in the management of natural resources in the Anthropocene Era through efforts to ensure the country's energy transformation towards renewable sources.

It has adopted a proactive policy to address the historical problem of corruption and lack of public safety and has promoted international efforts to combat money-laundering and terrorism, which has enabled it to become a member of the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America.

It is also worth noting that El Salvador is a member of the Development Centre of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, through which we reiterate our interest in being an active part of the political discussion on development and in becoming a full member.

At the close of this report, the preparation and implementation of a Salvadoran strategy for sustainable development to 2030 will begin and, in the medium term, a legal and institutional framework will be strengthened to guarantee a coordinated effort towards sustainable development.

Equatorial Guinea

[Original: English]

In 2015, Equatorial Guinea committed itself to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since then, several actions have been taken to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. However, the path to implementation has been met with significant challenges, which we can overcome together.

Country efforts to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national planning

After a period of economic and financial adjustment, the Government of Equatorial Guinea decided to reorient the horizon 2020 national plan, considering achievements and challenges encountered in its implementation, and with the support of development partners. In compliance with the obligations arising from the country's membership in the African Union and the United Nations, the Government also decided to integrate the Goals and Agenda 2063 into its planning schemes.

The decision materialized at the third national economic conference, held in 2019 on the theme "Consolidating social equity and economic diversification". The national strategy for sustainable development ("Equatorial Guinea 2035 agenda") was an outcome of the conference. Its priority axes for development are:

- (a) Poverty eradication, integrating Goals 1–4, 6 and 17;
- (b) Social inclusion and sustainable peace, including Goals 5, 10, 16 and 17;
- (c) Productivity and industrialization, covering Goals 8, 9 and 17;
- (d) Environmental sustainability, covering Goals 7, 11–15 and 17.

Coordination and monitoring mechanisms for the Sustainable Development Goals

The national Sustainable Development Goals coordination commission monitors the Goals in the country. By decree, the Commission is presided by the office of the Prime Minister, known as the Presidency of the Government, and it integrates the public, private and civil society sectors.

In 2019, a seminar organized to prioritize the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals produced a list of 158 prioritized targets of the 169 in the 2030 Agenda. The national statistical system has the task of producing 237 indicators that constitute the national indicator framework, of which 121 were categorized as "very urgent". The indicator production process began in 2019 with the development of the second national household survey (suspended owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and resumed in 2022).

Results achieved in a challenging context

Equatorial Guinea made progress towards the 2030 Agenda during its transition from the horizon 2020 plan to the Equatorial Guinea 2035 agenda. According to a report on the road travelled in the implementation of the horizon 2020 plan (2008–2017), Equatorial Guinea:

1. Progressed in economic diversification – non-oil gross domestic product (GDP) increased from 26 per cent of real GDP in 2007 to 42 per cent in 2017;
2. Made substantial progress in infrastructure development – from 600 to 2,530 km of paved roads between 2007 and 2017;

3. Developed reforms to improve governance and the business climate, such as the 2011 constitutional reform and the creation the one-stop shop for business registration;
4. Increased the country's installed electricity capacity from 97 MW to 394 MW between 2007 and 2017.

However, major challenges are hindering the country's ability to make the desired progress. The 2014 oil crisis and the drop in oil prices during the pandemic significantly reduced export revenues and public revenues related to the sector. The pandemic also hampered economic activity outside of hydrocarbons, owing to closures and mobility restrictions. Meanwhile, public spending needs increased in response to the pandemic and the explosions in Bata on 7 March 2021.

Way forward

We have the utmost confidence that we can achieve our purpose by working together, executing plans without sparing efforts, promoting synergies and building resilience. It is a purpose that requires dedication, patriotism and transparency. In this regard, Equatorial Guinea is committed to:

1. Continuing efforts in its economic diversification to reduce poverty and inequalities and improve social and economic resilience;
2. Promoting good governance, guaranteeing judicial independence and legal security;
3. Strengthening its statistical capacity and public administration information management to better identify vulnerable populations, develop evidence-based policies and improve transparency and social inclusion with a view to creating development opportunities;
4. Improving the business environment and expanding funding opportunities to ensure the success of development plans;
5. Increasing investments in human capital, in particular for youth and with a gender focus;
6. Finding the balance between economic, social and environmental needs for the sustainable development of the country;
7. Ensuring that development reaches those most likely to be left behind, including by ensuring that development is spread throughout the territory.

Eritrea

[Original: English]

Eritrea's inaugural voluntary national review report contains the country's experiences, including successes, remaining challenges and key takeaways, in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The review is grounded in the country's successes on the health-related Millennium Development Goals and was conducted in the spirit of peer learning, mutual exchange and transparency. Eritrea seeks to consolidate local ownership of the 2030 Agenda, promote awareness and strengthen cooperation to progress.

Sustainable development remains an integral part of Eritrea's long-term vision. The national policies and action plans are aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and are supportive of Eritrea's progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Eritrea has fostered a conducive environment for development that promotes inclusive, whole-of-society approaches, leverages the country's diversity and wealth of indigenous knowledge systems, and catalyses contributions from all regions and communities.

Eritrea has established cooperative frameworks and partnerships with many bilateral and multilateral partners. Engagement and cooperation are built upon a platform of common principles and trust, with concerted efforts based on complementarity and guided by locally defined priorities and needs. Eritrea's diaspora continues to play an active role in assisting development.

Eritrea's development and nation-building processes are grounded in social justice. Emphasis is placed on ensuring that all citizens can fully participate in, contribute to and benefit from sustainable development. Laws and policies establish a foundation for inclusive development while guaranteeing a range of fundamental rights. Legal instruments and protection programmes address the specific needs of and catalyse progress for vulnerable groups. These interventions cultivate peace and unity within Eritrea's multi-ethnic society, mitigate disparities and help to ensure that everyone is empowered and able to enjoy the fruits of sustainable development.

Notwithstanding challenges, including illegal, unjust sanctions and a difficult regional geopolitical context, great strides have been achieved towards the following:

- Universal health coverage, with investments in expanding health infrastructure, equipment, medicines and personnel. Maternal and child mortality have been significantly reduced, the proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel has risen, routine vaccination coverage rates are nearly universal, HIV prevalence and new infections have declined, and there have been major inroads against malaria, tuberculosis, hepatitis B and neglected tropical diseases.
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation, halting biodiversity loss, reducing land degradation and restoring ecosystems are priorities. Water and soil conservation programmes are being expanded, enclosures and protected areas have been established, greening and irrigation schemes are proceeding, and a vast network of terraces, dams and ponds has been constructed. There are plans for the desalination of seawater for domestic use and economic sectors, and degraded land is being restored and rehabilitated. Renewable energy remains a focus, with ongoing initiatives to improve energy efficiency and promote clean alternatives. A summer holiday programme for young people has been effective in promoting advocacy for environmental management.
- Developing infrastructure, raising agricultural production and productivity and ensuring food and nutrition security, while access to electricity, water, sanitation and hygiene, among other services, has been expanded, notably in rural areas. Also, youth and adult literacy rates have increased, enrolments have risen, gender gaps have narrowed, and education remains free across all levels.

Throughout the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, Eritrea has maintained among the lowest death and infection rates in Africa, with a high recovery rate and minimal community transmission. Success has been based upon sustained aggressive action; clear communication from authorities; public buy-in and solidarity; and past experience in controlling endemic and communicable diseases. Although measures have been implemented to alleviate its impacts, COVID-19 has led to many disruptions.

Many areas for improvement remain. Strong local and global partnerships will help to accelerate progress, scale up successful interventions and support a sustainable and equitable COVID-19 recovery. Technical and financial cooperation are required to enhance the sustainable management of natural resources and disaster

preparedness, address climate change impacts, introduce clean technologies and promote a just energy transition. Cooperation is also essential for attaining universal health coverage, the provision of essential health services and the further improvement of the well-being of the population. There is need to strengthen the national statistical system and build capacity with regard to the generation, analysis and dissemination of timely, high-quality and disaggregated data which will enhance the monitoring infrastructure for tracking progress and support evidence-based planning.

Eswatini

[Original: English]

Based on the presentations and deliberations during the voluntary national review consultation process, key messages were developed. These comprised key issues, trends and recommendations to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at national level.

Emerging challenges: Eswatini has been hit hard by the coronavirus disease (COVID- 19) pandemic, Cyclone Eloise and civil unrest in the past two years, all of which had devastating effects on an economy that was already faced with low economic growth. The economic growth rate declined from 2.2 per cent (2019) to -1.9 per cent (2020) and is estimated to increase to 5.9 per cent (2021). The unemployment rate increased from 23 per cent reported in the last voluntary national review to 33.3 per cent (2021). These shocks have adversely affected progress under poverty and economic related Sustainable Development Goals.

Financing of the Goals: The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated that funds be redirected to the health sector to respond to the pandemic, hence compromising progress on other goals. The Government needs to work in partnership with development partners, private sector organizations and civil society to bring the economy back on the recovery path.

Data: National development plans and reports produced by the country continue to be compromised by the lack of credible and timely data. Also, producers of data need to engage more with their stakeholders in order to better appreciate data needs and priorities. There is a need for the Government to invest in both qualitative and quantitative data.

Sustainable Development Goal popularity: Stakeholders, particularly at the grass-roots level, are not adequately informed about progress on the Goals and their roles. The Government needs to scale up efforts to raise awareness about the Goals and support the preparation of regional development plans that incorporate the Goals in order to improve ownership and implementation.

Accelerating implementation: Sectors where services have not been decentralized are at risk of being left behind. There is an urgent need for the Government to decentralize functions and powers to the local level in order to fast-track developmental projects and programmes and reduce disparities.

Specific key messages about the Goals are as follows:

Goal 1: end poverty

- Climate and economic shocks have worsened the problem of a high poverty rate and inequalities. In view of these challenges, social protection needs to continue to be one of the Government's top priorities.

Goal 13: climate action

- Given the devastating impact of climate change, national development plans need to be climate proofed. Also, an adequate budget needs to be allocated towards the implementation of programmes on climate change.

Goal 15: life on land

- Communities need to be sensitized to continue to practise climate-friendly agriculture to reduce disaster risk, to plant trees to prevent land degradation, and to conserve nature and forests for green growth. The Government, working with development partners, should continue to mobilize resources so as to protect life on land. It is also important for the Government to continue to implement measures on disaster risk reduction so as to mitigate disaster risks and build resilience.

Goal 4: quality education

- The country has made huge strides in improving the primary education completion rate to reach 105.2 per cent. However, the completion rate in lower secondary education remains low, at 67.8 per cent, and this is a major concern for the country. There is a need to remove bottlenecks hindering the survival of learners at this level.

Goal 5: gender equality

- There is need for advocacy and to strengthen the enforcement of policies and legislations that support the rights of women in society and their participation in economic activity, namely, access to land tenure rights and access to finance, among others.

Goal 17: partnerships

- The country needs resources to fund its development agenda if it is to achieve implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Government needs to act with urgency in providing an environment that would allow for resources to be mobilized, using innovative measures while managing debt level. Also, the Government needs to act fast in putting in place measures for the restoration of peace and stability so as to boost investor confidence as well as an enabling environment for long-term and smart partnerships.

Conclusion

The Government of Eswatini remains committed to implementing the 2030 development agenda. Going forward, it hopes to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations and the private sector. The main focus will be on building back better from the economic shocks through strengthening systems and mobilizing resources.

Ethiopia

[Original: English]

Ethiopia's development aspiration is aligned with the fundamental principles of sustainable development. Its current development agenda is rooted in its vision of becoming an "African beacon of prosperity". The vision is realized through the implementation of its 10-year development plan (2021–2030).

Ethiopia integrates the Sustainable Development Goals into the 10-year development plan during its preparation in a multisectoral and multi-stakeholder consultation process. The previous growth and transformation plan was also aligned with Goals, with overall alignment score of 78.4 per cent. The Goals have been integrated into the budget system by allocating the lion's share of the budget to pro-poor sectors and a dedicated budget to the Goals.

The focus of Ethiopia's 2022 voluntary national review report is on reviewing the progress in the implementation of the 17 Goals. The preparation of the report benefited from broad-based stakeholder consultations.

Status of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

Unlike the 2017 voluntary national review report, the 2022 report serves to assess progress with regard to five pillars: people (Goals 1–4 and 5), prosperity (Goals 7–11), planet (Goals 6 and 12–15), peace (Goal 16), and partnerships (Goal 17).

People

Ethiopia has achieved significant strides in reducing poverty and hunger and improving health, education and gender outcomes. Poverty declined from 23.5 per cent in 2015/16 to 19 per cent in 2019/20. Ethiopia has also made progress in increasing enrolment rates, reducing stunting and wasting, and improving both maternal and child health. The Government allocated on average 61 per cent of the budget to pro-poor sectors in the period 2015/16–2020/21. The implementation of synergistic social protection programmes helps to protect the most vulnerable groups of the population to ensure that no one and no place are left behind. However, both domestic and global shocks have adversely impacted progress on this pillar.

Prosperity

Ethiopia has made substantive progress in achieving economic growth and improving key infrastructure. Per capita gross domestic product expanded by 6.03 per cent per year between 2015/16 and 2020/21. Access to infrastructure improved, with increased access to electricity and a reduced share of the rural population located within 5 km of an all-weather road. Fully electrified by renewable energy sources, the Addis Ababa light railway and the Ethio-Djibouti railway facilitate bulk transport and reduce carbon emissions and pollution. However, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, internal conflict and drought have taken a heavy economic toll by lowering the expected dividend from the country's comprehensive reform.

Planet

Addressing climate change and other environmental issues has featured prominently at the highest leadership level with regard to the Green Legacy Initiative aimed at forest-landscape transformations and better livelihoods. Approximately 18 billion seedlings have been planted since 2019. Ethiopia has shown improvements in providing drinking water services; access to clean drinking water reached 58.5 per cent in 2020/21. Forest coverage has increased to 19.5 per cent owing to the massive mobilization of citizens to conserve natural resources.

Peace

While recurring internal conflicts caused casualties and damaged economic and social infrastructures, Ethiopia has made efforts to ensure peace and accountability by establishing democratic institutions and carrying out legal reforms. The Government has established an independent national dialogue commission to

facilitate an inclusive dialogue and reconciliation process that would build consensus and lay a firm foundation for nation-building.

Partnerships

The country benefited from increased official development assistance, foreign direct investment and remittance inflows. Ethiopia has undertaken far-reaching reforms, including the establishment of the Ethiopian Diaspora Agency and the Ethiopian diaspora trust fund to coordinate and mobilize the global diaspora community in national development activities. However, the global environment has become unfavourable and hostile to effective cooperation, which could deter the implementation of Goals, some of which are national responses to global challenges. Ethiopia stands ready to cooperate with other countries to strengthen the means of implementation going forward.

Good practices

Green Legacy Initiative. The aim of the Initiative is to combat land degradation, deforestation and climate change, promote ecotourism and ensure food security through local inputs and mass mobilization in urban and rural areas.

Synergistic social protection programmes. Programmes such as the productive safety net programme combine social protection with broader development and livelihood through the protection, prevention and promotion of vulnerable groups.

Challenges

Challenges include the following:

- Inadequate finance and weak institutional capacity for policy delivery;
- Unfavourable and hostile global environment for Goal implementation.

Areas of required support

Areas of required support include the following:

- Financial support to implement the Goals;
- Capacity-building on integrated planning, implementation, statistical systems and reporting.

Gabon

[Original: French]

Introduction

Despite funding constraints related to declines in oil prices in 2014 and 2019 and to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic in 2020, Gabon has continued to take ownership and work towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Overall, progress has been made on the environment, with mixed results in the social sectors, while efforts are still needed on the Goals related to prosperity and peace.

Key results

Regarding education, pre-primary education has become widespread. The net school enrolment rate is about 88 per cent, with perfect gender balance. Significant progress has been made in literacy rates, and vocational training has been revitalized through training modules and technical platforms.

The volatility of world oil prices and the COVID-19 health crisis have set back efforts to build school infrastructure and recruit teachers, resulting in increased repetition rates (30 per cent), dropouts in primary school and overcrowded classes in both primary and secondary schools, leading the Government to launch a vast and urgent programme to build classrooms

On gender equality, Gabon intends to strengthen the rights, leadership and economic and financial empowerment of women.

In terms of rights, the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women Act was adopted, and discriminatory provisions in the Civil and Criminal Codes were repealed. Regarding the participation of women in politics, women currently account for 18 per cent of Parliament, against a target of 30 per cent set by Act No. 09/2016 of 5 September 2016 establishing quotas to support women's access to political elections, and for 34 per cent of the Government.

To accelerate socioeconomic empowerment and address other challenges, Gabon developed a National Equality Strategy and declared the period 2015–2025 the Decade of Women.

Regarding life below water, Gabon adopted Fisheries and Aquaculture Code Act No. 5/2005 and Sustainable Development Framework Act No. 002/2014 to ensure the sustainable exploitation of aquatic resources and to contribute to the development of the green economy.

More specifically, the National Sea Council was established by a decree of 25 September 2014 to plan and coordinate action at sea, and an integrated maritime strategy was developed in 2017. In 2020, nine marine parks and 11 aquatic reserves representing 63.7 per cent of marine areas were protected for preservation and conservation.

Illegal trafficking in fishery resources and maritime piracy along the Gulf of Guinea are major coastal security challenges for the country.

Regarding life on land, Gabon is 88 per cent forested. It is part of the Congo basin, which is currently the second largest carbon sink in the world.

Poaching has been in sharp decline and deforestation remains low following the implementation of long-term forest management plans and a forest management certification system and the establishment of 13 national parks, including two World Heritage sites of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The average proportion of key biodiversity areas was 93.61 per cent in 2020, and the mountainous vegetation cover index is currently 99.97 per cent.

Despite its climate commitments, official development assistance for biodiversity is decreasing because Gabon is not sufficiently taken into account in the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation mechanism.

Regarding partnerships, Gabon finances its development with its own resources or with external loans. Since 2014, fluctuations in oil prices have eroded its budget revenue, foreign direct investment has been low and almost no official development assistance has been provided.

To finance its Transformation Acceleration Plan 2021–2023, Gabon intends, in addition to optimizing its tax base, combating tax evasion and developing public-private partnerships, to use innovative financing mechanisms and to attract more global climate and environment funds, in particular financing to combat carbon emissions in the context of the monetization of ecosystem services.

Gabon also intends to further develop the capacities of statistical services with the aim of systematizing accountability, monitoring and evaluation.

Gambia

[Original: English]

Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, the Gambia has made efforts to accelerate its implementation and ensure ownership, effectively mainstreaming the Goals into the national development planning framework, the national development plan, sector and regional strategic plans, and other national policies. Following the submission of its first voluntary national review report at the high-level political forum, in July 2020, post-review consultations were conducted across all administrative regions to present the status of implementation of the Goals, engage citizens on the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and gather feedback on how to accelerate the attainment the Goals and the national development plan. These consultations helped to enhance ownership and reporting of progress on the Goals. They helped to inform the national COVID-19 response plan and identify the most important Goals to accelerate during the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development.

COVID-19 has added new levels of complexity to a number of risks, structural vulnerabilities and resilience factors that have persisted in the Gambia's narrative on the Goals. Gross domestic product contracted from 6.1 per cent in 2019 to -0.2 per cent in 2020 owing to the effects of lockdown measures, including trade disruptions and a huge drop in tourism receipts – a main source of revenue for the country – with adverse effects on livelihoods.

The COVID-19 pandemic has also had a disproportionate impact on vulnerable populations, such as daily wage earners, female market traders who had to cope with restricted and reduced market hours, and young workers (those between the ages of 15 and 24) who were at a higher risk of job loss and income reduction.

The pandemic has magnified challenges in the Gambia's health-care system. The lack of a suitable isolation facility, inadequate number of health professionals and insufficient medical equipment created additional pressures far beyond the capacity of the national health-care system. The pandemic has also had a significant impact on the education sector owing to the closure of schools and other educational institutions in accordance with COVID-19 prevention measures. Classes conducted online or via radio were not equally accessible to all students, which had a negative impact on inclusive and equitable quality education, as well as opportunities for lifelong learning for all.

COVID-19 has heightened the threat to food security, which is also being fuelled by climate change, biodiversity loss and recurring extreme weather events. Droughts and spells of erratic rainfall patterns are linked to significant crop failures and declining agricultural production and productivity, affecting rural livelihood opportunities and undermining the country's attainment of zero hunger and poverty reduction. This pressure on food security is being compounded by the rising food prices resulting from the Russia-Ukraine war.

On the main themes of this year's voluntary national review, the country is registering progress, with improvements in access to quality education. The country has established the new Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare and the women enterprise fund as part of its commitment to gender empowerment. It was recognized last year as the only country that is Paris Agreement compatible and on track to meet the targets of the Agreement. The Gambia climate change fund has been established, and the Government is working on developing a climate change budget code.

In the drive to build forward better from COVID-19 while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Government continues to implement policies and programmes to enhance resilience and inclusivity. These policies and programmes include the Programme for Accelerated Community Development, launched mainly to address disparities in socioeconomic opportunities and access in rural and urban areas. Since the submission of the Gambia's first voluntary national review report, the implementation of the Programme has been progressing, with the provision of potable water and the electrification of rural communities. In addition, a social protection programme has recently been launched, including the following initiatives: a social safety net project, the establishment of a women's empowerment fund and a youth empowerment fund, and the passing of the health insurance bill and the disability bill.

Moving forward, the Government intends to implement a recovery-focused national development plan (2023–2027) that is green, builds resilience and leaves no one behind. The long-term nature of recovery would also be addressed in the upcoming development vision 2050. Through these two development planning frameworks, the Government will additionally pursue greater coherence and coordination of its implementation of the Goals while contributing to a reinvigorated global partnership for development (Goal 17) including relevant sectors, risks and stakeholders and within the context of an integrated national financing framework.

Ghana

[Original: English]

Policy and institutional environment

The “whole-of-government” and “whole-of-society” approach have been sustained as the plans and budget of planning bodies at all levels of the country respond to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This multi-stakeholder approach was demonstrated in the fight against the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and, more dominantly, within the health sector. An all-inclusive government and private sector approach was adopted, aimed at strengthening vital health services and capacity development. The climate action ambitions have also been stepped up in the revised commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

The Government had to reprioritize its investment to protect life at the expense of other sectors that were necessary for the Sustainable Development Goals. This decision is encapsulated in the President's statement: “We know how to bring the economy back to life. What we do not know is how to bring people back to life.” The Government increased investment in medical laboratories, which increased in number from 2 to 16 nationwide in 2020; investment increased in those laboratories capable of conducting polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests, in particular.

The prioritization resulted in 17.7 billion Ghanaian cedi (or 4.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP)) in unplanned expenditure to contain the pandemic since 2020. In addition, the country recorded a revenue shortfall of 13.7 billion Ghanaian cedi and a drop in the real GDP growth rate from 7.0 per cent (the average performance between 2017 to 2019) to 0.5 per cent in 2020. As a result, investments that were needed to sustain the country's trajectory were affected.

Other socioeconomic effects included 36 per cent of firms closing during the three-week partial lockdown and over 38 per cent of firms reducing their workers' wages. Outpatient department attendance, childhood immunization and all-cause mortality performed below their respective targets. Approximately 35 per cent of children in basic education and 28 per cent of senior high school students could not be engaged in any form of learning at home, largely owing to a lack of access to computers, phones and textbooks.

Status of the Sustainable Development Goals

These developments have reversed the progressive trends observed in poverty reduction and pro-poor expenditure, in particular education and social protection, as well as the family planning acceptor rate and net enrolment ratio, among others.

This reversal notwithstanding, the country has sustained the achievement of gender parity and increased access to drinking water services and electricity coverage, which reached 87.7 per cent and 86.6 per cent in 2021, respectively.

Other indicators requiring attention include the unemployment rate, which increased from 8.4 per cent in 2017 to 13.4 per cent in 2021. In addition, only one third (33.4 per cent) of households' have their solid waste collected.

Measures towards recovery

Further to recovery efforts, emergency preparedness and response strategies have been integrated into the national development agenda (2022–2025). A €100 billion programme covering three and a half years, the Ghana COVID-19 Alleviation and Revitalisation of Enterprises Support programme (CARES), was instituted in 2020, and a strategy for domestic vaccine production has been rolled out with a view to establishing a national vaccine institute. The YouStart programme has also been set up to support youth-led start-ups and small businesses with soft loans of up to €50,000. An infectious disease centre has been established with the support of the Ghana COVID-19 private sector fund. Call data records of mobile phone users were innovatively used to gather evidence on the effectiveness of COVID-19 restriction policies and provided recommendations.

Impact of recovery measures

In addition to real GDP growth increasing from 0.5 per cent in 2020 to 5.4 per cent in 2021, waves 1 to 3 of the COVID-19 tracker survey results (June 2020–December 2021) show the following:

- Percentage of households with children under 15 years of age eating fewer meals than usual was reduced from 21.4 per cent to 17.7 per cent;
- Households that reported reduced incomes declined from 77.4 per cent to 68.2 per cent;
- Households that needed health care and were able to gain access to it increased from 93.9 per cent to 95.7 per cent;
- Children who are missing vaccinations reduced from 29.4 per cent to 20.6 per cent;

- Children engaged in any type of learning activity increased for primary education (62.2 per cent to 71.3 per cent) and secondary (72.0 per cent to 79.8 per cent).

Emerging challenges

Emerging challenges include the following:

- The need to restore the economy amid current global and national economic challenges, such as rising oil prices, fiscal deficits, depreciation of the local currency and youth unemployment;
- Broadening social protection coverage for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, with a view to social and economic inclusion;
- Addressing infrastructure inadequacies in key sectors, such as health, education and sanitation services, as well as supporting the digitalization drive;
- Mitigating the impacts of climate change and variability for green growth.

Emerging opportunities

Emerging opportunities include the following:

- Improving innovative resource mobilization through partnerships, integrated national financing frameworks and harnessing the benefits of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area with a view to addressing financing gaps for the Goals;
- Leveraging demographic dividend.

Greece

[Original: English]

The voluntary national review process was led by a designated working group set up in 2021 within the presidency of the Government, in close cooperation and consultation with all ministries, the Hellenic Statistical Authority and key stakeholders, including the Hellenic Parliament, regional and local authorities, social partners and civil society, guided by a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. Over the past few years, stakeholders from a wide range of sectors have increasingly mainstreamed the sustainability principle and the Sustainable Development Goals into their strategic priorities, objectives and actions.

Greece's second voluntary national review reflects challenges and strategies related to three crises: the aftermath of a 10-year national depression, with persisting economic and social issues; the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has put a significant strain on the national health system and the economy; and, even before the pandemic is over, the repercussions of an outbreak of war within the European continent, causing deep global concern.

In spite of the adversities, Greece remains fully committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 17 Goals have been embedded in all of its major binding political plans. Compacts and strategies have been launched, policies have been elaborated and institutional reforms have been designed to accelerate the full implementation of the Goals and to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, Greece was also reported to be one of only two countries in the European Union to have managed not to lose momentum in efforts towards any of the 17 Goals.

The implementation of the Goals in Greece has been affected by the pandemic, albeit to varying degrees: plans to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of

health services were negatively affected, while policies for clean energy advanced mostly undeterred and the digitalization of public services was largely accelerated.

Systemic challenges that have been escalating for decades have not been eased by the crises. Of particular concern are weak demographic rates, higher female and youth unemployment and a poor record with regard to gender equality. Moreover, the pandemic has brought to the fore the need for long overdue reforms in the health sector; the justice and waste management systems have exceeded their operational limits, causing complications for society, the economy and the environment.

Significant progress has been made on several long-standing challenges such as poverty, unemployment, poor housing, sanitation, income disparities, early school leaving, female participation in senior management, the share of renewable energy sources in energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, road accident fatalities and homicides.

In 2020, the States members of the European Union agreed on an ambitious comprehensive plan to build back better from the pandemic and to make European societies and economies more sustainable, inclusive and resilient. This overarching plan is supported by a temporary recovery instrument, the European Union Recovery and Resilience Facility.

The Government's Recovery and Resilience Plan coherently introduces forward-looking reforms and investments aimed at accelerating the transition towards a sustainable growth model and fostering economic, social and institutional resilience. The Plan is financially supported by a budget of €31.164 billion until 2026 and is structured around four key pillars that are inextricably linked to the core priorities of the Goals, including: (a) green transition; (b) digital transition; (c) employment, skills and social cohesion; and (d) private investment and economic and institutional transformation. All the Goals are addressed in the national plan, although emphasis is understandably placed on health-care sustainability and economic productivity, which increasingly emerged as priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Greece has also integrated the sustainability principle and the Goals into the better regulation agenda, the national budgetary process and the overall financing framework for sustainable development.

Attributing particular importance to the protection and support of the disadvantaged, the Government has, over the past two years, endorsed a number of national action plans and strategies through which the principle of leaving no one behind has been mainstreamed into public policies and reform measures. For the first time, national action plans on youth, children's rights, the protection of children from sexual abuse, the rights of people with disabilities and those of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons (LGBTQI+) were launched, along with updated strategies on gender equality and Roma.

At the international and regional levels, the country continues to play an instrumental role in promoting initiatives that support the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda, through the establishment of partnership schemes, the adoption of comprehensive legal and policy tools and the launch of cooperative initiatives, in the fields of trade and investments, development, environmental protection, sustainable use of natural resources, cultural and natural heritage, peace, security, human rights and the rule of law.

Grenada

[Original: English]

Introduction

The Government of Grenada signalled its commitment to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, driven by the Sustainable Development Goals, through the development of its long-term National Sustainable Development Plan for the period 2020–2035, which was developed with the full involvement of the people of Grenada and other key stakeholders, including the public and private sectors and civil society. Grenada’s main messages in the voluntary national review include: strong buy-in and national ownership embedded in the principle of “no one left behind”, as the country moves towards realizing its full potential through sustainable economic, social and environmental progress for all; policy and an enabling environment, which includes alignment with the National Sustainable Development Plan and engagement with the Goals; structural problems and challenges; and next steps.

Alignment with Grenada’s National Sustainable Development Plan strategic framework

The National Sustainable Development Plan represents Grenada’s commitment to inclusive governance, which is supported by three national goals:

- High level of human and social development, putting people at the centre of sustainable development
- Vibrant, dynamic and competitive economy with supporting climate-resilient infrastructure
- Environmental sustainability and security

Policy and enabling environment

The medium-term action plan for the period 2020–2022 serves as the first stage in implementing the National Sustainable Development Plan, which is built on the key pillars of sustainable development – economy, society and environment – and supports eight national outcomes, three strategic goals and the country’s development vision (“Vision 2035”).

The alignment of the Goals with national goals, outcomes and strategic actions is captured in the Plan. All 17 Goals are addressed through the 217 strategic actions that were identified to drive Vision 2035.

Engagement with the Sustainable Development Goals

Grenada has also embarked on a data-driven approach to measuring progress towards the achievement of the Goals, spearheaded by the Central Statistical Office. With regard to analysis and reporting, data were gathered and reported for 2020 and 2021 regarding each of the 17 Goals and the Plan.

Structural problems and challenges

Grenada’s progress with regard to the Goals demonstrates its commitment to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. However, key challenges and structural issues will need to be addressed to ensure that the country is on a pathway towards sustainable development, driven by the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. These structural issues and challenges include the following:

1. Lack of adequate financing and access to finance: resources are desperately needed to implement projects and programmes that will enhance progress towards achieving the Goals. Alignment of the annual budget projects to the different Goals;
2. Limited individual capacity: there is a great need for increased technical expertise and qualified individuals with the skill sets, knowledge base and experience in a myriad of areas, including project identification, development, management and implementation;
3. Inadequate monitoring and evaluation systems: there is a need for proper systems to generate, record and analyse data. Grenada's 2020–2021 report on progress towards the Goals was drafted using international data sources, and efforts towards many Goals could not be assessed owing to the unavailability of information and the lack of tools to capture the requisite data;
4. Reduction in gross domestic product (GDP): a narrow fiscal space for the introduction of sustainable economic and transformational programmes and for addressing the regression experienced owing to the shock generated by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;
5. Reallocation of funding to COVID-19 initiatives: as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government had to reallocate funds towards mitigating the effects of the pandemic;
6. Economic shock and increased unemployment: Grenada is challenged by a relatively high unemployment rate among youth and women. Moreover, as the country continues to grapple with the economic fallout resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate may rise going forward, which would serve as a significant barrier to achieving Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth) overall and attaining some of its specific targets.

Next steps

The Government of Grenada has pledged to continue to work on a Goals-based development pathway by:

- Integrating the Goals into its national plan as the starting point for their implementation.
- Collecting data that can strengthen strategies for the attainment of the Goals.
- Developing projects to facilitate the achievement of the Goals.
- Restructuring projects and reallocating funds that can lead to the attainment of the Goals.

Guinea-Bissau

[Original: French]

Highlights

Guinea-Bissau has enormous sustainable development potential in terms of natural, human and cultural capital but faces a major challenge in development finance, requiring the mobilization of funds from various sources. The Government remains convinced that sustainable planning is the solution to all structural vulnerabilities and is optimistic and committed to pursuing the path of development, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Alignment of national policies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Guinea-Bissau fully supports the Sustainable Development Goals, with inclusive human development at the core of its efforts. The National Strategy aims to put the country on a path to a prosperous society that promotes higher living standards for all by 2025. The National Development Plan for 2020–2023 provides for substantial investments in health, education and development of the productive sector and infrastructure. As part of its commitment to the Goals, the Government is committed to aligning the National Development Plan with the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Successes

The Government has adopted a multi-sectoral approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation based on its ambitious vision of climate resilience. Putting people at the core of these measures, the Plan also focuses on the most vulnerable people. In addition, protected areas have been declared over more than 26.3 per cent of its territory, in line with the requirements of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

With the support of development partners, the country has firmly positioned itself to take advantage of the opportunities offered by recent events and transition processes to reap the benefits of development, consolidate gains and lay the foundation for a post-coronavirus disease (COVID-19) economic revival.

Challenges

As a small island developing State, Guinea-Bissau presents contextual and structural vulnerabilities and challenges that hinder efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda. The country faces multidimensional and interrelated development challenges that require a holistic approach. Economic development remains complex, with overlapping political and economic forces. However, there are sectors with great potential for development.

In 2015, Guinea-Bissau adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change, which is evidence of the country's current priorities. However, the country has high levels of poverty, with two out of three people suffering from multidimensional poverty and about 70 per cent of the population, half of whom are women, living below the poverty line. The health sector faces major challenges and the quality of education, despite ongoing substantial development, remains a concern.

The country's wealth lies primarily in its natural resources and biodiversity. However, the country is one of the most vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise has begun to affect the coastal region, threatening 70 per cent of the people who live along the coast.

Assessment of progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals has been limited by a lack of data and the absence of a suitable institutional framework for the follow-up of implementation. Progress toward the achievement of the Goals has suffered from critical gaps in the availability and quality of data to monitor progress. As of December 2020, only 27.9 per cent of the indicators required to monitor the Goals from a gender perspective were available.

Strengths

The fact that Guinea-Bissau is a young country offers an enormous opportunity for social and economic development. The country is rich in natural habitats and resources and in the ethnic and religious composition of its social fabric.

In conclusion, Guinea-Bissau has made significant progress in recent years in peacebuilding, democratization and institutional reform. In doing so, the Government has actively pursued a firm path towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, that of economic prosperity, social justice and protection of the environment. Today, the Government would like to take advantage of this high-level political forum to reach out to all development partners for their support of this national effort.

Italy

[Original: English]

Italy supports the vision and guiding principles set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development aimed at fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies that are free from fear and violence, and strongly reaffirms the fact that there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development. Italy recalls resolution [ES-11/1](#), adopted by the General Assembly at its eleventh emergency session, on the aggression against Ukraine and deplores such a shattering blow to the 2030 Agenda, a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity to strengthen peace in larger freedom.

Italy's second voluntary national review is the result of a year-long collective process involving different levels of government and various actors. The review is aimed at further strengthening the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by analysing the progress achieved since the first voluntary national review and by providing a common vision to move forward. The review process is built on the participatory mechanisms put in place at the national and local levels to implement the country's National Sustainable Development Strategy and the Three-Year Planning Document for International Cooperation.

Italy's voluntary national review includes three thematic deep dives into policy coherence for sustainable development, localizing the Sustainable Development Goals through the National Sustainable Development Strategy, and stakeholder engagement. It also includes voluntary local reviews prepared by local authorities cooperating with central institutions in the implementation of the Strategy, as well as a position paper drafted by the National Forum for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the National Council for Development Cooperation.

The voluntary national review, integrated with the territorial approach, reflects and highlights the effective, multilevel governance initiatives enacted by the regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan areas with a view to implementing national sustainability objectives at the local level. Supported by coordination mechanisms established between central and local authorities, the process is proving crucial to boosting a coordinated and deeper integration of the Goals into national and local planning processes.

The contribution of stakeholders, reflected in the position paper for the voluntary national review, is key to further increasing, including by strengthening links with local initiatives, the active role of non-State actors, including young people and underrepresented categories, in the policy cycle.

The severe impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the economic and social fabric of Italy has halted progress in the implementation of the Goals,² widening inequalities and social exclusion, increasing poverty and weakening social capital, in particular in terms of education and training. Long months of strict

² Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), *2021 SDGs Report: Statistical Information for 2030 Agenda in Italy* (Rome, 2022). Available at https://www.istat.it/it/files/2022/02/2021-SDGS-Report_Inglese.pdf.

lockdowns affected the most vulnerable, in particular the younger generations, the elderly and especially women, who have been increasingly overburdened with care responsibilities.

Italy's efforts to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, supported by the European Union through the Recovery and Resilience Facility, are aimed at building a more sustainable and resilient future by aligning short- and medium-term recovery measures with long-term, overarching sustainable development objectives.

Effective governance mechanisms, both horizontal and vertical, supported by a whole-of-society approach, ensure that policy responses for a sustainable recovery are crafted taking into consideration the interlinkages and potential risks, including spillover and transboundary effects. It is in this context that Italy has decided to institutionalize policy coherence by including a national action plan on policy coherence for sustainable development as an annex to the National Sustainable Development Strategy. Elements of the national action plan, informed by thorough consultations linked to the implementation and revision processes of the Strategy, have benefited from the scientific support of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development through the Structural Reform Support Programme of the European Commission.

A coherent framework of indicators is conducive to pursuing a unified approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Italy has a system of equitable and well-being indicators into which the traditional economic indicators are integrated, as well as on the set of indicators contained in the Strategy and the annual report on the Goals compiled by the Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), all of which are undergoing a process of cross-fertilization.

For Italy, international development cooperation is at the core of the implementation of the external dimension of the 2030 Agenda. The Strategy incorporates our Three-Year Planning Document for International Cooperation, which, in turn, fully reflects the principles and vision of the 2030 Agenda, adopting its logic, spirit and time frame.

Italy has worked successfully to uphold its development cooperation policy through considerable growth in its share of the budget. Its approach is deeply rooted in the main message of the 2030 Agenda global and equitable development to strengthen peace in larger freedom.

Jamaica

[Original: English]

Introduction

Jamaica's presentation of its second voluntary national review, in 2022, reflects its continued commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and its *Vision 2030 Jamaica: National Development Plan*. The national development planning framework, implemented through successive three-year medium-term socioeconomic policy frameworks, is strategy-based and policy-driven and employs an integrated evidence- and results-based management approach that informs institutional processes and partnerships. In 2021, the Goals were over 95 per cent aligned with *Vision 2030 Jamaica*.

People

Rates of poverty and extreme poverty have been trending downward, since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to reach 11 per cent in

2019. This is attributed mainly to key social interventions, increased remittance flows and lower unemployment.

Threats to food security include climate change impacts and a decrease in agricultural production owing to inward migration. During the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, food shortages were reported among families, in particular among female-headed households. The health sector has expanded the promotion of wellness; however, challenges remain. Efforts to reduce communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and non-communicable diseases, which remain a leading cause of death, have been prioritized. Sustainable health financing is required to improve service delivery and respond to challenges.

The Government allocates one of the largest shares of its budget to the education sector, signalling its commitment to building human capital. There is equal access to education for both sexes; however, within the 17–24 age cohort, females were more likely to be enrolled in school and programmes targeting unattached youth. At the tertiary level, males, persons from the poorest quintiles and persons from rural areas are underrepresented. There is a need to address challenges in education for children with special needs.

Overall, the measurement of gender development indicates medium to high levels of equality in terms of achievement between the sexes. Progress with regard to gender equality requires more attention to be paid to gender mainstreaming and data to measure progress and research on the root causes of inequality. The development of a multidimensional poverty index is under way to improve the targeting of interventions and to address group-based inequalities.

Jamaica remains committed to leaving no one behind and prioritizes the most vulnerable through policy, legislation and programming.

Planet

In 2020, Jamaica updated its nationally determined contributions to include more ambitious emissions reduction targets and a broader range of sectors. Jamaica also surpassed the 2020 targets of Goal 14 with regard to the conservation of marine areas, introduced new legislation on forest management and the control of invasive species and increased forest areas under protection. The country continues to build adaptive capacity for climate action and resilience. Challenges remain regarding the pace of the reduction of fossil fuel use and the flow of financing to propel the move towards renewables.

Prosperity

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, positive trends had been observed in key economic indicators, notably in unemployment and debt, which reached historic lows. The pandemic intensified long-standing threats to development: low levels of training among the labour force, a lack of diversification, underemployment and high levels of informal employment.

Peace

Safety and access to justice have been prioritized through a combination of measures to improve safety and access to justice. Enacting legislation, implementing social interventions, building capacity in the security and justice sector and promoting equal access to justice have been among the priorities advanced.

Partnerships

Financing for development remains a challenge, with limited fiscal space to support key development priorities. Innovative financing mechanisms have been pursued, including efforts to channel private financing towards national development priorities and the Goals and improving efficiencies in the use of domestic financing. The domestic financing framework is also being strengthened through the phased implementation of the results-based budgeting programme and the planned costing of the medium-term socioeconomic policy framework for more effective resource allocation.

International development partners have been consistent in supporting advances in key sectors. Areas of further interest for small island developing States and middle-income countries include addressing country eligibility for access to concessional financing, supporting universal social protection and decent work, and investing in global digital cooperation and connectivity to close the digital divide.

As we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, Jamaica's focus remains on improving the livelihoods of its citizens through sustainable, inclusive approaches to development and solidifying the country's reputation as a key international partner.

Jordan

[Original: Arabic]

- As of the drafting of this review, Jordan faces a host of unprecedented challenges. Addressing them – and taking advantage of the opportunities they bring with them – will be crucial for the future transformation of Jordan as it crosses the threshold into its second century with strength and confidence. Jordan is undergoing radical legislative, political and economic transformations to create an environment conducive to overcoming obstacles to Jordan's return to regional leadership. The principles of justice, equality and human rights will form a solid foundation and a guiding beacon for the path of transition.
- The repercussions for Jordan of the Syrian crisis and the challenge of hosting more than 1.3 million Syrian refugees have compounded the burdens on the public budget, the host communities and public services. The task of providing protection and care to waves of refugees has absorbed a large proportion of our development gains. At the same time, the Jordanian economy has been hit by a new crisis stemming from the repercussions of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, which has had a negative impact on numerous aspects of economic activity in 2020, causing the economy to contract by 1.6 per cent. Meanwhile, the effects of the recent Russian-Ukrainian crisis have manifested themselves in the disruption of supply chains and a rise in oil and commodity prices, which will have their impact on pandemic recovery efforts.
- The Government has launched its 2021–2024 development implementation programme and 2021–2023 priority action programme to lay the foundations for the pandemic recovery phase. They both take into account the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, the need to establish the rule of law and combat corruption, and the need to promote action based on the principle of leaving no one behind through projects for women, youth, poor and rural communities, persons with disabilities and refugees. In 2018, Jordan launched a reform matrix that included policy and structural reforms to increase the competitiveness of the economy, accelerate growth and create jobs. A medium-term public debt management strategy has been developed with the aim

of ensuring that the Government's financing needs and payment obligations are met while finance control measures are followed.

- Jordan hosts nearly 4 million refugees who receive basic care and services, including health care and education. Jordan has the world's second largest ratio of refugees to citizens. Despite its limited resources, it continues to provide a range of services to refugees. These include comprehensive health care, treatment in government hospitals, education and social welfare services. Jordan was one of the first countries in the world to start giving vaccines to refugees free of charge.
- To help limit the effects of climate change, Jordan has approved a nationally determined contributions document that is among the most ambitious such documents relative to national resources.
- With regard to the fight against poverty, the 2019–2025 national social protection strategy includes components on decent work, social security, social assistance and enabling social services. Work is underway to add a comprehensive component on crises and shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The 2018–2020 national financial inclusion strategy contributed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by increasing access to financial services for small enterprises and others, raising financial inclusion in the Kingdom from 33.1 per cent to around 50 per cent and reducing the gender gap from 53 per cent to 29 per cent.
- Food security is a matter of concern and priority in Jordan. The first national food security strategy, for the 2021–2030 period, has been formulated. It aims to realize its vision of “protecting the population of Jordan from food insecurity and ensuring access to safe, stable and nutritious food supplies at reasonable prices at all times” by the end of 2030.
- Jordan considers Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals to be at the heart of the sustainable development process in all its dimensions, without leaving any behind. It continues to empower women and ensure their participation in economic and political life by implementing measures contained in the 2020–2025 national strategy for women, integrating them into the Government's development implementation programme, and allocating funding for implementation.
- As part of the campaign to accelerate economic recovery efforts, work is under way to develop a national vision and a comprehensive plan in the coming years to transition to a future that will free up resources for modernizing the economy and contribute to national efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by translating them into cross-governmental action plans, thereby ensuring inclusive growth and the accompanying job creation and increased revenues that will in turn be reflected in the standard of living of citizens.

Lastly, as Jordan works hard to find successful and sustainable ways to provide the prerequisites and preserve the achievements of the sustainable development agenda roadmap, it needs the support of the international community to address challenges posed by regional conflicts and climate change so that it can play its role as a factor for security and stability in the region. That is especially the case with regard to regional cooperation and economic integration to exploit opportunities to develop and facilitate inter-State trade and links between infrastructure services in the energy, transportation, rail and trade sectors. Jordan has the potential to become a regional hub in numerous areas, including food security, combating diseases and epidemics, logistics, and energy exchange.

Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian]

Main messages of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Since the first days of its independence, Kazakhstan has been steadily working towards sustainable development.

In 2019, Kazakhstan submitted its first voluntary national review and reaffirmed its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Three years later, it is submitting its second voluntary national review with the aim of assessing progress and demonstrating its achievement of the objectives set for the country in the previous review.

In the first review, the main areas in which Kazakhstan would continue to work towards sustainable development in the medium term were identified. During the subsequent three-year period, the following achievements were made in those areas:

- The need to consider national indicators for the Goals in the development of strategic and programme documents was established as a requirement in the State planning framework of the Republic of Kazakhstan.
- The list of national indicators for the Goals was approved, and projections for the current indicators were determined up to 2030.
- In 2019–2021, Kazakhstan, with the support of the Asian Development Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), conducted a development finance assessment. As a result, some of the constraints and opportunities affecting progress towards the Goals were identified, including:
 - The need to determine the total amount of funding required;
 - Growing cost pressure associated with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;
 - Weak integration of the Goals into budgets;
 - The great potential of non-governmental organizations and the philanthropic sector.
- Active efforts are being made to ensure that budget planning is harmonized with the Goals.

Kazakhstan is currently in the initial stages of integrating the Goals into budget planning. To assess the links between budget expenditure and sustainable development objectives, a rapid comprehensive assessment of budget programmes was carried out.

- Effective budgetary allocation on the basis of the principles of the Goals requires analysis to identify the gender-specific challenges of different categories of the population. In 2020, with the support of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), a gender analysis methodology was developed using Aqmola province as an example. As part of this voluntary national review, experts of the Economic Research Institute conducted a small-scale gender analysis of education, health and social protection by region.
- A mechanism for budgeting for children has been developed with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and will be used in the analysis of child well-being indicators.

- Kazakhstan is stepping up its efforts to protect the environment. The Ministry of Ecology, Geology and Natural Resources was established in 2019. A Central Asian water energy consortium is being created, and the region is cooperating on the Aral Sea basin as part of the Blue Peace Central Asia initiative.

Under the new Environmental Code, waste management, recycling and reuse have been improved.

- Kazakhstan actively cooperates with international partners. With the support of UNDP and the European Union, a regional platform for sharing knowledge on the Goals was launched in Central Asia in 2021. The main purpose of the platform is to facilitate the achievement of the Goals in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan by harmonizing regional efforts on the monitoring and financing of the Goals.
- The civil sector and businesses have begun to actively engage in the localization of the Goals. A good example is the work of the fund for the sustainable development of rural areas. Under the fund, a sustainable development strategy is being implemented in four rural areas with the support of businesses and civil society.

In the three years since submitting its first voluntary national review, Kazakhstan has taken a number of important steps to achieve the Goals. For example, targeted social support measures have been developed, work has begun to develop an integrated national strategy for financing sustainable development projects, and work towards a carbon-neutral economy is under way.

Active efforts are being made to involve the population in the achievement of the Goals. A wide range of the population was involved in preparing the voluntary national review through field workshops held in the regions. More than 2,500 citizens, including representatives of local executive authorities and civil society, independent experts, persons with disabilities, pensioners, academics, young people (schoolchildren and students), representatives of the private sector and other interested parties, took part in the discussions on the draft review.

The draft voluntary national review, including each individual chapter, was subject to open public discussions in microgroups involving representatives of government agencies, international organizations and the civil sector and independent experts.

A simulation exercise known as “Mission 2030”, which was conducted in all 17 regions, made it possible to identify priority areas for the achievement of the Goals for each region and to develop a profile of each region. During the field workshops in the 17 regions of Kazakhstan, the following were identified as priority Goals by a vote:

- Goal 1: No poverty
- Goal 3: Good health and well-being
- Goal 4: Quality education
- Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth.

The review will therefore contain a detailed analysis of these Goals.

When preparing the draft voluntary national review, it was possible not only to involve all interested parties, but also to establish dialogue between representatives of the Government, the population and businesses.

In this voluntary national review, Kazakhstan has demonstrated its willingness to take serious steps to implement the global 2030 Agenda by improving existing institutional mechanisms, tools and plans or developing those that are needed.

Latvia

[Original: English]

In its second voluntary national review, Latvia evaluates its progress and challenges and presents new initiatives to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as reflected in the national framework: Latvia's Sustainable Development Strategy to 2030, new policies and other government commitments. The voluntary national review covers stakeholder insights and best practices, and highlights emerging and potentially transformative factors concerning all of the Goals.

Over the past three years, Latvia has completed one midterm planning period, started implementing the National Development Plan for the period 2021–2027 and the European Green Deal, dealt with the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and addressed the impact of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine and its consequences, while increasing cooperation at the global level.

All countries are intricately connected by the web of sustainability and, as is indicated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there can be no sustainable development without peace. Latvia expresses its deep concern about the impact of Russia's military aggression, supported by Belarus, against Ukraine, and other conflicts, on the rules-based international order and multilateralism, the affected populations and the polarization of societies, as well as the ripple effect on the food and energy markets and on the most vulnerable across the world. The war on Ukraine is a clear violation of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, and accountability for the crimes perpetrated must be ensured.

Latvia is proud of the steady gains made in terms of Goals 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals), which contribute to societal resilience, including the threefold increase in financing for bilateral development cooperation between 2021 and 2022, with the overall aim of directing 65 per cent towards promoting good governance, the rule of law and democratic participation.

Progress is best evaluated at the target level, as improvements within each Goal can vary widely. However, the data generally show that results in the areas of sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11) and decent work and economic growth (Goal 8) have increased, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, supported by improvements in innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9). Gains in respect of clean and affordable energy (Goal 7) have been significant, but affordability is a growing concern requiring new solutions for a just transition. Efforts towards good health and well-being (Goal 3) have shown improvement in all aspects other than healthy life years and out-of-pocket expenditures, and health care is becoming more efficient and accessible regionally.

Challenges include a stagnating level of inequality between people and regions in Latvia (Goal 10) and an increase in the poverty risk (Goal 1) for older persons, despite the recent reform of the minimum income level so as to reduce the depth of poverty.

Regarding the Goals to be reviewed in-depth at the 2022 meeting of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, quality education (Goal 4) is continuously being improved. Although progress against most gender equality (Goal 5)

indicators is encouraging, increasing wage disparities are disconcerting. Life on land (Goal 15) is stagnating, but there are improvements regarding inland waters in life below water (Goal 14).

Regarding the climate, it is important to advance consistently with regard to Goals 13, 7 and 12 in order to meet 2030 climate commitments and develop solutions for climate neutrality by 2050, while ensuring that low-income households are not disproportionately affected. This was reiterated in the stakeholder input to the voluntary national review. The transition to an innovative and eco-efficient economy must reduce inequalities, leaving no one behind.

Latvia is committed to achieving sustainable development, even when confronted with crises. At the international level, Latvia has donated vaccines, participated in the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility and provided humanitarian aid. At the national level, Latvia's Parliament added a COVID-19 addendum to the National Development Plan for the period 2021–2027, in which it directed the Government to accelerate action in health, education, digitalization and other areas, re-enforcing the principle that we remain true to our sustainability goals, while prioritizing our actions for the vulnerable.

Our voluntary national review details three accelerators of change that have recently emerged in Latvia: sustainable finance; space for inquiry and well-informed dialogue, online and offline; and the mission approach to managing urgent and complicated challenges.

Next steps have been agreed in the National Development Plan for the period 2021–2027 that was co-created through an inclusive multi-stakeholder process. Macro indicators are focused on reducing inequality and regional disparities, improving productivity and increasing trust. New sectoral policies cover all of the Goals. In the medium term, Latvia will advance sustainability through participative, democratic decision-making and in a fiscally responsible manner. Through our actions and behavioural change, we shall defend the rights of future generations. We shall also soon embark on a nationwide discussion on “Latvia 2050” so as to provide the Government with a long-term vision for action beyond 2030.

Lesotho

[Original: English]

Over the past two decades, Lesotho has made strides in poverty reduction, with poverty declining from 56.6 per cent in 2002 to 49.7 per cent in 2017 and multidimensional child poverty dropping from 65.4 per cent in 2014 to 45.5 per cent in 2018. However, poverty is mostly concentrated in rural and hard-to-reach areas. For instance, urban areas recorded strong poverty reduction, from 41.5 per cent in 2002 to 28.5 per cent in 2017, while poverty in rural areas changed only slightly, from 61.3 per cent to 60.7 per cent, adding to an already large urban-rural gap.

The economic disruptions caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic led to a loss of wages for many households, thus reversing gains in poverty reduction. For instance, more than 40,000 people fell into poverty nationally as a result of a 5 per cent decline in household consumption expenditure. In rural areas, poverty increased by 2.12 per cent in 2020.

Lesotho has made significant investments in improving access to basic and tertiary education; however, many school-age children, especially in rural areas, are not in school, and education quality is low. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the learning crisis: many children dropped out of school owing to COVID-19 and those who remained in school learned very little. The dropout rates among adolescent

girls are significant. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the glaring gaps in Lesotho's education system, ultimately reversing some of the progress made towards the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4. Some of the impact of the long absence from school because of the COVID-19 pandemic is evident in the decreased performance of learners in the junior certificate and school-leaver examinations.

To counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government undertook several initiatives to build a resilient and equitable education system. These initiatives included:

- Implementation of accelerated teaching-learning curriculum in response to reduced opportunities to learn
- Engagement of temporary assistant teachers to fast-track teaching-learning and address time lost
- Launch of learning passports (e-learning) and learner packs for primary school education, and revision booklets for secondary school education
- Use of inclusive assistive technology devices for special education needs

The existence and application of the dual legal system contradicts the principles of gender equality and a universal approach to gender issues, as the system allows discrimination on the basis of culture and tradition. The country is in the process of enacting an anti-domestic violence bill and harmonizing the provisions of the system through the amendment of the Laws of Lerotoli of 1903. The amendment bill of 2022 seeks to remove all legal restrictions imposed on women regarding the full exercise of their rights in harmonization with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act of 2006. More attention is required to address existing violence against women and girls and gendered harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage.

Natural resources play a fundamental role in sustaining Basotho, particularly for the rural poor whose livelihoods depend heavily on rangelands, indigenous plant species, wetlands and ecotourism. More than 65 per cent of communities are rural poor and derive their livelihoods from the exploitation of natural resources. Their livelihoods are threatened, as Lesotho is losing approximately 40,000 tons of soil per year. The situation is caused by, among other things, the mismanagement of natural resources, as well as the terrain and topography that make the country susceptible to degradation and biodiversity loss. To reverse the situation, the Government is implementing a number of initiatives for the restoration and protection of wetlands and forests through an integrated catchment management system. The country needs to scale up action to disseminate green energy technologies in order to lower the pressure on biodiversity and build the resilience of communities, particularly vulnerable households, to climate change hazards.

To accelerate the implementation of the Goals, the Government has introduced tax modernization aimed at improving domestic resource mobilization by bringing about collaboration between all institutions to effectively enable compliance. The country continues to strengthen partnerships through engagement with the diaspora and the private sector. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the private sector organized itself and pulled together resources to finance the country's purchase of COVID-19 vaccines. However, in building back from the pandemic, strengthening domestic resource mobilization remains critical and the call to the international community for partnership cannot be overemphasized in accelerating the implementation of the Goals, while investment in implementing the second National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (2022/23–2026/27) will be of utmost importance in order to close the current data gaps.

Liberia

[Original: English]

Since 2019, the world has been experiencing and feeling the impacts of the highest level of a health emergency: the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The disaster has evolved into a global public health and economic crisis that has affected the global economy, overshadowed gains made and hampered numerous efforts geared toward sustainable development and growth. Moreover, Russia's invasion of Ukraine has increased the global economic pressure, and thus decreased any hope for post-pandemic economic recovery. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, Liberia was still recovering from the Ebola epidemic that cost thousands of lives and overwhelmed the post-war economy.

Liberia's recovery process was faced with binding constraints such as a legacy of entrenched inequality in access to development opportunities and basic social services, widespread infrastructure deficits and pervasive poverty (which has been on the rise since 2014), coupled with low domestic productivity, a lack of value addition and susceptibility to external shocks. These constraints have been the greatest barriers to sustaining peace and accelerating growth and sustainable development. As a result, more than half of the population – 50.9 per cent – is living below the national poverty line, and 52 per cent below the international poverty line, with limited access to basic services such as electricity, water, roads and sanitation. Moreover, gains made in terms of the human development index and life expectancy at birth have been unsustainable.

However, over the years, progress has been made with the support of development partners through the implementation of the pro-poor agenda for prosperity and development, despite the economic pressure and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, the economy has been expanded by 3.6 per cent from 3 per cent in 2020 and is projected to expand by an average of 4.9 per cent in 2022/23. This improvement is the result of the establishment of a sound foundation for macroeconomic stability, reduced inflation (from 13.1 per cent to 6 per cent), increased fiscal space for investment in critical infrastructure and programmes and the rationalization and consolidation of public debts. Currently, the recovery in the price of the main export commodities, on the back of renewed international demand, has boosted the value of exports and improved the trade balance.

Furthermore, access to quality education, health-care delivery services, social protection and other basic social services has increased. In addition to sustaining the peace, an independent judicial system has been built and maintained and will continue to be strengthened by ongoing judicial reforms, with a particular focus on increasing access to justice and the rule of law and reducing corruption. The Government and its partners have deepened their commitment to achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the creation of an enabling environment to promote a more inclusive and participatory development approach for the achievement of development results. In so doing, the Government, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector have committed themselves to signing the joint statement on the Liberia 2022 Action Dialogue specifically to establish a multi-stakeholder platform to advance the effectiveness of development cooperation, increase the alignment of development partners' programmes with the pro-poor agenda, enhance implementation and the achievement of high-level results by following-up on and monitoring the pro-poor agenda and the 2030 Agenda and promote mutual accountability.

Lastly, going forward there will be continuous and increased efforts in strengthening national institutions and creating an enabling environment for inclusive

and sustainable growth through transparency and accountability in the public sector, support for agriculture value-chain development and bridging the infrastructure gaps. In addition, the Government will continue to boost private-sector development by improving the business climate and unlocking key investment opportunities in the country. In this way, the Government and its partners will continue to set new priorities and national targets in response to the current realities, shift opportunities and momentum when necessary, reallocate resources, promote holistic decentralization, tackle corruption, build human capital, promote business climate reform and increase access to basic social services, with a specific focus on “leaving no one behind”.

Luxembourg

[Original: French]

Luxembourg in transition

“Preserving and preparing the future”

The Luxembourg of 2022 is no longer the Luxembourg of 2017, the year of its first voluntary national review. Although the immense challenges it faced at the time are still seemingly very present, and some of them have grown worse, it has made a profound transformation in its approach to sustainable development. The political will is there, the method and the tools have been put in place and all the actors have been mobilized.

Through its 2022 voluntary national review report, Luxembourg aims to share with United Nations Members States the steps taken and the good practices implemented in support of the 2030 Agenda.

In the first chapter, entitled “2017–2022: what steps have we taken?”, Luxembourg outlines the progress made since 2017, including the National Plan for Sustainable Development, which has 10 priority fields of action for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in and by Luxembourg.

This chapter will also highlight the new approach to cooperation taken by Luxembourg, as well as the priorities in the fields of human rights and migration policy.

The final part of this first chapter will be devoted to the methodology put in place to monitor and evaluate the overall progress of each of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Chapter II, entitled “What progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals?”, focuses, after a brief presentation of the country’s sustainable development challenges, on the evaluation of the sustainable development indicators developed to provide an overview of sustainable development in Luxembourg, including graphs and infographics. A subchapter is dedicated to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and what it revealed about Luxembourg, namely the great resilience that the country showed in the face of this crisis.

Chapter III, entitled “What Key Actions?”, outlines the main actions, measures and policies implemented since 2017 to address these challenges, along with the structures designed to engage and support stakeholders in the country. Particular emphasis will be placed on the coherence of sustainable development policies, land-use planning, climate and energy objectives and governance, protection of biodiversity and natural resources, the fight against social exclusion and poverty, the economic conversion, the path towards decarbonized mobility and the construction of a sustainable finance ecosystem.

In chapter IV of the report, entitled “A common commitment”, Luxembourg elaborates on the participatory approach taken to sustainable development policy including, among other things, the consultations held as part of the National Plan for Sustainable Development and the 2022 voluntary national review. Beyond these two areas, a structure for citizen participation has been set up as part of the major urban and architectural consultation known as *Luxembourg in Transition* that is aimed at producing land-use planning scenarios to support carbon neutrality in 2050. A Citizens’ Council (Klima-Biergerrot) was established, mandated to make recommendations to parliamentarians and the Government in order to implement the National Energy and Climate Plan submitted by Luxembourg to the European Commission so that this theoretical document can serve as a basis for the daily life of the people. Efforts are being made to bolster this experience in deliberative democracy and to move towards a more structured and sustainable model.

This chapter is also devoted to the development of partnerships between actors, both in the context of the development cooperation policy of Luxembourg and in cross-border cooperation. One particular focus is on a private sector initiative to encourage mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda in businesses. Lastly, the report of Luxembourg introduces two initiatives to highlight the importance of sharing and disseminating inspiring practices that allow for faster implementation of the Goals.

The last chapter covers political conclusions.

Malawi

[Original: English]

Introduction

The 2022 voluntary national review is the second report submitted for Malawi. It provides an overview of the progress made since its first voluntary national review in 2020 and catalogues key actions needed for Malawi to achieve most of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. This voluntary national review comes soon after Malawi launched the Malawi 2063 vision and its operational plan, the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan for the period 2021–2030, aimed at graduating Malawi to a middle-income country and meeting most of the Goals.

Country ownership and institutional mechanisms

Malawi has domesticated the Sustainable Development Goals into the national development agenda to ensure that they are implemented within the national mechanism. Using the integrated planning and reporting toolkit, the Malawi 2063 First 10-Year Implementation Plan is 82 per cent aligned with the Goals. The implementation and review of the Goals is coordinated through pillar and enabler coordination groups, which comprise government institutions, development partners, civil society organisations, private sector organizations and academia.

Leaving no one behind

To ensure inclusivity, the Government of Malawi is undertaking initiatives to protect and uplift vulnerable and marginalized people in Malawi. Some of those initiatives are:

- (a) The Affordable Input Programme, which targets poor farming households to enable access to subsidized farm inputs to enhance farm productivity;
- (b) The implementation of the National Social Support Programme II (2018–2023), with mechanisms for scaling during disasters;

(c) Gender mainstreaming in all programmes, projects and plans to achieve gender equality. Malawi has developed a national action plan on women, peace and security, making it the second country in Africa to do so;

(d) Setting up the National Children's Commission, to promote and protect the rights of children, especially the most vulnerable.

Progress on Goals

Malawi is registering progress, albeit slow, on most of the Sustainable Development Goals. Without drastic and strategic interventions, Malawi is unlikely to meet 13 of the Goals. At the current rate, Malawi is likely to meet Goals 3, 6, 12 and 13. Of major concern is the slow progress on ending poverty in all its forms, where the proportion of Malawians living below the national poverty line has improved marginally, from 51.5 per cent in 2016 to 50.7 per cent in the current reporting period.

Means of implementation

Malawi has domesticated Sustainable Development Goals into Malawi 2063 and its First 10-Year Implementation Plan, as well as into other national development plans, thus ensuring that the Goals are implemented at all levels and financed domestically. The establishment of pillar and enabler coordination groups has ensured that stakeholders, including development partners, civil society organizations and private sector institutions coordinate in financing and implementing the Goals.

Data management

The absence of statistics on key indicators, and particularly gender disaggregation, makes it hard to identify challenges in time and glosses over inequalities. Malawi is working to strengthen national statistical systems to enhance data collection, analysis and monitoring.

Key challenges

The recent spike in prices, especially farm inputs, poses a clear danger by reversing progress in food security and poverty reduction.

Corruption remains a key challenge, compromising the quality of public service delivery, especially infrastructure development.

Natural disasters, as manifested in the recent cyclones that are hitting Malawi with increasing regularity and intensity, pose a major risk to national development.

The prolonged coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has caused a global and national economic slowdown and has reversed the progress that the country was making in the development arena.

Way forward to accelerate Goal implementation

Despite Malawi making progress in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, there is still room for improvement in some of the Goals. Malawi is making efforts to accelerate Goal implementation by, among other means:

(a) Developing a COVID-19 socioeconomic recovery plan, which identifies key socioeconomic investments in select productive sectors to be front-loaded for Malawi to build back much faster from the effects of COVID-19;

(b) Improving the financing mechanism for Goal implementation through the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, which is a financing coordination

mechanism where priorities are set and resources mobilized jointly by the Government, the United Nations and development partners;

(c) Strengthening the data system for effective monitoring and evaluation to track progress for the implementation of the Goals;

(d) Building institutional capacity for efficient delivery of services to the public and improved governance.

Mali

[Original: French]

Mali, despite the many difficulties it faces, has prepared its second voluntary national review report as proof of its clear will to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, in line with the Strategic Framework for Economic Recovery and Sustainable Development for 2019–2023.

The 2022 voluntary national review report has been prepared against the background of an unprecedented health crisis and the security crisis that began in 2012 and whose sociopolitical consequences include an economic and financial embargo on the country.

As a result, the high-level political forum's theme of "Building back better after the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" is of significance to Mali.

The pandemic has set back the progress made to achieve the Goals and further complicated the gaps in health services, food security, peace, security and climate change. The economic impact of COVID-19 has been disastrous for Mali, where growth has fallen from 5 per cent in 2019 to a 1.2 per cent rate of contraction in 2020.

In response, the Government has adopted measures to mitigate its effects on people and on the domestic economy.

Considerable efforts have been made by the Government to implement the 17 Goals with the support of the Sustainable Development Goals Fund through the joint programme on "Financing the development of human capital in Mali".

Developments in relation to the five Goals chosen for the 2022 high-level political forum are described below.

Sustainable Development Goal 4 (Quality education): the security crisis has disrupted trends in education indicators. Its most obvious effect has been the massive displacements of people, especially women and schoolchildren, and the closure of several schools in the crisis-affected areas.

Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender equality): significant progress has been made with, for example, the adoption of Act No. 2015-052 of 18 December 2015, instituting measures to promote gender equality in access to appointed and elected positions. In the 2020 elections, the proportion of seats held by women increased almost threefold from 9.5 per cent to 27.89 per cent.

The Conseil national de transition (National Transitional Council), which currently serves as the parliament, has women in 26.45 per cent of seats, which is encouraging evidence of the promotion of gender equality. Efforts are still needed to address violence against women, especially in the light of the crisis, and to improve access to appointed and elected positions.

Sustainable Development Goal 14 (Life below water): at first glance, it would seem that as a landlocked country this Goal is not of direct concern. However, the crisis with the Economic Community of West African States, with an embargo in place against the country, has shown how important this Goal is for the country.

Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on land): in the light of the encouraging trend of most indicators, there is a strong chance this Goal can be achieved if specific measures are taken to increase the proportion of forested land relative to total land area, which showed a slight fall in 2018.

Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals): the trends seen in the indicators for this Goal bode well for 2030 if the efforts that led to improved revenue collection in 2019 continue.

Aware of the challenges of the 2030 Agenda and the need for inclusiveness to achieve the Goals, the Government has implemented an inclusive and participatory mechanism that involves all the social and professional actors in the life of the country.

By examining trends in the indicators, certain challenges have been identified related to the mobilization of actors and financial resources, statistics and communication.

These challenges must be addressed more robustly and the scarce public resources managed with tighter budgetary control and improved political and institutional governance at all levels; and, naturally, there must be a major moral civic rearmament for unity, peace, social justice and sustainable coexistence.

Montenegro

[Original: English]

The Sustainable Development Goals are an integral part of the national sustainable development strategy. A review of the national sustainable development strategy implementation by 2021 showed progress, with the achievement of four Goals (1, 8, 9 and 12); an assessment of trends for the remaining Goals was not possible due to a lack of data. It is necessary to step up national sustainable development strategy implementation, monitoring and evaluation efforts.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the European Union accession process are highly complementary. Nearly two thirds of the Sustainable Development Goal targets (109 out of 169) are closely linked to European Union policies, especially those from chapter 27, on the environment and climate change, chapters 23 and 24, on the rule of law and freedom and security, and chapter 19, on social policy and employment.

Financing and coordination for sustainable development have been enhanced through programme budgeting and the establishment of an “eco-fund”, through the restructuring of the National Council for Sustainable Development and by positioning the Office for Sustainable Development within the Secretariat-General of the Government. The need for continuous efforts to foster implementation mechanisms and accelerate the attainment of Sustainable Development Goals remains.

In the first year of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, gross domestic product (GDP) fell by 15.3 per cent, and registered unemployment (annual average) rose by 13.4 per cent compared with 2019. More than a fifth of the workforce received lowered wages. Available evidence suggests that vulnerable groups were disproportionately affected. Children were affected in several ways, including through

an increased number and intensity of domestic violence cases. COVID-19 had a profound impact on education.

At 22.6 per cent, the at-risk-of-poverty rate³ was lower in 2020 compared with previous years. A positive trend has been also recorded for poverty, social exclusion and the material deprivation of children, but the rate (38.6 per cent) remains high and worrying. Poverty is increasing in the north, with the rate four times higher compared with that of the southern region. Effective social and regional development policies are necessary to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1.

Some progress with the achievement of Goal 4 is evident: the number of children in early education increased, accessibility was improved and free textbooks were provided. Education is becoming more inclusive and equitable, yet inequalities remain with regard to vulnerable groups. The quality of education is emerging as the key issue, referring both to infrastructure and to learning results and outcomes.

Gender policies (Goal 5) contributed to a greater participation of women in public life, with a growing share (albeit with certain fluctuations) of parliamentary seats being held by women. The number of violence cases with a court epilogue is also increasing. Nevertheless, traditional gender roles and stereotypes persist, especially inside the house, but also in politics and on the labour market. The gender equality index suggests that Montenegro is lagging behind the European Union average and within the region.

The development of policies to protect marine and terrestrial biodiversity (Goals 14 and 15) is predominantly driven by the European Union accession. Significant progress has been achieved with regard to protected areas: in 2020, 13.41 per cent of the land area was designated for protection. As from 2021, a protection regime has been introduced for 0.98 per cent of the marine area. Challenges remain, in particular with regard to sustainable forest and protected area management and protected species.

Close to €1.55 billion has been disbursed from the national budget for institutions, programmes and measures related to Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17 over the period 2015–2020. Of that amount, €1.2 billion (78 per cent) was for education. Gender equality expenditure was €4.2 million (0.3 per cent), with a strong declining trend. Expenditure for the protection of marine and terrestrial biodiversity (€112.4 million) doubled over that period, while €222 million (14 per cent) has been set aside for diverse interventions related to Goal 17. Public spending for the five Goals were at the level of 6 to 7 per cent of GDP annually.

The plan under the national sustainable development strategy for the phased introduction of Sustainable Development Goal indicators into the statistical system (77 by 2018 and an additional 91 by 2020) was not implemented. The lack of indicators hinders the assessment of achievements and the formulation of adequate policies. The absence of clearly defined parameters, procedures and responsibilities for data collection requires decisive actions and clear assignments for the coming period.

Wide consultations were carried out in the course of preparations for the voluntary national review; institutional mechanisms, regional meetings and online tools were used. The Office of the Protector of Human Rights and Freedoms and its network of “Golden Advisors” for children’s rights made an especially valuable contribution. The voluntary national review preparation process was coordinated by

³ The at-risk-of-poverty rate refers to the share of the population with income below the national poverty line.

the Office for Sustainable Development, with support of the United Nations system in Montenegro.

Netherlands

[Original: English]

Four countries, one Kingdom

The four countries of the Kingdom (Aruba, Curaçao, the Netherlands and Sint Maarten) collaborated closely on the second voluntary national review. Significant contributions were also made by stakeholders. Partnership is at the heart of our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Assisted by the United Nations, Aruba and Curaçao have drafted national plans linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and to the Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework for the region. Sint Maarten has linked its national vision, aimed at resilience, capacity-building and sustainable development, to the Goals. In its plan of action for national Sustainable Development Goal implementation, evaluated in 2021, the Netherlands recommended strengthening the link between policies and the Goals by means of a national strategy. A major step was the introduction in 2019 of a “Sustainable Development Goal check” of new policies, which includes an assessment of the potential impact on developing countries. Progress has been made in the area of statistical monitoring. Statistics Netherlands (CBS) annually publishes the “Monitor of well-being and the Sustainable Development Goals” and will, from now on, also publish a Monitor for the Caribbean islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba (part of the Netherlands). Recently, Aruba and Curaçao have also expanded their sets of indicators.

Good basis, but efforts must be stepped up

The Kingdom is well placed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, although work remains to be done. Data show that the European part of the Kingdom scores well on tackling inequality, decent work and economic growth, innovation, strong institutions, education and water management. Its biggest challenges are biodiversity restoration and further accelerating the climate and energy transitions. The Caribbean part of the Kingdom faces bigger challenges, while their resources and capacity are more limited. The consequences of climate change, such as sea-level rise, biodiversity loss and extreme weather, increase existing vulnerabilities and restrict economic opportunities, particularly in agriculture and tourism.

The Sustainable Development Goals demand a comprehensive approach. For this voluntary national review, progress on the Goals has therefore been reviewed on the basis of six major entry points, as defined in the *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019*. The resultant overall picture is that the Governments of the four countries have formulated ambitious objectives on making the economy and the energy and food systems more sustainable, while leaving no one behind. Human rights are the basis for the Goals. Effectiveness can be markedly improved by aiming for concrete targets, adopting a comprehensive approach, enhancing policy coherence and scaling up innovative solutions. Further developing sustainable business models is also crucial. For the countries in the Caribbean, investment in digitalization and capacity is vital for economic growth and resilient societies.

Voluntary subnational and local reviews

More than a third of the municipalities and a number of provinces in the Netherlands have embraced the Sustainable Development Goals. The Association of

Netherlands Municipalities has conducted a voluntary subnational review, which will also be presented to the United Nations this year. The city of Amsterdam will present its first voluntary local review.

Involvement of society at large

There has been a sharp increase in the involvement of society in Sustainable Development Goal implementation in the Kingdom. The platform “SDG Nederland” now has over 1,200 member organizations. The annual report presented to the Dutch parliament each year on Sustainable Development Goal progress in the Netherlands is the result of a collaborative effort by the Government, the business community and financial sector, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, knowledge institutions, youth organisations and the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights. Young people have amplified their voices and the Government has adopted their suggestion for a “generational impact assessment”. Stakeholders in Curaçao and Aruba are also involved in drafting national development plans and voluntary national reviews. In Curaçao, the national Sustainable Development Goal committee encompasses platforms for people, planet and prosperity, which bring the Government and stakeholders together. The Aruban Government, too, has worked actively and successfully in recent years to increase the involvement of wider society: non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and the private sector. Sint Maarten has launched an awareness campaign and held national dialogues to inform citizens on sustainable development. Moreover, it added the Goals to the educational curriculum.

The Kingdom has also contributed to Sustainable Development Goal development through its global partnerships and will continue to do so.

Pakistan

[Original: English]

Pakistan is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, with a focus on building forward better in the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, following the spirit of inclusivity, equity and sustainability.

Commitment towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- The implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic provided an opportunity to rethink our priorities, inter alia, to build forward better in the decade of action and delivery.
- A National Economic Council subcommittee on Sustainable Development Goals has been established to provide highest level of oversight and strategic guidance.
- For effective legislation on Sustainable Development Goal implementation, 20 subgroups of parliamentary task forces on the Goals have been formed in the National Assembly.
- Development programmes are tagged to Sustainable Development Goals to effectively trace their contributions to Goal achievement.
- Pakistan and Sri Lanka have been twinned for their current voluntary national reviews, which is opening up multiple avenues for longer-term South-South cooperation on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Inclusive and equitable sustainable development

- Pakistan's progress towards inclusive development is evident from the reduction in poverty by 2.4 percentage points and in inequality by 1.7 percentage points, during the 2015/16 to 2018/19 periods.
- The World Bank recognized Pakistan's social protection programme as fourth-largest (according to coverage) globally, serving 16.9 million households during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Disaggregated data with regard to persons with disabilities is available through national surveys, allowing for targeted programmes for eliminating inequalities and discrimination in all its forms.
- The parliament of Pakistan passed the Transgender Protection Act 2018 to protect the rights to inheritance, education, employment and health, along with right to vote and to hold public office.
- Opening up the policy of digital and financial literacy for all led to an increase in mobile phone penetration among 50 per cent of the population. In addition, Pakistani start-ups were ranked in second position in South Asia in 2021.

Localization a key strategy for Sustainable Development Goal acceleration

- Stunting reduction programmes, such as the *Ehsaas Nashonuma* programme, have been started to reduce the prevalence of stunting; the percentage of stunting was 37.6 per cent in 2017/18, on average, a decline of 1.44 percentage points.
- Food security dashboard reports⁴ have been instrumental in tracking food shortages at the district level during the COVID-19 pandemic. They track agriculture production, food consumption patterns and the seasonal availability of essential agricultural food commodities and generate early price alerts.
- COVID-19 has provided an impetus to invest in the health sector. In 2020, public investment in the health sector increased by 410 per cent; 152 health facilities were equipped across all districts during the pandemic.
- The *Sehat Sahulat* programme, a health insurance scheme, has been successfully implemented, covering more than 60 per cent of the population.
- The adult literacy programme established over 170,190 adult literacy centres and increased the literacy and numeracy skills of approximately 3.98 million adults, especially women.
- Pakistan is committed to increase the share of renewable energy to 30 per cent by 2030.
- The World Economic Forum recognized Pakistan as one of the countries committed to the challenge of initiating a green recovery to protect nature and create much-needed employment.
- A ban on the use of plastic bags, tree planting and the ecological restoration of the Indus Basin are among the major climate mitigation and adaptation strategies implemented in the past three years.

⁴ See, for example: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/PK_Food_Security_Working_Group_Dashboard_20220115.pdf.

Resilient recovery from the pandemic

- Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic requires a cautious but aggressive strategy that saves lives, saves livelihoods and salvages the economy.
- The smart lockdown policy and other pandemic containment measures have minimized socioeconomic shocks.
- For rigorous monitoring and strategic decisions, the National Command and Operation Centre was established to steer the pandemic situation and propose the required directions.
- Existing infrastructure for the Expanded Programme on Immunization was adapted during the pandemic for COVID-19 testing and vaccination.
- Approximately 20.63 million people lost their jobs or experienced a reduction or loss of income during the first wave of the pandemic, namely, from April to July 2020. Nonetheless, the path towards normalcy started soon after July 2020, towards a V-shaped recovery.
- A government stimulus package lessened the adverse impact on poverty and food security and upgraded the health infrastructure.
- Digitization of the economy is, per se, the best outcome of the pandemic. Several mobile phone applications, including a vaccination certificate app, grocery apps and a citizen portal, as well as one-window service centres, improved overall governance and service delivery.

Philippines

[Original: English]

No Filipino is poor; no one is hungry. Filipino families live together; there is work-life balance. Everyone feels secure over their entire lifetime.

This is the *AmBisyon Natin 2040* of the Philippines. A 2040 strategic vision that has guided the Philippine development plans on the country's priorities in six-year increments. The Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022 lays the foundation for inclusive growth, a high-trust and resilient society and a globally competitive knowledge economy. Realizing that “the world we want”, as elaborated in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through the Sustainable Development Goals, aligns with the life we want, through *AmBisyon Natin 2040*, the Philippines has mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals in the strategies of the Development Plan.

This is the Philippines' third voluntary national review. The first was a stock-taking of lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; the second reported on the progress in addressing these lessons. This year, we had hoped to report on more progress towards a whole-of-society implementation and further gains in Sustainable Development Goal outcomes. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, unfortunately, reversed some gains and forced us to reprioritize strategies. However, the inroads we have made on means of implementation remain. We are enhancing these institutional mechanisms to quickly recover and accelerate progress.

Sustainable Development Goal implementation, 2016–2020

In 2016, the Philippines noted the following ingredients for the successful implementation of a long-term agenda:

1. Multi-stakeholder commitment spanning the long-term
2. Financing plan
3. Resiliency-building
4. Clear assignment of responsibilities
5. Effective monitoring

By 2019, the strategies to attain the Sustainable Development Goals had been mainstreamed in our Philippine Development Plan 2017–2022. After our second voluntary national review, but before the pandemic, the focus was to broaden stakeholder engagement, strengthen commitment, mobilize more resources and implement the community-based monitoring system, a mechanism to monitor Sustainable Development Goal outcomes even at the household level.

Stakeholder engagement. The Sub-Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals is a platform for a whole-of-society engagement for the Goals. Technical Working Groups consisting of agencies responsible for the Sustainable Development Goals on economic, social, environmental and governance matters were established. This structure is mirrored at the subnational levels. The Sub-Committee includes a Stakeholders’ Chamber consisting of private sector and civil society for each of the four Working Groups.

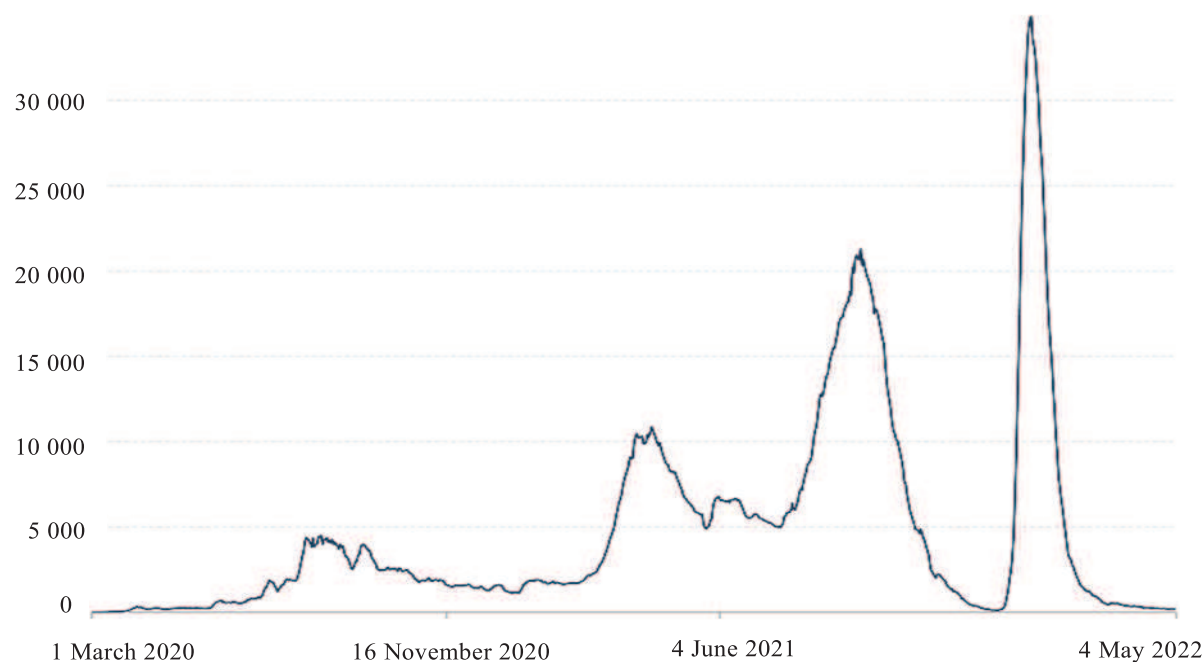
Resource mobilization. Fiscal programming in the Philippines is deliberated by the Development Budget Coordinating Committee. The Sub-Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals is within the Committee. This facilitates the inclusion of Goal-focused programmes in government expenditure. A law was also enacted to ensure funding for the Sustainable Development Goals, using receipts from sin taxes.

Monitoring. The Sustainable Development Goals Watch (“SDG Watch”), regularly compiled by the Philippine Statistics Authority, and the community-based monitoring system, to be implemented by local government units, are the mechanisms for Sustainable Development Goal monitoring at the national and subnational levels, respectively.

Sustainable Development Goal implementation, 2020–present

The Philippines, as with the rest of the world, was adversely affected by COVID-19. The graph below shows the trend in daily confirmed cases, which was over 30,000 at one time, but is now less than 200.

Daily new confirmed coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cases: seven-day rolling average



Source: Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University.

The Government's pandemic response was, initially, to restrict mobility, then to accelerate vaccination, when vaccines became available. The former led to economic contractions, by as much as 16.9 per cent in the second quarter of 2020; the unemployment rate went up to 17.6 per cent. However, financial assistance was provided to those furthest behind. During the first semester of 2021, compared with that of 2018, the income of families from the bottom eight deciles increased by 5.5 per cent, on average, while those in the ninth and tenth deciles declined by 1.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent, respectively.

As we learned to balance economic activity and risk mitigation, the Philippines is now on its way to recovery. This experience has amplified the urgency of building resiliency and promoting innovation. The list of strategies should now include financial inclusion, savings mobilization, insurance coverage and effective social protection. There should also be greater emphasis on innovation, beginning with developing twenty-first century skills, encouraging research, promoting collaboration and building the knowledge economy. These new strategies should build into the previous initiatives on stakeholder engagement, resource mobilization and monitoring.

There are bound to be many more challenges, but the biggest is to remain steadfast in our commitment to achieving "the world we want".

Sao Tome and Principe

[Original: English]

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe has taken the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations as the basis of its development policy, to enable Santomeans to have a better future, in balance with their natural ecosystems.

In recent years, the country has made significant progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially in the health and education sectors, which are key areas for the development of human capital. Sao Tome and Principe has consistently reduced maternal and infant mortality rates and incidences of communicable diseases, including malaria, which is no longer the main cause of mortality. Concerning education, the country has achieved gender parity in basic education and has been achieving high rates of schooling at different levels. These results have contributed to the graduation of the country from the least developed countries category, foreseen for December 2024.

However, as a small island developing State, with one of the smallest economies in Africa, Sao Tome and Principe still faces many challenges in its efforts towards sustainable development, especially in terms of the human and financial resources necessary to implement the 2030 Agenda. On the other hand, given its archipelagic nature and location, Sao Tome and Principe remains highly vulnerable to climate change. Indeed, in recent years, Sao Tome and Principe has been faced with rising sea levels, deforestation, intense and uncontrolled rainfall, floods and landslides, with a devastating effect on food crop production and exports. Furthermore, there has been a decrease in precipitation, with negative impacts on water supply.

Those development issues hamper activities linked to the agriculture, tourism and fishing sectors and the movement of people and goods, with devastating impacts on the economy, and directly endanger the lives of the populations.

The combined impacts of external shocks, namely the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the Ukraine-Russia war, impose a pressing need for Sao Tome and Principe to build resilience and strengthen human capital development, either through adaptation and mitigation measures or through structural transformation and economic diversification.

That scenario requires the country to redouble its efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, especially by strengthening technical and institutional capacity and building more resilient socioeconomic infrastructures, which requires substantial resources that, unfortunately, the country does not have. Sao Tome and Principe advocates that global action is needed to combat climate change, supporting the leadership shown by the small island developing States, particularly in renewable energy.

With the country's maritime territory being 160 times larger than its land surface, the sea can become the main driver of development for Sao Tome and Principe. Aware of the importance of activities linked to the oceans, Sao Tome and Principe has developed a blue economy transition strategy. However, exploiting the potential for promoting the blue economy requires the country to strengthen good governance and transparency, consolidate the democratic rule of law and, in a joint effort with the international community, create the conditions to address insecurity and combat maritime crime, especially maritime piracy and illegal fishing.

Considering the costs associated with insularity, Sao Tome and Principe advocates in favour of greater attention, or even positive discrimination, and strong support from the international community in order to implement the 2030 Agenda

successfully and inclusively. The country has been introducing policy measures in line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and others are planned, in order to attract new partners, explore innovative financing mechanisms, strengthen South-South cooperation and enable it to effectively achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Sao Tome and Principe will soon enter the middle-income country category, but, considering its insularity factor and the inherent effects of its graduation from the least developed country category, the country calls on development partners to guarantee the continuity of the different forms of external support, with a view to continuing and sustaining the trajectory of sustainable development.

To accelerate the process of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, Sao Tome and Principe is strongly committed to improving the national development plan, producing data that respond to the indicators through the establishment and domestication of a national Sustainable Development Goal indicator framework, investing in economic diversification, reforming the justice system, generating sufficient wealth to reduce current levels of poverty and social inequalities, improving resilience to the effects of climate change, identifying and defining public policies targeted at the most vulnerable social classes that are lagging behind and preventing anyone from being left behind.

Senegal

[Original: French]

Political leadership bolstered by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda is being implemented in Senegal against a backdrop of political, economic and social stability. However, the country faces certain challenges related to the fight against poverty, the promotion of gender equity and equality, resilience to the effects of climate change and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

Today, the second Priority Action Plan 2019–2023 of the Emerging Senegal Plan, the reference point for State public policies, is perfectly aligned with the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Since 2015, monitoring has been done by the national mechanism, through the Harmonized Public Policy Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, under the authority of the Head of State. The Ministry of the Economy, Planning and Cooperation carries out monitoring and evaluation, in the form of annual reports, in a participatory and inclusive manner.

Strong, inclusive and sustainable economic growth

The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, through the Emerging Senegal Plan, has led to significant progress thanks to public investment. The Government is focusing on sectors with high growth and employment potential to achieve the goal of strong and sustainable growth. Indeed, Senegal enjoyed economic growth rates averaging over 6 per cent in the period from 2014 to 2019.

With regard to human capital development, the Government is continuing its efforts to establish quality education, compulsory for all children under the age of 16, and to improve the health of mothers and children under the age of 5. With regard to the protection of vulnerable groups and the fight against extreme poverty, Senegal cut the poverty rate to 37.8 per cent in 2019, the lowest rate in the West African Economic and Monetary Union area, through a national cash transfer programme that benefits almost 400,000 households.

In the area of partnerships for the Goals, Senegal continues to encourage the financial engagement of development partners, as provided for in the 2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development.

Negative effects of COVID-19 on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted all socioeconomic sectors, leading to an unprecedented slowdown in growth (1.3 per cent in 2020). This downturn has severely hampered the Government's efforts to implement Goals 1, 2, 7 and 8, as well as human capital development. To limit its adverse impact, the Government put in place an economic and social resilience plan for 2020 worth 1,000 billion francs CFA, or 7 per cent of real gross domestic product.

Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and priority targets

Senegal favours the territorialization of the Goals through their effective integration into local development plans. In the field of education, the emphasis is on diversification and improving quality, particularly in the sensitive regions of Diourbel, Louga, Matam, Tambacounda and Kaffrine.

Senegal has also taken urgent steps to promote the inclusion of women in the production of national wealth and youth employment opportunities, through the 2018 Start-up Programme for Youth and Women and the 2021 Emergency Youth Employment Programme.

In order to strengthen monitoring and reporting on the Goals, Senegal will be a champion of inclusive data through the production of comprehensive, detailed, disaggregated and periodic data to "leave no one behind".

In conclusion, implementation of the 2030 Agenda will have better financing thanks to the adoption of the National Integrated Financing Framework, which will diversify the sources of public and private financing through public-private partnerships and green investments.

Somalia

[Original: English]

The Federal Republic of Somalia is honoured to present its first voluntary national review report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Over the last decade, Somalia has made significant progress towards implementing institutional reforms, as demonstrated by the country's sustained economic growth and significant political developments. Somalia's ninth National Development Plan aligns and mainstreams the Sustainable Development Goals across the Government's agenda. The National Bureau of Statistics has developed an online data visualizing dashboard and an online goal tracker to monitor the performance of the Goals. Wide-ranging consultations have been undertaken with civil society, Government and the private sector, as well as a dedicated session with Somalia's young people, who comprise over 70 per cent of the population. Somalia is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals despite the many challenges beyond its control.

Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative

During the last five years, Somalia has dedicated intense efforts to improving macroeconomic stability through a comprehensive set of reforms, including financial

governance and debt management, adopting a poverty reduction strategy and supporting inclusive growth. In March 2020, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank International Development Association determined that Somalia had met the conditions to begin receiving debt relief under the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which would see Somalia's debt reduced from \$5.2 billion to \$557 million once it reaches the Initiative's completion point. For Somalia, debt relief and regaining access to financial resources would mean lasting change by strengthening and diversifying the economy and introducing sustainable job creation, as well as developing infrastructure; all of which shall raise millions of Somalis out of poverty.

Poverty

Nearly 7 out of 10 Somalis live in poverty, the sixth-highest rate in the region. On average, 69 per cent of nomadic pastoralists, agropastoralists and internally displaced persons live in poverty; by contrast, poverty in urban areas is lower, at 60 per cent. The Federal Republic of Somalia has prioritized poverty reduction and promoting inclusive growth in its ninth National Development Plan. In implementing poverty reduction, the Somali Government has launched the national social protection policy, through which the *Baxnaano* (national safety net) programme was introduced in 2019 to support 188,677 households through nutrition-linked cash transfers. This programme reached over a million of the poorest and most vulnerable Somalis.

Education

The right to education is a fundamental human right, as recognized under article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; however, only 53 per cent of children and 55 per cent of young people attend school in Somalia. The education sector is highly privatized. Access to education is mostly limited to households with financial means, and those without are deprived of basic education. However, despite these challenges, in 2017 the Federal Government approved the national curriculum, and curriculum resources were distributed to all primary and secondary schools. Furthermore, the Somali Government has, in collaboration with partners, supported 377,213 children in attending school and trained 2,217 teachers to enhance capacity.

Access to information and mobile money

Somalia made substantial progress on access to 3G mobile data, with an increase from 38.7 per cent in 2016 to 65.2 per cent of the population in 2017. In mobile money use, Somalia is a leader, with over 70 per cent of the adult population using this service regularly.

Health

Somalia has reduced maternal mortality from 732 in 2015 to 692 per 100,000 live births. Considerable effort has been expended to increase access to health services through increasing fixed and mobile health clinics, increasing vaccinations as well as training health workers. The Somali Government together with its partners provided essential health services, with 488,745 outpatient department consultations, including the immunization of 76,238 children, as well as 87,564 antenatal care visits, 5,958 facility-based deliveries and 516,334 health promotions.

Climate-related shocks

Somalia is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate-related shocks. The last two years have been an exceptionally difficult period exacerbated by persistent drought, floods, locust swarms and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. For Somalia, the impact of climate change has meant the loss of livelihood

for pastoral and agricultural communities, increased conflict over resource scarcity and widespread displacement, as well as food shortages. The Government developed a national water resource strategy for the period 2021–2025, which provides actions to safeguard Somalia’s water resources.

Sri Lanka

[Original: English]

Aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Sri Lanka envisions an inclusive transformation towards a sustainably developed nation for all, where economic transformation is underpinned by green growth and social inclusivity. Central to this transformation is the integration of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals into policies, such as the national policy framework, entitled “Vistas of Prosperity and Splendour”, and the Public Investment Programme for the period 2021–2024.

After the first voluntary national review in 2018, Sri Lanka faced the 2019 Easter attacks, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and currently the external debt crisis. Despite setbacks, implementation of policy measures has continued at the national and subnational levels to deliver the country’s 2030 Agenda commitments. Among these, the establishment of the Sustainable Development Council, the increase in data availability on the Sustainable Development Goals indicators from 46 in 2017 to 104 in 2021 and the taking of steps to mobilize innovative financing for the Goals are notable.

The second voluntary national review is undertaken in 2022 to highlight the country’s progress towards the 2030 Agenda. To ensure an inclusive process, stakeholders from various groups were engaged through multi-stakeholder consultations and focus groups at the thematic, national and subnational levels for primary data collection and subsequent validations.

Central to inclusive transformation is economic diversification, broadening the impact of economic growth by supporting prioritized sectors, including manufacturing, and diversifying the reliance of the economy on a few export industries. This is especially relevant considering the economic setbacks, including the balance of payment crisis, experienced owing to the pandemic.

To power economic diversification, policies that transform Sri Lanka into a blue-green economy have been formulated, and implementation is under way. These include harnessing underutilized marine resources in a sustainable and regenerative manner, transitioning to renewable energy, agriculture development underpinned by biodiversity and sustainability and waste management.

Transformation into a blue-green economy is led by policies and strategies at the national and subnational levels for protecting biodiversity and addressing climate change. Along with robust nationally determined contributions, Sri Lanka rolled out policies that address specific areas of ecological concern. While climate change disproportionately affects vulnerable communities, Government-led climate mitigation efforts could be affected by fiscal consolidation, and the country may have to rely heavily on partnerships to undertake such projects.

Limitations in reaching poor and vulnerable groups during the pandemic highlighted the need to accelerate a knowledge-based and technology-driven transformation across all sectors. Accordingly, projects are under way for accurate and timely data collection that will enable the Government to respond to emergencies with targeted and effective policy measures.

While consistently performing as a high human development country ahead of its regional peers, when adjusted for inequalities, Sri Lanka's score fell by 13.9 per cent to 0.673 in the 2020 human development index. The pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and will likely create further challenges to achieve the 2030 Agenda. For instance, the \$3.2 per day poverty rate increased from 9.2 per cent of the population in 2019 to 11.7 per cent in 2020. Therefore, specific attention is paid to include social inclusivity in government policies at the national and subnational levels. For example, during the pandemic, cash transfers were made to economically vulnerable households and debt moratoriums introduced for business recovery. Public sector reforms and innovation, especially via digitalization, is central to enabling delivery of inclusive transformation, especially to reach the most vulnerable.

Ensuring all Sri Lankan citizens enjoy the benefits of the envisioned inclusive transformation requires strengthened law enforcement and rights protection to safeguard civil liberties, inclusive grievance mechanisms and efficient legal systems. Projects to increase the efficiency of the legal system are under way, including mechanisms to fast-track the achievement of the targets relating to Sustainable Development Goal 16 through integrated planning and monitoring.

While Sri Lanka ranked eighty-seventh out of 165 nations in the Sustainable Development Goals Index in 2021, challenges to achieving the 2030 Agenda remain. Reforming the Sri Lankan economy while minimizing adverse effects on vulnerable groups is key to achieving macroeconomic stability and overcoming the current economic crisis. Support for structural and innovative reforms in the public sector will play a crucial role. Owing to limited fiscal space, multilateral and bilateral partnerships, as well as South-South cooperation, can play an important role in addressing these challenges.

Consolidating Sri Lanka's progress to date towards the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring such progress isn't derailed, while strengthening ownership and implementation mechanisms, is the foremost priority for all stakeholders.

Sudan

[Original: English]

The Sudan is fully committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Government's second voluntary national review for 2022 is based on a wide consultative process with the active participation of the National Audit Chamber and the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The Sustainable Development Goals and poverty reduction unit of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning was assigned in 2019 the responsibility of coordinating the implementation of the Goals, to ensure their integration within government plans.

A transitional Government was established after a revolution in December 2019. Positive steps were taken by the transitional Government that will help in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These include: the signature of the Juba Peace Agreement; the removal of the Sudan from the list of State sponsors of terrorism; reengagement with the international community; and reaching the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative's decision point.

However, since the previous voluntary national review in 2018, the Sudan has been facing immense challenges that affect the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These challenges are mainly the following:

- Political instability

- Inter-tribal conflicts
- Economic instability
- The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

Recently, the international community suspended its assistance and froze the debt relief process because of the measures taken by the army on 25 October 2021, which dissolved the civilian transitional Government. The Government and all the stakeholders are committed to resolve this issue and reach a political consensus.

The Sudan will report on progress related to all of the Sustainable Development Goals. However, following the theme of the 2022 high-level political forum, the Sudan's 2022 voluntary national review will give in-depth reporting on quality education (Goal 4), gender equality (Goal 5) life below water and life on land (Goals 14 and 15) and partnerships (Goal 17). In addition, and given the relevance to the Sudan's context, it will also review health and well-being (Goal 3). The 2022 review will include an analysis of the interdependence of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as an analysis of leaving no one behind.

Below are the key messages on each of these Sustainable Development Goals.

Health

To accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals relating to good health, the Government will continue to improve child and maternal mortality indicators and address the remaining challenges, including:

- Achieving equity in the health system
- Attaining universal health coverage
- Reducing communicable and non-communicable diseases
- Improving the health information system, research and human resources
- Improving health system resilience

Education

Education remains a top priority for the Government. Education is facing complex challenges compounded by political instability, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic difficulties, intercommunal violence and an increased influx of refugees. Efforts exerted by the Government and education development partners have had positive results on education. The Government will aim at increasing enrolment and retention rates, upgrading learning environment, ensuring quality education and education equity.

Gender

Several fundamental changes in those acts of legislation that discriminated against women have been recently implemented. COVID-19, however, has led to an increase in gender-based violence and early marriage. The Government will address gender issues, including: enhancing women's representation; expanding family planning coverage; empowering women through information technology; securing equitable access to land; eliminating all harmful practices; combating gender-based violence; and ensuring equality in the labour market.

Life below water

The marine environment is facing pollution originating from different activities, compounded by poor data, weak capacities and limited financing. The Government

plans to address these issues by developing an integrated coastal management plan; demarcating and monitoring coastal hazard lines; reducing pollution; achieving sustainable fishing; mainstreaming gender in marine environment research; developing marine information systems; raising awareness; and supporting research.

Life on land

The Sudan is facing challenges of land degradation owing to the expansion of agriculture and demand for energy. The Government will continue its successful collaboration with the international community in environmental conservation. The Higher Council for the Environment and Natural Resources has been empowered to coordinate environmental issues. A key entry point to resolving environmental problems is the sustainable use of natural resources, guided by a national land use plan.

Partnerships

Tax revenues will be raised by implementing bold reforms within wider public financial management reforms. Funding from other domestic sources will also be mobilized. In addition, the Sudan requires substantial external financing to progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. An aid coordination unit has been established to support this.

Inadequate funding for statistical work has restricted the production of timely and reliable data. Surveys and censuses are outdated. Administrative data sources are poor, sporadic and lack necessary disaggregation. Efforts will be made to improve statistics.

Suriname

[Original: English]

Introduction

The Republic of Suriname reiterates its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In July 2020, the Santokhi-Brunswijk Administration took office and the new government partners mutually agreed to work towards a sustainable future for Suriname. The Government considers the Sustainable Development Goals as a parameter to work towards sustainable growth and development. Hence, the Goals are, to a large extent, integrated in the development plan for the period 2022–2026, which was developed in a broad consultative and participatory process taking into account the specific country context.

Suriname's progress

Suriname's first voluntary national review was drafted based on a wide consultative process and provides an analysis of the progress regarding Sustainable Development Goals 4, 8, 13 and 17. A voluntary national review technical commission, consisting of officials of the ministries responsible for the selected goals, was tasked with the preparation of the review. Furthermore, a national Sustainable Development Goals committee, comprising representatives from line ministries, Parliament, the National Planning Office and the General Bureau of Statistics, was established to accelerate the achievement of the Goals. Consequently, a Goals-related platform has been institutionalized to serve as the link between the Government, the private sector and non-State actors. Finally, the Sustainable Development Goals Youth Ambassadors programme facilitates the inclusion of young people in the implementation of the Goals.

Highlights of the review

The highlights of the review include the following:

- i. Efforts and progress in reforms in the education sector, including the introduction of new curricula, restructuring technical and vocational education, extending compulsory education up to grade 10 and continued professional development for teachers;
- ii. Climate mitigation policy focused on the approval of the Environmental Framework Act, Suriname's classification as one of the three carbon-negative countries in the world and the adoption of Suriname's climate change strategy and action plan;
- iii. Revisions in labour legislation and promotion of entrepreneurship to enhance employment;
- iv. The results of effective partnerships through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation with the aim of supporting Suriname's development.

Challenges and constraints

International commodity shocks, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the high fiscal and debt burden have weakened the financial-economic situation and social security system in Suriname. The pandemic led to the closure of companies and increasing unemployment, and exposed gaps in the education system due to minimal digital advancement in the country for distance learning. Moreover, Suriname is currently facing unprecedented flooding in the coastal and interior areas, mainly owing to the effects of climate change.

The Government has set out its policy strategy, based on its homegrown recovery plan, support from the International Monetary Fund and its medium-term policy framework, focusing on the following: (a) investments and innovation in the economic sectors; (b) rebuilding the social security system; (c) investments in education and health; and (d) strengthening key institutions.

In the process of mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals, the report exposed challenges related to: (a) grasping the technical concept of the Goals; (b) awareness of the Goals across all levels of society; and (c) the availability of updated and disaggregated data.

Opportunities and revitalizing partnerships

Sustainable Development Goal 4. Human capital development is at the core of national development. Continued investments are required to guarantee access to education, educational innovation and reform, emphasizing technical and vocational education.

Sustainable Development Goal 8. A positive business and entrepreneurial climate and local content policy can ensure sustainable employment, the best means for combating poverty, crime and violence. The emerging offshore oil and gas industries create opportunities, contributing to prosperity and well-being in the long term.

Sustainable Development Goal 13. Suriname should utilize the developed policy framework and legislation to mitigate the threat of climate change that it faces owing to its low-lying coastal areas, and should maximize its standing as a high-forest, low-deforestation country, with a forest coverage of approximately 93 per cent. Despite this, Suriname does not fully benefit from global arrangements associated with sound forest management.

Sustainable Development Goal 17. Building and revitalizing strategic partnerships and alliances at both the national and international levels are critical to contribute to sustainable development, while considering a transition towards a green economy.

The Government of Suriname remains committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and acknowledges a need for a stronger focus on advocacy and increased awareness regarding the Goals at the community level, while strengthening data collection, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to support evidence-based policy planning and execution.

Switzerland

[Original: English]

Switzerland's third voluntary national review is based on the 2018–2022 baseline assessment. It is published on the new website (www.SDGital2030.ch) and forms an integral part of Switzerland's review. The review was prepared by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in close cooperation with all ministries and is founded in a whole-of-society approach. It focuses on the progress achieved between 2018 and 2022 and outlines the key challenges Switzerland is facing to reach the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Switzerland's thematic priority areas

By the end of this year, we will be nearly halfway through the 2030 time horizon. In international comparison, Switzerland has been able to move towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a comfortable position in 2016 and since. In areas such as education, health care, infrastructure and competitiveness, it was and is well on its way.

In addition, important measures have been taken to encourage policy coherence for sustainable development and to highlight interdependencies (trade-offs and synergies) between various Sustainable Development Goals and targets. With the aim of supporting consistent policymaking, meeting the need for coordination and interconnection, and improving knowledge-sharing, the Swiss Government established a new organizational structure within the Federal Administration at the end of 2018. Since then, the 2030 Agenda has also been embedded in various strategies and initiatives at national, cantonal and communal levels, as well as in the working programmes and efforts by other stakeholders.

Nonetheless, Switzerland is not entirely on track to achieve all of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, whether in domestic or foreign policy. Much action and coordination are still required, especially in those areas that have been set out in Switzerland's new 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy, which was adopted by the Swiss Government in June 2021. These are: (a) sustainable consumption and sustainable production; (b) climate, energy and biodiversity; and (c) equal opportunities and social cohesion.

Ensuring the prosperity and well-being of society while leaving no one behind is at the heart of Switzerland's commitment until 2030. However, it has high per capita resource consumption relative to the international and European mean, and this must be kept within the capacity limits of the world's ecosystems. Likewise, a transformation towards sustainable food systems is crucial. Furthermore, greenhouse gas emissions must be cut, biodiversity preserved and restored, energy consumption reduced significantly and the use of renewable energies expanded. Switzerland also works to achieve equal opportunities and promote a life of self-determination for all and has set itself the goal of guaranteeing real equality between women and men.

Digital solution to compiling Switzerland’s 2022 voluntary national review

For its 2022 voluntary national review, Switzerland has fully digitized its stock-taking process through the means of a customized digital solution called “SDGital2030”. Representatives from the federal Government, cantons and municipalities, as well as numerous stakeholders from the private sector, science and civil society, were invited to participate in the 2018-2022 baseline assessment, in order to illustrate their contributions to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. By comprehensively digitizing the process, Switzerland aimed to lower the barriers to participation, to bundle the entire stock-taking – from the collection of information to consultation and translation to publication – into one single process, and to create a database that can be maintained and continuously updated until 2030. The full compilation is available on the new website (www.SDGital2030.ch).

Relevance of data and statistics

Statistics and relevant data are essential for measuring the progress of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Therefore, Switzerland complements its voluntary national review with a statistical annex edited by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office. Indicators verify the effectiveness of the measures implemented and highlight those areas where particular action is needed. In the sense of condensing the statistical information, the “MONET 2030” system of indicators was supplemented with further data. Overall, data enables fact-based decision-making and supports democratic debate.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has not lost its relevance – on the contrary. It remains of significant importance to Switzerland, both nationally and internationally. By engaging the whole of society in its implementation, and by submitting its voluntary national review to the high-level political forum on sustainable development every four years, Switzerland reaffirms its ambition to contribute to a more sustainable world.

Togo

[Original: French]

Background

Togo is preparing to present its fourth report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for the 2022 high-level political forum, after those for 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17

Sustainable Development Goal 4

Togo continues to apply its policy of free education which was adopted, for public primary education, in 2008 and was extended, to secondary education, in 2021. As a result, the net primary school enrolment rate was 94.3 per cent in 2021. The retention rates for middle school and high school were 71.2 per cent and 71.3 per cent respectively in 2021.

As regards higher education, centres of excellence have been established in the fields of poultry science, sustainable cities in Africa, electricity management and sustainable crop protection.

To match training to employment opportunities, three cooperative educational institutes are now offering courses in fields such as aquaculture, animal-raising, construction, renewable energy and logistics.

Sustainable Development Goal 5

Since 2020, the Government has been headed by a woman. Women account for 34.30 per cent of the members of the Government. The parliament is presided over by a woman and 18.68 per cent of the seats are held by women. Women account for 35.29 per cent of posts in the public administration, 12.60 per cent of municipal councillors and 10.25 per cent of mayors.

Under the heading of gender-based violence, 21 listening and counselling centres for victims have been set up and 14,111 services were provided to victims between 2016 and 2021.

In terms of child welfare, several pieces of legislation and documents, including the Children's Code, the Children's Welfare Policy, the National Strategy of Justice for Children, the Birth Registration Road Map and the National Action Plan to Combat the Worst Forms of Child Labour for 2020–2024 have been made available.

Sustainable Development Goal 14

To sustainably protect the marine and coastal environment, a regional programme of integrated coastal management and protection against coastal erosion has been implemented. The proportion of the coast protected against coastal erosion increased from 41.7 per cent in 2017 to 42.34 per cent in 2022 and the total amount of protected coastline increased from 21,170 metres in 2018 to 22,270 metres in 2021.

In relation to exclusive economic zones, the creation of the free dry port of Adétikopé and the establishment of fixed docking windows at the Autonomous Port of Lomé led to an increase in port traffic of 28.8 per cent and a reduction in the waiting time for ships in the harbour from eight days to two hours in 2021.

Sustainable Development Goal 15

Efforts in reforestation and forest landscape restoration increased the surface area of forests from 24.24 per cent in 2015 to about 24.66 per cent in 2021, and the proportion of sites important for terrestrial biodiversity in protected areas from 447,140 hectares in 2018 to 452,800 hectares in 2021.

In terms of combating desertification and restoring degraded land and soil, the steps taken made it possible to reduce the area of degraded land from 234,000 hectares in 2010 to 134,214 hectares in 2020, and then to 120,794 hectares in 2021.

Sustainable Development Goal 17

In 2021, the Government launched a programme of action to strengthen the contributions of the diaspora and the “diaspora desk” to the increased mobilization of diaspora funds. In order to encourage private investment, a framework for State-private sector consultation has been set up and Act No. 2021-034 on public-private partnership contracts has been enacted. Similarly, Decree No. 2022-002/PR establishing the conditions for cooperation between non-governmental organizations and the Government was adopted.

Challenges and opportunities

- Strengthening resource mobilization to finance the implementation of the Togo 2025 government road map;
- Introduction and implementation of specific and integrated socioeconomic actions targeting the most disadvantaged and vulnerable areas, such as the emergency programme to strengthen the resilience of the Savannah region;
- Strengthening the statistics system;
- Public sector capacity-building;
- Continued efforts to improve the business and investment climate.

Tuvalu

[Original: English]

Tuvalu is the fourth smallest country State in the world, with 26 km² of land on nine islands scattered across nearly a million km² of exclusive economic zones. Its population of 12,000 people live on coral atolls that are no more than 2.5 metres above sea level. The impact of annual cyclones and the rise in sea levels further compound life in Tuvalu.

Since 2015, development aid funding accounted for 30 per cent of total financing with domestic revenues from fisheries licensing and remittances funding most of the remaining economic and social activities in the country. Overseas employment is provided through labour mobility schemes and seafarer contracts on merchant fleets abroad. Still, a good proportion of the labour force is looking for work annually and is constrained by a lack of skills, work experience and job opportunities. Fishery licence earnings are volatile and subject to climate change and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

COVID-19 in particular has severely affected the prices of imported merchandise through its effect on the production and supply chain of both basic food commodities as well as the building and construction industry.

The adverse impacts of climate change pervade the entire life of Tuvalu and are the foremost challenge of the country. Erosion, storm events, tidal flooding, saltwater intrusion, drought conditions and insect infestation of trees and plants are some of the events that are undoing the progress that has been achieved to date. More funding and technical assistance are needed to continue work on adaptive infrastructure, food security, water, transport, communication, alternative energy, coastal protection and land reclamation. The expected impact of changing weather conditions on current patterns in the south-west Pacific will have significant impacts on the pelagic fishing industry, presently the only major source of domestic revenues.

Performance in the social sectors of education and health has been mixed. Issues in education include volatile pass rates in schools, low literacy and numeracy rates and low teacher-pupil ratios, with many teachers lacking the right qualifications. In the health sector, many health professionals come from overseas to fill gaps left by local doctors, who themselves leave for better-paid positions in the region. Mortality rates have not changed significantly in the last three years, and most disease-related deaths continue to be from non-communicable diseases. On a positive note, in 2022, Tuvalu remains the only country in the Pacific Island region that is still COVID-19 free.

Sustainable Development Goals review process in Tuvalu

Stakeholder consultations were the most important phase in the preparation of Tuvalu's voluntary national review report. There was a lot of appreciation for the Government's policy shift towards the internal development of the country. For example, the boat harbour and airfield constructions for all seven outer islands and the purchase of aircrafts to start the Tuvalu Airline Service were appreciated. Construction of these national infrastructure projects has already started, along with the ongoing national solarization project, and the food security projects responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are also important projects in the information and telecommunication sectors that are taking advantage of opportunities available in cyberspace. The land reclamation programmes reacting to the rise in sea levels is also another national project critical for the survival of the Tuvalu State and people. Tuvalu is also requesting other States to continue to recognize Tuvalu once it has gone underwater and is without a geographic territory. A few States have responded positively, and Tuvalu has thanked them most sincerely.

However, the good progress achieved thus far continues to be dogged by the operational inefficiency of the public servicing functions of Government. Issues with the conflicts between traditional and formal laws, sea transport, diseases and the global impact of COVID-19 and many other problems continue to impede Tuvalu from moving forward.

Imported inflation in the country is significantly higher than in the source supplier countries, mainly Australia, New Zealand and Fiji. Our capital formation is largely borne by our development partners and friends abroad. We continue to rely on their help in building our capacity to earn and run our development ourselves.

United Arab Emirates

[Original: English]

United Arab Emirates national development priorities and sustainable development

The United Arab Emirates delivered its first voluntary national review in 2018, stating the country's strong dedication to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The commitment of the United Arab Emirates towards sustainable development is at the heart of the country's vision for its future, which is aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. As an outcome of its Vision 2021, the United Arab Emirates fulfilled its goals by ranking first worldwide in 152 international index indicators and among the top 10 countries globally in 425 indicators.

In 2020, the United Arab Emirates commenced in shaping a comprehensive development plan for the next 50 years, with 10-year intervals across the next five decades, strengthening the country's reputation and sustainable development. The "Principles of the 50" serve as guidelines for United Arab Emirates institutions, to build a sustainable, diverse economy and harnessing resources for prosperous growth.

The Centennial 2071 Plan will ensure the resilience of the United Arab Emirates to adapt to future challenges, while driving a future-focused Government, excellent education, diversified economy and a cohesive society.

United Arab Emirates National Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals and stakeholder engagement

The United Arab Emirates National Committee on the Sustainable Development Goals was established in 2017 with the aim of coordinating the implementation of the Goals across the United Arab Emirates. It is chaired by the Minister of State for International Cooperation. The Federal Competitiveness and Statistics Centre serves as secretariat to the Committee and is in charge of reporting and monitoring progress annually.

The Committee comprises 15 federal government entities and serves as a platform for multi-stakeholder engagement.

The Committee has adopted a whole-of-society approach to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals through cross-sectoral collaborations and consultations supporting policymaking processes. The private sector, young people, non-governmental organizations, academia and international stakeholders play a pivotal role in the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Sustainable Development Goals-enabling mechanisms

The United Arab Emirates has been at the forefront of catalysing change agents for an inclusive, prosperous and sustainable future. It has adopted technologies and initiatives to support the social, environmental and economic sectors at the national level.

Various initiatives and programmes have mainstreamed the Sustainable Development Goals as driving themes. A non-exhaustive selection of flagship initiatives includes the following:

(a) Expo2020 – Dubai, a purpose-built city and community with the Sustainable Development Goals ingrained in its every facet. Expo welcomed 24 million visitors from around the world and 200 million people online. The Global Goals Week, attended by the Deputy Secretary-General, Amina J. Mohammed, brought the Sustainable Development Goals to life as “the world’s to-do list” with commitments from more than 75,000 visitors.

(b) The United Nations Global Platform regional hub serves as a platform to use big data and data science for official statistics and the Sustainable Development Goals. The United Arab Emirates launched its platform in January 2022 and is one of four countries globally to host a regional platform.

(c) The government leaders programme is an initiative that shapes future leaders, globally. The programme propels change agents to drive global impact through development programmes.

Monitoring and reporting annual progress towards implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

The United Arab Emirates has centralized reporting and monitoring through the Sustainable Development Goals *Adaa* (performance) system. From 2022 to 2030, the Ministry of Cabinet Affairs will monitor the system that serves as an enabler to government entities, to promote, manage and follow up on implementation of the Goals. The system has raised awareness of the Goals to the level of the entirety of the Government of the United Arab Emirates. A digital ecosystem supports the system, focusing on sustainability and governance. The ecosystem retrieves metrics from multiple sources to drive sustainable production of data, which support the statistical framework of the United Arab Emirates.

United Arab Emirates foreign aid

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is a pursuit not just at the national level but also at regional and global levels. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation leads the international development cooperation of the United Arab Emirates. The United Arab Emirates has by now expanded its geographical aid to more than 170 countries, including 46 least developed countries and low- and middle-income countries.

United Arab Emirates response to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

In March 2022, the United Arab Emirates supported the global community with 2,217 tons of medical supplies dispatched in 200 medical flights to 136 countries, in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The United Arab Emirates remains committed to build back better and to accelerate the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in a post COVID-19 world.

Uruguay

[Original: Spanish]

This fourth voluntary national review presented by Uruguay to the high-level political forum on sustainable development emphasizes the strategy that the country is undertaking to address climate change.

Addressing the causes of climate change requires a great deal of multilateral coordination, which is why in the Paris Agreement countries aimed to reach global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and to undertake reductions thereafter. Although Uruguay contributes a very low percentage of total global greenhouse gas emissions, it has made ongoing efforts to ensure low carbon development.

The strategy being undertaken by Uruguay is part of a process of building and implementing a State policy on climate change. This instrument is based on the National Climate Change Policy and the first nationally determined contribution, instruments approved by Executive Decree in 2017. The strategy is a guide to developing the next nationally determined contributions, in particular the second contribution that Uruguay will submit to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2022 and which will propose goals and measures to 2030.

Although Uruguay represents 0.04 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions, efforts to promote development with the lowest possible greenhouse gas emissions have always been present in the different climate change instruments. In this regard, it is important to mention the Energy Policy of Uruguay for 2008–2030, which led to a very rapid structural transformation of the energy matrix, whereby a high proportion of electricity production from alternative sources (biomass, wind and solar) was introduced, with 76 per cent of installed capacity and more than 90 per cent of production coming from renewable sources. This has made it possible to decouple carbon dioxide emissions from economic growth, in line with one of the mitigation targets included in the country's nationally determined contribution.

Another challenge lies in initiating a second transformation that, together with the National Policy on Sustainable Urban Mobility that is currently being drafted, will allow for the decarbonization of those sectors that continue to have significantly high carbon dioxide emissions. To that end, an alternative and technologically feasible aspirational scenario is included based on the current knowledge in the energy sector (92 per cent of the country's carbon dioxide emissions according to the National

Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme 2017), which includes transportation, industry, residential, trade and services, agriculture, fishing and mining. This aspirational scenario requires gradually replacing fossil fuels with renewable sources and electricity, promoting battery electric vehicles and incorporating green hydrogen, in order to minimize remaining carbon dioxide emissions in the long term as part of the path towards carbon neutrality by 2050.

Uruguay aims to achieve the aspirational goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, contributing to reaching a balance between anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions and carbon dioxide absorption by sinks in the second half of the century.

With regard to non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases, methane and nitrous oxide, which are strongly linked to food production, Uruguay proposes alternative scenarios to stabilize emissions of these gases by 2050, which would mean continuing to support global food production without contributing to additional warming.

In order for Uruguay to increase its capacity to adapt to climate change and its climate resilience, and to move through the emissions and removals scenarios presented as alternatives, it is essential to increase the flow of means of implementation into the country.

The goal of mobilizing funds from developed to developing countries has not been achieved in terms of the amount or the preferential conditions of such financing. Uruguay will, however, continue to work to explicitly state its support requirements and to reiterate in the international context the importance of putting into practice the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities“, which is embodied in the fulfilment of the commitment on the flow of funds from developed to developing countries.
