Timor-Leste Voluntary National Review 2019

From Ashes to Reconciliation, Reconstruction and Sustainable Development

TLPDM
Dili, July 4th 2019

Agenda

- Presentation of the process of developing the VNR
- Presentation of key challenges outlined in the report
- High-Level Political forum and the Timorese Delegation
- Presentation of the next steps after the report

Focus of the report

- **SDG 16** on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions is overarching theme
- **8 SDGs** were approved as focus SDGs for the 2019 VNR in line with phase 1 of SDP

| SDG 2: Zero hunger and food security | SDG 6: Clean water and sanitation |
| SDG 3: Good health and well-being | SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth |
| SDG 4: Quality education | SDG 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure |
| SDG 5: Gender equality | SDG 17: Implementing the goals and global partnerships |

Timeline for VNR process

1. **700-word key messages** were submitted to the UN in New York on May 16
2. **Final report of VNR** was submitted to UN on June 14th
3. **High-Level Political Forum** is in New York from 9-19 July. Timor-Leste will present its VNR on July 17.
4. Timor-Leste and Vanuatu are the only **two LDCs Reporting Countries** from Asia Pacific
5. VNR will be formally released in three languages after New York
Consultation process for VNR

- Process coordinated by VNR Secretariat (UPMA, MNEC and GDS), supported by SDG Working Group & supervised by MRLAP
- Data collected from National Surveys (DHS and Census)
- CSO Advisory Group established to support consultation process
- Multi-stakeholder Consultation meetings in Dili and Baucau
- Stakeholder meetings with youth, women, persons with disabilities, CSOs, government officials, and Eminent Leaders
- Draft of report and messages sent to SDG Working Group, COM, civil society and eminent leaders for feedback

What is the purpose of the Review?

- To take stock of progress and to conduct a honest self-review
- To reflect on achievements and challenges and leaving no one behind
- Raise profile of Timor-Leste and create new partnerships and resources
- To engage citizens, private sector, youth, vulnerable people and all parts of government in dialogue on sustainable development
- Moving from Whole of Government to Whole of Society Approach
- Produce a baseline of data to monitor progress
- Conducted every 2-3 years, depending on new data.

VNR Report: Overall progress on SDGs

- Significant improvements overall for SDGs, but disparities exist between municipalities and rural-urban areas and vulnerable groups (persons with disabilities and women) continue to face challenges
- Country in strong financial position in short to medium term, but crucial to invest strategically in human capital and economic diversification
- There are not enough jobs for growing numbers of young people in labour market and to generate new areas of growth
- Notable achievements in peace, inclusion and democracy - important to consolidate peace, strengthen justice sector and strengthen institutions to improve progress on all SDGs
- More effort needed to maintain and accelerate progress and to target those furthest behind first

VNR report: Challenges to SDG implementation

A snapshot

Building human capital
- Improving quality and inclusive education, reducing secondary drop out & strengthening vocational education (SDG 4)
- Reduce stunting and access to safely managed water, sanitation and hygiene (SDG 2 & 6)
- Improving food security and productivity of agricultural sector (SDG 2 & 8)
- Controlling non-communicable diseases (e.g. tobacco use) and improving health access in remote areas – (SDG 3)
VNR report: Challenges (2)

- Promoting job creation for youth (SDG 8 and cross-cutting)
- Promoting economic diversification and strengthening private sector (SDG 8)
- Improving access to high-speed internet, promoting labour-intensive manufacturing (SDG 9)
- Tackling gender-based violence and reducing early marriage (SDG 5)
- Strengthening the justice sector, strengthening institutions & government capacity (SDG 16)

VNR report: Challenges 3 (SDG 17)

Data collection and analysis
- Strengthen government capacity on statistics, to increase frequency, disaggregation and quality of data and evidence i) to inform policy decisions and resource allocation ii) to improve data on those left behind

Implementing the SDGs
- Strengthening alignment between planning, budgeting and SDGs to support implementation of SDP and SDGs
- In this crucial state-building phase, we need to harness technical support to strengthen institutional and absorptive capacity. Capable institutions are needed to build human capital and generate sustainable economic growth

VNR report: Challenges 4 (SDG 17)

Mobilising resources for SDGs
- Need to increase domestic revenue from non-oil economy to finance future public services
- Make most of partnerships and capitalise on support from multilaterals and bilateral donors
- Partnership will be key to maintain sufficient levels of finance to aid the transition from ‘least developed country’ to ‘middle income country’ status.

VNR Presentation of Timor-Leste: 17th July

1. 17th July: Timorese Delegation to present VNR at Ministerial Segment of High-Level Political Forum
2. Chaired by President of ECOSOC
3. Audience: Member States, UN and intergovernmental entities
4. Individual presentations in alphabetical order by: Chad, Ghana, Israel, Timor Leste, Tanzania and Vanuatu
VNR Presentation of Timor-Leste: 17th July

- Timor-Leste panel on podium: Minister Fidelis Magalhães, Representatives: Civil Society, Private Sector & Youth
- 15 minute slot to show 5-minute video and present PowerPoint on VNR
- Present successes, challenges and lessons (not just rosy picture)
- 15 minutes to answer questions

Next steps after completing the report

1. Increase public understanding and dialogue on implementing the SDGs
   - Important to continue engaging government, civil society, universities, youth and private sector
   - Promote a national movement on sustainable development

2. To support acceleration, it is crucial to integrate SDGs into government budgeting, policies and programmes of line ministries
   - Nationalisation of SDG indicators, align sector plans to SDGs

Next steps after completing the report

3. Consultation on data collection to prioritise key areas/indicators & cost
4. Consider piloting an integrated mechanism for national reporting to the various bodies of the UN
5. Need to empower private sector and possible sign up to UN Global Compact for SDGs
6. Linked to the Development Finance Assessment, it is crucial to improve inter-sectoral and coordination of Development Partners for financing implementation of the SDGs – partnership is key!