

A capacity development workshop: Accelerating national implementation of the 2030 Agenda

9-10 April 2019
UNHQ
CONFERENCE ROOM 6

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda and the sustainable development goals (SDGs) constitute a comprehensive plan of action to eradicate poverty and ensure sustainable development. Referring to action at the national level, the 2030 Agenda provides as follows: “We encourage all member states to develop as soon as practicable ambitious national responses to the overall implementation of this Agenda. These can support the transition to the SDGs and build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate.”¹

Countries have identified a range of concrete capacity development needs for SDG implementation.² Many countries are unable to follow-up on the gaps and challenges identified to implement the 2030 Agenda due to factors such as human and resource constraints, poor means of implementation, weak strategic planning and inadequate multi-sector and multi-ministerial coordination. The reported needs are generally related to the following areas:

- Strengthening systems of data collection and analysis and statistics;
- Mainstreaming the SDGs in national development plans, sub-national and sectoral plans;
- Strengthening institutional capacity and ensuring proper coordination between national, sub-national and local levels of government;
- Enhancing Institutional arrangements and coordination;
- Strengthening stakeholder engagement;
- Creating effective national monitoring and evaluation systems;
- Strengthening means of implementation: cost evaluations, budgeting and resource mobilization; and
- SDG specific technical support.

Objective

The objective of the workshop will be to utilize peer-learning to foster implementation of the 2030 Agenda, drawing on issues identified in the course of its implementation. DESA’s experience with peer-learning workshops has demonstrated the value of this approach. The workshop seeks to support countries in building coherent policies for sustainable development, integrating good practices, lessons learned and recommendations from other countries for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The focus is on building capacity to identify and translate the gaps, challenges and recommendations identified at the country level into actionable and effective solutions for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The workshop aims at providing government officials with strategies and tools to advance implementation the SDGs, through peer learning regarding commonalities and specificities regarding

¹ Para. 78.

² See e.g., DESA, [Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews 2018](#) (2018).

challenges, lessons learned and good practices and identifying the additional support needed by these countries.

The workshop will also explore how the United Nations system and development partners can better support follow-up actions to national review processes.³

The workshop will be interactive in nature, designed to foster exchange of ideas. A sharpened focus will be on capacity development needs related to: (a) strengthening stakeholder engagement; (b) data and statistics; (c) financing, cost assessments and budgeting; and (d) leaving no one behind.

Participants

Participants will be mainly government officials from capitals engaged in national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The workshop will also bring together some United Nations, representatives from Country Teams, Regional Commissions, and development partners to discuss how to better support national level follow-up actions and implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

³ 2030 Agenda, para. 79.

PROGRAMME

DAY 1	
10:00 – 10:15	<p>Welcome and opening</p> <p>Mr. Alexander Trepelkov, Officer-in-Charge, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA</p> <p>Dr. Jong Soo Yoon, Head of the United Nations Office of Sustainable Development (UNOSD)</p>
10:15 – 11:30	<p>Accelerating implementation – priority capacity development needs</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Oktorialdi, Assistant Minister for Equity and Regional Planning, Ministry of National Development Planning, Indonesia</p> <p><i>Introduction and overview</i> – Mr. Friedrich Soltau, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of analysis of countries' capacity development needs in relation to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda • Purpose and aims of the meeting <p>Brief presentations on priority capacity development needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ibra Sounkarou Ndiaye, Senegal • Ms. Regina Gallego, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What areas of implementation have proved most challenging? What are the main capacity gaps countries have identified? 2. What steps have been taken to address the capacity gaps identified in the implementation of the Agenda? <p>Q&A</p>
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 13:00	<p>“Nationalizing” the Agenda</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Verena Klinger-Denger, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations</p> <p>Brief presentations on experiences in translating the Agenda into national policy frameworks and budgets:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Hak-Kyun Maeng, Director of Sustainable Development Strategy Division, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea • Mr. Oliver Schwank, Financing for Sustainable Development Office

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Alastaire Alinsato, Benin - Ms. Elizabeth Hege, Research Fellow, IDDRI - Mr. Chakra Pani Acharya, Program Director, Nepal <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been the experience with integrating the SDGs into national development plans and other policy frameworks? 2. How have countries linked their national priorities in implementing the Agenda with national and sectoral budgets and financing frameworks? <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Cross-cutting challenges – sharing of best practises</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Vusal Garaev, Head of Division, Ministry of Economy, Azerbaijan</p> <p><i>Mini-panel:</i> Brief country presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Adriana Castro, Advisor of the SDG Commission of the National Planning Department Colombia • Ms. Elizabeth Emanuel, Programme Director, Vision 2030 Jamaica Secretariat, Jamaica • Mr. Federico Buyolo, Director General, Spain • Ms. Véronique Verbruggen, Senior Inter-Regional Adviser, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, DESA <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to obtain the buy-in of different government entities and civil servants? 2. What mechanisms have worked for addressing interlinkages in SDG implementation? 3. How to engage local authorities in SDG implementation? 4. What are good practices in promoting the participation of parliamentarians? 5. How can the findings of supreme audit institutions contribute to SDG implementation? <p><i>Open discussion</i></p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:30	<p>Enhancing coherent support</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Howaida Barakat, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Planning, Egypt</p> <p><i>Mini-panel:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Laurel Patterson, United Nations Development Programme • Mr. V. Sivagnanasothy, Secretary, Ministry of National Policies, Sri Lanka

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Hanaa Singer, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Sri Lanka• Ms. Mercedes Garcia-Escribano, Deputy Division Chief, Fiscal Affairs Department, International Monetary Fund (IMF) <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the experience of UN country teams in supporting national follow-up?2. How can the United Nations system better support follow-up actions?3. What is the role of the Regional Commissions in the follow-up and how can their support be enhanced?4. Which other partners can potentially support national follow-up activities?	
DAY 2		
9:30 – 9:45	Introduction of topics and breaking up into parallel WGs (Secretariat)	
	Venue: <u>Conference Room 6</u>	
	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stakeholder engagement- Data and statistics- Financing, cost assessments and budgeting- Leaving no one behind	
9:45 – 11:15	<u>Conference Room: E</u> WG A: Stakeholder engagement Kick-off presentation by: Ms. Naiara Costa, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: 5-10 good practices	<u>Conference Room: 6</u> WG B Data and statistics Kick-off presentation by: Benjamin Rae, Statistics Division, DESA Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: 5-10 good practices
11:15 – 11:30	Break	
11:30 – 13:00	<u>Conference Room: 6</u> WG C: Financing and cost assessments Kick-off presentation by: Ms. Vanessa Fajans-Turner, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: 5-10 good practices	<u>Conference Room: E</u> WG D: Leaving no one behind Kick-off presentation by: Ms. Aleksandra Plesko, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: 5-10 good practices
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 15:30	Feedback session – addressing the challenges and showcasing policies with potential	

	<p>Chair: Mr. Benson K. Kimani, Director, Economic Planning, National Treasury and Planning, Kenya (TBC)</p> <p>Each thematic working group shares a challenge and a good practice or solution related to the topic.</p> <p>Q&A</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Panel Discussion: Good practices for enhancing implementation of the Agenda</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Maha Abdulla Sabt, Chief, Information & eGovernment Authority, Bahrain</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Thomas Wollnik, Head of programme, Partners for Review • Mohamed Ali Nause Russel, Director, Governance Innovation Unit, Prime Minister's Office, Bangladesh • Ms. Gisele Fernandez Ludlow, First Secretary, Global Issues Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mexico <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What can be done to scale up peer learning for implementation of the 2030 Agenda? 2. What can be done to facilitate sharing of lessons learned and good practices? 3. What kinds of partnerships are facilitating capacity development activities?
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap-up of the workshop