

**LINKING SECURITY
SECTOR GOVERNANCE
AND REFORM TO
THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS:
AN ANALYSIS OF
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL
REVIEWS (2020-2023)**

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Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews (2020-2023)

DCAF Geneva Centre
for Security Sector
Governance



About this publication

This study was conducted as part of DCAF's "Linking Good Security Sector Governance and SDG 16" programme, which aims to position SSG/R as a critical policy tool for achieving SDG 16. SDG 16 focuses on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. To meet these goals, states must strengthen efforts to ensure their national security sectors are both effective and accountable, operating within a framework of democratic civilian oversight, rule of law, and human rights. To support states in this endeavor, it is essential to understand how they view their security sectors in relation to sustainable development. A key starting point for this analysis is the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), which serve as the primary mechanism for states to report progress on the SDGs. Examining VNRs can reveal how states perceive the role of SSG/R in sustainable development, particularly in relation to SDG 16. With this in mind, this study systematically analyzes the content of 165 VNRs submitted between 2020 and 2023, building on an earlier DCAF study of VNRs from 2016 to 2019. It explores how states report on Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R), assesses their perceptions of security sector changes in relation to specific SDGs and targets, and highlights how security can contribute to and drive sustainable development.

This publication is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

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Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank the DCAF team, especially Alice Alunni, Juliette Leoni, and Richard Steyne for the opportunity to conduct this analysis and their invaluable guidance, feedback, and support throughout the process. They are also grateful to the peer reviewers for their detailed and constructive comments on the draft.

The editors wish to express their deepest gratitude to the authors, Franziska Ehlert and Julian Klauke, for their invaluable expertise and dedication. They are also profoundly thankful to the peer reviewers for their insightful feedback on the first draft of this publication, as well as to William McDermott and Juliette Leoni for their meaningful contributions to the research design and their support throughout the editing process. Special thanks go to Arissandra Egorova for her assistance during the editing process, Kimberly Storr for her meticulous copy-editing, and Nadia Joubert for the graphic design of this publication.

The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the views of the institutions referred to or represented within this publication.

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List of Abbreviations

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DCAF	DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
EU	European Union
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer, Plus Other Sexual and Gender Identities
SFA	Security Force Assistance
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SDG(s)	Sustainable Development Goal(s)
SSG	Security Sector Governance
SSR	Security Sector Reform
SSG/R	Security Sector Governance/Reform
UN	United Nations
VNR	Voluntary National Review
2030 Agenda	2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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Executive Summary

There is growing recognition that good security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) are prerequisites and enablers for realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) is most closely associated with SSG/R, but SSG/R can also be connected to several other SDGs, including gender equality (SDG 5), reduced inequalities (SDG 10), and life on land (SDG 15). This study aims to assess how countries conceive of their security sectors in relation to sustainable development.

To achieve this, the contents of 165 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), submitted from 2020 to 2023, were systematically analysed, building on a previous DCAF study of VNRs submitted from 2016 to 2019. VNRs are the primary reporting and accountability mechanism of the 2030 Agenda, wherein states report on their progress towards the SDGs. This study examines the degree to which and way in which states use VNRs to report on SSG/R, explores how these states understand changes within their security sector vis-à-vis different SDGs and targets, and through this analysis, illustrates various ways in which security can support and drive development.

The findings of the study underscore the potential to expand on self-reporting by states on SSG/R, and to more broadly elaborate on connections between security and sustainable development. In fact, in the VNRs analysed here, a direct connection was made between SSG/R and sustainable development only 36 times, though they were rich with examples of the role SSG/R-related efforts can play in achieving sustainable development. Notably, this was true in a diverse set of countries, underscoring the universality of challenges to effective and accountable security provision. In the vast majority of these VNRs, security providers, justice providers, and oversight bodies were also mentioned, but the specific contributions of these actors to sustainable development often remained abstract or unclear.

Overall, there is significant inconsistency in the comprehensiveness of VNRs. Many were vague about policies and initiatives, lacked clarity or provided minimal details on results, or emphasized positive outcomes rather than addressing challenges. However, some stood out for the precision of their reporting, and these VNRs highlight the enormous potential of the VNR format to reflect on and transparently present contributions of the security sector, and raise awareness about the role of SSG/R in advancing sustainable development.

Despite the fact that numerous VNRs mentioned security providers, only a small number reported on changes to the security and justice sectors that would amount to SSG/R. Indeed, mentions of security and justice providers were overwhelmingly disconnected from the core principles of SSG/R, such as accountability, inclusivity, and transparency, and explicit references to “SSG/R” were rare. Of the 36 instances in which reported activities can be understood as SSG/R, the term “SSG/R” (or a variation of it) was used verbatim only nine times. This continues the trend of underreporting on SSG/R observed in the previous DCAF study of VNRs.

VNRs submitted from 2020 to 2023 also tended towards an emphasis on the effectiveness of security provision over accountability in the sector. This may stem from the effectiveness focus of some SDG targets and a lack of recognition that accountability is itself a driver of effectiveness. Actors who provide oversight of the security sector were therefore rarely mentioned in VNRs. At the same time, when the perspectives of these actors (e.g. national human rights institutions) were incorporated into VNRs, they often raised critical questions and highlighted the need for security sectors to prioritize not only effectiveness but also accountability, inclusivity, and transparency.

1. INTRODUCTION



It has been widely recognized that security and sustainable development are interconnected and mutually dependent. The 2030 Agenda thus frames sustainable development as hand-in-hand with peace and security. Within the Agenda, sustainable development goal 16 (SDG 16) is aimed at promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, ensuring access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels. In the words of UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, this makes SDG 16 “a crucial enabler of all SDGs.”¹ This is because inequality, exclusion, injustice, and weak institutions are often drivers of instability and conflict, which in turn undermine efforts to achieve sustainable development. These factors are also more likely to exist where the security sector is politicized, corrupt, and ineffective due to a lack of oversight and accountability. It is this reality that has driven a growing acknowledgment within some academic and policy circles that security sector governance and reform (SSG/R)² – meant to improve state and human security by making security and justice provision, management, and oversight more effective, inclusive, and accountable – is vital for preventing violence and creating peace, and therefore an essential prerequisite for progress towards SDG 16, and by extension the 2030 Agenda.³

The interdependence of SSG/R and the SDGs is most evident with respect to SDG 16, which seeks to promote peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. Indeed, SSG/R and SDG 16 share several key objectives, including: respect for the rule of law and equal access to justice (target 16.3); effective, accountable, and transparent institutions (target 16.6); and responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making (target 16.7). But SSG/R also has connections to a variety of other SDGs, such as but not limited to: SDG 5 on gender equality (e.g. relating to the participation of women in security institutions); SDG 10 on reduced inequalities (as inequalities based on income, sex, age, disability,

sexual orientation, race, class, ethnicity, religion, and opportunity can threaten long-term social and economic development, heightening security risks and the needs of marginalized groups); and SDG 15 on life on land (regarding the role of the security sector in climate and environmental security).⁴

A growing body of literature explores the relationship between SSG/R and the SDGs, driven principally by the work of DCAF linking good governance of the security sector and SDG 16. In 2021, DCAF produced a seminal publication on SSG/R and Voluntary National Review reports (hereinafter, VNRs), the main monitoring tool and accountability mechanism by which countries take stock of and assess their progress and challenges in implementing the SDGs.⁵ The publication provided an analysis of VNRs submitted between 2016 and 2019 during the first cycle of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) – the key platform for reviewing the 2030 Agenda. It identified empirical examples of SSG/R in the VNRs, focusing on references to the role of parliaments in overseeing the security sector.

Building on this previous research, the current study employs a similar methodology to investigate how states interpret and present the role of SSG/R in relation to the SDGs. By analysing VNRs from 2020 to 2023 through the lens of SDG 16, the study is able to offer a comparative view of the ways SSG/R is conceived and described, while drawing attention to various ways that security can foster and promote development. It does this by highlighting the approaches some countries have already taken to acknowledging this linkage, but emphasizes the significant room for improvement that remains when it comes to self-reporting.

1 United Nation’s Development Programme, “New Joint UN report calls for urgent action to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies to prevent risks to all Sustainable Development Goals,” press release, 17 July 2024. Also see: Global Alliance, *Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+* (2019); Oya Dursun-Özkanca, *The Nexus Between Security Sector Governance/Reform and Sustainable Development Goal-16: An Examination of Conceptual Linkages and Policy Recommendations* (London: Ubiquity Press, 2021), p. 18; and Stacy Cram, *SDG 16 as an Enabler of the 2030 Agenda*, Policy Paper No. 32 (International IDEA, 2024).

2 For the purpose of readability, we refer to these two processes (SSG and SSR) as one, using “SSG/R,” unless we want to distinguish between SSR and SSG.

3 For example, see: United Nations Security Council, Report of the Secretary-General, “Strengthening Security Sector Reform” (S/2022/280), 15 March 2022; DCAF, “Sustainable Development Goal 16: The importance of good security sector governance for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda,” SSR Backgrounder Series, 2021; and Dursun-Özkanca, *The Nexus Between Security Sector Governance/Reform and Sustainable Development Goal-16*.

4 DCAF, “Sustainable Development Goal 16”; DCAF, OSCE/ODIHR, and UN Women, “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Security Sector and Gender Equality,” Gender and Security Toolkit, 2019; Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, “Sustainable development and sustaining peace: Two sides of the same coin,” *Action 2030* (blog), United Nations Sustainable Development Group, 20 July 2017, <https://unsdg.un.org/latest/blog/sustainable-development-and-sustaining-peace-two-sides-same-coin>; and Andrew Crabtree and Des Gasper, “Conclusion: The Sustainable Development Goals and Capability and Human Security Analysis,” in *Sustainability, Capabilities and Human Security*, edited by Andrew Crabtree (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

5 Alexandra Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews (2016–2019)* (Geneva: DCAF, 2021).

1.1. Conceptual background

To place this study within a clear conceptual framework, this section introduces several key concepts, along with the theoretical links between security sectors, SSG/R, and sustainable development; followed by a brief overview of how SDG 16 was addressed in VNRs submitted from 2020 to 2023.

Security sector governance and reform

Security sector governance (SSG), which refers to the process whereby “accountable security institutions supply security as a public good via established transparent policies and practices,” is concerned with applying the principles of good governance to security provision.⁶ These include accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, participation, rule of law, responsiveness, and transparency.⁷ To this end, good SSG rests on the premise that the ability of security institutions to provide security as a public good is influenced by democratic oversight performed by a range of stakeholders, from democratic institutions such as parliaments, to independent oversight bodies, to civil society and the media. Central to this is the principle of accountability; meaning, clear expectations are set for security provision, and whether these expectations are met is overseen by independent authorities with the ability to impose sanctions.⁸ Without effective accountability mechanisms, security provision can become tainted by abuses of power and corruption. Because accountability ensures that security measures are fair, just, and respectful of the rights of citizens, it fosters long-term peace and stability.

To that end, security sector reform (SSR) is “the political and technical process of improving state and human security by making security provision, management and oversight more effective and more accountable, within a framework of democratic civilian control, rule of law and respect for human rights.”⁹ It encompasses all state and non-state actors engaged in the provision, management, and oversight of security, and emphasizes the interconnectedness of their roles, responsibilities, and actions. SSR also addresses justice provision, management, and oversight, recognizing the close relationship between security and justice. It can involve a diverse array of

reform activities that are both political and technical, including legislative initiatives, policy development, public awareness campaigns, capacity building in management and administration, infrastructure improvements, and enhanced training and equipment.

In this text and others, security sector governance and reform (SSG/R) is used as a combined term that captures efforts to reform security provision, management, and oversight so that security is provided as a public good, inextricably linking SSG and SSR. Simply put, it is through reform that governance mechanisms are established or improved. Here, the security sector on which these processes act is defined as comprising “all the structures, institutions and personnel responsible for security provision, management and oversight at national and local levels, [including] both actors that use force and those responsible for controlling how force is used through management and oversight.” This encompasses both “...state security providers and those responsible for security management and oversight, which includes civil society.”¹⁰

With the above in mind, policies and initiatives outlined in VNRs that clearly incorporated the principles of effectiveness and accountability, or accountability alone, within the context of the security sector were considered to represent SSG/R for the purposes of this study. In addition, because of a focus in these VNRs on the effectiveness of security sectors, mentions of more effective security provision (e.g. in relation to Security Force Assistance, or train-and-equip activities) that were not coupled with mentions of accountability were still included in the analysis, though these are carefully distinguished from mentions of SSG/R in the text (see Section 3.3). The inclusion of these cases for analysis has the benefit of allowing the study to more broadly explore how countries perceive the connection between their

6 DCAF, “Security Sector Governance,” SSR Backgrounder Series, 2019.

7 Ibid.

8 Ibid.

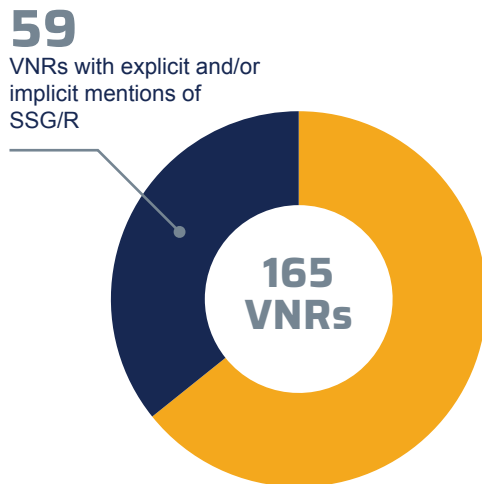
9 DCAF, “Security Sector Reform,” SSR Backgrounder Series, 2019.

10 DCAF “The Security Sector,” SSR Backgrounder Series, 2015.

security sector and sustainable development, to more accurately depict how SSG/R is understood and the differences between normative ideals and lived practice.

On the basis of these definitions, the study analysed 165 VNRs out of which 59 included explicit and/or implicit mentions of SSG/R – see section 1.2 for further details on the methodology.

Figure 1. VNRs Data Set



Reporting on SSG/R and SDG 16 in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

SSG/R is not only a key to preventing violence and fostering sustainable peace, and in this way to achieving the SDGs, but it can support sustainable development in other ways as well, such as by ensuring that resources allocated to the security sector are spent efficiently.¹¹ To explore how states conceive of these interconnections, this study analysed the country-level reporting on sustainable development that is submitted in VNRs – which are presented every year at the HLPF. Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda, VNRs are the mechanism by which regular, inclusive, country-led, and country-driven reflections on each state’s progress towards the SDGs are gathered and shared. Some countries, such as Germany, also used VNRs to report on their SSG/R support abroad.¹²

The VNR process represents an opportunity to showcase a country’s activities and experiences, including successes, challenges, and lessons learned. It also serves as a way for countries to track and report on their progress towards SDG 16 specifically, and on SSR initiatives aimed at improved SSG more broadly. Additionally, and importantly, the VNRs provide a means of holding states and governments accountable for their commitments to the SDGs. It is for these reasons that they are often referred to as the accountability tool of the 2030 Agenda.¹³

Between 2020 and 2023, 169¹⁴ VNRs were submitted by 158 of 193 UN member states. Most countries submitted one VNR during this period, but 11 submitted two (see Annex 1). While an upward trend of submissions across years was observed in the 2021 DCAF study of VNRs,¹⁵ this seems to have reached its peak in 2020. After this, the number of submissions levelled out around 40 per year (there were 47 in 2020, followed by 42 in 2021, 44 in 2022, and 39 in 2023).

In most cases, countries make use of the VNR to reflect at length on their progress towards sustainable development, and a majority of the VNRs analysed for this study included dedicated sections detailing progress and challenges in achieving each SDG and their targets. Among these are SSG/R-related goals, particularly SDG 16, many targets of which can be met only through improvements to the security and justice sectors.¹⁶ Targets 16.1, 16.2, and 16.4, for example, are concerned with the prevention and reduction of violence and other crimes.

Actors within the security sector have the ability to either contribute to creating the peaceful and just societies envisioned in SDG 16 or stand in the way of them, as dysfunctional security sectors can exacerbate instability, insecurity, and conflict. Thus, when national security sectors are effective, accountable, and operate under civilian oversight, the rule of law, and respect for human rights, they are advancing SDG targets 16.6 and 16.7, as well as 16.3, 16.5, 16.10, 16.a, and 16.b – all of which reflect the principles of good governance. In this way, efforts to improve SSG have considerable potential to help realize SDG 16.¹⁷

Reporting on SDG 16 was generally high during the timeframe analysed for this study, with 87 per cent of

¹¹ DCAF, “Security Sector Reform,” SSR Backgrounder Series, 2019.

¹² See: The German Federal Government, *Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development: German Voluntary National Review to the HLPF 2021* (2021), p. 114.

¹³ Nicole Cardinal, *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society* (TAP Network, 2021).

¹⁴ While 169 VNRs were submitted between 2020 and 2023, this study only considered 165. The remaining four were excluded because they were not submitted in searchable text format in English, French, or Spanish. For more details, refer to Section 1.2 of the Methodology.

¹⁵ Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals*, pp. 12–14.

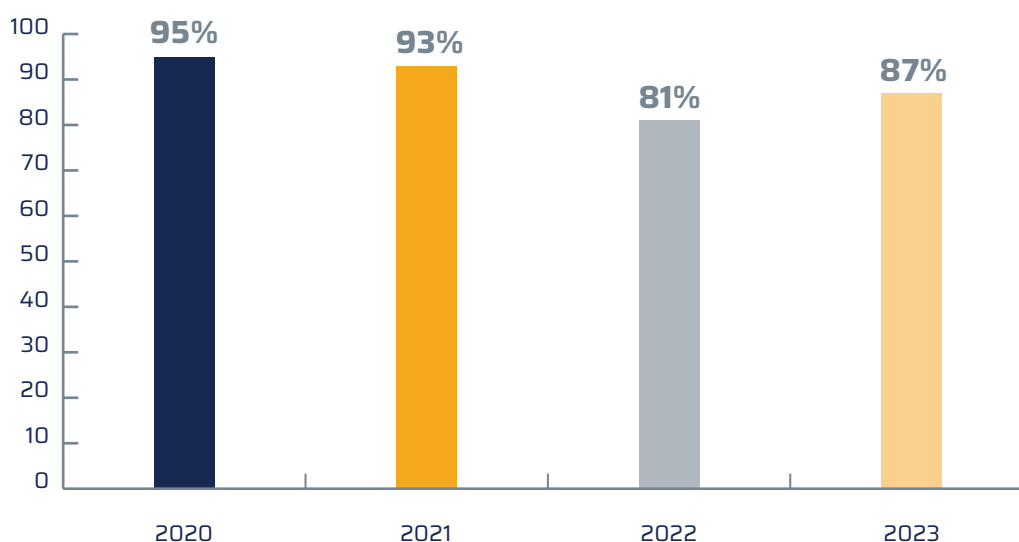
¹⁶ DCAF, “Sustainable Development Goal 16.”

¹⁷ Ibid.

VNRs submitted from 2020 to 2023 including a dedicated review of progress towards this goal. In VNRs submitted in 2020 and 2021, this rate was 90 per cent, and even though it dropped to roughly 80 per cent after 2021 (see Figure 2, below), this is still in line with findings that SDG 16 is consistently among the SDGs reported on most frequently.¹⁸ This relatively high rate of reporting is likely influenced by the UN’s voluntary common reporting guidelines, which suggest a standard structure for VNRs and encourage countries to provide concise information on the progress and status of all SDGs.¹⁹

The thematic focuses of the HLPFs held over the four years under analysis may explain why there were fewer sections dedicated to SDG 16 in 2022 and 2023. There was no particular focus on SDG 16 in either of those years; whereas in 2020, the HLPF included discussions on progress, challenges, and opportunities across all SDGs, and in 2021, the HLPF focused specifically on SDG 16. Still, as Figure 2 shows, most countries included a dedicated section on SDG 16 even in years when it was not a focus of the HLPF. However, not all of them used it to comprehensively reflect on their national status, policies, and initiatives, or on achievements and challenges.

Figure 2. Proportion (%) of VNRs with a dedicated chapter on SDG 16



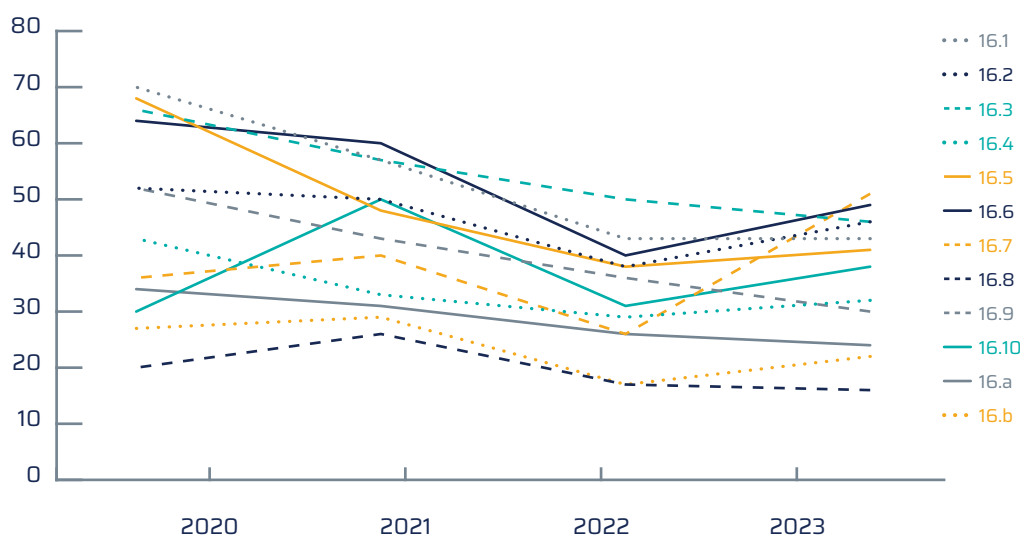
On average, individual SDG 16 targets were addressed in about 40 percent of the VNRs analysed for this study (see Figure 3, below). Not surprisingly, this reporting was slightly more robust overall in the two years (2020 and 2021) when more VNRs featured dedicated sections on SDG 16. Even so, across the four years under

study, targets related to more accountable institutions (in particular, 16.3, 16.6, and 16.7) were consistently among those reported on most regularly. This stands in contrast to the comparably low reporting on these targets (especially 16.6 and 16.7) seen during the first HLPF cycle (2016–2019).²⁰

18 United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *What did the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports still not tell us?* CDP Background Paper No. 52 (ST/ESA/2021/CDP/52), July 2021; United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *What are the Voluntary National Reviews (still) not telling us?* CDP Background Paper No. 54 (ST/ESA/2022/CDP/54), July 2022.

19 United Nations Development Programme, “Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF),” 2021.

20 This disparity may be due to the fact that the first report used data from the White & Case reviews of VNRs, which applied a different approach to VNR analysis.

Figure 3. Proportion (%) of VNRs in which SDG 16 targets were reported, by target and year

1.2. Methodology

This study, based on a systematic content analysis of VNRs submitted between 2020 and 2023, builds on a previous study of VNRs submitted between 2016 and 2019. In keeping with sample selection from that first study, and to ensure comparability, the sample for this study was limited to VNR submissions available in searchable text format in English, French, or Spanish. This resulted in the exclusion of four VNRs from the total of 169 that were submitted within the timeframe under study: two available only in Arabic (Libya and Syria), and two submitted in non-searchable PDF format (Botswana and Tanzania). Where VNRs were available in multiple languages, the English version was used for the purposes of this study. Statistical annexes were not analysed. The **final data set included 165 VNRs**, of which 123 were written in English, 24 in French, and 20 in Spanish.

This study combined both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis, and comprised of four main steps:

- 1. Keywords-based auto-coding** – VNRs were coded based on a pre-defined keyword dictionary using the software MaxQDA. Keywords were structured around five code categories: SDG 16 and its targets, oversight actors, SSG principles, security and justice providers, and SSG-related terms. Keywords were then translated from English into French and Spanish, with attention paid to maintaining equivalence in meanings across all languages (see Annex 2 for a full, multi-language list of keywords). To allow

for analysis of the keywords in context, each entry consisted of three sentences (the sentence including the keyword, along with the sentences before and after that one).

- 2. Manual refinement** – Automatically generated codes were then manually refined, with each code category reviewed for instances of incorrectly coded keywords (e.g., the keyword “court” generating hits for “courtesy”). This process was aided by keywords-based exclusion, based on patterns of false positives (e.g. all false positives associated with instances of “courtesy” were excluded).
- 3. Coding overlap analysis** – Coding for two code categories, “SSG principles” and “oversight actors,” generated high numbers of hits and required further refinement enabled by crosschecking them against another variable, which revealed many coded instances that were unrelated to SSG/R. To ensure a focus on relevant parts of VNRs, coded sections assigned to both these categories were analysed further only if they overlapped with instances coded in categories referring to security providers. In other words, these coded segments likely discussed a connection between SSG principles and security providers (e.g. “effective law enforcement”) or between oversight actors and security providers (e.g. civil society monitoring of the security sector).

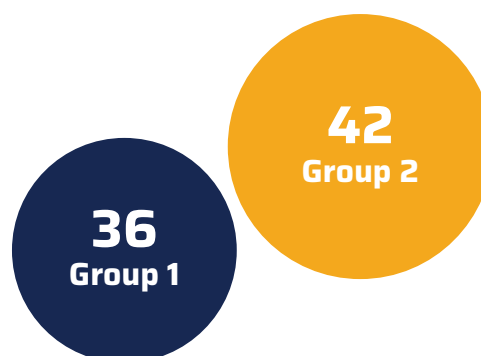
4. **Inductive manual coding** – A final manual coding process used an inductive approach to categorization that assessed: the overall aim of reported activities (i.e. SSG/oversight, improved effectiveness, enhanced accountability), the reported contribution of activities (based on the SDGs and their targets), and the entry point of reported activities (how they were delivered). Additional codes emerged through this process.

Following the coding exercise, out of the total data set (165 VNRs), 59 VNRs including explicit and/or implicit mentions of SSG/R (a total of 93 coded segments, hereinafter, also referred to as mentions) were further categorized into two groups, depending on whether or not they referred to accountability - based on the relevance of this principle to SSG as discussed in section 1.1.

- › **Group 1:** In 36 VNRs (59 mentions), reforms or changes associated with SSG/R were mentioned either *explicitly* through use of the terms/abbreviations “SSG” or “SSR,” or *implicitly* as a function of actions that align with the definition of SSG/R discussed above (i.e. referencing the principle of accountability, either alone or in conjunction with effectiveness) even if not explicitly labelled as such. An example of an *explicit mention* was seen in the VNR submitted by The Gambia, which noted that “the government has embarked on Security Sector Reform (SSR).”²¹ An *implicit mention* emerged in the description offered by Azerbaijan of its anti-corruption plan, which includes measures “to prevent corruption and strengthen transparency in the activities of state agencies ... expand the activities of civil society members, enhance public oversight and public participation, increase participation, ensure access to information, [and] ensure *accountability* [emphasis added].”²²
- › **Group 2:** In 42 VNRs (63 mentions), references were made to changes meant to improve, strengthen, or restructure the security sector or individual security and justice institutions, but without referring to the principle of accountability. The instances that fall into this group were generally found in the context of reporting that brought attention only to the enhanced effectiveness of security provision.

The same VNR may appear in both groups 1 and 2 as it may contain mentions that belong to both groups. The same applies to coded segments, which may contain multiple references that fulfil the definitions of group 1 and group 2 – see Annex 3.

Figure 4. VNRs including explicit and/or implicit mentions of SSG/R and their categorization into two groups



Challenges and limitations

While the aforementioned methodology allowed for the efficient analysis of all 165 VNRs, aided in identifying connections between different keywords, and supported an analysis at both the meta and micro levels, it also brought with it several challenges and limitations. For example, the use of a keyword-based approach posed some difficulties when it came to ensuring the inclusion of all relevant variations of all keywords, the accurate translation of keywords across languages, and the identification of all connections between keywords.

It is thus important to note that coded segments included in this study are illustrative; and that VNRs that are not cited or quoted may describe similarly relevant policies and measures. The main difficulties presented by this keyword-based methodology were matters of breadth and context, despite efforts to account for both factors, which are described in further detail below:

- › **Keyword variation** – The texts of VNRs do not necessarily use archetypical keywords or use them in the most standard order. For instance, instead of “security sector reform,” a country may refer to “reform of the security sector” or “reforms of the security, legal, and justice sector.” Generic terms and known variations were added to the codebook to mitigate this to the extent possible, and the manual refinement process captured additional instances. However, it is feasible that some relevant mentions were not identified.

21 Republic of The Gambia, *Voluntary National Review report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2022), p.57.

22 Republic of Azerbaijan, *Third Voluntary National Review* (2021), pp. 116–117.

- › **Translation and context specificity** – Particular care was taken to use keywords likely to generate relevant results across contexts. Still, generic terms may not account for all the national or local terminological idiosyncrasies used in every country submitting a VNR. Even key institutions bear rather different names across countries. The codebook was made purposely as broad and generic as possible to privilege the production of false positives, rather than exclude important content, as a means of mitigating this. In some cases, context-specific terms were also introduced and were not translated (e.g. “gendarmérie”) if relevant equivalents in other languages do not exist. Nevertheless, additional references may have escaped identification.
- › **Restrictions in coding overlap** – In the process of cross-referencing “SSG principles” and “oversight actors” with “security providers,” each of these keywords was coded over three sentences. This prevented the identification of any relevant references that fell beyond this three-sentence coded segment. As a result, the number of instances in which VNRs referred to these SSG/R activities in relation to security providers may be greater than is reflected in this study.

These methodological concerns aside, the VNRs offer a valuable window into how countries view their development and its connection to SSG/R, what they prioritize in reporting, and the way they choose to present their rationale for and the impacts of policies and initiatives. In fact, the discourse and reporting methods reflected in VNRs were as important to this study as data on the frequency with which SSG/R was explicitly mentioned or discussed. Even so, relying on the VNRs as the basis for data in this study posed several challenges in itself, which should be noted here:

- › **Limited comparability** – Inconsistencies in the way VNRs were structured and the level of detail they offered made it difficult to draw comparisons between and among them. For SDG 16 and SSG/R specifically, this may be due in part to the fact that some SDG 16 indicators are classified as Tier 3, meaning they lack clear international standards or established methodologies, making them more difficult to report on.²³ As a consequence, countries may not report on all relevant aspects of SSG/R when it is associated with Tier 3 indicators. At the same time, countries may highlight certain measures in VNRs that do not receive the same degree of attention or implementation in practice. Despite the guidelines for preparing VNRs, this means that their

precise scope, level of detail, format, and structure vary widely.

- › **Constraints on verifiability of content** – Because the main data source for analysis in this study was the content of VNRs, and apart from a few exceptions this content was not cross-checked against secondary sources (e.g. to verify a reference to a policy or initiative), the factual accuracy of the data presented in these VNRs has not been validated. Moreover, SSG/R-related policies or initiatives may have gone unreported even if they were implemented or had relevant effects, or may have been reported without any mention of actual SSG/R-related effects or elements.
- › **Non-standardized target numbering** – To some extent, the analysis in this study rests on the SDG numbering used in VNRs, which represented a challenge in two ways. First, some countries used a different target numbering system, with multiple examples of target 16.5, “the fight against corruption,” listed as 16.4. In obvious cases, numbering was harmonized for the purpose of analysis; however, not all cases could be unambiguously resolved. Second, in some VNRs, the way SDGs and their targets and indicators are grouped was reimagined. For instance, the EU has restructured the 12 targets under SDG 16 into three broad categories (“peace and personal security” (16.1), “access to justice” (16.2), and “trust in institutions” (16.3)).

While these inconsistencies and limitations are not insignificant, they were carefully considered and mitigated where possible. And importantly, it was the self-reporting of countries on links between SSG/R and the SDGs, including how and what they chose to report, that was the primary interest of this study.

23 See: SDG 16 Data Initiative, *A ‘Bold New Agenda’ is Falling short: The Perils and Promises of SDG 16 (2023)*; and United Nations Statistics Division, “Tier Classification for Global SDG Indicators,” 6 March 2024.

1.3. Structure

In the chapters that follow, initiatives are highlighted that align with the working definition of SSG/R used in this study, aimed at fostering a more accountable security sector, or better yet, a more accountable and effective security sector. How SSG/R functions as a facilitator for the SDGs, beyond SDG 16, will also be discussed.²⁴

In Chapter 2, the frequency with which countries use VNRs to reflect on their security sector and report on SSG/R is analysed. Then, Chapter 3 explores the content of this reporting by focusing on interconnections between SSG/R and sustainable development as presented in the VNRs. Finally, Chapter 4 offers conclusions and recommendations.



24 DCAF, "Sustainable Development Goal 16."

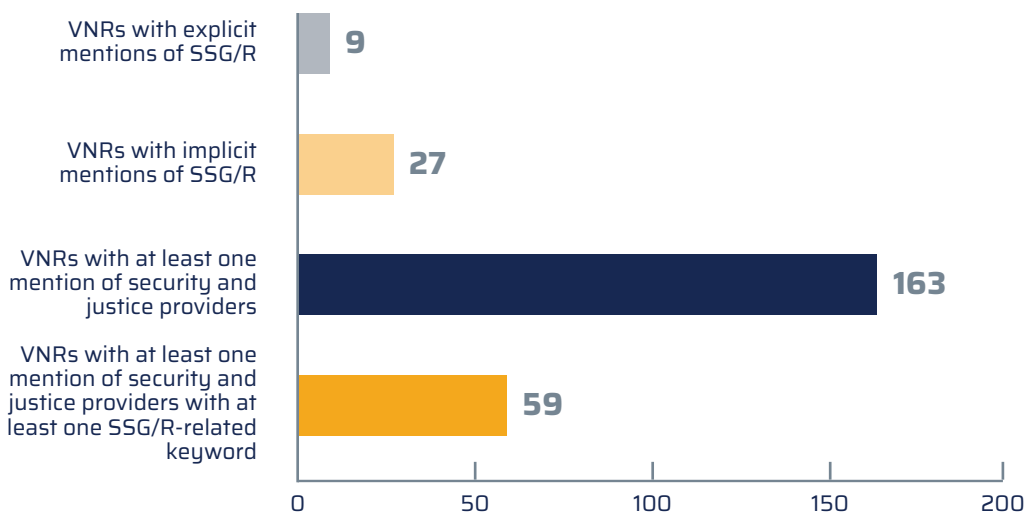
2. FREQUENCY OF REPORTING ON SSG/R AND THE SECURITY SECTOR



Security and justice actors were discussed extensively in many VNRs but often in an abstract way, without a clear link to sustainable development. With only 36 VNRs explicitly or implicitly referencing SSG/R, it is clear some countries recognize its importance in advancing the SDGs, but that systematic reporting on SSG/R (and the use of SSG/R terminology) is not yet standard practice in VNRs.

One of the inquiries of this study was whether and how frequently countries use VNRs to reflect on their security sector and report on SSG/R. The analysis in this chapter considers what VNR submissions indicate about how countries view the role of their security sectors, and SSG/R specifically, in relation to sustainable development. Explicit and implicit mentions of SSG/R are first discussed (i.e. those from Group 1, described in Section 1.2). This is followed by an evaluation of the extent to which countries report on their security and justice providers and oversight actors, and how often these mentions intersect with other SSG/R-related terms. As Figure 5 shows, there were just nine explicit mentions of SSG/R but three times as many implicit mentions, and nearly double that number of instances where security or justice providers were mentioned in conjunction with an SSG/R-related term.

Figure 5. VNRs with mentions of SSG/R and security and justice providers, by type and frequency



2.1. Explicit mentions of SSG/R

Segments coded as an explicit mention of SSG/R had to include the terms “SSR,” “security sector reform,” “SSG,” or “security sector governance” verbatim, or variations thereof as included in the codebook (see Annex 2). Simply put, explicit reporting on SSG/R is not common, a trend that was also observed in the previous VNR study, which identified only five explicit mentions (Norway, 2016; Belgium, 2017; Guinea, 2018; the Central African Republic, 2019; and Timor Leste, 2019).²⁵ Of the 165 VNRs analysed for this study, SSR was mentioned in only eight, or roughly 5 per cent of submissions (Liberia, 2020; Germany, 2021; Japan, 2021; The Gambia, 2022; Mali, 2022; Burkina Faso, 2023; the Central African Republic, 2023; and the European Union, 2023); and SSG was mentioned in just one, when Switzerland (2022) referred to its partnership with DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. These nine VNRs with explicit references to SSR or SSG can be divided into two categories:

1. countries actively pursuing SSR at the national level, and
2. donor countries reporting on their SSG/R support, either abroad or via partnerships with other organizations.²⁶

These findings, along with those of the first study, demonstrate not only that explicit and systematic reporting on SSG/R in VNRs is not an established practice, but that the consistency of this reporting varies both across and within countries. For instance, Liberia referred explicitly to its SSR process in its 2020 VNR but did not do so in its 2022 submission. And notably, several countries that were pursuing SSG/R

objectives at the time of their VNR reporting did not make explicit mention of it. In fact, among the countries that submitted at least one VNR from 2020 to 2023 and did not explicitly mention SSG/R, at least three were currently or had hosted an international peace mission with an SSG/R mandate (Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ukraine, and Iraq²⁷); at least two included SSG/R objectives in their national development plans (Afghanistan and Sierra Leone²⁸); and at least one had a national SSR strategy (Côte d’Ivoire²⁹). This underscores that even when SSG/R is nominally a national policy priority, it is not necessarily reflected in the terminology used or content reported in VNRs.

Of the nine times SSR or SSG were mentioned explicitly in VNRs, they were discussed both conceptually as a point of intersection with policy areas relevant to sustainable development such as state-building, and practically as means of achieving security objectives or addressing security challenges. For example, the VNR submitted by The Gambia mentioned SSR in relation to the country’s ongoing transition and its promotion of sustainable development, which includes government reforms aimed at good governance, human rights, and a more accountable security sector.³⁰ Meanwhile, Burkina Faso referred to SSG/R in the context of specific security activities, such as enhancing enforcement capacity against threats of terrorism.³¹

Some states drew direct links between SSG/R and SDG 16. Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Liberia, and The Gambia all included dedicated sections on SDG 16 that contain information on the SSG/R processes and objectives they consider contributory to this goal.³² And, while implicit mentions

25 Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals*.

26 While Guinea did not submit a VNR between 2020 and 2023, and the Central African Republic mentioned SSG/R in their 2023 VNR, it remains unclear why Belgium, Norway, and Timor Leste did not continue to address the topic; though, in the case of Timor Leste, by the time their 2023 VNR was being authored, it is possible that national SSR programming was considered completed, as suggested by Uesugi (See: Yuji Uesugi, “Evaluating Security Sector Reform in Timor Leste: The Triad Hybridity Nexuses,” *Asian Journal of Peacebuilding*, Vol. 9, no. 1 (2021), pp. 111–138.)

27 MONUSCO, Activities, “Security Sector Reform,” <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/security-sector-reform-ssr>; Council of the European Union, “EUAM Ukraine: Council extends the mandate of the EU Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform until 2027,” press release, 14 May 2024; and Council of the European Union, “EUAM Iraq: Council extends the mandate of the EU advisory mission on security sector reform until 2026,” press release, 29 April 2024.

28 Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Finance, *Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework (ANPDF II), 2021 to 2025: Forging our Transformation* (2020); Government of Sierra Leone, *Sierra Leone’s Medium-Term National Development Plan, 2019–2023: Education for Development*, vol. 1 (2019). Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, *Réformes du Secteur de la Sécurité* (2012).

29 Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, *Réformes du Secteur de la Sécurité* (2012).

30 Republic of The Gambia, *Voluntary National Review report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2022), p. 25.

31 Burkina Faso, *Rapport national volontaire 2016–2022* (2023), p. 101.

32 Burkina Faso, *Rapport national volontaire 2016–2022* (2023), p. 101; Central African Republic, *Rapport National Volontaire Sur le 5 ODD retenus : Accélérer la reprise après la maladie à coronavirus (COVID-19) et mettre pleinement en oeuvre l’Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable à tous les niveaux* (2023), p. 40 & 95; Liberia, *Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2020), pp. 93–94; and Republic of The Gambia, *Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2022), p. 25.

of SSG/R also appear in relation to other SDGs, it should be noted that explicit references to the connections between SSG/R and the SDGs were found only in sections specifically addressing SDG 16.³³ The level of detail offered regarding these contributions of SSG/R to SDG 16 varied, though, as most VNRs reported generally positive progress on SSR without providing specifics.

There are only a few active donor countries that explicitly report on their SSG/R support. In the 2020–2023 reporting cycle, Japan, Germany, Switzerland, and the EU offered the only submissions that used SSR or SSG or related terms verbatim to describe their work with partner organizations or countries.³⁴ Other international supporters of SSG/R, such as Sweden and The Netherlands, did not make explicit mentions of SSG/R, or like Norway and Belgium appear to have discontinued their explicit reporting on the subject. However, these donors did tend to make

note of SSG/R-related international efforts that took place under the umbrella of SDG 16, including support for good governance, anti-corruption efforts, effective and accountable institutions, human rights, and rule of law; some of which have directly impacted the security sectors of partner countries and could be viewed as support for SSG/R.

Among the four donors that explicitly used SSG/R terminology in their VNRs, coded segments largely discussed Security Force Assistance (SFA) involving the training and equipping of foreign armed forces, thereby emphasizing the effectiveness dimension of SSG/R. Germany is the only donor that adopted of a broader view of SSR, to include elements such as civilian oversight, reconciliation, and transitional justice.³⁵ It is clear that, among international supporters of SSG/R, there is inconsistency both in their reporting on this support and in their use of SSG/R terminology.

2.2. Implicit mentions of SSG/R

Implicit mentions of SSG/R were identified in VNRs when the reporting described SSG/R-related reforms or actions but did not make explicit use of “SSR” or “SSG” (or related terms from the codebook). These implicit mentions were counted only when SSG/R-related activities were linked to processes of accountability, or effectiveness and accountability (rather than effectiveness alone, addressed in Section 3.3). The number of implicit mentions of SSG/R in the VNRs was significantly higher than explicit mentions, by an order of three, with 27 instances (see Figure 5, above).³⁶ And while most of these implicit mentions were found to relate to SDG 16, in three VNRs, SSG/R-related activities were linked to SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, and SDG 10 on reduced inequalities.³⁷

During the timeframe for this study, the recorded number of implicit mentions of SSG/R dropped off, compared to VNR submissions from the 2016–2019 cycle, when they were identified in 63 VNRs.³⁸ This decrease was likely due in part to the stricter coding approach used in this study to define what constitutes SSG/R. Yet, it could also indicate a broader trend of less comprehensive reporting on SSG/R in the 2020–2023 reporting cycle.

33 In addition, there were three cases in which SSG/R was mentioned in a general section pertaining to “Policy and Enabling Environment” or “Priorities and Budget.”

34 Japan, *Voluntary National Review 2021, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda* (2021), p. 87; Germany, *Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development* (2021), p. 114; Swiss Confederation, *Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Review of Switzerland 2022* (2022), p. 48; and European Union, *EU Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2023), p. 189.

35 The German Federal Government, *Report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development: German Voluntary National Review to the HLPF 2021* (2021), p. 114.

36 The countries that made implicit mentions of SSG/R in their VNRs were: Afghanistan, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Cote d'Ivoire, Croatia, Czech Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Greece, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Russia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Ukraine, and Zambia. See [Annex 3](#) for more information.

37 See: Argentina, *Tercer Informe Voluntario Nacional* (2022), pp. 230-231; Papua New Guinea, *Voluntary National Review 2020, Progress of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals* (2020), p. 40; Presidency of Greece, *Voluntary National Review 2022 on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2022), p. 121.

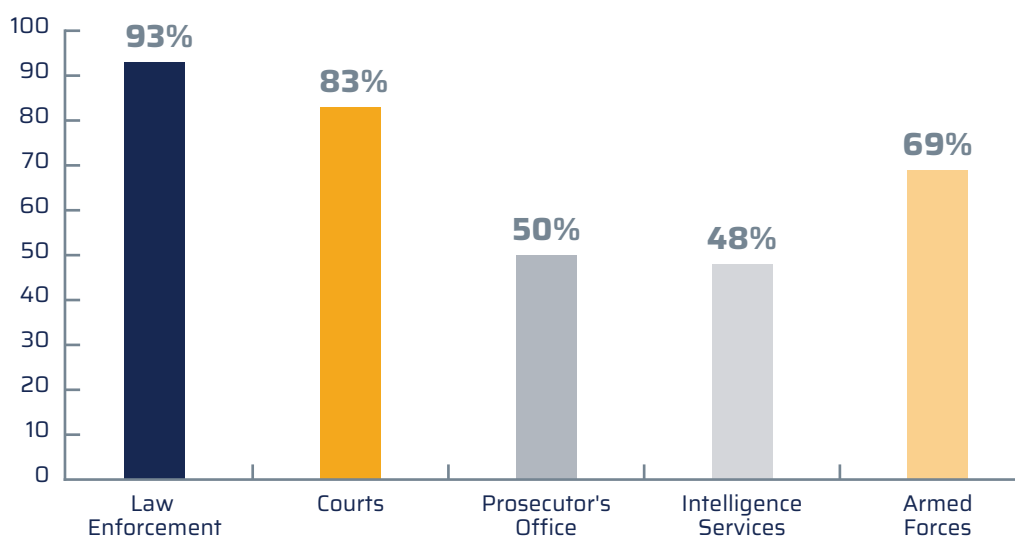
38 Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals*, p. 25.

2.3. Security and justice providers and oversight bodies

References to SSG/R processes are not the only way countries can link their security and justice sectors to sustainable development in VNRs. Therefore, this study also examined whether and how countries discussed the security and justice sectors more broadly in VNRs, by coding mentions of security and justice providers and oversight bodies. Almost every VNR (99 per cent) contained at least one reference to security and justice providers, and usually more. This high level of reporting may be linked to the focus of the HLPF on SDG 16 in both 2020 and 2021, particularly as several targets and corresponding indicators within SDG 16, such as target 16.3, explicitly address security and justice provision.

A closer examination of the security and justice providers mentioned in VNRs reveals that law enforcement and justice providers were discussed much more frequently in relation to the SDGs than armed forces. As Figure 6 (below) shows, references to law enforcement providers appeared at least once in 93 per cent of VNRs under consideration. Justice providers were also referenced quite regularly, with courts mentioned in 83 per cent of VNRs and prosecutor's offices in 50 per cent. In contrast, less than half of VNRs (48 per cent) included a mention of intelligence or military providers. General references to armed forces were made in 69 per cent of VNRs, with specific branches of the armed forces mentioned very infrequently or not at all. This matches findings from the previous analysis, of VNRs submitted from 2016 to 2019.³⁹

Figure 6. Proportion (%) of VNRs with at least one mention of security or justice actors, by type



Note: "Law Enforcement" and "Armed Forces" are aggregate categories

Unlike security and justice providers, oversight actors like legislatures/parliaments, courts, and civil society were rarely mentioned in association with security providers and/or oversight of the security sector. Oversight plays a crucial role in SSR and SSG, serving as a pillar for accountable, democratic, and transparent

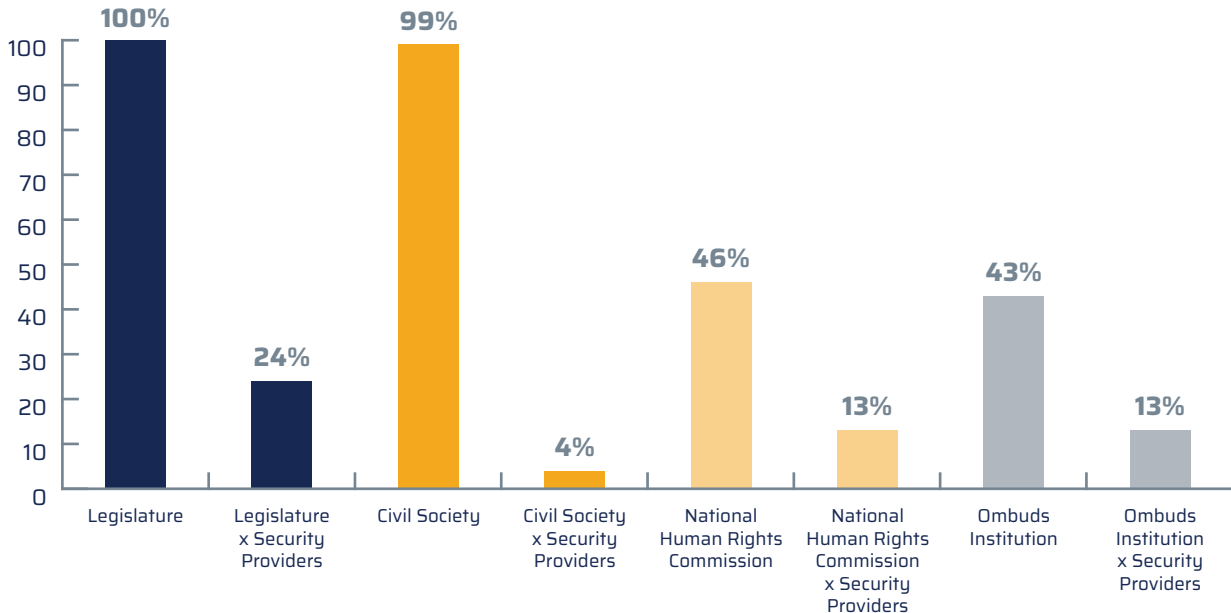
security sectors, and though oversight actors were discussed in every VNR, their roles vis-à-vis the security sector were scarcely addressed at all. For example, only 24 per cent of VNRs referenced the legislature in this context (see Figure 7, below). Though dedicated oversight mechanisms such as ombuds institutions or

³⁹ Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals*, p. 18.

national human rights commissions were mentioned in about half the VNRs under study (43 per cent and 46 per cent, respectively), these institutions were discussed in connection with security and justice providers or oversight activities in only 13 per cent of these VNRs. And, although civil society is recognized as a key

oversight actor in the security sector and is referenced in nearly 100 percent of the VNRs under consideration, fewer than 5 percent of these references are made in connection with security providers and/or the oversight of the security sector (also see Figure 7, below).

Figure 7. Proportion (%) of VNRs with at least one mention of oversight actors in conjunction with security actors




2.4. SSG principles

This analysis also coded for mentions of SSG principles (accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, participation, rule of law, responsiveness, and transparency), to determine whether states actively employ these terms in relation to security and justice provision, potentially having integrated them through SSG/R-related initiatives. Yet, these principles were rarely mentioned in VNRs in the context of the relationship between security provision. The rule of law, which is central to SSG/R, was referenced quite frequently, in 71 per cent of VNRs, but it was neither explored in detail nor linked to security provision. In fact, it appeared in many VNRs due to the inclusion of this term, verbatim, in SDG target 16.3, however it was cited more than once in just 40 per cent of VNRs and received enough focus to be mentioned five or more times in only about a quarter of VNRs.

Similarly, principles like accountability, effectiveness, inclusion, and transparency were seldom discussed in VNRs in a way that linked them to security providers. A mere four VNRs did so, for example in discussing efforts to enhance transparency in law enforcement institutions. References to security providers were quite frequent in VNRs, but typically occurred in isolation from the core principles of SSG. However, when SSG/R was mentioned, whether implicitly or explicitly, it was almost always connected to SDG 16 and its targets; suggesting that SDG 16 offers an entry point through which reporting on SSG/R could be significantly enhanced in future VNRs.

3. TRENDS IN REPORTING ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SSG/R AND THE SDGS





The reporting on security sectors in VNRs tended to emphasize effectiveness over accountability. Where references to accountability were made regarding security provision, they were typically discussed in connection to human rights-based approaches to governance and SDG 16. Conversely, reflections on the effectiveness of a security sector were often explicitly linked to crime prevention and prosecution.

Examining the trends that emerged across VNRs in reporting on SSG/R and on measures taken to improve, strengthen, or restructure the security sector or individual security and justice providers provides valuable information about how countries conceive of efforts to reform the security sector in relation to sustainable development. This chapter discusses those trends, and also compares the reporting practices observed in VNRs; some that highlight improved accountability in the security sector and others that focus solely on the increased effectiveness of security provision. It then explores how these approaches are linked to broader themes reflected in the VNRs.

3.1. General trends in reporting on changes in the security sector

For the most part, the reporting in VNRs placed a greater emphasis on the effectiveness of a security sector than on accountability. As a result, in a majority of cases, descriptions of changes to security and justice providers are not formulated in a way that aligns with the normative definition of SSG/R applied in this study, insofar as they do not refer either implicitly or explicitly to the principle of accountability. For example, 42 VNRs reported on efforts to strengthen their security providers in the context of increasing their effectiveness (i.e. Group 2, described in Section 1.2; see Figure 4), mostly through train-and-equip activities but sometimes by changing

legislation (e.g. new or revised penal codes privileging security and justice providers with enhanced powers). Conversely, only 36 VNRs reported on efforts to reform their security sector in the context of increasing its accountability (i.e. Group 1, described in Section 1.2; see Figure 4). This corresponds with international research on SSR indicating that, broadly speaking, there is a global focus on effectiveness over accountability; despite awareness that accountability is in fact a key driver for effectiveness.⁴⁰ Consequently, many VNRs missed the opportunity to highlight how a more accountable security sector can contribute to sustainable development.⁴¹

40 Andreas Wittkowsky, "Prioritäten richtig setzen: Wie Reformen im Sicherheitssektor Frieden fördern," *Peacelab* (blog), 9 March 2021, <https://peacelab.blog/2021/03/prioritaeten-richtig-setzen-wie-reformen-im-sicherheitssektor-frieden-foerdern>.

41 Mark Sedra, ed., *The Future of Security Sector Reform* (Waterloo, Ontario: Centre for International Governance Innovation, 2010); Paul Jackson, "Introduction: Second-Generation Security Sector Reform," *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, Vol. 12, no. 1 (2018), pp. 1–10; DCAF, "Security Sector Reform"; and Luka Glušac, *Leaving No One Behind, Leaving No One Unaccountable: Ombuds Institutions, Good (Security Sector) Governance and Sustainable Development Goal 16* (London: Ubiquity Press, 2023).

A second trend observed in this study was that reporting on security sectors and on security and justice providers revolved largely around two themes: human rights-based approaches to governance, and crime prevention and prosecution. These themes emerged across VNRs, regardless of whether the changes reported qualified as SSG/R or not. Moreover, countries frequently connected these themes to specific SDGs:

1. **Human rights-based approaches to governance** were commonly mentioned in sections of VNRs that addressed SDG 16, including in relation to targets 16.3 (promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice), 16.5 (substantially reduce corruption and bribery), 16.6 (develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions), 16.7 (ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making), and 16.b (strengthen national institutions and prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime).
2. **Crime prevention and prosecution** were discussed in sections of VNRs focused on efforts to combat various forms of crime, linked to a range of SDGs, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) (SDG 5 on gender equality), human trafficking and child labour (SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth), and the illicit trafficking of protected flora and fauna (SDG 15 on life on land). Within SDG 16, this theme was referenced in the context of targets 16.1 (reduce violence everywhere), 16.2 (protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence) and 16.4 (combat organized crime and illicit financial and arms flows).

Both of the abovementioned themes occupy significant space in the VNRs under study. Among the 36 VNRs with implicit or explicit mentions of SSG/R (see Figure 5), SSG/R activities were associated with strengthening human rights in 27 cases, and with fighting crime in 17 cases.⁴² When VNRs referenced changes to security sectors in a way that did not meet the coding threshold to qualify as a mention of SSG/R (i.e. Group 2, described in Section 1.2; see Figure 4), all 42 instances reflected on how these changes benefitted human rights and 39 on how they aided the fight against crime. And, the greater focus brought to law enforcement over armed forces in VNRs, discussed in the previous chapter, was certainly at play when it came to reporting on reforms to the security sector, with changes involving

law enforcement providers mentioned at over three times the rate of similar efforts involving armed forces.⁴³

Taking this analysis a step further, three SSG/R-related thematic clusters were identified within the two broader themes of human rights-based approaches to governance and crime prevention and prosecution:

- **Access to justice and rule of law** – 22 VNRs (37 per cent of those analysed) reported changes to the security sector that contributed to access to justice and rule of law (SDG target 16.3). Countries achieved this through a variety of means, from enhanced law enforcement capacity and improved procedural rules in the justice sector, to human-rights-based policing and improved institutional and civilian oversight.
- **Anti-corruption** – This emerged as the second-most prominent aim of SSR (and constitutes SDG target 16.5), appearing in 18 VNRs (30 per cent of those analysed). For example, Nigeria connected its anti-corruption efforts to the freedom of expression, assembly, and association, noting that “journalists and media practitioners are frequently threatened and attacked by state security officials.”⁴⁴ Similarly, Qatar reported on the number of people who were victims of corruption by government officials.⁴⁵
- **Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** – In 16 VNRs (27 per cent of those analysed), SGBV was mentioned as a key focus of initiatives directed at security and justice providers. This is relevant both to crime prevention and prosecution and to human rights-based approaches to governance; as references were made in VNRs not only to security and justice providers preventing and prosecuting SGBV, but also to efforts aimed at preventing and discouraging the commission of SGBV crimes by these providers or within security institutions. For instance, the VNR submitted by the Democratic Republic of the Congo described progress on combatting acts of sexual violence committed by security personnel through implementation of an action plan devised by the National Ministry of Defence.⁴⁶ At the same time, Ukraine identified a “lack of legislative regulation of the problem of combating sexual violence in military activities” as a challenge to achieving SDG 16.⁴⁷

42 These groups are not mutually exclusive, as one VNR report may contain references to SSG/R that fall within both themes.

43 There were 36 instances in which reporting of this kind was linked to law enforcement, but just 11 instances linked to armed forces.

44 Government of Nigeria, *Integration of the SDGs into National Development Planning: A Second Voluntary National Review* (Abuja, 2020), p. xix.

45 State of Qatar, *Qatar Voluntary National Review 2021: Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2021), p. 138.

46 Democratic Republic of Congo, *Rapport d'Examen National Volontaire des Objectifs de Développement Durable* (Kinshasa, 2020), p. 48.

47 Government of Ukraine, *Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine: Voluntary National Review* (2020), p. 105.

3.2. Reporting in VNRs linking a more accountable security sector to the SDGs

Of the 36 instances where SSG/R-related measures were explicitly or implicitly mentioned (i.e. Group 1, described in Section 1.2; see Figure 4), they were more frequently associated with human rights-based approaches than with crime prevention and prosecution. Indeed, efforts to foster accountability were generally associated with the protection of human rights, while efforts to improve the effectiveness of security provision were normally associated with crime prevention. In the VNRs under consideration, discussions of accountability and human rights often related to the development and improvement of systems for monitoring, oversight, and whistleblowing. The measures described can be sorted into three types:

1. **the establishment or strengthening of anti-corruption or other oversight institutions;**
2. **enhancements to the monitoring of performance in justice and security institutions; and**
3. **the introduction of mechanisms for complaints or whistleblowing.**

VNRs that reported on the establishment or strengthening of independent transparency and anti-corruption institutions mostly mentioned anti-corruption commissions or ombuds institutions. Those describing efforts to establish or strengthen security sector oversight mechanisms discussed a wider variety of entities, including civil society organizations, independent human rights or anti-corruption commissions, parliamentary commissions, specialized legal offices, executive-court collaborations, and more. In most cases, these bodies have undertaken activities aimed at monitoring and reporting human rights and other abuses by security forces, though some – such as the Anti-Corruption Commission in Liberia, the mandate

of which was increased to give it prosecutorial powers⁴⁸ – have engaged directly in the fight against corruption.

A handful of countries also reported that they had established complaints mechanisms or means for whistleblowers to submit reports, to ensure accountability among security providers. For example, both Liberia and Afghanistan noted efforts to improve whistleblower protections through dedicated laws.⁴⁹ Meanwhile, Argentina, Côte d'Ivoire, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo all described initiatives to establish or improve mechanisms for complaints handling related to allegations of SGBV committed by security actors.⁵⁰

Efforts to enhance security actors' respect for human rights, often through specialized training, were also reported. For instance, Argentina noted that security forces receive human rights training aimed at preventing them from using unlawful violence and ensuring equal treatment for all groups in society, in alignment with SDG target 10.3 on ensuring equal opportunity and reducing inequalities of outcome.⁵¹ And in Greece, police officers reportedly undergo specialized training to improve their sensitivity to and interactions with the LGBTQ+ and Roma communities, not only to increase the accountability of police to these groups but also to enhance their effectiveness in preventing and responding to crimes committed against these groups.⁵²

While quite a few VNRs made note of associations between SSG/R-related activities to increase accountability and human rights based-approaches to governance, the contributions of these activities to crime prevention and prosecution were mentioned far less frequently. However, the few instances where this theme of crime prevention and prosecution was explicitly linked to a more accountable security sector

48 Republic of Liberia, *Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2020), p. 97.

49 Ibid.; and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2021* (2021), p. 39.

50 Presidency of Argentina, *Terceer Informe Voluntario Nacional Argentina 2022* (Buenos Aires, 2022), p. 230; Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, *Deuxième Rapport National Volontaire sur les ODD* (2022), p. 66; and Democratic Republic of Congo, *Rapport d'Examen National Volontaire des Objectifs de Développement Durable* (2020), p. 48.

51 Presidency of Argentina, *Terceer Informe Voluntario Nacional Argentina 2022* (Buenos Aires, 2022), p. 230.

52 Presidency of Greece, *Voluntary National Review 2022 on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2022), p. 121.

demonstrate the significant potential for further reporting in this area. For example, there were VNRs that drew connections between systems of monitoring, complaints, and oversight and the prevention and prosecution of crime. There were also VNRs that reported on training for security actors – such as the specialized training provided to police in Papua New Guinea to ensure they properly collect evidence and file charges in cases of SGBV⁵³ – that contributes both to increased and improved prosecution of crime and to enhanced access to justice for victims.

In some VNRs, countries reported changes to the laws that govern the security sector and are expected to increase accountability, such as anti-corruption legislation adopted in St. Kitts and Nevis and in Afghanistan.⁵⁴ Other countries implemented legislative reforms affecting the security sector, as Morocco did by undertaking “a complete revision” of its military justice system with the aim of strengthening military discipline. In its VNR, Morocco framed this and other reforms to the criminal and penal codes as part of a broader effort to realize a “preventive security system that promotes sustainable development and social peace,” and which advances “the role of the public, social policies and education in the fight against violence.”⁵⁵ This touches on both the themes of human rights-based approaches to governance and crime prevention, as well as others.

Indeed, the reporting in some VNRs linked a more accountable security sector to themes beyond the two highlighted above. Some VNRs described improved governance of the security sector – such as by increasing the capacity of oversight bodies – as crucial to sustaining peace, for example. And Argentina and Greece both related SSG/R-related activities to SDG 10, which focuses on reducing inequalities, particularly through the promotion of human rights-based policing.⁵⁶

Of course, establishing more accountable security sectors requires national actors to promote and implement reforms and oversee security actors. Typically, external oversight is the work of legislatures and civil society organizations, generally together with national human rights commissions or ombuds institutions. In VNRs, it was common for discussions of accountability to reflect on the roles of these key

oversight actors. For example, legislatures play a central role in establishing and overseeing SSG/R-related policies and initiatives, and legislative reform was described in many VNRs as a significant component of SSG/R; whether by revising legal processes, redefining crimes, changing security structures and processes, or modifying oversight mechanisms. In fact, 40 per cent of the explicit or implicit mentions of SSG/R identified in this study (from Group 1) appeared in the context of reporting on changes to the legal framework. This marks a notable departure from the 2021 DCAF study on VNRs, which found that parliaments were rarely mentioned in this context.⁵⁷

The VNRs analysed for this study also emphasized the role of civil society organizations and national human rights institutions in demanding and overseeing change. While these actors may not implement reforms directly, several VNRs cited examples of how they have helped initiate reform through their advocacy and oversight, which is often directed at pushing for greater accountability in the security sector. In some cases, these actors are formally and legally empowered to oversee the security sector, as in Côte d’Ivoire, where civil society is engaged in monitoring reforms related to SGBV.⁵⁸

Interestingly, when VNRs reported on the restructuring of a security sector, this reform was rarely associated with increased accountability, despite the fact that such restructuring presents a key opportunity to strengthen human rights-based approaches to governance of the sector. For instance, Zambia described extensive reforms intended to help combat terrorism and crime – which involved the restructuring of institutions including the Human Rights Commission, the Police Public Complaints Commission, the Judicial Complaints Authority, the Office of the Public Protector, the Zambia Police Service, and the country’s Financial Intelligence Centre – but framed these changes primarily as a response to security challenges and not as an effort to improve accountability and oversight within the security sector.⁵⁹ In other instances, VNRs reported on reforms that could potentially contribute to a more accountable security sector (and more accountable security actors) but did not describe them in a way that clearly highlighted these impacts; opting instead for a focus on other outcomes. Denmark reported on

53 Government of Papua New Guinea, *Papua New Guinea’s Voluntary National Review 2020: Progress of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals* (Port Moresby, 2020), p. 40.

54 Government of St. Kitts and Nevis, *Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2023), p. 86; and Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, *Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2021* (2021), p. 39.

55 The Kingdom of Morocco, *Examen National Volontaire de la Mise en Œuvre des Objectifs du Développement Durable* (2020), p. 161.

56 Presidency of Argentina, *Tercer Informe Voluntario Nacional Argentina 2022* (Buenos Aires, 2022), p. 229–231; and Presidency of Greece, *Voluntary National Review 2022 on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2022), pp. 121.

57 Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals*, p. 34.

58 Republic of Côte d’Ivoire, *Deuxième Rapport National Volontaire sur les ODD* (2022), p. 125.

59 Republic of Zambia, *Voluntary National Review 2020: Zambia Sustainable Development Goals* (Lusaka, 2020), p. 94.

reform meant to bring police closer to communities, for example, by noting that it is aimed at “ensuring greater visibility and accessibility of police throughout Denmark, an intensification of efforts to combat serious economic, organised and IT-related crime, and more efficient processing of criminal cases.”⁶⁰ And Sri Lanka outlined efforts to close gaps in “policies, laws, and regulatory frameworks... to protect the security, data, and rights of all, especially the vulnerable,” tying this to SDG targets on inclusion (10.2), reduced violence (16.2) and justice for all (16.3) but not to accountability as such.⁶¹

It should be noted that VNRs which included evaluations from external sources such as national or international human rights organizations were more likely to emphasize the link between accountability in the security and justice sectors and sustainable development

than VNRs produced without the involvement of such organizations. The National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh highlighted that addressing state violence was a priority area, for example;⁶² and the Seychelles Human Rights Commission identified a need for action to increase accountability in the security sector.⁶³ Furthermore, several countries incorporated results and recommendations from United Nations bodies such as the Human Rights Committee and Human Rights Council, or other multilateral actors like the CEDAW Committee. In its VNR, Finland clearly differentiated between the assessments of the government and those of civil society on the progress achieved for each SDG, potentially providing a more critical perspective on human rights violations within its security sector, and offering a model that may be worth mainstreaming in VNRs in the future.⁶⁴

3.3. Reporting in VNRs linking a more effective security sector to the SDGs

The 59 VNRs that met the coding threshold for analysis contained 42 instances of reporting that described efforts to increase the effectiveness of the security sector but did not mention accountability (i.e. Group 2, described in Section 1.2; see Figure 4). In these instances, countries frequently brought attention to how a more effective security sector contributes to crime prevention and prosecution efforts, rather than detailing how this better aligns the sector with human rights principles or governance standards; generally, placing a considerable emphasis on crime reduction as the primary goal of enhanced effectiveness in the security sector. Compared to the instances that constitute Group 1 (analysed above), these mentions highlighted a greater number of efforts aimed at preventing and prosecuting crimes, and also covered a broader range of issues. The fights against corruption and SGBV were key priorities, along with crime-related SDG targets such as ending child abuse and human trafficking (16.2) and reducing all forms of violence (16.1). There was also one VNR that introduced a new connection, to the fight against the illicit trade of endangered species.⁶⁵

Capacity building and legislative reform were emphasized in the mentions that fell into Group 2, as key strategies to achieve crime reduction goals, typically through training for security providers in investigative techniques, initiatives to equip them with new technologies, and increased penalties for certain crimes. Efforts to restructure the security sector were highlighted as well, with various countries reporting on the establishment of new structures, including anti-corruption offices, or enhanced cooperation and coordination among agencies as a means of improving crime prosecution. In comparison to Group 1, fewer linkages were made to human rights-based governance as an outcome. This was also reflected in the targets cited in Group 2. For example, access to justice and rule of law (16.3) remained priorities but more inclusive and accountable institutions (16.6) were discussed less frequently. These findings illustrate that the role of accountability mechanisms in effective crime prevention and prosecution can be much more thoroughly acknowledged in VNRs.

60 The Danish Government, *Voluntary National Review 2021* (Copenhagen, 2021), p. 124.

61 Government of Sri Lanka, *Inclusive Transformation Towards a Sustainably Developed Nation for All: National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka* (2022), p. 137.

62 Bangladesh, *Voluntary National Review* (2020), p. 142.

63 The Seychelles, *Voluntary National Review* (2020), p. 94.

64 Prime Minister's Office of Finland, *Voluntary National Review 2020 Finland: Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (Helsinki, 2020).

65 Singapore, *Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Singapore* (2020), p. 53.

4. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



There is growing acceptance that SSG/R has the potential to contribute to SDG 16 and, either directly or by extension, to a broad range of other SDGs. Building on a previous analysis, this study therefore set out to systematically review how countries reported on their use of SSG/R in the context of sustainable development, in VNRs submitted from 2020 to 2023. The focus of this study was whether and to what degree countries attribute a role to their security sector in efforts to achieve the SDGs, and how they view reforms or changes in their security sector in the context of these objectives.

Much like the previous analysis of VNR submissions published by DCAF, in 2021, this study found that **countries which utilize the VNR process to report on SSG/R activities remain a minority**. But, their reporting on the subject often highlighted clear links to SDG 16 as well as to other SDGs, demonstrating a recognition of the holistic and multisectoral nature of SSG/R. Discrepancies in the level of detail reported by these countries hint at the **untapped potential for VNRs to more fully reflect on and bring to light the contributions of security sectors**, however, and to raise awareness of the role of SSG/R in advancing sustainable development. Policies and initiatives were often described with little specificity, and for the most part, reporting focused on positive outcomes rather than challenges.

This study also found that **the explicit use of SSG/R terminology remains rare**, with only nine VNRs explicitly mentioning “SSR,” “SSG,” or variations of these; continuing a trend observed in the 2021 study of VNRs.⁶⁶ Notably, some of the countries that did not make explicit mention of SSG/R had hosted an international peace mission with an SSG/R mandate, had included SSG/R objectives in their national development plans, or had national SSR strategies at the time they submitted their VNR. This raises the question of whether the incorporation of SSG/R terminology in VNRs is simply not yet an established practice, or whether there are any other reasons countries so rarely make explicit use of this terminology.

There were several countries that described a more effective and accountable security sector as crucial for sustainable development, but overwhelmingly, the effectiveness of security provision was emphasized over accountability in VNRs. To some degree, this may reflect a focus on addressing global security concerns, such as terrorism, irregular migration, and organized crime. Accordingly, oversight actors, such as civil society organizations, legislatures, national human rights institutions, ombuds institutions, and specialized multilateral agencies were seldom mentioned. Nevertheless, in some cases, these actors

were invited to contribute to VNRs, and when they did so, they raised critical questions and encouraged governments to focus as much on the accountability, inclusivity, and transparency of security sectors, as on their effectiveness.

The examples of good practice that can be drawn from these VNRs suggest that the **VNR process can facilitate valuable dialogue among government, national oversight bodies, and domestic civil society organizations**. Moreover, a VNR sets a baseline by which national oversight actors, civil society, and researchers can hold governments accountable. To that end, the commitments expressed in VNRs serve as a measure for the assessment of a country’s progress vis-à-vis sustainable development, for the purposes of both analysis and advocacy.

The findings of this study inform the following **recommendations**, for future VNR reporting, as well as for civil society organizations, other oversight actors, and researchers:

- › **Reporting parties should increase the scope and depth of their reporting on SSG/R in VNRs by providing stronger evidence for their claims.** As this study has shown, VNR reporting on SSG/R often discusses efforts to improve SSG by focusing on achievements rather than challenges or lessons learned, and lacks data or concrete examples of activities. This could be improved with the adoption of more data-driven approaches and the incorporation of more comprehensive analyses that give equal weight to successes and weaknesses.
- › **Reporting parties should balance reporting on the effectiveness of security sectors with reporting on measures to foster accountability in security sectors.** The focus on effectiveness observed in this study meant VNRs often failed to reflect on how accountability is linked to and drives effectiveness. While a lack of reporting on accountability may not indicate that there were no accountability-related measures implemented in practice, reporting parties should take care to report on any activities that have helped them take steps towards more accountable security sectors.
- › **Reporting parties should be intentional about continuous, coherent reporting on SSG/R in VNRs.** This study found that states often reported on an SSG/R-related measure in one VNR, without following up in their subsequent VNR on progress made or challenges encountered in the context of implementing that measure. Continuous reporting over time would

⁶⁶ Preperier, *Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals*.

allow for a more coherent picture of progress and would offer a clearer view into where adaptations and adjustments can be made to improve outcomes.

- › **Reporting parties should use explicit SSG/R terminology.** While this study determined that SSG/R activities were indeed recorded in VNRs, this was often in implied rather than explicit terms, with very few reporting parties using the language of SSG/R outright. Referring to SSG/R-related measures in explicit terms, for instance by linking them to “governance” or “reform” of the security sector, could facilitate dialogue about these measures between governments, and among national stakeholders like civil society organizations and oversight bodies, as well as at the international level.
- › **Civil society and oversight actors that engage on SSG/R-related issues and/or support the VNR process should encourage states to consider their inclusion in this process.** A notable finding of this study was that VNRs which included the analysis or assessment of these actors tended to incorporate valuable critical analysis and more diverse perspectives. These actors can also encourage states to follow the recommendations for reporting parties listed above, and should seek to ensure that they produce evidence-based VNRs which are both concise and comprehensive.
- › **Researchers should delve further into how reporting parties use and view the VNR process and the reasons they employ specific reporting strategies.** Based on the findings of this study, avenues for future research on VNRs and the VNR process clearly exist. For example, researchers should explore in more depth how states choose the focus of their reporting, why they do not report with continuity on specific topics over time, and why so few use the explicit terminology of SSG/R. It is also worth examining whether the SSG/R engagement reported in VNRs has in fact taken place in practice, or if progress on SSG/R that is visible in practice has not been represented in reporting. This could add to understandings of how SSG/R is linked to progress towards sustainable development on the ground.



Annex 1. VNRs submitted, 2020–2023

All VNRs are available on the website of the HLPF (<https://hlpf.un.org/countries>).

Country	Number of VNRs submitted 2020-2023
Afghanistan	1
Angola	1
Argentina	2
Austria	1
Bahrain	1
Barbados	1
Belgium	1
Bhutan	1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	1
Brunei	2
Burkina Faso	1
Cabo Verde	1
Cameroon	1
Central African Republic	1
Chile	1
Colombia	1
Costa Rica	1
Croatia	1
Cyprus	1
Denmark	1
Dominica	1
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	1
Ecuador	1
El Salvador	1
Eritrea	1
Eswatini	1
EU	1

Country	Number of VNRs submitted 2020-2023
Andorra	1
Antigua and Barbuda	1
Armenia	1
Azerbaijan	1
Bangladesh	1
Belarus	1
Benin	1
Bolivia	1
Botswana	1
Bulgaria	1
Burundi	1
Cambodia	1
Canada	1
Chad	1
China	1
Comoro Islands	2
Côte d'Ivoire	1
Cuba	1
Czech Republic	1
Djibouti	1
Dominican Republic	1
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2
Egypt	1
Equatorial Guinea	1
Estonia	1
Ethiopia	1
Fiji	1

Country	Number of VNRs submitted 2020-2023
Finland	1
Gabon	1
Georgia	1
Ghana	1
Grenada	1
Guinea Bissau	1
Honduras	1
India	1
Iraq	1
Italy	1
Japan	1
Kazakhstan	1
Kuwait	1
Laos	1
Lesotho	1
Libya	1
Lithuania	1
Macedonia	1
Malawi	2
Maldives	1
Marshall Islands	1
Micronesia	1
Mongolia	1
Morocco	1
Namibia	1
Netherlands	1
Niger	2
Norway	1
Panama	1
Paraguay	1
Philippines	1
Portugal	1

Country	Number of VNRs submitted 2020-2023
France	1
Gambia	2
Germany	1
Greece	1
Guatemala	1
Guyana	1
Iceland	1
Indonesia	1
Ireland	1
Jamaica	1
Jordan	1
Kenya	1
Kyrgyzstan	1
Latvia	1
Liberia	2
Liechtenstein	1
Luxembourg	1
Madagascar	1
Malaysia	1
Mali	1
Mexico	1
Moldova	1
Montenegro	1
Mozambique	1
Nepal	1
Nicaragua	1
Nigeria	1
Pakistan	1
Papua New Guinea	1
Peru	1
Poland	1
Qatar	1

Country	Number of VNRs submitted 2020-2023
Romania	1
Rwanda	1
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	1
San Marino	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Seychelles	1
Singapore	1
Solomon	1
Spain	1
Sudan	1
Sweden	1
Syria	1
Tanzania	1
Timor Leste	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1
Turkmenistan	1
United Arab Emirates	1
Ukraine	1
Uzbekistan	2
Zambia	2

Country	Number of VNRs submitted 2020-2023
Russia	1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	1
Samoa	1
Sao Tome and Principe	1
Senegal	1
Sierra Leone	1
Slovenia	1
Somalia	1
Sri Lanka	1
Suriname	1
Switzerland	1
Tajikistan	1
Thailand	1
Togo	1
Tunisia	1
Tuvalu	1
Uganda	1
Uruguay	2
Vietnam	1
Zimbabwe	1

Annex 2. Codebook

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
SDG 16	16	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.1	16.1	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.2	16.2	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.3	16.3	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.4	16.4	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.5	16.5	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.6	16.6	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.7	16.7	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.8	16.8	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.9	16.9	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.10	16.10	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.a	16.a	1	0	0
SDG 16\16.b	16.b	1	0	0

Oversight Actors

Oversight Actors\Parliament	Parliament	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Parliament	Parlament	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Parliament	Parlement	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Parliament	Diputad	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Parliament	Député	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Senate	Senat	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Senate	senado	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Senate	sénat	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Congress	congress	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Congress	congrès	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Congress	congres	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\House of	House of	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\House of	Cámara de	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\House of	Chambre de	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Legislature	Legislat	0	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Oversight Actors\Legislature	Législat	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Legislature	Legislac	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Assembly	National Assembly	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Assembly	Asamblea Nacional	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Assembly	Assemblée Nationale	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	civil society	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	sociedad civil	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	société civile	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	CSO	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	NGO	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	OSC	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Civil Society	ONG	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Ombuds Institution	Ombud	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Ombuds Institution	defensoría del pueblo	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\Ombuds Institution	mediation	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\Ombuds Institution	mediateur	0	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Human Rights Commission	Human Rights	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Human Rights Commission	Derechos Humanos	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Human Rights Commission	Droits de l'Homme	1	0	0
Oversight Actors\National Human Rights Commission	CNDH	1	0	0

SSG Principles

SSG Principles\Accountability	accountab	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Accountability	responsible	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Accountability	responsab	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Accountability	redición de cuentas	1	0	0
SSG Principles\Transparency	transparen	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Rule of Law	rule of law	1	0	0
SSG Principles\Rule of Law	estado de derecho	1	0	0
SSG Principles\Rule of Law	imperio de la ley	1	0	0
SSG Principles\Rule of Law	etat de droit	1	0	0
SSG Principles\Participation	participa	0	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
SSG Principles\Inclusion	inclusion	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Inclusion	inclusiv	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Inclusion	inclusión	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Inclusion	inclusif	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Inclusion	incluyente	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Responsiveness	responsive	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Responsiveness	sensibilidad	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Responsiveness	sensible	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Responsiveness	réactivité	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Responsiveness	reactif	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Responsiveness	reactive	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Efficiency	efficien	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Efficiency	eficien	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Effectiveness	effectiv	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Effectiveness	effectif	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Effectiveness	efectiv	0	0	0
SSG Principles\Effectiveness	efficacité	0	0	0

Security and Justice Providers

Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Sector de la justicia y de la seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Security and justice sector	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Sector de justicia y de seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Sector justicia y seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Sectores justicia y seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Sectores de justicia y de seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Sectores de la justicia y de la seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Secteur judiciaire et sécuritaire	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Secteurs judiciaires et sécuritaires	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Secteur de la justice et de la sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Secteur de justice et de sécurité	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Secteurs de la justice et de la sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security and justice sector	Secteurs de justice et de sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Armed forces	Armed forces	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Armed forces	Armed force	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Armed forces	fuerzas armadas	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Armed forces	fuerza armada	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Armed forces	forces armées	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Army	Army	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Army	land force	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Army	ejército	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Army	fuerza de tierra	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Army	fuerza terrestre	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Army	armée	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Military	military	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Military	militar	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Military	castrense	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Military	militaire	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Air Force	air force	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Air Force	fuerza aérea	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Air Force	ejército del aire	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Air Force	armée de l'air	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Air Force	force aérienne	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Navy	navy	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Navy	fuerza naval	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Navy	force navale	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Soldier	soldier	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Soldier	soldad	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Soldier	soldat	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Defense Force	Forces de défense	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Defense Force	defense force	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Security and justice providers\Defense Force	Fuerza de defensa	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Defense Force	defence force	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Defense Force	Fuerzas de defensa	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Defense Force	Force de défense	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Police	policier	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Police	policía	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Police	policial	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Police	policière	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Police	police	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Policing	policing	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Policing	mantenimiento del orden	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Policing	maintien de l'ordre	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	law enforcement	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	fuerza del orden	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	fuerzas del orden	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	fuerza pública	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	fuerzas públicas	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	force de l'ordre	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	forces de l'ordre	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	force publique	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	forces publique	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	représentant de la loi	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Law enforcement	représentants de la loi	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Intelligence	inteligencia	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Intelligence	intelligence	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Intelligence	renseignements	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministry of Interior	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Minister of Interior	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Interior Ministry	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Interior Minister	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministro del Interior	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministerio del Interior	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministra del Interior	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministère de l'intérieur	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministre de l'Intérieur	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministère de la sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Interior	Ministre de la sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\ Gendarmerie	gendarmerie	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\ Gendarmerie	gendarmería	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\National Guard	guardia nacional	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\National Guard	garde nationale	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\National Guard	national guard	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\ Presidential Guard	presidential guard	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\ Presidential Guard	guardia presidencial	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\ Presidential Guard	garde présidentielle	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Border authorities	border authorities	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Border authorities	guardia de fronteras	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Border authorities	guardese-frontières	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Customs authorities	Aduanas	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Customs authorities	service de douane	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Customs authorities	customs authorities	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Security sector	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Sector seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Sector de seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Sector de la seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Secteur de la sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Secteur de sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Sector	Secteur sécuritaire	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Force	Security force	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Force	Fuerza de seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Force	Fuerzas de seguridad	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Force	Force de sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Security Force	Forces de sécurité	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministry of Defense	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministry of Defence	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Defense Ministry	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Defence Ministry	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Defence Minister	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Defense Minister	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Minister of Defense	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Minister of Defence	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministro de Defensa	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministerio de Defensa	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministry de Defensa	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministère de la Défense	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Security and justice providers\Ministry of Defense	Ministre de la Défense	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice	justice	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice	justicia	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice reform	justice reform	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice reform	Reforma de la justicia	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice reform	Reforma de justicia	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice reform	Réforme de la justice	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Justice reform	Réforme de justice	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Court	court	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Court	corte	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Court	cour	0	0	1
Security and justice providers\Prosecution	prosecution	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Prosecution	prosecutor	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Prosecution	fiscalía	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Prosecution	procureur	0	0	0
Security and justice providers\Prison Authorities	prison authorities	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Prison Authorities	autoridades penitenciarias	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Prison Authorities	autorités pénitentiaires	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Civil Defense/Protection	civil protection	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Civil Defense/Protection	protección civil	1	0	0
Security and justice providers\Civil Defense/Protection	protection civile	1	0	0

Additional SSG-Related Keywords

Additional SSG-related keywords\State security	State security	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\State security	Seguridad estatal	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\State security	Sécurité de l'Etat	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Additional SSG-related keywords\ National Security	National security	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ National Security	Seguridad nacional	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ National Security	Sécurité nationale	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Human Security	Human security	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Human Security	Seguridad humana	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Human Security	Sécurité humaine	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	SSR	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	RSS	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Security sector reform	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Reforma del sector de la seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Réforme du secteur de la sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Reforma del sector de seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Reforma del sector seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Réforme du secteur de sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Reform	Réforme du secteur sécuritaire	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Réforme du secteur judiciaire et sécuritaire	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Reforma del sector de la justicia y de la seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Reforma del sector de justicia y de seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Reforma del sector justicia y seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Reforma de los sectores de la justicia y de la seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Reforma de los sectores de justicia y de seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Reforma de los sectores justicia y seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Réfome du secteur de la justice et de la sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Réfome du secteur de justice et de sécurité	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Security and justice sector reform	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Réforme des secteurs de la justice et de la sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security and justice sector reform	Réforme des secteurs judiciaires et sécuritaires	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	SSG	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	GSS	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Security sector governance	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza del sector de la seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza del sector de seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza del sector seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza del sector de la justicia y de la seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza del sector de justicia y de seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza del sector justicia y seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza de los sectores de la justicia y de la seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gobernanza de los sectores de justicia y de seguridad	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gouvernance du secteur de la sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gouvernance du secteur de sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gouvernance du secteur sécuritaire	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gouvernance du secteur de la justice et de la sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gouvernance des secteurs de la justice et de la sécurité	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Security Sector Governance	Gouvernance des secteurs judiciaires et sécuritaires	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Civilian oversight	civilian oversight	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Civilian oversight	supervisión civil	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Civilian oversight	contrôle civil	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Military justice	Military justice	1	0	0

Category	Keyword	Full word	Case sensitive	Beginning of word
Additional SSG-related keywords\Military justice	Justicia militar	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\Military justice	Justice militaire	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ Violence	violen	0	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	SGBV	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	GBV	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	VBG	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	Violencia de género	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	violence sexuelle et sexiste	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	VSS	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	Sexualised and gender-based violence	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	sexualized and gender-based violence	1	0	0
Additional SSG-related keywords\ (S)GBV	gender-based violence	1	0	0

Annex 3. VNRs featuring some reference to SSG/R

The table below displays a selection of the coded segments along with additional content to offer the reader contextual information.

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Afghanistan, 2021</p>	<p>Substantial reforms have been made within the judicial branch regarding corruption. Women’s empowerment and gender equality have been advanced substantially through joint efforts between the government, the international community, and civil society. The government has taken important steps to prevent violence against women including the establishment of special courts. Fighting corruption is the top priority of the government, particularly in the face of the current fiscal situation. The new panel code criminalized the corruption offenses, a fresh start for assets disclosures of all higher officials, access to information law, a whistleblower protection law, an anti-corruption law, and several other legislations among other initiatives. The Office of Ombudsmen has been created with the authority to receive and investigate complaints of corruption or abuse of office by high-ranking officials. Women play a significant role in the judicial branch of government, with 265 judges and 476 prosecutors. Every province now has a woman heading the office of prevention of violence against women.</p> <p>See: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR) (2021)</i>, p. 39. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/280392021_VNR_Report_Afghanistan.pdf</p>
<p>Angola, 2021</p>	<p>In 2017, Angola held its fourth electoral process and the new government has taken a new political course, with a renewed commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights, and has adopted as its flagship policy the fight against corruption, state reform, political and administrative decentralization, economic diversification and expansion of the private sector, and closer cooperation between the government and civil society.</p> <p>For the fight against corruption, the laws on the repatriation of illicitly acquired assets – both pecuniary and immovable (Law 9/18 on voluntary repatriation and Law 15/18 on coercive repatriation) – followed by asset recovery actions leading to the ongoing criminal prosecutions, anti corruption moral campaigns, as well as the development of strategic plans and actions have been passed. Several entities are engaged in the country’s anticorruption action.</p> <p>See: Angola, <i>Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2021)</i>, p. 112. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/286012021_VNR_Report_Angola.pdf</p>
<p>Argentina, 2020</p>	<p>La nueva Agenda reconoce la necesidad de construir sociedades pacíficas, justas e inclusivas que proporcionen igualdad de acceso a la justicia y se basen en el respeto de los derechos humanos (incluido el derecho al desarrollo), en un estado de derecho efectivo y una buena gobernanza a todos los niveles, y en instituciones transparentes y eficaces que rindan cuentas.</p> <p>En septiembre de 2019, se firmó un convenio de cooperación entre el Ministerio de Justicia y Derechos Humanos de la Nación, la Junta Federal de Cortes y Superiores Tribunales de Justicia de las Provincias Argentinas y Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires y el CNCPS a fin de generar mecanismos que promoviesen y facilitasen el acceso a justicia en el marco del ODS 16+. Se crearon espacios de trabajo -foros- para especialistas de distintas disciplinas: estadísticos; bibliotecarios; planificadores; administradores, entre otros, orientados a construir mecanismos viables y eficientes de consenso para mejorar la administración de justicia.</p> <p>See: Argentina, <i>Segundo Informe Voluntario Nacional (2020)</i>, p. 54. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26386VNR_2020_Argentina_Report_Spanish.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Argentina, 2022</p>	<p>El Centro de Recepción de Denuncias de casos de Violencia Institucional recibe las denuncias de víctimas y familiares de violencia institucional en particular y ciudadanía, en general, por las vías difundidas por la Secretaría de Derechos Humanos, brindando asesoramiento jurídico y asistencia integral. Si resulta un caso de violencia institucional, se toma contacto con la víctima y se realiza el seguimiento personalizado del caso, asistiendo jurídicamente, dando apoyo psicológico y gestionando consultas o pedidos administrativos para la resolución del problema. Durante el año 2021 se han realizado 1072 acciones de acompañamiento, orientación y asistencia a víctimas de violencia institucional. Al cierre del primer trimestre 2022 el número asciende a 313.</p> <p>La Capacitación y Formación en materia de Derechos Humanos tiene por objetivo implementar planes y programas de capacitación y formación en Derechos Humanos, en coordinación con las distintas jurisdicciones de la Administración Pública Nacional y con otros actores relevantes de la sociedad, en todo el territorio nacional, destinada a trabajadoras/es y funcionarios/as de la Administración Pública Nacional, Provincial y Municipal; docentes, directivos y personal de instituciones educativas; fuerzas policiales, de seguridad y personal penitenciario; miembros de Organizaciones de la Sociedad Civil; y público en general. Tanto en formato virtual (a través del CampusDH) como presencial se dictan cursos, conferencias, seminarios y se elabora material bibliográfico y didáctico.</p> <p>En este marco, el Programa de Formación en Derechos Humanos para Miembros de las Fuerzas de Seguridad promueve la implementación de políticas públicas de formación y capacitación destinadas a las fuerzas de seguridad federal y provinciales, a las áreas de los Estados provinciales con competencia en términos de prevención y atención de la problemática, y a la ciudadanía en general (especialmente al segmento jóvenes), en materia de derechos humanos y prevención de la violencia institucional. Durante el año 2021, se realizaron 338 acciones de capacitación y formación. Para el 2022 se prevén 352 acciones de capacitación de las cuales a la fecha se han ejecutado 55. El Programa tiene dos líneas: Formación y sensibilización a fuerzas de seguridad federal y provinciales en materia de derechos humanos.</p> <p>See: Argentina, <i>Tercer Informe Voluntario Nacional</i> (2022), pp. 230-231. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Argentina%20Report_0.pdf</p>
<p>Armenia, 2020</p>	<p>Since 2018, Armenia has launched a number of reforms in the areas of human rights protection, rule of law, combating corruption, fight against criminal subculture, improved public administration, and strategic planning, along with ambitious economic and social reforms. Empowered by a democratic mandate, a renewed sense of political will has been demonstrated with regard to the rule of law, tackling of corruption and strengthening of democratic institutions, as well as improvements in the legal frameworks, national strategy development and planning, effectiveness of public institutions and empowering of civil society.</p> <p>In 2019, the Armenian economy grew by 7.6% - the highest rate of economic growth since 2008 – underpinned by growths in exports, tourism, and high-tech driven products and services. This extraordinary level of economic growth was driven by policy reforms stemming from a new generation of strategic planning processes targeting SMEs, industry, tourism, business environment, development of military industry and more.</p> <p>See: Republic of Armenia, <i>Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary National Review Report</i> (2020), p. 6. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26318Armenia_VNRFINAL.pdf</p>
<p>Azerbaijan, 2021</p>	<p>The Plan includes measures to be taken to prevent corruption and strengthen transparency in the activities of state agencies, ensure financial transparency, legalization of criminally obtained funds or other property and financing of terrorism, improve public services, expand the activities of civil society members, enhance public oversight and public participation, increase participation, ensure access to information, ensure accountability, transparency and public participation in local self-governance, increase transparency and accountability in the private sector, and increase transparency, accountability and customer satisfaction in public utilities.</p> <p>At the meeting of the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan held on September 15, 2020, it was decided to develop a draft “National Action Plan for Strengthening the Fight against Corruption in 2021-2025”. Together with the Prosecutor General’s Office, a draft law has already been prepared and submitted to the Anti-Corruption Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan.</p> <p>See: Republic of Azerbaijan, <i>Third Voluntary National Review</i> (2021), p. 115. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/279452021_VNR_Report_Azerbaijan.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Bangladesh, 2020</p>	<p>The main aim of the state is to protect, promote and ensure human rights according to the constitution of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. A statutory independent National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has been established in the country in accordance with the provision of the National Human Rights Commission Act 2009. The purpose of establishing such a splendid institution is to contribute to the embodiment of human dignity and integrity as well as to safeguard the basic order of democracy so that inalienable fundamental human rights of all individuals are protected, and the standards of human rights are improved in the country.</p> <p>The NHRC's response to human rights violations focuses on promotional activities such as statements, spot-visits, seminars and roundtable discussions as well as responding to gross violations of human rights. The Commission is now implementing its Second Five Year Strategic Plan (2016-20) where it has identified 17 Pressing Human Rights Issues with Priority Areas for 2016-2020. Two issues that top the list are Violence by state mechanism, particularly enforced disappearances, torture including custodial torture, extra-judicial killings and culture of impunity, and violations of economic, social and cultural rights, including health rights, discrimination against the marginalized and People with Disabilities</p> <p>In 2018, the Commission responded to 729 cases of human rights violation of which 589 cases were resolved. Larger number of violations consisted of violence (121), complain against police (46), jobs (48), land (57), corruption (21) and threat (26). The number of complaints resolved in 2016 stood at 503.</p> <p>See: Bangladesh, <i>Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) 2020: Accelerated action and transformative pathways, realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development</i> (2020), p. 142. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26303VNR_2020_Bangladesh_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Bulgaria, 2020</p>	<p>By adopting a new Law on Measures against Money Laundering, Bulgaria has implemented in its legislation Directive (EU) 2015/849 – the so-called Fourth EU Directive on preventing the use of the financial system for money laundering or terrorist financing. Regarding the preparation for participation in the ERMII (Exchange Rate Mechanism II) and the Banking Union, Bulgaria is pursuing a policy of accelerated transposition of EU Directive 2018/843 – the so-called Fifth EU anti-money laundering directive. The leading transposition agencies are the State Agency for National Security and the Ministry of the Interior. From the point of view of non-taxation and combating tax evasion, in addition to the measures taken at the national level by the Bulgarian tax administration, Bulgaria also actively participates in the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes at the OECD. The country is a member of the Inclusive Framework on Base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS).</p> <p>See: Bulgaria, <i>Voluntary National Review, Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2020), p. 91. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26290VNR_2020_Bulgaria_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Burkina Faso, 2023</p>	<p>La lutte contre toutes les formes de violence au Burkina Faso est érigée en priorité au regard de la dégradation du contexte sécuritaire. Pour ce faire, le Gouvernement a amorcé la réforme du secteur de la sécurité dans une vision holistique incluant la sécurité humaine et intensifié ses actions de renforcement des capacités opérationnelles des services de sécurité intérieure. Ainsi, le taux de maillage du territoire en services de sécurité opérationnels est passé de 65,81% en 2018 à 69,23% en 2021. Ce taux était de 56,8 en 2015.</p> <p>En plus, le Ratio agent de sécurité sur population s'est rapproché de la norme internationale (norme 1 pour 400 habitants) en passant de 1/948 en 2015 à 1/729 en 2018 pour atteindre 1/656 en 2021.</p> <p>Ces acquis ont été obtenus dans un contexte sécuritaire délétère caractérisé par des attaques terroristes à répétition. La poursuite de ces actions à travers l'implantation de nouveaux services de sécurité reste difficile dans certaines localités du pays.</p> <p>See: Burkina Faso, <i>Rapport national volontaire 2016-2022</i> (2023), p. 101. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Burkina%20Faso%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Central African Republic, 2023</p>	<p>En matière de sécurité, la réforme du secteur de la sécurité (RSS) s'est poursuivie de manière positive entre 2019 et 2021 contrairement à la période entre 2015 et 2018 du fait d'un appui incontesté des partenaires techniques.</p> <p>See: Central African Republic, <i>Rapport National Volontaire Sur le 5 ODD retenus : Accélérer la reprise après la maladie à coronavirus (COVID-19) et mettre pleinement en oeuvre l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable à tous les niveaux</i> (2023), p. 40. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20CAR%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Central African Republic, 2023</p>	<p>Tableau 22: Cadre de priorisation et coûts associés [...]</p> <p>Promouvoir la stabilité par la réforme du secteur de la sécurité (C1, C2, C4)</p> <p>See: Central African Republic, <i>Rapport National Volontaire Sur le 5 ODD retenus : Accélérer la reprise après la maladie à coronavirus (COVID-19) et mettre pleinement en oeuvre l'Agenda 2030 pour le développement durable à tous les niveaux</i> (2023), p.90. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20CAR%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Cote d'Ivoire, 2022</p>	<p>En ce qui concernent les bonnes pratiques, les acteurs de la Société Civile, du fait de leur connexion avec la base, élaborent des documents de plaidoyers qui sont soumis aux autorités et qui engendrent des reformes en matière de lutte contre les VBG. De plus, le taux des MGF a baissé à cause de l'intensité de la sensibilisation et la mise en place de mécanismes d'interaction entre le CNDH et les Forces de sécurité intérieure ont permis la dénonciation des cas de VBG.</p> <p>See: Republic de Côte d'Ivoire, <i>Deuxième Rapport National Volontaire de la Cote d'Ivoire</i> (2022), p. 125. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Cote%20divoire%20Report_0.pdf</p>
<p>Croatia, 2023</p>	<p>One of the priorities of systematic and strategic action across Croatia is to reduce the risk of behaviours that constitute punishable domestic violence, violence in close relationships and violence against women and children, through strengthening the capacities to prevent and combat violence.</p> <p>Among the results of these efforts one should highlight the established support system for victims, as well as a multi-year trend of an increased number of detected and prosecuted criminal offences of violence in close relationships, especially against women and children.</p> <p>The systematic approach is based on continuous training and professional development of police officers, the focus on the victim and individual assessment of victims' needs for protection and support, evaluation of the risk of repeating violent behaviour and/or occurrence of more severe forms of violence, establishment of good practices in the application of the legislative framework through coordination and supervisory guidance activities, strong interdepartmental cooperation, numerous preventive activities as well as the implementation of scientific research with the aim of detecting the risk factors that lead to the most serious crimes against women and to domestic violence. Special importance is given to interdepartmental training at national and regional level as well as to the development of interdepartmental cooperation with all civil society bodies and organisations that deal with the issues of violence against women and domestic violence.</p> <p>See: Government of the Republic of Croatia, <i>Voluntary National Review of the Implementation of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 98. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Croatia%20Report_0.pdf</p>
<p>Czech Republic, 2021</p>	<p>Democratic control over the policy-making processes was maintained during the pandemic—both parliamentary control over the duration of the state of emergency and judicial control over the measures adopted by the executive powers. The courts repeatedly cancelled government measures and their legal framework, often with reference to the need for more extensive reasoning for them, and the government always submitted to the decisions.</p> <p>The Czech Republic is a safe country. Extreme physical violence occurs only occasionally in the Czech Republic. The number of murders fell below 200 a year after 2008 and remains below this level.</p> <p>See: Czech Republic, <i>Second Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda in the Czech Republic</i> (2021), p. 67. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/279492021_VNR_Report_Czech_Republic.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Democratic Republic of Congo, 2020</p>	<p>Face à cette réalité, dès 2015, afin d'encourager la dénonciation des cas de violences sexuelles et ainsi soutenir la lutte contre l'impunité, le Représentant personnel du chef de l'Etat, avec l'appui du UNFPA, d'ONU Femmes et de la fondation Kvinna till kvinna, a lancé la campagne « Brisez le silence »¹³ et mis en place deux numéros verts d'appel pour l'orientation des victimes vers une assistance médicale et juridique.</p> <p>Les actions de la Représentante Personnelle du chef de l'Etat chargée de la lutte contre les violences sexuelles et le recrutement des enfants dans les conflits armés ont permis : le retrait de la RDC de la liste des pays utilisateurs des enfants dans l'armée ; le renforcement de la lutte contre l'impunité des auteurs des violences sexuelles par l'organisation des chambres foraines et la condamnation de certains officiers supérieurs de l'armée et de la police impliqués. 111 soldats en 2015 dont trois colonels et un général ont été enregistrés. En plus, un projet de loi portant statut d'un établissement public dénommé « Fonds de réparation pour des victimes des violences sexuelles » a été développé par le Bureau du Représentant du Chef de l'Etat chargé de la lutte contre les violences sexuelles et le recrutement des enfants, des experts désignés par le Ministère de la Justice, le Ministère des Droits humains et par des commissions spécialisées du Sénat.</p> <p>Aussi, il a été mis en place des services multisectoriels quant à ce et le renforcement des capacités pour la prise en charge des victimes de violences. Le Ministère de la Défense nationale et Anciens combattants a adopté le plan d'action pour lutter contre les violences sexuelles au sein des Forces Armées de la RDC (FARDC), avec comme conséquence la réduction de moitié des cas des violences sexuelles imputables aux forces de l'ordre, soit 814 cas en 2017 contre 308 cas en 2018. Le MGFE a, quant à lui, révisé la stratégie nationale de lutte contre les violences basées sur le genre en 2019 afin de renforcer la prise en compte de toutes les formes de violences et de mieux adresser les questions des violences sexuelles en zones de conflits.</p> <p>See: République Démocratique du Congo, <i>Rapport D'Examen National Volontaire des Objectifs de Développement Durable</i> (2020), p. 74. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26297VNR_2020_DRC_Report_French.pdf</p>
<p>Denmark, 2021</p>	<p>Reform to bring police closer to communities: In December 2020, the Government and a broad majority of political parties in the Danish Parliament reached an agreement on the police and prosecution service budget for the years 2021 to 2023. The agreement includes a reform that brings police closer to communities, ensuring greater visibility and accessibility of police throughout Denmark, an intensification of efforts to combat serious economic, organised and IT-related crime, and more efficient processing of criminal cases (targets 16.1 and 16.3).</p> <p>See: Denmark, <i>Voluntary National Review</i> (2021), p. 124. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/279532021_VNR_Report_Denmark.pdf</p>
<p>European Union, 2023</p>	<p>Across regions, the EU assisted partners in the design and implementation of reforms in the fields of good governance, the rule of law, judiciary reform, and the public safety and security sector, including border management and counterterrorism. The Commission's budget support has been an important tool used in support of SDG 16 with EUR 4.4 billion in support of SDG 16 as a main objective in 74 countries and more than EUR 15 billion as a significant objective in 271 countries in 2014-2021. The COVID-19 pandemic temporarily slowed down engagement in the security area, although the demand for greater accountability and advancement in reforms remained high.</p> <p>See: European Union, <i>EU Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 189. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20EU%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>European Union, 2023</p>	<p>Support for national reconciliation processes is another facet of support, such as support for the Colombian Truth Commission or, in Central African Republic, support for national peace and reconciliation processes. An action in Iraq supports the digitisation of evidence of crimes committed by Da'esh in order to increase prosecutions of Da'esh embers for crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.</p> <p>Through its Civilian Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions, the EU assists partner countries in conflict prevention, combating organised crime & smuggling, reforming national security sectors, border management and monitoring the judicial system and the rule of law. For instance, the EU Border Assistance Mission in Libya (EUBAM Libya) supports the national authorities in developing state security structures, border management, law enforcement and criminal justice.</p> <p>EU non-proliferation and disarmament (NPD) actions also contribute to SDG 16 by promoting the universalisation and implementation of international treaties and conventions on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.</p> <p>See: European Union, <i>EU Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 190. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20EU%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Fiji, 2023</p>	<p>Effective, Accountable and Transparent Institutions Fiji has made progress in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions; however, several challenges still remain. The capacity of the judicial system and the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) has grown, but not at the required pace to handle the increasing number of court cases and human rights matters brought forward by the people. More efforts are needed to raise awareness among the general public, especially in rural and maritime areas, about Fiji's laws and legislation. It is crucial to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels and improve the representation of different segments of society, including sex, age, persons with disabilities, and population groups, in national and local institutions such as the Legislature, public service, and judiciary, to align with the national distributions.</p> <p>See: Republic of Fiji, <i>Voluntary National Review, Strengthening Resilience to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change and Other Global Issues</i> (2023), p. 130. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Fiji%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Fiji, 2023</p>	<p>In practice, however, several human rights issues were cited by CSOs in Fiji. There was particular concern about police brutality, media freedom, and restrictive legislation, such as the seditious provisions in the Crimes Act and the controversial Public Order Act, which received a lot of criticism from civil society groups. Between May 2015 and April 2020, around 400 charges of serious violence were laid against police officers in Fiji, including murder, manslaughter, rape, and aiding prisoners to escape.</p> <p>See: Republic of Fiji, <i>Voluntary National Review, Strengthening Resilience to Meet the Challenges of Climate Change and Other Global Issues</i> (2023), p. 133. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Fiji%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Finland, 2020</p>	<p>To implement the Istanbul Convention, Finland has been urged to promptly implement clear procedures and guidelines for the protection of women and girls. Privacy protection for citizens was narrowed down through new civilian intelligence legislation which took effect in 2019, as it is possible that screening could leave large amounts of the communications of individual citizens in the possession of the authorities.</p> <p>Finnish companies exported weapons to countries which participate in wars or which violate human rights according to international reports. The UN Human Rights Committee and Human Rights Council have repeatedly paid attention to the position of total objectors who refuse all military service in Finland, and the Human Rights Council has urged Finland to ensure that the alternative civilian service option is strictly managed by civilians.</p> <p>See: Finland, <i>Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 137. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26265VNR_Report_Finland_2020.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Finland, 2020	<p>Finland has actively promoted the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 – Women, peace and security – in international arenas, and is among the first countries to start preparing a national implementation plan regarding resolution 2250 – Youth, peace and security. Young people and youth CSOs have taken ownership of the process. In its foreign policy, Finland has emphasised conflict prevention, mediation, dialogue processes and addressing the root causes of conflicts. These targets have been partially implemented.</p> <p>In the Defence Report, Finland sets the development of national defence capability as the objective of its participation in crisis management operations. The proposed increase of the appropriation for peace mediation work in 2019 was a long overdue step in the right direction. Finland consistently highlighted the rule of law in dialogue during its EU Presidency in the second half of 2019. In fragile states Finnish actors have supported the rights and participation of women, children, young people and people with disabilities, as well as gender equality.</p> <p>The Parliament approved the amendment of the Non-Military Service Act on 1 March 2019. In future, all reservist objectors who had been approved for supplementary service are automatically exempted from military service.</p> <p>See: Finland, <i>Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 137. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26265VNR_Report_Finland_2020.pdf</p>
Finland, 2020	<p>Finland must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ prepare a peace policy programme to lessen hate speech and to transform a culture of violence into a culture of peace ➤ prepare an implementation plan for the Lanzarote Convention that will cover the convention's entire content ➤ better protect undocumented children and ensure that they receive the educational and health care services they are entitled to ➤ end the export of weapons and military equipment to countries at war ➤ cut military expenses to mitigate for and adapt to the climate change and direct the funds nationally and internationally to the most impoverished individuals and to the poorest countries ➤ support the creation of new peace mediation models by bringing together multilateral, private sector and CSO actors and by promoting multi-actor projects and programmes ➤ stop penalising total objectors and ensure that the civilian service is no longer than the shortest military service ➤ tighten arms legislation and monitor compliance more effectively than is currently the case <p>See: Finland, <i>Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 137. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26265VNR_Report_Finland_2020.pdf</p>
Gambia, 2022	<p>The Government has adopted a reform agenda which includes a number of initiatives to improve governance, access to equitable justice and strengthen security sector (for example, the adopted national security policy and a Security Sector Reform Strategy (SSRS) (2020 – 2024) were developed to address gaps, deficiencies and challenges faced with a view to restructure and cultivate an effective, professional, apolitical and accountable security sector. Following decades of human rights abuse, the new Government is committed to a fully functional National Human Rights Commission whose roles and responsibilities conform to international standards.</p> <p>The reform of The Gambia's media law received a boost from ongoing collaboration with Article 19 aimed at the adoption of international best practices in media regulation and the replacement of the draconian laws promulgated by the previous administration. The TRRC reports are key milestones for The Gambia, but also present risks to political stability in the country. It is the moment to consolidate the transition, build on progress made since 2017, and address lingering issues, related to macroeconomic stability, governance, security sector reform and human capital development. There is a window of opportunity that the government is committed to seize to transition out of fragility.</p> <p>See: Republic of The Gambia, <i>Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2022), p. 25. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Gambia%20VNR%20Report%20%28Advance%20Copy%29.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Gambia, 2022	<p>In order to enhance excellence and accountability in the public service, the President has created a new ministry in charge of the public service, administrative reform, policy coordination, and delivery. This ministry will have general oversight over the public service and shall work towards the formulation of policies geared towards institutionalising a culture of efficiency and performance for the attainment of development objectives.</p> <p>Given the history of lapses in governance and human rights violations, the government has embarked on Security Sector Reform (SSR). After the 2020 VNR, a National Security policy and National Security Strategy has been developed. Sensitisation programmes on SSR have been conducted to enhance public trust and confidence in the security sector. Several institutions have been engaging the security sector in human rights activities with a view to raising awareness and building the capacity of the security sector.</p> <p>See: Republic of The Gambia, <i>Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2022)</i>, p. 54. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Gambia%20VNR%20Report%20%28Advance%20Copy%29.pdf</p>
Germany, 2021	<p>In the global context and in cooperation with partner countries: (...) The German Government adopted three relevant interministerial strategies in 2019 on the basis of its voluntary commitments under the policy guidelines Preventing Crises, Managing Conflicts, Building Peace: one for promoting the rule of law, one to support security sector reform – i.e. to reform the security services such as the armed forces and police under democratic oversight – and one on dealing with the past and reconciliation (transitional justice) after wars and violent conflict. In 2021 the German Government published a report illustrating the successful implementation of the above policy guidelines and describing existing challenges as well as the priorities for the years to come.</p> <p>See: Germany, <i>Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development (2021)</i>, p. 114. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/279522021_VNR_Report_Germany.pdf</p>
Greece, 2022	<p>Social Mediation and Preventive Security Training for Police Personnel:</p> <p>The programme began in 2020 and is targeted to areas of the country hosting significant rates of Roma populations, in the regions of Attica, Central Macedonia, Thessaly and Crete. The core of the intervention involves the police personnel who come in direct contact with the Roma communities within their daily tasks.</p> <p>Planned activities include: (a) Field study in order to identify the specific special needs of intervention in matters of preventive security and specific target to investigate the attitudes / perceptions of the local Roma communities regarding the police and vice versa, (b) Training of front-line police personnel on issues of social mediation and preventive security, with the active participation of experienced Roma social mediators and with the aim of promoting appropriate preventive mediation tools, (c) Pilot test of trained police officers for the purposes of preventive mediation and practical use of related tools during the execution of daily police work. The action is expected to contribute to the enhancement of social dialogue and the proactive promotion of Roma social inclusion by enhancing mutual awareness and understanding among local Roma and non-Roma communities and the civil protection services, with a special focus on combating stereotypes and discrimination against Roma and improving Roma relations with public services.</p> <p>See: Greece, <i>Voluntary National Review 2022, On the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2022)</i>, p. 121. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Greece%20Report.pdf</p>
Guinea Bissau, 2022	<p>Il est aussi important de renforcer les politiques et les capacités techniques des institutions dans l'élaboration de stratégies d'intervention sectorielle inclusives, afin de soutenir les groupes vulnérables.</p> <p>Le gouvernement devra également engager la société civile pour assurer la proportionnalité et la transparence des politiques qu'il met en œuvre en réponse à la pandémie, en particulier celles qui pourraient limiter les droits humains. Il est important de renforcer la coordination entre les secteurs de la police et de la justice afin que les femmes et les filles puissent avoir un accès sûr aux services de santé, et d'assurer la protection de leurs droits humains, ainsi que d'améliorer les soins de santé aux groupes vulnérables tels que les personnes LGBTQI+, et les victimes de violence sexuelle et sexiste.</p> <p>See: Guinée Bissau, <i>Examen National Volontaire, Republic de la Guinée-Bissau (2022)</i>, p. 24. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Guinea%20Bissau%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
India, 2020	<p>Recommendation:</p> <p>Integration of various counts of the IPC which presently govern human trafficking crimes under one comprehensive legislation, to strengthen prosecution and rescue operations, along with holistic rehabilitation measures which address entrapment in future, is necessary. Effective rehabilitation of victims in addition to financial assistance and relocation to origin and establishment of a national system for registering migrants at origin and destination were some of the other propositions for mitigating vulnerability.</p> <p>See: India, <i>Decade of Action, Taking SDGs from Global to Local</i> (2020), p. 147. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26281VNR_2020_India_Report.pdf</p>
Jamaica, 2022	<p>Reducing the levels of crime and violence in the country continued to be a major focus for the GOJ. As such, the GOJ continued to use a combination of measures aimed at reducing and preventing crime and violence. This included short-term interventions such as the declaration of communities as Zones of Special Operations (ZOSOs) and the declaration of States of Public Emergencies (SOEs) in police divisions. Medium to long-term interventions included legislative updates; building the technological capacity of the security forces; and social intervention programmes to provide well needed services to residents in volatile and vulnerable communities. The National Commission on Violence Prevention was established in 2019 to develop a ten-year action plan focusing on violence prevention. Subsequently, in 2020, the Citizen Security Secretariat was established to provide oversight for the implementation of the Citizen Security Plan which provides a multi-sectoral and community-focused approach to improving citizen security in Jamaica. As it relates to building the technological capacity of the security forces, this included the continued implementation of the National Surveillance Programme dubbed Jamaica Eye. This programme is designed to increase the safety of citizens and assist the security forces in solving crimes through a system of networked CCTVs. The Data Protection Act which came into effect in 2020, provides a level of protection or recourse for persons with privacy concerns. The increased use of online systems due to the pandemic has also resulted in the need to focus on issues related to cybersecurity. The National Cybersecurity Strategy 2015 – 2025 has been prepared and a review of the Cybercrimes Act, 2015 has begun. There are also plans to develop a National Child Online Protection Strategy.</p> <p>See: Jamaica, <i>Voluntary National Review Report on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2022), p. 245. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Jamaica%20Report.pdf</p>
Japan, 2021	<p>In the past, engineer units dispatched by Japan have been engaged in constructing roads and other infrastructure projects in the field, including South Sudan. Japan's engineering units constructed and repaired roads, which provided benefits to local communities. It is regarded that road construction can improve access to humanitarian relief and promote various kinds of social intercourse that form the basis of development, and it is also expected to promote understanding and reconciliation among communities.</p> <p>As for material contributions in kind, Japan has made 29 in-kind contributions based on the Act, and most recently, in December 2019, Japan granted tents and other equipment to the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which supports security sector reform (SSR) in the peace process of South Sudan, for temporary accommodation of South Sudanese government and anti-government groups.</p> <p>See: Japan, <i>Voluntary National Review 2021, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda</i> (2021), p. 87. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/28957210714_VNR_2021_Japan.pdf</p>
Kazakhstan, 2022	<p>Sanctions for the convicted of grave and corruption-related offences, as well as of corruption of judges, law enforcement personnel, bribe-givers and bribery intermediaries have been ratcheted up. With regards to the civil servants, deputies of the RK Parliament and judges, restriction on opening and possessing accounts in foreign banks, located abroad, has been introduced. A lifelong ban on employment to civil service and to entities of quasi-public sector is stipulated for the people who committed corruption-related crime.</p> <p>One of the most important statutory novelties of 2020 was re-introduction of anti-corruption review of draft laws and statutory instruments (LSI).</p> <p>See: Kazakhstan, <i>Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2022), p. 183. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Kazakhstan%20Report%20English.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Kuwait, 2023	<p>On target 8.7 “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”, Kuwait has incrementally adopted several national legislations criminalizing forced labour and servitude. Article (42) of the Constitution provides that “no forced labour may be imposed on anybody”. Other legislations such as Law No. 6 of 2010 on employment in the private sector, Law No. 91 passed in 2013 sanctioning trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants and law No. 68 of 2015 on domestic labour are all legal provisions to ensure full protection against any exploitation or abuse.</p> <p>See: Kuwait, <i>The Second Voluntary National Review Report (2023)</i>, p. 65. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Kuwait%20Report.pdf</p>
Kuwait, 2023	<p>On target 8.7 “Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms”, the Public Authority for Manpower is in the process of completing its national plan on combating trafficking in persons, which comes under two thematic pillars: prevention and protection. On that, several projects have already been put in place.</p> <p>See: Kuwait, <i>The Second Voluntary National Review Report (2023)</i>, p. 69. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Kuwait%20Report.pdf</p>
Kyrgyzstan, 2020	<p>There must be systemic changes in the governance and public attitudes toward gender issues in order to significantly improve the situation in the field of gender equality. These include: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › introducing a course on women’s rights and gender equality as a compulsory subject in the training programs for civil servants; › improving legislation in the field of protection against domestic violence, taking into account the norms of the new Criminal Procedure Code of the Kyrgyz Republic; › developing and introducing standards and requirements to the work of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system with regards to victims of gender-based crimes. <p>See: Kyrgyzstan, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Kyrgyz Republic (2020)</i>, p. 62. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26459VNR_2020_Kyrgyzstan_Report_English.pdf</p>
Kyrgyzstan, 2020	<p>The procedure for appointing judges has been changed. Judges of the Supreme Court and the Constitutional Chamber are elected by the Parliament based on a proposal submitted by the President in accordance with the proposals of the Council for Selection of Judges. Judges of local courts are appointed by the President at the suggestion of the Council, initially for five years, and then until reaching the upper age limit.</p> <p>The Council for the Selection of Judges is an independent constitutional body responsible for the selection of candidates for judges in the Supreme Court, the Constitutional Chamber and the local courts. The composition of the Council for the Selection of Judges is composed by the state parliament from judges elected by the Council of Judges and representatives of civil society, voted by the parliamentary majority and opposition. In place of the former Constitutional Court of the Kyrgyz Republic, the Constitutional Chamber of the Supreme Court was formed as the body exercising constitutional control.</p> <p>Overall, large-scale measures have been taken to review national legislation and ensure access to justice.</p> <p>See: Kyrgyzstan, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Kyrgyz Republic (2020)</i>, p. 122. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26459VNR_2020_Kyrgyzstan_Report_English.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Kyrgyzstan, 2020</p>	<p>The Kyrgyz Republic recognizes that corruption-related crimes pose a threat to national security. In 2019, the total amount of damage from crimes of corruption amounted to 13 billion 30.9 million soms. Five (5) billion 869.3 million soms were reimbursed. 126 1,270 corruption-related materials were registered (519 in 2018).</p> <p>As part of anti-corruption activities, the State Anti-Corruption Policy was adopted, and measures were taken to identify and address the causes of political and systemic corruption in the Government. Detailed plans for step-by-step measures to dismantle systemic corruption were approved for 53 state bodies, and authorized representatives to combat corruption were introduced in each state executive body.</p> <p>As a result, in 2018, about three thousand cases of anti-corruption law violations were identified, 1.6 times more than in 2014. In the total number of such violations, the most significant proportions, listed in order of relative size, are related to income declaration (about 46%), public procurement (more than 23%), anti-corruption (about 19%), and the state civil service and municipal service (12%).</p> <p>See: Kyrgyzstan, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Kyrgyz Republic</i> (2020), pp. 125-6. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26459VNR_2020_Kyrgyzstan_Report_English.pdf</p>
<p>Kyrgyzstan, 2020</p>	<p>Active anti-corruption measures have allowed the country to rise by 28 positions in the Transparency International Corruption Perception Index. In 2019, the country was ranked 126th, while in 2012 it was 154th. In addition, the Anti-Corruption Network in Eastern Europe and Central Asia under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) noted that the country was able to achieve positive results by following 23 recommendations in a relatively short period of time, over only 6 months in 2018. Implementation of all 46 recommendations should be carried out within a 3–5-year period.</p> <p>Following a systematic approach to combating corruption, every two years the Government adopts anti-corruption plans containing measures to reduce the level of political corruption and to increase judicial system and law enforcement efficiency. Moreover, since its reform in 2019, the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic contains no statute of limitations for the prosecution of crimes related to corruption.</p> <p>In 2016, a decision was made to reform the law enforcement agencies and the assignment of areas of responsibility for combating corruption. One of the principles of the reform was to build a modern system of law enforcement agencies aimed at the protection of private property, business, rights and the interests of entrepreneurs. A model of systemic legal protection of business entities from unreasonable checks has been added to protocols of law enforcement and tax authorities. In 2017–2019, the prosecution authorities carried out 23,709 assessments of the legality and validity of requests for inspections in respect to business entities. 22,975 acts of inspection were registered, with regards to 734 business entities registration was refused.</p> <p>In 2013–2019, based on the results of inspections carried out by prosecution bodies to protect the rights of entrepreneurs, 1,453 violations were identified, and 2,010 acts of prosecutorial response were issued.</p> <p>In 2019, the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic on the Protection of Persons Reporting a Corruption Violation was adopted. This law allows for the payment of remuneration from the recovered amounts of a corruption offense to a person reporting it. Thus, the state, while preserving its responsibility, acknowledges that an effective fight against corruption is a joint effort between authorities and civil society, requiring the active involvement of all sectors of society.</p> <p>See: Kyrgyzstan, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the Kyrgyz Republic</i> (2020), pp. 126. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26459VNR_2020_Kyrgyzstan_Report_English.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Liberia, 2020	<p>To improve the SCORE Index rating for Civic Trust and coexistence from 52% to 70% (disaggregated by county, gender), the government invested in restructuring Palava Hut/Peace Hut engagements to create awareness of national frameworks that are more appropriate for the resolution of serious crimes – particularly SGB. These engagements awareness created on national frameworks – particularly SGBV. The EU SGBV Spotlight Project under the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MGCSP) conducted awareness on SGBV national frameworks in five counties: Grand Gedeh, Nimba, Montserrado, Lofa, and Cape Mount. SGBV Data was also collected by the Ministry in these counties.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 89. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>The Ministry of Internal Affairs has established the Liberia Early Warning and Response Network (LERN) Platform. This functions as an Early Warning System with Early Warning Working Groups and the deployment of 119 reporters across the country. The network has also offered the capacity building for the County Peace Committees through the provision of training in information gathering and reporting and the provision of scratch cards and stipends to at least 3 persons in each district.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 90. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>This sector has managed to contribute to the increment of adjudication rate, reduction of pre-trial detainees, access to justice, the effectiveness of court management and coordination system, increase access to human rights, and confidence in the justice system. Between January 2018 and June 2019, 63.28% of cases were adjudicated. This represents 13.28% incremental rate adjudicated thus far due to the support to the court system with the deployment of 6 public defenders and 116 magistrates in the justice system. The rollout of court inspectorate offices, the development of practical guidelines on legal reform and parliamentary oversight, the production of a final mapping exercise of the security sector coupled with the completed construction of the 7th and 8th Judicial Circuit Courts, training of formal and informal justice actors have all contributed to the increment of the adjudication rate.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 91. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>The President, through nominations from the Judiciary, has appointed 2 Judges for the newly established Court E in Bong and Nimba Counties. The requisite staff of approximately 20 personnel have also been hired to support the appointed judges. It has been agreed that the UNDP will fund the first six months salaries of both the judges and their requisite staff for the first six months while the sustenance thereof will be done through GOL budgetary allocations.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 92. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>In collaboration with the Government of Liberia with support from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Women (UN Women) enhanced the capacity of oversight bodies of relevant committees and legislative drafting bureau of the Liberian Legislature and Law Reform Commission with the relevant tools on human rights-based legal review and law drafting in discharging their mandates to ensure proposed laws, policies and bills are gender-sensitive and conform to human rights standards and to address triggers of conflict through appropriate legislation to sustain the peace. As a result, a draft practical guideline on legal reform and parliamentary oversight was developed and submitted to DCAF for review and inputs.</p> <p>Finally, the final mapping exercise of main security sector oversight actors interacting with the committees on security in the National Legislature was produced pending finalization for printing, publication, and dissemination to the security-related committees of the 54th Legislature.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 92. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Liberia, 2020	<p>The government aims to increase public satisfaction with the quality of a judicial system or rule of law available to their household from 69.1% to 85% by increasing the number and capacity of public prosecutors, judges, public defenders, legal aid practitioners, corrections officials, and social workers; increasing the gender composition of the personnel.</p> <p>The Government has increased access to justice through the Judiciary with support from the Swedish Government through the UNDP recruited, trained, and deployed six (6) additional Public Defenders (PDs) and provided initial six (6) months salaries covering June – November 2019. This achievement has brought the number of PDs to 41 out of the required 152 PDs needed across the court system throughout the 15 counties of Liberia, which represents 27% progress. To date, out of the 41 PDs deployed, 14 counties now have 2 PDs each of which total 28 while Montserrado accounts for 13 PDs due to the high caseload. The sustenance of salary payments for the newly assigned 6 PDs will be done through the GOL's budgetary allocations as of December 2019.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 92. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>In partnership with the Government of Liberia, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported improving the availability, accessibility, and appropriateness of justice, security and protection services for women and girls, by sustainably enhancing the investigation and prosecution capacity of the Women and Children Protection Section (WACPS) and the SGBV Crimes Prosecution Unit, but also paving the way for the establishment of additional divisions of Criminal Court E in Bong and Nimba counties. 19 cases were assigned to Criminal Court E, 13 were tried and convictions secured.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), pp. 92-93. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>The Security and National Defence is to provide security forces that are more professional and responsive to the needs of all. It focuses on ensuring that security services are available nationwide including to the most vulnerable people and in the hardest to reach areas. It also aims to ensure that security forces remain professional and responsive to the needs of the Liberian people.</p> <p>This sector successfully established Security Council Offices in 14 counties and reactivated County and District Security Councils to enhance operationalization for robust and stronger community engagement across the country. It established Community Policing and strengthened Security Sector Radio Communication Network at the county level. The sector also trained 53 security sector actors from the Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Liberia Immigration Services (LIS) in Curriculum Development and Fire Safety and completed the review of LIS Gender Policy for Equal Opportunities to address gender issues and promote gender equality for all. It provided several additional training including training for Liberia Drug Enforcement Agency (LDEA) interacting with drug-users/abusers, Global e-Learning IT training, and Motor Vehicle Safety Investigative training for the Liberia National Police (LNP), and other specialized training for 773 security sector personnel.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 93. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Liberia, 2020	<p>The Security Sector developed a five-year strategic plan for the Liberia National Police (LNP), the Liberia Immigration Services (LIS), and the National Security Council (NSC) to implement its strategic objectives for effective and efficient delivery of services. Moreover, it established the Civilian Complaint Review Board (CCRB) to address complaints emanating from civilians in support of the sector; reactivated Policy Management Board, and strengthened the Civilian Oversight Mechanism of LNP and LIS; amended National Security Strategy; and established LIS Small Arms Control Unit.</p> <p>In the core of its achievements, inadequate budgetary support, limited personnel capacity, and capacity building, limited salary, bad road condition, centralization of security services combine with inadequate logistics have been key constraints and have affected the implementation enormously. However, Development Partners including the UNDP, UNHCR, OHCHR, UN Women, WFP, ILO, UN Peacebuilding Office, and others have greatly supported components of the sector's strategies and continue to assist in numerous forms.</p> <p>Towards operationalizing National Defence Act, Liberia National Police Act, Liberia Immigration Service Act; Operationalizing a civil oversight board for each security sector, the Liberia National Police (LNP) and The Liberia Immigration Services (LIS) have prepared 14 Administrative Instructions (7 for LNP and 7 for LIS) through the Security Sector legal/law reform program with intentions to enhance the operation and service delivery of the sector. These administrative instructions have been published and signed by the President of Liberia awaiting instructions to be printed into pocket-size manuals for officers of both paramilitary institutions.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), pp. 93-94. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>The government is working closely with partners in strengthening anti-corruption instruments that include the National Code of Conduct, the passage of the Corrupt Offense and the Whistle-blower Acts, the possible development of a fast-track corruption court, and increasing the functional mandates of the LACC to have direct prosecutorial powers.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 97. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
Liberia, 2020	<p>The government is working closely with partners in strengthening anti-corruption instruments that include the National Code of Conduct, the passage of the Corrupt Offense and the Whistle-blower Acts, the possible development of a fast-track corruption court, and increasing the functional mandates of the LACC to have direct prosecutorial powers. The Government will build the capacity of LEITI, NBC, and other anti-graft institutions to monitor forest management and agricultural concessions as well as mineral development concessions and fisheries.</p> <p>As a commitment to reducing corruption, the government will strengthen transparency institutions. Moreover, the government commits to implementing the following anti-corruption measures to increase its corruption perception index:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Periodic audits of all government institutions and full implementation of all recommendations to strengthen controls and reduce corruption. 2. Utilization of e-procurement to improve efficiencies, foster transparency, reduce recurring costs, and automate processes. 3. Mandate review of the LACC to give direct prosecutorial power to quickly investigate and prosecute corruption cases. 4. Establishment of a fast-track anti-corruption court to speedily prosecute corruption cases. 5. Passage of the Whistle-blower Protection Act to encourage more Liberians to freely report issues of corruption. 6. Full implementation of the Code of Conduct including Ombudsman for enforcement. 7. Full implementation of the Freedom of Information Law (FOI) for openness in government processes relating to budgeting, procurement, and expenditure. 8. Some of the policy measures under this sector are ensuring the completion of audits and implementation of these audit recommendations to deter corrupt and other fraudulent practices. Additionally, violators are investigated, prosecuted, and public officials are prevented from corruption. <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 97. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Liberia, 2020</p>	<p>In partnership with the Government of Liberia, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supported twenty-six (26) local CSOs/CBOs to raise legal awareness, provide legal aid and assistance, build the capacity of both formal and informal justice actors, and to actively monitor the performance of the various justice and security institutions in the counties. As a result, twenty-one (21) victims/survivors of SGBV have pushed their cases through the justice system, including through the provision of legal aid services to 518 pre-trial detainees at police and prisons. Also, 628 monitoring visits were made to justice and security institutions in the counties.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), pp. 101-102. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Liberia, 2020</p>	<p>Trafficking of weapons and ammunition, primarily for hunting purposes and illicit mining activities, is ongoing. Despite the lifting of the arms embargo in May, the country lacks an adequate legal framework or means to register and track weapons and ammunition. There have, however, been recent steps to address this, including the passage of the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act (FACA) by the Legislature on 17 May 2016, bringing Liberia a step closer to the operationalization of the 2008 ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons.</p> <p>The Liberia National Police (LNP) and the Liberia Immigration Services (LIS) have reactivated the Policy Management Board and Civilian Oversight Mechanism at both security agencies. National Security Strategy amended and awaiting approval by the President of the Republic of Liberia. The Liberia Immigration Services has established the LIS Small Arms Control Unit.</p> <p>See: Liberia, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation Status of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 102. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26288VNR_2020_Liberia_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Lithuania, 2023</p>	<p>During the evaluation, after the presentation of the country report by the delegation, the UN Member States provided recommendations to Lithuania. 232 recommendations were received, of which 214 were accepted. It should be noted that all recommendations related to the reduction of various forms of discrimination, ensuring gender equality, rights of children and persons with disabilities, increasing women's participation in political and public life, and ensuring equal pay for equal work for men and women, as well as recommendations related to Roma rights, improving prison conditions, guaranteeing migrants' rights, protecting the rights of LGBTQ+ people, adopting the Partnership and National Minorities Acts, improving the effectiveness of the prevention and prosecution of hate crimes and trafficking in human beings, stepping up the fight against domestic violence and ratifying the Istanbul Convention were accepted and Lithuania committed to implement them. In July 2022, the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council, when adopting the report on the third cycle of Lithuania's UPR highlighted the importance of implementing current recommendations and human rights-based approach in the public sector.</p> <p>See: Lithuania, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 26. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Lithuania%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Lithuania, 2023</p>	<p>Lithuania 2030, which highlights the scale and importance of the problem, and the National Anti-Corruption Programme 2015-2025 of the Republic of Lithuania, which was replaced in 2022 by the National Anti-Corruption Agenda 2022-2023. Lithuania's National Security Strategy, updated in 2021, also contributes to this goal by providing for the development of the national law enforcement system and the activities of specialised units to combat organised criminal groups, to improve the ability to locate criminally acquired assets, and to ensure the effective prevention of financial crime, and to ensure the effective prevention of financial crimes of a transnational nature that cause significant damage to the State budget, the detection and investigation of VAT fraud, evasion and avoidance of excise, corporate and other taxes, money laundering and illicit enrichment, and in all international formats, to ensure respect for the norms and principles of international law and human rights.</p> <p>The strategy also envisages cooperation in multilateral formats, including the UN, the EU and the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), in order to contribute to the rules-based order and international law, to promote global cooperation among democracies and to strengthen security cooperation between the EU and the UN.</p> <p>See: Lithuania, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 95. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Lithuania%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Lithuania, 2023</p>	<p>This NDP objective on the effectiveness of the legal system aims to increase the efficiency, effectiveness, access to justice and public confidence in the judiciary, to reduce the disproportionate number of persons sentenced to real imprisonment and to ensure adequate conditions of detention for detainees in line with national and international standards, and to apply progressive re-socialisation measures. Ensuring public security is also an important objective of the 10 NPP - strengthening national security - which implements the objectives of reducing the threats of serious crime and terrorism (target 10.7) and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of public security institutions (target 10.8). Meanwhile, strategic objective 8 of the NPP in the area of effectiveness of public governance aims at strengthening the government's capacity to formulate and implement sound policies, to implement results-based management and systematic evaluation of policy interventions, to strengthen the system of public sector institutions and improve their management, to achieve the rule of law and regulatory quality, to strengthen the capacity to adapt rapidly to changing conditions and to ensure the effectiveness of the individual areas of public activity (health, education, etc.).</p> <p>See: Lithuania, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 95. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Lithuania%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Lithuania, 2023</p>	<p>Lithuania's main focus in the implementation of SDG 16 is to improve the security of the population. A key indicator in this area – the number of recorded homicide victims – declined significantly between 2018 and 2021 (by a quarter, or from 3.3 to 2.6 cases per 100 000 inhabitants). This could be due to the measures taken in the Public Security Development Programme 2015-2025 to reduce crime, increase the effectiveness of law enforcement and fight organised crime. This work will continue under the new Public Security and Development Programme, which is currently under preparation.</p> <p>See: Lithuania, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 96. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Lithuania%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Malaysia, 2021</p>	<p>Good governance is a prerequisite to implementing and attaining the SDGs as a whole. Towards this end, Malaysia has undergone a series of institutional reforms at multiple levels. This includes battling corruption, parliamentary reform, reforms in gender discrimination law, environmental governance (see Box Article 13) as well as improving the effectiveness, inclusiveness and accountability of public services.</p> <p>One of the most significant contributions towards institutional reform and good governance was the establishment of the National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) under the Prime Minister's Department in 2018. The GIACC launched the National Anti-corruption Plan 2019-2023 (NACP) in 2019, which aims to create a corrupt-free nation through three specific goals, namely Accountability and Credibility of Judiciary, Prosecution and Law Enforcement Agencies; Efficiency and Responsiveness in Public Service Delivery, and Integrity in Business. This encompasses an integrated approach towards addressing corruption, integrity and governance that is in line with Article 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the "National Anti-Corruption Strategies: A Practical Guide for Development and Implementation" by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).</p> <p>See: Malaysia, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR)</i> (2021), p. 110. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/285982021_VNR_Report_Malaysia.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Malaysia, 2021</p>	<p>Malaysia has maintained its identity as a country with peaceful and tolerant multi-ethnic society. This remains a hallmark of the nation's overall developmental success. Maintaining social cohesion and national unity will nonetheless continue to be a challenge with disparities still evident across groups. In terms of governance, while the implementation landscape is complex and challenging, progress has been made towards battling corruption and ensuring effective institutions. These have been articulated in Chapter 6, which focuses on SDG 16 and 17. Moving forward, Malaysia aims to enhance peace and unity and strengthen the public sector by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Strengthening national security, unity and social cohesion and ensure access to justice for all. › Enhancing well-being by ensuring people's rights are protected. › Promoting social cohesion at all levels and channels, specifically via adoption of the National Unity Policy. › Strengthening public sector service delivery based on the principle of inclusion for all. › Enhancing transparent and accountable institutions via public administration and finance reforms, delivering services based on international best practices in probity and stewardship. › Intensifying the battle against corruption through integrated implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan. › Strengthening environmental stewardship. › Increasing awareness and capacity building on human rights. › Protecting against gender-based violence through specific policies and legal instruments. <p>(...)</p> <p>Moving forward, measures will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Promoting the Quadra Helix partnership model between the Government, industry, community and the academia to leverage delivery and finance to support the SDGs. › Working with the UN system to promote the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including efforts to track and monitor progress. › Leveraging key CSO and other non-governmental partners – the CSO Alliance and the All-Party Parliamentary Group for the SDGs to enhance localising SDG initiatives. › Enhancing participation of local governments in localising SDGs. <p>See: Malaysia, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR) (2021)</i>, p. 128. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/285982021_VNR_Report_Malaysia.pdf</p>
<p>Malaysia, 2021</p>	<p>Efforts will be strengthened towards the implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Plan (NACP). The Plan has outlined six priority areas: political governance, public sector administration, public procurement, legal and judicial, law enforcement and corporate governance. Moving forward, the Government targets to resolve the remaining 75 per cent initiatives by 2023.</p> <p>In 2019, the Parliament has passed the bill on the establishment of the National Anti-Financial Crime Centre (NFCC) as a centre to coordinate efforts on combating financial crime through an integrated enforcement. To curb the illicit financial flow, the Government is planning to introduce a new provision on beneficial ownership to enhance transparency in which the law will require any person or commercial organisation/person who benefits from a public project to disclose their beneficiary ownership.</p> <p>See: Malaysia, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR) (2021)</i>, p. 114. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/285982021_VNR_Report_Malaysia.pdf</p>
<p>Maldives, 2023</p>	<p>Actions for progress (in the immediate term within the next 1-2 years):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Strengthen accountability of reported cases of violence against women and children through improved tracking and auditing from the stage of reporting to delivery of justice. › Provide systematic training to police, lawyers, judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers on women's rights and ensure speedy and improved justice to women and children. › Introduce a quota to ensure fair and equal representation of women in the Parliament. › Enhance awareness amongst the population targeting women, men, girls, and boys on their rights. <p>See: Maldives, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR) (2023)</i>, p. 50. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%20Maldives%202023.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Mali, 2022</p>	<p>Les défis en matière de gouvernance, de stabilité et de consolidation de la paix au Mali sont énormes. Prenant en compte les consultations avec les parties prenantes et les principaux défis identifiés, la feuille de route propose de s'appuyer sur les leviers suivants : (...)</p> <p>La sécurité en améliorant la prévention et la gestion des conflits, la cohésion sociale et la réconciliation nationale, et la mise en œuvre de la politique nationale de lutte contre l'extrémisme violent et la radicalisation. Il convient également de rendre effectifs le désarmement, la démobilisation et la réinsertion socioéconomique des ex-combattants et accélérer la réforme du secteur de sécurité ; renforcer le nexus assistance/aide humanitaire, sécurité et développement en direction des populations déplacées et vulnérables ainsi que le rétablissement de la sécurité des personnes et des biens.</p> <p>(...) L'action à travers ces leviers, permettra d'enregistrer des progrès dans les ODD 8 et 16, promouvoir les objectifs sociaux (ODD 1 à 6), économique ODD (7 à 11) et d'agir positivement sur le partenariat (ODD 17).</p> <p>See: Republic du Mali, <i>Rapport National Volontaire sur la Mise en Œuvre des Objectifs de Développement Durable (ODD) du Mali (2022)</i>, Available at: p.27. https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/Rapport%20National%20Volontaire%20RNV.pdf</p>
<p>Mexico, 2021</p>	<p>Como objetivos prioritarios, el Programa contempla los siguientes: 1) impulsar un auténtico liderazgo en todos los niveles jerárquicos, que priorice la disciplina militar y privilegie la moral del personal y el bienestar de sus familias; 2) aplicar una política integral de austeridad y erradicar la corrupción, a través del ejercicio con honestidad y transparencia con los recursos asignados a la Secretaría de la Defensa Nacional; 3) contribuir a preservar la Seguridad Nacional y garantizar la Seguridad Interior; 4) apoyar las acciones gubernamentales en materia de Seguridad Pública, Bienestar Social y Desarrollo Económico en beneficio de la población del país; 5) hacer más eficiente la operatividad de las Fuerzas Armadas de tierra y aire, y 6) fortalecer las relaciones civiles-militares basadas en el diálogo, apertura, transparencia y respeto.</p> <p>See: Mexico, <i>Informe Nacional Voluntario 2021, Agenda 2030 en Mexico (2021)</i>, p. 50. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/288982021_VNR_Report_Mexico.pdf</p>
<p>Moldova, 2020</p>	<p>Institutional capacities for ensuring public order and safety, state border protection, efficient management of migration processes, and the response to emergency situations, have been strengthened in the reference period.</p> <p>More so, legislative measures have been adopted to increase public safety, particularly for vulnerable and underrepresented groups, such as victims of domestic violence, victims of human trafficking and children. Thus, in order to consolidate the mechanism for protecting victims of domestic violence, the following measures were taken: broadening the circle of subjects of domestic violence; protecting victims and members of family regardless of their residence status; criminalizing infringements by aggressors of restriction orders imposed by the court; and giving the police the right to issue emergency restraining orders against aggressors. The punishments for human trafficking have been made stricter. The authorities, together with development partners and CSOs, have drafted and implemented several initiatives concerning children, including: the Child Protection Strategy 2014-2020; Law 140/2013 On Special Protection of Minors at Risk and Unaccompanied Children; inter-sector cooperation mechanisms for identification, assessment, reference, assistance and monitoring of child victims and potential victims of violence, neglect, exploitation and trafficking and primary prevention of risks to child well-being; Law 299 On Measures and Services for Children with Deviant Behaviour; and measures to protect children in the online environment.</p> <p>See: Republic of Moldova, <i>Voluntary National Review Progress Report (2020)</i>, p. 111. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26346VNR_2020_Moldova_Report_English.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Morocco, 2020	<p>Le Maroc a engagé une réforme substantielle et globale de son système judiciaire qui a été couronnée par l'adoption de la « Charte de la Réforme du Système Judiciaire » en 2013. L'indépendance institutionnelle du pouvoir judiciaire a été consacrée par l'instauration du Conseil Supérieur du pouvoir judiciaire, l'institution de la Présidence du Parquet Général et la révision du système pénal, notamment par l'élaboration des projets de Code Pénal et du Code de Procédure pénale et par la modernisation de l'administration judiciaire dont plusieurs actions ont été dématérialisées (le site « mahakim.ma » et l'application mobile e-justice). En outre, une révision totale de la loi régissant la justice militaire a été entreprise, autorisant le tribunal militaire à ne statuer que sur les questions relatives à la discipline militaire. En matière de population carcérale en instance de jugement, la proportion de cette population par rapport au nombre total des détenus est passée de 40% en 2016 à 39% en 2018.</p> <p>See: Royaume de Maroc, <i>Examen National Volontaire de la Mise en Œuvre des Objectifs de Développement Durable</i> (2020), p. 161. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26406VNR_2020_Morocco_Report_French.pdf</p>
Netherlands, 2022	<p>Other interventions in this area that were established or improved were the targeted detection of domestic violence by setting up a police unit to tackle domestic violence and abuse specifically, and revising the Public Prosecution Services, legislation for the issuance of restraining orders, and treatment of perpetrators by restorative justice activities and offender-aid in prison. At the moment much attention is given to the introduction of a "Reporting Code Domestic Violence and Child Abuse" and its legal framework.</p> <p>See: Kingdom of the Netherlands, <i>Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2022), p. 76. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Netherlands%20Report.pdf</p>
Netherlands, 2022	<p>Sint Maarten is focused on strengthening her institutions by improving their effectiveness, efficiency, and quality. Progress had been made in the police force and Court of Guardianship. Furthermore, the region's police forces have established good working relations, and several cross-border agreements are in place. The National Security Strategy addresses issues relating to immigration, border protection, and the prevention of human, drugs, and arms trafficking. The country is currently improving its governance and promoting public accountability.</p> <p>Achievements and prioritized activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The government has strengthened the integral collaboration and structures to operationalize and effected government through improved coordination and communication. ➤ The government is improving its statistics to strengthen governments' capacities and capabilities to work effectively as a stable, accountable and transparent system. ➤ Results-based management has been introduced, with a monitoring and evaluation system. ➤ An E-government system is being built. Financial processes and services are being enhanced through ICT to provide efficient public services to citizens and empower the public. <p>See: Kingdom of the Netherlands, <i>Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2022), p. 107. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Netherlands%20Report.pdf</p>
Norway, 2021	<p>To facilitate for a more effective fight against corruption and money laundering Norway enacted a law on beneficial ownership in 2019. Norway continues to make complementary regulations, including a beneficial ownership register, which is intended to enter into force soon.</p> <p>Several legislative works are in progress with a view to strengthening and securing the rule of law. A reform to streamline and strengthen courts' competency will be legally enacted in 2021. A new public administration act has been under development since 2015. To improve legal security a reform on free legal aid was initiated in 2018. The Equality and Anti-discrimination Act 2018 prohibits discrimination against several identified groups.</p> <p>See: Norway, <i>Voluntary National Review 2021 Norway, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2021), p. 86. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/28233Voluntary_National_Review_2021_Norway.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Papua New Guinea, 2020</p>	<p>[...] Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GoPNG will vigorously pursue the roll out of the IFMS to the remaining nine provincial and districts centres as part of its financial and expenditure management reform. ➤ GoPNG will continue to build capacities of police personnel to broaden their knowledge and skills on modern ICT to carry out community policing in hotspot towns and cities. ➤ Law and Justice Secretariat will intensify awareness programs through various means of communication to better educate stakeholders and communities about the application of the Whistleblower Act 2019. ➤ National Parliament to pass the ICAC Bill to reinforce the Whistleblower Act, to address the global misconception after PNG's rating in Transparency International's 2015 Corruption Perception Index, ranking 139 out of 163 countries. ➤ GoPNG to fully establish ICAC by 2020. ➤ GoPNG will put more focus on improving national security and defence with investments mobilised to strengthen capacity, facilities and surveillance. There is also an immediate need to update the PNG National Security Policy. <p>See: Papua New Guinea, <i>Voluntary National Review 2020, Progress of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2020), p. 39. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26453VNR_2020_Papua_New_Guinea_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Papua New Guinea, 2020</p>	<p>Importantly, police across the country have to be trained properly as most reported offences are dropped or lost in the process as cases not filed properly, or cases dropped due to 'lack of evidence' and police failure.</p> <p>Similarly, legislation exists to uphold women's rights as citizens and protect women from illegal acts but the justice system does not adequately apply and enforce the law. More robust attention to the funding of existing policies and enforcing existing laws would have a significant positive effect on gender equality in PNG.</p> <p>See: Papua New Guinea, <i>Voluntary National Review 2020, Progress of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2020), p. 40. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26453VNR_2020_Papua_New_Guinea_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Qatar, 2021</p>	<p>The State of Qatar has exerted great efforts to strengthen institutions, legislation, and mechanisms to ensure access to justice for all, and to provide the necessary legal assistance to initiate the judicial procedures; especially assistance to people who are unable to afford legal representation. In this context, during the second half of the year 2019, a dedicated prosecution office for human trafficking was set up within the Public Prosecution Office. The past two years also witnessed the Ministry of Administrative Development and Labour and Social Affairs announcing the "E-Contract System" to avoid changing the terms of contracts upon the arrival of the worker to the country. The system stipulates the existence of a direct employment contract between the employer and the migrant worker, followed by the granting of a work visa. In addition, dedicated offices are opened in labour-exporting countries to notify the government of such countries of any suspected cases of human trafficking.</p> <p>See: Qatar, <i>Voluntary National Review 2021, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2021), p. 135. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/280362021_VNR_Report_Qatar_English.pdf</p>
<p>Qatar, 2021</p>	<p>The legislative framework for transparency and integrity and addressing conflicts of interest was also strengthened by adopting in principle the draft law pending the issuance of the law. Moreover, Qatari legislation includes comprehensive provisions related to reporting corruption by public officials, and the Ministry of Interior set up a hotline and a special e-mail to receive reports. As a result, the number of people who were victims of corruption by a government official has decreased significantly from 33 in 2016 to 9 in 2019, as shown in the following table.</p> <p>See: Qatar, <i>Voluntary National Review 2021, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2021), p. 138. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/280362021_VNR_Report_Qatar_English.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Qatar, 2021</p>	<p>Qatari legislation also includes comprehensive provisions related to reporting corruption of public officials. Among the mechanisms, the Ministry of Interior has set up a hotline and e-mail to report corruption crimes with complete confidentiality of information, in addition to an application on smartphones with a “Metrash” system that enables reporting information on all crimes, including those related to corruption.</p> <p>The Audit Bureau which aims to achieve control over State funds and the funds of other entities subject to its audit, verify the integrity and legitimacy of the utilization and good management of such funds, improve the use of State resources to achieve sustainable development and community welfare, and contribute to improvement of the principles of accountability and transparency of the bodies subject to the Bureau’s control.</p> <p>On the international level, the State of Qatar was unanimously elected to membership of several international institutions and bodies at the United Nations, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Qatar also launched the annual Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani International Anti-Corruption Excellence Award; an award presented annually on International Anti-Corruption Day (9th December), in recognition and appreciation to those who have contributed to the global campaign against corruption. Qatar also implemented the Doha Declaration Global Programme at the conclusion of the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Qatar in 2015, which resulted in the implementation of 4 programs related to education for justice, judicial integrity, prisoner rehabilitation, crime prevention through sport.</p> <p>See: Qatar, <i>Voluntary National Review 2021, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2021), p. 140. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/280362021_VNR_Report_Qatar_English.pdf</p>
<p>Russia, 2020</p>	<p>In order to improve the legal system of the Russian Federation, as well as to promote the supremacy of law at the national and international levels, a unified system of law enforcement monitoring has been established. It provides for the analysis and study of legislation and law enforcement practice by public authorities. The functions of coordinating law enforcement monitoring in the Russian Federation carried out by federal executive bodies and its methodological support are vested in the Ministry of Justice of the Russian Federation. Representatives of civil society organizations and the mass media are involved in the process of law enforcement monitoring.</p> <p>See: Russian Federation, <i>Voluntary National Review of the progress made in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2020), p. 173. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26962VNR_2020_Russia_Report_English.pdf</p>
<p>Saint Kitts and Nevis, 2023</p>	<p>As of February 2023, GoSKN increased its efforts to strengthen transparency and accountability in governance with the passage of the Anti-Corruption Bill, 2023, Integrity in Public Life (Amendment) Bill, 2023, and the Freedom of Information (Amendment) Bill, 2023. For example, the Anti-Corruption Bill, 2023, is intended to define and create criminal offences of corrupt conduct and to create the office of a Special Prosecutor to receive complaints and investigate and prosecute acts of corrupt conduct of persons in public life. The good governance agenda was further complemented with the appointment of an Ombudsman in March 2023, to investigate any administrative action of a government authority for the purpose of deciding whether there is evidence of maladministration.</p> <p>See: Saint Kitts and Nevis, <i>Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2023), p. 86. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Saint%20Kitts%20and%20Nevis%20Report_1.pdf</p>
<p>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2020</p>	<p>The country places a strong focus on governance issues as it relates to rule of law, justice, transparency and accountability, the delivery of public goods and services and the participation of citizens in various developmental processes. With respect to the latter, the country encourages growth and development of civil society organisations as a critical element in the process of governance.</p> <p>National security is at the core of social stability and an effective and well-managed security sector protects citizens and visitors alike. Security is often determined by how safe people feel walking the streets at night, how confident they are in the ability of authorities to solve crimes, or how tightly the police are incorporated into village and community life. It is critical that there exist positive relations between civilian population and security services. A sense of security also depends on confidence in the fair, equitable and transparent treatment of citizens before the courts to ensure adherence to the rule of law. It is important that the public is educated about their legal rights and avenues for redress and that they have access to legal services.</p> <p>See: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, <i>Voluntary National Review, Government of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines to the UN Level Political Forum 2020</i> (2020), p. 91. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202020%20Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2020</p>	<p>In terms of public sector governance, the government continues to place strong focus on transparency and accountability in public institutions and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of these institutions to deliver goods and services. While there is measurable progress as it relates to areas such as public procurement and financial management, there are also other areas that require strengthening, such as taking steps to improve the legislative framework governing public administration; strengthening the institutional capacity for implementation, monitoring and evaluation as well as statistical capacity. There is also a need to improve the policy and regulatory framework to enhance public-private partnerships to enhance the delivery of services to Vincentians.</p> <p>See: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, <i>Voluntary National Review, Government of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines to the UN Level Political Forum 2020</i> (2020), p. 92. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202020%20Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, 2020</p>	<p>The following key strategies will need to be accelerated if Saint Vincent and the Grenadines is to advance the achievement of SDG 16: (...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Enhancing institutional capacity in modern detection techniques and crime-solving. › Broadening the legislative framework to address new forms of crime. › Enhancing the rehabilitation programmes within penal reform institutions. › Improving the policy framework for the governance of the security sector. › Strengthening the institutional capacity for the delivery of security services. <p>See: Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, <i>Voluntary National Review, Government of Saint Vincent and The Grenadines to the UN Level Political Forum 2020</i> (2020), p. 94. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202020%20Saint%20Vincent%20and%20the%20Grenadines%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Samoa, 2020</p>	<p>Samoa is a strong democratic Christian country built on its strong cultural identity and inherent principles of the rule of law. It remains committed to implementing its international human rights obligations. Samoa's first security policy launched in 2019 included categories of threat most critical to Samoa which included the traditional security threats but also natural disasters, climate change, and human security particularly gender-based violence and NCDs. Samoa's recent ratification/ accession of the UNCAT and UNCAC signal the importance placed on addressing corruption, strengthening the rule of law and administration of justice, facilitating effective law enforcement, and producing safer and professionally managed prisons.</p> <p>Furthermore, Samoa does not have a military force nor an armed police force. Thus, strict observance of the rule of law is critical to ensuring a safe and peaceful Samoa and meeting our international governance, justice, and peaceful society obligations.</p> <p>See: Samoa, <i>Samoa's Second Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2020), p. 126. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26429Samoa_Samos2ndVNR2020reduced.pdf</p>
<p>San Marino, 2021</p>	<p>As regards the objective of providing legal identity for all, including birth registration, the legislation currently in force provides for the registration of all those born in the territory of the Republic of San Marino.</p> <p>A direct and current commitment of the Republic is also reflected in the implementation of Target 16.10.a through the drafting and adoption of a General Strategy and a National Security Plan on Terrorism, in order to prevent and counter terrorism in all its forms. In this regard, worth recalling is that the Great and General Council adopted Law no. 21 of 31 January 2019 "Establishment of bodies involved in the fight against international terrorism". This Law has established several bodies, including the Permanent Counter-Terrorism Commission, which has among its tasks the drafting of the Strategy and the National Security Plan on Terrorism, which define the plan of action for the prosecution, prevention, protection and reaction to international terrorism. The strategy and the plan are approved by the Congress of State.</p> <p>See: San Marino, <i>San Marino's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Review 2021</i> (2021), p. 184. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/279402021_VNR_Report_San_Marino.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>São Tomé and Príncipe, 2022</p>	<p>Also in the area of security, some joint actions have been undertaken by the National Police (PN) and the Judiciary Police (PJ) to raise awareness, with seizures of white weapons and the arrest of people driving under the influence of alcohol. However, the Government is aware that much more needs to be done, and is working with its development partners to that end.</p> <p>For example, it is necessary to equip the Investigation Laboratory of the PJ, in order to facilitate the production of evidence in cases of sexual violation, in which, currently, the semen is sent abroad for analysis and the evidence does not always arrive in time for the judgement of the cases. Specialized training is needed for police officers, especially to act against drug trafficking.</p> <p>It is part of the concerns of the Government of STP to end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children and has taken legislative action towards the achievement of this sustainable development goal. Additionally, administrative data from the CACVD shows that levels of violence among children aged 1 to 17 years by caregivers and/or guardians and/or guardian, have decreased from 3.3% in 2017 to 2.3% in 2019.</p> <p>See: São Tomé and Príncipe, <i>Voluntary National Review 2022, Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in São Tomé and Príncipe</i> (2022), p. 94. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sao%20Tome%20and%20Principe%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Saudi Arabia, 2023</p>	<p>In 2021, the National Action Plan Against Trafficking in Persons was launched to address child protection concerns. In March 2020, the Human Rights Commission and the National Committee for Combating Human Trafficking (NCCHT) collaborated with the United Nations to implement a National Referral Mechanism (NRM) for victims of human trafficking. This effort coincided with establishment of specialized courts, legal prosecution teams, police officers, and labor inspectors to monitor vulnerable workers, including domestic employees. These teams contribute to enhancing support and protection within the NRM, which also features an effective central and provincial complaint mechanism.</p> <p>See: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, <i>Accelerating to Achieve a Sustainable Future, Saudi Arabia's Voluntary National Review 1444-2023</i> (2023), p. 124. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Saudi%20Arabia%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Saudi Arabia, 2023</p>	<p>Saudi Arabia has taken important steps to strengthen human rights. The Saudi Human Rights Commission is the government agency tasked with protecting and promoting human rights in accordance with international human rights standards in all fields, spreading awareness of it, and contributing to ensuring its application in line with the provisions of Islamic Law.</p> <p>The Commission has been granted broad powers to perform its duties independently and freely. The government has established human rights departments in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, Presidency of State Security and other official bodies.</p> <p>Additionally, the Kingdom has launched the Women's Rights Observatory to monitor progress and has established a Human Rights Training Center. Moreover, the government has intensified its efforts to strengthen the role of civil society. The Kingdom has made widespread changes to its laws and regulations to address systemic discrimination and ensure accountability for human rights abuses.</p> <p>See: Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, <i>Accelerating to Achieve a Sustainable Future, Saudi Arabia's Voluntary National Review 1444-2023</i> (2023), p. 125. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Saudi%20Arabia%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Seychelles, 2020</p>	<p>The Seychelles Human Rights Commission has also identified some ‘General Issues’ which have come up several times and which need to be addressed on a more systemic level, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The protocol for the treatment and determination of the legal status of distressed persons found at sea, once in the custody of the Seychelles Authorities, ➤ Remedial and custodial arrangements for children/minors in contact with the law, ➤ The treatment of migrant workers, their working conditions and contracts, as well as upon termination of employment and ensuing legal actions, ➤ An overview of the legal system, specifically establishing a code of conduct for lawyers, re-assessing court costs, and other access to justice issues. ➤ The conditions of detention of persons in police cells; lack of access to judiciary officers after working hours and during weekends as well as access to medical staff and/or lawyers, and ➤ The protocol governing asylum and refugee seekers, and procedures to be followed by asylum seekers, ➤ These will start being addressed in 2020: they are expected to require at least three years of work to obtain long-term redress and will require coordinated efforts by all three branches of government, as well as inputs from the general public. <p>Non-governmental organisations (NGO) are also playing a very important role in creating awareness, exposing and calling for remedial action, both at a governmental and grass-roots level for violation of human rights. The Citizen Democracy Watch Seychelles (CDWS) and the Association for Rights and Democracy (ARID) are amongst the few staunch advocates of human rights activist in Seychelles.</p> <p>See: Republic of Seychelles, <i>Voluntary National Review 2020</i> (2020), p. 97. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26383VNR_2020_Seychelles_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Singapore, 2023</p>	<p>The illegal trade in endangered species threatens their survival in the wild and is a key contributor to global biodiversity loss. Singapore is a Party to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and we do not condone illegal wildlife trade activities. We are committed to implementing and enforcing CITES to regulate the trade in, and protect endangered species of animals and plants. Singapore adopts a Whole-of-Government multi-pronged approach to take strong and effective enforcement measures. NParks, Singapore’s CITES Management Authority, works closely with domestic law enforcement agencies as well as civil society and individuals on such efforts.</p> <p>Singapore’s efforts to tackle the illegal wildlife trade is underpinned by a robust legislative framework and strong rule of law. In July 2022, Singapore amended the Endangered Species (Import and Export) Act, Singapore’s primary legislation regulating the trade in endangered species, to strengthen Singapore’s enforcement powers and penalties against illegal wildlife trade, and provide greater clarity for stakeholders on the scope of Singapore’s wildlife trade regulations. This was done in consultation with stakeholders from the nature community, traders, shipping companies, academic experts, and NGOs.</p> <p>See: Singapore, <i>Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Singapore</i> (2023), p. 53. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Singapore%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Singapore, 2023</p>	<p>In 2019, the Singapore Police Force established the Anti Scam Centre (ASC) to consolidate its anti-scam efforts and enhance efforts to counter the scam situation in Singapore. The ASC leverages technology for faster intelligence gathering and works closely with banks to rapidly freeze bank accounts suspected of receiving or transferring crime proceeds.</p> <p>Since 2020, we have leveraged automation and data analytics to combat ML/TF more effectively. For example, we introduced the Production Order – Electronic Transmission Project, a public-private partnership that facilitates the transmission of banking information from banks to law enforcement agencies within one business day. The Singapore authorities work closely with foreign counterparts to stem illicit financial flows linked to transnational crime and terrorism.</p> <p>See: Singapore, <i>Building a Sustainable, Resilient and Inclusive Singapore</i> (2023), p. 55. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Singapore%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Solomon Islands, 2020</p>	<p>Nonetheless, corruption within national institutions has long been an issue of public discontent in Solomon Islands and is seen as a major obstacle on the path towards sustainable development. A 2013 survey conducted by Transparency Solomon Islands documented that 56 per cent of respondents paid a bribe to assist with a police issue; 42 per cent paid to facilitate registry and permit services; and 49 per cent made an informal payment to facilitate land registration or related services over and beyond what was legally required.</p> <p>In response to this phenomenon, and with support from development partners, international obligations were transposed into a long-awaited anti-corruption act in 2018 (“2018 Anti-Corruption Act”). The 2018 Anti-Corruption Act was passed by the National Parliament on 25 July 2020 and provides for the establishment and operationalization of an independent anti-corruption commission.</p> <p>Until the root causes of fragility in Solomon Islands are addressed, inequalities will remain. Solomon Islands Government aimed at having its Country Political Institutions Assessment policies for social inclusion/equity cluster average reach at least 3.3 before 2020 (1 being the lowest and 6 the highest). In 2018, it amounted to 2.7.</p> <p>See: Solomon Islands, <i>Solomon Islands Voluntary National Review</i> (2020), p. 13. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26795VNR_2020_Solomon_Report.pdf</p>
<p>Somalia, 2022</p>	<p>In accordance with international human rights standards and norms the strengthening of the criminal justice system is a critical factor in the delivery of justice. Supporting Federal Member States in addressing crime prevention and criminal justice reform has been crucial. A lot has been achieved to strengthen the capacity of Police within Police Stations Criminal Investigation Departments (CID) and its coordination with prosecution services in order to proficiently prosecute cases in a timely manner, avert lengthy detention and reduce impunity.</p> <p>See: The Federal Republic of Somalia, <i>Voluntary National Review Report 2022</i> (2022), p. 58. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Somalia%20Report_0.pdf</p>
<p>Sri Lanka, 2022</p>	<p>In order to strengthen law enforcement, budget allocations for recruitment of police officers have been increased in addition to initiatives to increase the number of police stations from the current 400 to 700. Additional budget allocations have also been made for the community police service where plans to station two Praja police officers for each GN division together with “Mahajana Aarakshaka Kamitu” (Public Protection Committees) under “Sewa Piyasa” which aims to help prevent and detect crimes and ensure human security. Approximately 6,007 officers have already been mobilised for this project and measures have been taken to have these committees installed in all GN divisions.</p> <p>See: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, <i>Inclusive Transformation Towards A Sustainably Developed Nation For All, National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka</i> (2022), p. 135. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sri%20Lanka%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
<p>Sri Lanka, 2022</p>	<p>Although there are training and capacity development projects with the aim of streamlining the local court administration system underway, inadequacy of sufficient number of Judges and Courts and shortage of translators still prevails. Barriers related to translation and sign language to improve accessibility are also identified as key challenges.</p> <p>Sri Lanka was the first South Asian Country to pass comprehensive privacy legislation, the Personal Data Protection Act, No. 9 of 2022 which provides legal recourse for privacy violations and ensures right of access to personal data. The standard operating procedure on policing cyber violence is another development which provides guidance on handling cyber violence especially relating to women and children who are abused through the internet. However, gaps have been identified in the regularity of data and in areas such as the data of victims who are under protection and violence against LGBTQI communities. Therefore, addressing the gaps in the policies, laws, and regulatory frameworks in place to protect the security, data, and rights of all, especially the vulnerable, can in effect contribute to the target achievement of SDG 10.2 on inclusion, 16.1 on reduction of violence and 16.3 on Justice for all.</p> <p>The unavailability of translators for certain legislations, documents such as police complaints and documents related to court proceedings due to human resource gaps impacts the access to justice by minorities. Language barriers faced by women and children from different areas have not been integrated into the police service network. In addition, gaps related to sign language for judicial procedures limit the access to justice by the disabled people. As a considerable number of hearing-impaired people reside in Sri Lanka, sign language has been approved as a recognized mode of communication. This would empower the hearing-impaired people, by strengthening their access to services such as health, education, justice, etc.</p> <p>Addressing these gaps relative to the implementation of the National Language Policy can lead to achieving SDG targets, 16.3 on access to justice for all and 16.10 on public access to information.</p> <p>See: Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, <i>Inclusive Transformation Towards A Sustainably Developed Nation For All, National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Sri Lanka</i> (2022), p. 137. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Sri%20Lanka%20Report.pdf</p>
<p>Switzerland, 2022</p>	<p>It [Switzerland] also intervenes to ensure that human rights are respected and that displaced persons and those in situations of armed conflict are protected. Switzerland encourages dialogue and capacity building for peace and international security in partnership with many organisations, and the three Geneva Centres specifically: the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining, and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance.</p> <p>See: Swiss Confederation, <i>Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Review of Switzerland 2022</i> (2022), p. 48. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/LB_2022_EN_090620_Link_final.pdf</p>
<p>Togo, 2022</p>	<p>Le Gouvernement entend assurer la sécurité, la paix et la justice pour tous à travers : (i) l'adoption de la loi de programmation militaire pour sanctuariser et renforcer les investissements dans le secteur militaire afin d'assurer la sécurité nationale, notamment face à la menace terroriste ; (ii) la diminution du taux de criminalité dans le pays et (iii) l'amélioration de l'efficacité du système judiciaire.</p> <p>S'agissant de l'accès à la justice pour tous, la priorité du Gouvernement est de rendre la justice togolaise juste, efficiente, indépendante et accessible à tous.</p> <p>See: République Togolaise, <i>Forum Politique de Haut Niveau sur le Développement Durable, Rapport du Togo, Edition 2022</i> (2022), p. 55. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Togo%20Report_0.pdf</p>
<p>Togo, 2022</p>	<p>En ce qui concerne la défense, la paix et la sécurité, les actions du Gouvernement se sont focalisées sur la sensibilisation, la prévention des conflits et la consolidation de la paix. Dans ce sens, il a été voté, le 08 décembre 2020 et promulgué le 24 décembre 2020, la loi relative à la programmation militaire. Cette loi est venue renforcer la refondation des forces armées togolaises entreprises depuis 2014, afin de mieux assurer la sécurité nationale notamment face à la menace terroriste. Dans ce sens, une force d'alerte et de prévention dénommée « opération militaire Koundjoaré » a été mise en place depuis septembre 2018, pour servir de bouclier anti-terroriste entre le Togo et les pays du Sahel en proie à l'insécurité, au terrorisme et à l'extrémisme violent.</p> <p>See: République Togolaise, <i>Forum Politique de Haut Niveau sur le Développement Durable, Rapport du Togo, Edition 2022</i> (2022), p. 56. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2022/VNR%202022%20Togo%20Report_0.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Trinidad and Tobago, 2020	<p>Trinidad and Tobago has worked assiduously to reduce the rates of crime and recidivism. Most recently, several initiatives were implemented with a strategic focus on the treatment of juveniles in the criminal system and improving national security infrastructure and services. For example, the TTPS has sought to improve police response times through the establishment of divisional command centres and other location-specific improvements. This strategy and other initiatives are expected to bring the average police response time to approximately ten minutes. Three new police stations have also been constructed, as well as the completion of several infrastructure and equipment upgrades of existing police stations across the country.</p> <p>See: Government of Trinidad and Tobago, <i>Voluntary National Review, Trinidad and Tobago, Connecting the Dots to the SDGs 2020</i> (2020), p. 64. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26730VNR_2020_Trinidad_Report.pdf</p>
Ukraine, 2020	<p>(...) Such progress is not sufficient, however. It was mainly hindered by:</p> <p>insufficient adaptation of the national legislation on combating human trafficking to modern challenges in combating human trafficking; change in the forms and methods of involving Ukrainian nationals in human trafficking; lack of legislative regulation of the problem of combating sexual violence in military activities; (...)</p> <p>See: Ukraine, <i>Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine, Voluntary National Review</i> (2020), p. 105. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26295VNR_2020_Ukraine_Report.pdf</p>
Ukraine, 2020	<p>To ensure achievement of SDG 16, it is necessary to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ implement the full scope of reforms, particularly judicial, decentralization, etc.; ➤ provide a legislative foundation for implementation of comprehensive systems for security monitoring, and arrange interaction between security forces, other public authorities and local governments (the draft law provides for amending and supplementing the Laws of Ukraine “On Local Self-Governance in Ukraine”, “On the National Police”, “On National Security of Ukraine”, and the Code of Ukraine on Administrative Offences); regulate the issue on identification of an applicant’s location at the moment of applying (the draft law provides for amending the Laws of Ukraine “On the System of Emergency Assistance to the Public via the Single Phone Number 112” and “On Telecommunications); ➤ ensure the rights and freedoms of the child and his/her protection against any forms of violence, exploitation and abuse in the digital environment; ➤ perfect the procedure of establishment and activity of arbitration courts to restore confidence in the arbitration proceedings (in particular, strengthen requirements to the organizations that are arbitration court founders, improve the arbitration court establishment procedure, expand the jurisdiction over cases to be heard by arbitration courts, extend powers of the Arbitration Chamber of Ukraine); ➤ improve regulation of arbitrations, which will allow extending the list of case categories that can be referred to international commercial arbitration as agreed upon by the parties; ➤ enshrine at the legislative level the institution of mediation (legal regulation of relations in the field of mediation, in particular, defining the scope of mediation, mediation principles, requirements for mediators, rights, responsibilities and obligations of mediators, mediation procedures, rights and obligations of mediation parties, requirements to the contract on mediation and agreements on conflict settlement based on results of mediation). <p>See: Ukraine, <i>Sustainable Development Goals Ukraine, Voluntary National Review</i> (2020), p. 106. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26295VNR_2020_Ukraine_Report.pdf</p>
Zambia, 2020	<p>The country has undertaken measures aimed at strengthening relevant national institutions through international cooperation, building capacity to prevent violence, and combating terrorism and crime. This can be attested to by the restructuring of institutions such as the Human Rights Commission; Police Public Complaints Commission; Judicial Complaints Authority; Office of the Public Protector; Zambia Police Service; and Financial Intelligence Centre. Further, Zambia reviewed the Anti-Terrorism Act No. 21 of 2007 in 2015 (Act No. 2 of 2015). This facilitated the establishment of the National Anti-Terrorism Centre, which is now operational. The Act was also amended as the Anti-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation Act No. 6 of 2018 to include non-proliferation which further enhances the efforts in combating terrorism.</p> <p>See: Republic of Zambia, <i>Voluntary National Review 2020, Zambia Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2022), p. 94. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202020%20Zambia%20Report.pdf</p>

VNR Report	Examples of SSG/R
Zambia, 2023	<p>To contribute to national and global action to foster peaceful, just, and inclusive societies which are safe, especially for women and girls, local authorities have localised the following efforts:</p> <p>Community policing to maintain law and order: This includes construction of community police stations/posts to extend access to state security services.</p> <p>Discouraging gender-based violence: Specific efforts include community sensitisation and engagement of traditional, civic and community leaders in fighting GBV.</p> <p>See: Republic of Zambia, <i>Zambia's Voluntary National Review 2023, Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels</i> (2023), p. 33. Available at: https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2023/VNR%202023%20Zambia%20Report_0.pdf</p>

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