



Sustainable Development Bodies and Their Roles at National and Local Levels

**Report - Strengthening Integration, Implementation and Review:
Role of Sustainable Development Bodies after 2015**

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Outline of the Presentation

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Objectives

- To have more coherent and integrated planning and decision-making bodies and processes at the national, sub-national and local levels for sustainable development (Rio+20, 2012 RIM) so that
 - Three dimensions of sustainable development are addressed in an integrated manner.
 - full and effective involvement of all relevant ministries and government entities, CSOs, and other major groups.
 - More synergies and less overlaps and duplication of efforts as well as platforms for experience-sharing and knowledge networking.
 - Decentralized structures at local levels to guide implementation and create more desired impacts.
 - Capacity-building efforts by ECA, AUC, AfDB, NPCA, RECs are coordinated.



Sustainable Development Bodies and Roles

- Implementation at national level: government, CSOs'/NGOs', business and service associations, women and youth groups, community groups.
- Coordinating, monitoring, and evaluation at regional level: the RECs, business/service and professional associations
- Coordinating, monitoring, and evaluation at continental level: ECA, AUC, AfDB, NPCA, UNDP, UNEP and the RECs, among other institutions could take the lead.



National-level Reports

- A Government report, a national stakeholder report, with contributions from national non-governmental actors, and a report compiling existing information and data from United Nations agencies and international financial institutions, all based upon globally harmonized formats
 - Constitute the main written inputs on individual country progress.
 - The most significant in the overall review process.
 - With broad, multi-stakeholder participation, including the presentation of national and local governments, parliaments, civil society, science, academia and business.
 - Establish benchmarks, review the national policy framework, chart progress, learn lessons, consider solutions, follow up and report thereon.



Development Goals and Targets

- The proposed SDGs and targets would serve to, among other things, rally different actors, galvanizing political will and actions, and encouraging all nations to work towards a set of defined priorities - hence the need to harmonize monitoring and reporting on progress.
- Development aspirations and processes are context specific. Therefore, to be meaningful, global goals and targets must be tailored and adapted to regional and national contexts and initial conditions.



National Priorities and Actions

- The proposed SDGs are not meant to set or replace national priorities, and could be implemented with varying degrees of selection, adaptation or modification to national circumstances.
- Countries may choose to complement the proposed targets and indicators with others as deemed appropriate to their national development context.
- Countries could continuously and effectively review their own goals, targets and indicators through national participatory processes, with the global post-2015 agenda as a useful benchmark but not necessarily a prescription.



Monitoring and Evaluation

- At the community level, the monitoring and reporting units of local governments or local community councils will need to be strengthened to play a role in surveys to generate relevant data and implementation reports.
- At the sub-national level, provincial administration or state governments, where applicable, will have to raise the effectiveness of existing monitoring and reporting mechanisms to collate statistics and community-level reports to produce sub-national implementation reports.
- The provincial/state level reports will further be consolidated at the national level through designated institutions and agencies.
- The national office of statistics will play a fundamental role in the generation of timely and reliable data.



National Statistical System (NSS)

- For issues of national ownership, political commitment and accountability, it is fundamental, that the international monitoring of global development is based, to the extent possible, on official statistics produced by national statistical services.
- National statistical systems, especially national statistical offices, should take the leading role at the country level and local levels.
- This calls for enhancing national capacities (technical, human, and financial) for collecting, compiling, analyzing and reporting on targets and indicators for effective implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs.



NSS: Challenges and Difficulties

- Most NSSs are still severely under-resourced in terms of financial, human, technical, and institutional capacities of the units responsible for collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of statistics.
- Issues related to data paucity, unavailability of adequately disaggregated data, concerns with data quality and timeliness, lack of adequate technical tools, packages and framework to support data production efforts, and poor institutional coordination, among others.
- Donor support has often focused too exclusively on data collection with inadequate attention to strengthening national capacities for monitoring, reporting, analysis and development of indicators.
- To support the SDGs, capacity-building and data collection programmes should pay greater attention to analytical techniques and post-data collection processes, including methods of estimation to fill data gaps.



Strengthening NSS

- Given the weak statistical capacity in Africa, building statistical capacity in the three dimensions of sustainable development must be an important part of the post-2015 development agenda.
- The SG report stresses that the international community must significantly scale up support to countries and national statistical offices with critical needs for capacities to produce, collect, disaggregate, analyse and share the data crucial to the new agenda.
- Technical cooperation and partnerships among regional institutions and their member States should continue to play a positive role.
- Conduct an early stage assessment of data gaps and compilation limitations country by country and goal by goal, to identify, at the outset, new resources to support the needed data collection, compilation, and dissemination.
- Countries should participate in the development and application of methodologies used for estimation and modelling to improve comparability and fill in data gaps to ensure that methods for estimation on indicators not derived from reported data to be replicable and easily understood by users and national stakeholders.
- Direct and envisage data revolution for sustainable development.



Conclusions: Importance of National Review

- National ownership is crucial to effective integration, implementation and review process.
- Broad-based national participatory approaches would enhance the commitment, accountability and ownership desired.
- National structures and coordinating bodies guide the development and implementation of policies, strategies and plans for sustainable development.
- National coordinating bodies translate global and regional frameworks into national and local actions and provide the mechanism for coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at national level and ensure effective linkages from local to global.
- The national review process is, therefore, the most significant in the overall review process for which a bottom-up process is critical.
- Thus, to enhance national ownership and the legitimacy of the HLPF review process, we need a bottom-up review process: national reviews should inform subregional, regional and global level review processes.



Conclusions: The Way Forward

- the new and emerging issues in the post 2015 development agenda could place additional stress on already weak national monitoring and reporting systems.
- Resource requirements, cost implications and data challenges would need particular consideration for effective implementation and review processes.
- National institutions in charge of monitoring, evaluating and reporting at all levels will need to be clearly identified, appropriately mandated and resourced.
- This calls for enhanced support from the international community and the operationalization of a sustainable development data revolution, which the Secretary General's report considers an important enabler for a review system.



Questions for Discussion (I)

- Are national coordinating bodies for sustainable development essential for coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at national level and ensuring effective linkages from local to global?
- Is the national review process the most significant in the overall review process for which a bottom-up process is critical?
- Do we agree that the proposed SDGs are not meant to set or replace national priorities and could be implemented with varying degrees of selection, modification or adaptation to national circumstances?



Questions for Discussion (II)

- Should the institutions in charge of monitoring, evaluating, and reporting at all levels be clearly identified, appropriately mandated and capacitated?
- How will the monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on the SDGs place additional stress on national statistical systems?
- How to give due consideration and to address the issues of resource requirements, cost implications, and data quality and continuity with regard to the new and emerging SDG themes?



Thank You