

## Partners for Review (P4R)

### A transnational multi-stakeholder network for a robust review process of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

*Third network meeting, 24–25 October 2017, Kampala, Uganda*

## Meeting report

### Content

1) Summary of key outcomes.....	3
2) Background .....	4
3) Results of thematic discussions .....	4
i) VNR: national- and global-level processes .....	4
ii) Stakeholder contributions to national SDG reviews .....	5
iii) Breaking down the data challenge for SDG reporting.....	6
iv) Institutionalised mechanisms for meaningful participation .....	8
4) The way forward .....	11

#### Disclaimer:

This report has been prepared for the use and benefit of the P4R network members and is provided for information only. It contains a compilation of the participants' contributions and discussions held during the third P4R network meeting in Kampala, Uganda, on 24-25 October 2017. All statements within this report do not represent the views or opinions of neither GIZ, the commissioning parties nor the cooperation partners. The P4R secretariat cannot assume any liability for the accuracy or completeness of the contributions.

## List of abbreviations

BMUB	Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz, Bau und Reaktorsicherheit (German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety)
BMZ	Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development)
CSO	Civil society organisation
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GRI	Global Reporting Initiative
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MGoS	Major groups and other stakeholders
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
NSO	National statistical office
P4R	Partners for Review
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SDSN	Sustainable Development Solutions Network
TAP	Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network
UN	United Nations
UNCRPD	UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
VNR	Voluntary national reviews

## 1) Summary of key outcomes

### Continuing network development

- One year on from the Partners for Review (P4R) inception meeting, the **partnership** is taking shape. For many of the attendees this was their second or third time taking part. Partners have arrived at a **common understanding** of the nature and value of the network.
- Over the same period, the network has brought a **growing number and diversity of stakeholders** on board. Civil society's consistently strong presence at the network meetings is now complemented by the participation of parliamentary and private sector representatives.

### Added value and comparative advantage of the Partners for Review network

- With its clear focus on **national-level** processes for SDG review, the Kampala meeting again demonstrated how P4R complements the main international process, the meetings of the HLPF in New York.
- In the two years since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, many countries have gained some **initial experience** of the national review processes. With this first-hand experience, participants were able to provide practical **inputs**.
- The meetings' informal nature and interactive approach promote open dialogue and peer learning, while the provision of a safe space for exchange further enhanced **trust** among members.
- The network's thematic focus is on (i) arriving at **policy coherence** ('whole of government'), (ii) ensuring **meaningful participation** ('whole of society') and (iii) meeting the **data challenge**.

### Results orientation

- The strategic focus of the P4R network is the identification of **common challenges** and provision of **suitable solutions** within the network.
- Although it is a **challenge** to agree on general **best practice examples for national SDG review mechanisms** – mainly due to different national contexts and institutional set-ups – such an exercise might be useful. Based on the participants' suggestions, the P4R network will develop case studies and showcase good practices.
- The Kampala meeting reconfirmed the value of dialogue and feedback mechanisms that enable participants to compare experiences, discover strengths and weaknesses in individual approaches, and generalise insights gained in specific contexts. Such shared experiences are valuable for compiling best practice examples.
- It was proposed to develop a mid-term strategy for P4R.
- The new **virtual** P4R platform will enable a higher level of interaction between meetings, which is expected to **accelerate** the process by supporting the **preparation** and **follow-up** of in-person meetings.

## 2) Background

**Partners for Review** is a transnational multi-stakeholder network for government representatives and stakeholders from civil society, the private sector and academia who are involved in national processes to review and monitor action taken to achieve the SDGs. P4R was initiated by the German Federal Ministries for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Its implementation is managed by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). The network aims to gather constructive, effective and practicable solutions for meeting the joint commitment to review progress towards achieving the 2030 Agenda at national level. Partners for Review enables dialogue on the review of SDGs and coordinates the demand for and supply of policy advice among practitioners.

**The Kampala event**, held on 24 and 25 October 2017, was the third in a series of P4R network meetings, coming after the inception meeting in November 2016 in Bonn, Germany, and the second meeting in March 2017 in Bogotá, Colombia. It was jointly convened by BMUB, BMZ, the Office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, in cooperation with UN DESA.

A total of **83 participants** attended the event, representing **31 countries** and a range of UN and other regional and international organisations. The objective was to promote robust national-level SDG review processes by enabling peer-to-peer dialogue on common challenges and facilitating the identification of good practices and success factors.

The meeting was structured around **four main sessions**:

- Voluntary national reviews (VNRs): national- and global-level processes
- Stakeholder contributions to national SDG reviews
- Breaking down the data challenge for SDG reporting
- Institutionalised mechanisms for meaningful participation

## 3) Results of thematic discussions

### i) VNR: national- and global-level processes

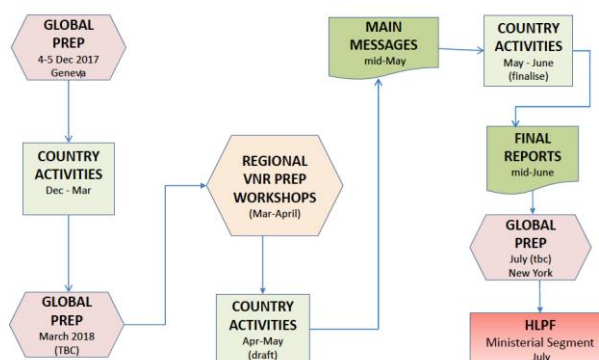
When discussing the preparation of VNRs and their presentation to the HLPF, two different perspectives were considered:

- Group 1** considered the issues facing countries that are going to present their VNRs for the first time at HLPF 2018;
- Group 2** considered the perspective of countries that had already presented their VNRs at HLPF 2016 and/or 2017.

**Group 1** was provided with a range of information from GIZ, UN DESA and UNDP, including:

- the background, characteristics and preparatory process of the HLPF;
- the benefits of VNRs at the country level;
- using SDG country reports as a basis for VNRs, where applicable;
- the differences between reporting (summarising the 'what') and review (analysing the 'how and why');
- the resources and support options that UN DESA and UNDP can provide to countries;
- a timeline for the VNRs being submitted to HLPF 2018;
- observations and lessons learned from HLPF 2017.

### Timeline for 2018 HLPF VNRs



The **recommendations drawn** by this group related mostly to what may be summarised as the challenge to include all relevant actors and areas in SDG implementation and review. More specifically, these issues include:

- develop coherent politics, policies, budgets, technical aspects, and implementation on the ground;

- promoting collaboration and capacity-building within government (across departments and levels);
- ensuring cooperation with civil society so that all actors, including vulnerable groups, are integrated into the review mechanism;
- obtaining, assessing and using data from non-governmental sources, including 'shadow reports';
- creating and maintaining exchange and information sharing at three levels (national, regional and global).

**Group 2** discussed practices and lessons learned at three different levels: national, regional and global. Its **recommendations** included the following:

#### For the **national level**

- Ensure coordination at the highest possible level.
- Communicate the SDGs across ministries, departments and agencies.
- To align the work and ensure lasting results, get all relevant stakeholders to participate in SDG implementation and review.
- Consider the 2030 Agenda as a framework for solving problems and for changing mindsets. For example for changes of legislation, budgets, planning processes or public programmes.
- Educate the public about the SDG agenda in order to promote awareness and ownership across a broad range of actors.
- Raise the awareness of members of parliament and get them involved in mobilising, educating and coordinating their constituencies.
- Involve academia (i.e. universities and research institutes) as scientific advisors.
- Cooperate with organisations with a broad reach, such as radio stations or religious communities.
- Build stakeholder capacities and develop institutionalised, ongoing and participatory consultation processes for SDG review and VNR preparation.
- Instead of just listing progress made on targets and indicators, report on how development services are impacting on people's lives by, for example, including a qualitative component in the SDG report.

#### For the **regional level**

- Share experiences and promote peer learning through regional multi-stakeholder platforms that focus on common challenges and good practices. Do not, however, replicate the HLPF.
- Organise regional forums to address structural issues that are not easily tackled at the national level (e.g. on human rights, illicit financial flows or migration).
- At the local to regional levels, institutionalise mechanisms for involving major groups and other stakeholders (MGoS).
- Engage existing regional networks of parliamentarians, such as those set up in Africa.
- Produce regional sustainability reports.

#### For the **global level**

- Revise and sharpen the guidelines for both, VNR reports and for VNR presentations.
- Ask countries to report on their consultation processes and how they arrived at their conclusions.
- Create a space that enables governments and other stakeholders to interact before, during and/or after the HLPF sessions.
- Guidelines for 'shadow reports' developed by non-state actors might be helpful.
- Collect good practices and disseminate case studies on local coordination mechanisms for involving non-state actors.

## **ii) Stakeholder contributions to national SDG reviews**

This session addressed the role and relevance of different stakeholder groups and their contributions to national SDG review processes. Split into five working groups, the participants exchanged experiences, good practices and innovations related to achieving inclusive and participatory review mechanisms.

Key recommendations drawn from these discussions included the following:

**Civil society** should:

- put specific reporting lines in place for the contribution of complementary reports;
- aim at positively influencing the process instead of claiming a 'copyright' on contributions.

**Parliaments** should:

- promote the localisation of the SDGs by taking emerging policies and frameworks and enacting them in law;
- use their convening power to bring diverse stakeholders together;
- support the involvement of sub-national actors during the VNR process;
- inform members of parliament and their staff about the SDGs.

The **private sector** should:

- use the SDGs as an opportunity for transforming economic growth;
- build alliances to address challenges;
- identify and collaborate with individuals who have a sustainable development mindset;
- collaborate with other stakeholders to positively influence the process.

Those involved in producing **statistics** should:

- prioritise national indicators according to their consistency with the SDGs;
- use both official and reliable non-official data to fill data gaps;
- include subjective information, such as that on perceptions of corruption;
- build organisational capacities to perform analyses of non-official data.

Activity at the **regional level** should:

- support political advocacy and seek to bring stakeholders on board;
- help to ensure countries' accountability;
- promote the mobilisation of financial and other resources;
- engage the UN regional commissions in their key role to promote SDG follow-up and review processes.

### iii) Breaking down the data challenge for SDG reporting

At the start of this session, a panel presented several examples of data challenges. Working groups were then tasked with examining specific aspects of these examples, namely

- data ecosystems,
- country roadmaps,
- the SDG16 Data Initiative, and
- sub-national-level reporting.

**Data ecosystems** – examples and discussion results

When preparing its VNR for 2016, **Uganda** brought together a broad range of stakeholders from different areas including civil society, the private sector and international cooperation partners. An initial assessment of Uganda's legal framework, coordination structures and capacities and of the availability of information in the country indicated that Uganda was sufficiently prepared for SDG implementation and HLPF reporting. This work also revealed a number of gaps and challenges that Uganda is continuing to address. For example, traditional surveys are no longer sufficient as they do not provide real-time data. Plugging this gap will require the use of new technologies and the involvement of other stakeholders. However, the different methodologies and information systems used by the various stakeholders will need to be aligned, which requires dialogue between these parties. The national statistical office's confidence to engage with CSOs also requires further development, which again induces dialogue and interaction.

The **Palestinian Territories** are currently preparing for the 2018 VNR. Work got underway in 2016 with a process of institutional change applied throughout the Palestinian Territories as well as a revision of the national strategy for the development of statistics that sought to align this strategy with the SDGs. The basic infrastructure in place for performing the review is considered to be sufficient. However, many gaps and challenges remain. For example, a newly established unit in the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) identified data sources for all SDGs indicators, but the available data cover only about 50% of it and the main challenge is to obtain data from the administrative records of the national bodies. Census data could be used to fill gaps by adapting certain census questions to meet the needs of the SDGs, but this will not be sufficient to cover all indicators. The VNR process is being led at the highest political level and is supported by 17 working groups (including the aforementioned newly established team) tasked with carrying out the institutional reform process. The working groups comprise a range of different stakeholders. All of this implies enormous coordination and alignment efforts, which prompted one contributor to conclude that 'a key lesson learned from this network meeting is to start early with the preparation for the 2018 VNR'.

The **discussion** on data ecosystems identified the following key results/recommendations:

- The key challenge in working with modern data is that it involves entire data ecosystems comprising many different stakeholders that might change constantly.
- When it comes to SDG review, traditional statistical systems are no longer fit for purpose. What is needed is a more open and inclusive approach.
- Many NSOs are aiming at overcoming the technical challenges of providing complex and dynamic data. However, it is often decided at the political level which data have to be reported. This 'data politics' dimension is important and must be taken into account.
- Legal foundations of the NSOs need to be adapted in many countries, but this usually takes a lot of time. Therefore, dialogue and interaction between the different players is key.

#### **Country roadmaps** – example and discussion results

The **Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)**, which connects and catalyses different global data initiatives, follows a multi-stakeholder approach both at the country and regional levels. While it is true to say that long-term planning and review requires a common framework, the data infrastructure in many countries, where different systems often exist in parallel, makes developing such a framework challenging. Lots of different stakeholders collect information, but they often need guidance to improve their methodologies. It is important to bring these stakeholders together so they can share their views and identify the differences and complementarities between the methodologies of different data communities. Using big data (e.g. telecommunication data) may help to solve some problems in the short-term, but it cannot solve them all. In order to achieve a coherent system, a revision of national policies and legal frameworks might be needed, which will require government investment.

In the **discussions** around country roadmaps, the following results were drawn:

- The main challenges relate to data quality, stakeholder capacity, incentives and legal frameworks.
- The political discussion (i.e. engaging different stakeholders) is a key factor for success.
- Creating local ownership is critical to facilitate access to data.
- The quality of any data accessed must be guaranteed.
- Documenting successful multi-stakeholder approaches to data generation may serve other countries' interest.

#### **The SDG16 Data Initiative** – example and discussion results

In 2015 the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** conducted a baseline assessment of the availability of SDG-related data, which showed that a huge amount of data is still missing. Data availability is, however, a process; one that SDSN is working to improve through two initiatives:

- (i) **SDG Index and Dashboards** is a global report that provides countries with guidance on using existing data to get started with SDG implementation. Regional versions of this report are forthcoming.
- (ii) The **SDG16 Data Initiative** is a collective project involving 14 organisations that support the open tracking of this goal's global commitments. SDG16 has been mentioned to be the most political of the 17 goals, and most of its indicators are, in different ways, difficult to measure. NSOs, civil society and academia all provide data relevant to SDG16, but some aspects like corruption perceptions or personal safety remain difficult to track. The SDSN therefore cooperates with

initiatives such as Transparency International, which has been monitoring developments in these areas for 20 years and has gathered relevant information from most of the world's countries.

In the subsequent **discussion**, the following question and points were salient:

- How can the SDG16 Data Initiative be linked to official statistics?
- An advisory committee for the Initiative could discuss structural issues and help to identify gaps.
- The Initiative could include national-level data (e.g. from universities or human rights institutions), even if these data are not directly comparable.
- SDG16 is crucial for achieving the rest of the 2030 Agenda. The ultimate measure of Goal 16 is therefore the achievement of all other SDGs.

#### **Sub-national-level reporting** – example

The state of **São Paulo**, Brazil, defined precise indicators for measuring the SDGs, which have been made available for others to use. To conduct the required measurements in a short time and at a low cost level, digital survey techniques have been used. Questionnaires on issues including health, transport, education and security were sent to local people's mobile phones. This has proven to be a promising approach, which São Paulo advocates for. By 'municipalising' the 17 SDGs and their 169 targets, these were made more applicable to cities. However, in terms of comparability, alignment of methodologies is needed, which remains an unsolved challenge at the different levels (sub-national, national and global).

#### **iv) Institutionalised mechanisms for meaningful participation**

Several participants presented examples of stakeholder participation mechanisms. This was followed by break-out groups. The following summarises all the examples presented as well as the main results of the subsequent group discussions.

##### **Stakeholder engagement** – example and discussion results

Following the 1991–2002 civil war in **Sierra Leone**, the country's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) recommended including the promotion of good governance, public participation, access to justice, and the rule of law. With these recommendations in mind, the government rolled out a major stakeholder consultation process for the SDGs. As a first step, it ran a media campaign to promote public awareness and clarify the role of stakeholders in SDG implementation, which involved, among other things, radio stories, jingles and television programmes. The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development coordinates the SDG planning and implementation process, using an existing coordination mechanism that brings together government ministries, departments and agencies as well as NGOs and relevant development partners.

In the **discussion**, the following recommendations were drawn:

- As a first step, the stakeholders who are going to take part in the process must be identified. Note that it is important to include marginalised and vulnerable groups in this cohort.
- Participation requires going beyond one-off consultations, beyond solitary platforms for the private sector or CSOs.
- Everyone who wants to contribute should be included. However, criteria for participation are needed. Also, clear and transparent roles should be defined (if possible in a joint process).
- Once the process is opened up to non-state actors, it should be kept open so that interested parties can join at any time.

##### **Meaningful participation mechanisms for civil society** – example and discussion results

**Togo** will submit its third report to the HLPF in 2018. The Togolese Government's willingness to engage with civil society drives the reporting process in the country and provides credibility but, at present, there is no institutionalised coordination framework in place for stakeholder participation. While a coordination mechanism has been set up for the Prime Minister, the President's Office and the Ministry of Planning, it is not linked with the activities of the approximately 200 NGOs operating in the country. Interministerial conflicts (e.g. around the national development plan) also tend to impede collaboration with stakeholders.



The **discussion** resulted in the following recommendations:

- Establish efficient mechanisms with transparent rules.
- Use digital technologies like messenger services and social media as appropriate.
- Ensure there is a safe space for civil society to contribute. Political opposition should not hinder meaningful participation in follow-up and review.

#### **Meaningful inclusion of disabled people** – discussion results

- There is need to bridge the 2030 Agenda to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). People need to understand how the UNCRPD relates to each of the 17 SDGs.
- 'Leaving no one behind' starts with marginalised groups, and people with disabilities constitute a marginalised group in society. Ensuring that the review process is accessible for people with disabilities is therefore key. As a first step, action is needed to keep those with disabilities informed.
- More effort is needed to avoid a repetition of the negative experiences that arose in the MDG era.
- The take-home message from this session was that representatives of people with disabilities must be included in the SDG processes from the outset.

#### **Involving non-governmental stakeholders in national reviews** – examples and discussion results

**Germany** invited non-governmental actors to comment on the substance of its national sustainable development strategy. The sustainability architecture includes a regular dialogue forum with all stakeholder groups and active involvement of non-governmental actors in the preparation and follow-up of the sessions of the State Secretary committee on Sustainable Development. One outcome of the involvement of the private sector in the design of the national development strategy, for example, was the Partnership for Sustainable Textiles (*Textilbündnis*), an initiative that promotes the sustainable production of textiles and clothing. The government developed the relevant indicator in cooperation with the private sector. In other cases, some non-governmental groups have even taken a lead on implementation. For example, the postal and courier services company DHL Group was unable to find suitable electric delivery vans for its operations because manufacturers were not interested in developing them. Working with a small start-up, DHL went on to set up a new business dedicated to manufacturing electric vehicles. Initiatives of this kind foster innovation and promote the transformation to sustainable development.

When starting its SDG implementation process, the Government of **Costa Rica** facilitated a multi-stakeholder process. It is the first country to have arrived at and signed a national pact on achieving the SDGs. This pact, whose creation had been facilitated by the UN, is to form a common ground for a general and intersectoral cooperation between multi-stakeholder signatories with regard to mobilising resources and planning tools. It aims at elaborating a long-term vision for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by taking into account its social as well as its economic and environmental dimension. In addition to this, a multi-stakeholder government structure was created, allowing for public institutions and civil society to be represented at country level.

**Mexico's** institutionalised private sector platform, the Mexican Centre for Philanthropy, helps to coordinate and showcase socially responsible companies in the country, and requires its member companies to re-apply every year for membership, thus ensuring sustained commitment. The Mexican Centre for Philanthropy is also member of the Mexican Alliance for Corporate Social Responsibility and has furthermore developed methods to integrate corporate social responsibility at the local level. In addition, leading companies listed on Mexico's stock exchange are working with the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which employs a multi-stakeholder approach to define standards for sustainability reporting.

The **discussion** resulted in the following recommendations:

- While the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is mainly the responsibility of governments, it is not a one-way street; other stakeholders can and should take the initiative, too, and raise awareness and ownership among their constituencies.
- To encourage and enable others to take the initiative, awareness raising and training are key: to be able to contribute, everyone needs to know about and understand the SDGs.

- The private sector is able to contribute and should be encouraged to do so. However, an enabling framework for private sector contributions needs to be put in place that enables companies to identify what they can usefully provide.

#### **Accountability strategies for civil society:** example and discussion results

The **Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network** supports 'shadow' / 'parallel' / 'spotlight' reporting by civil society groups and is currently developing guidelines on this form of reporting. A current challenge is that no institutionalised UN mechanism presently exists for collecting and publishing civil society reports. Also, civil society participants lack a safe space for interaction during the HLPF VNRs.

The group **discussion** drew the following results:

- There is a need to showcase good practices in achieving accountability. Suitable examples may be found in countries that are more advanced in their national VNR processes, and these can be used to advocate for robust and participatory review mechanisms in other countries.
- Using different terms for reporting – 'shadow', 'parallel' or 'spotlight' – shows the different approaches of such reports. The aim should be to achieve an 'integrated' form of reporting.

#### **Human rights instruments for SDG review mechanisms** – example

In the area of **human rights**, a wide range of legally binding instruments with institutionalised monitoring and accountability mechanisms exist, which directly relate to the topics and aspirations embedded in the SDGs. An analysis shows that 92% of SDG targets are underpinned by legally-binding human rights instruments.<sup>1</sup> These include the Universal Periodic Review as well as treaty monitoring bodies and Special Rapporteurs, among others. While there is political commitment in the HLPF, there are no legally binding accountability mechanisms. Therefore, it is important to link political commitment to the SDGs with the accountability mechanisms provided by the human rights-system. Building on the analysis, guidance and recommendations from human rights monitoring has the potential to guide national implementation, facilitate civil society oversight and provide redress from those who are at risk for being left behind.

#### **'Major groups and other stakeholders' (MGoS) inclusion mechanisms** - example and discussion

Major Groups (business and industry, children and youth, farmers, indigenous peoples, local authorities, NGOs, the scientific and technological community, women, and workers and trade unions) together with Other Stakeholders (such as persons with disabilities, older persons, volunteers and others) have self-organized into an HLPF coordination mechanism to channel their inputs to the HLPF and its preparations, including the VNRs. This does not substitute national activities. The engagement mechanism distinguishes between the following different levels of participation:

- **Information sharing**, which represents a minimum level of engagement with stakeholders.
- **Consultation**, which means obtaining inputs for reports.
- **Active involvement**, which may, for example, include speaking slots in HLPF sessions.
- **Engagement**, which means bringing stakeholders into decision-making processes.

Results of the **discussion** include the following:

- With regard to the HLPF, Member States have recognised that stakeholders are part of the discussion and need an institutionalised space (see General Assembly Resolution 67/290).
- The plurality of the stakeholders taking part promotes meaningful participation.

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://sdg.humanrights.dk/>

## 4) The way forward

Throughout the meeting, and especially during the final session, participants identified a number of topics that they felt would benefit from more in-depth exchange and joint learning, facilitated by the P4R network. The following issues received particular attention:

### Local authorities

**Involvement of local authorities in review processes:** As the meaningful participation of civil society and local authorities still represents a challenge for many, further discussion on this theme was requested.

### Stakeholder involvement of specific groups

The involvement of **parliamentarians**, **municipalities**, the **private sector** and **academia** in SDG processes was highlighted as a key issue, with participants feeling that these groups are still underrepresented in many SDG processes – from the local to the global level.

### Mobilisation and communication

Two more-general and repeatedly-raised questions were how to get **the public** as well as **social movements** interested in the SDGs and how to **mobilise non-governmental actors** to engage in the local-level review processes.

### Multi-stakeholder processes

During the meeting, it was repeatedly emphasised that meaningful participation goes beyond one-off consultations of individual groups. Instead, there is need for clear and visible coordination mechanisms which are inclusive and allow for dialogue and information sharing between the different stakeholder groups. **What** 'beyond' means in practice, and **how** multi-stakeholder processes or initiatives can be created, structured and facilitated were two key questions that many participants felt required continued input, exchange and good-practice sharing and thus should be kept on the P4R agenda.

### Policy coherence

The challenge of **aligning domestic policies** when faced with a wide range of issues and actors was another point that participants asked to retain on the agenda. Key questions raised in relation to what is needed to achieve **policy coherence** touched on the issues of securing **political leadership**, the role of national sustainable development strategies, aligning policies both **horizontally** (between different departments) and **vertically** (across different levels), dealing with **conflict**, and coordinating regular **work streams**.

### Statistics and data

There is increasing awareness that SDG review and reporting both require the collection and use of data from all available sources. However, the process of **identifying** these sources, **accessing** the data, **assessing** their quality and **matching** data from diverse sources remains a common challenge. Participants identified a need to build the capacity of **statistical offices** to use data other than their own, and asked for continued exchange on the mechanism to develop and integrate **alternative reports**.

### P4R network

Participants expressed **appreciation** for the opportunities that the P4R network provides for sharing experiences, receiving input and learning together with peers. The insights gained go **beyond** specific topics and include, for example, increased awareness of the complexity of the process and the resulting need to start early.

The participants made several specific suggestions for **future** activities and in particular results, including, for instance, the collection and publication of **case studies** and **good practices**.