Overview on the Voluntary National Reviews in Asia and the Pacific: Challenges & Opportunities

Riccardo Mesiano
ESCAP, EDD
Voluntary National Reviews in Figures

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs): Asia-Pacific

2016
2017
2018
2019
2020

VNRs worldwide (2016 – 2020)
What do VNRs report on?

Analysis of goals and targets:
- a snapshot of the status of the goals and targets;
- achievements and good practices;
- the impact of country interventions at home and abroad;
- gaps and challenges;
- SDG interlinkages:
- emerging issues;
- future implementation plans.

Source: UN DESA (2018)
Highlight of national priorities & SDG nationalisation

SDG 18

Cambodia & Lao PDR
Challenging areas in SDG implementation

DATA & MONITORING
- Data disaggregation
- Data collection & analysis
- Financial resources

FINANCE
- Resource mobilization
- Diminished ODA
- Engagement of private sector

AWARENESS
- Low, especially at grassroots level
- Need for capacity building
VNR examples

**Azerbaijan**: Panel discussions gathering academia, civil society, women, youth and parliamentarians. Government plans to work with the media to establish an **interactive web-platform** designed to promote awareness on the SDGs and support monitoring.

**Thailand** (2017): Provides a good overview on each goals, including highlighting best practices. It also depicts the relevance of different stakeholder group. (94 pages)
VNR examples

**Australia** (2018): whole of society approach throughout the consultation process. The Government partnered up with different stakeholders to broaden the reach of the consultation.

**India** (2017): multi-disciplinary VNR Task Force to coordinate the review and process documentation and include perspectives and progress on the various programmes and initiatives from the sub-national level, state and union territory governments.

**Sri Lanka** (2018): whole of Government approach by establishing a inter-ministerial Task Force to guide the consultation process.
Thank You