

REGIONAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR AFRICAN
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS AND VOLUNTARY
LOCAL REVIEWS

DATE: 1-2 MARCH 2022
VENUE: KIGALI, RWANDA

THE GAMBIA PRESENTATION

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

- Background / Objectives
- How are you ensuring that your second VNR is building on the roadmap taking into account the data from the first VNR?
- What are some of the key lessons learned from your first VNR, including challenges and opportunities?
- Are you able to utilize the same data sources and networks of stakeholders in both first and second VNRs?
- How is the impact of COVID19 captured vis-à-vis your first VNR, while still maintaining a focus on the imperative of sustainable development before, during and after the pandemic?
- What have been the emerging challenges that have impeded the VNR/VLR process in your country

BACKGROUND

- The Gambia has been granted approval by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to submit a second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2022
- The VNR process will culminate in The Gambia's report to and presentation at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2022
- The VNR represents The Gambia's progress report to its peers and other stakeholders at the global level on the progress/ challenges towards the implementation of the Agenda 2030

OBJECTIVES

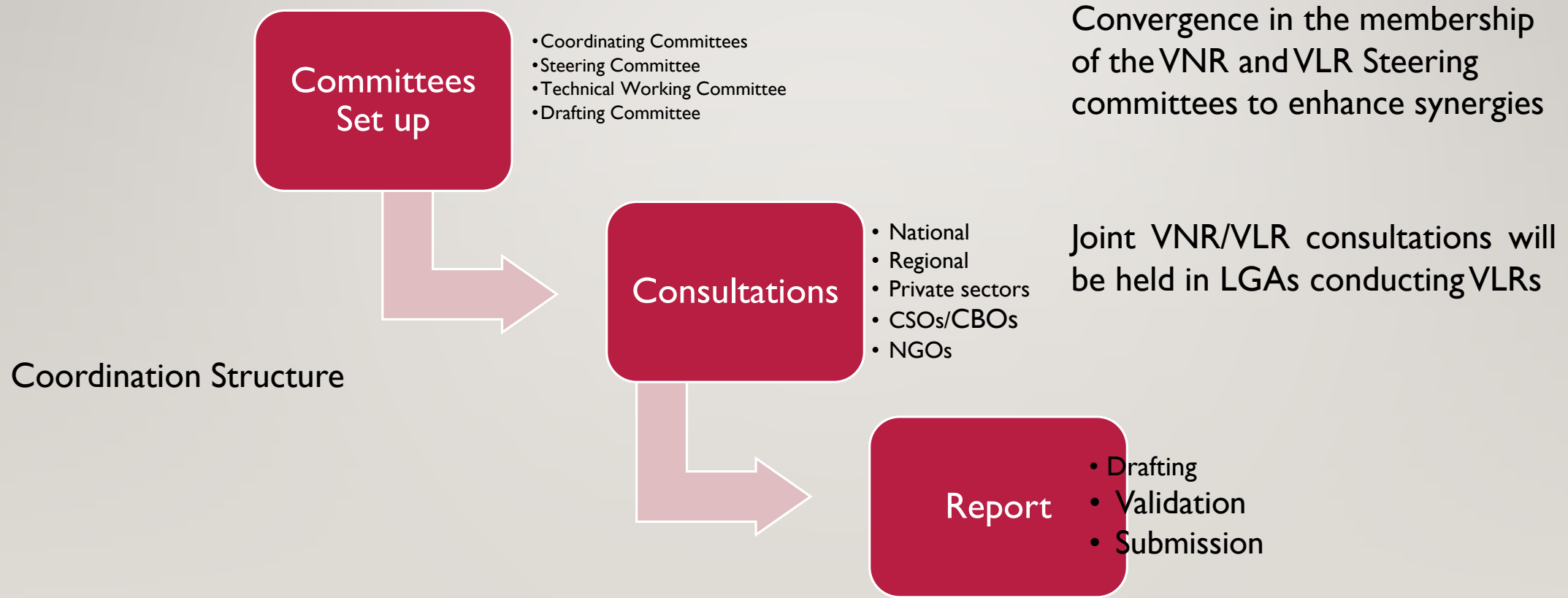
The Gambia's VNR is meant to achieve the following objectives:

- Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
- Strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs; and
- Identify key stakeholders (champions), whose experience could be leveraged and replicated to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs.

How are you ensuring that your second VNR is building on the roadmap taking into account the data from the first VNR?

- The 2022 VNR will build upon the 2020 VNR and update data where available on key indicators
- To address data gaps during the 2020 VNR, GBoS and Government with financial support from UNDP conducted SDGs survey from 2021 - 2022 for the purpose of improving the country's SDG indicators reporting and as well facilitates the ongoing Voluntary Reviews (VNR)
- National Development Planning Platform was developed and launched as an effort to enhance online data collection.

How are you ensuring that your second VNR is building on the roadmap taking into account the data from the first VNR?



What are some of the key lessons learned from your first VNR, including challenges and opportunities?

- **Lessons Learned**

- The need to raise the level of awareness about the agenda 2030 and to strengthen the NSS to adequately support review of the SDGs
- Increase coordination with Civil Society and NGOs to leverage their capacities as well as enhance the alignment of their interventions with the Agenda 2030.
- The need for Government and stakeholders to continue engagement, advocacy, and sensitization at all levels in order to increase awareness of the SDGs.
- The Government will continue to ensure the mainstreaming of the SDGs into policies and strategies at National, Sectoral and Sub-national levels
- Government will continue to deepen private sector participation through sustained engagement using the existing SDG institutional arrangements and partnerships

What are some of the key lessons learned from your first VNR, including challenges and opportunities?

- **Lessons Learned CTD**
- There is also the need for institutionalisation of data/information needs for SDG monitoring that defines roles and responsibilities for collection, analysis, storage and retrieval, creating a repository of data/information.
- Having in place a ONE-STOP-SHOP and enhanced data capacity development at institutional and technical levels as well as ensuring availability of financial resources as part of a national system of consistent collection and retrieval of SDG related data to facilitate SDG reporting
- The need to continuously embark on awareness raising campaign that will incorporate the use of the media, traditional communicators, distribution of publicity materials in local languages and incorporation of SDGs in school curriculum

What are some of the key lessons learned from your first VNR, including challenges and opportunities?

Challenges

- Weak national system of data and information storage and retrieval as data and information is all over the place.
- There is an apparent weakness in the coordination between and among sectors in the NSS as well as inadequate online data systems; few sectors have data on their websites, and for those that have, most websites are not updated
- There are also challenges with data disaggregation; SDG indicators have new disaggregation demands that call for changes in data collection designs and methodologies (age disaggregation; children, youth, elderly, disability, vulnerability, marginalization, geographical, LNOB).

What are some of the key lessons learned from your first VNR, including challenges and opportunities?

Opportunities

- The VNR has given The Gambia an opportunity to engage different stakeholders, Private sector, CSOs, Development Partners, Vulnerable Groups, Citizenry in the review and implementation of the SDGs.

Are you able to utilize the same data sources and networks of stakeholders in both first and second VNRs?

- The 2022 VNR accords the opportunity of strengthening the existing data systems and deepening stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the SDGs

How is the impact of COVID19 captured vis-à-vis your first VNR, while still maintaining a focus on the imperative of sustainable development before, during and after the pandemic?

- During the 2020 VNR preparation some entities were consulted virtually
- 2020 VNR report was virtually validated and presented to HLPF
- The VNR and other studies assessed the impact of the COVID-19 on the country's development agenda and recommendations for sustainable recovery

What have been the emerging challenges that have impeded the VNR/VLR process in your country

Factors impeded 2020 VNR were:

The fact that the country was able to report on only 52% of SDG indicators in the 2020 VNR thus indicated constrained of getting all the required data for SDG reporting

COVID19 outbreak also limited the coverage and participation of some stakeholders in 2020 VNR

CONSULTATION MEETING



CONSULTATION MEETING





Thank you for kind attention