



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 18  
**Sustainable development**

**China, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Jamaica, Malawi, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, South Africa and Zambia:\* draft resolution**

## **Strengthening Voluntary National Reviews through Country-led Evaluation**

*The General Assembly,*

*Mindful* that many countries are falling behind on their commitments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and that progress has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and geopolitical tensions and conflicts, among other factors,

*Noting* that Voluntary National Reviews have been strengthened over the past few years with 188 countries participating in this process, representing 97 per cent of the whole United Nations membership, which is a testament to the enduring commitment of national Governments to implement the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals,

*Recalling* that as part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national, subnational, regional and global levels, which are country-led and country-driven,

*Encouraging* the full, equal and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector, in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development strategies and in the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews,

*Reaffirming* that in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015), Member States committed to engage in a systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda in accordance with agreed guiding principles, including those set out in paragraph 74 of resolution 70/1, which state that these reviews will be (a) voluntary and country-led, will take into account

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\* Any changes to the list of sponsors will be reflected in the official record of the meeting.



different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities, (b) will track progress in implementing the universal Goals and targets, including the means of implementation, (c) will maintain a longer-term orientation, (d) be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent, (e) people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind, (f) build on existing platforms and processes, where these exist, avoid duplications, (g) be rigorous and based on evidence, (h) require enhanced capacity-building support for developing countries and (i) benefit from the active support of the United Nations system and other multilateral institutions,

*Reiterating* resolution [75/290](#) B, in which countries are encouraged to work towards strengthening the evidence, science, evaluation and data basis for their Voluntary National Reviews, which may require enhanced national statistical capacities to address the gaps in data on the 2030 Agenda, and obtain high-quality, timely, reliable, disaggregated data and statistics. Support should be provided for building such capacities in developing countries,

*Recalling* that previous resolutions were adopted to advance evaluation capacity, as well as to review and complement the 2030 Agenda, including:

(a) Resolution [69/237](#) of 19 December 2014 calling on capacity-building for the evaluation of development activities at the country level,

(b) Resolution [70/299](#) of 29 July 2016 reaffirming the 2030 Agenda and further addressing the follow-up and review process,

*Cognizant* that Member States engage in the systematic follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including through reporting to the high-level political forum on sustainable development by presenting Voluntary National Reviews, being the process that allows for a robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework that helps countries maximize and track their progress to ensure that no one is left behind,

*Reaffirming* the need to maintain the integrity of the 2030 Agenda, and stressing that the Voluntary National Reviews aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

*Encouraging* countries to consider developing national road maps of Voluntary National Reviews for presentation until 2030,

*Confirming* that evaluations can inform, complement, and enrich the Voluntary National Reviews, explain the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (or lack thereof), and generate lessons on what needs to change to fast-track the achievement of the Goals,

*Emphasizing* that Country-led Evaluations of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation are instrumental in providing timely and credible evidence to regain and accelerate progress towards Agenda 2030 and its principles, especially Leave no one behind,

*Reiterating* that Country-led Evaluations empower national and local governments to improve decision-making, governance, and transparency for effective and more equitable strategies, plans and policies,

*Considering* the importance of evaluation and monitoring the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda by all Member States that leads to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

*Expressing our appreciation* to the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews, established in 2019 by the President of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council under the chairmanship of Mexico, and currently co-chaired by Morocco and the Philippines, in collaboration with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, for supporting the Voluntary National Review preparation process, including through facilitating peer learning between delegations, organizing dedicated workshops and suggesting constructive lines of questioning to be raised during every session of the high-level political forum,

1. *Encourages* all Member States to present regular Voluntary National Reviews with a Country-led Evaluation component as deemed relevant and useful at the country level in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, in line with the principles of the 2030 Agenda, taking into consideration that follow-up and review processes at all levels will be voluntary and country-led;

2. *Recognizes* that the Voluntary National Reviews, as processes to conduct robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals, can help countries to track progress in implementing them and ensure that no one is left behind;

3. *Encourages* all Member States to use evidence from evaluations of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation for decision-making and reporting on their progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda including in their Voluntary National Reviews, as appropriate;

4. *Requests* the United Nations agencies, within existing mandates and resources, to provide support at the request of Member States on their efforts to undertake evaluations of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and facilitate exchange of experiences and knowledge products from those evaluations.