Priority Follow-up Actions in VNR reports – Global and Pacific Regional Experiences and Lessons

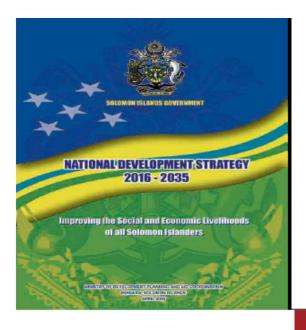
By Fred Soltau, DESA and Sanjesh Naidu, ESCAP Pacific Office

Fifth Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 24-26 November 2021













FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA'S



The Next 20 Years:

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH & SELF-RELIANCE

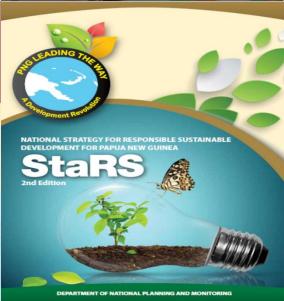
Vol I: Policies and Strategies for Development



TE KAKEEGA III

National Strategy for Sustainable Development 2016 to 2020

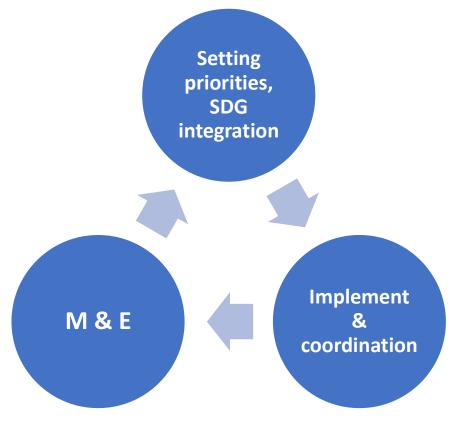








VNRs support implementation cycle



"A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda in order to ensure that no one is left behind." para 72, 2030 Agenda





Principles guiding the VNRs

National circumstances

reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies, plans and priorities, together with relevant partners

Para. 74 of 2030 sustainable development agenda

build on existing planning instruments, such as national development and sustainable development strategies, as appropriate







Deepening integration of the 2030 Agenda & SDGs (1)

Whole-of-government:

- (a) role of parliaments, with some countries seeing regular reporting on SDG implementation (Finland, Norway), capacity building for Members of Parliament and standing committees (Mexico, Fiji) and requirements to assess legislative impact on SDGs (Denmark, Germany)
- (b) legislation and decrees assigning status to SDGs in national planning frameworks (Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico)
- (c) Supreme audit institutions/Auditors-General conducting audits of SDG implementation (Palau, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Indonesia, Norway, Niger)





Deepening integration of the 2030 Agenda & SDGs (2)

Whole-of-society:

- (a) Multi-stakeholder councils, initiatives, and partnerships
- (b) Private sector involvement, incl. through raising awareness, setting standards, and training for young entrepreneurs
- (c) SDGs in school and university curricula and outreach among young people, e.g. SDGs Campus Ambassadors in Indonesia





Deepening integration of the 2030 Agenda & SDGs (3)

- Countries reviewing and updating national SDG implementation frameworks, drawing on lessons learned (Germany, Egypt, Japan, Spain)
- Germany and a number of PSIDS further alignment of national strategy indicators with SDGs
- Tonga, RMI (and few other PSIDS) further integrating priority SDG elements in national and sector planning processes
- Japan guiding Principles updated with input from stakeholders
- Spain requirement for reporting on alignment of state budget with SDGs





Integrating the SDGs: "good practices" for development planning?

- Broad-based participation in the planning process
- Balancing political leadership on SDGs with broad-based participation in the planning process
- Use of visual tools for policy dialogues with public and political leaders
- Getting the institutional structure for planning right
- Flexible, iterative planning process allowing for learning & adaptation
- Analysis of synergies and trade-offs between SDGs, incl. use of modelling techniques
- Bringing the SDGs home
- Improving reporting of progress on national development and SDG priorities for improved accountability
- Linking national planning process to the national and external financing for development strategy (INFFs)







Lessons from VNR reports in PSIDS – follow-up and implementation issues

- Entrench alignment, as relevant, at sector and corporate plan levels beyond national plans e.g. Tonga – One Process Tool, Kiribati, Samoa, PNG, and ongoing in other PSIDS to integrate plans
- Analyze and leverage the interlinkages across sectoral and crosssectoral sustainable development aspects e.g. Risk Resilience Tool, Tonga and other PSIDS.
- Cost initiatives and connect plans with budgets to help prioritize allocations accordingly. e.g. Samoa, RMI
- Improve development partner resourcing towards national priorities





Lessons from VNR reports in PSIDS – follow-up and implementation issues

- Orient institutional mechanisms to facilitate implementation through coordination and consultation - taking into account national capacities e.g. NSP/SDG Committee - RMI, SDG Working Group - FSM
- Regular/periodic monitoring and reporting of national plans which global reporting could utilize. Use of priority and localized SDG indicators e.g. Ongoing work in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Palau, Nauru





Last words

VNR provides an opportunity to review and identify national systems (institutional, planning, budgeting, monitoring, and reporting) issues to strengthen for improved implementation of:

- national development priorities; and
- relevant SDG commitments.

Post-VNR follow-up is critical for accelerating the implementation of development priorities



Thank you for your attention/ Vinaka vakalevu!

