

SWP

Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

German Institute for International and Security Affairs

Regular and inclusive national reviews for the SDGs

**Strengthening national reviews
and M&E systems for the SDGs**

UNITAR Learning Session, 15 July 2016

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Structure

- lessons learned from MDG reviews
- HLPF's mandate and language on follow-up and review
- complementary types of HLPF reviews
- **National Voluntary Reviews at the HLPF**
- **regular and inclusive reviews at the national and sub-national level**

ECOSOC's "Annual Ministerial Review"

Mandate:

- *Assess progress* made towards the implementation of the IADGs/MDGs
- Contribute to *scaling-up and accelerating action*, exchange *lessons learned* and *successful practices*
- main elements:
 - *thematic review and global review of the agenda*
 - *national voluntary presentations (NVPs)*

ECOSOC's "Annual Ministerial Review"

Lessons learned:

- needs better *incentives* for countries to participate
= be a *means to an end*
= support national-level implementation!
- national voluntary presentations should *not only showcase* but be more analytical and self-critical
- needs to be better linked to *national-level processes and evidence* (data and evaluations)
- allow for meaningful *participation* of stakeholders
- needs better *follow-up* (recommendations, support, change management, on-going monitoring of progress)



Resolution 67/290, July 2013

*“Decides that the forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall conduct **regular reviews, starting in 2016**, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives, including those related to the means of implementation, within the context of the post-2015 development agenda, and further decides that those reviews:*



Resolution 67/290, July 2013

- (a) Shall be *voluntary*, while *encouraging reporting*, and shall include *developed and developing* countries, as well as relevant *UN entities*;
- (b) Shall be *State-led*, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;
- (c) Shall provide a *platform for partnerships*, including through the *participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders*;
- (d) Shall *replace* the *national voluntary presentations* held in the context of the ... [AMR], building upon (...) experiences and lessons learned in this context”



UNITED NATIONS
SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
SUMMIT 2015
25-27 SEPTEMBER



2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

1. Declaration
2. SDGs
3. Mol
4. **Follow-up and Review**
 - robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated
 - operating at national, regional and global levels
 - promote accountability to our citizens
 - foster exchange of best practices and mutual learning
 - complementary types of review

HLPF Thematic Reviews

SDGs plus cross-cutting HLPF *annual theme*

- **2016:** Ensuring that no one is left behind
- **2017:** Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity
- **2018:** Transformation toward sustainable and resilient societies
- **2019:** Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness + equality

plus new and emerging issues, countries in special situations, Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), Secretary General's Progress Report

HLPF MoI/FFD Review

- *Annual ECOSOC Forum on FFD follow-up*, recommendations feed into HLPF follow-up and review
- *High-level Dialogue of the General Assembly on FFD* back to back with the HLPF under the auspices of the GA
- *Inter-agency Task Force (IATF) Report*
 - identify *gaps in financing and other capacity problems*
 - assess how to mobilize potential *domestic sources*
 - provide for *access* to financial and technical *support*
 - innovative sources of financing, partnerships etc.
 - also assess compliance with *financial and other commitments* of *donor* countries

HLPF National Voluntary Reviews

Ask countries to voluntarily *report* on the implementation of their *country commitments* (replacing AMR-NVPs)

2016: 22 countries volunteered

Voluntary common reporting guidelines (UNDESA):

- **national frameworks**
(adjustment of development plans or sustainability strategies, national targets & indicators, policies & measures)
- **methodology and process** (for preparation of review)
- **institutional framework** (responsibilities, coordination, integration for coherent implementation)
- **means of implementation**

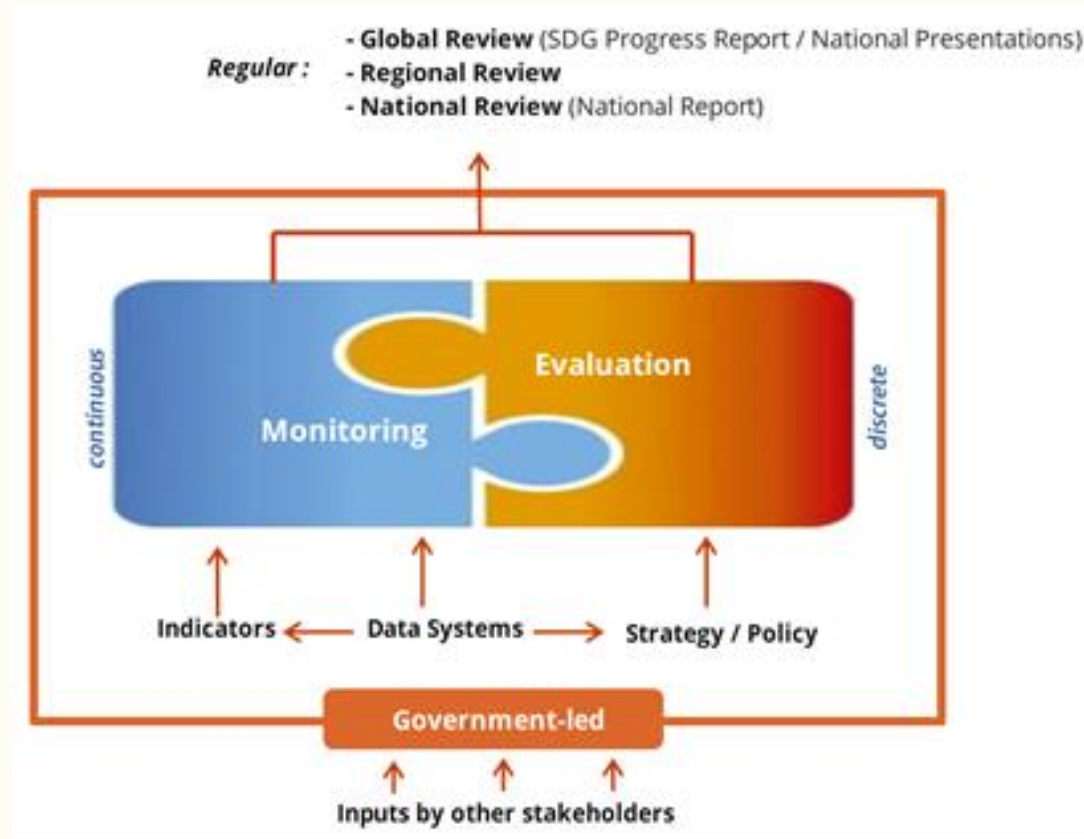
HLPF National Voluntary Reviews

- reports on and analytical assessment of
 - trends (global, regional, national indicators)
 - progress/successes, best practices
 - gaps/barriers
 - lessons learned
 - emerging issues
 - means of implementation
- discuss **level of ambition** (avoid business as usual) and also fairness/equity aspects and whether all commitments add up to global goals (in aggregate)

HLPF National Voluntary Reviews

- based on outcomes from *national* level processes
 - commit to fully engage in conducting *regular and inclusive* reviews at national and sub-national level
 - informed by *country-led evaluations and data*
 - written national *reports*
- *supplemented* by information from
 - *UN and regional entities*
 - *Major Groups and other stakeholders*
 - *experts* for new and emerging, neglected issues (GSDR)
- *HLPF national presentations* and *interactive dialogues*

Based on outcomes from national-level processes



National-level processes

Revise national sustainable development plan/strategy

- select *national* targets and indicators for the 17 SDGs, build them into a strategy
- have a *roadmap* with benchmarks
- *link* with other existing sectoral strategies, policies, indicators, and data
(and also their reviews and reporting mechanisms to avoid duplication and lower the reporting burden)

National-level processes

***Institutional* provisions for preparatory and follow-up processes**

- *whole-of-government* approach, allocate responsibilities while avoiding silos, inter-ministerial coordination/committee, build political will (incentivize)
- involve Parliament
- local authorities
- *whole-of-society* approach: national sustainable development councils or bodies, inclusive and meaningful national consultations (rights-based approach, access to information, identify and include also marginalized)

National-level processes

GSDR 2016

“... if no one is to be left behind in 2030, the notion of *inclusiveness* cannot be treated as an afterthought or even mainstreamed in other areas. Rather, it should be an *integral part* of institution design and functioning, of research and development, and of infrastructure planning and development ...”

National-level processes

Participatory review process at national level

- discuss (disaggregated) *data* from various sources
- analyze the *causes* of trends, *integrated* assessments and *self-critical* reflection
- identify *good practices*, innovative ideas, governance & legal issues, policies & measures, external (side-) effects
- discuss *challenges*, gaps, trade-offs, systemic obstacles
- present and discuss *draft* report, evaluate feedback
- discuss and implement *revisions*
- *communicate* results at national level, mobilize public support and ownership, increase accountability

Learning loops

- consider going *regional* for peer learning
- consider to participate in *HLPF national voluntary reviews*
- provide *feedback* on these reviews' format
- aim for *on-going learning processes/loops*
- *follow-up* at national and UN-level (work with results)
- national, regional and global reviews are not an end in itself but *means of implementation!*

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For more see our Dossier on Sustainable Development Governance: <http://bit.ly/29Vfm4Q>