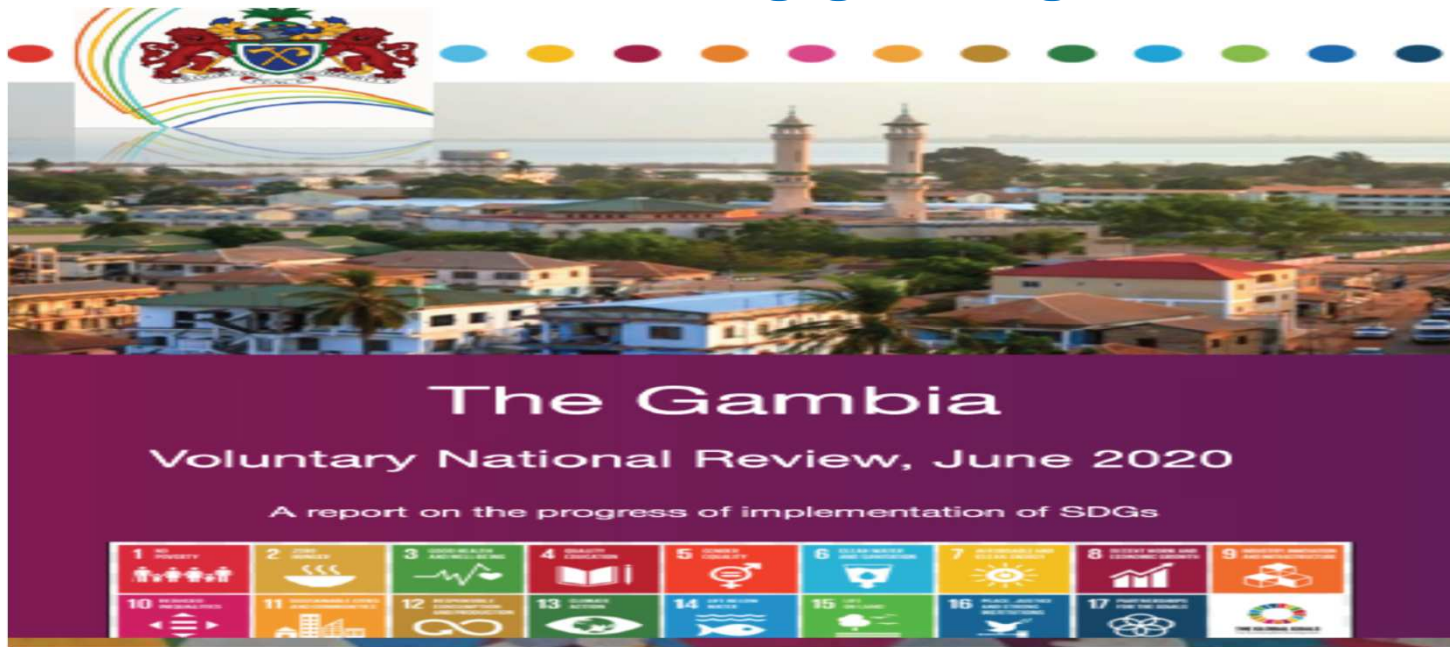# Benefits of Voluntary National Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews and existing guiding materials

By Directorate of Development Planning
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Outline

- Background
- Objectives of VNR
- Towards a shared definition of VLR
- VNR Coordination mechanism
- VNR Committees ToR guidelines

BACKGROUND

- As part of the government international commitment, in 2020 The Gambia was granted approval by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and submitted its first Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

- The Gambia is among 39 countries that has been granted approval to present its second VNR in 2022.

- The Government will ensure the mainstreaming of the SDGs into policies and strategies in national, sectoral and sub-national levels. Government will engage Local Authorities using their Regional Development Plans to implement initiatives such as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

Objectives of VNR:

- Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

- Strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs; and

- Identify key stakeholders (champions), whose experience could be leveraged and replicated to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs

TOWARDS A SHARED DEFINITION OF VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW (VLR)

- VLRs assess and present advances on the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda from a local standpoint and through a locally-developed narrative.

- At the same time, the potential of VLRs goes beyond their monitoring and evaluation (M&E) function. VLRs represent an aspirational statement and the commitment of a community to a global endeavour: the Sustainable Development Goals.

- They are multifaceted tools that can positively influence various dimensions of local action and development:

- VLR can provide a lot of information on the political legitimacy of the monitoring and reporting commitment of a local or regional administration.

- It can also shed light on the balance between different stakeholders at the local level and their ability to create effective coalitions and 'alliances'

TOWARDS A SHARED DEFINITION OF VLR

POLITICAL

- Enabling dialogue between different stakeholders, local agencies and levels of government and aligning local public policies and, often, national development strategies through the common framework of the SDGs.

SOCIAL

- Facilitating civic engagement and transparency through shared vision and a participatory approach.

PLANNING

- Steering budgeting and catalytic infrastructure projects through local prioritization of SDG goals and targets.

VNR Coordination mechanism

THREE VNR COMMITTEES SET-UP

❑ **The National Steering Committee for the VNR**

❑ **The VNR Management Team**

❑ **The Technical Committees for the VNR Process:**

TOR National Steering Committee for the VNR

- Secure political commitment and buy-in for the VNR process at the highest level as well as participation and engagement of all stakeholders in the process.

- Oversee the development and supervision of implementation of a comprehensive plan/road map for the preparation of the VNR.

- Develop a resource mobilization plan/strategy for the VNR process and mobilise resources to finance implementation of the VNR workplan

- Coordinate the work of the various technical committees; including monitoring of activities of the technical committees and review and approval of work plans and reports

- Organise a national launch of the VNR process in the Gambia and also organise VNR launching at LGA level in in all the LGAs

ToR for the VNR Management Team

- Coordinate and follow up on a daily basis; the implementation of VNR activities including review of activities of Specialised committees, and report periodically to the National Steering Committee

- Prepare the VNR workplan and costing of activities and submit to the National Steering Committee for review.

- Coordinate the work of the technical committees and provide technical and management support as and when necessary

- Prepare and follow up of a resource mobilization with institutions that have pledged or have potential to support The VNR process

- Recruit and manage consultants recruited to support the VNR process.

- Undertake technical reviews and provide feedback on drafts of the VNR and its sub-components

- Be responsible for submission of VNR key messages, HLPF presentation at the HLPF and the final VNR, and engage with The Gambia Mission to the UN and ECOSOC to finalise preparation for participation in HLPF 2022.

- Lead; in consultation with relevant national authorities, in organizing the Country's participation in regional VNR processes and participation in HLPF 2022

ToR for the Technical Committees for the VNR Process:

Data & Information Technical Committee

- Work closely with the consultant preparing the SDG status report to ensure that the status report is as comprehensive as possible.
- Ensure that other information gathering activities such as the preparation of the national HDR report are in sync with the VNR process
- Ensure that relevant SDG related data and information from MDAs are available for the VNR process
- Organize MDAs into sub-committees based on SDG groupings and support their engagement in the preparation, review and provision of feedback on drafts of the VNR report.
- Supervise collection of qualitative information on citizen perceptions of the level of achievement of the SDGs, constraints and lessons learnt by collating and synthetizing citizen feedback on the report during consultations on the draft SDG status report
- Review and approve the final VNR report, main messages and the (power point) presentation, leaflets and other information to be prepared for the HLPF to be held in July 2020.

ToR for the Technical Committees for the VNR Process:

Outreach and Communication Committee

- In collaboration with media outlets, design an information and communication strategy to inform stakeholders of the VNR process both on and offline.
- Prepare VNR information materials and engage various media outlets to widely disseminate the information and messages
- Take the lead in organizing outreach activities at national and local levels to solicit citizen feedback on SDG implementation and progress realized, for inclusion in the report.
- Design and implement a multi-stakeholder engagement platform to ensure continuous engagement of all stakeholders throughout the VNR process
- Work with decentralized structures; Governor's offices and Local Councils, to facilitate engagement of citizens at the local level in the VNR process
- Comprehensively document the VNR process and support the technical committee on data and information in the preparation of the country's participation in the HLPF. This may include the possible conduct of a Gambia side event during HLPF

THANKS FOR LISTENING

Determining priorities and integrating the SDGs into local government plans and strategies

Outline

- Tailoring SDGs to National and Local Contexts

- Links Between the NDP & SDGs

- Taking SDGS to Country Level

- Way Forward

Tailoring SDGs to National and Local Contexts

Mainstreaming

 the SDG agenda at national and local levels: integration into national and sub-national plans for development; and into budget allocations

'*Targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances*.?' ?

Tailoring SDGs to National and Local Contexts cont'd

Links Between the NDP & SDGs

NDP Priorities	SDGs
Governance, Human Rights and Security Sector Reform	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Macroeconomic Stabilization and Economic Management	1 NO POVERTY; 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH; 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Modernized Agriculture, Agribusiness and Fisheries	1 NO POVERTY; 2 ZERO HUNGER; 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION; 14 LIFE BELOW WATER
Human Capital Development (education, health, & social protection)	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING; 4 QUALITY EDUCATION; 5 GENDER EQUALITY; 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION; 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Infrastructure and Energy	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY; 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE; 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION; 13 CLIMATE ACTION
Tourism and Culture	1 NO POVERTY; 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
Private Sector Development and Trade	1 NO POVERTY; 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH; 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE; 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Youth Development and Empowerment	1 NO POVERTY; 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING; 4 QUALITY EDUCATION; 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH; 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Strengthening Public Institutions	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Women's Empowerment	1 NO POVERTY; 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING; 4 QUALITY EDUCATION; 5 GENDER EQUALITY; 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
Environment, natural resource management and climate change, and land use	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES; 13 CLIMATE ACTION; 14 LIFE BELOW WATER; 15 LIFE ON LAND
Diaspora in Development	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Information and Communication Technology	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE; 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Civil Society	16 PEACE AND JUSTICE STRONG INSTITUTIONS; 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS
Data for Development	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

TAKING SDGS TO COUNTRY LEVEL

- Sensitization and awareness creation
  - Stakeholder involvement
- Prioritize areas of concern
  - Two rounds of prioritization done
    - 1st round Nov 2015: All 17 Goals and 102 targets high priority
    - 2nd round using MAPS: 8 Goals and 76 Targets were identified as High priority;
- Set national targets – balance ambition with realism, and Political accountability
- Mainstreaming the goals: to national, sectoral and local plans
- Mobilise resources to implement the goals – domestic resources mobilisation taking central role
- Develop robust M&E systems for monitoring the goals

Way Forward

- Continuous support for the integration of SDGs into national development agenda needed;

- More awareness (Strategy for communication of SDGs is key that needs to be developed jointly by Government and the UN ;

- Develop local capacity for policy and programme implementation, M&E

- VNR opportunity to enhance follow up mechanisms

Thank you for your attention