



SDG-VNR Status Report 2018 - Excerpts

Reporting Countries in Asia in the Excerpts here

1. Bhutan
2. Lao PDR
3. Singapore
4. Sri Lanka
5. Vietnam

General Remark and submission: Just like last year, Institutionalization and localization of SDGs and their indicators and Capacity building of the local institutions, highly recommended by the CSOs across all the 5 countries

Country	Background	Advocacy on SDGs		Remarks
		Government	CSOs	
Bhutan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross National Happiness Commission (GNHC) is responsible for writing the VNR for the Country in consultation with UN organizations. Thus, GNHC is also the central agency responsible for the successful implementation of SDGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bhutan's Development Framework of GNH per se is a policy framework on SDG implementation. The Development Framework of GNH covers the genesis of the SDGs with the three normative core principles of Universality, Indivisibility and Leaving No One Behind. • Extensive consultations and sensitization were carried out on SDGs as well as on the formulation of the 12th Five Year Plans because the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CSOs have been part of the consultation and have been part of the reporting process as well. • All CSOs in Bhutan work in accordance to their plans and budget adequacy. And all are geared towards achieving one vision. For instance, Disabled Persons' Association of Bhutan (DPAB) specifically works to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since both government and CSOs are guided by their own visions, regular policy dialogue specifically on Agenda 2030 was not possible. However, there were couple of dialogues

		<p>implementation of SDGs integrated 12th Five Year Plans requires cooperation from all sectors in the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All stakeholders were invited to public consultation on the VNR process. Apart from Government agencies, international agencies, private sector entities, parliamentarians, political parties, civil society organizations and local government officials were invited for extensive consultations on VNR. • A communications strategy has also been developed to actively engage the stakeholders in localization, implementation, monitoring and reporting of the SDGs. A nationwide citizen survey was conducted on understand people’s aspirations and expectations from the government. 	<p>achieve 7 SDGs with over 11 Targets in total. Similarly, there are other CSOs that are involved with other goals and targets as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of Poverty reduction, Tarayana Foundation (CSO) has been leading the way and to a great extent, the foundation has helped many villages to alleviate from poverty. • Challenges are very daunting. From lack of funds to deeply rooted mindset of people are all daunting challenges for CSOs to deliver services. • No CSO led process in Bhutan so far 	<p>organized by International NGOs in Bhutan where all were invited to take part.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • here’s coordination and collaboration issues for now which the government view as opportunities in the upcoming 12th FYP to get resolved. The 12th FYP set the tone for opportunities with this broader partnership with whole of government and whole of society. • As of now there is no separate national plan for funding 2030 Agenda. The resources allocated
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				<p>for 12th FYP will serve as funding for SDG implementation which are well embedded within the 12th FYP. However, plans are in the offing to carry out costing exercise in collaboration with Ministry of Finance to fund SDG implementation.</p>
Lao PDR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The official VNR is being prepared by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in consultation with national and international partners in the Lao People's Democratic Republic The Prime Minister is Chairman of the National Steering Committee for the 	<p>Lao PDR's localization of the SDGs from early 2016 laid a firm base for this Voluntary National Review (VNR). Lao PDR was among the first countries in the world to conduct the localization exercise and integrate SDGs into national planning. Lao PDR's national planning process converged with the SDG launch, providing the opportunity to integrate the SDGs into the Eighth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP) 2016-20. By September 2017, the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current CSOs engagement in SDGs process in Lao PDR is limited to small groups of CSOs mainly among international-based CSOs who understand the whole SDG process, share and exchange information on the national progress, and policy advocacy. There remains a challenge 	<p>There is a need for CSOs to actively and effectively engage with governments to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of SDGs. As the work is already underway by government to prepare for indicators, it is necessary that SDGs</p>



	<p>implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Lao PDR.¹ The government has integrated the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP). The NSEDP, the country's Development Strategy 2025 and Vision 2030 have a strong focus on promoting green growth and sustainable development, maintaining steady economic growth, achieving a constant reduction of poverty, and graduating from Least Developed Country status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lao PDR has adopted its own additional SDG 18 on unexploded ordnance (UXO). This is because UXO remains a daunting barrier to the progress of development in Lao PDR. 	<p>Government, supported by development partners, had developed a provisional list of SDG indicators adapted to Lao PDR's context, and in the process, identified key issues in moving forward with SDGs. The year-long process involved all ministries and government entities, representatives of mass organizations, and national and international development partners.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Feedback on the VNR itself, shared in the week of 9 April; 2. Active participation by both national Non-Profit Association and INGOs in the VNR consultation end April/early May. 3. INGO participation in particular will be higher than at the December pre-VNR consultation. 4. Engagement around the questions that have been raised by the technical experts pulling together the report, will be shared as part of the report. 	<p>among grassroots, local and national CSOs to fully and meaningfully engage, due to knowledge gap, capacity, time availability and financial resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local and national CSOs in Lao PDR are actively working on the ground, effectively responding to the problems and needs of local communities • Lao CSOs Coordination Office (LCCO) is a network of CSOs in Lao PDR, with local and national CSOs member organisations/associations nationwide who are working on the ground. LCCO has also been invited to government's SDGs discussions and meetings. 	<p>implementation will be more effective and efficient with CSOs engagement in these processes. It is to ensure that national development plans, actions and indicators of progress are specifically tailored to the national and particularly local context. Meaningful local and national CSOs participation in encouraging inclusive and open SDGs implementation and accountability will be critical to ensuring that governments are responsive to the demonstrated needs of the diverse segments in the society.</p>
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¹ Presidential Decree No 206/PSD, Dated 20 September 2017 on the National Steering Committee, to implement the Sustainable Development Goals in the Lao PDR.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSOs came together to discuss the draft VNR, at a workshop organized by LCCO on 26-27 April 	
Singapore	<p>The minister who delivered Singapore's national statement at the UN's Sustainable Development Summit in NYC on Sept 27, 2017 summarised Singapore's approach to sustainable development, as being underpinned by two factors: Pragmatism in governance and implementation, and partnerships to build capacity.</p> <p>Singapore's 2018 VNR Report covers the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. It highlights good practices and specific goals relating to green and blue spaces, physical transport mobility, resource sustainability, air quality, drainage, community stewardship to be achieved by 2020.</p>	<p>The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Sustainable Development (IMCSD) was set up in January 2008 which consist of only two ministries namely the Ministry of the Environment and Water resource and the Ministry of National Development.</p> <p>The Government focus on collaboration with UNDP Global Centre for Public Service Excellence to offer senior officials training in good governance. Because they posit that there is no single model of development that is applicable to all and that countries should be free to pursue the goals in whatever manner they choose.</p> <p>The two programmes they took up specifically on identified SDG are a multi-year capacity building programme on sustainable urbanization (SDG 11) and conduct pilot projects in water and sanitation in regional countries (SDG 6)</p>	<p>Think Centre has been gazetted as a political association because of its work in human rights. It is barred from receiving any foreign funding or anonymous local support beyond \$5,000 Singapore dollars. Think Centre is still able to conduct training workshops, capacity building courses, awareness raising events, seminars and public forums.</p> <p>A green paper on deliberate online falsehoods was presented to Parliament and a Select Committee on Deliberate Online Falsehoods set up to examine how the government should deal with fake news and online falsehoods. Proposed regulations aim to shrink space for freedom of speech specifically social media networks, in addition to existing laws in Singapore against libel, sedition and harassment.</p>	<p>The MFA has partnered with Global Compact and with a range of businesses in producing this. They did not engage civil society organisations that are engaged with social services or advocacy.</p> <p>There is a an urgent need of interface of CSOs and the government officials and engage them in the national SDGs implementation process.</p> <p>The CSOs can still do monitoring and review of the SDGs implementation in the country and engage with the concerned government officials</p>

	<p>However, critical gap analysis in the Singapore report is needed and solutions to tackle problems that are missed in the VNR are necessary. For instance:</p> <p>SDG#1 on poverty highlights increases in real income, social spending and support for low-income groups but does not address any poverty baseline or define poverty relative to costs and standards of living in Singapore. While we have no absolute poverty, we are heavily dependent on private charities to provide basic meals to the elderly and disabled poor despite increased government spending.</p> <p>SDG#5 on gender equality does not address the gender wage gap where women are paid on average 40% less than men across a range of industries. Singapore does not recognise the economic value of domestic work by housewives. Industry practices where women face economic insecurity and job termination</p>	<p>Currently the MFA is coordinating the report of national initiatives to UN but individual programmes/ projects are run by the most relevant ministries eg. Ministry of Environment and Water Resources (SDG6) and Ministry of National Development (SDG11).</p> <p>Focal Point for Singapore: Mr Syed Nouredin Syed Hassim Deputy Director-General, Climate Change Office International Organisations Directorate Ministry for Foreign Affairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Administration of Justice (Protection) Act passed into law in 2016 serves to codify various conducts into statute. This has resulted in lowering the threshold for scandalizing contempt contrary to case law (AG vs. Shadrake Alan) which constitutes precedent for how the law of contempt is to be applied. <p>Departing from common law and precedent not only has the potential effect of shutting down debate and cutting back on the latitude of criticism as regards the administration of justice, but dislodging the balance between the need for constitutional</p>	<p>apart from engaging with the UN institutions.</p>
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	<p>upon pregnancy and maternity leave are common place as companies seek to cut costs by avoiding paid maternity benefits.</p> <p>SDG#17 on partnerships for sustainable development highlights organisations such as Peoples’ Association, businesses, schools and government-linked foundations without engaging independent, non-government organisations whose alternative voices play an essential role in ground-up research and advocacy on sustainable development and human rights.</p>		<p>guarantee of freedom of speech and that of preserving public confidence in Singapore’s justice administration.</p> <p>While the law ministry has explained that codifying case law precedent is a matter of public policy and expediency which overrides existing common law, contempt charges have since been brought against individuals who have made casual mention over social media of Singapore courts and the judiciary, disregarding the test for “real risk” in favour of “any risk” of scandalizing the judiciary.</p> <p>Another group, One Singapore discussed the meaningful participation and involvement of civil society in the SDG</p>	
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			<p>process and emphasized the need for collaboration and partnership. It also highlighted the benefits for the government regarding civil society involvement in the SDG process, in particular meeting their objectives/indicators around the SDGs. MFA is open to discussing the involvement of civil society, in particular potentially taking part in a discussion on the SDGs with civil society in order to promote transparency and reflect the SDG agenda of 'leaving no one behind'.</p>	
Sri Lanka	<p>Ministry of Sustainable Development and the UN office in Sri Lanka selected Institute of Policy Studies(IPS) to prepare VNR report.</p>	<p>Since the endorsement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Government of Sri Lanka has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate its implementation in the country. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the establishment of a dedicated ministry for sustainable development as the focal point for coordinating, facilitating and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Civil society organisations have formed Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform – a multi stake holder platform of CSO, academic, local government, business, activist, professional, youth, women etc. They formed the platform on 8th March , 2018 followed by a 	<p>There is a need to have a close coordination with the government and the CSOs as they feel that their involvement in the formal VNR process has been minimal .</p> <p>Another review process post HLPF involving major CSOs would be welcoming</p>

		<p>reporting on the implementation of the SDGs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the establishment of a Parliamentary Select Committee for Sustainable Development to provide political leadership for the implementation of the SDGs; and the enactment of the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017 to provide the legal framework for implementing the SDGs. VNR has been a multi-stakeholder engagement process – Government, private sector, academia, development partners and CSOs including Volunteer Involving Organizations (VIOs). Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) was developed with two major objectives: i) to consult all stakeholders involved in the SDG process in the country to get inputs for the preparation of the VNR as well as to raise awareness; ii) to setup the platform for continuous stakeholder engagement in the post – 2018 	<p>national consultation on 26th April in Colombo having convergence of these stakeholders to facilitate an ‘inclusive transformation’ in Sri Lanka with an aim to establish an ‘independent monitoring and Reporting Mechanism’ on the SDGs in Sri Lanka called ‘Voluntary People’s Report (VPR)</p> <p>Report card</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The platform later organized various regional consultations too before finalizing the VPR 	<p>after the government review the VPR produced by the CSOs of Sri Lanka.</p>
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		<p>VNR period. The SEP was developed in line with the Public Participation Spectrum developed by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • several multi-stakeholder consultative workshops were conducted. In addition, an online platform has been developed to engage all stakeholders in the SDG implementation – a process that goes beyond the VNR 2018 • National Multi-Stakeholder consultative workshop for Sri Lanka VNR • Two multi-stakeholder workshops were organised specifically aimed at conducting an in-depth analysis of the SDGs selected for in-depth review at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018. The second workshop was attended by over 200 participants including, Government officials, and representatives from CSOs, academic institutions and private sector representing all the 		
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		<p>districts in the country with discussions on Goal 6, 7, 11, 12, 15 and 17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-Stakeholder Regional Consultative Workshop for the grass root level outreach • Report Review and Validation 		
<p>Vietnam</p>	<p>Ministry of Planning and Investment Portl (MPI) has launched the VNR publicly and asked for public consultation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation period is from April 27th - May 10th 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Planning and Investment portal is responsible to write the VNR in the country. • The first draft of VNR has been shared for the public consultation • The government VNR report does not have updated information about different stakeholders participating in implementing SDGs, especially lack of information relating to CSOs' contribution. • MPI will finalize on June to submit to ready for New York on July. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management and Sustainable Development Institute (MSD) has been consulted to provide feedback on the official VNR report, before May 10th apart from sharing the report with the wider CSOs in the country - There has not any mechanism and clear role of local CSOs to join in SDG monitoring and evaluation in Vietnam. • There has not any CSO network taking the role of writing CSO report (MSD may consider to do it). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MPI opens the opportunity to cooperate with MSD and other networks in Vietnam – • MPI official joined the policy dialogue on May 24th2018 coordinat ed by MSD in Hanoi • There are possibilities to work in coordination with each other (MPI- MSD and other CSO networks)

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Aid will join with a report on Leave No one behind in Vietnam. • Other organization - VUSTA - a political social organization of Vietnam - umbrella of about 400 CSOs in Vietnam is main point of contact of MPI to represent CSOs, but they are a kind of political organization rather than social one. In addition, they only count their member organizations (science and technology organizations) with legal entity, not include diversified organizations and CBOs. 	<p>Apart from including the CSOs in all next relating activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • However, the local CSO only participated in the process from April, but they have received immense support from from the INGOs, especially action Aid. • <i>How the CSOs can make it on the local level, when they struggle to mobilise the resources.</i>
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