Regular and inclusive national reviews for the SDGs

Strengthening national reviews and M&E systems for the SDGs
UNITAR Learning Session, 15 July 2016

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Structure

- lessons learned from MDG reviews
- HLPF’s mandate and language on follow-up and review
- complementary types of HLPF reviews
- National Voluntary Reviews at the HLPF
- regular and inclusive reviews at the national and sub-national level
ECOSOC’s “Annual Ministerial Review”

*Mandate:*

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

*Lessons learned:*

- needs better *incentives* for countries to participate  
  = be a *means to an end*  
  = support national-level implementation!
- national voluntary presentations should *not only showcase*  
  but be more analytical and self-critical
- needs to be better linked to *national-level processes and evidence* (data and evaluations)
- allow for meaningful *participation* of stakeholders
- needs better *follow-up* (recommendations, support, change management, on-going monitoring of progress)
Resolution 67/290, July 2013

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

and further decides that those reviews:
Resolution 67/290, July 2013

(a) Shall be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and shall include developed and developing countries, as well as relevant UN entities;

(b) Shall be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants;

(c) Shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders;

(d) Shall replace the national voluntary presentations held in the context of the ... [AMR], building upon (...) experiences and lessons learned in this context.”
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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

SDGs plus cross-cutting HLPF annual theme

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

plus new and emerging issues, countries in special situations, Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR), Secretary General’s Progress Report
Marianne Beisheim Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik

HLPF MoI/FFD Review

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

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

2016: 22 countries volunteered

Voluntary common reporting guidelines (UNDESA):

- national frameworks
  (adjustment of development plans or sustainability strategies, national targets & indicators, policies & measures)

- methodology and process (for preparation of review)

- institutional framework (responsibilities, coordination, integration for coherent implementation)

- means of implementation
HLPF National Voluntary Reviews

• reports on and analytical assessment of
  • trends (global, regional, national indicators)
  • progress/successes, best practices
  • gaps/barriers
  • lessons learned
  • emerging issues
  • means of implementation

• discuss level of ambition (avoid business as usual) and also fairness/equity aspects and whether all commitments add up to global goals (in aggregate)
HLPF National Voluntary Reviews

- based on outcomes from *national* level processes
  - commit to fully engage in conducting *regular and inclusive* reviews at national and sub-national level
  - informed by *country-led evaluations and data*
  - written national *reports*

- *supplemented* by information from
  - *UN and regional entities*
  - *Major Groups and other stakeholders*
  - *experts* for new and emerging, neglected issues (GSDR)

- HLPF *national presentations* and *interactive dialogues*
Based on outcomes from national-level processes
National-level processes

Revise national sustainable development plan/strategy

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

Institutional provisions for preparatory and follow-up processes

- *whole-of-government* approach, allocate responsibilities while avoiding silos, inter-ministerial coordination/committee, build political will (incentivize)
- involve Parliament
- local authorities

- *whole-of-society* approach: national sustainable development councils or bodies, inclusive and meaningful national consultations (rights-based approach, access to information, identify and include also marginalized)
National-level processes

**GSDR 2016**

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

Participatory review process at national level

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

- consider going *regional* for peer learning
- consider to participate in *HLPF national voluntary reviews*
- provide *feedback* on these reviews’ format

- aim for *on-going learning processes/loops*

➤ *follow-up* at national and UN-level (work with results)

➤ national, regional and global reviews are not an end in itself but *means of implementation*!
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