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**Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based  
solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and  
its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind**

## Compilation of main messages for the 2025 voluntary national reviews

### Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat transmits herewith the main messages of voluntary national reviews presented by 37 States members of the high-level political forum on sustainable development at its 2025 meeting, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions [67/290](#), [70/1](#) and [70/299](#).\*\*

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## Angola

[Original: English]

In 2025, Angola will celebrate 50 years of independence and, for the second time, present its voluntary national review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reaffirming its commitment to the voluntary and participatory monitoring and review of its progress. Under the leadership of His Excellency President João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço and with the support of the United Nations system in Angola, a voluntary national review platform was established, bringing together the National Institute of Statistics, civil society, academia and the private sector.

### Highlights

Angola has undertaken profound structural reforms aimed at consolidating the democratic rule of law and paving the path towards inclusive and sustainable development. Efforts to combat corruption, strengthen macroeconomic stability and promote social development are key pillars of this transformation. Several important legal instruments have been approved, notably the national strategy for the prevention and repression of corruption and the establishment of the National Observatory Against Illegal Immigration and the Illicit Trade of Mineral Resources.

As a result of economic reforms geared towards diversifying its economic structure, Angola has experienced sustained and inclusive growth. A key priority has been to enhance food and nutrition security and strengthen human capital development. In 2024, gross domestic product grew by 4.4 per cent, the highest growth rate in the past decade. In the social sector, the Government approved the national human capital development plan, aimed at aligning education and vocational training with national labour market needs.

The country has also made significant investments in the social sector. In health, investments have led to reductions in maternal and infant mortality and lower fertility rates among women of reproductive age. In education, the number of schools has grown to around 12,547, covering primary and secondary school campuses and serving more than 9 million students.

At the regional level, Angola has continued to demonstrate a firm commitment to peace, stability and regional integration in Africa. The country played a vital role in regional efforts to end the conflict in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo and chaired the African Union Peace and Security Council, leading important discussions on continental peace and security issues.

### Challenges and opportunities

The progress achieved so far further encourages Angola to address persistent challenges with determination. The Government will strengthen the social protection network through initiatives such as the Integrated Local Development and Poverty Reduction Programme and the Social Protection Strengthening Programme (Kwenda). At the same time, Angola will continue promoting sustained economic growth by investing in infrastructure to support the productive sector – most notably the Lobito Corridor, a key driver of regional economic integration under the African Continental Free Trade Area.

To address the effects of climate change, Angola will continue implementing its national climate change strategy and drought mitigation programmes, with a particular focus on enhancing climate resilience in the southern region of the country.

## Path forward

Angola's economic diplomacy must maintain its momentum, especially as the country assumes the presidency of the African Union, a strategic opportunity to strengthen its leadership at the continental level in a context marked by global uncertainty. Domestically, continued improvements in governance, greater efficiency in public administration and sustained commitment to structural reforms will be essential to ensuring inclusive and sustainable growth, positioning Angola as a resilient and competitive nation.

## Bahamas (The)

[Original: English]

The Commonwealth of The Bahamas has prepared its 2025 voluntary national review through a series of consultations with key national stakeholders representing government, non-government and private sector organizations. The 2025 voluntary national review provides an opportunity to determine the progress made in respect of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals since the 2021 voluntary national review and The Bahamas' efforts to recover from Hurricane Dorian and the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The 2025 voluntary national review covers the period 2021 to 2024.

Economic achievements over the past four years include the introduction of initiatives to enter the carbon markets, adding new revenue streams and creating inroads for economic diversification. One such initiative is The Bahamas Debt Conversion Project for Marine Conservation, launched in 2024, which is expected to generate an estimated \$124 million in funding for marine conservation over the next 15 years. It is a public-private partnership between the Government and partners in the banking and non-governmental organization sectors. A key benefit of the project is an endowment fund of up to \$20 million by 2039 to finance marine conservation and management.

Moreover, The Bahamas is undertaking a comprehensive, nationwide plan to modernize and upgrade the way it generates, stores and distributes electricity across the country – in alignment with Goal 7. The Government, through private sector collaboration, is installing modern infrastructure, including utility-scale solar power of up to 80 MW, utilizing cleaner fuels and enacting energy efficiencies across the archipelago. Climate resilience is being promoted through the Integrated Coastal Zone Management programme, which seeks to utilize ecosystem-based adaptation as a means of protecting coastal resources and communities.

Growth in the financial technology sector has been supported by the enactment of the Digital Assets and Registry Exchanges Act, placing The Bahamas among the first countries to regulate blockchain technology and digital currencies, including the Bahamian Sand Dollar. In the agricultural sector, efforts to enhance food security include expanding production through hydroponics, school gardens, poultry farming and the use of climate-responsive agricultural practices.

Tourism remains vital to the economy, and efforts are under way to promote sustainability through the development of a sustainable tourism framework and zero-waste-to-energy initiatives, particularly in the Family Islands. Other tourism programmes include the development of heritage and nature trails on various islands and capacity-building in nature tourism through certification and training.

Achievements in the health sector include: reductions in maternal and infant mortality; fewer cases of communicable diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis; and

increased vaccination coverage for childhood illnesses, including measles, mumps and rubella.

As a small island developing State, The Bahamas faces numerous challenges. Climate change continues to be the greatest threat to its continued existence. Loss and damage from hurricanes between 2002 and 2022 exceeded \$6.7 billion, representing more than 50 per cent of gross domestic product. The country remains vulnerable to external shocks, such as geopolitical unrest, trade disputes and inequitable negotiation practices. A shortage of human, technical and financial resources continues to hinder the ability to collect data on national-level indicators for tracking the Goals.

Gender equality also remains an issue, with rising incidences of sexual violence against women and girls. Legal and social challenges include the inability of Bahamian women who are married to foreign nationals to pass citizenship to their children and pay inequality.

Progress in the implementation of the Goals since 2020 has been incremental and positive. The Bahamas remains committed to the implementation of the Goals, not only as important global objectives, but as essential goals for the nation's development. The integration of the Goals into national development planning, including the 2021–2030 national biodiversity strategy and action plan, reflects national recognition of the importance of these goals for the continued growth and development of The Bahamas.

## **Bangladesh**

[Original: English]

Bangladesh's voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2025 comes at a critical juncture, in the aftermath of a transformative, youth-led mass uprising of July–August 2024, which culminated in the fall of a repressive regime. This marked a significant political turning point, ushering in a renewed national commitment to democratic values, institutional transparency and inclusive development. Amid this backdrop of transformation, Bangladesh is redefining its development trajectory – with stronger civic engagement, bolder policy ambitions and a clearer focus on leaving no one behind.

Despite deep-rooted challenges, Bangladesh's achievements across several Goals are noteworthy. Income poverty is now below 19 per cent, extreme poverty is at around 6 per cent and multidimensional poverty is below 10 per cent. The primary school completion rate has increased to 87 per cent. Access to safe drinking water is over 70 per cent. Electricity coverage is at 99 per cent. However, food insecurity remains a concern, particularly among vulnerable and marginalized communities. Climate change exacerbates existing vulnerabilities by jeopardizing food systems, displacing communities and threatening biodiversity.

The country has been facing macroeconomic instability since the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Excessive economic mismanagement has resulted in higher inflation, depleted reserves and increased financial vulnerability. Inequalities – across income, gender and geography – have widened, limiting opportunities for many. Several factors are inhibiting inclusive progress, including the dominance of the informal sector (which accounts for 84.1 per cent of the employed population), high youth unemployment, with 18.9 per cent of young people not in education, employment or training, and persistent systemic barriers for women in education, employment and entrepreneurship roles. These structural challenges are intensified by low fiscal space, which continues to limit public investment in health, education and social protection.

Mobilizing adequate financing for the implementation of the Goals remains a persistent challenge. Weak institutional governance, corruption and fragmented coordination – alongside data quality and limited private sector engagement – hinder the execution of Goal-focused interventions.

The Rohingya crisis remains a monumental humanitarian and development challenge. Hosting over 1 million forcefully displaced Rohingya has placed substantial economic, social and environmental stress on Bangladesh. Declining international support worsens the burden. In response, Bangladesh has demonstrated resilience and a commitment to international solidarity – embodying the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

To reaffirm its adherence to the Goals, Bangladesh is pursuing a comprehensive reform agenda that is focused on governance, transparency and accountability. The interim Government has prioritized restoring institutional integrity, safeguarding judicial independence, upholding press freedom and ensuring preparations for free and fair elections. Multiple task forces, along with a white paper on the state of the economy, were initiated to provide the basis for further remedial actions that are necessary to revitalize the economy. Eleven reform commissions were formed to achieve meaningful progress when addressing issues relating to the Constitution, the judiciary, the electoral system, public administration, the police, mass media, anti-corruption, health, workers' rights, women's affairs and local government.

Alongside these governance efforts, the national development strategy is receiving renewed focus on investments in digital infrastructure, the green transition, technical and entrepreneurship skills development and bottom-up job creation – particularly targeting young people, women and underrepresented communities – by fostering small and medium-sized enterprises. The country aims to champion a whole-of-society approach, fostering public-private partnerships and engaging civil society, community organizations, academia and young people in co-creating solutions.

Bangladesh is preparing to graduate from its least developed country status and position itself as a constructive and credible development partner. It is calling for a renewed spirit of multilateralism – anchored in fair trade, climate finance, debt relief and technology transfer – to achieve shared prosperity. Bangladesh's transition, navigating from political upheaval to a reformative ambition, is a clear signal to its people that it is proactively engaging in the global effort to realize the Goals. Our journey ahead is rooted in the conviction that no one, in Bangladesh or globally, should be left behind.

## **Belarus**

[Original: Russian]

Belarus demonstrates sustainable socioeconomic development and political stability. The country was ranked sixty-ninth in the human development index and is categorized as a very high human development country. New progressive industries have emerged in Belarus – in space and nuclear energy. The first unit of a Belarusian nuclear power plant entered into commercial operation in 2021. Belarus has been fully self-sufficient in electricity for the last few years.

The level of progress made by Belarus towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals now stands at 80.5 per cent. Nevertheless, the unprecedented unilateral coercive measures applied by Western countries against Belarus are reducing the country's potential in terms of the speed and volume of the Goals achieved. At the same time, Belarus reaffirms the high level of commitment to its international obligations.

In the Sustainable Development Goals Index, Belarus ranks thirtieth (out of 167 States).

The Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into the new 2040 National Sustainable Development Strategy and are also aligned with public socioeconomic development programmes.

Belarus has established a national platform for reporting on the Goals; access has been ensured to 232 out of 246 indicators on the national list; and 174 indicators are in line with global levels. Data availability has reached 94 per cent.

A regional data platform on sustainable development has been developed.

**Sustainable Development Goal 3.** The main principles of the Belarusian healthcare system are the prioritization of preventive measures, based on the promotion of a healthy lifestyle; the quality and accessibility of healthcare, including the provision of medicine; and public health and disease control, including for future generations.

Belarus is a world leader in medical ratings. Great progress has been made in maternal and child healthcare, cardiac surgery, traumatology, neurosurgery, ophthalmology, oncology and oncohematology, transplantology and public vaccinations.

Belarus holds a leading position among countries with the lowest maternal mortality rate.

Every Belarusian can receive any kind of medical care, including the most high-tech medical care, free of charge.

**Sustainable Development Goal 5.** Belarus takes a comprehensive approach to promoting the role of women in all spheres of life. Today, women account for 40.2 per cent of the Belarusian parliament (2024).

In Belarus, the State provides favourable conditions for women to successfully combine work and child-rearing.

Belarus is a country with a high share of female employment. Women account for 50.5 per cent of the employed population (2024). The share of women leaders is 49.6 per cent.

Belarus ranks twenty-ninth out of 166 countries on the gender inequality index.

**Sustainable Development Goal 8.** Quality of life is a constant priority for the country. The gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate was 104.0 per cent in 2024. The GDP growth rate is projected to be 104.1 per cent in 2025.

Salaries and social programmes are ensured by the goods and services actually produced and through exports. Pensions are increased annually. Budgetary areas receive State support.

The growth in the population's real disposable income at the end of 2024 was 9.7 per cent (compared with the projected 3.5 per cent). In four years, incomes have grown by nearly 15 per cent.

The employment rate is growing. The unemployment rate decreased in 2024 to 3 per cent. This is not only the lowest rate in the country since reporting began, but also one of the lowest rates in the world.

**Sustainable Development Goal 14.** In accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus, the conservation of nature and the careful stewardship of natural resources are the duty of every citizen.

Belarus is a landlocked country. At the same time, more than 20 thousand rivers of Belarus belong to the basins of the Black Sea and the Baltic Sea.

Consequently, the measures taken in the country to maintain favourable conditions and improve the environmental status of surface watercourses also indirectly affect the condition of these basins.

**Sustainable Development Goal 17.** Today Belarusian society demonstrates civic unity and is ready to implement the tasks of the five-year quality plan through the joint efforts of government agencies, organizations of all forms of ownership and citizens.

New channels of social and political activity, primarily the All-Belarusian People's Assembly, ensure that every Belarusian participates in public decision-making and expresses his or her opinions.

In Belarus, a qualitatively new level of sustainable partnership has been achieved under the auspices of the National Coordinator for the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The programme for Youth Ambassadors of the Sustainable Development Goals is being actively developed.

Belarus is forming a full-fledged partnership within regional organizations such as BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Eurasian Economic Union.

## Bhutan

[Original: English]

Bhutan's development strategy is rooted in the philosophy of gross national happiness, which shares deep synergies with the Sustainable Development Goals. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Bhutan has systematically integrated the Goals into its five-year plans, culminating in the current thirteenth five-year plan (2024–2029).

Bhutan's graduation from least developed country status in 2023 marked a major national milestone. The thirteenth five-year plan serves as a critical mechanism to ensure a smooth and sustainable post-least developed country transition. Its strategic objectives – including achieving high-income status by 2034, promoting social equity and fostering resilient governance – are carefully aligned with both national priorities and international commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

Bhutan underscores the imperative of simultaneously securing a sustainable post-least developed country transition and accelerating progress towards the Goals. With only five years remaining to realize the Goals, this dual endeavour demands immediate and coordinated action. While Bhutan is committed to undertaking sustained investments and enacting fit-for-purpose policy reforms, these efforts alone will not suffice. Strong, continued and tailored international support is indispensable to uphold Bhutan's gains in health, the environment and inclusive development, and to ensure that the transition from least developed country status leads to resilient progress.

Bhutan recently formulated its long-term national economic strategy entitled "Bhutan 21st Century Economic Roadmap", highlighting priority sectors and key enablers for economic transformation. A central objective of the road map is to increase Bhutan's real gross domestic product tenfold by 2050, while upholding the country's commitment to carbon neutrality, in alignment with gross national happiness values.

Although Bhutan's economy expanded by 4.9 per cent in 2023, several socioeconomic indicators have yet to recover to their pre-pandemic levels. The overall unemployment rate declined to 3.5 per cent in 2024, while youth unemployment dropped from 28.6 per cent in 2022 to 19 per cent. Despite this improvement, youth unemployment and large-scale overseas outmigration remain key concerns. As of 2022, 12.4 per cent of the population was below the national poverty line. Several economic diversification measures are being pursued to address these challenges.

Notable progressive steps towards gender equality include the decriminalization of same-sex relations through the Penal Code (Amendment) Act of 2021, marking a major milestone in protecting LGBTQ+ rights. Bhutan continues to address gender-based violence through a multisectoral approach. In 2025, Bhutan launched its first national strategy and framework of action on the elimination of gender-based violence – a road map for coordinated and sustained actions to combat gender-based violence. In 2023, Bhutan ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

Bhutan has significantly improved maternal and child health outcomes, achieving Goal targets for maternal, under-5 and neonatal mortality. Mental health and substance abuse, including alcohol abuse, remain key concerns, prompting further focused interventions. Bhutan continues its fight against noncommunicable diseases through nationwide screenings and health promotion campaigns. Bhutan reported zero indigenous malaria cases in 2024 and improved tuberculosis outcomes.

Bhutan maintains its carbon-negative status, although rising emissions pose future risks. The country has enhanced its climate resilience through the national adaptation plan, nationally determined contributions and integrated climate policies across sectors. Recent strategic initiatives include the formulation of Bhutan's long-term low greenhouse gas emission and climate-resilient development strategy, the establishment of the Bhutan Climate Fund and the launch of the G-Zero forum. Institutional challenges remain, including technical capacity gaps, coordination inefficiencies and climate data limitations.

The voluntary national review process has been fully inclusive, engaging the Government, civil society, young people, the international community and the private sector in a whole-of-society approach. Despite challenges, Bhutan remains strongly committed to advancing sustainable development, leveraging its gross national happiness framework and institutional reforms to drive impactful progress towards implementing the 2030 Agenda.

## **Bulgaria**

[Original: English]

Bulgaria reaffirms its strong commitment to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and continues to make dedicated efforts towards their achievement.

The country places particular emphasis on engaging society as a whole in this process and values the contribution of all stakeholders. The Goals are approached as a complex, interconnected and mutually reinforcing framework, with a strong emphasis on maintaining balance and coherence across them.

Bulgaria strives to ensure coherence across national policy areas with the Goals, by coordinating actions at the national level and providing political leadership.



The focus of the second voluntary national review of the Republic of Bulgaria is on the progress achieved to date, as well as on the identified challenges and opportunities for national economic and social development.

The review of national progress towards the Goals over the period 2015–2024 shows that:

- Bulgaria has achieved significant progress in reducing poverty and hunger. Since the launch of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the proportion of the population living below the international poverty line has decreased fivefold, while the share of the population at risk of poverty has nearly halved.
- Increased investment in education and healthcare is equipping future generations to face the challenges of tomorrow.
- The use of green technologies and innovations is being promoted, contributing to sustainable economic growth.
- Efforts to preserve natural resources and biodiversity are recognized as fundamental to the country's long-term sustainability.
- Substantial progress has been made in advancing gender equality, with continued support for women's rights and their participation in social and economic life.
- Bulgaria is actively working to include marginalized and vulnerable groups in society through a range of social programmes and initiatives.
- Strong and transparent institutions are considered essential for sustainable development. Bulgaria remains committed to enhancing the efficiency and accountability of its institutions.
- Encouraging active citizen engagement in decision-making processes is seen as a vital element of the successful implementation of the Goals.
- Bulgaria recognizes the importance of international cooperation and global partnerships for the achievement of the Goals. The country actively participates in international initiatives and the exchange of good practices. Cooperation with European partners is essential for regional development and stability.

The review also provides an opportunity to identify areas where additional efforts are needed to address specific challenges:

- Ensuring that policymaking is informed by timely and reliable data is essential for its effectiveness. Looking ahead, Bulgaria will focus on developing national information systems and on strengthening the collection and analysis of sustainable development-related statistics. Improved access to high-quality data will support evidence-based decision-making and empower all stakeholders to participate meaningfully in planning and implementation.
- Many of the barriers to achieving the Goals can be addressed more effectively and rapidly by focusing on action at the local level and addressing challenges at the territorial level, within the framework of a robust multilevel governance model. Bulgaria will intensify efforts to engage local authorities, promote sustainable regional development and ensure coherence between territorial development policies, national priorities and the Goals. Strengthening coordination and cooperation between central and local government will be crucial to this process.

## Czechia

[Original: English]

Czechia's third voluntary national review represents a long-standing commitment to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is focused on the progress made since the second voluntary national review in 2021. It draws on the updated Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 with an outlook to 2050, approved by the Government in 2024. Although Czechia ranks twelfth out of 167 countries (see the *Sustainable Development Report 2024*), the voluntary national review provides a self-critical assessment that contributes to improving the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The voluntary national review is based on solid data-based evidence and reflects the current state of our society. It has been created in a transparent and participatory way, incorporating inputs from stakeholders, including experts, young people and non-governmental organizations.

The social dimension of sustainable development in Czechia is underpinned by a strong social protection system that continues to improve access to healthcare, including mental healthcare. Progress has been made towards achieving accessible quality education and the social integration of disadvantaged groups. Some gender equality issues remain difficult to address, but efforts are ongoing. Czechia follows the leave no one behind approach, for example by strengthening human rights, protecting vulnerable groups and supporting social entrepreneurship. Overall, significant steps forward have been taken towards a more inclusive society.

Czechia is making tangible progress in the economic pillar of sustainable development and the related Goals. Decarbonization of the Czech economy continues, with total emissions falling below 100 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2023 for the first time. Since 1990, emissions have already fallen by 47 per cent. The energy intensity of the economy is decreasing, and the share of renewable energy is steadily increasing. Czechia steadily supports research and innovation, which is essential for the transformation of traditional manufacturing industry into a modern, technologically advanced economy with sustainable and competitive production.

Czechia is determined to contribute its part to the commitments in the Paris Agreement and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Ongoing climate adaptation and nature protection measures are focused on water quality and management and its retention in landscape, reforestation, sustainable land-use practices, the preservation of natural habitats and the improvement of ambient air quality and waste management. Progress in nature restoration is slow but steady. Although some sectors continue to exert pressure on the environment, improvement efforts persist.

Local and regional governments are increasingly involved in efforts to advance the implementation of the Goals, including through green infrastructure projects and sustainable public services. Legal and financial autonomy enables municipalities and regions to tailor their efforts to their specific needs and priorities. Community engagement and the participation of different stakeholders are promoted through a variety of participatory methods. National and European financial subventions have contributed to more dynamic localization of the Goals.

Czechia embraces its sustainable development responsibilities. It remains a reliable, globally engaged partner. Its official development assistance amounted to \$572 million in 2024. Czechia promotes human dignity and the Goals through a human rights-based approach, by strengthening the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, partnering with the private sector and non-governmental organizations and

contributing to the European Union Global Gateway. The Russian aggression against Ukraine has severely impacted sustainable development both regionally and globally. Czechia responded with solidarity and efficiency, providing key support to refugees, while continuing its global development and humanitarian commitments.

Meaningful progress towards the Goals has been achieved, but the data show that there is still a long way to go. It is not possible to make headway without increasing our efforts together with relevant stakeholders. The way forward is to strengthen policy coherence. This means making policies coherent with the Goals and rendering both strategies and laws into effective policymaking tools. It is also crucially important to demonstrate sustainability in everyday life to prevent it from becoming an empty concept. That is the aspiration of Czechia.

## Dominican Republic

[Original: Spanish]

The country is strengthening its institutions. The constitutional reform limited presidents to two terms in office, reduced the number of parliamentarians and made the National Judicial Council responsible for electing the Attorney General, abolishing direct appointment by the President.

Improvements have been made to the civil service; the Corruption Perceptions Index score continues to decrease steadily. In 2024, the Dominican Republic had a score of 36 and ranked 104th, an improvement of 8 points and 33 places in the ranking compared with 2020. It has designed a new methodology for evaluating the performance of institutions, demonstrating its commitment to establishing a culture of results-based management.

In 2024, the overall poverty rate was 19.0 per cent and the extreme poverty rate was 2.4 per cent, 11.7 and 1.7 percentage points lower than in 2021, respectively, and below pre-pandemic levels. This was primarily a result of the economic recovery and social protection programmes for vulnerable groups.

The implementation of the National Strategic Health Plan 2030 is under way. The Plan serves as a road map for strengthening access to health services, including through improvements to the sector's financing mechanisms.

Efforts to achieve inclusive economic and social growth continue, with a focus on rights and equal opportunities, although there are challenges to closing gender, age-related and regional gaps.

The Gini coefficient (a gauge of income concentration) was 0.386 for 2024, down from 0.388 for 2021 and 0.419 for 2019. To reduce inequalities, the Government is promoting the localization of public policies, supported by the Single Regions Planning Act (2022) and the Single Citizen Request Registry, and is increasingly decentralizing public investment to benefit the entire national territory.

The shifting of the demographic dividend is creating challenges; in 2010, persons aged 0–17 years made up 36.0 per cent of the population, a proportion that had dropped to 29.7 per cent by 2022.

The Dominican economy has regained its vitality after the setbacks of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. In 2024, it grew by 5 per cent, despite an international environment characterized by uncertainty, political tensions and financial restrictions.

Employment opportunities are improving. Unemployment stood at 5.1 per cent in 2024, 2.2 percentage points lower than in 2021, although a significant gender gap

persists (the rate was 3.0 per cent for men, 7.9 per cent for women). Informal employment remains high (55.5 per cent) and earnings are growing at a moderate pace.

Tourism, remittances and exports from export-processing zones continue to be the main sources of foreign exchange earnings. Exports of domestic goods continue at a healthy rate.

The country is continuing to make progress on public-private sustainable production agreements, the promotion of cleaner production by micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, and renewable energy generation. There is a national policy on green procurement and regulations on energy savings and efficiency.

Marine and coastal ecosystems are facing threats, such as the arrival of sargassum, which affect fishing and tourism; measures have been taken to mitigate their impact.

With the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the Government is aiming to reduce the debt to 40 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and to safeguard the macroeconomic stability that the country has enjoyed in recent decades.

The Government is strengthening the national system for public planning and investment by linking it to the budget and aligning the Sustainable Development Goals with national planning. The Dominican Republic is implementing an integrated national financing framework and is aiming to double its GDP through a plan known as “Target 2036”. It reaffirms its commitment to the Pact for the Future.

## El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]

El Salvador hereby submits its third voluntary national report, which reflects its firm commitment to advancing towards sustainable, inclusive and resilient development. Under the leadership of President Nayib Bukele, the country has undergone a comprehensive transformation based on the restoration of public safety and governance, which are essential to safeguarding fundamental rights and promoting human development.

In the social arena, the Government has prioritized comprehensive care starting in early childhood with the Growing Together policy. It has made significant progress in health, including by reducing neonatal mortality with the Caring Births Act and by improving cardiovascular care, as recognized by the Pan American Health Organization. In education, the My New School programme has improved infrastructure, curricula and digital access, benefiting students and teachers with connected devices, reducing gaps and strengthening twenty-first century skills.

El Salvador is boosting food security thanks to a food systems transformation road map. The Government has implemented programmes to support small and medium-sized producers, held agricultural fairs and established strategic partnerships with countries such as Türkiye and South Korea to strengthen domestic production.

In terms of digital transformation, key regulations have been approved, such as the Digital Assets Issuance Act, regulations on electronic invoices and the Telework Act, facilitating the digitization of services and fiscal processes. Progress is also being made on the construction of a data centre and a single digital platform for administrative procedures.

El Salvador is carrying out strategic infrastructure projects, such as the construction of the Claudia Lars and Gerardo Barrios peripheral roads and the Francisco

Morazán viaduct and the modernization of the ports of Acajutla and La Unión. The “El Salvador flies” programme includes the expansion of the Comalapa airport and the rehabilitation of regional airfields. In addition, digital connectivity is being expanded in rural areas with fibre optics, in collaboration with international partners.

On the economic front, the signing of an agreement with the International Monetary Fund has contributed to fiscal stability and attracted investment. An initiative called Invest in El Salvador has been launched and public-private partnerships are being promoted in strategic sectors such as infrastructure, tourism and innovation. Sustainable tourism is being strengthened through initiatives such as Surf City, generating employment and boosting local economies.

In terms of the environment, El Salvador is driving an energy transition based on renewable sources. It is promoting solar, geothermal and hydroelectric energy, as well as distributed generation and the gradual decarbonization of the energy sector.

The voluntary national report is being submitted in line with the National Strategy for Comprehensive Development, through which the Sustainable Development Goals are adapted to the reality of the country. The National Council for Development, under the direction of the Vice President of the Republic, is leading the implementation of the Strategy through a participatory process involving all sectors of society.

With these advances, El Salvador is demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development and moving towards a people-centred model with a view to a transformative, just and sustainable future.

## Eswatini

[Original: English]

Generally, progress on the Sustainable Development Goals in Eswatini is mixed, with most Goals showing steady advancement while some lag behind.

### Progress on specific Goals

#### *Goal 3*

- Eswatini is making progress in reducing maternal and under-5 mortality rates, which stand at 452 per 100,000 and 41 per 1,000 live births, respectively. Also, remarkable progress has been made in combating HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, with the HIV incidence among adults aged 15–49 declining from 1.36 per cent to 0.85 per cent, and the tuberculosis incidence declining from 398 to 350 per 100,000 people. Continued efforts are needed to address noncommunicable diseases and to ensure a constant supply of drugs, medicines and other medical supplies, which are some of the challenges faced by the country.

#### *Goal 5*

- Great strides have been made in empowering women and promoting gender equality, with women’s representation in Parliament increasing from 22 per cent to 29 per cent following the 2023 elections. Despite the progress, there is a need to strengthen law enforcement measures to reduce gender-based violence and guarantee equal protection under the law.

#### *Goal 8*

- Unemployment is one of the challenges faced by Eswatini, with national unemployment increasing from 33.3 per cent in 2021 to 35.4 per cent in 2023.

Youth unemployment declined slightly from 58.2 per cent in 2021 to 56 per cent in 2023. Addressing youth unemployment, skills mismatch and skills gaps and promoting a private sector-led economy to create jobs should be prioritized.

#### *Goal 14*

- Strengthening of policies and continuous monitoring of water quality have enabled Eswatini to minimize threats due to water pollution. Water bodies are compliant with the set standards, with the river level of pollution maintained at a pH range of between 7.1 and 7.7 (within the national acceptable range of 6.5 and 8.5). Also, solute levels remain low at 35 per cent and 25 per cent during the dry and wet seasons, respectively, which is acceptable for river health.
- Safeguarding life in water bodies that harbour river-based resources is prioritized in Eswatini in an effort to ensure conservation and sustainable usage of fish ecosystems. Promotion of fish production is strengthened and controls for overfishing, including laws for illegal fishing, are enforced. There is a need to invest in building the resilience of fish ecosystems through ensuring sustainable practices that will restore and enhance fish stock growth.

#### *Goal 17*

- Official development assistance (ODA) culminating from the collaborative partnerships between the Government and development partners has resulted in increases in ODA received by the country from \$226.2 million in 2020 to \$250.6 million in 2023. The middle-income status of the country and changes in global funding mechanisms have had a negative bearing on ODA flow to Eswatini.

### **Acceleration of the Goals**

There is an urgent need for prioritized and integrated action, with a strong focus on job creation to catalyse progress across all 17 Goals.

### **Data**

Investment in data systems and skilled personnel at the national and local government levels is essential for the availability of real-time, accurate data and information for evidence-based decision-making.

### **Financing of the Goals**

There is a need to aggressively pursue domestic resource mobilization, explore innovative financing mechanisms like green bonds and public-private partnerships, and strategically leverage international cooperation to secure adequate and sustainable funding for the implementation of the Goals.

### **Policy coherence**

Institutional coordination and policy coherence across government levels and sectors needs to be enhanced in order to maximize the impact of development efforts.

### **Conclusion**

Eswatini needs to collaborate with partners and double the effort towards the implementation of the national development plan, the Goals and Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want to transform lives to ensure that no one is left behind.

## Ethiopia

[Original: English]

Building on a foundation of macroeconomic, institutional and sectoral reforms, Ethiopia has pursued an integrated and resilient development path – guided by the 10-year development plan (2021–2030). This long-term ambition is operationalized through successive medium-term development plans, including home-grown economic reforms.

The 2025 voluntary national review is organized around the five pillars of people, prosperity, planet, peace and partnerships. It highlights key achievements, identifies enduring challenges and sets out strategic priorities to accelerate progress over the remaining years of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

### **People: advancing human development and leaving no one behind**

Ethiopia has made notable strides in reducing poverty, ensuring food security, providing inclusive and affordable health and education services, and gender equality. Targeted social protection programmes such as the Productive Safety Net Programme now support 9.7 million people in both rural and urban areas. Community-based health insurance covers 53 million people, steadily advancing towards universal coverage.

To ensure resilience and sustained protection, the revised 2024 disaster risk management policy enhances preparedness and mitigates vulnerability among poor and marginalized groups. Initiatives such as school feeding and the national nutrition programme have contributed to food security, education outcomes and child development. Gender equality has improved through legal reforms, targeted investment and increased access to education.

### **Prosperity: building an inclusive and competitive economy**

Ethiopia's economy grew at an average rate of 7.6 per cent from 2016/17 to 2023/24. The home-grown economic reform programmes continue to address macroeconomic imbalances and structural constraints, improve the investment climate, increase productivity and enhance public service delivery. Among its widely acclaimed successes, the national wheat initiative enabled the country to completely substitute wheat imports by 2021/22. Electricity access has tripled in a decade, while clean water coverage reached 70 per cent. Urban transformation under the Corridor Development Project has transformed quality of life at a remarkable pace through upgrading slums and informal settlements.

### **Planet: green transition and building resilience**

Ethiopia has emerged as a regional leader in climate action, anchored by the climate-resilient green economy strategy and the long-term low-emission development strategy. Since 2019, the Green Legacy Initiative has planted over 40 billion seedlings, restoring degraded landscapes.

More than 95 per cent of Ethiopia's electricity generation comes from renewables. The 2023 ban on fuel vehicle imports underscores Ethiopia's commitment to shift towards clean, green and sustainable mobility. Investments in early warning systems, climate-smart agriculture and watershed management have bolstered resilience. However, limited adaptation financing continues to constrain local action. Global climate finance commitments must be honoured to enable countries like Ethiopia to meet Paris Agreement targets.

**Peace: democratic transition, governance and social cohesion**

Ethiopia has undertaken substantial reforms to advance peace, reconciliation and inclusive governance. The ongoing public service and administration reforms are enhancing transparency and efficient service delivery.

The Pretoria Agreement marked a critical step in ending the two-year conflict in northern Ethiopia, reflecting a commitment to peaceful resolution. As part of building sustainable peace, the National Dialogue Commission is providing structured frameworks to reach national consensus.

**Partnerships: mobilizing collective action for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

Ethiopia continues to strengthen domestic and global partnerships to catalyse implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The integrated national financing framework has improved the alignment of public and private finance with national priorities. Domestically, tax policy reforms, public-private partnership initiatives and private sector mobilization have strengthened domestic resource mobilization. Internationally, Ethiopia's engagement has also deepened by joining BRICS and South-South triangular cooperation initiatives, beyond the usual bilateral and multilateral engagements.

**Looking ahead**

Ethiopia's journey towards the 2030 Agenda reflects resilient leadership, reform-oriented governance and a commitment to inclusive development. People-centred policymaking has driven tangible progress. With continued national commitment and stronger international solidarity, the country will accelerate its commitments towards meeting its Goal ambitions, ensuring that no one is left behind.

**Finland**

[Original: English]

Today, Finland is an equal, modern and prosperous welfare state and a leader in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals. Our strengths are a high level of trust, a well-functioning democracy and equal opportunities for everyone. Investing in gender equality and ensuring free high-quality education and universal healthcare have been key factors in Finland's development story.

Based on Finland's experience, it is crucial to make sure that everyone is involved: Finland aims to achieve the Goals through strong political commitment and by involving all actors in society. Only by working together, in Finland and globally, can we achieve sustainable results. Continuous stocktaking and strategic forecasting steer us towards adaptive management, enabling us to prepare for the future.

Finland continuously monitors and reviews its progress towards sustainable development, and we have strong institutional structures and processes in place to ensure societal engagement. Preparing the voluntary national reviews highlights Finland's evidence-based systematic monitoring. This is Finland's third voluntary review (the previous ones were conducted in 2016 and 2020).

Finland considers the country reviews particularly useful as they provide an opportunity to uncover and correct potential blind spots. Based on feedback, we have strengthened our whole-of-society approach and shifted from a single-solution orientation to a more systems-based approach.



In accelerating the achievement of the Goals, Finland is on the right track with respect to many of them but emphasizes the need for continuous follow-up and corrective actions. Analysing the Goals in focus for 2025, we see that:

- For good health and well-being (Goal 3), Finland has, for example, succeeded in decreasing the number of deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents.
- Finland has traditionally been a leader in gender equality (Goal 5). The number of women in managerial roles in the economy and public life is high. Challenges still exist, including increased sexual and gender-based violence.
- The clean transition requires sustainable economic growth (Goal 8), and systematic efforts are being made to secure this. Innovations, new business models and novel forms of work can be found, and both education and research, development and innovation play a key role.
- We have seen progress on life below water (Goal 14), where the target of conserving 10 per cent of Finland's total marine area has been reached. On the other hand, Finland is still far from ecological sustainability, especially when it comes to forests and other terrestrial ecosystems.
- As for Goal 17, Finland has actively pursued international partnerships to advance sustainable development. At the national level, parity is extremely important for social cohesion, to ensure that all of society supports sustainability and that people feel included and are better equipped for future challenges through models such as lifelong education.

Global challenges continue to increase at an accelerated pace. Tackling the interlinked challenges in a continuously changing geopolitical context requires new approaches and closer collaboration between different actors.

This voluntary national review focuses on the following issues:

Firstly, due to the interconnectedness of the Goals, we follow the recommendation of the framework of *Global Sustainable Development Reports* (2019, 2023). In the framework, implementation takes place through transformative changes in key societal systems such as food, energy, education and consumption, which are crucial for our well-being and for speeding up sustainability. This requires innovations and reliable data.

Secondly, to move forward with the framework, we need to build it together in close collaboration between the Government, parliament and young people, and in dialogue with, for example, academia, businesses, municipalities, civil society organizations and minority communities.

Thirdly, we are future-oriented in all our actions. We run processes to provide foresight on what to expect and prepare for. We use independent evaluations, holistic sustainability assessments and future scenario processes while promoting imagination skills.

## Gambia

[Original: English]

The Gambia remains steadfast in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, which is evident in the country's quest to present its third voluntary national review at the 2025 high-level political forum. The Goals are mainstreamed into national planning frameworks, including the recovery-focused national development plan for 2023–2027, sector and regional strategic plans, and other policies. The recovery-focused national development plan seeks to consolidate gains in democratic

governance, accelerate green economic and social transformation and build resilience to shocks and crises. To support implementation of the Goals, the country has fostered an inclusive, whole-of-society approach to development anchored in a strong institutional framework for monitoring and evaluating development outcomes.

In line with this year's theme, "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind", concerted efforts are made by the Government, civil society, the private sector and the community to create an inclusive ecosystem for the participation and benefit of all and sundry in sustainable development.

On Goal 3, the Government is implementing measures to improve the delivery of quality health services to reduce maternal, newborn, infant and child morbidity and mortality and improve the health of adolescents and young people, in sync with the recovery-focused national development plan.

Relating to Goal 5, improvements are registered in gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, with the establishment of the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare and the setting up of the Women Enterprise Fund to overcome financial barriers faced by women.

In the Government's efforts for inclusive growth and development and to leave no one behind, a strong commitment is manifested to address issues of lack of empowerment, social exclusion, discrimination and stigmatization against women, girls, children, persons with disabilities and older persons. Removing such barriers is key to unleashing the potential of large segments of society and establishing a just and equitable society. There are efforts to tap the potential of older persons (representing 3.1 per cent of the population) for national development.

On Goal 8, the country registered a real gross domestic product (GDP) per capita annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent in 2020, with a slight dip to 4.8 per cent in 2023 and rising again to 5.8 per cent in 2024 (Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs). Recent data from the 2022–2023 Gambia Labour Force Survey indicate that 79.4 per cent of total employment in the country is informal, with a higher prevalence among women (84.7 per cent) compared with men (74.7 per cent). While the 2018 survey reported higher overall levels of informality, methodological differences between the two surveys limit direct comparison. Nevertheless, the 2022–2023 findings underscore the continued significance of informal employment and persistent gender disparities. The ongoing 2025 survey will provide further critical insights to support policy and programme interventions aimed at reducing informality and improving employment quality.

Moreover, the country registered steady growth, promoting economic diversification through youth empowerment programmes; improving and expanding the technical and vocational education and training system; financial services; and investing in key economic sectors such as information technology, renewable energy and creative industries.

Under Goal 14, the Gambia is among the countries using ecosystem-based approaches to managing marine areas and implementing the ecosystem approach to fisheries through the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations EAF-Nansen project (Ministry of Fisheries and Water Resources). In 2024, progress was noted in the implementation of international instruments aimed at combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and in sustainable fisheries as a proportion of GDP.

On partnerships for the Goals (Goal 17), the Government is working on improving coordination and resource management to accelerate the implementation of the Goals, while contributing to a reinvigorated global partnership for development within the context of an integrated national financing framework.

## Germany

[Original: English]

### Participation works in Germany

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is being implemented at three levels – the national level (in Germany), the bilateral level (with Germany) and the multilateral level (by Germany). Sustainability governance offers structures for steering, implementing, monitoring and evaluating Germany's sustainability policy. One focus is on formalized cooperation with the stakeholder groups that play a significant role in society. In Germany, the federal Government, the Länder (federal states) and the municipalities share the responsibility for, and work together on, implementing the 2030 Agenda. Germany is convinced that implementation will work only with broad support from across society. In drafting the voluntary national review, the Government has therefore engaged closely with different generations of stakeholders from civil society, business, academia, Länder and municipalities.

Together with the German Government, these stakeholder groups discussed the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the national challenges which that entails, and developed input for the 2025 voluntary national review. This cooperation and exchange of ideas has been a great asset for the review which has emerged from it and which shows that participation works. Germany is also involved in an international peer learning process with six other countries to foster international exchange of experience on challenges, success factors and lessons with regard to the drafting of voluntary national reviews.

### Germany is shaping the transformation

Delivering on the recommendation made in the *Global Sustainable Development Report*, Germany has identified six areas of transformation:

1. Human well-being and capabilities, and social justice.
2. Energy transition and climate action.
3. Circular economy.
4. Sustainable construction and sustainable mobility.
5. Sustainable agricultural and food systems.
6. Pollutant-free environment.

In addition to this, Germany has identified five policy levers: governance; social mobilization and participation; finances; research, innovation and digitalization; and international responsibility and cooperation. The interministerial effort to update Germany's sustainable development strategy has been aimed at ensuring that the transformation is socially just, and at strengthening social cohesion. In parallel, efforts are under way to further develop sustainability governance with a focus on impact.

**Germany is taking responsibility with forward-looking action**

The triple planetary crisis of climate change, environmental pollution and biodiversity loss is already dramatically noticeable in all parts of the world. Germany is working for a systematic and sustainable transition to a low-carbon/climate-neutral, competitive, socially just, open and inclusive economy and society. It is therefore focusing on expanding renewable energy generation nationally and is working hard to mitigate climate change in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Sound financial policies support necessary investments for the future and help to achieve intergenerational equity. Nationally, Germany's goal is performance budgeting with a more efficient focus on achieving the Goals. It also assists its partners' efforts in this regard. Germany has a responsibility for the impacts of its actions in other parts of the world. It supports sustainable development in its partner countries.

**2030 and beyond**

With the third voluntary national review, Germany is sending a powerful message of support for strong multilateralism, not least in response to current challenges. Moreover, the German Government is working nationally and with partners worldwide to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is expressly committed to a holistic perspective on the Goals and to strengthening the fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda. Germany will therefore work for an ambitious post-2030 Agenda framework.

**Ghana**

[Original: English]

**Introduction**

Ghana reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In presenting its third voluntary national review, the country acknowledges that the Sustainable Development Goals provide a framework to address present challenges and support inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

Recent years have seen significant socioeconomic resilience in Ghana. Following a pandemic-induced contraction, the economy has shown growth, with gross domestic product (GDP) increasing from 0.5 per cent in 2020 to 5.7 per cent in 2024, primarily driven by industry and services sectors. Inflation fell from 54 per cent in December 2022 to 23.8 per cent in December 2024, improving the macroeconomic environment, aiding businesses and improving livelihoods.

**Current challenges**

Despite these developments, emerging and persistent challenges risk reversing gains. Economic inequality, youth unemployment – particularly in urban areas where 1.9 million are not in education, employment or training – infrastructure deficits, environmental degradation and institutional inefficiencies continue to pose significant obstacles. Regional disparities in health outcomes further highlight the fragility of Ghana's progress. Corruption, fiscal constraints and weak institutional coordination have also hindered implementation.

## Achievements of the Goals

- Maternal mortality and anaemia (Goal 3): Ghana's institutional maternal mortality rate decreased by 15 per cent from 128.6 to 109.3 deaths per 100,000 live births between 2018 and 2023. Anaemia rates among children aged 6–59 months improved from 65.7 per cent in 2014 to 48.9 per cent in 2022.
- Access to education (Goal 4): Ghana has achieved gender parity in pre-tertiary education. Access to senior high education increased from 800,000 in 2016 to 1.6 million in 2024.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment (Goal 5): Ghana passed the Affirmative Action (Gender Equality) Act in 2024 to ensure equality in political, social, economic, educational and cultural spheres.
- Access to water, sanitation and hygiene services (Goal 6): Ghana has improved access to, at least, water services (88.4 per cent) as of 2022, though safely managed water (44.5 per cent) and sanitation services have experienced a slow transition (15.8 per cent).
- Localization of the Goals (Goal 11): interest in preparing voluntary local reviews is increasing among local planning authorities. Three have completed their voluntary local reviews, and 18 are at varying stages. These efforts are enhancing citizen participation, data ownership, identification of accelerators and local accountability to ensure no one and no place is left behind, although gaps in financing, technical capacity and coordination persist.
- Climate action (Goal 13): Ghana established a Climate Financing Division and green finance taxonomy, attracting over \$54 million in climate investments and aiming to cut over 1 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

## Medium-term priorities

In the medium term, Ghana's focus within the context of transformation and commitments for the Goals and the United Nations six transitions will include:

- Infrastructure development: the Government intends to invest \$10 billion in infrastructure for roads and railways, water systems, energy, healthcare and education.
- Digital transformation: enhanced e-governance, mobile money expansion and digital public infrastructure to improve service delivery and accountability.
- Green economy transition: sustainable energy, circular economy and nature-based solutions to boost resilience and create green jobs.
- Financing: the Government will leverage the integrated national financing framework and enhance domestic revenue mobilization through digital platforms, including to raise financing and investment.
- Industrialization: targeting production as a driver of economic development, focusing on agriculture and trade (manufacturing).
- Investing in people for inclusive growth: focusing on lifelong learning, skills development, health promotion and inclusive participation development.

## Conclusion

The 2026–2029 national development policy framework has mainstreamed the Goals and reinforced alignment with the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa

We Want. The country's transformation agenda will focus on integrated planning, inclusive participation and resilient data systems.

## Guatemala

[Original: Spanish]

Guatemala is rich in cultural and natural diversity. Indigenous people make up more than 40 per cent of its population. This rich diversity was previously neglected, deepening social and regional inequalities and increasing vulnerability to climate change and to the persistent effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Global economic difficulties have also exacerbated food insecurity and poverty.

The current Government is working to change course. With a focus on widespread well-being, it is concentrating on the most underserved. Guatemala has an optimistic outlook and wants to meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2025 voluntary national review involved a technical and participatory process led by the Planning and Programming Secretariat of the Office of the President. State institutions, local government bodies, academia, the private sector and, in particular, civil society groups, young people and Indigenous Peoples, all worked together.

To integrate the Sustainable Development Goals, we are envisioning long-term development built around people's well-being, environmental sustainability and stronger institutions. Coordinating the Goals with the national development plan, K'atun, Our Guatemala 2032, will facilitate the alignment of public policies with long-term strategic goals.

Guatemala has succeeded in reducing maternal, neonatal and child mortality. It has also reduced the rate of adolescent pregnancy. In spite of the impact of the pandemic, we have consolidated the regional organization of health services, including by assigning citizens to regional centres, in order to improve service provision.

Guatemala moved up 29 positions in the Global Gender Gap Index by implementing tangible measures such as a learning levelling strategy with a gender focus, mechanisms to protect victims of violence, and actions designed to give women greater access to land and a bigger role in decision-making. It has made progress in terms of labour inclusion; it has 17,427 job openings for persons with disabilities. It is strengthening technical and vocational training and decent employment through training programmes, strategic partnerships and the establishment of institutional frameworks.

In terms of the environment, there has been progress in the conservation of marine and coastal zones, fisheries management and the strengthening of local governance, although challenges, such as marine pollution, persist. With respect to partnerships and financing, tax collection targets were exceeded for three consecutive years, which improved the sustainability of public debt and increased social investment. Lastly, by invigorating international cooperation and resource mobilization and improving statistical platforms, Guatemala has strengthened its commitment to inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

Persistent structural challenges have been identified: high rates of chronic malnutrition, low levels of public investment in health and education, the informal economy, and critical gaps in access to safe water and sanitation.

A total of 120 of civil society organizations participated; 50 per cent of which were represented by Indigenous or ancestral authorities. There was an 80 per cent increase in

participation in the consultations held, compared with 2021. This enriched the analysis and highlighted ongoing challenges. According to civil society organizations, there have been regulatory and institutional advances, but effective progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals throughout the country has been limited, especially in rural and Indigenous communities. Guatemala therefore underscores the need to strengthen decentralization, establish functional participation mechanisms and increase public investment, with a local and human rights-based approach.

According to civil society groups, sustainability is achieved by ensuring social and environmental justice. Young people and women urged the Government to accelerate climate change mitigation measures; prioritize food and nutritional security, taking an agroecological approach; and intensify actions aimed at combating all forms of discrimination.

In the 2025 voluntary national review, the country emphasizes the importance of promoting a national agreement for future sustainable development and of all sectors working for a more just, equitable and resilient Guatemala.

Guatemala is committed to multilateralism, international cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is a guide for the transformation of our communities.

No country will achieve sustainable development alone. Guatemala wants to share lessons learned, open forums for dialogue and build partnerships in order to advance together towards a more decent, green and inclusive future for all.

## India

[Original: English]

India, with a population exceeding 1.4 billion and more young people than any other country, plays a decisive role in advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The guiding principle of “Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas, sabka prayas” (“Together with all, development for all, trust of all, efforts of all”) underscores India’s commitment to human-centric sustainable development that leaves no one behind.

This 2025 voluntary national review highlights the progress and resilience of the country since the 2020 voluntary national review, a period marked by multiple crises globally, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Leveraging technology, India effectively managed vaccinations through platforms like the Covid Vaccine Intelligence Network, administering over 2.2 billion doses. Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (the Prime Minister’s food security scheme for the poor) ensured food security for 800 million people. Economic growth rebounded strongly, making India the fastest-growing major economy. This voluntary national review has been prepared through participatory discussions with all stakeholders, including vulnerable sections of society.

### Progress on the 2030 Agenda

While global progress towards the 2030 Agenda lags, India is making steady gains. India’s nationally calculated Sustainable Development Goals Index score rose from 60/100 in 2019–2020 to 71/100 in 2023–2024. The fourth Sustainable Development Goals India Index evaluated and ranked all states and districts on 113 indicators, showing advancements in Goals on eliminating poverty, providing decent work, economic growth and climate action.

Concerted efforts lifted 135 million people out of multidimensional poverty between 2015–2016 and 2019–2021. Social protection coverage has more than doubled since 2015 and India is on track to achieve health targets for maternal, child and infant mortality before 2030.

Despite this progress, opportunities for improvement remain in areas like harnessing high-quality data, empowering young people, enhancing job opportunities and increasing women's workforce participation. The Government is creating strategies through partnership with civil society and the private sector for effective last-mile delivery.

### **Localization of the Goals**

India's model of Goal localization is a "whole-of-government" and "whole-of-society" approach rooted in the Government's sustained commitment to cooperative and competitive federalism. Subnational governments, in collaboration with the national Government, have established institutional frameworks, undertaken capacity-building, localized Goals at the district and local levels and prepared vision documents aligning their development strategies with the 2030 Agenda. Aspirational Districts Programmes and Aspirational Blocks Programmes target underdeveloped regions through the convergence of schemes and saturation of essential government services, thereby promoting inclusive development.

### **Digital public infrastructure**

Digital public infrastructure has boosted growth and transformed public service delivery. Digital India, Aadhaar (digital identity) and the Unified Payments Interface have empowered India's diverse population, with the Interface now accounting for 49 per cent of global real-time payments. India's Direct Benefit Transfer initiative enables real-time, transparent fund transfers across more than 1,206 schemes, disbursing 2.23 trillion rupees. Digital platforms like PM Gati Shakti are enabling integrated planning and coordinated execution of infrastructure connectivity projects. India is democratizing artificial intelligence to ensure equitable access and leveraging its potential for public good.

### **Global leadership and collaboration**

India, as a *vishwa mitra* (global friend), is advancing the 2030 Agenda through regional and global collaborations. Anchored in a vision of "One earth, one family, one future", India's 2023 Group of 20 presidency generated an action-oriented New Delhi Leaders' Declaration that brought the Goals to the centre stage.

India, inspired by its Mission LiFE, which emphasizes individual actions in combating climate change, has successfully advocated for a global resolution on sustainable lifestyles.

### **Vision for the future**

India is a signatory to the Pact for the Future to drive global acceleration of the 2030 Agenda and strengthen sustainable development, digital cooperation, youth engagement and global governance transformation.

The goal of *Viksit Bharat 2047* – a developed society by the centenary year of independence – aligns with India's commitment to achieve the Goals through innovation, technology leadership and transformative governance, ultimately building an inclusive and thriving India for the world.



## Indonesia

[Original: English]

### **Indonesia's 2025 voluntary national review: leading the way towards a resilient and sustainable future**

Indonesia's fourth voluntary national review in 2025 is more than a report; it is a bold statement of purpose.

It marks a defining moment in the nation's journey, reaffirming Indonesia's unwavering dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals and its growing leadership on the global stage.

Amid a world still reeling from the aftershock of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, rising geopolitical tension and economic volatility, Indonesia emerges as a stabilizing force.

Through this voluntary national review, Indonesia champions inclusive multilateralism and calls for global solidarity to accelerate progress on the Goals, not just for today, but for future generations.

Indonesia's peaceful democratic transition in 2024 creates powerful momentum to drive sustainable development forward. With the Asta Cita vision at the heart of the 2025–2029 national development plan, Indonesia is sharpening its focus and aligning efforts across all levels of government. This political continuity ensures that progress strengthens policy coherence and unlocks new opportunities to accelerate progress on the Goals.

A decade into the implementation of the Goals, Indonesia continues to make steady progress. As of the 2024 report, approximately 61.44 per cent of the 233 indicators are on track to achieve the Goals by 2030. These results highlight the strength and consistency of the Government's policy framework, demonstrating that sustainable development and economic resilience can go together amid a global downturn.

The 2025 voluntary national review, themed “Fostering inclusive growth: advancing a sustainable and resilient Indonesia”, highlights Indonesia's conviction that inclusivity is key to lasting progress. With steady 5 per cent annual growth, the economy is driven by strong domestic demand, rising investment and a bold shift towards green, circular and blue economic models. The voluntary national review also highlights the interlinkages and synergies in Indonesia's Goal achievements, particularly on the five Goals under review this year.

Social progress remains a central pillar of Indonesia's development. Bold health reforms have boosted system resilience and primary care, cutting infant mortality to 16.85 per 1,000 live births and expanding national health insurance to 98.8 per cent coverage. At the same time, strides in gender equality, from economic empowerment to legal reform, are driving more women into leadership and reducing child marriage.

Indonesia's environmental leadership reflects its deep commitment to sustainability. As the world's largest archipelagic State, Indonesia recognizes that protecting nature is key to human well-being. Marine conservation now spans 29.9 million hectares, safeguarding biodiversity while fuelling a thriving blue economy. These efforts also empower coastal communities, create decent jobs and secure a better future for generations to come.

Good governance, accountability and inclusiveness are at the heart of Indonesia's Goal journey. The voluntary national review process brings together all stakeholders, the Government, civil society, academia, the private sector and

development partners. The Goals are fully embedded in development planning, backed by oversight from the Supreme Audit Institution and strengthened by the One Data Indonesia initiative for better, evidence-based policies.

Indonesia is mobilizing diverse resources and fostering strong partnerships to drive sustainable development. Through innovative financing mechanisms such as blended finance, Goal bonds, the Goals financing hub, Green Sukuk and Islamic financing, Indonesia is taking bold steps to close the financing gap for the Goals.

Indonesia sees international cooperation as key to accelerating progress on the Goals. Through active knowledge-sharing and peer learning, it ensures the voluntary national review is shaped by global best practices and strengthened partnerships.

Looking forward, Indonesia remains resolute in its commitment to building a just, inclusive and sustainable future.

Indonesia joins the international community in renewing its commitment to inclusive multilateralism and solidarity.

Only through united, determined efforts can we deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda, for our people, our planet and generations to come.

## **Iraq**

[Original: Arabic]

### **Responsible investment builds places and people fairly**

- Distribute responsible investments sectorally and geographically; target the most disadvantaged governorates to build human capital; distribute the fruits of economic growth equitably.
- Invest in infrastructure projects, especially state-of-the-art transportation, energy, and telecommunications networks to spur economic growth.
- Diversify the economy to promote non-oil sectors (agriculture, tourism, industry) so as to create jobs, replace imports and expand the domestic market.
- Commit to innovative integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into development plans and policies.

### **We put stock in people before resources, starting with childhood development, which is an opportunity to reshape tomorrow with the values of today**

- Promote healthy socialization for early childhood development to create a healthy, creative and innovative generation to drive sustainable development.
- Youth are the driving force of change, and should be developed by investments in education, training, innovation and entrepreneurship. They should have a role in decision-making and development initiatives so they can be effective leaders of the future.
- Active aging is a vessel for development. It provides inspirational wisdom and experience for building society through intergenerational connection.

### **Good governance is our approach to ensuring the transition to constructive culture-building**

- With political and societal will, resilience, flexible planning, policy innovation and inclusiveness, we face challenges with confidence and resolve to realize sustainable development.

- Every challenge is an opportunity to spur growth, development and innovation. There are no limits to the will to build and create positive change.
- Access to law enforcement and human rights institutions is essential for citizenship that nurtures diversity and enshrines the social contract between State and citizen.
- Transparency, accountability, productivity and fairness are our metrics for responsible investment management.
- An economy based on the right to development and fair opportunities for all.

**Capital should be linked with values to turn investment into a mission and volunteerism into a driving force for change**

- Ethical investing is a commitment to the values of justice and sustainability in the light of volunteer work.
- Volunteer work redefines social participation, builds bridges of trust between State and the citizen, and revitalizes the values of solidarity and proactive citizenship.
- Stronger complementarity between capital and values promotes a human development approach to building a prosperous future, ensuring human well-being and protecting the planet.

**Key messages**

**Security should be achieved, confidence renewed, fear removed, and our doors opened to investment, tourism, trade, commerce and sport**

- An enabling environment that attracts foreign investment that integrates economic opportunities with political, social and security stability.
- The strategic location, rich resources, and human capital of Iraq make it a promising market and fertile ground for responsible investment opportunities.

**Our global partnership is a commitment to development, regional and global stabilization and peacemaking**

- National and international expertise combine for building a strong, flourishing and sustainable knowledge-based economy.
- International cooperation is our strength for opening up new horizons for growth and investment and building relationships based on trust and mutual interest to achieve sustainable development.

**Our pioneering experience leads us to believe that success starts from within and that challenges create opportunities and shape the course of the future**

- Iraq offers valuable lessons in peacebuilding and post-conflict development.
- The Iraqi experience, with its challenges and opportunities for success, opens a door for renewed dialogue with the international community for reconstruction, peace and sustainable development.
- The outcomes of the Iraqi experience have spurred the international community to provide more material, technical and technological support to post-crisis countries to ensure sustainable recoveries.

**The Pact for the Future is a roadmap for responsible investment**

- Iraq is committed to an ambitious and concrete action plan that aims to fulfil all human rights and leave no one behind while protecting the planet, promoting economic justice and ending human rights violations.
- A development-oriented State that can address the challenges of climate change, multidimensional poverty, digital divides and artificial intelligence through cooperation with the international community.

**Israel**

[Original: English]

Israel's second voluntary national review comes in the aftermath of 7 October, under unique circumstances that pose profound challenges to sustainable development. Nevertheless, Israel remains committed to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, pursuing it across all sectors. Israel's review is intended to highlight progress, identify persistent gaps and outline forward-looking measures for effective and synergetic implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Israel's demographic diversity necessitates tailored and inclusive strategies that leave no one behind. Special emphasis is placed on inclusive growth, resilience and closing gaps between central and peripheral areas.

**Social resilience in a digitalized world**

Israel has a young population and a relatively high fertility rate, in stark contrast to most countries in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. It is also renowned as a global powerhouse in high-tech innovation and digital transformation. Linking these two trends, the Government has implemented several initiatives, focusing on marginalized communities and contributing to gender equality. Recent initiatives include an online platform to address cyberbullying and harassment, empowering children and teenagers, including disproportionately affected young women and girls, to safely navigate digital spaces. Another platform provides equal access to educational and career information, potentially alleviating discrimination against women and girls in education and employment.

**Health services and emergency response**

Israel's advanced health services played a critical role in responding to the challenges posed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the aftermath of 7 October. Recent events highlighted the need for enhanced emergency response systems and post-trauma care. The national health system adopted innovative methodologies and digital tools to support both physical and mental health, with targeted care for conflict-affected populations. Addressing long-term trauma remains a national priority.

**Reducing economic disparities**

Israel is addressing regional disparities, particularly between central and peripheral areas, through targeted investment in innovation hubs, vocational training and infrastructure. Efforts are under way to bridge economic gaps between Jewish and Arab populations by promoting equal opportunities and social cohesion. A notable initiative is the establishment of diverse innovation centres across the country that promote high-tech development in peripheral regions, ensuring that all citizens benefit from national progress.

### **Climate change and urban resilience**

Located in a climatic hotspot, Israel faces pressing issues related to climate change and extreme weather events. At both the municipal and national levels, initiatives have been launched to address challenges such as heatwaves and droughts. These include green building projects and shading strategies designed to create climate-resilient cities, enhancing quality of life for urban dwellers, who comprise approximately 92 per cent of Israel's population. However, significant work remains.

### **Water management and food security**

Israel continues to promote innovation in advanced water management and agricultural practices. By implementing advanced desalination technologies and integrating water sources, the Government aims to secure a reliable and sustainable water supply, particularly in arid regions. Additionally, the national food security plan focuses on ensuring a reliable food supply that safeguards against shortages and nutritional deficiencies, especially during crises.

### **International aid contributions**

Supporting international aid and resilience is another key focus. Through its official aid agency and other entities, Israel provides relief and training to developing countries on topics such as agriculture and climate resilience. These efforts not only contribute to global sustainable development but also strengthen international partnerships.

### **Future challenges**

Israel's second voluntary national review underscores the nation's dedication to advancing the 2030 Agenda both domestically and internationally. However, Israel still lacks a multi-agency, cross-sector national approach for implementing the Goals. Moving forward, Israel will focus on creating robust national frameworks that facilitate coordinated efforts among government entities and other stakeholders. Israeli creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit will be pivotal in sustaining progress towards a resilient and equitable future for all.

## **Japan**

[Original: English]

### **Overview**

Japan's third voluntary national review covers a period marked by multiple global crises, including pandemics and climate change. Nevertheless, Japan benefits from widespread awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals across society and the active engagement of multiple stakeholders, and it has made progress on Goals 3, 8, 9 and 13 in particular. Japan reaffirms its commitment to the Goals, acknowledging that Goals 5 and 10 still need more attention.

### **Key aspects emphasized in Japan's voluntary national review**

#### *Establishing sustainable economic and social systems*

Japan seeks to transform solutions to societal challenges into engines for growth, supported by innovation, sustainable finance and investment in human capital. Expo 2025 Osaka, Kansai, Japan will serve as a global platform on which to exchange knowledge on sustainable systems.

*Realizing an inclusive society where no one is left behind*

Japan aspires to foster a society where every individual, irrespective of age, can experience well-being. Faced with a rapidly ageing population and a declining birth rate, Japan is striving to create an inclusive economy and society. Japan has been addressing loneliness and isolation, based on the relevant act, with a dedicated minister serving as the control tower. Initiatives such as universal health coverage are contributing to extending healthy lifespans. The Children and Families Agency, established in 2023, drives child-related policies and ensures the involvement of children and young people in policymaking. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games fostered barrier-free environments, spurring the revision of relevant disability laws.

*Strengthening efforts to address major global challenges*

Japan has been steadily reducing its greenhouse gas emissions, and in February 2025 the Government set new targets as part of a pathway to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Efforts to integrate net-zero, circular and nature-positive socioeconomic measures have been advanced. Japan has been enhancing resilience efforts nationwide in response to escalating disaster risks, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030. Investments in disaster risk reduction have also proved effective in facilitating early evacuation and rapid recovery during severe weather events.

In 2023, Japan revised its national biodiversity strategy and action plan to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The GREEN×EXPO 2027 in Yokohama will facilitate the sharing of wisdom on how to live in harmony with nature.

*Fostering cooperation and collaboration with the international community*

Japan recognizes that a sustainable economy and society cannot be achieved in isolation. Despite severe fiscal challenges, Japan continues to provide official development assistance based on the concept of human security. Japan aims to address economic and social challenges in developing countries by strengthening collaboration with various partners.

*Sustaining peace and promoting sustainable development in an integrated manner*

Japan emphasizes the interconnectedness of peace and sustainable development and has been advocating the women and peace and security agenda to ensure women's full participation in peace processes.

**Our strategy for the future**

Japan aims to achieve a stable energy supply, economic growth and decarbonization by transforming solutions to societal challenges into engines for growth, fostering the development of a resilient, circular economy and promoting innovation. The principles of “leave no one behind” and “everyone can make it happen” are paramount.

Japan, as a front-runner, has tackled various challenges with a view to achieving a sustainable economy and society. By sharing our initiatives and experiences globally, Japan will promote the co-creation of value with developing nations. The focus will be on areas such as demographic challenges, local issues and disaster risk reduction.

Japan welcomes the Summit of the Future, held in 2024, which underscored youth engagement, and commits to realizing a peaceful and prosperous world based

on the principles of human dignity and human security. Advocating for shared international responsibility and multilateralism, Japan promotes women and peace and security and aims to lead international discussions on sustainability beyond 2030.

## Kazakhstan

[Original: Russian]

The primary goal of Kazakhstan's long-term strategic planning is to establish a sustainable basis for the country's development. In Kazakhstan, State policy is guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Government has been systematically analysing the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by submitting a national voluntary review every three years since the launch of the 2030 Agenda.

Previous reviews have highlighted key areas of sustainable development and noted improvements in institutional arrangements and financial instruments.

Since the second national voluntary review, Kazakhstan has been strengthening Sustainable Development Goal institutions and tools, launching new strategies and focusing on the localization of the Goals:

- A parliamentary commission to monitor the implementation of the national Sustainable Development Goals has been established under the leadership of the Speaker of the Senate.
- The National Development Plan of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the period up to 2029 has integrated selected relevant Goal indicators of a comprehensive nature.
- As part of its contribution to the global climate agenda, Kazakhstan has adopted the Strategy on Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2060. The Strategy envisages a profound transformation of the economy – from the transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency to the phasing out of hydrocarbons.
- The country continues to consolidate sustainable socioeconomic development. Since 2023, the Social Code has entered into force to provide proactive support to the population, and the Digital Family Card provides immediate access to information on social services and the support needed.
- As a result of its policy of economic diversification, Kazakhstan's gross domestic product in 2023 grew by 5.1 per cent, exceeding the average level of the last decade. The country also maintained its leadership in the region in attracting foreign direct investment, which accounted for 61 per cent of the total from among the 15 countries of the post-Soviet area and Central Asia.

Kazakhstan was ranked among the top three innovative economies in Central and South Asia, according to the Global Innovation Index 2023.

Thanks to the increase in investment projects, the growth rate of the manufacturing industry reached nearly 6 per cent in 2024, which was a record high for the last decade.

In 2024, Astana became the first city in Central Asia to be certified silver by ISO 37120 "Sustainable cities and communities" international certification.

- In order to qualitatively monitor the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Kazakhstan has updated its list of national Goal indicators.

- The national Government considers cooperation to be the key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In 2024, Kazakhstan assumed the presidency of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Organization of Turkic States, the Collective Security Treaty Organization, the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia and the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea, making it possible to showcase achievements and initiate new projects.

A regional platform for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in Central Asian countries has been developed with the support of the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

- While the Government of Kazakhstan focused on the nationalization of the Sustainable Development Goals in the first half of its implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in the second half the emphasis was shifted to their localization. A methodological basis was established to adapt the Goals at the regional level, and a methodological guide for the localization of the Goals was approved.

The preparation of voluntary local reviews has been an important step in localizing the Goals. The first voluntary local review of the city of Almaty was published in 2023.

- Kazakhstan actively involves the population in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and has undertaken a number of activities in preparation for voluntary national reviews, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind.

Consultations were held in the country's regions to discuss the draft review with representatives of local executive bodies, deputies, civil society, political parties, independent experts, academia and the private sector, as well as other stakeholders. Participants in the consultations identified priority goals for the regions.

An essay contest for schoolchildren was organized, as well as an online survey among young people aged 15 to 35 with support from the United Nations Children's Fund.

- Surveys helped to identify priority goals for both the country and each region. Taking into account the views of representatives of the country's population, the review will also provide detailed analysis on the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 1: No poverty;

Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production;

Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions.

This review demonstrates Kazakhstan's readiness to accelerate and scale up the process of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in order to overcome current challenges and find effective solutions to fulfil commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

## **Kyrgyz Republic**

[Original: Russian]

### **Introduction**

The Kyrgyz Republic continues to make steady progress towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Since the submission of its first voluntary national review in 2020, the Kyrgyz Republic has



demonstrated a consistent and systematic approach to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals have been integrated into the country's strategic documents: the National Development Strategy for 2018–2040 and the National Development Programme until 2026. The new 2030 National Development Programme reaffirms the country's continued commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda and sets the direction for the country's further sustainable development.

Kyrgyzstan remains confident and consistent in its policy. The recommendations of the first voluntary national review have been integrated into the 2026 National Development Programme and sectoral strategic documents. The country regularly reaffirms its commitment within the framework of United Nations summits on the Sustainable Development Goals and implements targeted actions to protect citizens' rights, eliminate poverty and inequality, promote gender equality and develop human capital through access to quality health and education services.

### **Progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

The second voluntary national review demonstrates the progress made in implementing the priorities and objectives identified by the country in the first review.

The country has set targets for itself to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, which clearly show how well the country is implementing and achieving its Goal targets.

Despite the serious challenges of recent years, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and external economic shocks, the Kyrgyz Republic has managed to overcome significant pressure on the social sector and on the economy, maintain the stability of key indicators and establish a solid foundation for further transformative change. Since 2022, the country has reached a sustainable economic growth rate of 9 per cent, which is one of the best in Central Asia. The level of gross domestic product per capita at the end of 2024 reached \$2,419, which is 70 per cent higher than in 2019. The increase in poverty caused by the global inflation crisis was overcome by 2023, which confirms the effectiveness of the anti-crisis social measures taken by the State.

Performance in the social sector has improved. In particular, preschool education coverage has been increased, reading and mathematics proficiency in elementary school has been improved, primary healthcare coverage has been expanded, infant mortality has been reduced and the social protection system has been strengthened, which is especially important for rural and remote areas. The country is taking active measures to improve the livelihoods of vulnerable population groups.

The Kyrgyz Republic actively promotes initiatives to protect mountain ecosystems and the cryosphere at international forums. Despite the fact that the country's greenhouse gas emissions are three times lower than the global average and it has the lowest greenhouse gas emissions in the region, the Kyrgyz Republic has made an ambitious commitment to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

An unprecedented fight against corruption has been launched, which has increased citizens' trust in the State and improved its international rating on the Corruption Perceptions Index.

The introduction of the Tunduk national digital platform has enabled the integration of public and private services, improved access to social and administrative services and increased the transparency and efficiency of public administration.

In order to identify the structural causes of problems, approaches that go beyond averaging statistics are used to analyse progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### **Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals**

The Kyrgyz Republic is actively introducing modern tools to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals. “Open SDG” and “SDG Tracker” are national reporting platforms that provide transparent reporting and visualization of 217 Goal indicators. These tools form the basis for informed decision-making and strategic planning.

### **Conclusion**

The Kyrgyz Republic reaffirms its determination to move towards sustainable development by ensuring sustainable economic growth, eliminating poverty, protecting human rights and ending inequalities. Expanding domestic production, increasing employment and developing logistics potential, a competitive agribusiness sector, tourism and a green economy remain priorities. These areas are complementary and provide a solid foundation for the country to remain resilient in the face of global challenges. In addition, the key focus is on strengthening the labour market, education and healthcare and building a strong civic identity.

## **Lesotho**

[Original: English]

### **Background**

The Government of Lesotho has improved the medium-term expenditure framework to ensure that budgeting by government institutions is aligned with the specific indicators and targets of the second national strategic development plan. To strengthen partnerships and enable conducive investment, Lesotho has developed the Investment Climate Action Plan and the Sustainable Development Goal Investor Map 2023, which identified five core sectors and 12 market-ready investment opportunity areas that have the potential to address pressing national development needs and drive economic resilience and job creation. Furthermore, to mobilize additional financial resources and promote investment, the country adopted a remittances strategy and completed policy analysis on the promotion of diaspora investment and trade in Lesotho in order to enhance policy coherence for investment promotion.

### **Progress**

Lesotho’s economy grew slightly, from 2.4 per cent in 2016 to 2.5 per cent in 2024, driven by the construction, services and livestock farming sectors. The robust performance of construction and services in recent years has more than offset the contraction of export-oriented sectors such as the mining and textile and clothing industries.

Of the 549,722 employed persons in 2023/2024, 84.0 per cent were engaged in informal employment. The unemployment rate decreased from 25.3 per cent (2008) to 22.5 per cent (2019), then increased to 30.29 per cent in 2024. Notably, female unemployment (30.80 per cent) slightly exceeds male unemployment (29.93 per cent), highlighting structural gender inequalities in labour market access. The youth unemployment rate (15–35 years) rose from 29.1 per cent in 2019 to 37.75 per cent in 2024.

Maternal mortality has substantially decreased from 1,024 per 100,000 live births in 2014 to 530 per 100,000 live births in 2023–2024. Lesotho has now met all 90-90-90 targets among adults (aged 15 years and older) living with HIV, and more than 73 per cent of all adults living with HIV have achieved viral load suppression.

Lesotho has enacted the Harmonisation of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act (2022), which allows customary widows equal ownership and control over shared property upon the death of their spouses.

Lesotho has demonstrated strong political will in advancing the climate agenda by updating its nationally determined contributions, developing a national climate change policy and a migration and climate change strategy, and adopting a comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategy, enhancing institutional coordination and climate governance.

Despite being landlocked, with no access to the sea and associated marine resources, Lesotho has numerous inland water bodies, including rivers, lakes, wetlands and reservoirs. These large water reservoirs have increased the native fish populations, leading to the development of capture fisheries as a livelihood source. At the time of writing, Lesotho ranks number one in Africa for trout exports, generating jobs and much-needed foreign exchange. Lesotho is also focused on conserving wetlands and employing ecosystem-based adaptation strategies.

### **Leaving no one behind**

Some of the notable interventions geared towards reducing inequalities among people and regions, as well as around gender, age and social status, include the Pathways to Sustainable Livelihoods Project, which uplifts impoverished and at-risk households through economic inclusion, and the Competitiveness and Financial Inclusion Project, which increases access to business support services and financial products targeted at micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises and entrepreneurs, especially women and young people.

### **Challenges**

There is an absence of a coordinated framework for the alignment of official development assistance with national priorities, which often leads to duplication and fragmented interventions.

Data quality, availability and reliability remain key challenges in tracking implementation and reporting on the Goals.

The ad hoc and limited engagement of non-State actors in Sustainable Development Goal planning and review processes impedes inclusive and sustained implementation of multi-stakeholder partnerships.

There is weak interministerial coordination and a weak monitoring framework.

There is a lack of a coordinated government-wide approach to address unemployment, particularly youth unemployment.

### **Malaysia**

[Original: English]

Malaysia's 2025 voluntary national review underscores the nation's unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. An estimated 43 per cent of the targets are on track to be achieved by 2030 – a performance that exceeds

the global average of 17 per cent. This reflects the country's enduring dedication to inclusive, equitable and sustainable development, even in the face of evolving global and domestic challenges.

Malaysia's alignment of its national development agenda with the Sustainable Development Goals has been deliberate and strategic. Since the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016–2020), and further under the Twelfth Malaysia Plan (2021–2025), the Goals have been systematically integrated into national planning. Through the establishment of institutional frameworks, comprehensive road maps for the Goals and governance mechanisms, Malaysia has laid a strong foundation for effective implementation, monitoring and accountability.

Under the people pillar, Malaysia has demonstrated measurable progress in improving quality of life. The absolute poverty rate declined from 8.4 per cent (estimated) in 2020 to 6.2 per cent in 2022, driven by inclusive and targeted policy interventions. Maternal mortality saw a substantial drop from 68.2 per 100,000 live births in 2021 to 25.7 per 100,000 live births in 2023, signalling ongoing enhancements in healthcare services. Notably, gender parity in education has been largely achieved, with equal access to primary and secondary education, reaffirming Malaysia's commitment to universal education. Despite these successes, the Government remains vigilant in addressing regional and social disparities.

In the realm of prosperity, the national economy continues to show resilience, as gross domestic product growth accelerated from 3.1 per cent in 2021 to 5.1 per cent in 2024, supported by a forward-looking development strategy that emphasizes digitalization, high-value industries and green technology. The unemployment rate has dropped to 3.1 per cent, the lowest in a decade, underscoring the success of employment-generating policies and labour market reforms. Concurrently, bold fiscal reforms, including subsidy rationalization, have been introduced to reinforce economic resilience and long-term sustainability.

Under the planet pillar, Malaysia reaffirms its strong environmental commitments. The country aims to reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity by 45 per cent by 2030 and is on a credible pathway towards net-zero emissions by 2050. Decarbonization efforts, particularly in the industrial sector, are accelerating, supported by enabling policies and incentives. Moreover, Malaysia has achieved significant milestones in biodiversity protection and pollution control, including measurable improvements in river water quality. Forest cover remains high, at 54.5 per cent of the total land area, which is well above the global pledge of 50 per cent. This result was further bolstered by the national tree-planting campaign, which met its target of planting 100 million trees ahead of schedule.

On the peace and partnerships front, governance reforms have translated into concrete improvements. Malaysia's ranking on the Corruption Perceptions Index improved from sixty-second in 2021 to fifty-seventh in 2024, while its standing in the United States *Trafficking in Persons Report* advanced from tier 3 to tier 2 over the same period, reflecting serious efforts in relation to institutional reform and justice. As a member of the Human Rights Council (2022–2024), Malaysia has taken proactive positions on global human rights issues and continues to play a constructive role in multilateral dialogues. Looking ahead, as Chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in 2025, Malaysia will prioritize regional sustainability, inclusivity and resilience.

Malaysia's dedication to achieving the Goals remains firm. Through greater policy coherence, stakeholder engagement and a whole-of-nation approach, the Government is committed to ensuring that no one is left behind, especially as it accelerates efforts towards more equitable access to healthcare, closing gender gaps,

promoting inclusive subnational growth, enhancing marine sustainability and fostering stronger multi-stakeholder partnerships. With strong institutional foundations, progressive policies and an inclusive ethos, Malaysia stands poised to deliver on the 2030 Agenda.

## Malta

[Original: English]

The decision to present Malta's second voluntary national review is a testament to Malta's long-standing commitment to sustainable development. The review builds on progress from Malta's first voluntary national review (2018). The process of drafting this voluntary national review included work on a new strategic framework for domestic development-related actions, extensive stakeholder involvement and reliance on comprehensive data.

Two pivotal strategic documents guide Malta's sustainable development agenda: Malta's sustainable development vision for 2050 (2018) and Malta's sustainable development strategy for 2050 (2024). The strategy focuses on five strategic goals: transitioning towards a climate-neutral green and blue economy; preserving sustainable urban development and cultural heritage; ensuring healthy lives and well-being for all; accelerating digital transformation, smart mobility and connectivity; and achieving social fairness and prosperity for all.

Malta has built a transparent and participatory multi-stakeholder process that has evolved since the first voluntary national review. The Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Public Cleanliness coordinated Malta's second voluntary national review, adopting a whole-of-government approach. A technical working group led by the Ministry, comprising representatives from all ministries and the National Statistics Office, was set up to ensure a comprehensive and evidence-based review.

Other vital stakeholders, including civil society representatives, academia, the private sector and individuals, were also mobilized, ensuring a whole-of-society approach. Stakeholder engagement was facilitated through an interest-influence mapping exercise, tailored questionnaires and a multi-stakeholder forum. Social media campaigns enhanced public awareness, ensuring inclusivity and adherence to the principle of leaving no one behind.

Malta acknowledges the critical role of young people in advancing sustainable development. A dedicated Sustainable Development Goal youth meet-up provided a platform for young people to discuss progress, challenges and future directions related to the Goals. The highlight of these contributions was a dedicated chapter written by Malta's Sustainable Development Goal youth champions and United Nations youth delegate.

Enhanced collaboration with the National Statistics Office has strengthened data collection and monitoring since the first voluntary national review, allowing for more accurate progress tracking across all Goals. Malta's second voluntary national review features a comprehensive statistical annex highlighting Malta's evolution across all Goals since 2015.

Malta's second voluntary national review showcases Malta's efforts to adopt multiple initiatives that have contributed positively to socioeconomic and environmental sustainability. Indeed, the indicators demonstrate the effectiveness of the measures implemented, with reduced poverty among adults aged 18–64, rising employment rates, growth in the value added of small-scale industries and sustained investment in innovation.

Malta has made progress on gender equality, particularly by reducing pay gaps, increasing female representation in leadership and politics and strengthening legal frameworks against gender-based violence. In education, completion rates have risen and digital skills have improved.

Progress in health includes increasing life expectancy and improving healthcare coverage. Urban greening, heritage preservation and air pollution reduction have enhanced the quality of the environment. Measures have also effectively reduced domestic material consumption and increased municipal waste recycling. Ambitious measures for renewable energy and the expansion and modernization of electricity infrastructure have also led to positive results. Moreover, Malta has nearly universal access to safe drinking water and wastewater treatment coverage. Significant progress has been made in marine protection, including the establishment of 18 marine protected areas.

These positive trends reflect Malta's commitment to sustainable development. However, looking at Goal implementation worldwide, the need for further action, particularly in response to global challenges, such as rising geopolitical uncertainty, the climate crisis, social inequalities and digitalization, is clear.

In conclusion, the second voluntary national review builds on the lessons learned from the first review, demonstrating significant progress in Malta's approach to sustainable development. Malta's sustainable development strategy for 2050 will address gaps identified in Malta's second voluntary national review, further consolidate progress and ensure that Malta continues to advance towards full implementation of the Goals.

## **Micronesia (Federated States of)**

[Original: English]

### **Navigating our future: balancing traditional values and sustainable development**

The Federated States of Micronesia presents its second voluntary national review as a reaffirmation of our deep-rooted commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to a development pathway defined by our traditional knowledge, cultural identity and unwavering community spirit. Grounded in the wisdom of our ancestors and guided by our modern aspirations, the Federated States of Micronesia continues to navigate a rapidly evolving global and regional environment with resilience, purpose and vision. Our national journey is shaped by the Federated States of Micronesia strategic development plan (2024–2043), which lays out a vision for a unified, resilient and prosperous Federated States of Micronesia, delineated in nine thematic areas and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our focus on people-centred development is central to this journey, particularly in relation to health and well-being, and gender equality and social inclusion. Our experiences throughout the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic reaffirmed the importance of resilient local health systems, access to care in remote areas and a holistic approach to wellness that includes mental, physical and social health. At the same time, we celebrate new milestones in gender equality, as more women step into leadership roles and contribute to shaping the nation's future.

The Federated States of Micronesia's economic landscape continues to evolve. The path to sustainable and inclusive growth demands that we reduce dependency, broaden opportunity and place greater value on local entrepreneurship, youth innovation and women's economic participation. We aspire to shift from a model

rooted in external assistance to one driven by economic diversification leading to self-reliance. Priorities include investing in human capital, expanding infrastructure and fostering inclusive platforms to support the integration of the Federated States of Micronesia into the global market.

As a big ocean State, the Federated States of Micronesia's natural resources are both a source of pride and a critical foundation for development. The ocean is central to our identity and future, and we are committed to protecting our marine ecosystems through expanded conservation zones, sustainable fisheries and the integration of customary marine stewardship. However, the worsening impacts of climate change threaten not only our biodiversity but also our food security, cultural heritage and economic stability. Our efforts are focused on resilience, intergenerational equity and maintaining the Federated States of Micronesia's global leadership in sustainable ocean governance.

The changing geopolitical landscape in the Pacific presents challenges and opportunities for the Federated States of Micronesia. As global interest in the region grows, so do the demands on our governance systems, diplomacy and sovereignty. While new partnerships may open doors to more significant investment and influence, the Federated States of Micronesia must navigate these matters with unity, transparency and strategic foresight. Our ability to shape and assert our national development priorities depends on strengthening internal coordination, investing in national capacities and pursuing relationships aligned with our values, identity and long-term vision. In this context, the pursuit of equitable access to resources, technology and climate financing becomes even more urgent.

As we reflect on our progress and look to the future, the Federated States of Micronesia is determined to steer its course – one defined by community ownership, traditional leadership and a firm commitment to leaving no one behind. Our next phase will emphasize deeper integration of cultural governance into public policy, expansion of localized services and greater investment in data systems and institutional capacity. We will continue to advocate for partnerships that respect our sovereignty and pursue development that is both inclusive and locally driven.

Through this voluntary national review, the Federated States of Micronesia sends a clear message: our nation is not merely adapting to change – we are shaping it. With tradition as our compass and sustainability as our destination, we remain committed to building a future that honours our heritage, empowers our people and upholds our rightful place as stewards of the Pacific.

## Nigeria

[Original: English]

Nigeria continues to demonstrate resolute commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With deliberate and strategic efforts, the country has instituted robust policy and institutional frameworks at the national and subnational levels to ensure effective and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. These efforts include the alignment of the national statistical system with the Goals, the country-led evaluation of Goal implementation, the design and roll-out of the integrated national financing framework and the adoption of the Inclusive Data Charter action plan, each contributing to a more coherent and coordinated development agenda.

Since 2016, Nigeria's development strategies have been firmly anchored in the Goals. The economic recovery and growth plan (2017–2020), the economic sustainability plan (2020) developed in response to the coronavirus disease

(COVID-19) pandemic and the national development plan (2021–2025) reflect the country’s resolve to accelerate inclusive and sustainable development. The current plan, in particular, aims to unlock Nigeria’s vast economic potential through broad-based, inclusive and resilient economic transformation.

Nigeria’s voluntary national reviews, undertaken in 2017, 2020 and 2025, highlight a consistent commitment to accountability, inclusivity and evidence-based policymaking. The 2017 voluntary national review focused on institutional readiness and governance structures for Goal delivery, while the 2020 voluntary national review was aligned with development priorities under the economic recovery and growth plan. The 2025 voluntary national review adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. A comprehensive country progress report on the Goals formed the basis for a nationwide consultative process involving the six geopolitical zones, along with specialized engagement with persons with disabilities and children and young people. This inclusive and participatory process ensured that voices from all segments of Nigerian society contributed to shaping the national Goal narrative.

The 2025 voluntary national review focuses specifically on reporting on five priority Goals: Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 14 (life below water) and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals), providing a deeper analysis of national progress and areas requiring urgent intervention. In terms of progress, Nigeria has made important strides in institutionalizing the Goals across policy and planning frameworks. Nearly a decade into implementation, however, results remain mixed. Of the 52 key performance indicators reviewed in the 2024 progress report on the Goals, 18 (34.6 per cent) show improvement, while 16 (30.8 per cent) show stagnation and another 18 (34.6 per cent) regression. Structural fiscal challenges persist. Government revenue remains low, representing just 9.6 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2023. The tax-to-GDP ratio has modestly risen from 5.5 per cent in 2020 to 6.7 per cent in 2022. Remittances from Nigerians in the diaspora continue to serve as a vital economic buffer, contributing nearly 6 per cent of GDP.

Global crises have significantly disrupted momentum towards the Goals. The confluence of the COVID-19 pandemic, intensifying climate change impacts and worsening geopolitical conflicts have generated widespread economic and social shocks. These shocks triggered lockdowns, travel restrictions and disrupted supply chains, and led to a sharp contraction in economic activity. Global GDP declined by 3.4 per cent, translating to over \$2 trillion in lost economic output. In many countries, including Nigeria, progress towards the Goals has slowed, stagnated or reversed as a result.

As the 2030 deadline approaches, Nigeria must scale up its commitment to targeted reforms and strategic investments. Strengthening the re-engineered national statistical system and implementing the Inclusive Data Charter road map will be critical to ensuring the availability of timely, reliable and disaggregated data to inform responsive policymaking. Equally vital are the formulation and execution of the next medium-term national development plan (2026–2030), which must be transformative, inclusive and climate-resilient, and geared towards unlocking catalytic opportunities for sustainable and equitable growth across all sectors.



## Papua New Guinea

[Original: English]

### Introduction

Papua New Guinea celebrates 50 years of independence this year – a moment of national reflection and commemoration. This golden jubilee anniversary is not only a milestone of nationhood, but a strong reminder of the country’s resilience and commitment to building a just, equitable and sustainable future.

This is exemplified by Papua New Guinea’s second voluntary national review, which reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Goals are fully integrated into the country’s Vision 2050 and national planning frameworks, including the medium-term development plans III (2018–2022) and IV (2023–2027). Papua New Guinea’s journey over the past five years has been defined by partnership, perseverance and progress.

### Progress on the Goals

Papua New Guinea has made gains across several Goals since 2020. Poverty reduction (Goal 1) has improved through social protection, increased rural infrastructure and access to finance. In health (Goal 3), the number of underweight children has dropped significantly, while maternal health services have improved. Education (Goal 4) outcomes improved, including increased enrolment, gender parity and an increase in alternative learning pathways.

Nutrition (Goal 2) has been prioritized through the child nutrition and social protection programme, while public investment in social sectors rose from 12 per cent in 2020 to 20 per cent in 2024.

Despite progress, challenges remain in gender equality (Goal 5), decent work (Goal 8), climate resilience (Goal 13) and institutional governance (Goal 16). Papua New Guinea continues to build and sustain peace and strengthen its national response to corruption to increase public trust.

### National ownership and institutional arrangements

National ownership of the Goals has deepened since 2020, with the Goals embedded within the medium-term development plan IV, sectoral policies and provincial plans. Papua New Guinea’s institutional arrangements have matured through technical working groups and interministerial committees on the Goals.

The establishment of the Independent Commission Against Corruption and enhanced oversight by the Auditor General and the Ombudsman Commission demonstrate Papua New Guinea’s resolve to uphold Goal target 16.6 to achieve good governance and promote open government partnership initiatives.

### Means of implementation

The medium-term development plan IV is the first of four national delivery mechanisms through which capital investment finances implementation of the Goals. The Papua New Guinea Government has increased allocations in social and economic sectors.

Public-private partnerships, donor alignment through the development cooperation policy and targeted social and economic sector investments – including the Connect PNG Program – have all supported Goal outcomes.

However, expanding the fiscal space and improving access to innovative financing remain critical priorities.

### **Multisectoral stakeholder engagement**

Civil society, the private sector, development partners and academic/research institutions have played a key role in Papua New Guinea's sustainable development, leveraging effective partnerships (Goal 17). The national Government has strengthened engagement through the Consultative Implementation and Monitoring Council, the civil society organization partnership policy and open government partnership initiatives to deliver people-centred change.

### **Leave no one behind**

The leave no one behind principle guides Papua New Guinea's development efforts, with a focus on reaching remote and vulnerable groups. National programmes on nutrition, labour mobility, finance access and early childhood education target those most in need.

Subnational integration empowers communities to prioritize local development, such as through district development authorities and provincial health authorities.

### **Challenges**

Obstacles hampering progress on the Goals include limited data systems, geographic isolation, financing gaps and service delivery weaknesses. Papua New Guinea is addressing these issues through governance and legislative reforms and by strengthening coordination across all levels of government.

### **Conclusion**

As Papua New Guinea celebrates 50 years of independence, it reaffirms its commitment to sustainable development. This second voluntary national review is a record of progress and a road map for action and investment.

Guided by the Goals and driven by the resilience of its people, Papua New Guinea is charting a path towards 2030, and a sustainable and equitable future for all.

## **Philippines**

[Original: English]

In 2015, as United Nations Member States adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Philippines made a further commitment to undertake a voluntary national review on Sustainable Development Goal implementation every three years. Following through on this commitment, we have produced voluntary national reviews in 2016, 2019 and 2022.

The last voluntary national review reported on how the country addressed the effects of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and harnessed innovation to accelerate progress on the Goals. Since then, the Philippines has shown marked recovery and is now on a path of social and economic transformation towards inclusive, resilient and sustainable development.

With the development of the Sustainable Development Goals Pace of Progress, we are now in a better position to report on the country's performance in achieving the Goals. This statistical tool shows the progress we have made since 2015, and how likely it is that the targets will be achieved by 2030.

Guided by a shared vision for 2040, and with the Philippine Development Plan as our action agenda, the country has made notable progress on 10 Goals. Based on the 2024 Pace of Progress, these Goals include 1 (no poverty), 2 (zero hunger), 4 (quality education), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 7 (affordable and clean energy), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), 12 (responsible consumption and production), 14 (life below water) and 15 (life on land). Of these Goals, Goals 2, 7, 8, and 9 were regressing in the 2022 Pace of Progress.

Aligned with the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development, this fourth voluntary national review focuses on Goals 3 (good health and well-being), 5 (gender equality), 8, 14 and 17 (partnerships for the Goals). The “5 Ps” of the 2030 Agenda serve as the reference framework for summarizing the country’s progress in these focus Goals.

**People.** The Philippines remains committed to ensuring healthy lives and promoting the well-being of all Filipinos across all ages. To reverse the country’s decelerating progress in health, the country has been strengthening the implementation of the Universal Health Care Act. In line with its commitment to leave no one behind, the country also prioritized initiatives that empower women and girls, address gender-based violence and promote equal opportunities in all aspects of life.

**Prosperity.** The Philippines continues to be one of the fastest-growing economies in the region and the world. To ensure that these gains are inclusive, the Philippine Government endeavours to create more, quality and green jobs. To this end, economic liberalization was pursued and a landmark law – the Trabaho Para sa Bayan (National Employment Master Plan) Act – was enacted in 2023 to ensure workers’ welfare, competitiveness and security.

**Planet.** As one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of environmental shocks, the Philippines has implemented initiatives that focus on marine conservation, sustainable fisheries and coastal resilience. These aim to protect the country’s rich biodiversity while promoting the sustainable use of marine resources and environmental resilience.

**Peace.** Promoting a peaceful, just, inclusive and high-trust society remains at the forefront of the nation’s priorities. The Philippine Government integrated digitalization into governance and service delivery to ensure that all Filipinos, especially in the most vulnerable sectors, have access to public services and justice and live in a peaceful, safe and secure community.

**Partnership.** Strengthening the means of implementation through partnership, data and innovation is the highlight of this review. The country’s initiatives and accomplishments were underpinned by statistical innovations that enabled the implementation of data-driven interventions. Goal localization and the establishment of the Stakeholders’ Chamber on the Goals ensured that all hands are on deck and resources are in place for the country to achieve the 2030 Agenda and our shared long-term vision of a strongly rooted, comfortable and secure life for all Filipinos.

## **Qatar**

[Original: English]

### **National vision and commitment**

- Qatar’s fourth voluntary national review reflects a nation championing its role in shaping a sustainable future, both at home and beyond. Guided by the Qatar National Vision 2030 and the third national development strategy, Qatar’s development path closely aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development. Under the theme “Leading the way: a sustainable future for all”, Qatar’s 2025 voluntary national review reaffirms the country’s commitment to human prosperity, environmental care, economic resilience and inclusive growth.

- Over the past decade, Qatar has emerged as a global hub for diplomacy, innovation and economic diversification, embracing sustainable development as a shared responsibility and shaping investments to build a lasting prosperity.
- Qatar demonstrates global leadership through its active role in key multilateral forums, positioning itself as a global convener for inclusive, equitable and sustainable development.

### **Voluntary national review preparation process**

- Qatar’s fourth voluntary national review is led by the National Planning Council, shaped through a multistakeholder participatory process for a fully integrated policy approach.
- Over 40 different entities have contributed via data exchanges, national workshops and open dialogues under Qatar’s bespoke governance structure. Voluntary national review workshops served as engagement hubs to gather input, highlight successes and identify priorities.
- This inclusive, transparent and accountable approach reinforces Qatar’s national ownership, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to sustainable development, ensuring that diverse voices continue to shape a pathway towards resilient and future-ready growth.

### **Key achievements and accelerators**

- Qatar continues to achieve major milestones and establish flagship initiatives across the four foundational and interconnected pillars of the Qatar National Vision 2030, which drive progress on the Goals to create tangible, long-lasting outcomes.
  1. Human development: Qatar is shaping a future-ready, empowered population across generations by advancing education, resilient healthcare systems and lifelong learning. Flagship efforts such as the Ministry of Labour’s future-ready workforce strategy highlight the nation’s commitment to building a competitive, high-skilled workforce equipped for tomorrow’s challenges.
  2. Social development: Qatar fosters social cohesion and inclusivity by promoting cultural identity and ensuring equitable opportunities. This includes comprehensive structural reform to strengthen women’s rights and reinforce child and family protection systems, driven by national efforts across multiple institutions.
  3. Economic development: Qatar champions knowledge-based economic diversification and sustainability, from strengthening local supply chains to advancing sustainable finance. In this regard, regulatory reforms in Qatar continue to focus on fostering an environment conducive for business and with the objective to attract \$100 billion in investments, while supporting small and medium-sized enterprises, young people and women through investments in human capital and entrepreneurship.
  4. Environmental development: Qatar’s environmental stewardship is exemplified through national strategies on climate change mitigation, adaptation and ecosystem preservation, such as the national climate change

plan, which promote sustainable energy, water security and circular economy principles to secure a sustainable future.

### **Challenges and data gaps**

- Qatar’s voluntary national review identifies the following considerations for addressing the ongoing challenges in implementation of the Goals:
  - Cross-sectoral coordination, to ensure integrated approaches and stakeholder engagement and facilitate inclusive progress in the implementation of the Goals.
  - Data disaggregation and accessibility, to facilitate evidence-based recommendations and targeted policy responses.
  - Governance and institutional capacity, to emphasize representative, participatory decision-making processes and enhance policy alignment.
  - Balancing economic growth and social and environmental sustainability, to maintain long-term prosperity while effectively leveraging resources.

### **Looking ahead: a sustainable future for all**

- Qatar’s 2025 voluntary national review will help continue to guide accelerated implementation of the Goals at scale with national priorities under the Qatar National Vision 2030, and in line with global priorities. Through strengthened monitoring systems and participatory engagement, Qatar is fostering continuous, evidence-driven progress.
- The voluntary national review will also demonstrate Qatar’s commitment to its guiding principles for national development and shared worldwide prosperity by advancing a future grounded in transparency, equity, innovation and resilience.

## **Saint Lucia**

[Original: English]

Saint Lucia’s vision “to build a resilient and inclusive nation for a more sustainable and productive future for our people” is ingrained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The presentation of Saint Lucia’s second voluntary national review coincides with the completion of the medium-term development strategy (2021–2026). This national development plan is based on the theory of change methodology and highlights three pillars necessary for advancement: economic, environmental, and social and human capital resilience. The establishment of Cabinet-endorsed multisectoral committees, such as the National Coordinating Mechanism for the Sustainable Development Goals and the adoption of key instruments in, for example, climate, oceans, sustainable consumption, and production and energy, demonstrate Saint Lucia’s commitment to the implementation of the Goals. However, Saint Lucia recognizes the need for increased statistical and technical capacity, and improved monitoring frameworks.

The coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic significantly impacted the economy and placed tremendous pressure on the healthcare sector and social protection systems, ultimately hindering national development strategies. After COVID-19, economic growth rebounded by 12.2 per cent in 2021 due, in part, to the tourism, manufacturing and construction sectors. Unemployment rates decreased to 8.8 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2024. Expansions in healthcare services have contributed to drastic decreases in child and maternal mortality rates and cases of

infectious diseases, while efforts to reduce the increasing rates of noncommunicable diseases are ongoing. The completion of the Saint Jude Hospital reconstruction project will further boost healthcare provision and address growing healthcare demands.

Social protection systems, such as the national insurance scheme, which covers 73.1 per cent of the working population, the public assistance programme, the child disability grant and the human capital resilience programme, have expanded during and after COVID-19 and integrated a gender-inclusive focus to reduce inequalities and ensure the inclusion of the most vulnerable. Furthermore, the recently revised national social protection policy and action plan, the improved national eligibility targeting tool and the new strategy for graduation from social assistance will further advance social protection measures.

As a small island developing State, we continue to chart a path towards climate resilience. This cross-cutting theme is reflected in national development frameworks, notably the 2024 Climate Change Act and sectoral strategies and plans under the national adaptation plan, and in key sectors such as energy, infrastructure and the blue economy. These seek to address impacts, safeguard natural capital and facilitate private sector involvement and investment. In 2025, Saint Lucia submitted its third nationally determined contribution, committing to further reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the energy and transport sectors by 22 per cent in 2035, relative to 2010. Additionally, reforestation will sequester 33 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2035, compared to 2010, while the cooling sector will cut 10 per cent of fluorinated gases from the refrigeration and air conditioning sectors by 2035. This will be achieved through enhanced deployment of wind and solar energy with battery storage, upgrades to the grid infrastructure, continued efforts to improve energy efficiency and enhanced uptake of electric vehicles.

Saint Lucia continues to accelerate progress related to peace, justice and partnerships, despite limitations. Rising crime rates present increasing challenges to citizen security; therefore, the Government has instituted strategies, including a new Crime Bill, to enhance public safety and economic stability. Civil society and private sector partners continue to work alongside the Government to promote progress in several areas, including social protection, climate change adaptation, economic growth and gender inclusiveness. In response to limited access to grant financing due to the country's classification as a middle-income country, the Government will work to strengthen its public sector investment programme, expand its donor base and explore alternative financing mechanisms, such as public-private partnerships and disaster financing, to further advance progress on the Goals.

## **Seychelles**

[Original: English]

We, the people of the Republic of Seychelles, reaffirm our strong commitment to sustainable and inclusive development in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Building on its inaugural voluntary national review in 2020, Seychelles has made notable strides across multiple sectors, demonstrating adaptability and recovery following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The post-pandemic rebound of key industries – particularly tourism and fisheries – highlights the country's adaptive capacity and economic stability, and further exemplifies the tenacity and determination of the Seychellois people.

The 2025 voluntary national review is guided by the national development strategy for 2024–2028 and aligns with all 17 Sustainable Development Goals through six national priority areas. It provides a timely opportunity to reflect on achievements, identify gaps and realign implementation strategies for deeper impact.

Data-driven development remains central to national planning. Seychelles continues to strengthen data systems for Goal monitoring, leveraging digital technologies to improve data collection, policymaking and service delivery. A multistakeholder approach ensures inclusivity and accountability in development processes.

Effective governance, transparency and accountability are central to the voluntary national review process. At the highest level, the Constitution of the Republic of Seychelles underpins sustainable development, human rights and environmental preservation, creating a strong foundation for implementation of the Goals. To date, Seychelles leads Africa in the Mo Ibrahim Foundation index and ranks eighteenth globally in the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index.

Economic diversification and innovation are key to long-term resilience. The blue economy continues to support sustainable growth and job creation. Beyond tourism, Seychelles is promoting cultural and community-based tourism and deepening reforms in financial services. The digital economy is gaining momentum, enabling e-governance, entrepreneurship and inclusive access to services – particularly in education, health and social protection.

Human capital development remains a national priority. Seychelles has achieved significant progress in universal health coverage, with a national index score of 0.82 in 2023. The country is also strengthening maternal and child health and improving its public health preparedness.

Education is central to national development. Efforts to improve learning outcomes include investments in early childhood education, technical and vocational training and the integration of digital tools and platforms to enhance accessibility and quality. Education reform is aligned with the needs of a modern, skills-based economy.

Seychelles social protection systems are being strengthened to reduce inequality and better support and empower vulnerable populations. The Government is digitizing service delivery and improving the targeting of support to young people, persons with disabilities, older persons and low-income households. Cross-sectoral coordination ensures that social protection complements education and health efforts for a more holistic approach to inclusion.

Environmental sustainability and climate resilience are deeply embedded in the Seychelles development model. The country is scaling up renewable energy through its first integrated resource plan and leveraging international finance through mechanisms like the International Monetary Fund's Resilience and Sustainability Facility and a forthcoming disaster risk financing strategy.

The voluntary national review process in Seychelles is inclusive and participatory, engaging Government, civil society, the private sector and development partners. Case studies in the Seychelles 2025 voluntary national review highlight local innovation and community resilience, and showcase best practices in the implementation of the Goals. The voluntary national review process serves as a crucial call to action as we approach the final years of the Goal implementation period leading up to 2030.

As Seychelles progresses socioeconomically, the need to strike a balance between wealth creation, sustainability and citizen-driven growth becomes

increasingly vital. As a small island developing State navigating the complexities of a globalized world, Seychelles is committed to advancing sustainable development, capitalizing on its strengths while remaining acutely aware of its distinctive challenges. The nation is fully dedicated to a people-centred, digitally enabled and inclusive approach to development, ensuring that no one is left behind.

## **South Africa**

[Original: English]

### **Commitment to an inclusive process**

- South Africa's second voluntary national review reflects and reaffirms the country's commitment to advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Sustainable Development Goals are implemented through an inclusive process through South Africa's national development plan aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want.
- South Africa has embraced the localization of the Goals as reflected in the voluntary local reviews conducted in 2024.

### **Signs of progress amid persistent challenges**

- The 2024 voluntary national review highlights South Africa's continued progress in improving the lives of its citizens, especially the most vulnerable:
  - Comprehensive social protection coverage, including public employment, dent high poverty levels.
  - Universal health coverage for all South Africans is aimed at guaranteeing quality healthcare regardless of economic status.
  - South Africa has witnessed a steady decline in maternal mortality, child mortality, new HIV infections and other communicable diseases.
  - There has been a notable increase in access to quality early childhood development, school completion and universal school enrolment, and an expansion in the provision of student financial aid for higher education.
  - A strong legislative framework promotes gender equality, social inclusion and equity.
  - A large majority of South Africans have access to water and sanitation.
  - Ambitious commitments supported by substantial financing are driving the just energy transition in South Africa.
  - Institutions aimed at identifying and prosecuting corruption have been strengthened significantly.
- Despite areas of progress, challenges remain:
  - High unemployment rates and high inequalities persist, including income inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient.
  - The skills mismatch between education and industry needs requires focused attention from all stakeholders.
  - South Africans experience regular power outages and rising electricity costs, negatively impacting quality of life and economic productivity.



- Infrastructure inefficiencies, including at the local government level, hinder increased production and the export of goods and services, thus negatively impacting growth.
- South Africans' material footprint remains high, and there is a slow uptake of sustainable practices.
- The level of violent crime, in particular violence against women and children, remains very high.
- Parallel public and private health systems exist, but resource allocation is skewed in favour of the private sector, resulting in huge health inequities in access to health.
- There is suboptimal use of evidence to inform policy development and implementation in all spheres of government.

### **Ambitious proposals to accelerate progress**

- To accelerate the achievement of the Goals in South Africa, the 2024 voluntary national review recommends prioritizing six high-impact Goal acceleration mechanisms:
  - Mechanism 1. Prioritize human well-being and enhanced capabilities through sustainable development (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 11): focus on improving the quality of life and enhancing the capabilities of all South Africans, particularly the most vulnerable, through improved social infrastructure investment – quality health, education, water and sanitation.
  - Mechanism 2. Invest in young people for participation in fields with a high job growth potential, such as the green and digital economies (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14 and 15): empower young people to contribute to and participate in fields with a high job growth potential, such as the green and digital economies, through targeted vocational and skills development and entrepreneurship support.
  - Mechanism 3. Create economic growth and opportunities by increasing sustainable energy sources (Goals 7, 8, 10 and 13): urgently address South Africa's immediate energy security needs while shifting to renewables to enhance future energy security, reduce carbon emissions and create economic opportunities.
  - Mechanism 4. Unblock infrastructure constraints and invest in green and resilient infrastructure (Goals 8, 9, 10 and 11): address infrastructure constraints by investing in network industries and targeting key infrastructure investments that support a diversified and competitive economy in an environmentally sustainable manner, contributing to labour market activation and social infrastructure development.
  - Mechanism 5. Rebuild trust through effective and responsive institutions (Goals 16 and 17): rebuild public trust by effectively combating corruption and increasing efficiency in the public service, building strong local and global partnerships to help accelerate progress and scaling up successful and innovative interventions.
  - Mechanism 6. Mobilize means for implementation (Goal 17): optimize domestic resource mobilization through tax collection, reducing illicit financial flows, calling for appropriate technology transfer and expanding technical and financial cooperation, which are required to accelerate South Africa's progress towards achieving the Goals.

## Sudan

[Original: English]

The Sudan has made some progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. Maternal and infant mortality rates declined. The completion rate for primary education, preschool learning, vaccination, water and electricity supplies and information technology coverage increased. The main legislation to empower women was reformed. Girls have achieved parity in general education enrolment. Forest conservation efforts were boosted.

Significant challenges to progress on the Goals remain, and plans were formulated to address them. However, at the time when the Sudan was implementing them, the Rapid Support Forces militia initiated on 15 April 2023 a large-scale offensive.

The aggression unleashed a level of destruction unparalleled in the Sudan's history. It has displaced a staggering 30 per cent of the population. Agriculture schemes were attacked, resulting in food insecurity. Over 86 per cent of the factories in Khartoum, the main industrial hub, were destroyed, markets were burned to the ground, and 49 per cent of bank branches were damaged and looted. Over 30 per cent of hospitals were damaged, and medical equipment, stocks of medicines and cold chains, including life-saving vaccinations, were vandalized. The country was exposed to disease outbreaks, including cholera, malaria and dengue. Schools were closed; the conflict has deprived over 90 per cent of school-age children of schooling. Water and electricity facilities were damaged by drone attacks. All museums and historical sites were destroyed. Economic growth contracted by an average of 22 per cent in 2023–2024 and unemployment surpassed 45 per cent, more than twice the pre-conflict level.

The scarring effects of the conflict have derailed the hard-won progress on the Goals. All Goals were pushed back. The Government is firmly committed to accelerating efforts to put them back on track. Testimony to that are the emergency measures adopted by the Government, supported by humanitarian aid and grass-roots organizations, to improve resilience and improve progress on the Goals during the conflict. The collapse of revenues by 80 per cent was averted, fiscal control was gradually regained, and urgent public expenditures were met. Banks started to function. Electronic transfer systems were restored, and the Bank of Sudan successfully changed the currency to curb inflation and currency counterfeiting. The food security situation improved, as agricultural inputs were secured, and grain production for 2024–2025 exceeded the Sudan's annual food requirements. Schools were reopened in many parts of the country. The gap in life-saving and essential drugs was closed, vaccines were provided, hospitals were opened and the capacity to combat epidemics was enhanced, leading to a reduction of the main diseases to a reasonable level. Access to electricity and water improved. In terms of grass-roots organizations, *takaya* and emergency response rooms, supporting vulnerable groups in war zones, represented a lifeline for thousands of Sudanese.

The Sudan has prepared a study to assess the destruction caused by the war and presented a vision for post-conflict early recovery and reconstruction. The Goals were mainstreamed into the vision. Given the level of destruction, the needs for recovery and reconstruction to put the Goals back on the right path are enormous.

The Sudan will deal with a complex financing situation to implement its vision. Raising revenues was a formidable challenge prior to the conflict, exacerbated by the massive destruction to the economic base. The Sudan is also deprived of access to external concessional borrowing because of external debt. Moreover, donors suspended their development aid to the Sudan.

The Sudan will improve public financial management to mobilize domestic revenues and will create a conducive environment for the private sector to unlock more resources. Investment and public-private partnership laws were already reformed. However, the reconstruction burden is too great for the Sudan to shoulder alone and requires a significant flow of external assistance along with debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries to meet reconstruction needs and accelerate the implementation of the Goals.

## Suriname

[Original: English]

Building on the 2022 voluntary national review, the Government of Suriname has sustained its forward momentum towards the realization of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Despite ongoing challenges, notable progress has been achieved across multiple sectors, laying solid groundwork for continued advancement and long-term development impact.

The establishment of the National Sustainable Development Goal Committee and the Sustainable Development Goal Platform has significantly contributed to national awareness and oversight of the Goals. The Committee plays an important role in monitoring the implementation of Goal-related policy priorities embedded in the multi-annual development plan for 2022–2026, thereby supporting the development of Suriname’s second voluntary national review.

The Sustainable Development Goal Platform has been established to promote public awareness, dialogue, advocacy and structured monitoring of progress on the Goals, in particular from the perspective of the major groups and other stakeholders.

The Sustainable Development Goal youth ambassadors programme further enhances youth engagement in national implementation efforts.

Economic recovery remains a critical priority for the Government of Suriname. Inflation, which previously peaked at 66 per cent, has been significantly reduced to approximately 11 per cent through a combination of fiscal consolidation, debt restructuring and policy measures under the International Monetary Fund-supported programme. These interventions have strengthened macroeconomic stability and enhanced access to international markets and investment. Social protection for vulnerable groups – such as children, the elderly and persons with disabilities – remains a key focus. Recognizing the need for a more inclusive and sustainable recovery, the Government has drafted the national social protection strategy for 2024–2030 to modernize and expand the social safety net.

Although the health sector has faced significant pressures, the Government is making ongoing efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure, invest in human resources and expand access to essential services. The Government focuses on tackling noncommunicable diseases, enhancing maternal and newborn care and advancing sexual and reproductive health. The Government remains committed to strengthening the healthcare workforce and public health systems through targeted investments and capacity-building.

Education remains a key focus for national development and reform. Despite challenges like limited funding, infrastructure gaps and brain drain, the Government is committed to improving access to quality education, especially in rural areas and underserved communities. Strategic partnerships and technology are being leveraged to enhance curriculum, improve teacher training, address systemic gaps and prepare young people for future economic opportunities, such as the anticipated development

in the oil and gas industry in Suriname. The national education policy for 2024–2031 will guide these efforts.

Reaching environmental sustainability is a nationwide goal. The establishment of the National Environment Authority and investments in biodiversity systems have strengthened climate policy coordination. Community-led mangrove restoration, the launch of the Communities Climate Adaptation Facility and mercury-free mining initiatives support environmental resilience. Through the green development strategy, Suriname reinforces its commitment to sustainable resource management and maintaining its CO<sub>2</sub>-negative status.

Legislation on the collective rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples is one of the main priorities for the Government, and the Government is committed to continuing the dialogue until we reach an agreement which ensures the rights of Indigenous and tribal peoples.

Employment and opportunities for young people have been supported through technical and vocational education, but also with access to credits and loans for small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.

Despite the efforts and accomplishments of the Government, significant challenges remain – particularly in securing adequate financing and human resources, strengthening institutional capacity and improving data availability. The Government will continue its efforts to localize the Goals through targeted multimedia campaigns. The Government of Suriname reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizes the urgent need to bolster institutional frameworks for integrated policy formulation, effective implementation and robust monitoring and evaluation.

## **Thailand**

[Original: English]

Thailand's third voluntary national review seeks to examine overall progress and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development over the past decade as well as present recommendations from various stakeholders, including the private sector, academia, young people and the United Nations in Thailand, on how Thailand can accelerate our efforts in the next five years. This voluntary national review builds on our 2017 voluntary national review, which highlighted Thailand's application of the sufficiency economy philosophy as our locally driven approach to support the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals, and our 2021 voluntary national review, which focused on promoting recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

### **Implementation of the Goals**

Implementation of the Goals in Thailand is driven by the National Committee for Sustainable Development chaired by the Prime Minister and guided by Thailand's Sustainable Development Goals road map. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also mainstreamed into the 20-year national strategy (2018–2037) and the national economic and social development plans. The thirteenth national economic and social development plan (2023–2027) strives for Thailand to become a developed country through strategies based on the sufficiency economy philosophy, resiliency, the Goals and the bio-circular-green economy model.

Goal localization remains a priority, with the Ministry of the Interior and local authorities taking the lead. Two voluntary local reviews have been conducted in Thailand, by the Nakhon Si Thammarat and Udon Thani city municipalities, with a third voluntary local review by the Koh Samui city municipality in progress.

## Progress towards the Goals

In February 2025, Thailand launched the Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard as an online platform designed to centralize Goal-related data and provide public access.

As of 21 April 2025, Thailand had data for 236 out of 248 Goal indicators, covering both global and national metrics. Among them, 170 indicators have defined targets set for achievement by 2030. A preliminary assessment, comparing the most recent data with baseline figures from 2015, indicates that Goal 14 has the highest proportion of indicators on track. Conversely, Goals 2 and 15 are facing the most significant implementation challenges. It is important to note that this analysis excludes indicators with missing data; the results may be subject to change as more data become available.

On leaving no one behind, the Leave No One Behind Tool of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific analysed 20 proxy Goal indicators using three publicly available surveys to identify those left furthest behind. Between 2012 and 2022, data show that Thailand made significant progress in enhancing opportunities across the country, where 11 out of 20 indicators analysed are either universally accessed or nearly universal, such as target 3.8.1 on universal health coverage, while slightly wider gaps remain in areas such as secondary education completion.

## Key challenges

- Notwithstanding Thailand's overall progress on the Goals, inequality of access to basic services and economic resources remain, especially for vulnerable populations.
- Projected to become a super-aged society by 2031, this demographic shift causes change in developmental and societal needs in Thailand.
- Climate change and environmental degradation continue to pose challenges to Thailand's development and people's well-being.
- New technologies, including artificial intelligence, present risks as well as opportunities for present and future generations.

## Key recommendations

Thailand should:

- Continue to improve Goal data capacity to measure progress, including setting nationally appropriate targets for achievement and building capacity to collect disaggregated data.
- Increase and better utilize data and science, innovation and technology in policymaking, including foresight planning, driven by the development needs of local communities.
- Build a financing framework for the Goals which identifies financing gaps as well as available sources of finance.
- Strengthen localization efforts by empowering local authorities and communities for development to be sustainable and truly demand-driven.
- Strengthen the engagement of all stakeholders, particularly the private sector and young people, in Goal implementation through inclusive and collaborative approaches.