



## CASE STUDY

# VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW: Indonesia

### Background Information

Indonesia volunteered to present its national review (VNR) at the 2017 High Level Political Forum (HLPF). Indonesia's first VNR centered on the theme of poverty eradication and improving prosperity (Goal 1). To this end, the report primarily focused on two aspects of sustainable development: improving the quality of human resources and enhancing economic opportunities. Both goals were targeted with the aim of delivering sustainable livelihoods.

### Quotes

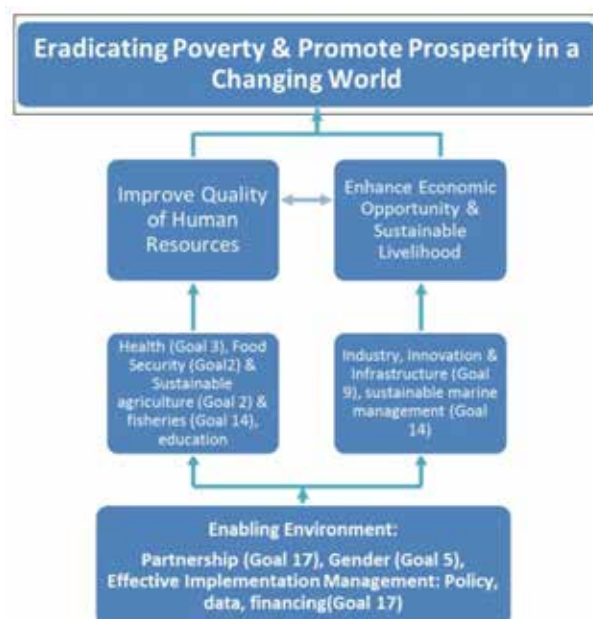
*"The achievement of interrelated and mutually-reinforcing SDG goals cannot be separated from the support of enabling environment, i.e. partnership, gender equality, data capacity, and financing."*

*"The universality of the SDGs must lead to the advancement of all nations in the world. The SDGs should serve as catalyst for regional as well as international cooperation."*

### Approach, Delivery, & Challenges

Indonesia builds on the experience gained with the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), but focuses on a broader stakeholder engagement. Leave no one behind has been the guiding principle for the VNR preparation in Indonesia. The draft of the report, in fact, involved four diverse national SDG platforms: government, civil society organizations, philanthropy and private sector, and the academia, as stipulated in the Presidential Decree on SDGs Implementation."

Indonesia's VNR was jointly coordinated by the Ministry of National Development Planning (Bappenas), with the Deputy for Maritime and Natural Resources Affairs





acting as the focal point for implementation, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Directorate General for Multilateral Cooperation. Indonesia Secretariat for the SDGs also played a key role in supporting and facilitating efforts to formulate the VNR. Those three agencies co-hosted a series of meetings with all stakeholders to facilitate the effort.

The Ministry of National Development Planning and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs developed an informal task force for the review. The group was designed to include all relevant stakeholders, including members of government and parliament, CSO and media, philanthropy and business, and academia and all those groups contributed to the reporting process. Collectively, these groups were referred to as the “4 Platforms.” The task force was split up into working groups with each of those attending to one goal that was being reviewed for Indonesia’s VNR report. Relevant ministries assisted with assessments for each specific goal. Data was provided by Statistics Indonesia (BPS), the nation’s agency for statistics, and additional resources were provided by a variety of non-state actors.

Individual government agencies drove the process for specific goals, but they were required to work directly with the 4 Platforms throughout the process. The Ministry for National Development Planning supervised the creation of the final report and the agency worked directly with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to endorsement it before sending it to the Minister for National Development Planning for final review and approval.

Indonesia’s final VNR report and its delivery were highlighted by several unique features. Indonesia chose to integrate the SDGs into local and city level plans, and the country included stakeholder representatives in its delegation when presenting its report. The report highlighted the importance of regional South-South cooperation, and it outlined opportunities to help address challenges to such cooperation, including improving the accuracy of budget monitoring, establishing guidelines for evaluating cooperation activities, and developing a communication strategy for Indonesia’s cooperation activities.

The report further stressed the need of capacity building and dissemination of the SDGs to all stakeholders, as well as for training on SDG integration for development planning, and the formulation of relevant action plans.

Indonesia’s 4 Platforms team began preparing the VNR in January 2017. The effort was broken out into three phases: creating the outline, drafting the main messages report, and drafting the full report. Each of those phases featured a series of meetings and consultations involving stakeholders from the areas represented by the 4 Platforms.

The draft main messages and full report were circulated among all stakeholders for feedback, while it was also posted on the SDG Secretariat website to create the opportunity for feedback from members of the broader public who were not directly involved with the VNR process. This afforded input from a broader group than would have otherwise been possible. At the same time, small working groups were formed, and plenaries held to afford a collaborative review of in progress elements of the reports. With feedback from those efforts in hand, the reports were completed approximately one month later. The total timeline from initiation to submission took about five months.



Task	February	March	April	May	June
Establishment of task force to develop the voluntary national report (VNR)	2nd week				
Development of topics, mechanism and schedule to produce the report with involvement of all stakeholders (government, parliament, CSO and media, Philanthropy and Business, and academia)	3rd week				
Online public consultation		3rd week			
Formulation of First draft of SDGs report; (Main message + Full report)		3rd-4th week			
Online public consultation			1st week		
Formulation of Second draft of SDGs report (Main message)			1st week		
Formulation of Second draft of SDGs report (Full report)			3rd week		
Online public consultation			4th week of April to May		
Endorsed main message of SDGs report with all stakeholders					
Submission of main message to HLPF				2nd week	
Endorsed final draft of SDGs report with all stakeholders					1st week
Submission of full report to HLPF					2nd week

*The timeline of Indonesia's VNR preparation process.*

Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs detailed a list of the primary challenges they encountered in developing the country's first VNR report. As it was their first VNR, identifying possibilities and eventually deciding on what to highlight in the condensed Main Messages report was a significant undertaking, but this should be easier in future efforts. Analyzing the interconnections between each of the goals they were reporting on also occupied a great deal of the task force's time and attention. And from a calendar perspective, the work was also bogged down by translation as most of the data had to be translated before being used in reporting efforts. Such delays are something that those whose data is not collected in English should be aware of when developing timelines.

Coordinating the work across different organizations, as well as with parties at national, regional, and local levels was another challenge that had to be met to complete a successful VNR. This included ensuring collaboration across ministries and other relevant institutions to deliver the necessary inputs within the respective timelines to meet the deadline. It also required significant consultation with the public to ensure the report properly represented the Indonesian people. Pulling together the data that existed, dealing with data gaps, and reconciling discrepancies between institutions was another significant accomplishment. All that work contributed to the inclusive, multi-stakeholder process through which the final VNR was prepared.

## Benefits & Lessons Learned

The leaders of Indonesia's VNR effort found that it the country in many ways. First, it fostered political support for implementation of the SDGs. It also gave insight into the progress that Indonesia has made and the challenges it faces, while giving an understanding of sectors that need attention and international cooperation. The effort also helped bring relevant stakeholders into the process. This strengthen the overall effort and helped foster ownership of all relevant stakeholders in SDGs implementation, follow up and



review. It also helped identify progress made and challenges faced, as well as sectors that require attention and international cooperation.

Given the country's dispersed nature, Indonesia found giving flexibility to its local authorities enabled them to become hothouses for innovation and experimentation. At the other end of the spectrum, they noted the need to utilize all the available forms of cooperation to enable successful VNRs and the 2030 Agenda. Aligning along common interests of developing countries can foster a fairer, more equitable, and mutually beneficial world order, while promoting economic diplomacy with the spirit of solidarity among those countries.

When asked if he had any advice for countries that had not yet completed a VNR, Hari Prabowo stated, *"We encourage countries that have yet to participate in the VNR to take part in the upcoming one. For Indonesia, completing the VNR has not only given us the opportunity to explore what we have achieved in SDGs, but also to explore more opportunities for partnership in their attainment."* Indonesia sees the VNR process as a great opportunity for peer learning and for enhancing cooperation and partnership to ensure achievement of the SDGs.

## Opportunities & Next Steps

Indonesia is currently finalizing its National Action Plan for SDG Implementation, as well as a series of Regional Action Plans for Implementation at sub-national levels. Data quality, capacity, and availability are perceived to be central to these efforts. The 4 Platforms group is continuing to work on SDG programs as it was not just setup for the VNR. The group was mandated by Presidential Decree to work to involve non-State actors in all phases of SDGs implementation, not just reporting.

Going forward, the National SDGs Implementation Team will continue to meet regularly. While their current focus is primarily on national implementation (including finalizing their action plans), the group is also discussing when it would be best for Indonesia to present its next VNR. As they continue to work on their national efforts, Indonesia's leaders are open to further opportunities for South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC), both in terms of being a provider and as a beneficiary in such collaboration.

## Sources & Verification

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Along with the listed sources, additional information was provided by the VNR reporting team.



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