International Presentation Association (IPA)
Capacity Building SDG Booklet

IPA Justice Contacts Gatherings
Chicago (April 2020) & Bangkok (May 2020)
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International Presentation Association
Introduction

Building Capacity as a Justice Contact

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone everywhere. They are an invitation for us to engage, to learn, to react and to come together for action. They are a reminder that we have a responsibility to play our part as Justice Contacts. We are encouraged and supported in this call to action by the International Presentation Association (IPA - http://internationalpresentationassociation.org/).

The IPA while working at the grassroots level worldwide is committed to speak and act in partnership with others for global justice. We are encouraged by our IPA representative at the United Nations (UN) to engage with UN and National structural mechanisms that allow for greater participation in the process to bring about successful implementation of the SDGs.

As part of Civil Society and coming from the faith-based perspective we have a unique responsibility to guide in prayer and in action as we strive to increase awareness of the SDGs and to become a critical part of the process that aspires to make our world more sustainable, more inclusive and safer by ensuring that our contribution puts the person at the centre of all our actions and our engagements in line with our IPA Commitment to work for the implementation of the SDGs in a human rights framework.

Through building our capacity as Justice Contacts around the world we can bring our lived experiences to our NGO at the UN so that our experience and work is articulated and voiced in an effort to affect policy, to advocate for change and to encourage connection with those furthest behind and most in need.
Sustainable Development Goals/Agenda 2030

If there is no will to change then change will not happen

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what these did not achieve [Millennium Development Goals](https://www.who.int/topics/millennium_development_goals/about/en/) - (2015)

- The 17 SDG are backed up by 169 Targets and locally developed indicators. (Each country must develop a set of indicators that can be verified and monitored).

- The SDGs are to be Government led in partnership with Civil Society ensuring that we are leaving no-one behind (LNOB).

- LNOB will ensure that the goals are not perceived to have been achieved until all are achieved everywhere and for everyone.

- 193 countries have signed up to the implementation of the SDGs.

- The SDGs are essentially voluntary (and it was this underlying principal that brought so many on board). It is both a strength and a weakness of the SDGs.
Sustainable Development Goals/Agenda 2030

If there is no will to change then change will not happen

• During 2015 and 2016 there was little action: (Especially among the countries that had not been a part of the MDG experience).

• In September 2019, an SDG Summit was held as part of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), in an attempt to ascertain the level to which countries engage with the SDGs and to launch a “Decade of Action” 2020 - 2030.

• Progress has been uneven across regions and countries: Europe is driving the SDGs with countries affected by Climate Change also making significant contributions.

• How do we measure progress?
  At the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) each July there is an opportunity for each up to 45 countries to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).

• There are many problems that face countries as they strive to achieve the SDGs. (finance, climate change, conflict, government action is slow, greed, powerful influences, sectional interests and no civil society participation in some countries).

• A central tenet of the SDGs is to “Reach furthest behind first”, but the real question that must be asked is why are so many countries so far ahead?
Civil Society Responsibilities

Who and what is Civil Society?

According to the World Bank: “Civil society refers to a wide array of organizations: community groups, non-governmental organizations [NGOs], labour unions, indigenous groups, charitable organisations, faith-based organizations, professional associations, and foundations.”

When mobilised, civil society - sometimes called the “third sector” (after government and commerce) - has the power to influence the actions of elected policy-makers and businesses. But the nature of civil society - what it is and what it does - is evolving, in response to both technological developments and more nuanced changes within societies. We are all part of Civil Society.
Civil Society Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

• To ensure and enhance transparency.
• As an integral part of the governance.
• To contribute to increased public debate.
• Representatives of Civil Society are in the main Service Providers and speak with an authority that comes from experience.
• Those in Civil Society are Advocates and Campaigners
• They are also the watchdogs
• Civil Society Organisations must have a role in local, national and global levels.
• It is important to note that Civil Society Space is shrinking.

More Here (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5c6c2e74e5274a72bc45240e/488_What_is_Civil_Society.pdf) What is Civil Society (UK Government)
National Implementation Plan (NIP)

All governments that have signed up the SDGs have accepted the responsibility to drive their implementation both at home and abroad. Those countries who have been part of the MDG experience were already a step ahead in terms of beginning the process of implementation. Other countries have been challenged to make a start. The first action of a government is (in many cases) to prepare a National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the SDGs.

Of note:
- Civil Society plays a critical role in the process of implementation.
- The implementation of the SDGs must be located in a Government Department.
- The SDGs must be financed, as must the CSOs and their involvement and this should be articulated in the NIP.
- Often a first step is to put in place a National Implementation Plan for a two/three-year period that takes account of key priorities:
  - One function of the NIP is to increase Public Awareness of the SDGs.
  - The NIP should outline how partners can participate.
  - One of the most difficult areas for all is to endure Policy Alignment (Coherence) across legislation and policy.
  - Financing the SDGs must be a consideration in the NIP.
  - Look to which areas of government will be responsible for the 169 targets and for the development of the local indicators.
  - Set out the actions on how exactly the SDGs can be implemented over the course of the NIP (including a timeline).
  - Developing a Voluntary National Review (VNR) and naming a date for same.
  - Review and promote learnings for the new NIP for the next 2/3-year period.
The Voluntary National Review (VNR) are state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries and provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders. Some countries have at this stage given a second report whilst many have yet to report for the first time. In developed and developing countries the first VNR is likely to be a baseline statement inclusive of intent, outlining what will be done. The UN is moving away from a “What you will do” report to “what you have done or are doing”. The VNR must be submitted in the month prior to the HLPF and this ensures that countries and civil society organisations can interrogate the document.

It may also offer civil society in the home country the opportunity to examine the VNR especially if they have not had a chance to input. A government is required to send a one-page summary of “Main Message” about 1 month in advance of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) again for the sake of transparency.
Voluntary National Review

At the HLPF a presentation is made by a Government Minister and (invited others by the Minister) to speak to the VNR over a 45-minute strict time slot that includes questions. All questions and comments are often benign but the questions from the Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) are too important and not to be missed. The minister then has a 3-minute right of reply where very often he / she will not address the comments of the MGoS. The MGoS can be prompted in their questions by a country where civil society space is shrinking.

To date the numbers of VNRs are thus: 2016 - 22 VNRs, 2017 - 43 VNRs, 2018 - 46 VNRs, 2019 - 47 VNRs, 149 in Total (some for a 2nd time). The media also have a role to play in keeping all at home abreast of their minister’s performance at the UN. For some countries this is seen as “beauty contest” and this is a valid criticism. More here (https://sdg.iisd.org/news/51-countries-preparing-to-present-national-sdg-reviews-at-hlpf-2019/).
Content of a Voluntary National Review (VNR)

A VNR should include:

- A statement of intent from the Government in questions (VNR is State led).
- There should be some comment on all SDGs and the interlinkages between them (No cherry-picking).
- A specific account of the progress of the SDGs under review (at the HLPF).
- A country is asked to address who they “Leave No One Behind” in their efforts to implement the SDGs.
- A VNR must give an account of how children will be catered for in all of the SDGs.
- An account of national circumstances, capacities, needs and priorities, difficulties, challenges or indeed how they can contribute to the implementation of the SDGs at home and abroad.
- Countries are asked to consider how they will implement the SDGs while the SDGs proof legislation and policy formation to ensure policy coherence across departments.
Content of a Voluntary National Review (VNR)

A VNR should include:

- Countries must articulate clearly how they plan to fully include stakeholders.
- It has been noticed that one of the most difficult sectors to engage is the Business Sector. How will they be included?
- The VNR must be balanced and must include both successes and challenges that are encountered as countries struggle to implement the SDGs.
- A VNR should offer verifiable data. Monitoring and disaggregated data gathering therefore are important.
- The guidelines suggest that a country conduct at least 2 VNRs in the 15-year period (2015—2030)
- The VNR must be seen as a statement of National Ownership of the SDGs and can in itself be a tool that drives implementation of the SDGs.

How you can engage with your country and their VNR here

VNRs from 2020 Onwards

- The VNR process needs to be open, transparent, democratic and involve parliamentarians and civil society members alike.
- Any second time VNRs must only present because there is improvement to share and learn from.
- The VNR itself must be an activating tool before and after the HLPF. The VNR can also inspire Voluntary Local Reviews (as has been the case in New York).
- How can we move away from a country marking their own homework.—It would help if we could have peer reviewed VNRs (Germany offered their review for comment by another country).
- A greater role for the regions e.g. United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and other regions.
- VNRs should be about what is achieved.
- VNRs must be based in measurable data and the conclusions must be verifiable. (Anecdotal is not acceptable).
Engaging in the VNR Process

Call for your government to conduct a VNR

Find out about opportunities for engagement

Plan engagement with other Civil Society Organisations.

Participate in National Consultations

Review the Voluntary National Review.

Follow up on Global Discussions


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A Shadow Report offers a method for non-government organisations (NGOs)/Civil Society to supplement and/or present alternative information to the report’s governments are required to submit.

Why produce a Shadow Report or Shadow VNR?

- If they feel that they have not been consulted.
- If they feel that the governments report will not reflect the true picture.
- If they feel hurried by their government or generally unsupported.
- To ensure that the VNR is reflective of the aims and direction of the National Implementation Plan (NIP).
- The Shadow Report has the unique possibility of framing a country’s progress from a Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA). This is important in that many countries consciously omit to allude to any reference to their human rights record.
Shadow Report

To Note

- Shadow reports are not required or part of the UN documentation process (yet). Although there is a move to have them published (where they are available) alongside all other reports on the UN site.
- There is cost in preparation and production that may be born by the Civil Society members initially.
- The First VNR by a country is very often a case them setting out their base line position.

Some civil society organisations when they come together can do so in the form of a coalition (https://www.youth.ie/articles/coalition-2030-ireland-the-sdgs/) and may opt to produce their own Shadow Report.
High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The High-level Political Forum is the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides for the full and effective participation of all States, Members of the United Nations.

Co-sponsors and Presenters of the “Lived Experiences of Inequality Parallel-Event” (SDG10)

L-R : Dr Despoina Afroditi Milaki IPA NGO Representative; Sr Ann Marie Quinn IPA Executive Director; Sr Mary Therese Krueger IPA Programme Action Leader

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Side and parallel events are organised on the margins of the HLPF (under the auspices of ECOSOC) and sponsored by either:

- Member States and/or
- The UN system
- Other Intergovernmental Organizations
- NGO’s
- And other Stakeholders etc

These events of the HLPF provide great opportunities to discuss the theme at the HLPF, deepen the discussion on Voluntary National Reviews, identify new and emerging issues, listen to all voices, and help spread greater awareness of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Proposed side events and parallel events have to be closely related to the work of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
Outcomes of the High Level Political Forum Summit - September 2019

• Yet it is clear that the world is not on track to meet the SDGs by 2030. The future is now, and the Earth's systems are changing quickly.
• The shared view is that the global response is not yet sufficiently transformative.
• Governments cannot do it alone; they are reaching out to forge new partnerships with civil society, businesses, and the scientific and technological community.
• Positive synergies need to be harnessed and difficult trade-offs need to be addressed more quickly and effectively.
• The 2019 GSDR identifies six entry points where interventions can have multiple impacts across the SDGs: human well-being and capabilities; sustainable and just economics; food systems and nutrition patterns; energy decarbonisation with universal access; urban and peri-urban development; and global environmental commons.
• Financing the 2030 Agenda remains a challenge
• Illicit financial flows and unsustainable debt levels must be effectively addressed.
• Unequal access to scientific data and knowledge systems is a major obstacle to the universal implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
• Weaknesses in governance, corruption and declining civic space are major obstacles to the SDGs.
• The Agenda remains strong, many are more than committed, people are depending on their success. In 2015 193 countries united around the need to implement the goals this unity must be replicated all the way up to 2030
High Level Political Forum 2020

High Level Political Forum (HLPF) - Tuesday, 7 July, to Thursday, 16 July 2020
The theme will be "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

In 2020, the 50 countries (27 first time presenters, and 23 second time presenters) will present their VNRs

IPA Countries under Review
Bolivia, Ecuador, India, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Zambia Zimbabwe
All First Time Presenters

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Links/Resources/Timeline


Timeline:

Sept 2015  193 Sign up to the SDGs
Jan 1st 2016  Nations Must begin to implement SDGs
July 2016  HLPF theme, Ensuring that no one is left behind. Review of 22 countries,
July 2019  HLPF Theme: Empowering People and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. Goals under review:
Sept 25th 2019  SDG Summit at the UNGA.
July 2020  The theme will be "Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development ".

There will be no special cluster of goals that will be discussed at the 2020 HLPF.
Universal Periodic Review

2020 Geneva
Review of USA
Review of Australia (IPA)

2021 Geneva
Review of Antigua, Papua New Guinea, Thailand, Ireland and Zimbabwe (IPA)

What is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)?

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a unique process which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 UN Member States.

The ultimate goal of UPR is the improvement of the human rights situation in every country with significant consequences for people around the globe.
Universal Periodic Review

48 States are reviewed each year.

The reviews are conducted by the UPR Working Group which consists of the 47 members of the Council. The documents on which the reviews are based are:

1) Information provided by the State under review, which can take the form of a “national report”;
2) Information contained in the reports of independent human rights experts and groups, known as the Special Procedures (http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm), human rights treaty bodies (https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HR Bodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx), and other UN entities;
3) Information from other stakeholders including national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.

The State has the primary responsibility to implement the recommendations contained in the final outcome: More here (https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/basicfacts.aspx)

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW DATABASE HERE (https://www.upr-info.org/database/statistics/)
Using Social Media

Old media values

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<tr>
<th>News as finished product</th>
<th>News as a process</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture, authoritative</td>
<td>Conversation, participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Passive consumers</td>
<td>Empowered users</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust in experts</td>
<td>Trust in peers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Corporate</td>
<td>Democratic, collaborative, messy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Closed</td>
<td>Transparent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exclusive</td>
<td>Shared</td>
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<tr>
<td>Centralized</td>
<td>Distributed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elite professionals</td>
<td>Grassroots, peer-focused</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional voice</td>
<td>Personal voice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heavily filtered</td>
<td>Unfiltered/lightly filtered</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platform dependent</td>
<td>Cross-platform</td>
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Social media values

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>News as a process</th>
<th>Conversation, participation</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Unfiltered/lightly filtered</td>
<td>Cross-platform</td>
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The use of the Hashtag “#” How to use them here
(https://www.business2community.com/social-media/importance-hashtags-know-use-01837644)

Twitter
@DeskJustice
Facebook
@presentationjusticedesk
And WhatsApp

Facebook for Not for Profits Help here
Twitter for Not-For-Profits Help here

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IPA Social Media

www.internationalpresentationassociation.org

https://www.facebook.com/internationalpresentationassociation

@IPA_UN
Sustainable Development Goals - Resources

Critical Hope for the SDGs

Advocating from the Margins for Social, Economic, and Environmental Justice in the Context of the UN Sustainable Development Goals

A popular-education resource for groups to explore a critical engagement with the SDGs and to identify advocacy strategies for advancing social, economic, and environmental justice in our communities, countries, and world

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OUTCOMES AND LEARNINGS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Project Management/Formulation/Integration/Review/Finance/Sustainability

Research and Organisational Development

Capacity Building & Community Mobilisation/Networking/Collaboration

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Engagement in Transforming The World 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
Localising SDGs through Community Participation Vision: Co-Visioning, Co-Learning and Co-Creating the future we want.

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Importance of documentation/improved documentation practices

Collective Action for transformation
Appendix

Glossary

Advocacy is a set of actions targeted to influence, directly or indirectly, policy-makers and audiences; a set of activities to create support for a policy e.g. information campaigns, panel discussions, art exhibitions, petition circulation and lobbying.

Civil Society is a term used to describe the sum of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and other related institutions that advocate for the interests of citizens at large.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is at the heart of the United Nations system to advance the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental. It is the central platform for fostering debate and innovative thinking, forging consensus on ways forward, and coordinating efforts to achieve internationally agreed goals. It is also responsible for the follow-up to major UN conferences and summits.

The Commission for Social Development (CSocD) was established by ECOSOC res. 10 (II) (1946). Its purpose was to advise ECOSOC on social policies of a general character and, in particular, on all matters in the social field not covered by the specialised inter-governmental agencies. Since 2006, the Commission has taken up key social development themes as part of its follow up to the outcome of the Copenhagen Summit (1995).

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. It was established by ECOSOC res 11 (II) of 1946. The CSW is instrumental in promoting women’s rights, documenting the reality of women’s lives throughout the world, and shaping global standards on gender equality and the empowerment of women.
### Appendix
Glossary

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<td>Voluntary National Review</td>
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<td>Non Governmental Organisation</td>
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<td>United Nations Economic Commission for Europe</td>
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<td>Human Rights Based Approach</td>
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