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Agenda Item 4: Implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy for Sustainable Development (MSSD)

a) Promoting the MSSD in the Context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Peer Learning from Voluntary National Reviews

Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Questionnaire filled-in by Contracting Party-MCSD Members

Implementing the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Questionnaire filled-in by Contracting Party-MCSD Members

Key questions:

1. *One transformational thing done in terms of transposition, implementation and/or monitoring of the SDGs at the national level?*
2. *One challenge encountered for transposing, implementing or monitoring the SDGs, and possible solutions?*
3. *One lesson learned from the VNR experience at the HLPF?*

Country	VNR/HLPF and/or SIMPEER	Inputs from MCSD Member or his/her alternate	Synthesis
Albania (June 2019)	VNR (2018) SIMPEER 2018-2019	The National Strategy for Integration and Development 2015-2020 (NSDI II) is organized around the EU integration as the overarching goal; 13 cross-cutting foundations on good governance, democracy and rule of law; and four main sectoral pillars. A set of about 40 sectoral strategies, adopted by the government complement, this strategic policy framework. The NSDI II implementation is monitored through three sets of national monitoring indicators: (i) specific to EU integration; (ii) covering the 40 sectors, sub-sectors and major programs included in the NSDI-II; and (iii) macroeconomic indicators. The SDGs are integrated into NSDI II, including an annex which shows the linkages between the pillars and sub-themes with the SDGs. Through a UN Rapid Integrated Assessment tool, the level of integration of SDGs into NSDI II and the various sectoral strategies was conducted in 2016. It has shown that out of the 169 SDG targets, 58 targets are aligned with the national policy, 72 targets are partially aligned, 19 targets are not aligned, and 20 targets are not relevant for Albania. As a result, it is estimated that alignment of the SDG targets in the national policy in Albania is around 60%. The more recently adopted or revised national strategies include a better perspective from the SDG lens of the national priorities, a feature that under the guidance of the Director of Development and Good Governance (DDGG) would be especially prominent with the next strategic planning framework starting in 2020. To succeed in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the 2030 national vision, Albania will engage in the process of establishing a roadmap for the SDG implementation, which would help in identifying roles and responsibilities of key institutions and other stakeholders in the process. The SDG roadmap shall include financial implications and would ensure further mainstreaming of the SDG implementation with the national policies and strategies. The process of implementing the SDGs would require adequate resources and mechanisms to use data and national indicators for monitoring purposes. Strengthening statistical capacities at the national level is an important challenge in the process. Assigning institutional responsibilities for setting goals and targets aligned with national policies, monitoring and reporting progress in the SDG implementation process, supported by strengthened statistical capacities, are key to success. A broader framework of domestic indicators should complement the NSDI-II indicators framework in order to enable adequate monitoring capabilities of the SDGs	➢ **One transformation:** The National Strategy for Integration and Development 2015-2020 (NSDI II) is organized around the EU integration as the overarching goal; 13 cross-cutting foundations on good governance, democracy and rule of law; and four main sectoral pillars. To succeed in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the 2030 national vision, Albania launched the process of establishing a roadmap for the SDG implementation, which will help in identifying roles and responsibilities of key institutions and other stakeholders in the process. Under the innovative good governance approach, one of the priorities of the Government to achieve sustainable economic and social development, the focus is the transformation of services delivery in Albania through the citizen-centric approach. ➢ **One challenge:** The process of implementing the SDGs would require adequate resources and mechanisms to use data and national indicators for monitoring purposes. Strengthening statistical capacities

		implementation. Monitoring progress with the SDGs requires not only a well-coordinated institutional mechanism but also a robust monitoring system, equipped with all the necessary instruments and capable to assess performance toward meeting the SDG targets at both national and local levels. In order to fulfill the spirit of leaving no-one behind of the 2030 Agenda, the available information needs to be disaggregated by sex, age, ethnicity, and geographical location to the maximal extent possible. Under the innovative good governance approach, one of the priorities of the Government to achieve sustainable economic and social development, the focus is the transformation of services delivery in Albania through the citizen-centric approach. The overall framework for the modernization and transformation of institutions and practices of public administration in the country, with the vision of providing "high quality services for citizens and businesses in a transparent, effective, and efficient way through the use of modern technologies and innovative services', supports the achievement of Goal 16, particularly SDG Targets 16.5 and 16.6. The theme "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" of Albania's VNR in 2018 focused primarily in the set of goals and achievements around the key government priorities on sustainable development, as defined in the NSDI II, as well as on selected success experiences. These government priorities, as defined in the NSDI II 2016-2020, include: Innovative and citizen-centered public services (good governance); Recovery and financial consolidation of the energy sector (energy); Fostering innovation and competitiveness (Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) and domestic investments); Integrated water management; Integrated land management; Financial structural reform.	at the national level is an important challenge in the process. ➢ **Lessons learned:** Albania's positive experience with the SDGs, reveals that the key to success in the implementation process is the engagement, commitment of all the stakeholders at the national and local levels, comprising a broad and diverse spectrum of institutions and organizations from central government, local government units, business organizations, civil society, academia, development partners, UN agencies and other domestic and donor organizations active in the country. Albania's VNR 2018 has been disseminated to the public for consultation and has built on the feedback received from various institutions and organizations. To enhance the implementation of 2030 Agenda, all relevant institutions need to be fully committed in the process.
Algeria (Nov. 2019)	VNR (2019)	**Transposition, mise en œuvre et suivi des ODD :** Les ODD sont inscrits dans le Plan de Développement du Gouvernement (2017). Cet engagement est réitéré dans les différents Plans d'actions gouvernementaux. Ainsi, les Plans d'action adoptés par le Parlement en 2014 et 2017 renvoient au développement durable dans plusieurs de leurs axes. A travers ces plans, le Gouvernement affiche sa volonté de « *renforcer la politique environnementale du pays, dans le cadre d'une vision stratégique intégrée, devant aboutir à un développement durable alliant l'occupation appropriée du territoire national au déploiement équilibré des activités productives* ». Bien que ces Plans d'actions ne fassent pas directement référence au Programme 2030 et aux ODD, tant la sécurité alimentaire, la transition énergétique, que l'emploi des jeunes et des femmes par exemple sont explicitement présentés comme parties intégrantes des objectifs nationaux et figurent en bonne place dans l'agenda d'actions du Gouvernement. La stratégie la plus transversale qui couvre presque l'intégralité des ODD est la Stratégie Nationale pour l'Environnement et le Développement Durable (SNEDD 2019- 2035) et son Plan d'actions (PNAEDD 2019-2022) en cours d'adoption. La SNEDD exprime une vision nationale partagée et consensuelle pour le développement durable qui fédère dix-neuf stratégies, plans et programmes thématiques sectoriels récemment adoptés. La SNEDD est structurée en 7 axes stratégiques, 19 objectifs, 34 actions prioritaires et une centaine d'indicateurs de performance. Les sept axes portent sur l'amélioration de la santé et de la qualité de vie, la préservation du capital naturel et culturel, le développement de l'économie verte et circulaire, l'augmentation de	➢ **Evolution pour transposer, mettre en œuvre et suivre les ODD :** Mise en place des Groupes de Travail Thématique, Scientifique et Technique (GTST) auprès du Comité interministériel de coordination et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des ODD en vue de mobiliser des communautés scientifiques nationales autour du suivi et de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 à travers leur mise en réseau tout en adoptant une démarche partenariale et interdisciplinaire. ➢ **Défis rencontrés et solutions :** La mise en place, en 2016, d'un Comité interministériel de coordination sous l'égide du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE) et dans lequel sont présents les différents

		la résilience face à la désertification, l'amélioration de la résilience aux changements climatiques, la sécurité alimentaire et la gouvernance environnementale. La SNEDD pourrait servir de cadre de référence pour opérationnaliser un nombre important d'ODD. L'Office National des Statistiques, qui constitue l'institution centrale du Système National d'Information Statistique (SNIS), est chargé, entre autres, de produire et contextualiser les indicateurs de développement durable et coordonner à cet égard les travaux statistiques menés. La performance de ces institutions nationales dans la production des indicateurs du Programme universel de développement durable est évaluée par le niveau de couverture des indicateurs ODD selon divers critères et par comparaison internationale. Afin de consolider le SNIS dans sa dimension de développement durable, il a été décidé de mettre en place des Groupes de Travail Thématique, Scientifique et Technique (GTST) auprès du Comité interministériel de coordination et de suivi de la mise en œuvre des ODD en vue de mobiliser les communautés scientifiques nationales autour de la mise en œuvre et du suivi du Programme 2030 à travers leur mise en réseau, tout en adoptant une démarche partenariale et interdisciplinaire. A fin 2018, 71 indicateurs produits à partir de sources nationales sont disponibles, représentant 30% du total des 232 indicateurs d'atteinte des cibles de développement durable. **Défis rencontrés et solutions possibles** L'examen des indicateurs ODD a permis de mettre en évidence les défis que le système statistique national doit relever en termes de couverture des indicateurs ODD, de fréquence de publication, de désagrégation et de territorialisation. Consciente de l'importance d'un système statistique performant dans le processus de suivi-évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030, l'Algérie s'attèle à mettre en place un cadre national intégré d'indicateurs de suivi des ODD qui permette d'éclairer l'action publique pour la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030. Le SNIS se trouve ainsi face au double défi de : • renforcer la production statistique orientée vers les ODD, en termes de volume et de qualité. Dans cette perspective, l'Algérie s'est fixée comme objectif la couverture de la quasi-totalité des indicateurs de type Tiers 1 d'ici son prochain examen volontaire national ; • mettre en place une plateforme statistique nationale qui va constituer le guichet unique d'information statistique sur le développement durable. La production nationale de données se déploie autour de plusieurs axes complémentaires : • produire les données nécessaires à la couverture des indicateurs internationaux pour contribuer à la mise en place du cadre mondial d'indicateurs de suivi des ODD ; • élaborer des indicateurs nationaux ou « proxy » maîtrisés approchant au mieux les indicateurs internationaux lorsque ces derniers ne peuvent pas être couverts dans toutes leurs dimensions par les données existantes ou lorsque leur méthode de calcul est encore en cours d'élaboration ; • élaborer le cas échéant des indicateurs nationaux ou « complémentaires » qui complètent les indicateurs internationaux en étant davantage adaptés au contexte national et aux politiques et stratégies nationales de développement durable ;	ministères, institutions et organismes nationaux, concernés par les ODD avec pour prérogatives le suivi et l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Programme de développement durable à l'horizon 2030 et la préparation de l'Examen nationale volontaire a permis l'appropriation des ODD par les parties prenantes. ➢ **Leçons acquises :** Inscrit dans le cadre des activités de ce Comité, l'Examen national volontaire a été rendu possible grâce aux contributions des départements ministériels impliqués dans la réalisation des ODD. Il s'est nourri des consultations avec les élus et les organisations de la société civile et du secteur privé, notamment lors des ateliers de sensibilisation aux ODD organisés en partenariat avec le système des Nations Unies.

		• améliorer, dans chacun de ces cas, la fréquence de publication des indicateurs retenus ; • territorialiser et désagréger les indicateurs de développement durable afin de mieux rendre compte et de traiter les écarts de développement entre les groupes de population et entre les territoires, ce qui donne toute la pertinence à la stratégie de l'Algérie en matière de développement durable dont le principe cardinal est de ne laisser personne ni aucun territoire pour compte. Ce cadre national d'indicateurs se veut être nécessairement dynamique. Il s'adaptera ainsi à l'évolution des politiques nationales de développement durable ainsi qu'aux révisions du cadre mondial des indicateurs par les Nations Unies, notamment celle devant s'effectuer en 2025. **Retour d'expérience au FPHN :** Afin de s'approprier le Programme 2030 et d'apporter des réponses nationales fortes à la mesure des enjeux qu'il véhicule et des défis qu'il porte, l'Algérie a mis en place en 2016 un Comité interministériel de coordination sous l'égide du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE) et dans lequel sont présents les différents ministères, institutions et organismes nationaux, concernés par les ODD avec pour prérogatives le suivi et l'évaluation de la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030.	
Bosnia and Herzegovina (June 2019)	VNR (2019)	In addition to framing the Bosnia and Herzegovina's policy agenda in a sustainable development perspective, strategic planning processes are expected to be rolled out in the second half of 2019 at national and local levels. The VNR builds on the work of the Government and its national partners, in cooperation with the UN system. Synthesized analysis of Bosnia and Herzegovina's sustainable development challenges describes the country's post-conflict and EU accession contexts, including key development trends, opportunities and bottlenecks, and presents four sustainable development pathways that can focus development policies and programming, indicating how sustainable development may be achieved in the country: 1. good governance and public sector management, 2. smart growth, 3. investing in a new social contract, and 4. human capital for the 21st century. Progress may be monitored via 45 domesticated (i.e. adapted to Bosnia and Herzegovina conditions) SDG targets and 108 domesticated SDG indicators. In addition to identifying those global SDG indicators that are most relevant for Bosnia and Herzegovina, baseline (2015), intermediate (2023), and terminal (2030) values for these indicators are proposed. The national framework for transposing SDGs at the national level will also offer overview of SDG financing trends and issues in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including suggestions in this respect. A specific challenge is related to the complexity of the internal constitutional organization of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with many ministries, various institutions and levels of decision making, etc. Harmonization is a real challenge.	➢ **One transformation:** Identification of four sustainable development pathways: 1. good governance and public sector management, 2. smart growth, 3. investing in a new social contract, and 4. human capital for the 21st century ➢ **One challenge:** Harmonization due to the complexity of the institutional and administrative set-up ➢ **Lessons learned:** Strategic planning processes for framing the national policy agenda for sustainable development

Cyprus 	VNR (2017)	One transformation: Cyprus has appointed the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development as the competent authority responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and has initiated a mapping exercise of the current situation in Cyprus in terms of strategies/policies in line with the goals of the SDGs. In addition, Cyprus has set in motion the development of a national SDG strategy including a robust monitoring mechanism to strengthen the capacity of the Government and social partners to support the implementation of the SDGs. As the EU as a whole steps up efforts to mainstream the SDGs in its governance and strengthen the monitoring of the Goals, Cyprus remains committed to proactively mainstream the 2030 Agenda into national planning instruments, policies, strategies and financial frameworks. One challenge: There are many challenges in transposing, implementing and monitoring the SDGs since it involves almost the whole governmental structure and many other stakeholders. Until 2020, the competent authorities had to implement the SDGs (through indicators) and at the same time they had the responsibility to implement and report according to various EU directives, especially regarding the environmental acquis, which in many occasions the processes included the same information. This will be tackled with the mainstreaming of the SDGs and setting up of the governance structure in order to establish the mapping of the competent authorities involved, the information/reporting produced and the way the information monitors the implementation of SDGs. One lesson learned: Cyprus highly values the HLPF as the platform for reviewing and following-up the implementation of the SDGs through an interactive process of peer-learning and sharing of experiences and best practices as well as mutually beneficial cooperation. The 2017 VNR experience showcased that the SDGs go beyond a reporting exercise, to becoming a real policy and action agenda that will support the global vision of sustainable development. In this sense, Cyprus will seek to present at the 2021 HLPF the corrective measures that have been taken or are being launched to improve its performance towards the implementation of SDGs.	➢ **One transformation:** Cyprus has appointed the Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development as the competent authority responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. Cyprus has launched the development of a national SDG strategy including a robust monitoring mechanism. ➢ **One challenge:** There are many challenges in transposing, implementing and monitoring the SDGs since this process involves almost the whole governmental structure and many other stakeholders. ➢ **One lesson learned:** The VNR experience showcased that the SDGs go beyond a reporting exercise, to becoming a real policy and action agenda that will support the global vision of sustainable development.
Croatia (June 2019)	VNR (2019)	***Institutional set-up, national governance framework:*** • The National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD) was constituted by the Government of Croatia in order to coordinate and monitor the 2030 Agenda and SDGs implementation. The National Committee is chaired by the Prime Minister, and members of the Committee are Ministers. • The Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs is the national coordinator and administrative body of the NCSD, responsible for submission of the VNR. • The Ministry of Regional Development and EU Funds is the operative body that prepared the first VNR report. • VNR preparation involved ministries, business sector, and civil society organizations. • The Croatian Bureau of Statistics has launched a portal on SDGs and developed 30 indicators until now. ***How is the Agenda 2030 integrated in the national environmental policy?*** • The 2030 Agenda gives new wind of support for many policies like water management, waste management, marine and biodiversity protection, low carbon transition, and adaptation to climate change;	➢ **One transformation:** Relevant institutional set-up, with the creation of the National Committee for Sustainable Development, and strategic planning (National Development Strategy 2030) ➢ **One challenge:** Lack of integrated capacities to implement and monitor environmental SDGs ➢ **Lessons learned:** Awareness about the importance of multi-stakeholder cooperation and partnerships

		• The new overarching National Development Strategy 2030 has mapped national priorities against SDGs. ***What are the challenges in terms of SDGs transposition at national level?*** • Lack of capacities and competences to monitor the SDGs; • Lack of capacities and financial resources to implement complex, financially demanding environmental and climate policies and SDGs; • To convince sectors not only to reduce their pressure on the environment and climate but also to improve biodiversity and climate status. ***What are the solutions?*** • Closer collaboration with different stakeholders (academia, youth); • Recognize and award front runners in SDG implementation.	
Egypt (June 2019)	VNRs (2016, 2018)	***One transformational thing:*** Egypt established an institutional frame for transposition, implementation and monitoring the SDGs through: • Identification of responsible entities for collecting data, monitoring and evaluating the progress for achieving the SDGs; • Setting-up of a national committee for following-up the governmental plans and programs headed by the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development; • Establishing links between the national budget and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, providing financial resources needed; • Development of an environmental monitoring network to monitor and evaluate environmental indicators; • Providing capacity building for governmental bodies, NGOs and the private sector to ensure their participation in achieving SDGs. ***One challenge:*** The need to transfer expertise and technology for sustainable development policy coherence, promoting coordination and complementarities across sectors. ***One lesson learned:*** Coordination mechanism between all stakeholders can effectively accelerate the progress towards the implementation of sustainable development programs, plans, and policies. SIMPEER is an effective tool for experience sharing, providing technical support for monitoring and evaluating the national progress for achieving SDGs.	➢ **One transformation:** Establishment of a specific institutional framework. ➢ **One challenge:** Lake of technologies for achieving sustainable development. ➢ **Lessons learned:** Identification of coordination mechanisms for achieving the SDGs.

France (June 2019)	VNR (2016) SIMPEER (2016-2017)	France developed three generations of national strategies on sustainable development since 1997, based on a strong political commitment to the ecological transition, a real potential for green jobs and decoupling economic growth to energy use, and a robust institutional and legislative framework for governance on sustainable development. France considered SIMPEER as an opportunity to showcase how the 2030 Agenda and SDGs are implemented at the national level, following the success of the UNFCCC COP 21, with the adoption of the Paris Agreement, and as one of the European leaders for environmental research and eco-innovation for water, waste and climate change mitigation technologies. The National Strategy of Ecological Transition Towards Sustainable Development (SNTEDD) 2015-2020 was designed on a cross-cutting and long-term vision to meet the interdependent challenges of ecological transition and sustainable development. A robust and complex governance mechanism was established to facilitate the implementation of this strategy, including the coordination by the General Commission for Sustainable Development (CGDD) under the Ministry of the Environment, in cooperation with the National Council for Ecological Transition (CNTE) and the Senior Officials for Sustainable Development (HFDDs) that, in each ministry, are responsible for applying the National Strategy within their ministry. As far as the monitoring process is concerned, an Annual Report is prepared by the Environmental Observation and Statistics Department (SOeS) of the General Commission for Sustainable Development (Ministry of the Environment) supported by the National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE); the annual report is sent to the Parliament after the submission to the CNTE. The General Commission for Sustainable Development is in charge to coordinate a roadmap for implementing SDGs through an inclusive process mobilizing the civil society, private sector, decision-makers, scientists and citizens, to set the French Vision for 2030, and to elaborate actions plan for each SDG. France is finalizing its Vision for 2030: a booklet will be completed with an indicative roadmap for each SDG; these roadmaps include a diagnosis and strategic priorities, a priority action programme, identifying levers for action. The SDG 14 roadmap is in line with several MSSD Strategic Directions. For each of the SDG 14 Targets, actions and objectives that have been validated by the Inter-ministerial Committee on the Sea (CIMER), which is chaired by the Secretary General of the Sea (under Prime Minister). An annual follow-up of the roadmaps is planned.	➢ **One transformation:** Establishment of a complex governance mechanism, complemented by a robust monitoring system ➢ **Challenges:** • Promoting intersectoral approach for addressing the integrated nature of the SDGs (breaking silos); • Involving the private sectors in order to develop an approach of corporate social responsibility ➢ **Lessons learned:** • A very new experience involving all public and private actors; an intensive work to build a common and consensual 2030 Vision; but still a lot of efforts are needed to implement this vision in an operative and concrete program of actions. • The awareness of the links between all SDGs and the importance of the crosscutting approach to achieve the SDG Targets. • High necessity to communicate to all public, societal and private sectors about the impacts of inappropriate behaviors on several aspects.
Greece (June 2019)	VNR (2018)	The SDGs have offered to Greece a new transformative vision for responsive and accountable governance, for inclusive institutions and for growth founded on a sound environmental basis. Greece has linked the objectives of the 2030 Agenda with its national roadmap after the economic crisis, and, therefore, the SDGs are fully embedded in the country's revised Growth Strategy endorsed in May 2019. ***One transformational thing:*** The key transformational thing Greece did is related to the institutional mechanism set up to coordinate efforts for adapting and implementing the SDGs at national level. Even though the first NSSD of Greece was drafted back in 2002, the visibility that the SDGs received provided the opportunity, for the first time, to truly anchor	➢ **One transformation:** Relevant institutional mechanism set up to coordinate efforts for adapting and implementing the SDGs at national level

		sustainable development at the highest political level ensuring ownership. In this context, in preparing for the first VNR, Greece has endorsed: • firstly, *a whole of government approach*, with an active operational Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee, steered by the General Secretariat of the Government, which is a key centre of government entity, close both to the Parliament as well as to the administration, • and secondly, *a whole of society approach*, with a strong stakeholder involvement in the mapping and stock taking process for defining the national starting point and priorities for adapting the SDGs, enhancing transparency, partnership and accountability. This approach was evident also by the fact that Greece's VNR presentation at the 2018 HLPF was delivered not only by the Minister of Environment and Energy as the Government's representative, but also by the President of the Economic and Social Council of Greece, representing stakeholders, and by the Chair of the Environment Committee, an elected representative of the National Parliament. ***One challenge encountered:*** The first main challenge faced relates to the fact that all government units and agencies had to be motivated, coordinated and taken on board in defining the national priorities for transposing the SDGs and then for gathering data on the SDGs implementation. As the country has been facing an economic crisis with very urgent pressing priorities, such as high unemployment rates, particularly for youth, the problem of the "brain drain", social inequalities etc., it had been challenging to mobilize different administration units to endorse and commit to the SDGs as a priority and not as an "add on". It also took some effort to convince Ministries to adopt a more cross sectoral approach to use the SDGs for ensuring overall policy coherence for sustainable development. The fact that since December 2016, the General Secretariat of the Government has been assigned by law the task of monitoring and coordinating national efforts in implementing the SDGs, has been very helpful in mobilizing and coordinating all involved government units for a whole-of-government approach. ***One lesson learned from the experience at the HLPF:*** The VNR experience has been overall a very positive and beneficial one, especially for breaking the silos in the way line Ministries have been operating so far, in order to address cross-sectoral issues as well as in raising awareness and ownership of all involved stakeholders and of the society at large in implementing the SDGs. Since all SDGs are interconnected, the same interconnectedness should be required between national actors and Ministries. Another important point that goes beyond the national level, is that one of the key functions of the VNRs is their strong peer-learning element. Countries have to try to benefit as much as possible from other countries' experiences in preparing for their VNR but also in its follow up. Greece has benefitted a lot from interacting with past presenters when preparing for the country's first VNR and, to this end, several roundtables with partner countries have been organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2017 to receive advice and tips for the VNR presentation and for the elaboration of a National Implementation Plan for the SDGs.	➢ **One challenge:** Mobilizing various administration units to endorse and commit to the SDGs as a priority and not as an "add on" ➢ **Lessons learned:** The VNR experience, even though very intensive, has been overall a very positive and beneficial one, especially for breaking the silos in the way line Ministries have been operating so far, in order to address cross-sectoral issues as well as in raising awareness and ownership of all involved stakeholders and of the society at large in implementing the SDGs

		Specific challenges in implementing the SDGs and defining possible solutions: A big challenge has been the setting up of a monitoring mechanism for tracking progress in implementing the SDGs. A list of around 160 indicators (selected from the global SDGs indicator framework but adjusted to national priorities and circumstances and aligned with what Ministries could regularly measure) has just been endorsed for the quantitative monitoring of progress. These indicators are endorsed by all Ministries and by the National Statistical Authority. At the same time, a more active involvement of the National Parliament in the follow-up and review of progress from a more political point of view, has been pursued. Capitalizing on the VNR experience, Greece is now developing a 4-year National Implementation Plan for the SDGs consistent with the National Growth Strategy that will encompass quantitative and qualitative monitoring aspects. ***Main challenges faced in the preparation of the VNR report:*** • One big challenge are the strict deadlines in submitting the VNR highlights first, then the full report and then the visuals, so indeed starting the process as early as possible helps a lot. • It was difficult to coordinate all line Ministries for the actual drafting of the report, so having a center of government entity with a broader overview of political priorities but also with technical drafting capacities coordinating the whole endeavor is very helpful. • Greece tried to ensure the involvement of the widest possible array of stakeholders in the elaboration of our VNR report. • Finally, in drafting the VNR report, the UNSG Guidelines have been followed to the extent possible as they provide a good checklist for comparability and consistency between countries. It was also decided to include several practical successful examples of policy integration, linking more than one SDGs on cross-cutting issues, in the VNR report.	
Israel (July 2019)	VNR (2019)	The VNR preparation has been a demanding process but also an opportunity to accelerate the work towards a national mechanism for implementing the 2030 Agenda. An inter-ministerial committee was appointed by the Prime Minister and headed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Each Ministry contributed its own inputs to the relevant Goals, enabling them to take ownership and become familiar with the SDGs and the global experience, case studies and methodologies available. Each ministry shared programs and national targets to implementing the SDGs in Israel and depending on their status and familiarity with the SDGs were also able to identify gaps and opportunities for the near and long term. Governmental bodies who work closely with international bodies were more receptive to the SDGs. For example, through their active involvement in UN Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Construction launched a multi-stakeholder process on implementation of Goal 11, or the Ministry of Health, through its work with the World Health Organization, was familiar with Goal 3. This crucial ownership process has already progressed on all levels.	➢ **One transformation:** Inter-ministerial cooperation was central to the process. An inter-ministerial committee was set up by the Prime Minister and headed by the the Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Environmental Protection. Each line Ministry contributed its own portion of the VNR, which enabled them to take ownership and become familiar with the relevant SDGs and methodology. ➢ **One challenge:** One challenge has been to make progress in the development of a national mechanism for

		Major efforts were invested in compiling a comprehensive statistical annex, to complete the scoping and mapping and identify how Israel can measure its progress. A comprehensive report, comprising around 50% of the indicators collated by Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics can now serve as the basis for informed decision making on national priorities for 2030. Another important tool is Israel's Wellbeing Indicators which are measured annually and presented to the government, and will continue to support policy-making in achieving the SDGs. One of the most interesting outcomes of this first of its kind scoping and mapping process was the emergence of the connection between innovation and the *Leave No One Behind* concept as a central organizing theme across the government. As a society with a broad cultural, ethnic and religious mix and constrained by various challenges, such as resource scarcity, innovation has played a crucial role in enabling Israel's unique development experience. Israel considers innovation, from technological to social innovation, as a potent channel for the implementation of SDGs both at national and global levels and for ensuring no one is left behind. Similarly to other countries, facing the challenge of preparing the first VNR, meant that the main focus was on a government activity and as a result, the government run process of stakeholder consultation was incorporated into the work of the inter-ministerial committee and not as a separate process. Stakeholders from all sectors participated in the inter-ministerial meetings. Moreover, a broad coalition of civil society bodies was set up, including dozens of mainly social and environmental organizations which have organized consultations and provided a report on future cooperation with the government. A more intensive joint government and stakeholder process will be carried out during the coming phases of implementing the 2030 Agenda. The biggest challenge has been to make progress in parallel to the development of a national mechanism for the implementation of the SDGs. After providing the initial update to the MCSD on the SDG implementation, government decision 4631 was passed on the 14th of July 2019, requiring incorporation of relevant SDGs into the Strategic Priorities, prepared by the Prime Minister's Office and adopted by each incoming government. Annual reporting on implementation of this decision is required. The Barcelona Convention was mentioned a number of times in the Israel VNR, especially in Chapter 14, Oceans, and particularly in the contexts of EcAp, IMAP, monitoring program, and Marine Litter and its role in informing domestic policy.	the implementation of the SDGs. On July 14, 2019, a government decision was approved, requiring incorporation of relevant SDGs into the Strategic Priorities, prepared by the Prime Minister's Office and adopted by each incoming government. Annual reporting on implementation of this decision is required. This decision creates synergy between the SDGs and the government's strategic priorities. ➢ **Lessons learned:** The importance of building on initiatives recognized as being of strategic priority and demonstrating the added value of SDGs. Identifying these linkages in a clear and concise manner as in our Main Message: *Harnessing Innovation to Leave No One Behind* which identifies Israel's relative advantage and main driver for achieving the SDGs.

Italy (Sept. 2020)	VNR (2017)	***One transformational thing:*** Pursuing the SDGs, as spelled out in the 2030 Agenda, represents one of the key priorities of the Italian Parliament and Government. Italy has implemented several initiatives to advance on the 2030 Agenda in terms of transposition, implementation and monitoring SDGs at national level. The National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), adopted by the Council of Ministers and officially approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming (CIPE) in 2017, is the overarching strategic framework to guide the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Italy and the national reference framework for planning and programming policies and for environmental assessments (SEA, EIA). Policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD) is one of the guiding principles and tools. To better reflect the universal and integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda, the drafting of the NSDS was a collective effort, coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Environment Land and Sea (IMELS) in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and all line Ministries, including other national authorities, civil society representatives and relevant stakeholders. The NSDS timeframe is set at 2030, while IMELS provides to CIPE a yearly review. The Strategy is periodically updated, every three years. The NSDS is an update of the former Environmental Action Strategy for Sustainable Development (2002-2010) broadened to integrate the economic and social dimension and guide action towards the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda vision. It is structured on the five dimensions of the 2030 Agenda: "People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership" and it identifies "sustainability vectors" as key crosscutting areas that are essential to guide, manage and monitor the integration of the SDGs into national policies, plans and projects. These vectors include: (i) Common knowledge (ii) Monitoring and evaluating policies, plans and projects; (iii) Institutions, participation and partnerships; (iv) Education, awareness and communication; (v) Modernizing public administration and restructuring public expenditure. The NSDS covers both the domestic dimension and the principles and purposes of international cooperation, in line with the Italian three-year Programming Document for International Cooperation. The NSDS builds on a multi-level dimension promoting both vertical and horizontal coordination. In order to decline the strategic objectives at local level, the NSDS calls on Italian regions to develop regional sustainable development strategies and define local actions and objectives to fulfill the national commitments. IMELS supports regions and local authorities in this endeavor through financial contributions and technical assistance in the design and evaluation of regional and metropolitan strategies for the implementation of 2030 Agenda and NSDS objectives at the territorial level. Following the adoption of the Strategy, Italy established several cutting-edge institutional mechanisms to coordinate the implementation, incl. the *Cabina di Regia Benessere Italia* and the National Commission for Sustainable Development within the Presidency of the Council of Ministries. A permanent parliamentary committee for the implementation of 2030 Agenda has been set up in 2018, while IMELS has established a dialogue platform between institutions and civil society, i.e. the National Forum for Sustainable Development.	➢ **One transformation:** In Italy, the NSSD was adopted by the Council of Ministers and officially approved by the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming; the drafting of the NSSD was a collective effort, coordinated by the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea (IMELS) in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and all line Ministries, including other national authorities, civil society representatives and relevant stakeholders. ➢ **One challenge:** Italy reported that one of the main areas for improvement is in the field of policy coherence and effectiveness to be strengthened at all levels. Italy has requested assistance to the European Commission and the OECD through the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme, supporting the development of an action plan for policy coherence for sustainable development. The outcomes will feed into the revision of the NSSD and will help equip policymakers and key stakeholders with the necessary institutional mechanisms and policy tools to enhance sustainable development. ➢ **One lesson learned:** Italy presented its first VNR in 2017, focusing mostly on the multi-stakeholder process that led to the adoption of the NSDS. The VNR was presented by a trio composed by IMELS, MFA and a representative of civil society to better reflect all actors involved in the drafting of the NSSD and its subsequent implementation. The process leading to the presentation of the VNR has been one of the most important

		Italy also already took some important steps towards policy coherence for sustainable development in particular with the recent approval of the reform that transformed the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming (CIPE) into the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Programming for Sustainable Development (as of 1st January 2021), to foster the mandate to coordinate policies towards 2030 Agenda objectives. The revision of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development will commence in 2020, through an open-ended participatory process involving all levels of government (local and central), main stakeholders and with the support of the academic and research sector. ***One challenge for transposing, implementing or monitoring SDGs:*** Italy has focused significant efforts on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda both internally and abroad. According to the European Commission, over the past 5 years, progress has been relevant in most of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly in the field of good health and well-being (SDG3), affordable and clean energy (SDG7), responsible consumption and production (SDG12) and peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16). On the contrary, in the area of poverty reduction, inequality and life on land (SDGs 1, 10, and 15) there is a mixed picture, with some indexes worsening in the short run. Overall, Italy performs below the EU average in most of the indexes related to quality of education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), economic growth (SDG8) while it performs better than average on clean water and sanitation (SDG6), sustainable cities (SDG11) and responsible consumption (SDG12). Since February 2020, the health crisis caused by the eruption of the Covid-19 pandemic has left Italy, Europe and the world with unprecedented economic and social challenges. In this context, the 2030 Agenda provides vision and a solid roadmap towards recovery which requires further efforts at national and regional level as many challenges still lay ahead to better reflect the integrated, indivisible and universal nature of the 2030 Agenda. One of the main areas for improvement is in the field of policy coherence and policy effectiveness which needs to be strengthened at all levels. To do so, Italy has requested assistance in the field of policy coherence for sustainable development to the EC and the OECD through the establishment of the Structural Reform Support Programme. The Programme, by screening Italian recovery policies and institutional framework against their capacity to progress steadily towards sustainable development, aims at supporting the development of an action plan for policy coherence for sustainable development. The outcomes of which will feed into the revision of the Italian NSDS which is due in 2021 and will help equip Italian policymakers and key stakeholders with the necessary institutional mechanisms and policy tools to enhance sustainable development. <u>About monitoring the SDGs at national level</u>: According to the Decree that adopted the National Strategy for Sustainable Development, the Ministry for the Environment is mandated on a yearly basis to report on the state of play and actions undertaken to implement the strategy. The report is submitted to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, in particular the Department for Economic Planning and Coordination, and transmitted to other relevant national authorities. In addition, in March 2018, the Ministry for the Environment set up a working group with the objective of selecting a number of indicators to monitor and measure the implementation of the NSSD within the broader framework of the SDG indicators used by the National	takeaways of this exercise. Peer to peer learning sessions among VNR candidates, multi-stakeholder dialogues and inter-ministerial coordination have been all valuable experiences. The VNRs have proven to be an added value in terms of follow up and review at international level, showing the commitment of many high-level government representatives to the 2030 Agenda.

		Statistics Institute. The group, composed by representatives from the Ministries of Environment, Foreign Affairs, Economy and Finance and by members of the National Statistics Institute and the Agency for Environmental Protection, have issued a report, submitted to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, describing the reference framework, the methodology used to select the indicators and the final set of selected indicators. Finally, the Ministry for the Environment is supporting regional and local authorities to decline at territorial level the strategic objectives contained in the NSSD. In this endeavour, specific focus is given also to ensure consistency and coherence with the national framework in the selection of indicators. ***One lesson learned from the HLPF's experience:*** Italy presented its first VNR in 2017, focusing mostly on the multi-stakeholder process that led to the adoption of the NSDS. The VNR was presented by a trio composed by IMELS, MFA and a representative of civil society to better reflect all actors involved in the drafting of the NSDS and its subsequent implementation. The process leading to the presentation of the VNR has been one of the most important takeaways of this exercise. Peer to peer learning sessions among VNR candidates, multi-stakeholder dialogues and inter-ministerial coordination have been all valuable experiences on which we have built upon in the following years. The VNRs have proven to be an added value in terms of follow up and review at international level, showing the commitment of many high-level government representatives to the 2030 Agenda. Italy strongly supports the VNR process and believes in the added value of the HLPF as an essential tool to ensure an effective follow-up and review process for the 2030 Agenda. Italy will be called again to present the VNR in 2021 and will be looking forward to describing fulfillments since 2017 as well as future perspectives for the coming four years (2021-2025).	
Lebanon (June 2019)	VNR (2018)	Lebanon is an upper middle-income country with a democratic political system. Its liberal economy largely relies on services, and its society is characterized by cultural diversity and openness. After a new President was elected in October 2016 and a national conciliation government was formed in December 2016, the government's engagement towards 2030 Agenda has accelerated. Lebanon presented its VNR at the HLPF on 18 July 2018. ***Transformational actions:*** • Formed in 2017, the National Committee for SD is chaired by Prime Minister and includes two DGs and four representatives from civil society and private sector. It coordinates national efforts to integrate SDGs in strategies and was in charge of the VNR preparation. • Sub-committees (thematic groups) have been established along the pillars of the 2030 Agenda, with Partnership mainstreamed, and a dedicated statistical taskforce set up. • A Parliamentary Committee reviews progress of SDGs implementation and is in charge of mapping the existing legislation vs. SDGs. A legislative institutional mechanism was established to follow-up and advance progress towards the SDGs in Lebanon.	➢ **One transformation:** Establishment of a National Committee for coordinating national efforts to integrate SDGs in sectoral strategies, plus sub-committees (thematic groups) and a Parliamentary Committee for monitoring progress and mapping existing legislation, accelerating engagement towards the 2030 Agenda ➢ **One challenge:** Engaging public institutions in an inclusive, transparent, and enforcement culture ➢ **Lessons learned:** The VNR experience has been very important specially by raising the entire Lebanese

		• Three workshops were conducted with government officials, private sector and CSO's representatives to raise awareness of the SDGs. CSOs held regional consultations and a national website for SDGs was created and populated. Lebanon achieved at least seven MDG targets, mainly in health, primary education and gender equality in education. The remaining targets showed mixed results, were not applicable or were not expected to be achieved on time—the most salient of which relate to poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. The socio-economic situation has been exacerbated by the impact of the crisis in Syria: while Lebanon has shown exceptional solidarity, this has come at a high cost, compounded pre-existing development challenges and stretched Lebanon beyond its limits. ***Progress towards 'People' SDGs*** • **Poverty rates:** Already high before the Syrian crisis, the poverty rates have worsened. The communities that host the displaced Syrians lack the resources and capacity to address the increased demand for public and social services. This has not halted the government's efforts to create a better environment for all, including through national programs that enhance social assistance for the most vulnerable citizens. The government also continues to offer numerous types of social services, such as health, education, universal subsidies for electricity, bread, tobacco farmers, interest subsidies for housing and other productive sectors. The government also provides various social protection schemes to its own employees and the formal private sector through the national social security funds (NSSF). • **The quality and coverage of health services:** Targets related to maternity and children under five years of age score well and reproductive health services are accessible to nearly all Lebanese. The government's strategy 'Health 2025' will provide universal health coverage. SDG targets have been integrated in the plans and strategies of the Ministry of Public Health. • **Education sector:** Lebanese citizens, especially male and female youth, have very high literacy rates, and a 90% enrolment rate has been achieved in primary education—mainly because primary school education is compulsory and free in public schools. • **Gender:** For the first time in Lebanon's history a Minister for Women's Affairs has been appointed. Women's participation in political and economic spheres is slowly improving. ***Progress on "Planet"*** • **Environment:** The government is striving for better environmental conditions for the citizens. Lebanon has shown its commitment towards international environmental conventions and set out its agenda on natural resource management and protection. Land management, water and air pollution, and solid waste management remain the main impediments to environmental sustainability. Lebanon has an environment protection law, a national biodiversity action plan, and an action plan for SCP for the industrial sector. • **Climate change:** Following its signature of the Paris Agreement, Lebanon seeks to have dedicated legislation to address climate change. Several policies and pieces of legislation contribute towards its climate change commitments such as those on energy efficiency, renewable energy, and air pollution.	society knowledge about the importance of SDG and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

		• **Water:** The Capital Investment Programme includes projects to increase water supply, improve existing systems, and provide additional surface water sources. The water sector strategy intends to increase coverage of the wastewater collection network and treatment capacity. • **Energy:** The country is slowly moving towards increasing reliance on renewable sources, and has recently started planning for offshore petroleum resource exploration. ***Progress on "Prosperity"*** Complementing its efforts to create employment opportunities, the government is working on a labour strategy to improve the protection of workers, especially in the informal sector. A strategic plan to expand the domestic market and increase industrial exports is also operational. Facing rapid urban expansion, the National Physical Master Plan of the Lebanese Territory remains the country's overarching framework for urban development. Work is also underway on traffic and congestion through a large public transport project in Beirut and its suburbs. ***Progress on "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions"*** The government is fully aware that none of the SDGs can advance without "peace, justice, and strong institutions". To that end, a new parliamentary elections' law that ensures a wider representation based on proportionality was ratified in 2017. The law to fight against money laundering and the financing of terrorism coupled with the legislation on tax transparency and access to information were ratified. The law to criminalize torture was also ratified, as well as that on establishing a National Human Rights' Institute. Improving government statistics will constitute a cross cutting reform to facilitate mapping of SDGs and their targets, and will ultimately serve to improve policy-making. Lebanon's sector strategies and plans incorporate some of the SDGs. The creation of the national committee and process of writing the VNR have further focused ministries' attention on the importance of integrating SDGs and 2030 Agenda principles into their planning. A few ministries, such as Public health and Industry, have already made headway along these lines. ***Challenges and recommendations*** Lebanon's past performance towards the MDGs was mixed. While notable progress was made in education and health, and the country had a relatively good record on gender equality, important development challenges remain, including poverty reduction and environmental sustainability. • **Challenges encountered in preparing the VNR:** Short timeframe (less than one year); Limited knowledge of SDGs and 2030 Agenda by stakeholders; Difficulty in the consolidation of inputs by large number of stakeholders. • **National key challenges:** corruption and lack of transparency and good governance in public institutions, lack of law enforcement, outdated legislation, centralization, lack of access to data, impacts of the Syrian crisis, absence of comprehensive social protection strategy.	

		• **Key recommendations:** ➢ Address corruption and enhance transparency and accountability within public institutions and moving forward towards an e-government that supports this endeavor along with access to information; ➢ All SDGs related strategies, programs and projects need to be context-based on local and national priorities and needs; ➢ Raise awareness on good citizenship is essential to ensure active engagement and local ownership of the SDGs; ➢ Protect the environment especially in relation to waste and waste water remains essential to safeguard Lebanon's natural resources and ensure basic rights to a healthy living. Further support farmers through sustainable agriculture is a necessity; ➢ Support most vulnerable segments through the development and implementation of a comprehensive social protection strategy and plan; ➢ Address unemployment, especially among the youth and in rural areas affected by the impacts of the Syrian crisis; ➢ Upgrade the educational system and infrastructure; ➢ Enhance the capacities of decision-makers, including Ministers, Parliamentarians and Mayors, on the SDGs so that they can integrate them in development planning; ➢ Actively engage CSO's throughout the development and implementation of the SDGs; ➢ Update legislations and policies and ensure law enforcement; ➢ Proceed with decentralization reforms at the local level, especially at the municipal level to support implementing the SDGs.	
Libya	VNR (2020)	TO BE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED
Malta (June 2020)	VNR (2018)	**One transformational thing: Integrating the SDGs into the National Budget Process** The commitment of Malta to align its budget measures with SDGs was announced by the Prime Minister in September 2019, whereby the Maltese Government expressed its commitment to ensure that, as of Budget 2020, the measures therein will be aligned to SDGs. The aims behind the SDG alignment which will be conducted annually are to: • Strengthen and consolidate the planning process by Ministries through the integration of the SDGs in the planning phases of a policy, programme, project or initiative; and	➢ **One transformation:** The commitment of Malta to align its budget measures with SDGs was announced by the Prime Minister in September 2019, whereby the Maltese Government expressed its commitment to ensure that, as of Budget 2020, the measures therein will be aligned to SDGs.

		• Establish milestones in Action Plans, through which Ministries will be expected to contribute towards mainstreaming sustainable development practices whilst also addressing SDGs Indicators. **One challenge:** Malta's experience with SDG implementation shows that the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs results in coordination challenges at every level of the decision-making process often leading to divergences arising from different sectoral interests. It therefore requires the strengthening of existing mechanisms and establish clear mandates for vertical coordination (between national, local and regional levels) and horizontal coordination (between Ministries, Entities and Departments). Establishing SDG implementation platforms composed of key stakeholders including civil society is essential in managing cross-sectoral coordination and overcoming difficulties and increasing accountability. In order to tackle this, the Maltese Government has established a coordination mechanism underpinned by the Sustainable Development Act. The purpose of this Act is to create a framework through which sustainable development is mainstreamed across all workings of Government. Bodies, such as the Guardian of Future Generations and the Sustainable Development Network, also aim at fostering exchange of views and national dialogue as well as overseeing the implementation of sustainable development in Malta. **One lesson learned from the HLPF's experience:** The main lesson which was acquired from this exercise was that the mainstreaming of sustainable development has to undertake the three pillars together. This means that the workings have to be cross referenced with more than one SDG and also across several ministries. This paves the pathway for more policy coherence and accountability.	➢ **One challenge:** Malta's experience with SDG implementation shows that the cross-cutting nature of the SDGs results in coordination challenges at every level of the decision-making process often leading to divergences arising from different sectoral interests. It therefore requires the strengthening of existing mechanisms and establish clear mandates for vertical coordination (between national, local and regional levels) and horizontal coordination (between Ministries, Entities and Departments). ➢ **One lesson learned:** The main lesson which was acquired from this exercise was that the mainstreaming of sustainable development has to undertake the three pillars together. This means that the workings have to be cross referenced with more than one SDG and also across several ministries. This paves the pathway for more policy coherence and accountability.
Monaco 	VNR (2017, 2020)	TO BE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED
Montenegro (July 2019)	VNR (2016) SIMPEER (2016-2017)	**Institutional and strategy framework for Sustainable Development in Montenegro** • National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and ICZM (4 WGs) • Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism – Division for Mediterranean Affairs • National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Montenegro 2007-2012; National Strategy for Sustainable Development until 2030 **National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) until 2030** • Adopted on 7 July 2016 by the Government of Montenegro, as the result of a 4-year multi-stakeholder dialogue process initiated after the Rio+20 Conference (2012) • Led by the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism under the supervision of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and ICZM	➢ **One transformation:** Beyond the key role of the National Council for Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Integrated Coastal Zone Management that supervises the implementation of the NSSD until 2030, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism implemented the project "*Establishing an integrated system for reporting on the progress in the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development*" in 2017-2018.

		• Based on the assessment of implementation of the 2007-2012 NSSD and in the context of Montenegrin contribution to global debate on the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda • Uses positive experiences from global, European and Mediterranean • Transposes the 17 SDGs, 167 out of 169 targets and list of 241 (232) indicators identified by UNSD for global monitoring of sustainable development **Montenegro participated in the SIMPEER pilot edition (2016-2017)**, which provided recommendations related to: Leadership and ownership, Governance and stakeholder participation, Resources and means of implementation. **From July 2017 to July 2018, the Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism implemented the project "*Establishing an integrated system for reporting on the progress in the implementation of the National Strategy for Sustainable Development*":** • IRIS (Indicator Reporting Information System) system installed on the server and programmed for 33 priority indicators • A new application has been created to upload data to the IRIS system, which can also be used for fast data sharing and monitoring over the reporting process • A translated manual for the use of IRIS; a manual for using the Indicator Upload System and reporting on 33 priority indicators; and a bilingual footage of trainings conducted by UNEP on the use of IRIS • Recommendations: platform is quite complicated for use (possible only with continuous IT support); Instead of accelerating and facilitating the process of reporting, the current version of IRIS makes the process unnecessarily complicated; it is recommended to start building a "national" application **Next steps – Priorities** • Further strengthening of institutions in charge for NSSD implementation • Establish the system of sustainable financing for the implementation of the NSSD • Further strengthening of monitoring system related to the NSSD implementation • Harmonization of sectoral strategies in order to ensure that they are in line with NSSD • Further strengthening of partnerships for successful implementation of NSSD.	➢ **One challenge:** Establish the system of sustainable financing for the implementation and monitoring of the NSSD until 2030 ➢ **Lessons learned:** Having in mind obligations towards future generations and experiences of key international actors on sustainability, it is necessary in the period until 2030 to establish four-dimensional sustainable development concept of the use of national human, social, natural and economic resources. VNR process has shown full integration of the 2030 Agenda into the national context in Montenegro and importance of securing implementation of the ambitious NSSD until 2030, with special focus on prioritized next steps, in first line financing for sustainable development, governance for sustainable development and monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the NSSD.
Morocco (July 2019)	VNR (2016, 2020) SIMPEER (2016-2017)	**Transposition, mise en œuvre et suivi des ODD :** La nouvelle Constitution de 2011 a consacré le développement durable en tant que droit pour tous les citoyens du Maroc. La Charte Nationale de l'Environnement et du Développement Durable élaborée en 2010 a été formalisée dans une Loi Cadre adoptée par le Parlement en février 2014. Conformément à ses dispositions, une Stratégie Nationale de Développement Durable (SNDD) a été élaborée à travers une large concertation avec l'ensemble des parties prenantes : le secteur public, les opérateurs privés et la société civile.	➢ **Transformation:** • NSSD until 2030 adopted in 2016 for a green and inclusive economy and as a tool for reference and convergence of public policies towards sustainable development; • Creation in 2018 of the Strategic Committee for SD (government) and the Steering Committee for follow-up and support

		Conformément aux dispositions de la Loi Cadre N° 99-12, la SNDD a été élaborée, entérinée par le Conseil National de l'Environnement (CNE) en juillet 2016, présentée au Conseil du Gouvernement le 1er juin 2017 et au Conseil des Ministres sous la présidence de S. M. le Roi Mohammed VI le 25 juin 2017. La SNDD vise à concrétiser une vision d'une économie verte et inclusive au Maroc d'ici 2030. Sept enjeux majeurs ont été identifiés comme piliers de la SNDD 2030 et ont été déclinés en 31 axes stratégiques et 137 objectifs avec des indicateurs précis, ce qui fait d'elle un outil de référence et de convergence des politiques publiques visant le développement durable. Un cadre de gouvernance de la SNDD a été mis en place par le Décret N° 655.17.2 portant création du Comité Stratégique du Développement Durable dont la publication a été faite au BO N° 6660, en date du 29 mars 2018. Ce décret a permis l'institution de deux comités : (i) le Comité Stratégique du Développement Durable, constitué des Ministres et présidé par le Chef du Gouvernement et ayant un rôle politique et d'orientation stratégique ; (ii) le Comité de pilotage ayant pour mission le suivi et l'accompagnement de la mise en œuvre de la SNDD sur le terrain, et qui est constitué par les Secrétaires Généraux des différents départements ministériels et présidé par le Secrétariat d'Etat chargé du Développement Durable. Ce cadre de gouvernance a été élargi à travers l'adoption d'un projet de décret (publication au bulletin officiel en cours) qui a permis la mise en place, en plus des deux comités susmentionnés, d'un comité national présidé par le Chef du Gouvernement et dédié au suivi des ODD. **Défis rencontrés et solutions possibles :** Un défi majeur a été de savoir dans quelle mesure la mise en œuvre de la SNDD permettrait de concrétiser les ODD. Pour répondre à ce défi, une étude a été lancée dont les principaux résultats sont les suivants : Sur les 64 cibles ODD liées aux moyens et sur les 105 cibles de résultats, 45 et 99 cibles sont considérées comme pertinentes pour le Maroc ; Ainsi, les cibles prioritaires pour le Maroc sont au nombre de 144 dont 99 cibles de résultats et 45 cibles de moyens ; Sur les 144 cibles retenues pour le Maroc, 103 sont prises en charge par la SNDD 2030. Pour relever le défi et concrétiser les cibles des ODD, une évaluation de la SNDD sera réalisée en 2021 pour réorienter le plan d'actions de ladite stratégie et élaborer un nouveau programme pour accélérer l'atteinte des ODD d'ici 2030. **Retour d'expérience au FPHN :** L'élaboration de l'examen volontaire national (VNR) s'est faite dans le cadre d'un processus de consultation avec toutes les parties prenantes. Ces consultations ont permis la vulgarisation et l'appropriation des ODD au Maroc. La participation du Maroc au FPHN chaque année contribue également à consolider et renforcer la mise en œuvre des ODD aussi bien au niveau national qu'au niveau régional/local. En effet, le FPHN est perçu aujourd'hui comme une plateforme d'échange d'expériences et de bonnes pratiques que les pays doivent mettre à profit pour aller de l'avant dans la mise en œuvre du Programme 2030 et ses 17 ODD.	in the field (SG of ministries); National SDG Monitoring Committee (ongoing). ➢ **Challenges and solutions:** • Possible gap NSSD vs. SDGs. A study has shown that, out of the 144 SDG Targets selected for Morocco, 103 are taken into account by the NSSD. An assessment of the NSSD will be carried out in 2021 to update the action plan towards SDGs achievement. ➢ **Lessons learned:** • Consultations to prepare the VNR enabled stakeholder ownership of the SDGs. • Morocco's participation in the HLPF contributed to consolidating and strengthening the implementation of the SDGs through the exchange of experiences.

Slovenia	VNR (2017, 2020)	TO BE COMPLETED	TO BE COMPLETED
Spain	VNR (2018)	Since 2018, Spain has promoted the transposition of the SDGs at domestic level through different policy instruments. The former High Commissioner for 2030 Agenda fast-tracked the creation of a governance framework to promote the SDGs across key sectors, different levels of Government and relevant actors. An Action Plan for the Implementation of SDGs was also drafted with involvement of all stakeholders, which provided a master reference for the definition and pursuit of our SDGs triggers and transformational policies. This institutional setting, combining a specific Government institution in charge of adoption and monitoring of SDGs with the mainstreaming of SDGs within key policies (at national, sectoral and sub-national level) has proved paramount to adopting the SDGs as a roadmap to our development path and paving the way to their implementation. Currently, a similar scheme prevails, with the Secretary of State for 2030 Agenda (under a Vice-presidency) overseeing the implementation SDG-oriented policies at national and sub-national level. Similarly, a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) is under preparation, with involvement of all relevant actors across Government (line-ministries and sub-national governments) and engagement of non-state actors as well. A long-term vision and cross-cutting approach (beyond silos) has been naturally adopted by all stakeholders. Implementation of SDGs are now mainstreamed into key policies, transcending the environmental approach to sustainability. The adoption of this cross-cutting approach for the promotion of SDGs within our institutional and policy frameworks was a major shift and has greatly facilitated a swift and smooth transposition of 2030 Agenda into Spain's post-Covid recovery reforms and investments plans. **Challenges and possible solutions** Rather than in the transposition of the SDGs framework into domestic policies, the main challenges ahead lay in implementation and monitoring of SDGs. Spain has a decentralized Government model, where a large share of policies relevant to SDGs progress are to be implemented at sub-national level. This can mean different strategies, different timeframes and different approaches to pursue common goals. Alignment of implementation targets and coherence in policy approaches to gradually achieve the long-term goals the 2030 Agenda can prove challenging. Facilitating a constant participation process of all relevant stakeholders in the definition and monitoring of those common goals and nurturing an open and accessible governance scheme for the pursuit of 2030 Agenda is an important part of the way forward. As is an ambitious awareness raising plan across the society and the engagement of younger generations in the pursuit of the SDGs, as a guarantee that the long-term priorities are kept at the fore front of policy implementation plans.	➢ **One transformation:** Currently the Secretary of State for Agenda 2030 (under a Vice-presidency) oversees the implementation SDG-oriented policies at national and sub-national level. Similarly, a National Strategy for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) is under preparation. ➢ **One challenge:** The main challenges ahead lay in implementation and monitoring of SDGs. This can mean different strategies, different time-frames and different approaches to pursue common goals. Alignment of implementation targets and coherence in policy approaches to gradually achieve the long-term goals the 2030 Agenda can prove challenging. ➢ **One lesson learned:** The need for harmonization of national indicators' frameworks and the international system for monitoring and evaluation of SGDs. This is an on-going process and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (under development) will address these challenges with a new Framework of Indicators.

		Lessons learned The need for harmonization of national indicators' frameworks and the international system for monitoring and evaluation of SDGs was a key lesson from Spain's 2018 VNR exercise. This is an on-going process, led by the National Institute for Statistics with support from the Secretary of State for 2030Agenda, and needing active engagement from line-ministries and different levels of Government. Just like for SDGs-oriented policy design, implementation schemes and budgeting tagging, there is a need to mainstream 2030 Agenda into Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks. This involves some flexibility to adapt to country-context specificities within the 2030 Agenda reporting schemes (framework of indicators, targets to track progress, etc.), as well as a review of the national set of indicators to monitor development (social, economic, environmental, behavioral change) to accommodate the SDGs monitoring framework. This is an ongoing process and the National Strategy for Sustainable Development (under development) will address these challenges with a new Framework of Indicators.	
Syrian Arab Republic (July 2020)	VNR (2020)	**1. One transformational thing:** The Syrian Arab Republic prepared the first national report for sustainable development, which presents the current situation of the SDGs at all dimensions, and identifies options for suggested policies, procedures and plans to reach the desired level which contributes to achieve the SDGs at the national level. The report was prepared in cooperation with various government agencies, private sector and civil society. **2. One challenge:** - The crisis which happened in Syrian Arab Republic has led to decrease in the levels of progress in basic infrastructures, health services, education, improving the living conditions of citizens, rural development, and strengthening the role of women in all sectors; - The national efforts to achieve development also faced a major challenge represented by the imposition of some countries and regional entities of unilateral coercive economic measures against the Syrian Arab Republic since 2011 and up to date illegally and contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, and its decisions, as these measures inflicted tremendous losses on the Syrian economy, the capabilities of the Syrian state, civil society and the private sector; - Due to crises, we could not extract statistic data in the last years to build a database for calculating SDGs indicators. **3. One lesson learned:** - A positive experience in preparing the first national report for sustainable development, revealing that the key to success in the implementation process is the engagement, commitment of all the stakeholders at the national and local levels, comprising the private sector, institutions, organizations, civil society, academia, development partners, and various government agencies - Raising the Syrian society knowledge about the importance of SDGs and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;	➢ **One transformation:** The Syrian Arab Republic prepared the first national report for sustainable development, which presents the current situation of the SDGs at all dimensions, and identifies options for suggested policies, procedures and plans to reach the desired level which contributes to achieve the SDGs at the national level. ➢ **One challenge:** The crisis which happened in Syrian Arab Republic has led to decrease in the levels of progress in basic infrastructures, health services, education, improving the living conditions of citizens, rural development, and strengthening the role of women in all sectors. ➢ **One lesson learned:** The awareness of the links between all SDGs and the importance of the crosscutting approach to achieve the SDG Targets;

		- The awareness of the links between all SDGs and the importance of the crosscutting approach to achieve the SDG Targets; - The HLPF was an opportunity to share experiences with other countries.	
Tunisia (July 2019)	VNR (2019)	***One transformational thing:*** La nouvelle Constitution de 2014 consacre le développement durable et le droit des générations futures parmi les droits fondamentaux des citoyens tunisiens (Article 12). La Constitution prescrit la constitutionnalisation du droit à l'eau et la responsabilité conjointe de l'État et de la société dans la préservation des ressources en eau (Article 44), de la sécurité climatique (Article 45), d'un environnement sain (Article 45) et prévoit la mise en place de cinq instances constitutionnelles indépendantes dont une de développement durable et des droits des générations futures. La Stratégie Nationale du Développement Durable (SNDD 2016-2020) s'inscrit dans le long terme au niveau des principes et des orientations générales mais se donne un horizon temporel de plus courte durée en termes d'objectifs à atteindre et d'actions. Au regard du contexte politique et social, des urgences identifiées dans la phase de diagnostic et des profondes réformes institutionnelles qu'implique la nouvelle constitution, l'horizon de la SNDD a été limité à l'année 2020. La SNDD adopte la vision élaborée par la Tunisie dans le cadre de l'exercice « La Tunisie que nous voulons » réalisé au cours des concertations menées à l'échelle internationale pour l'identification des objectifs de l'après-2015, les objectifs de développement durable (ODD) adoptés par la Communauté internationale en juin 2015. L'intégration des impératifs de développement durable dans le plan quinquennal de développement 2016-2020 a conduit à l'identification de « l'économie verte comme moteur du développement durable » et à la prise en compte de certains défis identifiés dans la SNDD 2016-2020 comme axes prioritaires d'intervention et de réforme. Le plan de développement 2016-2020 vise un nouveau modèle de développement qui réunit l'efficacité, l'équité et la soutenabilité avec les cinq axes de réformes suivants : • Axe 1 : Bonne gouvernance, réforme de l'administration et lutte contre la corruption. • Axe 2 : D'une économie à faibles coûts à un hub économique. • Axe 3 : Développement humain et inclusion sociale. • Axe 4 : Concrétisation des ambitions des régions. • Axe 5 : L'économie verte, pilier du développement durable. L'alignement des ODD avec le cadre de la planification et les stratégies nationales s'est traduit par : • Une intégration des ODD dans le plan quinquennal de développement et les stratégies nationales. L'Analyse Rapide Intégrée de ces documents indique que sur les 105 cibles retenues, 84 cibles, soit 80%, sont couvertes par les objectifs/actions du plan dont 49 cibles sont parfaitement alignées.	➢ **One transformation:** Following key articles of the new Constitution (2014) focusing on the environment and natural resources, the National Strategy on Sustainable Development 2016-2020 reflects the focus areas of the SDGs, incl. the green economy as sustainable development driver. Considerations for implementation at local level are key in the national strategy. ➢ **One challenge:** The major challenge in relation to SDGs implementation and monitoring is of a governance nature due to the various stakeholders that have to work in synergy. Ownership of the SDGs by these stakeholders is also a challenge. Tunisia relies on opportunities offered by regional and international frameworks to overcome those challenges. ➢ **Lessons learned:** Tunisia's voluntary national report is the result of a consultation process with all categories of stakeholders. The workshops and meetings that were organized as part of the preparation of the VNR supported the SDGs ownership. Tunisia's participation in the HLPF contributed to strengthening the implementation of the SDGs at the national level. The HLPF was an opportunity to share experiences with other countries.

		• L'incorporation de l'Agenda 2030 dans les politiques et les cadres nationaux (plan, stratégies). Une réflexion au niveau national est engagée pour l'élaboration de la nouvelle stratégie Tunisie 2030 avant l'achèvement du plan quinquennal 2016-2020. L'enjeu de l'incorporation des ODD dans les plans quinquennaux de développement est d'engager l'économie du pays dans un nouveau modèle de croissance respectueux des principes de la croissance inclusive, du bien-être social et de la viabilité environnementale. • Une Intégration des ODD à l'échelle locale. La parution du code des collectivités locales le 29 mai 2018 consolide les principes de développement durable à l'échelle locale. Le pilotage des ODD est partagé entre le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères (MAE), le Ministère des Affaires Locales et de l'Environnement (MALE) et le Ministère du Développement, de l'Investissement et de la Coopération Internationale (MDICI). Le pilotage technique des ODD et la coordination entre les différents acteurs se fait par les ministères concernés. Le développement d'une vision 2030 de la SNDD sera lancé très prochainement, la SNDD actuelle venant à échéance en 2020. Elle devra intégrer explicitement les ODD, tout en priorisant et contextualisant leur déclinaison au niveau national. La révision de la SNDD qui doit se faire en 2020 en même temps que l'élaboration du prochain plan quinquennal de développement pourrait être l'occasion d'aligner les trois processus afin que, d'une part, la nouvelle SNDD fasse clairement référence à la mise en œuvre des ODD et en constitue la déclinaison et la priorisation au niveau national et que, d'autre part, la SNDD éclaire le processus de planification national pour y intégrer la dimension de durabilité. Le rôle des différents ministères et des autres composantes du gouvernement, mais également des autres parties prenantes du secteur privé et de la société civile devra également être mieux clarifié et renforcé dans la nouvelle SNDD. L'instance de développement durable et de protection des droits des générations futures établie par la Constitution de 2014 et créée par la loi organique N° 60/2019 représente une opportunité pour l'intégration des ODD dans les plans de développement. L'article 129 de la Constitution stipule que « l'Instance du développement durable et des droits des générations futures est impérativement consultée pour les projets de lois relatifs aux questions économiques, sociales et environnementales, ainsi que pour les plans de développement. L'Instance peut donner son avis sur les questions qui relèvent de son domaine de compétence ». ***One challenge:*** Le défi majeur rencontré dans la mise en œuvre et le suivi des ODD en Tunisie est la gouvernance du dossier (multiples intervenants) et l'appropriation au niveau national par les différents secteurs, associatif et privé, des ODD. La Tunisie est appelée à saisir les opportunités offertes par les accords et les cadres régionaux et internationaux relatifs au développement durable pour mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030. ***One lesson learned:*** L'élaboration du rapport national volontaire (RNV) de la Tunisie s'est fait dans le cadre d'un processus de consultation avec toutes les parties prenantes. Les ateliers et les réunions qui ont été organisés dans le cadre de la préparation du RNV ont permis la vulgarisation et l'appropriation des ODD par les différentes parties	

		prenantes. La participation de la Tunisie au FPHN contribue également à consolider et renforcer la mise en œuvre des ODD au niveau national. Le FPHN est une occasion pour la Tunisie d'échanger des expériences avec d'autres pays en matière de mise en œuvre et du suivi des ODD et saisir les opportunités offertes pour mettre en œuvre le Programme 2030 au niveau national, qui représente un défi majeur.	
Turkey (July 2020)	VNR (2016, 2019)	**Transformational things done for VNR process:** Having a high-level political ownership, performed stocktaking analysis, built partnerships with UN organizations, public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens, and done effective consultations, developed a National Database for Best Practices and Projects (400 good practices and projects from public and private sectors, academia, NGOs and municipalities so far). **Challenges:** Enhancing technical and financial capacity is a big challenge to implement SDGs. Availability of indicators is another challenge. TurkStat published SDG Indicators of Turkey with a press release in February 2019 including 83 indicators selected from the global list. **Lesson learned:** Engaging all relevant partners as early as possible is important not only for the VNR process but also for future implementation of the SDGs. Implementation of the 2030 Agenda has been started by linking SDGs with National Development Plans (NDPs) and sectoral strategies. Indeed, the concept of "sustainable development" has been embedded in the NDPs since 1996. This accumulated experience, along with strong infrastructure and institutional mechanisms provide a strong ground towards SDGs. The Strategy and Budget Office under the Presidency, in charge of preparing NDPs, coordinated the 2019 VNR preparations. The process commenced with the highest-level political ownership, upon H.E. President Erdogan's call on all government entities. During the VNR preparation, legislative and institutional framework, policies and projects were scrutinized through SDG lenses. Focus areas were identified for each SDG and targets examined systematically with a special attention to vulnerable groups. Additionally, practices that served the principle of "leaving no one behind" were elaborated under a separate heading. The analysis reveals that most SDG targets have been incorporated in policies, and legislation provides adequate framework for implementation. Considering policy, strategy and legislation, Turkey stands at an advanced level, while there is room for improvement in practice. Significant progress was achieved in SDG1, SDG3, SDG6, SDG7, SDG9 and SDG11. More effort is required to address gaps in implementation, to increase quality of services, and to enhance financial and technical capacities. Regarding monitoring, responsibilities were assigned to ministries for 218 SDG indicators and Sustainable Development Indicators Set comprised of 83 indicators was published in 2019. While the ratio of produced indicators is higher for SDG3, SDG7 and SDG9, further work is needed for SDG1, SDG2, SDG12, SDG13 and SDG14 indicators.	➢ **One transformation:** Having a high-level political ownership, performed stocktaking analysis, built partnerships with UN organizations, public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens, and done effective consultations, developed a National Database for Best Practices and Projects ➢ **One challenge:** Enhancing technical and financial capacity to implement SDGs ➢ **Lessons learned:** Engaging all relevant partners as early as possible is really important not only for VNR process but also for future implementation of the SDGs

		As a middle-income country, Turkey has made progress in all three dimensions of sustainable development and taken fundamental steps in eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities and addressing the vulnerable people. Based on a human-centered development approach and having a younger population, Turkey has achieved remarkable progress in providing better quality, broader and more accessible public services, particularly for education and healthcare. Policies to reduce inter-regional infrastructural disparities and promote technological facilities across the country marked an inclusive development pathway. Looking ahead, Turkey will focus on maintaining the pace of progress, and improving the quality and effectiveness of services. With a special emphasis on "competitive production and efficiency", high value-added production will be prioritized. On the basis of equity principle, efforts will be sustained to distribute increased prosperity among all segments of society. Improving R&D and innovation ecosystem, ensuring digital transformation and competitive production, strengthening human resources, logistics and other infrastructure required for those targets will be among Turkey's priorities towards 2030. Turkey promotes "leaving no one behind" principle both at home and abroad, and advocates raising the voice of developing countries in international decision-making mechanisms. As an emerging donor, Turkey supports development efforts of developing countries. The establishment of the Technology Bank for Least Developed Countries as a UN entity in Turkey in 2018 marked SDG17.8 as the first global target achieved. In 2018, with its total ODA of 8.6 billion USD and ODA/GNI ratio of 1.10%, Turkey was one of the few countries that fulfilled 0.7% ODA/GNI target. Our development assistance in 2014-2018 exceeded 38.7 billion USD, including 7.3 billion USD in NGO grants and private sector direct investments. Ever willing to offer a helping hand to those in need, Turkey has responded generously to the influx of Syrians since the onset of Syrian humanitarian crisis in 2011. Turkey has granted temporary protection to these people. Hosting the largest refugee population in the world, Turkey has spent more than 37 billion USD for the well-being of 3.6 million Syrians to date. They can access to public services equally as Turkish citizens, especially for their education, healthcare and humanitarian needs. To achieve SDGs, ownership and engagement of all stakeholders including public and private sectors, local authorities, NGOs, academia and citizens are essential at all levels. Accordingly, during VNR preparations, 2.962 representatives were consulted directly from government bodies, 312 NGOs, 2,000 companies and 50 municipalities. Turkey will continue to pursue its development efforts in an inclusive manner.	