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High-level political forum on sustainable development
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**Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease
(COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda
for Sustainable Development at all levels**

Compilation of main messages for the 2023 voluntary national reviews

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat transmits herewith the main messages of voluntary national reviews of 36 Member States and the European Union, in connection with the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#), [70/1](#) and [70/299](#).**

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Bahrain

[Original: English]

Institutional alignment

The Kingdom of Bahrain maintains deep-rooted institutional alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals as evidenced by its Constitution and National Action Charter, which promote peace and tolerance, advocate for the protection of the disadvantaged, ensure gender equality, guarantee access to universal health care and free education for all and seek to protect the environment and natural resources.

Bahrain's overarching strategy, the Economic Vision 2030, which was launched in 2008, is also strongly aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. "Sustainability" and "fairness" constitute two of the Vision's three guiding principles, and its sustainability aspirations extend beyond the economic sphere to human capital, innovation, technology, the environment and cultural heritage.

Accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

This voluntary national review, at the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, reflects the Kingdom's commitment to accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2022, the Ministry of Sustainable Development was established to coordinate and promote sustainability efforts for the Goals and beyond. Moreover, the Government Plan 2023–2026, entitled "From Recovery to Sustainability", further integrates the Sustainable Development Goals into government projects.

Response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

Bahrain adroitly managed the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic through effective preparedness, offering free testing, treatment and vaccinations to all citizens and residents, maintaining uninterrupted essential health services, avoiding full lockdowns and protecting those hit hardest by the pandemic. Notably, Bahrain granted mothers working in the public sector and spouses of frontline female staff the opportunity to work remotely. The Government limited the economic fallout and boosted recovery through a \$12 billion stimulus package that supported households and corporations, stabilized markets and restored confidence in the financial system.

This whole-of-government, whole-of-society approach was documented by the World Health Organization in a case study¹ as a guide for preparedness and early response and for adopting innovative approaches to strengthen the resilience of health systems. Health and economic decisions were data-driven, with professional research institutionally integrated into policy, allowing the Government to tailor its interventions to specific stakeholder needs. Also critical to the Kingdom's success were volunteers, who made pivotal contributions to the pandemic response, reflecting the vibrancy of Bahrain's civil society.

Achieving net-zero emissions by 2060

The 2018 voluntary national review cited environmental challenges facing Bahrain due to its geographical characteristics. Today, the environment is at the forefront of future sustainability plans. In 2021, the Government announced its commitment to reach net-zero emissions by 2060. To date, the Kingdom has registered promising results, enacting the Law on the Environment, exceeding its

¹ <https://www.moh.gov.bh/Content/Upload/File/637933076434107917-WHOEMBAH001E-eng.pdf>.

afforestation targets and collaborating with the highest emitting sectors and industries to achieve its commitments.

Sustainable economic growth

The Economic Recovery Plan, launched at the end of 2021, aims to place Bahrain in the best position to benefit from the global recovery and achieve fiscal and economic sustainability. The Plan comprises five pillars and 27 programmes and includes strategies for the six sustainability-aligned sectors (tourism, logistics, financial services, manufacturing, oil and information and communications technology, all of which promote the deployment of digital technology. In 2022, Bahrain registered the highest non-oil economic growth in a decade, with a 6.2 per cent gross domestic product (GDP) growth year-on-year.

Private-sector partnerships

In line with the 2030 Agenda and at the core of Bahrain's plans is the principle of partnerships and, in 2022, the Government issued a guide regulating public-private partnerships (PPPs). Bahrain has a long history of successfully promoting PPPs to complete strategic projects, including in electricity generation and sewage treatment. One of Bahrain's biggest successes is in housing, where innovative subsidized mortgage financing solutions enable thousands of eligible Bahrainis, including low-income families, widows and people with disabilities, to become homeowners through the creation of an attractive market for private construction companies. Bahrain's 2021 national report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda emphasized the importance of partnerships to drive the development of housing services.

Key challenges

A key challenge facing Bahrain is achieving fiscal sustainability. Much progress has been made under the Government's Fiscal Balance Programme; nevertheless, further improvements will unleash the transformative investments required and reinforce Bahrain's reputation as a trailblazer and thought leader in the region. Furthermore, to tackle the data challenge, government agencies are working collectively to make available accurate, timely, relevant and quality data to measure progress and inform future decisions.

In conclusion, Bahrain reaffirms its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda and is dedicated to working with the global community towards building a sustainable, equitable and resilient future for all.

Barbados

[Original: English]

Creating a sustainable future for generations

The global ambitions of Barbados cannot be contained within its 437 square kilometres. As a small island developing State and also a large ocean State that recognizes its commitment to the global community and the importance of collective action towards the achievement of common goals, our 2023 voluntary national review signals the commitment of the Government and people of Barbados to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our voluntary national review process encompassed stakeholder engagement within and across the private and public sectors as well as civil society, affirming our commitment to leave no one behind.

Our major Sustainable Development Goal initiative, the Barbados Economic Recovery and Transformation (BERT) Plan 2.0, aims to restore macroeconomic stability and place the Barbados economy on a path of strong, sustainable and inclusive growth, while safeguarding the financial and social sectors. This home-grown plan is transformative in its design, using fiscal policy to facilitate increased social protection by shifting the burden of responsibility away from the most vulnerable. Barbados has increased investments in health, education and other social services that impact positively on well-being and reduce inequality and poverty. We are certain that investment in home-grown initiatives for national transformation that are being developed and implemented, such as the Declaration of Mission Barbados, will further progress in fulfilling the 2030 Agenda.

Our journey towards sustainable development has been challenging, given our vulnerabilities to the prevailing and often concurrent crises we face. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic suppressed and stalled economic activity, resulting in increased levels of unemployment, particularly in the tourism sector. The effort of the Government of Barbados to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus led to rapid increases in public sector spending, which left the public sector debt stock at \$6.5 billion, equal to 150.3 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP), representing a sharp increase from a debt-to-GDP ratio of 126.9 per cent in June 2020 and resulting in considerable widening of our fiscal deficit. In spite of these challenges, Barbados remains committed to fighting the pandemic and protecting the most vulnerable in our community. The current debt-to-GDP ratio as of March 2023 is 119.6 per cent.

Hurricane Elsa in 2021, the first hurricane to hit Barbados in 65 years, resulted in structural damage to homes and buildings, costing the Government over \$33 million in repairs thus far and expected to rise to \$60 million. The triple crises of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis and the war in Ukraine exacerbated our socioeconomic vulnerabilities, compelling us to adopt more sustainable, equitable and inclusive ways of building and producing.

To develop our national resilience to increasingly severe weather events and encourage community and nature-based approaches and solutions to sustainability, the Roofs to Reefs Programme (R2RP) and the Revised Physical Development Plan are being implemented. Our approach calls for mitigation of the climate crisis and adaptation to the unavoidable impacts. These policies reflect a deliberate integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national programmes and policies as reflected in the 92 per cent alignment of Sustainable Development Goal targets with national policies in the 2023 rapid integrated assessment for Barbados.

It is a challenge for small States to collect quality disaggregated data and report on the work being done to achieve the Goals. This is one of our main impediments in measuring the implementation of the Goals. Furthermore, as a high/middle-income developing country, Barbados is constrained in accessing the finances necessary to fund Sustainable Development Goal-promoting initiatives. Access to resources to facilitate the advancement of the Goals and ensure that no one is left behind is critical. Our collaborative effort to confront the climate crisis and the attainment of the Goals by 2030, the Bridgetown Initiative, seeks to overcome the shortcomings of mobilizing finance for climate-vulnerable developing States; normalize natural disaster and pandemic clauses in all lending instruments; provide funding for loss and damages as a result of the climate crisis; and widen access to concessional financing.

As we press towards accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, we recognize the importance of prioritizing holistic development and prosperity for our people. We have the opportunity to learn from each other, highlight the work countries are doing and mobilize global support to implement

meaningful change to achieve the Goals. Barbados remains a champion of change creating a sustainable future for generations to come.

Belgium

[Original: English]

Belgium’s voluntary national review: a collaborative process

The decision to present a second voluntary national review is part of a long-standing commitment to multilateralism and sustainable development by the federal State of Belgium. Since 2007, sustainable development has been enshrined in the Belgian Constitution, ensuring that all policy levels, in their respective competencies, pursue the objectives of sustainable development, including social, economic and environmental aspects.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals requires a whole-of-society approach and, besides Governments, other important stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, have mobilized around the 2030 global agenda.

The process of the second review was established taking into account this whole-of-society approach. This joint report is the result of a collaborative effort by various policy levels and stakeholders and summarizes how the various policy levels in the federal State of Belgium contribute to the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. Since the last voluntary national review, in 2017, the Court of Auditors also conducted an analysis of the implementation, monitoring and reporting by public authorities in Belgium (preparedness review) in 2020.

In order to make the process as inclusive as possible, the Federal Council for Sustainable Development was tasked to serve as the focal point for engaging various social groups: worker and employer organizations and science and research, youth and “leave no one behind” groups. These were involved in two phases. In the first phase, a summarized overview of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by these groups was compiled, after which significant space was devoted to it in the voluntary national review itself. In a second stage, a joint opinion by several advisory councils was requested on the preliminary draft version of the voluntary national review.

The full contributions from all actors who participated (governments and stakeholders) can be found at sdgs.be.

Strengths, challenges and policies

Governments in Belgium start from a privileged position given, among other things, the strong institutional framework regarding sustainable development. With a strong economy, high-quality education and relatively low-income inequality, governments have the opportunity to pursue sustainability initiatives, both internally and externally. Through international actions, governments in Belgium are contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals abroad. Global sustainable development has long been a shared commitment: promotion and protection of human rights, effective and inclusive multilateralism, international solidarity, eradicating poverty, combating climate change and reducing inequalities. This commitment was reflected, for example, in the Belgian response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, as well as the sixth Belgian mandate in the Security Council, in 2019 and 2020, and in the focus on climate security and children in armed conflict. The role of Queen Mathilde as an Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals also illustrates this commitment.

This second voluntary national review illustrates that governments in Belgium have adopted many policy initiatives that contribute positively to the implementation of the Goals but that many challenges also lie ahead of us.

National statistics show that time is running out. In 2022, Belgium was on track to meet the targets for only 20 of the 51 indicators examined. An annex to this voluntary national review showing in more detail the evolution since 2000 for a comprehensive list of indicators at the national and regional levels is available at sdgs.be.

Key challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda include, of course, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic (the theme of the 2023 high-level political forum), increasing geopolitical uncertainty, the climate crisis and biodiversity loss, social inequalities, the link between digitalization and sustainable development, and the central role of education. These challenges can also present opportunities that must be seized.

In their contributions, civil society groups have asked for, among other things, greater coherence in the way that different policy levels monitor the implementation of the Goals and their targets. This means not only regard for internal Belgian policy coherence, but also coherence with the European and international context, given the economic, ecological and social impact across borders.

The voluntary national review shows that the various governments in Belgium and the actors involved remain committed to the Sustainable Development Goals by continuing and strengthening existing efforts to live up to the decade of action for sustainable development, as called for by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

[Original: English]

Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to be committed to the transformation and modernization of its entire society in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a view to achieving good and efficient administration and public sector management, a society with equal opportunities and smart growth.

Given that the European Union accession process is the main political goal of the country, it is very important to emphasize that there is full synergy in the implementation of both agendas. Therefore, better results in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda means stronger progress towards full membership in the European Union.

After the last voluntary national review presented at the high-level political forum on sustainable development in New York in 2019, Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the most important document for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, namely, the Sustainable Development Goal Framework. Thereafter, most of the key development strategies at different levels of government were harmonized with the Framework.

Unfortunately, there has been a significant setback due to the new challenges the world has faced in recent years, most notably, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine. With the resulting rising rate of inflation, especially rising energy prices, some achievements in poverty reduction have been reversed.

Nevertheless, strong efforts are still being made to improve vertical cooperation between different levels of government, as well as horizontal exchange of best practices, especially between local communities and different stakeholders. This is especially challenging given the very complex federal structure of the country. While

the ambitious programme of the Sustainable Development Goal localization process was launched a year ago, additional efforts are being made to engage the private sector, citizens and academia for the purpose of achieving tangible results on the ground.

It is generally recognized that better and more efficient administration and infrastructure upgrades could significantly improve the position of the most vulnerable groups and the fulfilment of the “leave no one behind” principle, but it is also realized that it would be almost impossible to achieve this without further involvement of the local communities.

Fully aware of the fact that public funds are insufficient for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goal Financing Working Group, which was established two years ago, made recommendations on how to mobilize other resources and proposed the introduction of innovative ways of financing that would bring us closer to achieving the set goals by 2030. We expect that the implementation of these proposals will begin in the period after the presentation of the voluntary national review. In addition, the progress made in digitalization, energy transition and efficiency brings new job and environmental protection opportunities.

With the aim of strengthening sound competition and greater commitment to achieving the Goals, the Sustainable Development Goal Business Pioneers Award was established to recognize the efforts of the private sector to achieve sustainable development, and similar awards have since been established for the most prosperous local communities and the academic sector. Bosnia and Herzegovina is even leading a project within the South-East European cooperation process that has initiated the annual regional award for academic researchers for the best innovations in the implementation of the Goals.

Furthermore, through the online platform and the e-consultation process launched to create this voluntary national review, a wider group of civil society organizations and citizens were involved in this exercise.

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been very active in promoting regional cooperation. Several very important initiatives and meetings were organized with the aim of improving the exchange of experiences and addressing bottlenecks and similar challenges. Some of them include the meeting of the States of the European Union Adriatic-Ionian macroregion that focused on a midterm evaluation of the progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, the annual meetings of the Western Balkan experts, launched at the end of 2021, activities within the Central European Initiative, and active participation in the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the Economic Commission for Europe Region held in Geneva.

We must be fully aware that in the second half of the Sustainable Development Goal implementation period, we may encounter many unpredictable and unpleasant events and phenomena, which we have already faced in recent years. Therefore, we must make every effort to build resilience and to respond better and faster in order to overcome such situations as best as we can.

Brunei Darussalam

[Original: English]

Brunei Darussalam remains committed to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in line with its National Vision for 2035, *Wawasan Brunei 2035*, and advancing the nation towards its goals of having a highly skilled and educated population, a high quality of life and a dynamic and sustainable economy. The second voluntary national review is timely as a reflection of the Sustainable Development Goal journey following global disruptions. Developed through a

participatory multi-stakeholder approach, this review highlights several developments within the Sustainable Development Goal ecosystem, including mainstreaming of the Goals with *Wawasan Brunei 2035*; enhancements in institutional arrangements; and improvements in evidence-based monitoring and timely reporting of progress. Whole-of-nation partnerships coupled with international cooperation substantiate the findings of progress on the Goals and the identified opportunities to address gaps for the remaining seven years.

National progress and challenges

As a country with a high human development index with a value of 0.829, Brunei Darussalam continues to strengthen efforts in several dimensions. The nation remains resolute in maintaining several key areas, in particular, the commitment to universal health coverage with improvements in health infrastructure, equipment, medicines and personnel. This has contributed to a low maternal and child mortality rate, a high proportion of births attended by skilled health personnel and a high percentage of routine vaccination coverage rates. The resilience of the health system was tested by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, but through aggressive action, including regular public communications and a strong sense of solidarity, a low death rate with a high recovery rate was achieved.

Economic diversification has led to good strides in progress in stimulating economic growth and, more importantly, creating job opportunities. People's livelihoods have been further improved by significant investment in better infrastructure, improved food, and nutrition security, as well as full access to basic necessities, particularly electricity, water and sanitation. Free education at all levels and lifelong human capital development remain important drivers for maintaining a prosperous society with, among others, high youth and adult literacy rates, good enrolment rates and stable gender parity. There have also been more innovative efforts, especially in the provision of social protection from poverty and hunger among vulnerable groups. The Brunei community also continues to prioritize efforts on climate change, addressing biodiversity loss and maintaining natural ecosystems. Renewable energy is currently being explored, with initiatives to improve energy efficiency and promote sustainable livelihood.

There are, however, areas for improvement. At present, data gaps remain a significant challenge. As such, there is only a partial assessment of progress in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, even though the National Sustainable Development Goal Tracker established by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific has greatly improved data monitoring and reporting. For example, even though aggressive climate change actions have been taken through the National Climate Change Policy, more data are needed to effectively monitor outcomes and impacts for Goal 13. There are also other additional compounding factors. For example, while there have been improvements on Goal 4 in uplifting the quality of teachers and responding to the needs of special needs students, the education system now has to deal with learning loss due to school closures during the pandemic. Another area of concern is actions needed to support transformations in human consumption behaviours, such as increasing the uptake of recycling and sustainable practices. Strong partnerships are therefore essential to accelerate progress and scale up interventions.

The way forward

Brunei Darussalam is confident that the Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved through solidarity and building synergies in efforts with strength and resilience. Brunei Darussalam will continue its efforts to strengthen key areas, including investments in human capital; progressing in quality of life, which includes

governance and social and environmental areas; and accelerating economic diversification to reduce poverty and inequalities and improve social and economic resilience. Ongoing efforts will also be continued through strengthening statistical capacity to better identify vulnerable populations; develop evidence-based policies; and strengthen collaboration with all relevant stakeholders and through deeper policy coherence and implementation. These would be particularly relevant in designing and mobilizing the behavioural changes needed for a deeper change towards sustainable development. Together with a stronger multilateralism approach to the Sustainable Development Goals, action on the 2030 Agenda will further transform the future of the planet and its people. Brunei Darussalam will continue its Sustainable Development Goal journey with resilience, adaptation and partnership.

Burkina Faso

[Original: French]

Burkina Faso is participating in this exercise once more in 2023, following its 2019 review. Having undertaken to produce the second voluntary national report, the Government needs to give an account of its progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals, the many shocks convulsing the country notwithstanding.

This voluntary national review serves as an opportunity for the country to consider the efforts that will be required of it to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on time. The report was drafted in a participatory, interactive and inclusive manner.

The efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals unfolded against the difficult backdrop of an ongoing security crisis and changes in political governance at the national level, and the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine at the international level.

In addition, the security situation has led to an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, with an estimated 1,999,127 internally displaced persons as at 28 February 2023, of whom 58.42 per cent were children, 23.97 per cent were women and 17.61 per cent were men.

Despite this difficult situation, the national economy has proven resilient, growing at an average annual rate of 5.2 per cent during the 2016–2022 period. However, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic made themselves felt in 2020: loss of growth (-3.8 percentage points), decline in tax revenue (-3.4 per cent), and a widening fiscal deficit (-5.2 per cent).

Moreover, the assessment of progress towards Goals 6 and 7 indicates that satisfactory results have been achieved. Access to safe drinking water has expanded, improving from 71.9 per cent in 2016 to 76.3 per cent in 2021. These advances have been driven by the “Zéro corvée d’eau” (zero water chore) initiative launched in 2016, which has strengthened responses, making it possible to put in place extensive hydraulic infrastructure. Electrical grid coverage throughout the country has also improved (from 33.32 per cent in 2015 to 49.29 per cent in 2021), as has the national rate of access to electricity powered by solar energy. In 2018, an estimated 53.4 per cent of households had access to electricity (24.4 per cent from the electrical grid and 29 per cent from solar or generator power). There has also been a noteworthy increase in the share of energy production derived from renewable energy sources, compared to power from the electrical grid (from 9.4 per cent in 2015 to 24.29 per cent in 2021), owing to the development of solar projects.

However, the assessment of Goals 9 and 11 remains mixed. Despite rehabilitation efforts undertaken since 2017, the road network has deteriorated; 30 per

cent of roads were in good condition in 2016, compared with 25 per cent in 2021, and the manufacturing industry's contribution to gross domestic product has declined. The rise in urbanization has had an impact on the expansion of access for all to housing and basic services in cities.

The country faces a number of challenges in terms of accelerating its progress towards the achievement of the Goals, foremost among them the security crisis that has had a considerable impact on that progress. Other challenges include:

- Controlling population growth in order to harness the demographic dividend
- Mobilizing domestic and external resources to meet growing security, humanitarian and development needs
- Reducing inequalities and disparities that have persisted in spite of the public policies implemented in recent years
- Strengthening measures to promote research with a view to achieving the Goals
- Reinvigorating growth sectors to support the economy and job creation

Despite the country's difficult situation, the authorities have reaffirmed their commitment to continue implementing the Goals by formulating the national plan for economic and social development (2021–2025). The national plan is currently being operationalized through the plan of action for stabilization and development, which is built around four pillars: pillar 1: combating terrorism and restoring territorial integrity; pillar 2: responding to the humanitarian crisis; pillar 3: rebuilding the State and improving governance; pillar 4: pursuing national reconciliation and social cohesion.

Cambodia

[Original: English]

Cambodia's development goals, vision and least developed country graduation

Cambodia's second voluntary national review assesses progress on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its additional goal of eliminating mines and explosive remnants of war.

With the slogan "Thanks, Peace", Cambodia has implemented sustainable development initiatives, outlined in strategic documents like the Cambodia Sustainable Development Goal Framework, National Strategic Development Plan, Rectangular Strategy Phase IV, National Social Protection Policy Framework, Economic Recovery Programmes, Cambodia Digital Government Policy and Integrated National Financing Framework.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is crucial for Cambodia's aspirations to become an upper-middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050. Having met, for the first time, all least developed country graduation criteria in 2021, Cambodia may potentially graduate from the least developed country category as early as 2027 if progress continues.

Progress on the Goals and leaving no one behind

Cambodia has made significant strides in enhancing the well-being of its population, working diligently to ensure that no one is left behind. This progress is evident in various sectors, including Goals 7 (affordable and clean energy), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 10 (reduced inequalities) and 17

(partnership for the Goals) and Cambodia's own goal, which is to end the negative impact of mines and explosive remnants of war.

The Government also recognizes the need to make further efforts on Goals 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure) and 15 (life on land) and to make additional data available to assess progress on Goals 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 3 (good health and well-being), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 13 (climate action), 14 (life below water) and 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Furthermore, Cambodia has made significant strides in enhancing the well-being of its population, with a focus on ensuring that no one is left behind in this progress. For example, from 2010 to 2022, access to basic drinking water and sanitation more than doubled, while access to electricity, clean fuel and bank accounts more than tripled for average households at the national level, but with greater progress observed in the households that are the furthest behind, closing the gap in terms of inequality of opportunities in Cambodia.

In children's health, the prevalence of stunting almost halved, from 40 per cent in 2010 to 22 per cent in 2022. However, children living in poorer households have been left behind, given that the prevalence of stunting reached 30 per cent in that group. The prevalence of wasting remained stagnant, at 10 per cent on average and 14 per cent for the furthest behind, while the prevalence of overweight children doubled, from 2 per cent in 2014 to 4 per cent in 2022.

As regards women's health, there has been an overall improvement in birth attendance. However, 5 per cent of economically disadvantaged women, those with lower education levels and those with more than three children still lack access to skilled birth attendance. Additionally, although there was a 20 per cent increase in the proportion of women with access to modern contraceptives from 2014 to 2020, nearly 40 per cent of women aged 15 to 49 years still have unmet needs for family planning. This figure rises to almost 50 per cent for younger women in urban areas, who, as of 2022, represent the most underserved demographic in this regard.

Among adults aged 20 to 35 years, completion of secondary education jumped from 15 per cent in 2014 to 23 per cent in 2022, while tertiary education attendance almost doubled, from 7 per cent in 2014 to 13 per cent in 2022. However, poorer women aged 25 to 35 years are furthest behind in secondary school completion, as only 7 per cent of them had completed secondary education in 2022.

Road ahead

Cambodia is determined to accelerate its recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the impact of the war in Ukraine while proactively addressing current and emerging challenges such as climate change. The nation will redouble its efforts to achieve all its goals by implementing targeted corrective measures, allocating budgets and mobilizing resources from diverse sources in collaboration with development partners and stakeholders.

The forthcoming long-term Pentagon Strategy and the National Strategic Development Plan 2024–2028 will be strategically aligned to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, economic recovery and inclusive, sustainable and resilient development, as well as shared prosperity for Cambodia and the world to leave no one behind.

Canada

[Original: English]

Canada is making significant progress in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its second voluntary national review evaluates progress since 2018 and focuses on efforts to advance five national priorities: Sustainable Development Goals 1 (no poverty), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 13 (climate action) and 17 (partnerships for the Goals). The remaining Goals are reviewed in summary. The voluntary national review was developed in consultation with governments at all levels, Indigenous Peoples, civil society, academia and individual Canadians. It is underpinned by data and reflects whole-of-society actions, achievements and challenges.

By fostering partnerships and collaboration, Canada is advancing the Sustainable Development Goals to build a more prosperous, healthy and sustainable future. It is working to accelerate progress for those left furthest behind, including Indigenous Peoples, racialized and religious minorities, two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex plus (2SLGBTQI+) people, those with a disability, official language minority communities, and other groups in vulnerable situations.

Significant progress has been made on reducing poverty (Goal 1). Canada has met its interim target of a 20 per cent reduction in poverty. However, recent data reflect the emergence of new challenges, including the end of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) emergency benefits and high inflation. Still, Canada remains well positioned to achieve a 50 per cent decrease in poverty by 2030, based on 2015 levels. Canada contributes to global efforts to eradicate poverty and increased its total international assistance resources to Can\$8.4 billion in 2021–2022.

Ensuring access to quality education (Goal 4) is an important measure to tackle poverty. Canadian educational outcomes are among the highest in the world. Provinces and territories are working to support students, parents and education staff with academic assistance and ensure student well-being. The Government of Canada made an historic five-year, Can\$30 billion investment to build a Canada-wide, affordable, high-quality and inclusive early-learning and child-care system. Canada continues to demonstrate global leadership in investing in and ensuring access to quality education.

Canada has a long-standing commitment to gender equality (Goal 5) and is taking concrete action to support women, girls and the 2SLGBTQI+ community. This includes ensuring equal pay for work of equal value in federally regulated workplaces. The National Action Plan to End Gender-based Violence helps those affected to access reliable and timely protection and services. Globally, Canada is the top Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-ranked donor for the share of aid supporting gender equality and is among the top-ranked for investments supporting women's rights organizations.

Canada is taking bold action on climate change (Goal 13), as it works to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 40 per cent to 45 per cent below the 2005 levels by 2030 and reduce carbon pollution to net zero by 2050. In 2022, Canada launched the most comprehensive emissions reduction plan in its history. The Government of Canada has also invested more than Can\$8 billion in adaptation and disaster response to protect communities and build resilience to climate change impacts. In 2021, Canada committed Can\$5.3 billion in climate financing to help low- and middle-income countries transition to sustainable and climate-resilient development.

Partnerships (Goal 17) are at the heart of advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Government of Canada committed up to Can\$60 million to support whole-of-society stakeholders in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals. Canada plays a leading international role on the development of global indicators as part of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. Canada also mobilized Can\$33 billion through its Total Official Support for Sustainable Development abroad from 2018 to 2021. These investments are matched by Canada's high-level commitment to global action, with Prime Minister Trudeau currently serving as co-chair of the Secretary General's Sustainable Development Goals Advocates group with Prime Minister Mottley of Barbados.

Canada's international assistance continues to improve the lives of millions of people around the world by supporting programmes that tackle hunger and malnutrition (Goal 2), invest in quality education (Goal 4), advance human rights (Goal 16), enhance global health (Goal 3) and promote gender equality (Goal 5). Canada's assistance has reached more than 4 million girls and women globally and over 900 women's rights organizations.

Canada has made good progress in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. More remains to be done. Canada continues to note health inequalities for many populations, including gaps in health outcomes of Indigenous Peoples. Data continue to point to the scale and impact of gender inequality and disability status on the realization of many other Goals. Many Canadians face growing food insecurity and housing affordability challenges as rising prices outpace income growth, exacerbating existing lower socioeconomic outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Yet, Canada remains steadfast in its commitment to enabling and accelerating progress to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in an inclusive, whole-of-society approach to ensure that no one is left behind.

Central African Republic

[Original: French]

In line with its commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, the Central African Republic has adopted the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan for the period 2017–2023. The prioritization of the Sustainable Development Goal targets, which was carried out in an inclusive manner in June 2018, demonstrated that the three pillars of the National Recovery and Peacebuilding Plan, namely, (a) supporting peace, security and national reconciliation; (b) renewing the social contract between the State and the population; and (c) promoting economic recovery and the revival of the productive sectors, are aligned with 43 per cent of the targets for the selected Goals (Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17).

The implementation of the National Plan, supported by the conclusion of the Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in the Central African Republic in 2019 and the adoption of the Joint Roadmap for Peace in the Central African Republic in Luanda in 2021, has helped to stabilize and strengthen the capacities of national institutions, restore the authority of the State, re-establish security and bring about national reconciliation, improve the provision of basic social services to the population and revive the economy.

However, the restrictive health measures taken in response to the 2019 coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the humanitarian crisis have had a major impact on the economic and social situation and have put considerable pressure on the country's continued reconstruction efforts.

On the social front, the Government has improved access to drinking water, particularly for women and young people, who are usually responsible for fetching water, often by travelling long distances and in a precarious security situation. With the construction of several drilled wells and mini drinking water supply systems in the regions, the rate of access to drinking water has increased from 37.2 per cent in 2019–2020 to 58.2 per cent in 2021–2022. With regard to hygiene, the proportion of populations with facilities for handwashing with soap reached 20.4 per cent in 2021–2022, compared with 18.9 per cent in 2019–2020.

On the economic front, with the support of development partners, the Government has continued its efforts to build and rehabilitate infrastructure. In the energy sector, the construction of solar fields and the rehabilitation of the Boali hydroelectric power station have increased the rate of access to electricity in the cities from 14.3 per cent in 2018–2019 to 32 per cent in 2021–2022. Despite fuel supply difficulties, the proportion of the population using clean energy sources stood at 20.7 per cent in 2022. The percentage of cell phone users increased from 27 per cent in 2015 to 35.6 per cent in 2018, and then to 56.7 per cent in 2022, a significant jump in four years. However, the investment rate remained low, around 8 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) on average between 2018 and 2022, in connection with the difficulties in mobilizing domestic and external resources. Despite the upturn in construction activity, the industry's share of value added in GDP has been declining steadily since 2015.

In terms of the environment, the living conditions in some cities have improved significantly with the completion of major public works involving road and network infrastructure. Sanitation has improved, owing to solid waste collection and disposal and storm water drainage. The proportion of the urban population living in slums declined from 68 per cent in 2017 to 62 per cent in 2021–2022, and the proportion with improved sanitation facilities reached 29.2 per cent in 2021–2022, compared with 21.8 per cent in 2018–2019.

Despite the efforts made, with the multifaceted support of the international community, certain challenges persist that must be overcome in order to make progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The degradation of road infrastructure, insecurity in some regions, global warming, deforestation, flooding, reduced water flow and the pollution of rivers have affected not only the agricultural production system but also the basic social sectors. Reduced flow in watercourses and the difficulties in dredging the Ubangi River have considerably increased navigation times on the river, disrupting the supply of petroleum products and basic necessities at affordable costs.

The ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war and the energy crisis continue to have negative repercussions for economic growth and the mobilization of domestic and external resources. However, the Government and its technical and financial partners must take decisive action to accelerate the reconstruction effort and ensure the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the African Union.

Chile

[Original: Spanish]

Chile reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to the Sustainable Development Goals and to multilateralism as the best way to make progress in addressing global challenges and leave no one behind.

Since our second voluntary national report in 2019, progress towards the Goals has been severely affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the economic crisis, the environmental crisis and geopolitical tensions.

To address these challenges, Chile has promoted consensus and collaborative action that fosters sustainability. One milestone of this renewed commitment has been the adoption of the National Strategy for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Strategy represents a broad agreement at the country level on a road map that charts a path from now until the symbolic target of 2030. The Strategy provided for several participation mechanisms in which representatives from various sectors of society throughout the country were included.

The Strategy embodies the vision of the State of Chile, which transcends governmental cycles and envisages a sustainable and inclusive country, in which the social, environmental and economic dimensions are in balance, there is peace and justice, people and human rights are at the centre and gender is mainstreamed. In addition, there is a strong focus on localization of the 2030 Agenda as a strategy for promoting ownership and strong local partnerships.

Economic and social development in Chile in recent decades has brought about a sharp decline in poverty and raised the standard of living of millions of people. Today's challenges require us to build consensus with a long-term outlook that addresses inequality, climate change and the erosion of the social fabric.

To that end, the road map of Chile focuses on people, and seeks to promote public policies that reduce the different social vulnerabilities and strengthen the social protection system.

It also incorporates concern for the planet, by tackling the so-called triple crisis of climate, biodiversity loss and global pollution and transforming the relationship between humans and nature to achieve a just socio-ecological transition. In that regard, we are implementing significant environmental plans, strategies and laws in various areas such as water governance, sustainable cities, protection of the ocean, progress towards circular economy and climate action.

To move forward on the path of sustainable development, we need to address the challenges in the area of productivity and innovation. Chile has made transformation of the energy mix a State policy, with capacity-building and infrastructure development projects in key areas, such as the green hydrogen and lithium industries. The foundations are thus laid for a green economy based on territorial equity, gender equality and decent work, and Chile is contributing as a country to meeting the compelling targets set by the international community in the Paris Agreement.

However, sustainable development is not possible without a culture of peace, strong institutions and full democracy. Chile aspires to build a just and inclusive society by addressing issues such as citizen security, violence and discrimination. The challenges relating to comprehensive development, which incorporates concerns that reflect the diversity of the country, such as those of Indigenous Peoples, and the protection of children and adolescents and our older persons, must be addressed through national agreements reached among multiple stakeholders, by building partnerships at the global, regional and local level.

Through this voluntary national report, Chile has taken a look at itself, identified its achievements and made an honest assessment of its challenges. It has reaffirmed an ambitious road map within the framework of the 2030 Agenda and is aware that the goals will be achieved in collaboration with the international community, with a focus on people, prosperity and the planet.

Comoros

[Original: French]

Comoros is assessing the progress it has made since 2020 and sharing its successes and the challenges it has faced in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

Comoros is maintaining and strengthening its commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals with the revision of its strategy for accelerated growth and sustainable development, followed by the adoption of its “Emerging Comoros” plan. The latter, which is aligned with the Goals, embodies the Government’s vision for delivering on national priorities and achieving the Goals by 2030.

However, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the war in Ukraine have had a negative impact on the country’s development trajectory. A post-COVID-19 recovery plan for 2022–2026, based on a study of the impact of COVID-19 on the “Emerging Comoros” plan, was adopted in 2022. It is being used to coordinate the work of development partners, including the follow-up to the Conference of Partners for Development of the Comoros held in Paris in December 2019.

Progress has been observed in the digital economy, particularly as a result of investments and such innovations as the launch of mobile banking to improve the quality of service on offer, thereby helping to accelerate the spread of digital technologies. Progress has also been made in the development of the blue economy through the improvement of maritime safety and security, inter-island connectivity and the relaunch of the industrialization of the fisheries sector.

In keeping with the principle of leaving no one behind, the country has begun working to strengthen its contributory and non-contributory social protection system. A law to promote youth employment was enacted. The country has adopted new laws, including a new penal code that strengthens existing laws on violence against children and women. There is still work to be done to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities and to promote and protect their rights.

The country has established and launched the operation of its national institution for human rights and civil liberties.

Universal health coverage was established. Thanks to robust community participation, the rate of vaccination against the COVID-19 virus exceeded 50 per cent, placing Comoros in the list of African countries with the highest vaccination rate against the disease.

Comoros has adopted a comprehensive approach that is in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The drafting of a national adaptation plan and the revision of the national disaster risk reduction strategy are under way. The Government is pursuing initiatives to increase renewable energy capacity to 40 per cent by 2030.

The country has a national resource mobilization strategy as part of the integrated national financing framework for the Sustainable Development Goals. Efforts are being made to mobilize innovative financing resources. As part of efforts to preserve and restore terrestrial ecosystems, the surface area of biodiverse land sites was increased to 163,754 hectares with the establishment of new protected areas. The country has gone from having a single marine park in Moheli to six land and marine

parks today. The number of agreements on the co-management of marine resources concluded between parks and communities has increased from 17 in 2015 to 72 at present.

Major challenges

The COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shaken a national economy that relies heavily on the outside world. The challenges include building and upgrading economic infrastructure and improving the business environment. Other major challenges pertain to national ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals and the strengthening of development management capacities, including the coordination of partners; the mobilization and absorption of resources; the consolidation of the national statistical system; waste management; and the reinforcement of the social protection system.

Areas of support also pose a challenge.

The country needs technical and financial support in the following sectors:

- Clean energy
- Food security
- Blue economy
- Capacity-building in managing development, including statistics and development planning
- Gender parity in higher, vocational and technical education

Croatia

[Original: English]

Progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development is one of Croatia's priorities, considering that Croatia belongs to the Mediterranean, one of the regions of the world that will be hardest hit by climate change, increasing aridity, floods and rising sea levels. This is particularly reflected in national policies, initiatives and strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals at the national and global levels.

While increasingly closing its economic gap with developed European Union economies, Croatia is striving to do so without sacrificing its climate commitments, which it is pursuing in parallel. Thus, the country is aiming to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by at least 65 per cent by 2030 compared with the 1990 levels and to increase the production of electricity from renewable sources to more than 35 per cent by 2030. With 31 per cent of its primary energy consumption coming from renewable energy sources, Croatia ranks eighth among European Union countries, with an average of 22 per cent.

Like the rest of the world, Croatia faced several serious challenges in 2020. In addition to the threats posed by the consequences of climate change, the global crisis triggered by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic led to a significant decline in economic activity, although the Government opted for targeted health measures that preserved individual freedoms as much as possible. Croatia was also struck by two devastating earthquakes in the capital, Zagreb, and the region of Banovina. Great damage was caused and the consequences of earthquakes, several times greater than the impact of the pandemic, will take years to repair. The Croatian economy has also been affected by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, to which Croatia

nevertheless has provided humanitarian, economic, political and military assistance from the outset of the war.

Despite all these challenges, Croatia maintained social cohesion and was able to sustain economic growth throughout these challenging times.

Looking back at the 2019 voluntary national review, Croatia has made and continues to make significant progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Improvement is particularly evident in the areas of economic and social fairness, labour productivity and macroeconomic stability.

Other areas where significant progress has been achieved are the energy transition to climate neutrality, the protection of the environment and nature, reducing the risk of poverty, improving living standards and promoting equality.

Croatia is also promoting sustainable social and economic development through the implementation of policies that support the national economy in this demanding period, with the aim of ensuring that no one is left behind and that the most vulnerable social groups are supported. Furthermore, with its reforms and investments, Croatia is fostering three parallel processes, namely, digital transformation, demographic renewal and green transition, which includes better waste and water management and efficient public services and results in a better living standard across the country.

Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals into national processes and policies

The National Development Strategy of the Republic of Croatia until 2030 was adopted in February 2021 and is in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other multilateral commitments. The strategic goals and the coordinated implementation of the policies defined in the 2030 National Development Strategy are largely in line with the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and aim to help Croatia better realize its potential, eliminate the economic and social damage caused by the global crisis and promote recovery.

After the adoption of the 2030 National Development Strategy, the comprehensive integration of sustainable development into sectoral policies and strategic planning acts at the national, regional and local levels began.

Laws and regulations have been adopted to address sustainable development issues and to ensure the protection of the environment, natural resources and human rights.

Additionally, Croatia promotes sustainable development through the implementation of various projects and programmes. This includes active cooperation with other countries, organizations and institutions with the aim of sharing experience, knowledge and best practice in the field of sustainable development.

The strategic planning process has been improved through reforms within the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which also streamlines the implementation of public policies, including those related to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also supports the decision-making processes, ensures the efficiency and transparency of public policies and enables a more efficient coordination in the implementation of the Goals.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

[Original: French]

The Democratic Republic of Congo is not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has further delayed or even negated the progress achieved. In order to respond effectively to the challenges involved in achieving the Goals, the Government has embarked on a set of structural transformations and the implementation of solutions guided by the Goals.

On the social front, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is carrying out universal health coverage reform. For a country with a very high level of catastrophic health expenditure, this reform is a means of lifting millions of Congolese out of vulnerability. Large-scale actions have been carried out to combat diseases that affect the population en masse, such as malaria and HIV, with special emphasis placed on prevention. Appropriate steps are also being taken to strengthen social protection. In the education sector, in order to bring into the education system millions of children previously excluded from it due to high fees, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has made basic education free of charge. In addition, measures have been taken to ensure that education remains free.

Access to water and electricity remains alarmingly limited in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mainly in rural areas. To respond effectively to these challenges, the Government has liberalized both sectors. In contrast to the water sector, where progress remains very modest, great strides have been made in the electricity sector. The share of the private sector has continued to grow over the past three years, and the outlook is good. Unfortunately, the endemic poverty in rural areas does not provide an incentive for private initiatives. The Government is currently focusing its efforts in that area.

Dependence on natural resources is one of the defining characteristics of the economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Growth is still largely attributable to strong price performance. COVID-19 recovery is an example of this. This is a real weakness and exposes the country to the volatility of commodity prices. In order to diversify the economy and equip the country with an industrial sector that is dynamic, competitive and responsible in terms of the environment and sustainable development, the Democratic Republic of the Congo has begun work on the establishment of six special economic zones in the country, divided into six industrial zones.

There is no doubt that the Democratic Republic of the Congo is a major player in the fight against climate change and that it is a country with solutions and real strengths to offer. The Government is working to preserve forests and combat climate change. Within the framework of the twenty-sixth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Democratic Republic of the Congo revised its commitments on cutting greenhouse-gas emissions from 17 per cent to 21 per cent between now and 2030. Nevertheless, it is clear that the Government will need to invest in a data and information collection system in order to be more effective in that regard.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo remains aware that development actions and strategies must be anchored at the local level in order to be more effective. To that end, the Government has launched a local development programme for the 145 territories. The aims of the programme, which will serve the 145 territories, are to increase the public provision of basic social services, bolster the resilience of local populations and strengthen public institutions at the local level.

Efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are unfolding against the backdrop of conflict and instability,

mainly in the eastern part of the country. Several armed groups are currently operating in the area, foremost among them the Mouvement du 23 mars, the Forces démocratiques alliées and the Coopérative pour le développement du Congo. These groups have been responsible for several incidents, such as violent deaths, kidnappings, destruction of the local economy, destruction of critical infrastructure and other property and mass displacement.

The activity of these armed groups has also caused the humanitarian situation to deteriorate dramatically, hence the increase in humanitarian need. The proportion of the population in need of humanitarian assistance has increased significantly, rising more than 73 per cent, from 15.6 million in 2019 to 27 million in 2022. The Democratic Republic of the Congo remains one of the countries on the African continent with a high proportion of internally displaced persons, at more than 5 million.

Efforts are being undertaken at the national, subregional and regional levels to end the conflicts in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It is clear that, in the current situation, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals remains elusive.

European Union

[Original: English]

The European Union reaffirms, by adopting the first European Union voluntary review, its commitment to the full and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through its internal and external action, as a shared global road map. Building on the whole-of-government concept, the European Union implements the 2030 Agenda in an integrated approach that places the Sustainable Development Goals at the core of European Union policy. All European Union actions and policies contribute to the implementation of the Goals. The European Union aims at a high standard of ambition through deeply transformative policies and strategies, such as the European Green Deal, which are inherently linked to the pursuit of the Goals, and promoting global transformation to a sustainable and peaceful world.

Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals at the global level has proved insufficient so far – a challenging trend confirmed by the latest report of the Secretary-General on the Goals. The achievement of the Goals has been hindered by the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, conflicts, growing inequalities, climate change and increasing levels of environmental degradation, and the impacts of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. The European Union's response to the various ongoing crises is based on, and aims to support, the implementation framework of the Goals. While the European Union has made progress across a large majority of the Goals since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, this has not always been even. More progress is needed in the European Union on many Goals, in particular those related to the protection and sustainable use of natural resources.

The priorities of the European Commission are closely interconnected with the five Ps (people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership) of the preamble of the 2030 Agenda. The Commission pursues the implementation of the Goals by advancing its headline ambitions through concrete initiatives set out in the annual Commission work programmes. The Sustainable Development Goals are thus mainstreamed in European Union policies and orient policy and lawmaking in the European Union. A central element of the Commission's approach to policy coherence for sustainable development is the revised Better Regulation framework, which contains several improvements to enhance the European Union lawmaking process. This now requires

that the impact assessment of every legislative proposal identify how the European Union action will contribute to the implementation of the Goals.

The European Union voluntary review contains a strategic overview of the European Union commitments and targets to progress towards the Goals, including, where applicable, quantified targets for 2030. It provides a comprehensive summary of European Union internal and external actions in support of the implementation of the Goals, as well as considerations on policy coherence between action at both levels, including potential synergies and trade-offs, having regard to impacts on partner countries. The voluntary review also includes orientations on actions to be undertaken to take the implementation of the 2030 Agenda further.

This determined European Union action cannot be achieved without engaging with partner countries and at the multilateral level and is thus being taken further through the European Union's international partnerships. The European Union is committed to global recovery by supporting partner countries in developing resilient societies and economies aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Global Gateway is the European Union's offer and effective contribution to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership. This strategy will directly contribute to the implementation of a range of interlinked Goals. The European Union will continue to actively integrate the Goals in the projects undertaken through Global Gateway, notably in relation to sustainable infrastructure for energy, transport and digitalization. Together with member States in a Team Europe approach, this will leverage multiple sources of funding, including private-sector investments in support of the Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved only by getting all stakeholders on board. The European Union voluntary review was carried out with the help of a broad consultation process involving stakeholders at all levels – European Union institutions and bodies, national, regional and local authorities, civil society and the public at large. The voluntary review includes detailed information on the overall consultation process as well as civil society views on the achievements and challenges of Sustainable Development Goal implementation at the European Union level.

The implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the European Union is aligned to United Nations principles, values and guidelines, particularly the universality of human rights, which is all the more important as we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

France

[Original: French]

In July 2023, France will present its second voluntary national review. This exercise will enable us to take stock of the progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the challenges that remain at the halfway mark in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

France is committed to ensuring that this stocktaking exercise serves as an assessment of public policies implemented since the last voluntary national review in 2016, and also serves to highlight the achievements of civil society (businesses, local authorities, non-governmental organizations, associations, research sector, etc.) working to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

The review was prepared in a participatory manner. In the fall of 2022, the Government proposed to the entire 2030 Agenda community, which brings together French stakeholders committed to achieving the Goals, to articulate their challenges

and propose key actions to be promoted. A conference specifically dedicated to sharing the contributions of stakeholders is planned for May 2023 to allow strong initiatives to emerge concerning the five Goals under consideration this year at the high-level political forum on sustainable development. The areas of work in which civil society organizations have proposed that joint efforts be pursued could be highlighted and integrated into the French national review document. A commission has been set up specifically for this purpose: 15 experts have been brought together by the Open Diplomacy Institute, an association whose mission is to raise citizen awareness of international issues, to lead the conference.

In 2019, France adopted a road map for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, setting the course for an enterprising, solidarity-driven and environmentally friendly nation, with a focus on the following six issues:

- To work to bring about a just transition, combating all forms of discrimination and inequality and guaranteeing the same rights, opportunities and freedoms to all
- To transform societal models through low-carbon behaviours and the conservation of natural resources in order to protect the climate, the planet and its biodiversity
- To use lifelong education and training to bring about a change in behaviour and lifestyle suited to the world to be built and to sustainable development challenges
- To take action to promote the health and well-being of all, particularly through healthy and sustainable food and agriculture
- To enable the population to participate effectively in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and to transform practices by strengthening experimentation and territorial innovation
- To work at the European and international levels to promote the sustainable transformation of societies, peace and solidarity

The report of France will take stock of the progress made and of ways to promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda through the lens of these six cross-cutting themes, making it possible to consider in a comprehensive manner the transformations needed to bring about greater sustainability, justice and resilience. Goal by Goal, the results will be accounted for in detail on the basis of the 98 indicators of the national monitoring framework for the 2030 Agenda, defined in concert within the framework of the National Council for Statistical Information and monitored independently by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies.

France remains fully committed to working with its European partners to bring about the transformations needed to achieve our collective commitments by 2030, at both the national and international levels, while ensuring that no one is left behind. Given that the major challenges that shape our world transcend borders, France reiterates its commitment to multilateral solutions, which are the only way to guarantee the preservation of global public goods.

Guyana

[Original: English]

One Guyana, achieving low-carbon, sustainable development for all

Guyana's national development plan, the Low Carbon Development Strategy 2030, sets out a vision of a fair, inclusive, sustainable and prosperous Guyana that simultaneously creates a model for avoiding deforestation and maintaining forest coverage while growing the economy fivefold over 10 years and keeping energy emissions flat. These carbon services represent a flagship initiative in domestic resource mobilization, which is critical to financing the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Key to achieving the Goals have been (a) localizing the Sustainable Development Goal targets through their integration into the national budget process; and (b) incorporating key drivers of accelerated development, such as increased technological solutions, across major sectors.

Guyana's second voluntary national review focuses on an in-depth examination of the thematic Goals for the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development and signals our continued commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our voluntary national review process included multi-stakeholder engagements, which led to sharing of experiences and lessons learned and underscored the need to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and data systems. Further, urgent and decisive actions are needed at the global level to make the 2030 Agenda attainable.

Goal 6. Targeted and progressive actions to improve the supply, reliability and quality of water include expanding water and sanitation infrastructure for coverage, treatment and reduction of non-revenue water and strengthening partnerships at both the national and international levels. Increased focus on aquifer studies and integrated water resource management will remain critical to achieving sustainable management of water sources.

Goal 7. By using natural gas as a bridge from heavy fuel oil and expanding solar, wind, biomass and hydropower, Guyana will transition the grid towards clean and renewable energy at over 80 per cent by 2030. In addition, we will have the installed capacity to cater for a fivefold increase in energy consumption, with greenhouse gas emissions remaining approximately flat, resulting in one of the highest levels of decoupling of economic growth from fossil fuel use.

Goal 9. Substantially expanded investments in infrastructure are under way across all major sectors, including transport and roads, water and air connectivity, resulting in cost and time savings for both citizens and businesses.

Historically hindered by the high cost of energy, the manufacturing sector is slated to expand following recent investments to harness natural gas, which is expected to substantially reduce energy-related operational costs, thereby increasing competitiveness. Further, as Guyana seeks to enhance its national research capability and mobile connectivity, it will continue to place a high value on technology transfers and partnerships with countries with long-standing expertise in these areas.

In 2021, Guyana introduced the "Made in Guyana" stamp to complement other interventions to support small-scale industries such as business incubators.

Goal 11. Heightened emphasis is placed on implementing sustainable urban practices and land-use planning, the provision of affordable housing, regularizing informal settlements and strengthening inter-agency collaboration. Interventions have focused on low- and middle-income earners, many of whom are female applicants, who have benefited from subsidy programmes aimed at promoting affordable housing

and home-financing options and the removal of taxes from several construction materials. Acceleration of the housing programme has resulted in the allocation of over 24,000 lots at a subsidized cost of land. Expanding population centres and businesses have increased solid waste pressures by almost 50 per cent, requiring the upgrade and expansion of the capacity of landfills and other facilities.

Moreover, Guyana is vulnerable to the effects of climate change made worse by its geography. Resiliency mandates robust disaster preparedness and management, consistent with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

Goal 17. At the core of the means of implementation and global partnerships for sustainable development lies the long-standing unfulfilled commitment of 0.7 per cent gross national income (GNI). Limitations on the national capacity to raise public resources persist and have worsened following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The existential crisis of climate change and the related shocks to the economy further constrain the pace of development. Unless the commitments of official development assistance are fulfilled swiftly and consistently, the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the concept of global partnership are both in jeopardy.

Further, Guyana’s graduation to upper-middle-income status has made concessional lending from traditional partners scarcer and substantially increased the cost of borrowing. The use of a single statistical artifact, per capita gross domestic product (GDP), in a multidimensional development context severely undermines considerations around sustainable development. The need for the global community to recognize a multidimensional vulnerability index in assessing countries is both urgent and overdue.

Guyana’s President, Mohamed Irfaan Ali, has consistently championed the concept of “One Guyana”. In his 2020 inauguration address, he stated: “From this day forward, we must, each of us, become our brother’s and sister’s keeper, ensuring that in our journey to progress and prosperity, no one is left behind.” A message that is equally applicable to us as a community of nations.

Iceland

[Original: English]

Iceland confirms its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in its second voluntary national review. The review builds on progress from 2019, when Iceland presented its first review, new institutional mechanisms and more extensive stakeholder involvement and consultation and relies on more data than before. However, challenges remain, not least due to the dire impacts of climate change, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Russian aggression in Ukraine and a growing number of conflicts around the world.

Voluntary national review process

Iceland’s second voluntary national review includes chapters written by stakeholders, the Sustainable Development Goal Youth Council, Iceland’s United Nations Youth Delegate for Sustainable Development, civil society organizations, the Institute for Sustainability Studies at the University of Iceland and the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities. Extensive consultation on the voluntary national review was also conducted with various stakeholders through in-person meetings with civil society organizations, through online consultation and with the Future Committee of the Parliament.

Parallel to Iceland's second voluntary national review, a voluntary subnational review will be conducted by the Icelandic Association of Local Authorities. The aim of the voluntary subnational review process is to integrate local governments further into Iceland's work on the 2030 Agenda. The results of a survey sent out to all municipalities show that their core obligations align with the Sustainable Development Goals, but that their biggest obstacle in working strategically with the Goals is a lack of financial and human resources.

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals

The voluntary national review provides an assessment of Iceland's current progress towards each of the 17 Goals, as assessed by specialists from all ministries. A detailed version of this assessment is available on an online dashboard. For the first time, this overview now includes both a government assessment as well as an assessment by civil society of each Goal. Iceland's first voluntary national review, in 2019, reported data for 30 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goal indicators. The coverage is now up to 70 per cent in this second voluntary national review.

In addition to the Sustainable Development Goal indicators, 39 well-being indicators have been established, monitoring the quality of life in Iceland and well-being by looking at factors beyond economic measures such as the gross domestic product (GDP). These national well-being indicators are based on the three main pillars of sustainable development. Out of the 39 indicators, 34 are reported as the measurement instruments for the five remaining indicators that are still under development. Sixty per cent of the reported well-being indicators have been moving in the right direction, while 40 per cent either remain stagnant or are moving backwards.

Means of implementation

The national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals is coordinated by the Prime Minister's Office, in close cooperation with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. In 2022, a new cooperation platform, Sustainable Iceland, was established. Its purpose is to formulate a national strategy for sustainable development and coordinate the work of the Government with various stakeholders. The strategy will use the Goals as guiding principles and will define measurable goals, as well as an action plan to reach them. This will include roles and responsibilities within the Government and society at large.

The backbone of Sustainable Iceland is the National Sustainability Council. Its members include all ministers of the Government, representatives from each party of the Parliament, municipalities, the business sector, social partners and civil society organizations. The Government of Iceland acknowledges that to achieve a just and inclusive transition, leaving no one behind, a comprehensive social dialogue and stakeholder engagement are needed.

Challenges

One of Iceland's main challenges in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is its spillover effects, i.e., when one country's actions affect other countries' abilities to achieve the Goals. Iceland ranks high when it comes to implementing the Goals but simultaneously generates one of the largest negative spillover effects. Iceland is therefore working on developing a comprehensive overview on its spillover effects to understand, measure and carefully manage them.

For the formulation of a national strategy for sustainable development, the seven focus areas below were defined to address its challenges and outline key targets and an action plan.

1. Economy and circularity
2. Equality, health and well-being
3. Education, culture and science
4. Infrastructure and regional issues
5. Food, land and water
6. Energy and climate
7. International cooperation

Ireland

[Original: English]

Ireland is proud to have played a significant role in the development and adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We continue to show leadership as the Sustainable Development Goals are implemented, nationally and internationally, and will be leading consultations and co-facilitating negotiations on the outcome document – the political declaration – of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, to be held in September 2023.

Ireland’s voluntary national review is based on the theme “Building back better while leaving no one behind”. In this context, and to amplify the voices of those furthest behind, civil society stakeholders have contributed chapters. In January and April 2023, national stakeholder forums were held to further promote meaningful engagement with civil society, including youth representatives. As active global citizens and shapers of society, young people are key, equal stakeholders in the 2030 Agenda, and they made a valuable contribution to the forums, giving voice to their generation.

Ireland is progressing well in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Second National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022–2024² demonstrates the continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda through a whole-of-government approach and mainstreaming the Goals across national policies.

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals also strengthen the linkages between Ireland and our global engagement through our overseas development assistance programme. Since our last voluntary national review, *A Better World: Ireland’s Policy for International Development*³ (2019) has been published, fully integrating the Sustainable Development Goals and setting out our contribution to realizing them not just at home, but abroad. Headline priorities include reducing humanitarian need, supporting climate action, promoting gender equality and strengthening governance, while reaching the furthest behind first. These priorities align with the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda. Ireland’s work also continues in traditional areas of strength, such as food security, education and health.

As in every country around the globe, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has had an extraordinary impact on Irish people’s lives and brought unprecedented disruption to our society and economy.

A Cabinet-led approach ensured a whole-of-government response to the crisis, with recovery from the pandemic shaped by a number of overarching national

² Available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/e950f-national-implementation-plan-for-the-sustainable-development-goals-2022-2024/>.

³ Policy for International Development – Department of Foreign Affairs (irishaid.ie).

framework policies, to address long-standing challenges and needs while preparing the economy and the labour market for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

Many of the measures through which Ireland will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals will be actioned in the context of policies such as the Economic Recovery Plan developed in alignment with the national Recovery and Resilience Plan, which is part of NextGenerationEU – a 750 billion euro recovery package for the European Union. We have placed a particular focus on advancing the twin green and digital transitions, and significant policies and work programmes are being advanced to drive progress in these areas, allowing Ireland to build back better and ensuring a just transition for all.

The 11 dimensions of our national Well-being Framework, which was designed to help improve our understanding of quality of life, have been mapped to the Sustainable Development Goals, demonstrating the synergies across both initiatives. Embedding the Well-being Framework into the policymaking process further supports progress towards achieving the Goals. The Equality and Well-being Frameworks are being integrated into the budgetary process to better inform policymakers, with associated impacts on areas such as income, health and education.

Our planet is facing unprecedented pressure from the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. Ireland's Climate Action Plan 2023 sets a legally binding framework for national climate targets and commitments and ensures that the necessary structures and processes are embedded on a statutory basis to achieve our obligations in the near and long terms. The Sustainable Development Goals offer us a pathway to seize the opportunity to create a better, greener and safer world and a just transition that transforms every sector of our economy, while leaving no one behind.

In this context, Ireland's voluntary national review demonstrates how we are accelerating action towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, calling out the contribution being made across Government on climate action and the circular economy, employment, education, health and housing and Ireland's international support for the Goals in order to build back better, determined to not settle for surviving the climate crisis, but thriving despite it.

Ireland is committed to delivering its second voluntary national review at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development.

Kuwait

[Original: English]

In 2015, Kuwait made an all-embracing decision to integrate the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the country's long-term Vision. Vision 2035, New Kuwait, which consists of seven broad pillars, fully endorses and structurally integrates all 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets, along with their indicators. Ever since, the State has been leading extensive national awareness, implementation and coordination efforts within the triple premise of social, economic and environmental sustainability, aiming to realize the ultimate ambition of leaving no one behind.

As was the case with the first voluntary national review report, in 2019, Kuwait has opted for a whole-of-nation approach in the preparation of the second review. The aim was to enable a range of national actors and stakeholders at the public, private, academic and civil society levels to participate in the review process and to report on their respective achievements and ongoing programmes, as well as the challenges

being confronted, thereby making Kuwait's second voluntary national review a true national report.

Through a well-researched and well-documented account, Kuwait's second voluntary national review provides an authoritative record of many significant accomplishments made so far and outlines the remaining challenges under the cross section of the Goals and targets. It depicts and portrays, with robust and itemized data and substantiation, Kuwait's unrelenting policy and institutional efforts in diligently pursuing the implementation of all Goals and targets, in spite of the many challenges, including the adverse effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Like so many countries, Kuwait witnessed a significant shift in its development priorities with the spread of the global pandemic. The outbreak exerted an unanticipated pressure on the health system, disrupted the economy and adversely affected all walks of life. The second voluntary national review documents Kuwait's comprehensive, effective and widely integrative response to the pandemic. It records the many lessons learned from the pandemic in matters of health, food security, social protection, the welfare system, the environment, climate change and others and highlights the ensuing short-term, midterm and long-term policy decisions and programme engagements that have been made and that were aimed at achieving sustainability and building back better. Beyond the national boundaries, the second review records Kuwait's contributions in terms of delivering emergency aid packages to developing countries and its support at the Gavi COVAX Advance Market Commitment Summit. In the wake of the pandemic, Kuwait initiated several mega projects that were designed along integrated, mutually beneficial sustainable development vectors and policies. Many projects have been completed; others are under way.

One of the structural challenges in the country was the limited availability of data and statistics. As of 2019, sustained investments and capacity development programmes have been implemented to overcome the systemic, institutional and technical dimensions of the data limitations. As a result, the data challenges reported in the first voluntary national review have translated into concrete achievements in the second voluntary national review. Indeed, significant and persistent progress has been accomplished over the past few years at the institutional, managerial, technical, data-gathering and information-sharing, and dissemination levels. Accordingly, authoritative, robust and regular data can now be generated and used for targeting, tracking and monitoring different Goals and targets. The second review provides evidence of this quantum leap in the meaningful and illustrative data and statistics that have been used and that have added a significant policy and prospective value to the analysis and reporting therein.

The second voluntary national review also reflects, across the different Goals and targets, the rising interest countrywide in the 2030 Agenda and highlights the mounting support of a cross-section of national constituencies and stakeholders. It shows how a growing number of actors, partners and community groups, including many layers of policy, implementing and oversight government agencies, as well as academia, civil society and corporate and private sector partners have now significantly engaged in incorporating, defending, promoting and regularly reporting on different components of sustainability. Indeed, sustainability and the three Sustainable Development Goal pillars are increasingly gaining ground in the country and gradually permeating Kuwaiti public policymaking, culture and society.

Through the narrative analysis, pages, figures and tables and through an in-depth and thorough assessment of the 2023 review and non-2023 review goals and targets, the second voluntary national review documents the country's commitment to all-inclusive, equal opportunity and dignifying human development for all and to

achieving the triple Sustainable Development Goal objective of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

The second voluntary national review reiterates Kuwait's ratification of most relevant global and regional environmental agreements. It acknowledges the country's unwavering commitment to furthering its prominent position regionally and internationally in the field of international human development and in advancing global and sustainable well-being and fostering human rights and well-being, diplomacy and cultural exchange.

Liechtenstein

[Original: English]

“Shaping Liechtenstein together, sustainably and reliably”: this is the Government's overarching goal for the legislative period 2021–2025. Sustainability is therefore at the very centre of the Government's current activities. The Government considers the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals to be essential in preserving a liveable country and planet for future generations. The Goals are more than an international obligation. Liechtenstein has a vested interest in their implementation.

National implementation

Overall, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Liechtenstein is developing positively. As the report shows, several Goals have been well implemented, in particular Goals 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger), 3 (health), 4 (education), 6 (water), 8 (work) and 16 (peaceful societies). The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic clearly demonstrated the strong crisis resilience of the State, the economy and society, as well as the central importance of cross-border cooperation for crisis response.

Even so, the report also highlights a clear need for action:

- (a) Reconciling family and career as well as political participation of women must be improved to achieve de facto gender equality;
- (b) Mobility in Liechtenstein is currently not sustainable and continues to develop negatively, with increasing motorized individual transport;
- (c) Climate protection is developing positively, but needs further strengthening through effective measures to achieve climate neutrality by 2050;
- (d) Despite increasing recycling quotas and decreasing energy and carbon dioxide intensity in the economy, resource use remains too high due to current consumption and production patterns;
- (e) The official development assistance (ODA) percentage falls short of the international target of 0.7 per cent, although expenditures have been significantly increased.

Since the 2019 report, several strategies and concepts for improving sustainability have been adopted, all of which were developed with broad stakeholder involvement. These strategies partly build on each other and reflect the interrelationships between the various Sustainable Development Goals:

- (a) The Education Strategy 2025+ is aimed towards an education system that supports people in all age groups to develop their individual potential and to enable them to participate actively, responsibly and in a self-determined manner in a humane, open and democratic society;

(b) The Climate Vision 2050 formulates the goal of climate neutrality for Liechtenstein by 2050, which has consequently been enshrined in law. Concrete measures have been defined, in particular in the Energy Vision 2050, the Energy Strategy 2030, the Mobility Concept 2030, the Climate Strategy 2050 and the Agricultural Policy Report 2022. In 2023, the target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 was increased from 40 per cent to 55 per cent compared with the reference year 1990.

Implementation is accompanied by regular monitoring reports to Parliament.

In order to increase policy coherence, the Government committed itself in 2022 to subjecting all new draft legislation and international treaties to a Sustainable Development Goal analysis. The Goals are thus a fixed component of all consultation reports as well as Government bills submitted to Parliament.

Contribution to global implementation

Through international solidarity, Liechtenstein provides support to developing countries in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. The focus is on poverty reduction (Goal 1), access to education (Goal 4), food security (Goal 2), promotion of human rights and the rule of law (Goal 16), environmental and climate protection, and migration (Goal 10). Due to the crises and conflicts, expenditure on international solidarity has been significantly increased. Total ODA spending in 2022 increased by about 22 per cent compared with 2018, reaching a new record of 31.5 million Swiss francs.

The private sector and civil society also show a high level of international solidarity. In particular, the philanthropy sector makes contributions that clearly exceed the public ODA expenditures.

The guiding principle of Liechtenstein's engagement in international organizations is the conviction that international challenges can be solved only through multilateral cooperation. This is reflected not only in the commitment to more effective environmental and climate protection, but also in Liechtenstein's long-standing commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, to combating impunity for the most serious violations of human rights, to international humanitarian law and to combating the crime of aggression.

Participation of civil society

There is growing public awareness of the importance of the Sustainable Development Goals or sustainable development in general. The drafting process for this report was accompanied by a consultation with various stakeholders. The high response rate underlines the great interest in the implementation of the Goals.

Lithuania

[Original: English]

Inclusive voluntary national review preparation

The second voluntary national review of the Republic of Lithuania is based on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals since 2018. This voluntary national review not only analyses our progress but is also aimed at further accelerating and strengthening implementation and cooperation activities in Lithuania to achieve the Goals on time.

The second voluntary national review is the result of an inclusive and collective process. Aiming for an objective evaluation of institutional mechanisms and progress

made, as well as for impartiality and an indication of the necessary way forward, the preparation process of Lithuania's review involved many relevant actors from governmental institutions, municipalities, non-governmental organizations, youth, scientific institutions and business entities, who provided their input from the first draft phase of the review through to its approval.

Global context and timing

Peace and security are essential conditions for sustainable development. Lithuania strongly condemns the Russian Federation's illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression, which is supported by Belarus, against Ukraine and considers it a violation of international law. Lithuania reiterates solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people and commits to providing economic, humanitarian and social assistance as long as it is required.

The recent geopolitical context, namely, the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the global energy crisis, have posed new challenges related to social, economic and environmental aspects of sustainable development in Lithuania. The year 2023 marks a halfway point for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and, with all its challenges, brings the possibility of objectively assessing, resetting and reinforcing our commitment to full and timely implementation of all 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

New strategic basis

Important changes have been made in the strategic planning and management system of Lithuania, which ensured Sustainable Development Goal links with key strategic planning documents and scaled up the relevance of the 2030 Agenda in the national regulatory and financial framework. In 2020, a new overarching strategic document, the 2021–2030 National Progress Plan, was approved.

The implementation of the strategic goals of the National Progress Plan must ensure a holistic approach and harmony of social, economic and environmental aspects. To achieve that, the Plan has enshrined three horizontal principles: sustainable development, innovation (creativity) and equal opportunities for all, which are aimed at forming and promoting important values and desired changes in behaviour and attitudes for the progress of society.

Even though the new strategic system has contributed to better integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into national policy decisions, giving higher importance to the implementation of the Goals in the political agenda, a more proactive approach is needed and strategic public communication regarding the 2030 Agenda should be improved.

Portal for Sustainable Development Goal indicators

A new interactive Sustainable Development Goal indicator portal has been developed in Lithuania. Data on the Goals and their indicators are regularly updated and published openly for the public and institutions. The portal makes it possible to effectively track and evaluate progress on specific Goals and selected indicators.

Sustainable Development Goals: On track, but some challenges remain

The 2030 Agenda implementation assessment reveals that the country's progress can be divided into two phases: before the COVID-19 pandemic and during it. Since 2018, economic growth and positive trends for Sustainable Development Goal indicators have been noted. COVID-19 has slowed down progress and contributed to challenges in reducing poverty, social segregation, income inequality and promoting

employment, as well as overburdened education and health services. These problems became even more relevant in 2021 with the influx of migrants at the Belarus borders with European Union countries and in 2022 with the illegal Russian military invasion of Ukraine, as well as the start of a global energy crisis.

Despite the negative impacts of these emergencies, progress is visible in Lithuania for most of the Sustainable Development Goals. Lithuania has made significant progress in poverty reduction (Goal 1); implemented structural reforms that have contributed to better quality of education at all levels (Goal 4); encouraged transition to energy from renewable sources (Goal 7); grown its gross domestic product (GDP), along with improved indicators for employment and salary increases (Goal 8); focused on sustainable and comprehensive urban planning (Goal 11); and increased forestry and protected natural areas in the country (Goal 15).

However, in some cases, positive trends are short-term. Notably, a sustainable and responsible economy (Goal 12), which is inseparable from a circular and climate-neutral approach, remains an important long-term challenge for the country.

Therefore, it is essential to constantly assess the added value of specific measures, update national Sustainable Development Goal priorities, maintain political focus on sustainable development and strengthen inter-institutional, public and international cooperation.

Maldives

[Original: English]

Maldives is one of the most uniquely dispersed and geographically fragmented countries in the world. The island nation is scattered across 1,192 low-lying small islands, of which only about 1 per cent is land. The geographic distribution of 515,122 people across dispersed small islands is a major challenge for equitable development and shared prosperity across all islands of the Maldives.

As a country heavily dependent on tourism, Maldives was one of the worst hit from the unprecedented coronavirus disease (COVID-19) shock. When the country's border closed and tourism stopped, many people experienced devastating consequences as a result of income and livelihood loss. Women in informal sectors and youth were disproportionately affected. Income and business support programmes, a successful nationwide information and vaccination campaign prioritizing the tourism sector workers and the vulnerable, with over 80 per cent vaccination coverage, helped Maldives to overcome the COVID-19 impacts and reboot the economy.

Meanwhile, the country's fiscal and climate vulnerabilities have magnified. Climate change poses an existential threat to Maldives, while threats from pandemics and disasters pose significant risks to income, livelihoods and food security. The growing fiscal deficit is a serious concern, and fiscal adjustments are needed to sustainably manage the high capital expenditure, subsidies and welfare spending. The resilience of the economy and society depends heavily on our natural resources. Maldives is increasing investments in renewable energy and has set an ambitious commitment to achieve net zero by 2030.

Maldives has made remarkable progress in reducing poverty. Economic opportunities and social protection programmes have improved the quality of life for the vulnerable. However, income inequality persists, and 59 per cent of the population reside in the atolls, where income and multidimensional poverty are more prevalent. Disparities in access to quality education, health care and living standards are barriers to equal socioeconomic progress for people residing in the atolls.

Physical and digital connectivity can accelerate socioeconomic progress in Maldives. The Integrated National Public Ferry Network project has been initiated to connect Maldives through affordable, regular, high-speed public ferries, improve access to services and opportunities and reduce inequalities for people residing in the atolls. This is in operation in the northern region of Maldives and connects people in 41 islands. The majority use it to access health-care services. Likewise, rapid transformation towards digitization is ongoing. The pandemic necessitated digital acceleration for online education, telemedicine, e-payment systems and other digital uses. The expansion of digital connectivity across the country, combined with a sustainable public ferry network, can improve access and opportunities and enable acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Maldives has achieved significant strides in the health and well-being of its people. Maternal, neonatal and child mortality have decreased, and life expectancy has improved to 79 years. However, non-communicable diseases are a major disease burden that needs immediate attention, and mental health and cancers are growing concerns. Furthermore, Maldives is moving towards an ageing population and needs better social protection planning and targeting.

Progressive changes in the education sector have enabled Maldives to build human capital. Although gender parity in primary and secondary education has been achieved, inclusive education and access to quality higher secondary and tertiary education in the atolls remain challenges. To empower youth with the skills needed for the workforce and entrepreneurship, skills development programmes are being planned in targeted locations across the country.

Furthermore, women's involvement in decision-making has increased. One third of local council seats and 33 per cent of the current ministers comprise women. Likewise, the first women justices to the Supreme Court were appointed in 2019. Women, however, are still underrepresented in leadership and Parliament, and women's participation in the formal economy is low. Women's empowerment, engagement and participation is crucial for progress in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Continued political commitment, long-term planning, social dialogue and partnerships will drive the sustainable development agenda forward. Maximizing decentralization, building economic and climate resilience, improving human well-being, ensuring gender equality and expanding connectivity for improved access to services can enable the acceleration of the Sustainable Development Goals in Maldives.

Nonetheless, access to international finance mechanisms and concessional financing terms are major development challenges for Maldives. Given the budgetary constraints for development needs and growing climate vulnerabilities, urgent international finance is even more crucial for Maldives to address climate adaptation and mitigation and ensure sustainable development.

Mongolia

[Original: English]

Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

I. Introduction

Mongolia presented its first voluntary national review in 2019 and hereby presents its second review.

This review assesses the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Mongolia for each indicator; the policies, processes and efforts made at the national level; and the results of applying recommendations from the first review. In addition to considering the impacts of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and geopolitical conflicts, the assessment is aimed at highlighting the groups left behind in development and determining how regional development disparities affect sustainable development.

II. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals

Following the recommendations of the first review, the policy, planning and legal framework has been improved through the revision of the Law on Development Policy and Planning and its Management and the establishment of an integrated policy and planning institution. As a result, the Vision 2050 long-term development policy has been adopted and is being implemented in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to expanding partnerships for sustainable development, public and private sector initiatives have increased; the participation of civil society organizations is becoming more active; and multilateral cooperation continues to strengthen.

The 17 Goals and 169 targets of global sustainable development have been formulated into 16 goals and 134 targets in accordance with national characteristics. A total of 191 indicators have been defined, of which 156 are global and 35 are national, thus improving the implementation assessment tool and emphasizing the results documented by data compared with the first review.

Mongolia has made progress at a certain level on 15 Goals, and the implementation of one Goal, poverty reduction, was assessed as having regressed.

The COVID-19 pandemic and geopolitical conflicts have had a significant negative impact on Mongolia's economy and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, before the pandemic, real gross domestic product per employed person was increasing and real economic performance was improving, but in 2020, the economy contracted by 4.6 per cent. However, as a result of policy measures taken by the Government to revive the economy quickly, the economy grew by 4.8 per cent in 2022.

Despite the lack of preparedness for public health emergencies, Mongolia's rapid response reduced the negative impact of the pandemic. However, a lack of resources and supplies to provide quality and timely services affected access to other health services.

In recent years, access to education had increased and innovative teaching methods had been introduced, improving the e-learning environment during the pandemic. However, educational inequality has increased.

Disparities in social development, education and household living standards among different territories are reasons for being left behind in development. Specifically, populations living far from the capital city often have limited access to basic social services and are at the greatest risk of being left behind in development.

Progress has been made in protecting surface water resources and river headwaters, increasing the forest fund and protecting plant and animal resources. However, greenhouse gas emissions from traditional agricultural and energy sector activities have not decreased. For example, the share of renewable energy in total final energy consumption has not increased significantly.

III. Further actions

To accelerate further implementation and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, it is crucial to ensure the fundamental principle of sustainable development through various efforts, including:

(a) Improving the monitoring and reporting system and the quality of assessment to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in line with medium- and short-term policy priorities;

(b) Clarifying the financing and investment environment for the implementation of the Goals and using it as a means to stimulate multi-stakeholder participation;

(c) Strengthening basic social and economic capacities, including expanding international partnerships and regional and local cooperation, aimed at reducing the negative impacts of global conflicts, infectious diseases, natural disasters and climate change, managing risks and adapting to change and ensuring the availability of resources;

(d) Reducing disparities between rural (regional and local) and urban development by upholding the principle of leaving no one behind, creating transport infrastructure and logistics networks aimed at increasing the production and export of mining and non-mining products, and ensuring equal access to basic social services for the entire population.

We therefore encourage support for Mongolia's efforts and participation to achieve sustainable development, expand cooperation and strengthen partnerships.

Poland

[Original: English]

Poland reaffirms its commitment to the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, ensuring that no one is left behind. Sustainable development in economic, social and environmental dimensions should be fair and responsible.

Interconnections and interactions between the Sustainable Development Goals are the key asset of the 2030 Agenda. Poland also reaffirms the need to create synergies among activities at the international level, including between foreign and security policy and the global consensus on sustainable development. This is especially needed due to threats to international development arising from conflicts, including the Russian attack on Ukraine, which has had major repercussions on food, finance and energy systems worldwide.

In terms of the social dimension, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, public health considerations and patient safety remain a priority for Poland. Similarly, the development of new technologies in the health sector, such as digitalization of health services, is a new priority for Poland.

The principle of leaving no one behind remains the guiding principle for Poland in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is a long-term government policy to support poor and socially vulnerable groups.

Poland attaches great importance to supporting the professional activation of women and men, including persons with disabilities, promoting the employment of people aged 50 years and over, counteracting age discrimination in the labour market and further coordinating the social security system.

Invariably, but now with particular emphasis, Poland underlines that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a key factor in maintaining peace and, at the same time, only peace will make it possible to achieve the Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Strengthening international law as an element of the implementation of Goal 16 has been Poland's top priority since its membership in the Security Council in 2018–2019.

Peace and democracy are prerequisites to achieve progress towards sustainable development. Poland spares no effort to oppose Russian aggression against Ukraine, which is also directed against democracy and the rules-based international order.

In the face of the current geopolitical situation and the war against Ukraine, Poland's food security, as well as ensuring good-quality food and food safety, remain critically important.

Poland is aware of the importance of climate-related challenges and is taking measures to reduce emissions in all sectors that emit greenhouse gases. These activities are accompanied by social policy measures to protect the most vulnerable social groups and people working in high-emission sectors from the effects of energy and climate policy.

Poland is on the path to a low-carbon economy, mindful that it requires a fundamental restructuring of critical economic sectors and, in these efforts, is guided by the principle of leaving no one behind. Poland's State Energy Policy 2040 specifies three priorities: a just transition for all citizens; a new, emission-free energy system based on renewable energy sources and nuclear power; and improving air quality. This policy will be supplemented by the fourth pillar, which is focused on ensuring Poland's energy sovereignty and security due to Russia's aggression against Ukraine and the intention to cut off energy supplies from Russia.

Financing for development is a key issue of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Despite the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic or the ongoing conflicts in Poland's immediate neighbourhood, the State budget allows for the implementation of Poland's social, development and investment policies, in accordance with the Strategy for Responsible Development. However, the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Goals requires not only the involvement of public funds but, above all, the mobilization of private capital.

Cooperation and building partnerships remain crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Poland. We are focusing on enhancing the participation of numerous stakeholders from various backgrounds. Business is a key partner in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The full implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires the transformation of the current model of public administration and civil service in order to enhance its capacity to respond to various types of challenges and mobilize resources at all levels. To that end, Poland is currently implementing the Programme for developing the capacity of public administration to support the implementation of actions for the Sustainable Development Goals and sustainable development, together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and with the support of the European Commission.

Portugal

[Original: English]

Portugal remains committed to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and dedicated to eradicating poverty, fighting inequalities and promoting a fair, inclusive and equitable global sustainable development based on human rights and dignity and the build back better and leave no one behind principles.

A new governance model

To reinforce the national approach, the Government of Portugal adopted a new inter-institutional mechanism. At the national level, the coordination of the 2030 Agenda was repositioned at the centre of the Government, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, while on an external level, the coordination of the Agenda remained the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. A high-level monitoring committee was also established, including with representatives from these two Government areas, regional governments, local authorities, the Economic and Social Council and prominent members of civil society.

An inclusive voluntary national review

To ensure broader and inclusive participation in this voluntary national review, several stakeholders, including civil society, were involved in ex-ante consultation procedures, such as town halls and workshops. Later on, the voluntary national review was subject to public consultation.

On a domestic level, nationally and regionally, the planning of public policies has gradually incorporated the 2030 Agenda. In 2022, significant steps were taken towards aligning high-level planning instruments, including the Portugal 2030 Strategy, the National Reform Programme 2022, the Major Options Plan for 2022–2026 and the Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy 2030.

Furthermore, the leave no one behind principle stands out in the different planning instruments and policies, which reflect the intersection of economic conditions, human rights and gender equality in its implementation.

The 2030 Agenda is also present in public policies on the regional and local levels, in scientific research and production and in strategic business plans. This is shown by the increase in platforms to present and monitor initiatives and encourage partnerships to accomplish the Sustainable Development Goals.

On the external dimension and with its international development cooperation, Portuguese foreign policy has continually supported the 2030 Agenda, particularly through active participation in international forums. The commitments undertaken in the United Nations Climate Change Conferences, the active role of Portugal in the Global Pact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration as a champion country' and the commitment of Portugal to the 2022 United Nations Ocean Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development are an example of this.

The Portuguese Development Cooperation Strategy 2030 pursues three key commitments on an international level: the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement. The priorities of the Strategy are cooperation for development, education for development and emergency and humanitarian action.

Portuguese priorities in cooperation for development are aligned not only with the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda, namely, people, planet, prosperity, peace and, especially, partnership, which is fundamental for accomplishing the Goals, but also the leave no one behind principle, which is reflected in the priority given to the least developed countries, small island developing States, fragile countries and countries in the process of graduation.

Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The National Institute of Statistics, through its annual statistics publication on the Sustainable Development Goals, has made a particular endeavour in the area of sociodemographic and spatial disaggregation, providing a clearer view of the progress made.

The national indicators currently cover 69 per cent of the 2030 Agenda, having increased by 17 per cent since 2018. Compared with 2015, 59 per cent of indicators show a positive trend, 17 per cent show an opposite trend and 2 per cent show no change.

Challenges and future steps

The voluntary national review is an opportunity for an interim evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, making it possible to analyse progress, identify gaps and define future actions.

Public policies have sought to respond to challenges such as climate change and demographic dynamics; however, due to emerging crises, namely, the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine, extraordinary measures were necessary to protect families and the most vulnerable, as well as businesses. In this context, systemic challenges related to the consistency between public policies and the analysis of trade-offs and spillover effects remain.

The conclusions of this voluntary national review will be incorporated in a national road map for sustainable development 2030, in response to the challenge of the Secretary-General for the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in 2023. This road map will focus on four areas: (a) consistency and alignment between public policies; (b) engagement and participation of stakeholders; (c) a common communication strategy on the Goals; and (d) awareness- and capacity-building of the relevant stakeholders.

Romania

[Original: English]

Humankind is facing unprecedented challenges today. The adoption by the United Nations in 2015 of programmatic policies to steer sustainable development was a crucial step towards addressing these challenges. However, halfway through the timeline, we have fallen short of meeting our objectives. Yet, there still is a chance to shift course if we act collectively as change-makers.

Besides institutional efforts, it has become clear that we must create a critical mass committed to transforming mindsets and embodying the values outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These governing principles have been present throughout history, and we can draw on various sources of wisdom and inspiration to guide us.

Since 1992, the year of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the five crucial attitudes for sustainability highlighted in the book *Beyond the Limits: Global Collapse or a Sustainable Future* were truth-telling, visioning, connecting,

learning and love. Travelling in time, 16 years later, the five ways to happiness and well-being were identified as “Notice! Be Active! Connect! Learn! and Give!”. Also, because sustainable development is all around us, the encyclical letter of Pope Benedict XVI, *Caritas in veritate*, outlined five essential human development dimensions: embrace reality; uphold justice and solidarity; foster community and cooperation; encourage intelligence and innovation; and practise love.

Achieving a sustainable future rests on our ability to actualize a holistic vision embodying these principles through leadership and cooperation.

Romania reaffirms its strong commitment to pursuing the Sustainable Development Goals and its dedication to being a proactive partner and a regional hub. The Department of Sustainable Development, established in 2017 and placed under the Prime Minister’s authority, serves as a robust entity for coordinating the national implementation of the 17 Goals.

Following the release of its first voluntary national review, in 2018, Romania took a comprehensive approach to sustainable development, addressing all 17 Sustainable Development Goals, by adopting the National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2030. In 2022, Romania developed the National Action Plan to implement the Strategy, providing a 2030 road map, prioritizing the strengthening and improvement of the governance framework, raising awareness through education and training, promoting sustainable development principles and monitoring and evaluating the progress made.

To monitor and evaluate Romania’s progress in implementing the Strategy, 99 national indicators are overseen by the National Institute of Statistics. These indicators are linked to Eurostat indicators or correspond to global indicators of the 2030 Agenda.

To facilitate the implementation of sustainable development principles in the business sector and fulfil the targets outlined in the Strategy, Romania developed the Romanian Sustainability Code in 2022. Moreover, an open-data platform has been established to enable reporting entities to share reports and best practices in sustainability.

Romania has established a comprehensive governance structure to pursue the Sustainable Development Goals, based on multilevel decision-making and cross-sectoral collaboration, which has been endorsed by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The highest level of decision-making is represented by the Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development, which comprises all ministers and is presided over by the Prime Minister. This inter-institutional structure oversees the implementation, monitoring and review of the Strategy.

For interlinkage and policy coherence, Romania has established 22 sustainable development hubs in all ministries, composed of 90 specialists, which remain the same regardless of the electoral cycles. The sustainable development expert for public administration is officially recognized in Romania – a unique approach at the European Union level. The first 150 experts completed the training programme in 2022, and the target is to train 2,000 experts by 2026.

The Consultative Council for Sustainable Development, composed of 34 specialists from academia, research and civil society, provides guidance to the Department of Sustainable Development for the implementation of the Strategy and monitoring of the indicators.

The Sustainable Romania Coalition is a private initiative that serves as a discussion partner for representative segments of civil society, contributing to the implementation and monitoring of the Strategy.

As a recognition of innovation and excellence in implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in 2021, the Department was honoured with the award of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs for enhancing the effectiveness of public institutions to reach the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to the National Institute of Statistics, Romania has achieved 58.2 per cent progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda, but more effort is needed to ensure successful fulfilment.

Alongside all institutional efforts, sustainable development is about people and requires passion, determination and hope. Romania is committed to maintaining its position as a regional hub of good practices, but especially as a devoted friend to those working towards “The future we want”.

Rwanda

[Original: English]

Rwanda’s Vision 2050 is aimed at achieving a high quality of life for Rwandans and becoming a developed country by 2050, which reflects the ambitions of the Sustainable Development Goals, adding to the domestication efforts made through the National Strategy for Transformation (2017–2024) and related sector strategies.

The preparation process brought together various stakeholders, including government, private sector, civil society and development partners. Discussions centred on progress, challenges, lessons learned and mechanisms for recovery from the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), with a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals. The process was enhanced by data from the fifth population and housing census (2022).⁴

1. **Clean water and sanitation** (Goal 6). Access to water from improved sources at the national level is at 82 per cent. Progress has been made countrywide, especially in rural areas (from 22.6 per cent in 2005 to 76.7 per cent) compared with urban areas (from 55.4 per cent to 95.7 per cent). Access to sanitation is at 72.2 per cent, with rural access being higher, at 78.5 per cent, compared with urban access, at 56.4 per cent. This reflects investments made in the sector over the past decade to improve hygiene, health and nutrition.

2. **Affordable and clean energy** (Goal 7). The proportion of households with access to electricity increased from 21.5 per cent in 2014 to 61 per cent (47 per cent on-grid and 14 per cent off-grid). The gains in access to electricity are attributed to an off-grid subsidy for poor households, rapid expansion of the grid and private sector engagement. The use of firewood for cooking remains high, at 76 per cent, hampered by the relatively high cost of cleaner alternatives.

3. **Industry, innovation and infrastructure** (Goal 9). Industrial development has been promoted, with a strong focus on the “Made in Rwanda” policy, which enabled strong participation of the private sector in unlocking new industries during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak (e.g., hygiene products, health and pharmaceutical products, etc.). For example, a first-ever vaccine manufacturing plant is being constructed in Rwanda.

⁴ Unless otherwise indicated, the reference period for all data is 2022.

Innovation has been facilitated by the roll-out of the Internet across the country, with 62.86 per cent of households using the Internet. A number of initiatives are being undertaken to enhance innovation start-ups, including the establishment of innovation hubs across the country, the innovation fund and the tech hub Kigali Innovation City, which is designed to create an ecosystem that supports a thriving tech and innovation industry.

A network of trade infrastructure has been developed across the country, including the scaling-up of airline (RwandAir) capacity and destinations, the establishment of modern logistics platforms, cross-border markets and one-stop border points, and the development of regional, national and feeder roads, among others.

4. **Sustainable cities and communities** (Goal 11). The population living in urban areas increased from 18.4 per cent in 2016/17 to 27.90 per cent, and Rwanda is one of the most rapidly urbanizing countries in the world. This emphasizes the need to provide climate-resilient urban services such as transport and housing. The National Land Use and Development Master Plan 2020–2050 revised in 2020 provides a long-term road map aligned to the Vision 2050 for the development of a hierarchy of sustainable cities, towns and urban areas.

5. **Partnerships to achieve the Goals** (Goal 17). Rwanda actively participates in South-South cooperation through the Rwanda Cooperation Initiative, an agency set up to coordinate the sharing of experiences between Rwanda and other countries. Other initiatives include the Rwanda Green Fund, enhancing public-private partnerships and domestic resource mobilization.

Leaving no one behind. The Constitution provides for the participation of all groups in the governance structures of the country. The social protection policy revised in 2020 emphasizes social security, social assistance and livelihood and employment support aimed at the protection, promotion, prevention and transformation of citizens. In this regard, the Government has supported households affected by COVID-19 and disasters.

Building back better. COVID-19 affected the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals owing to reprioritization of resources, slowing implementation, increasing vulnerability and reducing mobilization of resources. To accelerate recovery, a recovery plan and the Economic Recovery Fund were established. Vaccination of the population was also accelerated.

Key lessons learned

1. Although the pandemic brought setbacks to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, recovery is under way due to swift and concrete policy measures coupled with good leadership.

2. The pandemic highlighted the need for a stronger and resilient local economy to minimize exposure to external shocks.

3. More efforts are needed to mobilize resources to support the private sector and achieve the Goals at the national and global levels.

Saint Kitts and Nevis

[Original: English]

A sustainable island State

Introduction

Saint Kitts and Nevis has made significant strides in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our development initiatives over the past two decades targeted accelerating economic growth, with a focus on employment, resulting in a fall in poverty levels, improved social services and expanded social protection for poor and vulnerable households. The pandemic caused massive disruption to people's lives and affected the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in areas such as poverty reduction, good health care, quality education, decent work and economic growth.

The Saint Kitts and Nevis National Development Planning Framework (2023–2037), which guides the country's long-term development planning, is well aligned with the Goals and serves as the key mechanism for implementing the Government's vision for the country to become the first sustainable island State.

People and prosperity

The economy of Saint Kitts and Nevis bounced back positively from the pandemic. Tourism and its ancillary sectors have rebounded sharply, contributing to real gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 9 per cent in 2022, after contracting by 14.5 per cent in 2020 and 0.9 per cent in 2021. The Government is resolute in its economic diversification, targeting sustainable agriculture and food security through the establishment of environmentally friendly green villages; promoting regenerative tourism focused on building resilience and the sustainable consumption of environmental resources; and developing the green, blue and orange economies. We have intensified our transition to renewable energy through solar power and geothermal energy production, which is estimated to be completed by 2025.

Lessons learned during the pandemic highlighted the importance of social protection in post-pandemic recovery, including strengthening household resilience and skills relevant to the emergent labour market. The Government's top priorities are improving health and well-being, building social cohesion and protecting the most vulnerable; mainstreaming gender, youth and persons with disabilities across all policies and initiatives; and improving the access to and affordability of education.

The delivery of quality and accessible health care is focused on national health insurance, climate-smart infrastructure, the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases, mental health and nutrition. The establishment of the Ministry of Youth Empowerment, Ageing and Disabilities will ensure that special attention is paid to some of our most vulnerable residents. To enhance human capital, the Government introduced free tuition for all students at the community college in addition to reducing the cost of university education via favourable student loan terms at the Development Bank. The Government also focused on the integration of technology in education, including addressing the digital divide through the reintroduction of the One-to-One Laptop Programme.

Planet

Saint Kitts and Nevis is extremely vulnerable to climate phenomena. Several cyclones and hurricanes have affected the country since 1950. With about 15.2 per cent of the population living in low-lying coastal zones, the threat of storm surge and

sea-level rise is real. Drought has been identified as a critical hazard, making water scarcity a significant challenge. Given the centrality of groundwater sources to the water supply, protecting these resources is crucial. To increase and diversify water production capacity, resources will be required to construct desalination plants in the short term.

Saint Kitts and Nevis remains committed to environmental sustainability and resilience. As a signatory to several climate change-related international agreements, we have integrated climate change mitigation and adaptation into our development planning by formulating the updated nationally determined contributions; this action plan pledges an ambitious 61 per cent reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and emphasizes the urgency of climate adaptation initiatives and accessing climate financing for resilience-building.

Peace and partnership

Violent crimes have declined significantly through a comprehensive crime management strategy, including the improvement of social intervention and rehabilitation programmes for deeper impact, along with the modernization of security infrastructure, and the reform of the judicial system. Similar initiatives are ongoing to accelerate the Government's good governance agenda, with a focus on anti-corruption, integrity in public life and freedom of information.

Both domestic and external partnerships have played a catalytic role for Saint Kitts and Nevis to successfully advance on the Sustainable Development Goals. However, accelerating the implementation of the Goals in line with the sustainable island State agenda will require even more strategic and impactful partnerships. The National Sustainable Development Coordinating Committee incorporating private-sector and civil society organization representatives will continue to fully integrate the Goals through medium-term planning, including key principles such as gender mainstreaming and leave no one behind.

Saudi Arabia

[Original: English]

Saudi Arabia has placed sustainable development at the forefront of national priorities by fully integrating it into the Vision 2030, the country's transformational long-term plan. The Vision seeks to transform Saudi Arabia into a thriving and dynamic nation, while at the same time balancing economic growth with social and environmental sustainability. The integration of Vision 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals represents a concerted effort to promote sustainable and inclusive development with quality of life at the core.

The Kingdom views sustainability as a driving force for growth and advancement and strives to integrate economic, social and environmental considerations into development initiatives. This commitment is reflected in the extensive institutional and policy framework that underpins the Sustainable Development Goals, culminating with the establishment of the Sustainable Development Steering Committee in September 2021. Sustainability has become central to policy development, with key measures having been taken by the Government to foster policy coherence for sustainable development. To this end, the Government has adopted a whole-of-society and a whole-of-government approach to policymaking.

The Kingdom has launched numerous initiatives in support of sustainable development. The Saudi Green Initiative positions Saudi Arabia as a global leader in climate action and environmental protection. The Middle East Green Initiative, a

regional effort to address climate change, and the circular carbon economy approach, targeting net-zero emissions, have also been launched. The Saudi Public Investment Fund, one of the world's largest sovereign funds, finances projects promoting economic growth and sustainable development. The Quality of Life Program enhances citizens' well-being, while institutions like the King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology, the Saudi Data & AI Authority and multiple incubators and accelerators foster technological development and innovation.

Saudi Arabia's commitment to sustainable development is long-standing and present in all social, environmental and economic dimensions. In the social sphere, Saudi Arabia has established an extensive social protection system, which incorporates social insurance programmes, social safety nets and labour market support programmes, providing citizens with wide-ranging support in areas such as health, retirement, unemployment insurance, subsidies, housing, education and employment. The Kingdom has tackled childhood malnutrition, enhanced its health-care system, maintained high vaccination rates and achieved near gender parity in education. Human rights are fortified through multiple programmes and the Human Rights Commission. Women's empowerment has progressed through increased participation in the workforce and representation in leadership. Women's rights have been prioritized through the adoption of laws promoting equal pay, freedom of travel and protection from violence.

Saudi Arabia places great importance on the protection of the environment and the preservation of natural resources. The Kingdom has set out to increase renewables to 50 per cent of its power generation by 2030. The Kingdom is scaling up renewable projects, the adoption of electric vehicles, hydrogen production, energy efficiency and carbon capture, utilization and storage. Improvements in clean water and sanitation have been achieved. The Kingdom participates actively in climate negotiations, has ratified the Paris Agreement and is aiming for net-zero emissions by 2060 through the circular carbon economy approach. The Government has also established ambitious afforestation efforts and protection of marine and land areas.

In the area of economic development, Saudi Arabia has reduced oil dependency and is expanding sectors such as tourism, technology and diversified energy. The Kingdom has made significant progress in creating jobs, with a particular focus on female labour force participation, which rose from 19.4 per cent in 2015 to 36 per cent in 2022. Multiple large-scale urban development programmes are expanding green spaces, pedestrian walkways and recreational areas.

Globally, Saudi Arabia is emerging as an investment powerhouse and an economic hub connecting three continents. As a G20 member, Saudi Arabia has demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainable development by leading towards "seizing the opportunities of the twenty-first century for all" during its presidency. Based on Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development data, Saudi Arabia is ranked as the top global donor for humanitarian and development assistance to low- and middle-income countries.

Saudi Arabia's achievements outlined in the voluntary national review report are evidence of its unwavering commitment to sustainable development. They are the result of unprecedented reforms ushered in by Vision 2030 and the collaborative and inclusive approach involving all segments of society. Guided by its traditions and vision, Saudi Arabia remains dedicated to a future where all people live in prosperity and security and contribute to a peaceful and prosperous planet.

Singapore

[Original: English]

Since Singapore's first voluntary national review, in 2018, the world has become more volatile and uncertain. The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) had a tremendous impact on all countries; geopolitical tensions have come into sharper relief; and the impact of climate change has exacerbated threats to global food, water and energy security. Consequently, global progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals has stagnated and, in some cases, regressed.

As a small, low-lying island State, climate change is an existential threat to Singapore. We expect a significant increase in sea levels, temperatures and extreme weather patterns by the end of this century. The unpredictability of external shocks compounds the challenges we face in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and could derail the progress we have made if we do not act decisively. Amidst this turbulence, Singapore remains steadfast in our commitment to sustainable development, and we have taken concrete measures to pursue this by balancing economic growth with environmental protection and social inclusion.

Our second voluntary national review highlights the significant progress we have made, while acknowledging our constraints and challenges. We raised our climate ambition to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, are making good progress with the Singapore Green Plan 2030 and are diversifying our sustainability agenda across multiple domains, ranging from urban greenery to economic transformation. Our sustainability plans will continue to evolve over the years, in order to address new challenges and ensure that Singapore remains a green, liveable and climate-resilient home.

There is opportunity in every crisis. At the height of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, we accelerated our digitalization efforts to empower our citizens and bridge the digital divide. We continue to champion connectivity across various platforms within our communities, between our natural and urban landscapes and in the digital space. We believe in education as a social leveller and are committed to providing quality and accessible education for everyone. In doing so, we aim to build an inclusive society with equal opportunities for all – a fundamental principle of Singapore's governance.

Singapore's whole-of-nation approach underpins our efforts to achieve sustainable development in an inclusive manner. We engage our people, community and the private sector extensively through consultations and dialogues and seek to facilitate partnerships across sectors to co-deliver on our Sustainable Development Goals.

Our sustainability efforts stretch far beyond our shores. There is much that countries can share and learn from one another in our common pursuit of sustainable development. This spirit of international cooperation is reflected in our practices, from convening and hosting sustainability-focused events such as the biennial Singapore International Water Week to sharing our experiences with fellow developing countries through the Singapore Cooperation Programme – our flagship capacity-building platform. Singapore firmly supports a strong multilateral system that enables the international community to work together to deliver effective solutions.

Singapore's voluntary national review at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development captures our progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda since 2018 and charts our sustainability blueprint for the future. It serves as a useful checkpoint to remind us that sustainable development is a continuous journey that

requires the commitment and partnership of all stakeholders across different sectors and countries. Singapore continues to adopt a forward-looking approach to meet the needs of the present without compromising our future generations, as we progress towards the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

Slovakia

[Original: English]

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is the backbone of long-term development planning in Slovakia

Five years after its first voluntary national review, Slovakia has made progress in integrating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into its national development framework, notably by adopting a Vision and Development Strategy until 2030. At the same time, implementation needs to be accelerated to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. To turn this ambition into a reality, Slovakia has identified the two key enablers set out below, which are in line with the principles of policy coherence for sustainable development.⁵

Integration

To better respond to circumstances at the national level, Slovakia integrated the 17 Sustainable Development Goals into six national priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: (a) education; (b) knowledge-based and green economy; (c) poverty reduction and social inclusion; (d) sustainable settlements and the countryside; (e) rule of law, democracy and security; and (f) health. These were then associated with national priorities for regional development, paving the way for the development of Slovakia's integrated Vision and Development Strategy until 2030, adopted by the Government in 2021. However, integration needs to go further than the strategic level and become a cornerstone at the programme and project levels as well.

Engagement

Horizontal and vertical coordination across government, as well as whole-of-society participation, have been built into the implementation framework for the 2030 Agenda in Slovakia. Apart from ensuring a coordinated approach, broad stakeholder participation, including by civil society organizations, is an important safeguard of leaving no one behind.

Progress on individual Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved only by recognizing their interlinkages

In its voluntary national review, Slovakia pays significant attention to interlinkages between the Sustainable Development Goals as well as to the impact of recent and ongoing crises – such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, climate change and the war in Ukraine – on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The detailed analysis of interactions between the various Sustainable Development Goal targets clearly demonstrates that the 2030 Agenda can be achieved only in an integrated manner and by acknowledging potential trade-offs, synergies and transboundary impacts.

⁵ As elaborated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the principles of policy coherence for sustainable development include political commitment and leadership; strategic long-term vision; policy integration; whole-of-government coordination; subnational engagement; stakeholder engagement; policy and financing impacts; and monitoring, reporting and evaluation.

Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals is evaluated by using the United Nations indicator framework. For the purposes of this voluntary national review, Slovakia has decided to focus on the five Goals that are under in-depth review at the 2023 high-level political forum on sustainable development, namely, Goals 6, 7, 9, 11 and 17.

Slovakia has demonstrated good performance on Goal 6 (clean water and sanitation) and considers water to be a strategic resource. The country's performance on Goal 7 (affordable and clean energy) has also been positive, although the currently ongoing energy crisis may put that progress in peril. Progress towards Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals) is more uneven and requires increased attention as well as investment. The official development cooperation of the Slovak Republic is strongly underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals in bilateral and multilateral relations alike.

The table below provides a snapshot of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in Slovakia.



Source: Jeffrey D. Sachs and others, *Sustainable Development Report: From Crisis to Sustainable Development: the SDGs as Roadmap to 2030 and Beyond* (Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2022). See <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/profiles/slovak-republic>.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, systemic change is inevitable

Apart from evaluating progress, the voluntary national review also pinpoints persisting challenges and highlights the need to speed up the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level. Recognizing the importance of civil society organizations in Slovakia, cooperation with all relevant stakeholders needs to be an integral part of implementation efforts.

At the international level, successive global reports on the status of sustainable development have raised the alarm on severe implementation gaps across the world, which have been further exacerbated by environmental, health and security crises. The eight years that have passed since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda have seen uneven progress across the Goals, across territories and across various social and population groups. Today, it is evident that in addition to setting ambitious global goals and establishing worldwide monitoring mechanisms, a more intensive coordination of implementation at the international level is also inevitable if the Sustainable Development Goals are to be achieved.

Tajikistan

[Original: English]

Green development for shared prosperity

Background

This is Tajikistan's second voluntary national review to assess the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals. Following the guidelines for the preparation of the review, the data collection was accompanied by consultations with a wide range of stakeholders to make the report as in-depth and data-driven as possible.

Building on the first voluntary national review, the Sustainable Development Goals have been further integrated into the legal framework and mainstreamed in the National Development Strategy for the period up to 2030. There has been greater cooperation to ensure that goals are linked to the local action, investment plan and budgetary processes. A national Sustainable Development Goal tracker platform has been developed to assess progress on the 127 indicators for which data are available.

Green development for shared prosperity. Tajikistan is a source of more than 70 per cent of water resources in Central Asia. Currently, 98 per cent of electricity in Tajikistan is generated by hydropower plants. The country ranks sixth in the world in terms of green energy and will be upgraded to the fourth position upon completion of the Roghun hydropower plant. Tajikistan is also among the countries with almost zero contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.

The President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Leader of the Nation, Emomali Rahmon is a leader in promoting global water and climate change issues. On 14 December 2022, following an initiative by Tajikistan, the General Assembly declared 2025 as the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation and 21 March as the World Day for Glaciers. This is the fifth global initiative of Tajikistan's to be implemented on a global scale, enabling the international community to undertake joint actions on sustainable use of water resources and mitigating climate change.

Key achievements

Through ongoing reforms, Tajikistan has made remarkable progress across most of the Sustainable Development Goals. Despite the negative impacts of external shocks, namely, geopolitical tensions and sanctions, trade conflicts, the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the consequences of global climate change, the effective implementation of economic reforms, policies and programmes and anti-crisis measures over the past five years have made it possible to maintain the economic growth of Tajikistan at the average rate of 7.3 per cent annually and the growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita by 1.5 times.

The Global Good Agricultural Practices Standards were introduced to ensure climate-smart and environmentally friendly agricultural growth.

The average annual growth rate of the housing stock is 2.4 per cent higher than the country's population growth rate (2 per cent). Access to basic drinking water services increased from 76 per cent to 82 per cent over the period.

More than 70 per cent of the country's population are young people. Taking into account demographic trends, 3,420 education facilities for 1.5 million students and 2,827 medical facilities have been constructed, which has significantly improved access to quality education and health.

During the past five years, the maternal and infant mortality rates decreased by 70 per cent and about 36 per cent, respectively. Also, the number of registered cases

of newly diagnosed tuberculosis and HIV infection dropped by 26 per cent and 19.5 per cent, respectively.

The population's well-being has gradually improved and people's income has grown by 2.1 times in the past five years. The average salary rose by 1.5 times and pensions by 1.3 times.

To develop a robust social protection system, a targeted social assistance programme and a unified national information register of low-income families and persons with disabilities have been launched.

Over the period, more than 19 billion Tajik somoni was allocated to support socially vulnerable groups.

During the Independence period, more than 2,000 megawatts-thermal (MWt) of additional electric capacity were installed, which improved access to electricity in rural areas up to 98 per cent in 2022 and reduced the energy poverty. According to the World Energy Trilemma Index ranking, Tajikistan ranked among the top 10 countries on energy security.

Also over the Independence period, 2,400 km of roads, 326 bridges, 6 automobile tunnels and 219 km of railway were built to ensure the rapid industrialization and infrastructure development of the country.

The above-mentioned actions enabled the country to reduce the poverty rate from 31 per cent in 2015 to 22.5 per cent in 2022.

Challenges

Tajikistan has conducted the current voluntary national review at a time of global economic turbulence combined with a food security crisis, an energy crisis, the aftermath of COVID-19 and climate change, which pose great risks to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Under these circumstances, maintaining macroeconomic stability, food security, social security and border security and coping with the unprecedented consequences of the global climate change present key challenges for the coming years.

Tajikistan remains committed to implementing the 2030 development agenda, with an emphasis on sustainable development and shared prosperity based on inclusiveness, leaving no one behind and innovation. Adequate financial and technical support for development partners across the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Timor-Leste

[Original: English]

Twenty-one years after the restoration of independence, Timor-Leste's priority in achieving sustainable development is to invest in its people, ensuring that no one is left behind. In 2002, when the country restored independence, girls and boys across the country wrote their aspirations for the nation on postcards addressed to future leaders. They envisioned Timor-Leste to be a democratic nation with better living conditions for all and opportunities for young people. Timor-Leste's second voluntary national review attempts to assess whether the Government, in its quest towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, is on track to deliver on these young people's expectations.

Timor-Leste is committed to peace, inclusion and State-building as the foundation for achieving the Goals through a people-centred approach that promotes the well-being and potential of all citizens.

Timor-Leste has implemented timely responses and recovery policies in the face of multiple shocks, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), natural disasters and political impasse, and has maintained its promise to deliver on Goals 3, 11 and 13. The response of the Government of Timor-Leste to the COVID-19 crisis has been commendable and was delivered through the Economic Recovery Plan. The aim of the Plan was to safeguard living standards through universal cash transfers, preserving jobs for both formal and informal workers and protecting businesses. The Government kept essential services operational and was responsive to COVID-19 spikes and protected people by implementing a mix of containment measures. As a result, death rates and serious cases of COVID-19 remained low.

Priority 1. It is vital that the international community continue to support the country's efforts to become more resilient to multiple shocks and to deliver the National Strategic Development Plan 2011–2030, in particular focusing on the human capital development area.

The socioeconomic impact of multiple shocks in Timor-Leste has been detrimental for gains in development, especially for rural households, people with disabilities and the poor, slowing progress on Goals 1, 2, 4 and 6. Although the nutrition situation has continued to improve, the prevalence of stunting, underweight and wasting remains high compared with the Asia-Pacific region. While social protection programmes aimed at vulnerable parents and children have been adopted, they are not yet adequate to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups. Although the net enrolment rates at the secondary levels have been increasing, preschool education enrolment is low, and the quality of education and the use of digital resources remain a major challenge.

Priority 2. The Government continues reforms to strengthen public financing for social sectors by focusing on the accessibility and quality of education, health, social protection and food security. International partners can play an important role in supporting these reforms.

Identified as one of the four strategies for acceleration, economic diversification has stalled, with further progress needed on Goals 7, 8 and 9. Timor-Leste's economy has not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The employment base of Timor-Leste remains small and fragile, with a low rate of female economic participation and a high number of youth not engaged in education, employment or training. The agriculture sector remains the biggest employer but was hit hard by COVID-19 and natural disasters, while connectivity and digital services are limited. Timor-Leste's accession to the Association of Southeast Nations and the World Trade Organization can help to accelerate economic diversification and resilience.

Priority 3. We seek partnerships to accelerate technology-driven transformation and to strengthen policies to promote a "blue-green economy" focusing on the agriculture, fishery and tourism sectors.

Commitment to democracy and social cohesion underpins the country's resilience in the face of multiple shocks, making it a champion in its achievement of Goal 16. Timor-Leste has showed yet again that it is one of the strongest electoral democracies in South-East Asia, with 40 per cent of Parliament seats held by women. Amid COVID-19, the country conducted a successful presidential election; civil liberties are widely respected; and the Government remains open and responsive to people's needs. Reforms are ongoing to address challenges in government effectiveness, public administration, decentralization and financial management.

Priority 4. To ensure that the aspirations of all its citizens at the outset of independence are met by 2030, Timor-Leste is ready to strengthen institutions using the existing strong social contract between citizens and State and its leaders commit to avoiding future political impasses and continuing to work with other nations, the private sector and partners to deliver for its people.

Turkmenistan

[Original: Russian]

The second voluntary national review is unique

Turkmenistan's second Sustainable Development Goals voluntary national review is unique in several ways.

First, in addition to covering the main goals recommended by the United Nations, the current review includes six additional goals reflecting the country's key strategic directions:

- health care;
- quality and inclusive education;
- food security;
- gender equality;
- increasing individuals' well-being;
- environmental protection.

Second, like all the countries of the world, Turkmenistan suffered the consequences of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The review presents Turkmenistan's national experience with countering the pandemic; that experience enabled the country to transition to new parameters of sustainable development.

Third, the review sets out the progress made in improving the institutional framework to ensure effective implementation of the Goals. That has created an enabling environment for digitalization, entrepreneurship, and the application of innovative and environmentally friendly technologies for present and future generations.

Fourth, strategic policy documents have been examined to evaluate their incorporation of the Goals. The assessment demonstrated that there remains a high level of integration of Sustainable Development Goal objectives into strategies, programmes and action plans – 85 per cent. In this way, continuity is ensured in the implementation of the Goals in completed and newly adopted national programmes.

The human-centred approach is a sustainable model of government

The country's commitment to the Goals has contributed to a holistic model of sustainable development with a focus on people and the well-being of every citizen.

About 75 per cent of Turkmenistan's State budget is allocated to the development of the social sphere. Targeted assistance and services for socially vulnerable segments of the population are being introduced, and benefit programmes for young people are being implemented.

In the medium and long terms, the human-centred approach will be the basis for the determination of Turkmenistan's national policy priorities.

Introduction of green technologies and measures to combat climate change

Turkmenistan is taking comprehensive steps to minimize negative environmental impacts and climate change. The widespread introduction of energy-saving and environmentally friendly technologies is a special priority of the national socio-economic programmes. An active digitalization process is also contributing to a sustainable economy and a green transition.

Turkmenistan is one of the few countries not only in Central Asia, but in the world, to implement its own national climate change strategy, and the 2021–2025 National Programme for the Aral Sea.

Turkmenistan will continue to consistently implement systematic measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in energy, transport, agriculture and industrial processes, and to develop adaptation measures and reduce the risk of natural disasters.

Involvement of institutions and all stakeholders

The involvement of all Government institutions and stakeholders is ensuring a holistic and systematic approach to the implementation of the Goals. In addition to receiving the support of Government agencies, the non-governmental, academic and private sectors in the country, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is receiving the support of the parliament, as the representative body that exercises legislative power. The parliament acts as a link between the people and State institutions, enforcing the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

Turkmenistan has established, and is operating, an internal reporting mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Every year, the coordinating body for the Sustainable Development Goals – the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan –, together with other Government agencies and stakeholders, submits to the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan a national report on progress in achieving the Goals.

Youth is the foundation and guarantor of a sustainable Turkmenistan

One of the engines of State development is young people, for whom the country is creating the most favourable conditions. Turkmenistan has declared 2023 the year of “Happy Youth with Arkadag Serdar”.

Every year, Turkmenistan, with the support of the United Nations, selects Sustainable Development Goal ambassadors from among the younger generation. They offer new ideas and promote an inclusive partnership platform, helping to raise public awareness of sustainable development issues.

Expanding partnerships for the benefit of every citizen

The 2030 Agenda is being implemented in Turkmenistan through an effective partnership with international institutions and organizations. In order to stimulate trade and investment and consolidate the position of domestic producers in foreign markets, Turkmenistan has set a clear goal of joining the World Trade Organization (WTO). Turkmenistan was granted WTO observer status in 2020, followed by the status of acceding country in 2022. Turkmenistan’s accession to WTO is one of the important prerequisites for the country to achieve its goals of decent work, economic growth, development of innovation and infrastructure and development of partnerships.

Current and future priorities for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals

The high level of integration of national priorities with the Sustainable Development Goals requires the State to invest sufficiently. Turkmenistan aims to fulfil the commitments made in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to improve its financing systems.

In 2021, Turkmenistan introduced an Integrated National Financing Framework.

An important aspect of integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into all spheres of national life is their localization. The State will work purposefully to integrate and institutionalize the Goals on the ground. The Government aims to work more actively with local executive bodies to integrate Sustainable Development Goal targets and indicators appropriate to the specific features and challenges of certain areas. This, in turn, will allow for more targeted policies and measures for different target populations, taking into account the principle of “leaving no one behind”.

United Republic of Tanzania

[Original: English]

The United Republic of Tanzania presents its second voluntary national review as part of the formal follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals. The review underlines progress, challenges and lessons learned since the first voluntary national review was conducted in 2019. During the reporting period, the United Republic of Tanzania, like other countries, experienced global shocks such as the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Ukraine-Russia war, climate change and a rise in the cost of borrowing from international financial institutions.

The preparation process for the voluntary national review was open, inclusive and transparent. A wide range of stakeholders were involved, including Government institutions, Parliament, civil society, the private sector and research and academic institutions. To ensure that no one is left behind, specific consultations with selected groups, including youth, women and people with disabilities, were conducted. Further, consultations with local authorities and communities were carried out in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar at the administrative and community levels.

Significant progress has been made in implementing the actions proposed in the previous voluntary national review (2019). There has been good progress on Goals 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 16 and relatively moderate progress on Goals 1, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17. An assessment of the thematic goals for the 2023 voluntary national review shows that Tanzania has notably excelled in ensuring access to clean and safe water for all, particularly in rural areas, which increased to 74.5 per cent (2022) from 70.1 per cent (2019) due to strengthened partnerships and increased budgetary allocations. In terms of affordable and clean energy, the share of the population’s access to electricity grew to 78.4 per cent in 2021 from 67.5 per cent in 2019 due to increased electricity generation from clean sources and reduced power leakages. The country has continued to promote the use of clean and sustainable cooking energy, in line with the National Energy Policy, to improve the quality of life of Tanzanians.

On industry, innovation and infrastructure, Tanzania is making notable progress in improving its railway, airway and road infrastructures. The country has seen an increase in the tonnage of cargo and the number of passengers transported using its infrastructural network. In promoting sustainable cities and communities, the United Republic of Tanzania has improved land management by introducing information and communications technology and by digitizing land records through the establishment

of the Integrated Land Management Information System. Also, Tanzania is building satellite towns as part of efforts to sustain its cities.

Maintaining national food security and nutrition while mitigating the impact of climate change and environmental degradation is essential for reducing multidimensional poverty and achieving high human development. Between 2019 and 2021, the production of food crops remained stable, and the self-sufficient ratio reached an average of 125 per cent over the period. Fairly good weather, stability, and input availability, such as improved seeds, chemicals and fertilizer, contributed to this outcome.

There have also been stronger partnerships and collaborations on the Sustainable Development Goals with various stakeholders. The United Republic of Tanzania has maintained private-sector support systems to improve the country's business-enabling environment and investment climate.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine have caused socioeconomic disruptions that have harmed human capital development and, in turn, impaired the economic improvement pace of 2019, when the country recorded 7.0 per cent growth in real gross domestic product (GDP). This decreased to 4.8 per cent in 2020 and slightly increased to 5.2 per cent in 2023. Despite maintaining favourable macroeconomic growth, these global shocks slowed the progress made in previous years towards attaining the envisaged national development agenda and, equally so, the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Republic of Tanzania is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goal targets by 2030 by implementing medium- and short-term development plans. Also, through the Socioeconomic Response and Recovery Plan, Tanzania is envisioning fast-tracking the implementation, in line with the commitments stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. The Government has put in place robust policies and legal and institutional frameworks and has scaled up measures for preventing, detecting and responding to emerging diseases. Additionally, the Government has strengthened measures to mitigate climate change, such as implementing the National Climate Change Response Strategy 2021–2026 and the Blue Economy Strategy. The Government is committed to enhancing actions for more domestic and external resource mobilization to support the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda and the Goals. The Government is also promoting digital technology and innovation on various fronts, which will stimulate economic growth and lead to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal outcomes.

Uzbekistan

[Original: Russian]

Uzbekistan is presenting its second voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals. The first voluntary national review was presented in 2020.

In 2015, the Government of Uzbekistan committed itself to the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A 22 February 2022 Government decree provided for the tracking of 16 Sustainable Development Goals and 126 targets. The monitoring system includes 190 indicators, 128 of which are published on the portal of the Statistics Agency (nsdg.stat.uz). The decree also updated the composition of the Interagency Coordinating Council and set out the role of the Integrated National Financing Framework. In July 2021, Uzbekistan became the first country in the region to issue \$235 million in Sustainable Development Goal sovereign bonds.

The Parliamentary Commission for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals, and civil society, youth and leading national non-governmental non-commercial organizations, are actively involved in promoting the Goals; that includes involvement in the preparation and discussion of the second voluntary national review. On 14 December 2022, at the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the General Assembly of the United Nations unanimously adopted a resolution entitled “Enhancing the role of parliaments in accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Since 2022, the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Uzbekistan has been accompanied by large-scale reforms within the framework of the New Uzbekistan Development Strategy for 2022–2026, whose directions are fully consistent with national goals and objectives for sustainable development. The main goal of the Strategy is to make Uzbekistan an upper-middle-income country by 2030.

The Strategy is more results-oriented, with specific, ambitious and proposed measurable goals to be achieved by 2026 (halving poverty and increasing preschool and higher education enrolment to 80 per cent and 50 per cent, respectively). The Strategy’s aims are: improving governance and democratic institutions; fighting corruption; supporting civil society and freedom of speech; decentralization; supporting rural development, and sustainable development of vulnerable regions.

Since 2020, Uzbekistan’s economy has shown high growth rates, despite the global and regional crises (COVID-19 and geopolitical crises). Even at the height of the pandemic, the economy showed growth of 2 per cent. In 2021 and 2022, the economy grew at 7.4 per cent and 5.7 per cent, respectively.

Guided by the principle of “leaving no one behind”, Uzbekistan is implementing a number of programmes aimed at increasing human capital and social inclusion. Specifically, enrolment in preschool education increased from 21 per cent in 2015 to 70 per cent in 2022, and in higher education from 8 per cent to 38 per cent, respectively. Moreover, measures to promote women’s access to higher education, including through targeted free and soft loans and additional quotas, have doubled the number of women in higher education.

In order to improve the quality of health care services, the Government is introducing a health insurance system, undertaking digitalization, and encouraging private investment.

A unified social register of socially vulnerable families, young people and women in need of State support was created as part of reforms to the social protection system. In addition, by defining a new procedure for calculating minimum consumer spending in 2021, the Government of Uzbekistan has raised its ambitions for poverty reduction goals. As a result of these reforms, the size and coverage of social payments increased more than threefold, and the transparency and accessibility of this service improved.

To stimulate sustainable employment and increase the income of citizens, the institution of self-employment was created. “Ishga Marhamat” monocentres throughout Uzbekistan provide vocational education, training and professional development for the population.

Large-scale construction and concessionary mortgage loan programmes are being implemented throughout Uzbekistan to ensure universal access to comfortable and affordable housing.

Under the Paris Climate Agreement, Uzbekistan has more than tripled its commitments and now plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 35 per cent per unit of gross domestic product by 2030, rather than 10 per cent, as before. In this

connection, a strategy on the transition to a green economy for the period up to 2030 has been adopted. It involves increasing the share of renewable energy sources to 25 per cent of total electricity generation by 2026, doubling energy efficiency and halving the energy intensity of gross domestic product.

In order to improve the system of reliable protection of the rights, freedoms and interests of women and children, a new law, passed in April 2023, for the first time criminalizes at the legislative level the harassment and stalking of women.

Demographic growth in the country will require the continuation of important structural reforms in the economy, as well as deepening of reforms in the governance, social and environmental fields, in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Zambia

[Original: English]

Introduction

Zambia's second voluntary national review is being undertaken against the backdrop of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, the debt situation and climate change effects. It focuses on the progress made between 2019 and 2022 and highlights the key challenges that Zambia is facing in attaining the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The review reports on Goals 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15 and 17.

Alignment of the National Development Plan

The Eighth National Development Plan, 2022–2026 is 87 per cent aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, underscoring Zambia's commitment to the 2030 Agenda. To support the implementation of the Agenda, the country has fostered an inclusive, whole-of-society approach to development, with an institutional framework for monitoring national development plans towards the National Vision 2030.

Accelerating economic recovery towards a more resilient and inclusive future

Through the Eighth National Development Plan, 2022–2026, Zambia has embarked on an economic recovery programme to restore macroeconomic stability, support fiscal stabilization and foster higher and more inclusive growth. To support these interventions, the country obtained assistance from the International Monetary Fund Extended Credit Facility worth \$1.3 billion and concessional financing from other multilateral financing institutions, among others. Zambia is also making efforts towards debt restructuring, which is expected to underpin its economic recovery.

To support climate change adaptation and resilience-building, Zambia has continued to enhance institutional capacities in accessing climate financing as well as forging partnerships with bilateral and multilateral institutions. The policy and legal framework is being strengthened to address climate change and other environmental challenges as well as incorporate emerging issues.

To reduce the burden on the fiscus, public-private partnerships are being promoted and implemented as an alternative source of financing for the country's infrastructure development agenda.

To strengthen collaboration between the public and the private sector, in 2022, the Government launched the Public Private Dialogue Forum with the support of cooperating partners. This underscores the Government's conviction that the private

sector has a pivotal role to play in the country's development and attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To enhance domestic revenue collection, Zambia has digitized its tax system through a home-grown digital solution and is implementing the Government Service Bus and payment gateway, which also makes many government services accessible online at all times.

Leaving no one behind

Zambia has made significant progress in empowering the poorest and most vulnerable in society. This includes the implementation of the revised Education-For-All Policy, which has enhanced access and equity in education. Key reforms include the removal of tuition fees and examination fees and the reintroduction of bursary support for vulnerable students in public schools. Further, a total of 30,496 teachers were recruited in 2022.

The Government is also enhancing access to education for children with special education needs and disabilities by providing user-friendly facilities. Additionally, a programme has been introduced in colleges to equip teachers with basic knowledge in identifying and assessing learners with disabilities.

To bring financial resources closer to the people, the Constituency Development Fund has been increased from 1.6 million Zambian kwacha to 28.3 million Zambian kwacha per constituency, providing communities with opportunities to make choices and implement projects to improve their well-being.

The number of Social Cash Transfer Programme beneficiaries increased to 1,024,000 in 2022 from 880,539 in 2020. The number of households receiving the Food Security Pack increased to 290,000 in 2022 from 263,000 in 2021. Beneficiaries of other social programmes such as Keeping Girls in School also expanded to 43,520 girls in 2022 from 28,964 girls in 2021, while the number of districts implementing the Home Grown School Feeding Programme increased to 59 from 39.

Zambia has commenced implementing an Integrated National Registration Information System to boost vital registration. The Information System is the national and civil registration management system intended to provide biometric-enabled national registration cards and issue birth and death certificates. The Government has also decentralized the registration of vital statistics to the district and subdistrict levels to ensure that no one is left behind.

Way forward

The results in the progress and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals are mixed, with gaps in the availability of necessary data among the challenges. Zambia remains committed to building back better from the polycrisis and will continue to rely on support from partners in its development efforts.