

Zimbabwe 2021 Voluntary National Review Key Messages

Zimbabwe has made significant progress in the implementation of SDGs underpinned by the following policy frameworks: Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET, 2013 – 2018); Transitional Stabilisation Programme (TSP, 2018 - 2020); and the current National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1, 2021 - 2025) and the country's Vision 2030 which mainstreamed the Global 2030 Agenda to facilitate joint implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Key messages emanating from Zimbabwe's 2021 Voluntary National Review are as follows:

1. Building on the SDGs implementation and co-ordination framework presented in 2017 VNR Government is further strengthening the institutional framework by establishing a dedicated SDGs Secretariat to co-ordinate SDGs implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Further improvements on the Institutional architecture include the alignment of NDS1 to SDGs as well as the coordination and information sharing within NDS1 and SDGs implementation Clusters. The NDS 1 monitoring and evaluation will be tracked through an e-enabled Whole of Government Performance Management System.
2. Government recognizes that development will only be sustainable if it is inclusive and has embedded the principle of leaving no one behind within all its development policy framework. Government commits to further institutionalise the Whole of Government and Society Approach to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of SDGs. Pursuit of an inclusive development strategy; building climate resilience; natural resources management; value addition and beneficiation; sustaining macroeconomic stability; investment promotion and infrastructure development are key enablers for the attainment of the country's Vision 2030 and the SDGs. Provision of Improved Infrastructure and Services is key to achievement of SDGs. The prioritised infrastructure and utilities areas within the NDS1 include Energy, Water & Sanitation, Housing, Information Communication Technology and Transport sectors.
3. Enhancing domestic resource mobilisation will be a key pillar in our funding mix to finance NDS1 and SDGs in addition to the traditional sources of funding including loans, grants and foreign direct investment. In this regard Government is focusing on plugging illicit financial flows through zero tolerance to corruption and capacitating the relevant institutions such as the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA). Enhancing the country's competitiveness and investment inflows; leveraging on diaspora remittances and promotion of public private partnerships will be prioritised.
4. Progress has been recorded in reducing all forms of violence and related deaths. This has been achieved through: awareness raising campaigns on exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against vulnerable groups; enhancing law enforcement visibility in crime hotspot areas and establishment of crime prevention and peace committees. Alignment of laws to the Constitution, improved inclusive access to justice and creation of new laws that promote human rights further entrenched the rule of law. Improved coordination and collaboration with multi stakeholders, justice sector members, civil society and the community has reduced fragmentation and parallel processes.

5. The country is promoting high agricultural production and productivity through improving land and water utilisation; adopting climate smart agricultural innovations like the Pfumvudza/intwasa (climate proofing agriculture) supported by government and the private sector. Improved agricultural production and productivity is addressing SDGs 1, 2, 5 and 8 through increased agricultural output; incomes; participation of women and throughput from agriculture to agro- processing industries. The Presidential Input scheme is also addressing the needs of under resourced marginalised groups and communities.
6. Progress has been made towards universal health coverage through sustained investment in public health infrastructure, equipment, capacitation of human resources for health, procurement and distribution of medicines and sundries as well as development, review of health related legal and policy frameworks. This resulted in reduced maternal mortality ratio, reduced under five mortality, and the general decline in HIV prevalence. In the education sector there has been increased access through inclusive programmes, infrastructure, human skills capital development and innovation. Gender has been mainstreamed in most of the country's legislative frameworks, policies and empowerment programmes which has resulted in increased participation in politics and decision making as well as access to productive and financial resources by women.
7. Government of Zimbabwe is committed to supporting full and productive employment and decent work; addressing informality; casualisation of labour and erosion of value of workers' salaries and wages. The engagement and re-engagement drive in support of a shift from traditional to economic diplomacy will improve the country's image, strengthen relations with the international community and will boost trade and investment as we march towards Vision 2030.