



Namibia produced a video about its Voluntary National Review (VNR). The video demonstrates the linkages between Namibia's national development agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Namibia presents its Voluntary National Review at High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

17 July, New York, USA: The Government of the Republic of Namibia, under the leadership of the National Planning Commission (NPC) presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development at Headquarters in New York City, New York, USA on 17 July 2018.

Namibia was one of the first African countries to present its VNR, which is part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development's follow-up and review mechanisms. The VNR process also facilitates the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In its VNR, presented by Hon. Obeth Kandjoze, the Minister of Economic Planning, Namibia highlighted the alignment of the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP5) to the 2030 Agenda as well as the localisation of the SDGs. Namibia has also put together a baseline report to monitor implementation locally.

In terms of reporting on specific SDGs:

Although Namibia has seen a reduction in poverty levels to 17.4 from 28.8% over last ten years and consistent economic growth standing at an average of 3.7% annually over the same period, there are still high levels of inequality in the country. To address this, Namibia aims to increase the coverage and value of Social Protection Grants, implement a Growth at Home Strategy to induce wider participation in the economy as well as enforce the Affirmative Action Policy to facilitate access to productive assets by the formerly disadvantaged majority.

Namibia recorded significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS as well as seen life expectancy increase from 58- 65 years, however continues to be challenged by maternal and child mortality. To address this, the country aims to implement the Maternal and Child Mortality Reduction Roadmap, which seeks to ensure that all births are in health facilities and attended to by skilled professionals as well as calls for the construction of maternal waiting homes and expansion of antenatal services.

Namibia has achieved universal access to primary education as well as achieved gender parity in access to education. However challenges exist in terms of quality of education, which the country aims to address through improving curriculums and training educators.

Namibia is on its way towards achieving gender parity. Political representation of women in Parliament has increased from 25% in 2010 to 43%. 43% of managers in public service are women, 40% of the National Executive seats are occupied by women. The country will continue to roll out of Women Empowerment Initiatives.

There remains stark inequities between rural and urban populations in terms of access to water and sanitation. Although the clean water target has been met in urban areas, it has not been met in rural areas. The report also highlighted that only 54% of the population has access to improved sanitation. To address this issue, Namibia will focus on investing in infrastructure, promoting behaviour changes as well as improving coordination.

Only 50.4% of the Namibian population has access to electricity. The report highlighted the importance on continuing to invest in renewable energy and expanding electricity across the country.

Drought and floods, linked to climate change, exacerbate land degradation as well as impacts marine resources, and the agricultural sector. Namibia identified the need to build resilience to climate change.

Namibia reported that its Community-Based Natural

Resources Management Programme, empowers communities to meaningfully and legally manage, use, and benefit from natural resources.

Namibia ranks high in terms of good governance and transparency. It has also enjoyed peace since Independence. However, a majority of the public views corruption as a problem.

The VNR, which is a voluntary, state-led process, came about through consultations with various stakeholders. The UN System in Namibia provided technical and financial support to the GRN to ensure timely preparation of the VNR. The partnership between the GRN and the UN is crucial to ensure that Namibia conducts regular and inclusive reviews of progress towards the Agenda 2030 at the national and sub-national levels.

Check out Namibia's full VNR here: [https:// bit.ly/2uKMsxZ](https://bit.ly/2uKMsxZ)