

# Linking Security Sector Governance and Reform to the Sustainable Development Goals: An Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews (2016–2019)



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DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is dedicated to improving the security of states and their people within a framework of democratic governance, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and gender equality. Since its founding in 2000, DCAF has contributed to making peace and development more sustainable by assisting partner states, and international actors supporting these states, to improve the governance of their security sector through inclusive and participatory reforms. It creates innovative knowledge products, promotes norms and good practices, provides legal and policy advice and supports capacity-building of both state and non-state security sector stakeholders.

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The author is grateful to William McDermott for his advice and meaningful inputs on the research design and throughout the research process, and to him and Merle Jasper for their valuable feedback on the report. The study also benefited, through the review process, from the insightful contributions of Gabriela Manea, Louise Edwards, and Pytrik Oosterhof, to whom the author also extends her gratitude. The author also wishes to thank Rodrigo Amorim for the graphic design of charts and graphs, and underlying structure of the publication's graphic design.

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

## About this publication

This report was developed as part of DCAF's project "Linking Good Security Sector Governance and SDG16." Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 aims to develop peaceful and just societies by building strong institutions, through targets 16.6 and 16.7, which focus on good governance and accountability of public institutions. To achieve the ambitions envisaged under this goal, all states will need to redouble their efforts to ensure that their national security sector is both effective and accountable, and operates within a framework of democratic civilian oversight, rule of law and respect of human rights. However, there is currently limited guidance on how SSG/R policies can contribute to achieving SDG16, and in particular targets 16.6 and 16.7 which are crucial for legitimate stability, especially in fragile contexts. This project focuses on three different oversight actors of the security sector and covers the role of parliaments, civil society and independent oversight institutions in promoting SSG/R and SDG16. Good practices and lessons learnt are examined and discussed with the aim to provide SDG16-specific guidance that supports states in implementing SSR in the context of the 2030 Agenda.

This project is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.



Ministry of Foreign Affairs

ISBN 978-92-9222-613-8

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## Abbreviations

<b>CAR</b>	Central African Republic
<b>DCAF</b>	Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance
<b>HLPF</b>	High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
<b>MDG</b>	Millennium Development Goal
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal
<b>SSG</b>	Security Sector Governance
<b>SSG/R</b>	Security Sector Governance/ Reform
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reform
<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>UN DESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary National Review

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## Executive Summary

Ensuring that national security sectors are well governed, subject to civilian oversight, and respectful of human rights and the rule of law is essential to supporting the realization of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, as envisioned under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) provide a snapshot of experiences and progress made towards implementation of the SDGs, and thus constitute a valuable record of actionable policies and measures. With that in mind, this study entailed a systematic content analysis of 2016–2019 VNR reports, undertaken with the aim to better understand whether VNRs refer to Security Sector Governance and Reform (SSG/R). Additionally, it sought to identify empirical examples of SSG/R in the VNRs, and assess whether these reviews referenced the role of parliaments vis-à-vis the security sector.

A quantitative content analysis of the frequency with which security actors are mentioned in VNR reports found considerable variation across reviews, in terms of the extent to which they are referred to, and the type of actor referenced. Overall, the police were cited more frequently than any other actors, with approximately 70% of VNR reports mentioning police at least once, and almost one third of reviews including at least five such references. Notably, while the role of security actors in the SDGs is necessarily linked to SDG16 specifically, their contributions extend to issue areas across the sustainable development spectrum.

This analysis found that 41% of the VNR reports examined here referred to SSG/R to some degree – albeit mostly in implicit terms. Again, these references varied widely as far as their quality and their frequency by VNR report. While some present more detailed descriptions of SSG/R, others comprise superficial references, including passing mentions. Moreover, in VNR reports that did reference SSG/R, some included several examples and some only one example. While it is a positive sign that approximately 40% of the VNR reports under review referred in some way to SSG/R, these findings suggest that there is potential to expound further on the role of SSG/R in the VNR reports, through more substantive reporting and by including it in more reviews.

Lastly, this analysis found very few references in VNR reports to the role of parliaments as overseers of the security sector. This suggests that there is scope, in the reports, for improving the treatment of the role that parliaments can play in supporting oversight of the security sector. Overall, the findings provide insights into the wealth and scope of linkages between security and sustainable development, thus reiterating that efforts in these two spheres should not be tackled in silos.

## 1. Introduction

The inclusion of security concerns in the 2030 Agenda has broken new ground in the approach to sustainable development. One lesson learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), was that “democratic governance, peace and security and the rule of law” have far-reaching implications for sustainable development.<sup>1</sup> This intersectionality is emphasized in the 2030 Agenda, which asserts that “[s]ustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.”<sup>2</sup> These considerations were captured in one of the Agenda’s interconnected 17 goals. SDG16, which features twelve targets (see Table 1), is the centrepiece of the Agenda on issues of peace and security, aiming to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”

In realizing this vision of peaceful, just and inclusive societies, national security sectors play a key role. Security actors<sup>3</sup> are critical to achieving targets 16.1 on violence reduction, 16.2 on protecting children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence, 16.4 on combatting organized crime, and 16.a on preventing violence, terrorism and crime. Still, these actors have the potential to both help build peaceful and just societies, or undermine these objectives, as dysfunctional security sectors can contribute to escalating instability, insecurity and conflict. Therefore, national security sectors that are effective and accountable, and which operate within a framework of civilian oversight, rule of law, and respect for human rights, will promote the realization of targets 16.6 and 16.7, but also 16.3, 16.5, 16.10, and 16.b, all of which evoke the principles of good governance towards which every national security sector should be geared.

SSG/R therefore plays a key role in supporting efforts towards SDG16, and many countries will need to engage in reforms of their security sector to meet their commitments to peace and justice under the 2030 Agenda. Security Sector Reform (SSR) refers to “a process of assessment, review and implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation led by national authorities that has as its goal the enhancement of effective and accountable security for the State and its peoples without discrimination and with full respect for human rights and the rule of law.”<sup>4</sup> Additionally, beyond SDG16, it has also been noted that other SDGs are of relevance in terms of the role of security actors; including SDG3 (good health and well-being), SDG5 (gender equality), SDG8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG10 (reduced inequalities), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG14 (life below water), and SDG15 (life on land).<sup>5</sup>

The role of SSR in promoting sustainable development has been acknowledged by various international actors, including the President of the United Nations’ 72nd General Assembly, who declared that “[w]e... cannot see SSR as a stand-alone activity. It is a crucial ingredient of Sustainable Development. In fact, we cannot achieve Goal 16 without it.”<sup>6</sup> Similarly, a key recommendation from the 2019 SDG16 Conference was the need to “build local and national capacities...to ensure security forces are well trained and operate within a normative human rights framework.”<sup>7</sup> Yet, despite normative links between SSG/R and the SDGs, there are currently no systematic analyses and only limited empirical examples of how states have worked towards SDG16 by implementing SSG/R policies.<sup>8</sup> Insufficient attention has also been given to the role of security sector oversight actors in contributing in this effort. Hence, this study focuses in part on the critical function of parliaments as overseers of the security sector in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and thereby achieving SDG16.<sup>9</sup> In fact, parliaments are not only key to promoting good governance of security sectors, but are essential stakeholders in realizing the SDGs, as recognized in the 2030 Agenda.<sup>10</sup>

VNRs are integral to the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda. They are voluntary, state-led, involve multiple stakeholders, and allow progress made towards the implementation of the SDGs to be captured. Moreover, they offer an opportunity for experience-sharing and mutual learning related to both successes and challenges. As VNRs include policies and measures undertaken to achieve the SDGs, they offer examples of various approaches to doing so. Against this backdrop, the objective of this study is to better understand whether VNR reports reference SSG/R policies, and to identify empirical examples of practical linkages between SSG/R and the SDGs. To that end, the present study relies on the systematic content analysis of 152 VNR reports submitted between 2016 and 2019,<sup>11</sup> and uses a mix of quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques.

This report is structured as follows. Section 2 presents the methodology applied to the underlying research. Section 3 describes general features of VNR reports. Section 4 focuses on the extent to which VNR reports have addressed SDG16 targets. Section 5 analyses the treatment of SSG/R in the VNR reports. Section 6 examines whether the VNR reports reference the role of parliaments as overseers of the security sector. Finally, conclusions are offered in Section 7 presents.

**Table 1.** List of SDG16 Targets

16.1	Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
16.2	End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
16.3	Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.4	By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
16.5	Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
16.6	Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
16.7	Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
16.8	Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
16.9	By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
16.10	Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
16.a	Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
16.b	Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

## 2. Methodology

This study builds on a systematic content analysis of 152 VNR reports from the first four-year cycle of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) (2016–2019),<sup>12</sup> using both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques. These relied on coding through the software MaxQDA, based on a list of keywords search (see Annex 2 for a list of all keywords). The keywords search was divided into on three thematic frames of analysis: (a) security actors and related terms; (b) security sector governance/ reform; and (c) parliaments. The quantitative component relied on an examination of the frequency of codes pertaining to “security actors and related terms” and “security sector governance/ reform,” while the qualitative component assessed whether these codes constituted references to SSG/R.

For the most part, the unit of analysis in this study is the individual VNR reports. Only section 3.2, which examines the number of states that have engaged in the VNR process, uses countries as the unit of analysis. Although a total of 158 VNRs were produced between 2016 and 2019, the sample used in this study is limited to VNR reports presented in a text format in English, French, or Spanish; leading to the exclusion of six VNRs from the sample.<sup>13</sup> Where VNR reports were available in multiple languages, the English version was selected for analysis. Thus, the sample included 112 VNR reports written in English, 21 in French, and 19 in Spanish. Moreover, by 2019, 14 countries had submitted two VNR reports and one country had produced three, so the sample included multiple VNR reports per country, where available.

As the study analyses VNR reports in three languages, keywords searched in MaxQDA were translated from English into French and Spanish. While all attempts were made to maintain equivalences in meanings across languages, the specificities of each language are such that absolute correspondence cannot be assumed. This may have consequences – albeit limited – on the coding that undergirded this analysis.

As noted above, the keywords searched and coded for this study fell under the three thematic frames of analysis: (a) security actors and related terms; (b) security sector governance/ reform; and (c) parliaments (see Annex 2). Keyword searches pertaining to all three themes were carried out in the entire text of each VNR report (as opposed to a focus on goal-specific chapters), and coded in MaxQDA. In addition to this, there were two situations in which manual coding was used. First, when keyword searches revealed references to a specific institution in a country. For example, the Fiji Police Force is referred to in the Fijian VNR report as “FPF,” and this abbreviation was therefore searched within this particular VNR report and then integrated into the code related to police. Second, as the software cannot differentiate the various meanings of the same keyword, selected keywords for which multiple meanings could have substantially biased the data were also manually coded. For example, the term “army” benefited from manual refinement, in order to discern its meaning in a security sector context from other meanings, including references to “armyworms” (the larvae of a destructive moth).

The contents of VNR reports were coded twice, using different code lengths according to the different purposes of analysis. An initial coding allowed for the identification of overlaps between codes. The length of the code captured coding from one sentence before and one sentence after the chosen keyword. The VNR reports were subsequently coded a second time encompassing only one word before and one word after a keyword. This produced a more accurate identification of the number of incidences per keyword. Moreover, in Section 5, the frequency of codes in the VNR reports was assessed, but Sections 6 and 7 relied on additional qualitative analysis of these codes and their overlaps, to determine whether they constituted references to SSG/R. For this purpose, each code (in Section 6) or intersection of two codes (in Section 7) was assigned a binary value (“yes” or “no”).

There were a number of limitations to this methodology. First, despite the existence of guidelines for preparing VNRs, the reviews vary greatly from their scope, to their level of detail, to their format and structure. While this permits some level of flexibility to best fit national circumstances, it also presents challenges to comparability among VNR reports, which can create difficulties for obtaining an overall sense of how SSG/R is represented in these reviews. Second, not all efforts to achieve the SDGs are presented in VNR reports, and a narrowing of their scope has been cited as a challenge.<sup>14</sup> Therefore, as this analysis was restricted to the content of VNR reports only, the fact that a policy or initiative is not reported in the reviews does not exclude the fact that a country has implemented it, or other relevant policies. Third, this analysis relies on the content of the VNR reports, without external validation of the statements therein. Fourth, this study rests generally on the assumption that VNRs report primarily about sustainable development, given that these reviews are a central part of the follow-up and review mechanism for SDGs and report progress made towards their realization.

Additional limitations pertain to the keywords list and coding, and mean that figures presented in this report must be read as approximations rather than absolutes. The keywords list identifies generic terms, which may not account for national or local terminological idiosyncrasies. This may be especially true for codes like “Ministry of Defence” and “Ministry of Interior,” as these institutions may bear different names across countries, though variations in the naming of these institutions was partially mitigated by manual coding. Still, while institutional keywords were added manually when identified, additional references may have escaped identification if only a context-specific term was used. Second, despite the fact that manual



coding was applied to keywords where multiple meanings could have significantly biased the results, not all keywords benefited from this manual refinement. This should have only very limited implications on the findings, but nonetheless still implies some level of discrepancy across keywords. Lastly, technical limitations of the MaxQDA software mean that figures presented in this report may not reflect all the incidences of a code or intersections between codes, which may also impact the findings. Lastly, it should be noted that all examples in this study are illustrative and do not imply that other VNR reports do not include similarly relevant policies and measures, nor do they express any political view.

As sections of this report used different methods of analysis according to the aim of each chapter, these respective methodologies also present some limitations. In analysing whether VNR reports contain references to SSG/R, Section 6 relies on the identification of keywords pertaining to the thematic frame of analysis "security actors and related terms." The scope of the sample under analysis was the sentence in which the keyword was embedded, while the rest of the paragraph to which the sample belonged served as context for the sample's analysis. These were assessed as either constituting a reference to SSG/R or not, but this assessment did not differentiate various levels of detail across references. All samples were analysed by one person, and to ensure quality control, samples considered more ambiguous were examined by a second person. In the case of samples that were particularly ambiguous, a negative bias was adopted, and the sample under review was not considered a reference to SSG/R. But assessing whether samples under analysis constituted examples of SSG/R inevitably entailed a degree of subjectivity, especially as the VNR reports sometimes lacked detailed information. To mitigate this, as described above, two persons cross-checked ambiguous statements. Moreover, this methodology used was based on the assumption that mentions of SSG/R likely refer to at least one security actor; yet in reviews using alternative terminology, these may not have been identified. This was thus a limitation to a comprehensive identification of references to SSG/R, and findings must be viewed as a lower threshold of their incidence in the VNR reports. Finally, as this analysis is based on a binary value, it does not clarify the proportion of samples that made detailed references to SSG/R versus those that made more superficial references.

In examining whether VNR reports feature references to the role of parliaments in security sector governance, Section 7 relies on the identification of code overlaps, through the MaxQDA software, pertaining to both "security actors and related terms" and "parliaments" frames of analysis. In this case, each keyword was coded over three sentences, to allow for a one-sentence margin of overlap. As in previous sections, one person examined the entirety of samples, but to ensure quality control those considered more ambiguous were analysed by a second person. All references to SSG/R were also validated by the second person. Again, this methodology has a number of limitations. First, much like the constraints in Section 6, the methodology used in Section 7 did not allow for the identification of references to SSG/R where a review made no mention of a security actor. Second, the analysis focuses only on mentions of parliaments as an actor, even though they may also be mentioned indirectly in the context of their legislative function. Due to methodological constraints, these indirect references were not captured in this analysis. Therefore, statutory lawmaking was analysed only when referred to along with parliaments, but a sole reference to this function fell outside the scope of this study. Thus, the number of references in VNR reports to SSG/R as it relates to parliament's role via their legislative function may be more extensive than found in this study.

## 3. Voluntary National Reviews

### 3.1. What are VNRs?

VNRs are an innovative and core element of the follow-up and review process of the 2030 Agenda. While the MDGs used a reporting system led at the global level, primarily through reports of the UN Secretary-General,<sup>15</sup> the 2030 Agenda creates space for country-driven follow-up and review processes. Member states are encouraged to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels,”<sup>16</sup> which can serve as basis for VNRs. In the review process, governments are encouraged to enable stakeholder engagement and to include contributions from various non-governmental stakeholders including civil society, the private sector, academia and others. VNRs provide an opportunity to share experiences related to the SDGs, and facilitate joint learning including on challenges and lessons learnt, and with the view to accelerate the realization of the 2030 Agenda. VNRs are presented during the annual HLPF – the global platform for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Each year, the HLPF zeroes in on a different thematic focus and set of SDGs; and during its initial first four-year cycle (2016–2019), SDG16 was reviewed for the first time in 2019, along with five other goals.

To help states conduct their VNRs, a number of guidance documents have been created. In 2015, “Voluntary common reporting guidelines for VNRs”<sup>17</sup> were prepared and provide a framework for common elements in the reviews. Whilst states are encouraged to follow the guidelines in order to promote comparability, VNRs vary significantly in their structure, content, format, scope, and length. Adherence to these guidelines did increase in the period from 2016 to 2019, however.<sup>18</sup> The guidelines have also twice been updated since their adoption to integrate lessons learnt. In addition to this, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) has developed a *Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews*,<sup>19</sup> which is updated every year and provides information on the various steps for preparing VNRs. Goal-specific guidance related to VNR preparation is also available. This includes a guide to reporting on SDG16, prepared by the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies; which, along with the TAP Network, has also produced a resource on mainstreaming SDG16 into the VNRs.<sup>20</sup>

Member countries have demonstrated significant interest in the VNR process, with a total of 158 reviews in 142 countries<sup>21</sup> produced by 2019. At the same time, several areas for improvement were identified during the first four-year cycle of the HLPF, to strengthen VNRs, such as by enhancing the quality of reviews<sup>22</sup> and providing more “in-depth, evidence-based analysis of progress and the impact of measures taken.”<sup>23</sup> It has been noted, too, that VNRs should emphasize not only development successes but also challenges.<sup>24</sup> Providing greater space for meaningful participation by civil society organizations and other actors has also been suggested as a way to strengthen VNRs and to reinforce them as a national product.<sup>25</sup> Considerations of all these recommendations is ever more important as an increasing number of countries begin to engage in their second and third VNRs.

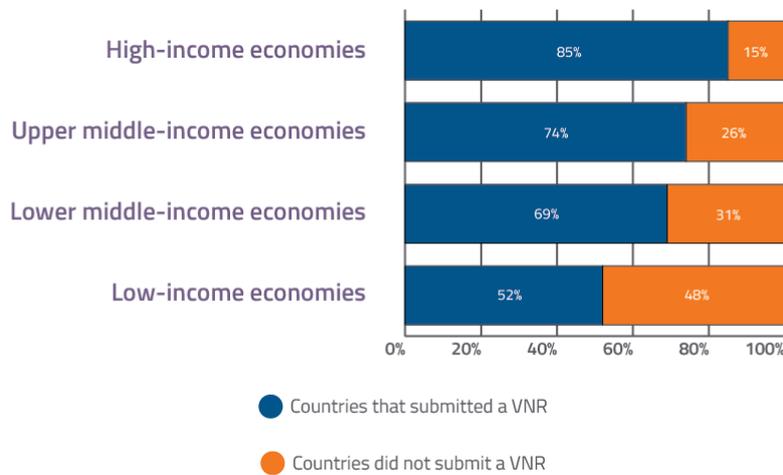
### 3.2. VNRs landscape in the first four-year cycle of the HLPF

As mentioned above, a majority of UN member states (142) have already engaged in the VNR process, during the first HLPF cycle. The number of VNRs produced has followed a stable upward trend each year, with 22 submitted in 2016, 43 in 2017, 46 in 2018 and 47 in 2019. While most states have submitted only one VNR, 14 countries have produced two, and Togo stands alone having completed three reviews. Generally, the level of participation of states varied according to economic and regional groupings, as described below.

### Economic groupings

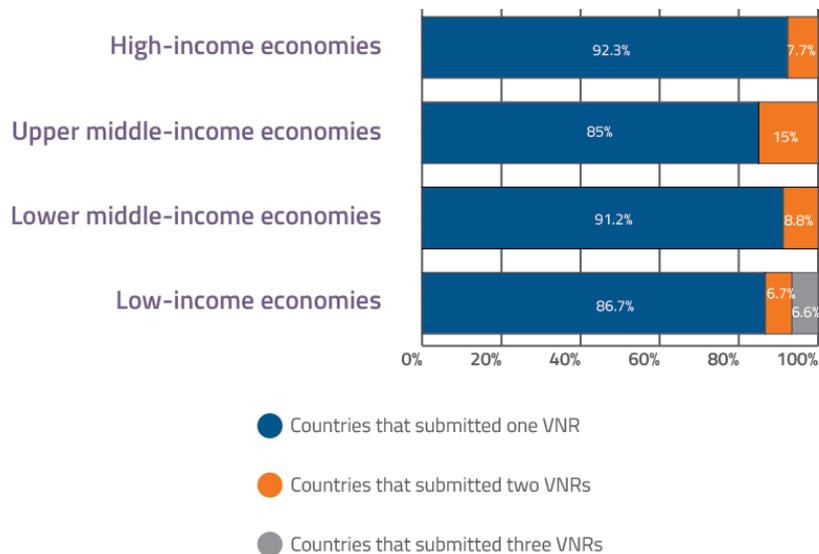
There appears to have been considerable variation in states' levels of participation in the VNR process through 2019 based on income levels. Proportionate to their income level, countries with higher incomes engaged more in this process than those with lower incomes, with low-income economies presenting the highest level of absenteeism per category (see Figure 1). Indeed, while 85% of high-income countries submitted at least one VNR by 2019, only half of low-income economies did so. However, within the pool of countries that engaged in the VNR process during the first four-year cycle, states that submitted more than one VNR are distributed relatively equitably across all four income-level groups (see Figure 2). In other words, despite the lagging participation of lower-income states, countries of this group that have engaged in the VNR process have overall produced a similar number of VNRs per country than other income groups. While bearing in mind the voluntary nature of VNRs, attention and support should be devoted to ensuring that lower-income states do not lag behind in the review process.

**Figure 1.** Percentage of states that submitted at least one VNR, by economic grouping (2016–2019)<sup>26</sup>



n = 193<sup>27</sup>

**Figure 2.** Percentage of states that submitted one, two or three VNRs, by economic grouping (2016–2019)<sup>28</sup>

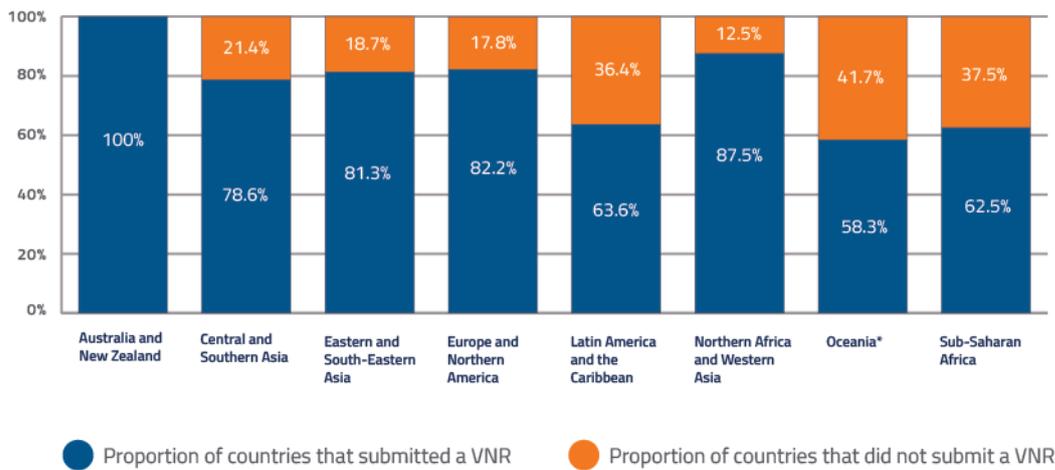


n = 141<sup>29</sup>

### Regional groupings

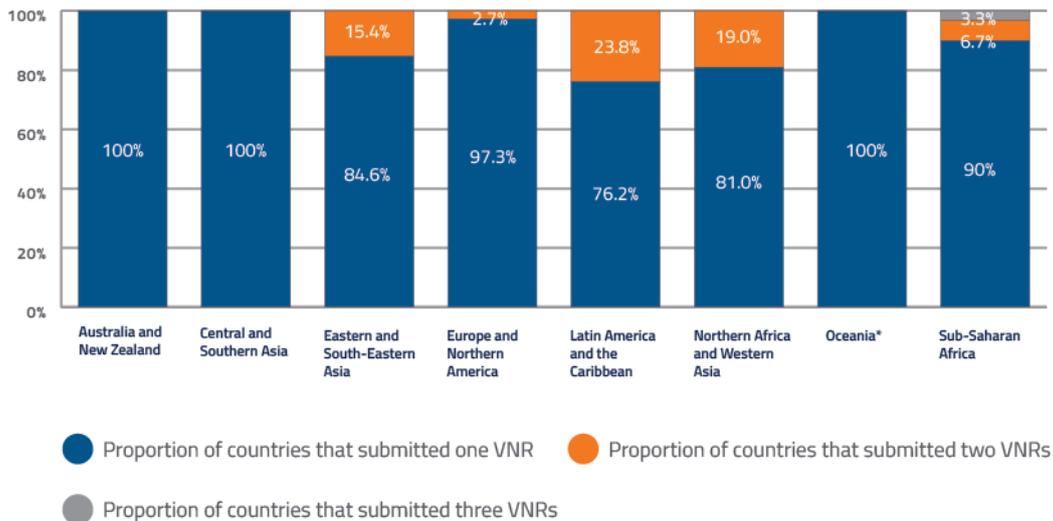
Some levels of variation in the submission of VNRs were also observed along regional lines. Three regions (Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania and Sub-Saharan Africa) exhibited slightly lower levels of engagement over the 2016–2019 period, as 35 to 40% of the states in these regions did not take part in the reviewing process (see Figure 3). Outside of these regions, and of Australia and New Zealand<sup>30</sup> which both submitted VNRs, levels of participation have entailed that around 80% of countries submitted at least one VNR. In the Northern Africa and Western Asia region, this number reached 87,5%. The submission of more than one VNR was more diversified across regions, and most second and third time VNRs originated from Eastern and South Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern Africa and Western Asia, and to a lesser extent, Sub-Saharan Africa (see Figure 4).

**Figure 3.** Percentage of states that submitted at least one VNR, by region (2016–2019)<sup>31</sup>



\*excluding Australia and New Zealand; n = 194

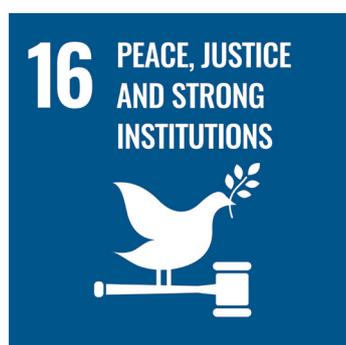
**Figure 4.** Percentage of states that submitted one, two, or three VNRs, by region (2016–2019)<sup>32</sup>



\*excluding Australia and New Zealand; n = 142

## 4. Reporting on SDG16 targets in VNRs

Figure 5. Summary of SDG16 targets



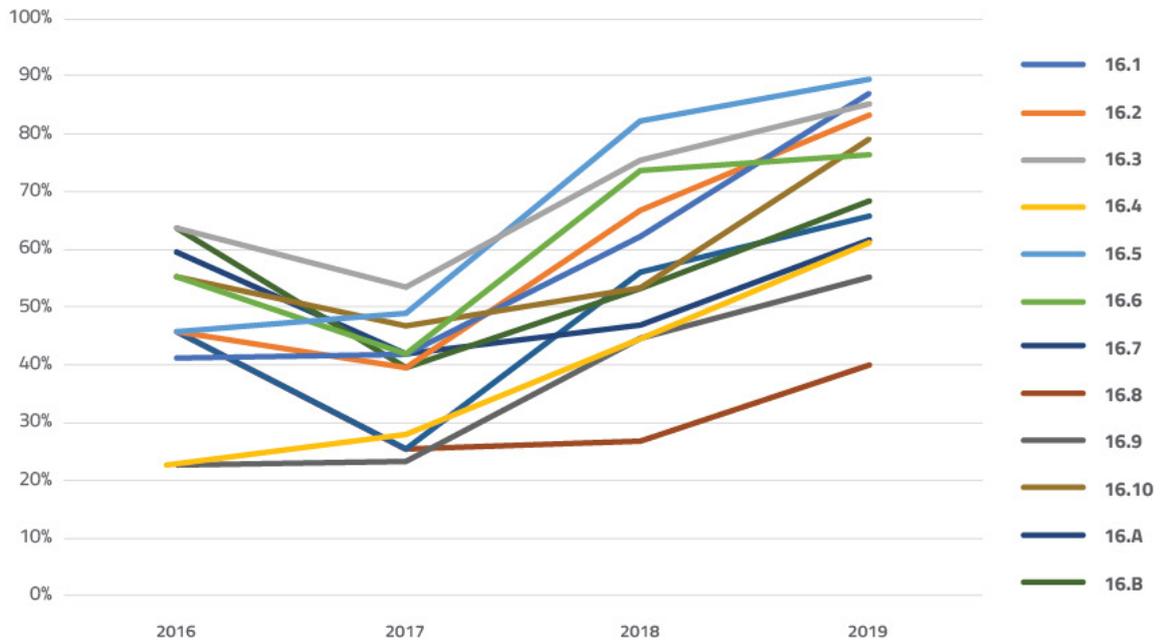
- 16.1 Reduce all forms of violence everywhere
- 16.2 Protect children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence
- 16.3. Promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice
- 16.4 Combat all forms of organized crime and illicit financial and arms flows
- 16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making
- 16.8 Strengthen participation by developing countries in global governance
- 16.9 Provide legal identity for all
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms
- 16.a Strengthen national institutions to prevent and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies

The contents of the VNR reports analysed here also varied greatly in terms of the SDG targets reviewed. While the UN's voluntary common reporting guidelines encourage states to review progress on all SDGs,<sup>33</sup> not every country reported on each of the 17 goals in the first HLPF cycle. Nevertheless, existing data shows that the proportion of VNR reports addressing SDG16 targets (see Figure 6) did generally increase over the years of this cycle. After a smaller proportion of reviews addressed these targets in 2017 than in 2016, reporting generally trended up, with 2019 VNRs featuring the most coverage in this cycle of almost all targets. The fact that SDG16 was one of the goals under review during the 2019 HLPF may have partly heightened reporting that year, when 89% of states which submitted a VNR reported on at least one SDG16 target, up from 64% in 2016 (see Figure 6).

For most of the SDG16 targets, reporting has varied considerably across the years. For example, VNRs addressing target 16.4 almost tripled in the first HLPF cycle, with 23% of reviews addressing it in 2016 and 62% in 2019. Similarly, the coverage of targets 16.1, 16.2, 16.5 and 16.9 doubled between 2016 and 2019. In addition to these differences over years, targets received varying levels of attention. While bearing in mind yearly variations per target, targets 16.3 and 16.5 appear to have received the most coverage over the period under study, while 16.8 and 16.9 received the least.

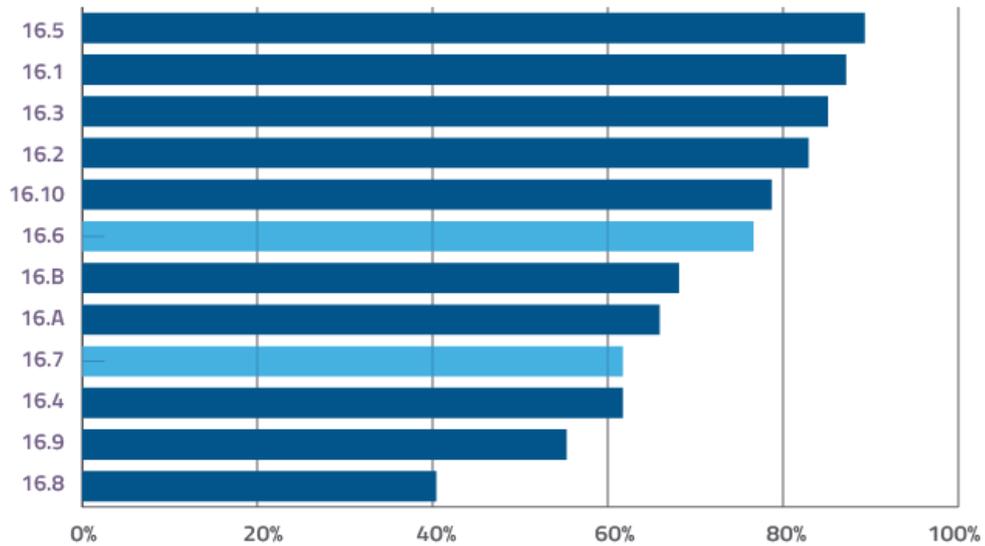
Notably, in 2019, targets 16.6 and 16.7 – which encompass key principles of good Security Sector Governance (SSG) – were reported on in 76.6% and 61.7% of VNRs respectively. Thus, target 16.6 is comparatively well-addressed in the 2019 VNRs, whereas 16.7 is among the targets that received the lowest levels of attention (see Figure 7). While it should be further investigated whether this may be the result of challenges in reviewing this target in the format proposed by VNRs or the result of it being assigned a lower priority, there is a need to ensure that policies are developed by institutions that are inclusive, participatory, and representative, and that this target is captured accurately in reporting.

**Figure 6.** Proportion of VNRs in which SDG16 targets are addressed, by target and year



Based on the data of White and Case<sup>34</sup>

**Figure 7.** Proportion of 2019 VNRs in which SDG16 targets are addressed, by target<sup>35</sup>



Based on the data of White and Case<sup>36</sup>

## 5. Security actor and the SDGs

To achieve the vision of SDG16 and develop peaceful and just societies, security actors play a key role. Their contributions also extend beyond SDG16, as they can support the advancement of other goals. Therefore, this section focuses on the coverage of security actors in VNR reports and presents examples of their contributions to the 2030 Agenda.

### 5.1. References to security actors in VNR reports

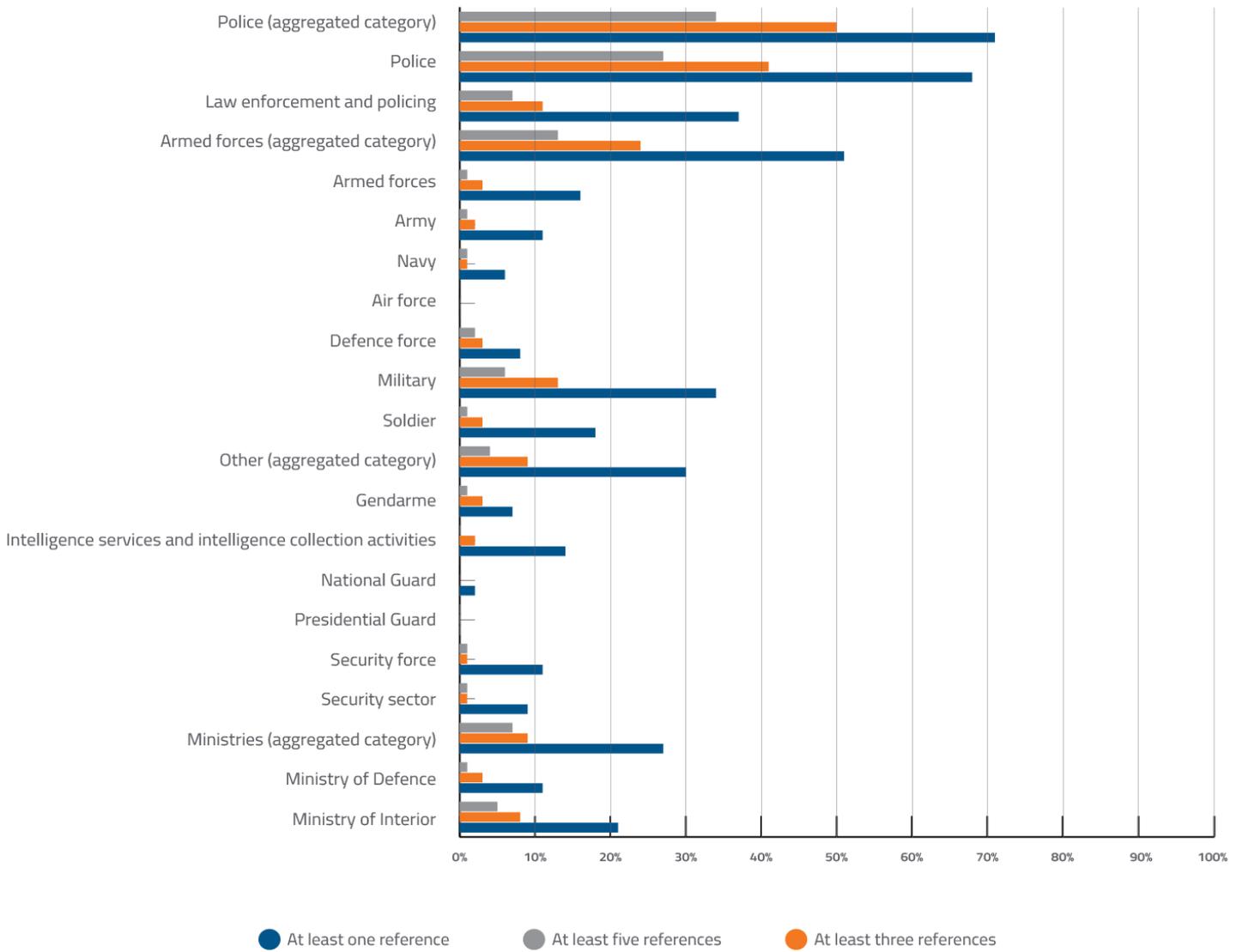
The extent to which security actors and related terms (see Section 2 on Methodology) are mentioned in VNR reports from 2016 to 2019 was examined through quantitative content analysis. References to a keyword do not provide any information about the context in which it is used. This means that it may refer to a substantive contribution by a security actor, but it may also prove to be less qualitatively relevant, for example, if a keyword is listed in an endnote, or is cited as a source for a figure or table. This study rests on the assumption that, despite this limitation, the higher counts per keyword in a VNR report, the more it can be expected that higher levels of relevance of a keyword are attributed for the purpose of the review. Moreover, the software used for identification of keywords cannot differentiate the various meanings of the same keyword. Despite manual coding having been used for keyterms for which multiple meanings could have substantially biased the results, the keywords that did not benefit from manual refinement may also include some meanings outside of the context of the security sector (see Methodology).

Overall, this study found that 85% of VNR reports included at least one reference to “security actors and related terms,” (see Annex 2) and approximately 55% include at least five such references. In nearly a third of the reviews (29%), these references appeared at least 10 times, and in 13%, at least 20 times. There is therefore a considerable variation across the VNR reports in terms of the frequency with which security actors and related terms are mentioned, and only a minority of reviews reference them more extensively. The security actors and related terms identified in the VNR reports also varied significantly, and a comparative perspective found that reviews tended to reference the police at a higher rate than other security actors (see Figure 8). In fact, 71% of VNR reports mentioned the police or a related term (“policing” and “law enforcement”) at least once, and 50% made at least three such references, along with only 34% that included five mentions or more. These figures are slightly lower when considering only the keyword “police,” with 68% of VNR reports using the term at least once, 42% of VNR reports referencing it at least three times, and 27% at least five times. Hence, while a majority of VNR reports mention police at least once, only approximately a third make more frequent use of this keyword.

In comparison, references to the armed forces and related terms<sup>37</sup> appeared less often in the VNRs under study, with half (51%) of reviews mentioning these forces at least once, 24% making at least three references, and only 13% using these terms at least five times. The separate branches of armed forces are mentioned very seldomly on their own, and air forces are not mentioned at all. Intelligence services and related activities also feature rarely in the VNR reports, with at least one reference in 14% of reviews, and at least three references in only 2% of VNR reports, while none makes five references or more. Ministries of Interior and Defence are mentioned in 27% of VNR reports at least one time, with 9% of reviews making at least three references, and 7% including at least five references. The security actors with the least coverage in VNR reports are air forces, presidential guards and national guards, all of which either go unmentioned altogether or appear only in a highly limited manner.

In short, the frequency with which VNR reports make reference to different kinds of security actors and related terms varies greatly, as does the coverage of these security actors and related terms generally across the reviews. The police are mentioned at the highest rate, compared to other security actors, with almost one third of VNR reports referring to the police at least five times. In contrast, air forces, presidential guards and national guards are referenced very little.

**Figure 8.** Percentage of VNR reports in which references to security actors appear, by actor and frequency<sup>38</sup>



## 5.2. Examples of the contributions of security actors to the SDGs

As SDG16 is the centrepiece of the peace and security pillar of the 2030 Agenda, the contributions of security actors largely pertain to this goal. Their functions are directly relevant to and can advance the realization of several targets, including 16.1 on violence reduction, 16.2 on protecting children from abuse, exploitation, trafficking and violence, 16.4 on combatting organized crime, and 16.a on preventing violence and combatting terrorism and crime. Yet, as noted earlier, the role of security actors extends beyond SDG16, as they may be able to impact a number of issue areas encapsulated in other SDGs. For example, these actors can contribute to issue areas related to road safety (SDG3), violence against women and girls (SDG5), human trafficking (SDG5, SDG8), urban safety (SDG11), illegal fishing (SDG14), and poaching and trafficking of protected wildlife species (SDG15).

The diversity of ways actors can contribute to these goals can be found in a number of the 2016–2019 VNR reports (see Boxes 1–4). For instance, Iceland’s VNR report (2019) discusses a pilot project that enhanced police services to victims of domestic violence, the results of which were so positive that it was scaled up to all police districts. Similarly, the UK’s VNR report (2019) highlights efforts to tackle modern slavery and simultaneously improve police support to victims. And vis-à-vis policing in the context of the sustainable use of marine resources, Namibia’s VNR report (2018) notes the role of police in preventing overfishing. But these reviews may also reference security actors who face challenges that hinder their contributions to sustainable development. In Vietnam’s VNR report (2018), for example, a lack of capacity of law enforcement agencies, the slow pace of legislation, and challenges to law enforcement were cited, having stalled progress on SDG15. Such examples show that security actors can be relevant stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs, across the sustainable development spectrum, thus reiterating the significance of the intersections between these two spheres.

### Box 1. Example of security actor contribution to SDG5 on gender equality

From: Government of Iceland, *Iceland’s Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Voluntary National Review (2019), pp.104–105.



In 2013, the police in the Southern Peninsula of Iceland (Suðurnes) launched a pilot project in collaboration with local authorities in the district to improve service to victims of domestic violence.

The project involved changing priorities and procedures, and sending a clear message that domestic violence would not be tolerated and was not the private concern of those subjected to it. Emphasis was placed on providing the best possible help to people who live with violence, preventing repeated violations, and completing investigations of domestic violence thoroughly, something rarely seen before. Efforts were also made to utilise better legal remedies on restraining orders and removal from the household, which had previously been applied seldom if ever. The collaboration was considered to bring positive results, and in December 2014 this new approach was implemented in the procedures of the National Commissioner of Police for all police districts in the country.

Collaboration against domestic violence entails, among other things, that the police always request on-site assistance from child protection in cases where there are children in homes, or otherwise seek the consent of the parties to request the assistance of social services if no children are involved. A thorough and detailed investigation of the issues is then begun immediately on location and the parties advised on assistance and how things will proceed. Legislative provisions are utilised to proceed with cases without the involvement of victims, as in many cases it is extremely onerous for victims to lay charges against those close to them. Particular emphasis is placed on assisting and safeguarding the interests of children living with domestic violence.

When the police have responded to an emergency call concerning domestic violence, it opens a certain window of opportunity, as the victim is frightened and ready to provide information on events and receive assistance from the police. This time must be utilised well, both to investigate the case and also ensure that victims and offenders receive appropriate social, psychological and legal assistance and ensure security. Efforts must be directed specifically at preventing offenders from repeatedly using violence. The pilot project in the Suðurnes region, which was given the title of “Keeping the window open”, was adopted by other police districts in Iceland, and has attracted attention beyond the country’s shores.

**Box 2.** Example of security actor contribution to SDG8 on decent work and economic growth

From: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, *Voluntary National Review of Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals* (2019), p. 107



The UK is committed to ending modern slavery in the UK, and to ensuring a response that keeps pace with the evolving threat it presents. The pioneering Modern Slavery Act 2015, gives law enforcement agencies the tools to tackle modern slavery, including maximum life sentences for perpetrators. The UK also commissioned an independent review of the Act, which concluded in spring 2019.

The UK is transforming the law enforcement response, seeing more police operations than ever before; overhauling support for victims; and working with businesses to eradicate forced labour from UK supply chains. As a result, more victims than ever before are being identified.

**Box 3.** Example of security actor contribution to SDG14 on life below water

From: Republic of Namibia, *Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Voluntary National Review 2018* (2018), pp. 36–37.



Management of Marine Resources

Namibia has put into place regulations and strategies to ensure the sustainable use of marine resources. These include the introduction of fishing quotas to control the amount of fish catchable at any given time, the control of fishing by introducing fishing seasons, and the policing of Namibian waters to control overfishing and unauthorized fishing in Namibian waters.

**Box 4.** Example of security actor contribution to SDG15 on life on land

From: Vietnam, *Viet Nam's Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* (2018), p. 76.



Viet Nam has made a great deal of efforts to develop policies and finalize governance mechanisms for wildlife trade control. However, the control and prevention of wildlife trade is not as effective as desired as it is highly profitable and attractive. Moreover, the capacity of law enforcement agencies in Viet Nam relating to wildlife protection is limited, which has been a hindrance and big challenge for Viet Nam in implementing SDG 15.5. [...]

The implementation of the SDG 15 encountered some difficulties as, the promulgation of sub-laws for enforcement of the Law on Bio-diversity remains slow and enforcement is challenging. There is a separation in implementation guidelines between the Law on Forest Protection and Development, the Law on Fisheries and Law on the Biodiversity as they all provide for biodiversity conservation. There is a lack of coordination and consensus on assignment of State management responsibility for biodiversity. Meanwhile, the biodiversity conservation budget is still quite limited and cannot meet State management requirements and bio-diversity objectives. The exploitation, trade and consumption of endangered wildlife (fauna and flora) remain uncontrolled. Wildlife species continue to decline. Many regulations on management of invasive alien organisms have not been developed.

Therefore, it is necessary to revise, amend and supplement laws relating to bio-diversity and strengthen organization and management systems, assignments and decentralization of bio-diversity State management responsibilities. Effectiveness of law enforcement relating to biodiversity must be emphasized.

## 6. SSG/R and the SDGs<sup>39</sup>

National security sectors should also be considered in light of the transformative potential of the 2030 Agenda. In this respect, the norms captured in targets 16.6 and 16.7 are especially important, encompassing principles by which all national security sectors should abide, as they promote, amongst others, effectiveness, accountability, transparency and responsiveness. These two targets also reflect the principles of good SSG. Thus, the extent to which VNR reports contained references to SSG/R is analysed here.

### 6.1. VNR reports featuring SSG/R terminology

This first sub-section analyses whether VNR reports use the SSG/R terminology. To this end, a keyword search based on keyterms relating to the category “Security Sector Governance/ Reform” (see Annex 2) was performed. As only keywords pertaining to this category were searched, VNR reports referencing the good governance of their security sector or discussing security sector reform through the use of alternative phrasing were not identified.

Very few VNR reports explicitly referenced SSG/R by using SSG/R terminology, with only five (Belgium, 2017; Central African Republic, 2019; Guinea, 2018; Norway, 2016; and Timor Leste, 2019) reviews mentioning “security sector reform” or “SSR” (see Boxes 5–9).<sup>40</sup> These VNR reports also illustrated the different ways countries can report on SSR. Belgium and Norway primarily mentioned their role in supporting SSR abroad, while CAR, Guinea and Timor Leste referred to national processes. The Belgian VNR report (2017) offers a clear example of why these forms of reporting on SSR are not (and should not be considered) mutually exclusive, as it cites the country’s own experience of police reform as a basis for its support abroad (see Box 5).

#### **Box 5.** Belgium’s 2017 VNR report

From: **Belgium**, *Pathways to Sustainable Development: First Belgian National Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda* (2017), p. 63.

The Belgian federal police has developed a solid experience in capacity building and in the planning, preparation and implementation of security sector reform (SSR) programs on the African continent, and is currently involved in such missions in Somalia, Tunisia, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The fairly recent Belgian police reform operation in 2001 and restructuring of the Belgian federal police (2014), plus the functioning of Belgium as a federal state, have proven to be useful assets for the SSR process in Somalia, and are now also attracting interest from the government of Benin in its attempts to integrate the gendarmerie with local police forces.





**Box 6.** Central African Republic's 2017 VNR report

From: **Central African Republic**, *Rapport National Volontaire de suivi de mise en œuvre* (2017), p. 21.

The first pillar of the [National Plan for the Recovery and Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic], which aims to restore peace, security and national reconciliation, fundamental factors for normalization and recovery, includes four strategic objectives (SO) which are: [...] (SO1.2) Promote stability through security sector reform; this strategic objective is aligned with a target (C16.4). It is about setting up an effective security system to ensure the protection of goods and people, a guarantee of stability and prosperity.

*Original quote, in French:* Le premier pilier du [Plan National de Relèvement et de Consolidation de la Paix en Centrafrique] qui vise à restaurer la paix, la sécurité et la réconciliation nationale, facteurs fondamentaux pour la normalisation et le relèvement, comprend quatre objectifs stratégiques (OS) que sont: [...] (OS1.2) Promouvoir la stabilité par la réforme du secteur de la sécurité ; cet objectif stratégique cadre avec une cible (C16.4). Il s'agit de mettre en place un système de sécurité efficace pour assurer la protection des biens et des personnes, gage de stabilité et prospérité.



**Box 7.** Guinea's 2018 VNR report

From: **Guinea**, *Contribution Nationale Volontaire à la mise en œuvre des ODD au Forum Politique de Haut-Niveau* (2018), p. 80.

The Guinean government, in partnership with the United Nations's Peacebuilding Commission, has undertaken major reforms of the security sector (Army and Police) with the priority to enhancing the functioning of the defense corps, as well as the strengthening of their capacities, with the aim of establishing a new relationship of trust with the populations. The reforms undertaken have made it possible to make some progress, but the challenges remain significant.

*Original quote, in French:* Le gouvernement guinéen, en partenariat avec la Commission de Consolidation de la Paix de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, a engagé d'importantes réformes du secteur de sécurité (Armée et Police) avec pour priorité l'assainissement du fonctionnement des corps de défense, ainsi que le renforcement de leurs capacités, dans le but d'établir une nouvelle relation de confiance avec les populations. Les réformes engagées ont permis d'enregistrer quelques progrès mais les défis à relever restent importants.

**Box 8.** Norway's 2016 VNR report

From: **Norway**, *Voluntary National Review Presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)* (2016), p. 26.

Norway remains committed to supporting conflict prevention and promoting peace and reconciliation through UN, multilateral and bilateral efforts. In this area, Norway is able to build on its longstanding engagement, including in the Middle East; on its experience as chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for assistance to the Palestinian people; and on its role as facilitator, together with Cuba, in the Colombian peace process. The Government also gives high priority to supporting capacity-building measures for security sector reform in developing countries, in UN peace operations and other international operations, and in regional organisations. Norway has an MOU with the African Union (AU) on capacity-building through the programme Training for Peace in Africa (TFP). Norway supports efforts to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.

**Box 9.** Timor Leste's 2019 VNR report

From: **Government of Timor Leste**, *Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: From ashes to reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development, Voluntary National Review of Timor-Leste 2019* (2019), pp. 39–40.

Security and political inclusion have been underpinned by reforms and increased professionalization in the army and police. After the 2006 crisis, Security Sector Reform was undertaken. The strengthening of the security forces enabled the country to overcome the recent political impasse and maintain peace and stability. The police reform strategy, including the introduction of Suco (village) officers and community policing approaches, has proven to be very effective in promoting security and improving the performance of police. Community policing approaches have shown that crime in Timor-Leste can be greatly reduced by building trust and fostering more effective partnerships, cooperation and problem-solving between the community and the police (The Asia Foundation, 2016a). Despite the success of these initiatives, it is important that the community-oriented policing approach is adopted by the wider police force (PNTL) and moves beyond community police units. The National Human Rights Institution and the UN, in close collaboration with the national police and the army, have been implementing a standardized programme of human rights training for both forces, since 2014 for the police, and since 2018 for the army, contributing to the professionalisation of the army. One decade after the crisis, the legitimacy of the army and the police has increased within the Timorese population (Belun, 2017b).

Despite the fact that these VNR reports do mention SSG/R, some offer little depth as far as the details of policy examples in this field, and some refer to SSG/R only in passing. However, some provide additional information on SSR activities in the context of SDG16. The VNR report submitted by Timor Leste (2019), for example, refers to the positive impacts of SSR on peace and stability, as well as on the legitimacy of the army and police, and highlights community policing for enhancing trust and partnerships between the police and the public (see Box 9). Similarly, Guinea's VNR report (2018) highlights positive gains as a consequence of defence and police reforms, while acknowledging continued challenges (Box 7). While the report notes increased levels of public trust in security institutions, it also recognizes that more progress is needed, for instance, to address persistently poor practices by these actors.

## 6.2. Further references to SSG/R in VNR reports

The majority of VNR reports that refer to SSG/R activities do not make explicit mention of it as such. Beyond the five reviews presented above that specifically mention SSG/R, this analysis found 63 VNR reports (41%) referred to SSG/R to some degree. These references varied considerably, both in terms of their quality and their frequency per VNR report. Some samples offered rather detailed descriptions of SSG/R, while others constituted more superficial references, including passing mentions. As this analysis used a binary assessment, whereby a sample was valued as either referring to SSG/R or not, it did not capture variances in levels of detail (see Section 2 on Methodology). On top of this, references to SSG/R appear at different frequencies in VNR reports, with some reviews containing several examples and others only a single, brief mention. The following sub-sections present examples of these various types of references to SSG/R.

### Examples of the diversity of references to SSG/R in VNR reports

Among the references to SSG/R, some VNR reports provided more detailed policy examples of the programme. For instance, Canada's VNR report (2018) refers to efforts to enhance the accountability and effectiveness of security and intelligence agencies, and to improve the inclusion of women and under-represented constituencies across its national security sector (see Box 10). Fiji's VNR report (2019) highlights some of the actions undertaken to tackle violence against women and children as well as to reduce the risk of torture within the law enforcement and detention sectors, including the review of existing police practices in accordance with international conventions, and the development of stricter accountability mechanisms (see Box 11). The VNR reports submitted by both Ireland (2018) and Tanzania (2019) emphasize positive gains in the context of community policing, such as strengthened relations and communication between the police and the public (see Boxes 12 and 13). These examples refer to various areas of SSR programming in VNR reports, with some reviews discussing processes affecting the functioning of the security sector (e.g., gender mainstreaming), others focusing on a particular area of security provision (e.g., defence reform) and others centring on a specific institution (e.g., the police).

**Box 10.** Canada's 2018 VNR report

From: **Government of Canada**, *Canada's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, Voluntary National Review (2018), p. 113.

The Government of Canada is reviewing its national security framework to improve the accountability and effectiveness of national security and intelligence agencies, and ensure that the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion underpin all activities. The Government is also developing new national security legislation that strikes a balance between protecting fundamental rights and protecting the safety and security of Canadians. The Government is taking action to increase the representation of women and other under-represented groups in fields such as the judiciary, law enforcement, security and intelligence.

**Box 11.** Fiji's 2019 VNR report

From: **Republic of Fiji**, *Voluntary National Review, Fiji's Progress in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* (2019), pp. 69–70.

Fiji has made a highly concerted effort to tackle a culture of violence within the country's homes and communities, including violence against women and children, rape, or homicide cases. Working with relevant stakeholders, Fiji has maintained a relatively low homicide rate. The country has incorporated significant elements of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into its laws and policies, and is currently implementing a wide-ranging National Gender Policy and Women's Plan of Action. Domestic violence legislation has been developed and enforced by the Fiji Police Force (FPF) and the courts as an overarching approach to reduce violence experienced by women and children. [...]

As the agenda is cross-sectoral, the FPF draws assistance and collaborates with various Government agencies, UN agencies, a large number of civil society organisations, community and children/women support groups, faith-based organisations, municipal councils and the Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission for action, awareness, advocacy, enforcement, investigation and training of its own staff as well as those in the community, i.e. child victims/ witnesses, parents, guardians and counsellors. [...]

Fiji's ratification of the United Nations Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (UNCAT) in 2016 and the journey to its implementation was an opportunity for Fiji to review existing procedures and overcome ineffective practices in law enforcement and detention sectors, in line with SDG 16.

Since ratification, Fiji has embarked on a First Hour Procedure Project, in partnership with the United Kingdom, aimed at improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness within the law enforcement and detention sectors. The project seeks to substantially reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment by imposing more stringent measures of accountability and improving remedial recourse against violations of detained persons' rights in the initial period.



Ending torture as an investigative tool and guaranteeing every person the right to a fair trial, requires reliable access to competent lawyers as early in the legal process as possible. The First Hour Procedure Project ensures the provision of counsel to every suspect at the police station within one hour of arrest, with a protocol guiding the conduct of both police and lawyers in relation to the implementation of this right. Besides providing access to counsel, under the First Hour Procedure project, Police Stations are also recording interviews of persons in custody. These new procedures and the various reforms undertaken by the FPF have not only reduced coercive forms of interrogation, they have also led to real efficiencies and attitudinal changes in the police force.

**Box 12.** Ireland's 2018 VNR report

From: **Government of Ireland**, *Ireland: Voluntary National Review 2018, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development* (2018), p. 92.

An Garda Síochána continues to monitor all new and emerging crime trends, including trends relating to violent crime. Garda Operation Thor involves a broad range of activities to tackle organised crime gangs and other prolific offenders as well as working with communities to prevent crime. This comprehensive national operation is supported by the enhanced Government investment in Garda resources, including an allocation of almost €100 million for Garda overtime in 2017. Furthermore, An Garda Síochána's Modernisation and Renewal Programme 2016-2021 places a strong emphasis on developing and supporting the community policing ethos of the organisation and enhancing the current delivery model so that Gardaí spend more time in the community, gaining public confidence and trust and providing a greater sense of security. It will result in the introduction of multi-skilled Community Policing Teams in every district. Community Policing Teams will be made-up of Gardaí from a number of different units who will work with the local community to prevent and detect crime, including all forms of serious crime. Substantial progress is being made by An Garda Síochána in tackling these forms of crime, particularly the area of property-related crime [SDG 16.1].

**Box 13.** Tanzania's 2019 VNR report

From: **United Republic of Tanzania**, *Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2019, Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality* (2019), p. 95.

The United Republic of Tanzania continues to strengthen its internal security organs by providing training, equipment and exposure. The Police Force has undergone significant reforms, which enabled streamlining of roles. To strengthen the internal security of the practices, known as Community Policing. This has been the focus for response to prevent and counter violent extremism. Community Policing has been instrumental to improving communication with the general public, and the promotion of citizens' participation in security matters. As a practice, communities are encouraged to form units that can prevent and detect crime. Community Policing arrangements have proved to be a success that has led to crime rates declining by 4.5 percent.

Other references to SSG/R in the VNR reports are more succinct, offering no substantive detail on policies or activities. For example, some reviews mention reforms but do not expand on the specifics of their implementation, while others refer to SSR activities without placing them within a larger restructuring context. Cambodia's VNR report (2019), for instance, identifies the reform of the Cambodian Armed Forces among its major national restructurings, alongside legal and judicial reforms, the fight against corruption and others (see Box 14). Bahrain's VNR report (2018) refers to efforts to enhance capacities of judges and law enforcement officials in line with international human rights, based on recommendations accepted in the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (see Box 15). And a VNR from a post-conflict setting, Sudan's VNR report (2018) noted the increased participation of women in its security forces as strengthening the participatory, inclusive and responsive character of peacebuilding activities (see Box 16).

**Box 14.** Cambodia's 2019 VNR report

From: **Royal Government of Cambodia**, *Cambodia's Voluntary National Review 2019 on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2019), p. 38.

The RGC has been striving to consolidate peace, political stability and social order as the fundamental foundation to strengthen good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with national laws and regulations. Good governance continues to be at the core of national development priorities and progress continues on the implementation of all major reforms entitled (1) the Fight against Corruption, (2) the Public Administration Reform, (3) the Legal and Judicial Reform, (4) the Reform of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, (5) the Public Financial Management Reform, and (6) the Decentralization and De-concentration reforms. The engagement of all relevant stakeholders through the creation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) has also been ensured.



**Box 15.** Bahrain's 2018 VNR report

From: **Kingdom of Bahrain**, *The Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review (2018) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals* (2018), pp. 70–71.

A mapping of the recommendations accepted by Bahrain in its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

[...] (Five recommendations) on capacity-building and training of judges and law enforcement personnel in accordance with international human rights standards and international conventions, and to disseminate a code of conduct for law enforcement personnel among themselves and in the society at large.



**Box 16.** Sudan's 2018 VNR report

From: **Sudan**, *Voluntary National Review 2018, Implementation of the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs for Peace and Development in the Sudan* (2018), p. 39.

The role of women in peace building is a powerfully emerging trend in the country. Women, who constitute half of the population, suffered the most from conflict, separation and disintegration of their families, and endured the sufferings of their children from malnutrition, poor health and diseases, and illiteracy. These conditions, among other reasons, have inspired women to engage in peace building and to push for inclusion of gender issues in peace negotiations. Consultations with Sudanese women have led to the inclusion of gender issues in the Joint Assessment Mission. Women groups from Darfur played a pivotal role in the Doha rounds of negotiations on peace in Darfur. They also raised issues on women's participation in decision making. Consequently, out of 41 members of Darfur Regional Authority 10 were women. A large number of women have joined the security forces, especially as police officers. The increasing participation of women in the security forces will make peace building and post-conflict activities participatory and inclusive.

Finally, while some VNR reports refer to SSG/R activities that have already been conducted, others point to good SSG as an objective in the context of the SDGs. For example, Indonesia's 2019 VNR report emphasizes that actions should be undertaken to enhance the transparency and accountability of law enforcement, with the aim to tackle corruption, as well as to strengthen the oversight of law enforcement (see Box 17). Against the background of an increasing number of countries engaging in second and third VNRs, these references may have the potential to serve as a baseline for reviewing progress in future VNRs against these objectives, and sharing possible successes and challenges encountered in meeting them.

**Box 17.** Indonesia's 2019 VNR report

From: **Republic of Indonesia**, *Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality* (2019), pp. 169–171.

Based on the Government Annual Work Plan Document, the policy directive to achieve the three main targets of SDG16 in 2019 and beyond are:

[...] Legal development aimed towards transparent and accountable law enforcement as well as improving the effectiveness of prevention and eradication of corruption through policy directive: 1.) increase efforts to eradicate legal mafias through stronger integrity and optimal oversight in the law enforcement system; 2.) improve the legal culture of communities through information dissemination by law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders; 3.) improve harmonization and synchronization of law on anti-corruption and human rights mainstreaming; 4.) improve the understanding of law enforcers and citizens through education and training on human rights; 5.) improve the quality of legal services through: (a) mediation, small claim court, and other court services innovation; and (b) immigration services, law administration, correctional facilities, and intellectual property rights; and 6.) improve the quality and quantity of technology and information to support law enforcement.

**References to an absence of good SSG<sup>41</sup>**

In addition, a number of VNR reports contain examples of an absence of good SSG representing a hurdle to realizing the SDGs. Mongolia's VNR report (2019) discusses deficiencies in its police force, noting that public confidence in law enforcement agencies has declined due to a lack of accountability and transparency, and acknowledges that civil society organizations have denounced violations of the rights of detainees by the police (see Box 18). South Africa's VNR report (2019) includes the findings of a study conducted by a national coalition of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) presenting areas of weaknesses in a number of state institutions – including the police force – when it comes to preventing gender-based violence. These limitations are presented in terms of police policies, training, resources and coordination, and accountability (see Box 19). These challenges referenced in the South Africa VNR report have implications for the realization not only of SDG16 but also for SDG5,<sup>42</sup> again reiterating the intersectionality of security sector governance with various SDGs. More generally, these insights further illustrate how security sectors that are poorly governed can represent a hindrance to achieving the SDGs, and a failure to address these deficiencies can compound the sustainable development challenge.



**Box 18.** Mongolia's 2019 VNR report

From: **Government of Mongolia**, *Mongolia National Review Report 2019, Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals* (2019), pp. 35–36.

Multistakeholder participation is important for eliminating human rights violation. Although improvements have been made to encourage civil society and citizens' participation in the delivery of public services and monitoring, not all sectors are equally involved. Further, the process has been slow. Civil society organizations have pointed out the numerous human rights violations such as violation of the rights of detained people by the police; restrictions on public media by the state; limitations on rights to hold meetings and gatherings; violation of protection of children and victims; human trafficking; and discrimination against disabled people and other minorities. Therefore, there is a need to review these issues, to improve data and information collection, to detect and eliminate violations, to upgrade the process of combating crimes, to review crime investigation techniques, to change people's attitudes, and to improve cooperation between the state and CSOs.

Public trust towards law enforcement organizations has deteriorated. Deterioration in public trust is due to corruption cases and weak accountability and transparency in public institutions. Studies show that corruption is also committed in hidden forms at the public service is most vulnerable to corruption, that there is a low trust between businesses and the government and that the legal system is inadequate in the fight against corruption. In addition, the public is disappointed in the government's inability to pursue charges against high ranking public servants involved in corruption. [...]

The issues mentioned above are all important, but there is specific need to strengthen the legal system, ensure enforcement of laws, improve the quality of services provided to citizens, ensure the transparency of public activities and extend information access.

**Box 19.** South Africa's 2019 VNR report

From: **South Africa**, *2019 South Africa Voluntary National Review, Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality* (2019), pp. 55–57.

In 2017, the Stop Gender Violence Campaign developed a report based on a vast amount of research from NGOs and government, as well as inputs from provincial and consultative meetings, on the nature of GBV (Stop Gender Violence Campaign, 2017). The authors identified a number of gaps and weaknesses in the institutions that are responsible for ensuring the effective implementation of policies to control GBV (Table 3). [...]

Table 3. Challenge areas, gaps and weaknesses in efforts to prevent gender-based violence (GBV)

Challenge area	Gaps and weaknesses
South African Police Service (SAPS)	
Policy and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unavailability of 'station orders' as mandated by the Sexual Offences and Related Matters Act (SOA), which explains how the police should handle certain categories of crime as outlined in the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) (Vetten, 2010).</li> <li>▪ Inadequate reporting of domestic violence incidents (Vetten et al., 2009; Department of the Civilian Secretariat for Police, 2016) and maintenance of the Domestic Violence Register (Vetten et al., 2009; Department of the Civilian Secretariat for Police, 2016).</li> <li>▪ Absence or lack of functional victim-friendly rooms (VFRs), as mandated by the Victim Empowerment National Instruction.</li> </ul>
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor officer communication.</li> <li>▪ Highly inconsistent responses to reported rape cases (Artz and Smythe, 2007).</li> <li>▪ Poor quality investigations due to lack of availability of investigating officers, high caseloads and inadequate qualifications (Artz and Smythe, 2007).</li> <li>▪ Premature closing of cases due to insufficient contact information for the complainant (ibid.).</li> <li>▪ Infrequent crime scene investigation (ibid.; Sigsworth et al., 2008).</li> <li>▪ Long delays between the reporting of rape and the time of arrest (Artz, Smythe and Leggett, 2004).</li> <li>▪ Failure to provide victims with a copy of their statements and to adequately document their contact information for follow-ups (Artz, Smythe and Leggett, 2004; Vetten et al., 2008; Sigsworth et al., 2009).</li> <li>▪ Inappropriate collection and management of forensic evidence (Vetten et al., 2008; Sigsworth et al., 2009).</li> <li>▪ Failure to monitor the training of SAPS officers (Wakefield, 2014).</li> </ul>
Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Failure to ensure protection orders are instated due to the lack of human or financial resources to follow up on applications (Vetten, 2010).</li> <li>▪ Inadequate reporting and statement-taking due to understaffed and under-resourced police stations (Artz, Smythe and Leggett, 2004).</li> </ul>

<p>Accountability and coordination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Poor coordination between SAPS and health clinics resulting in lack of referral for medical attention, including HIV post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) (Wakefield, 2014).</li> <li>▪ Lack of coordination between investigating officers and prosecutors with respect to the collection and provision of sufficient evidence, which leads to case delays (Artz, Smythe and Leggett, 2004; Vetten et al., 2008).</li> <li>▪ Insufficient monitoring of training quality and alignment of training standards with the required experience needed when dealing with the implementation of the SOA and DVA (Combrink and Wakefield, 2009).</li> <li>▪ Failure to submit six-monthly reports to Parliament, as required by the DVA, on complaints and disciplinary actions against police officers, as well as the police's response to recommendations made by the Independent Complaints Directorate (Vetten, 2010).</li> </ul>
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Therefore, while only five VNR reports use SSG/R terminology specifically, this analysis found that 63 of the VNR reports (4.1%) under study include some reference to SSG/R. Yet, these mentions varied widely in terms of their quality and frequency by VNR report, with some reviews offering more detailed examples and others making superficial references, including mere passing mentions. The content and focus of these references are also highly diverse, as they relate to different reform areas. The variety of references is also illustrative of the different ways in which countries can engage with SSG/R in the context of the SDGs.

## 7. Parliaments, SSG/R, and the SDGs

Oversight actors play a critical role in promoting the good governance of the security sector. Here, the focus is on national parliaments in performing this function, as they are essential in exerting a counterweight to the executive, as well as in ensuring that security actors are not misused for political ends, that they act within the confines of their mandate, and that they are held accountable for their actions. To that end, parliaments are central to creating conditions in which security actors are compelled to behave in a manner that aligns with the norms contained in SDG16, and which contributes to peace and security. Parliaments possess five key functions that allow them to promote good SSG: legislative, budgetary, oversight, representative, and elective. They adopt the laws that define the legal parameters for questions of security; approve security-related budgets; monitor the security sector to ensure it operates “in accordance with the constitution, laws, regulations and policies to which it is legally subject;” provide a channel by which citizen concerns can be taken into account in executive security policies proposals; and, in certain countries, can influence the appointment of top security sector officials.<sup>43</sup>

Despite this, the role of parliaments in the VNR process has varied across countries. In the period 2016–2019, “countries are most likely to refer to activities with and by civil society, the private sector, local governments and academia in their VNR reports with a more limited number pointing to parliamentarians, youth and volunteers;”<sup>44</sup> and a study focusing on 2019 VNRs found that “[o]verall reporting on parliamentarians remains limited in VNR reports.”<sup>45</sup> That said, parliaments are found to play an increasingly important role in the VNR process and SDG implementation efforts.<sup>46</sup> Also, it should be noted that multistakeholder engagement, including parliamentary involvement, in the monitoring and review of the SDGs can itself be seen as contributing to SDG16 and supporting the principles of accountability, inclusivity, and participation called for in this goal.<sup>47</sup>



**Box 20.** Recognition of the role of parliaments in the 2030 Agenda

From: United Nations General Assembly, Resolution adopted on 25 September 2015 (A/RES/70/1), p. 11, para. 45; and p. 12, para. 52.

We acknowledge also the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of our commitments. [...]

‘We the peoples’ are the celebrated opening words of the Charter of the United Nations. It is ‘we the peoples’ who are embarking today on the road to 2030. Our journey will involve governments as well as parliaments, the United Nations system and other international institutions, local authorities, indigenous peoples, civil society, business and the private sector, the scientific and academic community – and all people.

This analysis found that parliaments were only rarely mentioned in the context of SSG/R in VNR reports. Only Jordan’s VNR report (2017) references the role of parliaments in relation to SSG/R. The review refers to actions towards judicial reform, including efforts to improve conditions of detention and the access of lawyers in police stations. In this context, an extraordinary parliamentary session was held on issues including amendments to the penal code and criminal law (see Box 21). Moreover, South Africa’s VNR report pointed to an area of weakness *vis-à-vis* parliamentary oversight of the police, and specifically to a failure by police to submit bi-annual reports to parliament regarding specific police actions in response to gender-based violence (see Box 19). It must be noted, however, that the methodology applied in this analysis also presented a number of limitations, so that the findings should be viewed as representing a lower threshold of mentions of the role of parliaments in contributing to SSG/R in VNR reports. In particular, this analysis focuses only on references to parliaments as actors (see Annex 2). However, parliaments may also be referred to indirectly, through statutory lawmaking. References to their legislative function only (without simultaneous reference to the parliament as an actor) were not considered here. Therefore, references to the role of a parliament in SSG/R expressed via their legislative function may appear more extensively than found here. Nevertheless, there seems to be the potential in VNR reports for a greater emphasis on parliamentary oversight of the security sector, given the key role played by parliaments in ensuring that security actors are held to account and contribute to peace and security.

#### **Box 21.** Jordan's 2017 VNR report

From: **The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**, *Jordan's Way to Sustainable Development, First National Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda* (2017), pp. 55–56.

Based on the recommendations of the Royal Committee, an action plan has been formulated which incorporates several items related to enhancing judicial independence, including restructuring the judicial council and improving judicial inspection process while creating specializations among judiciary. In addition, the recommendations outlined steps to limit case delays, to facilitate the undertaking of criminal justice, and to guarantee fair trial standards, by ensuring early access to lawyers in police stations, expanding access to legal aid as well as adopting more controls on detention, and overall training of prosecutors and judges. As an output to this Royal Committee, 12 laws are to be discussed at the extra-ordinary session of Parliament starting 4 July 2017:

- Draft law amending the Judicial Independence Law.
- Draft law amending the Formation of Civil Courts Law.
- Draft Magistrate Courts Law.
- Draft law amending the Civil Procedure Law.
- Draft law amending the Penal Code.
- A bill amending the Criminal Court Law.
- Draft law amending the Criminal Procedure Law.
- Draft law amending the Evidence Law.
- Draft law amending the State Lawsuit Management Law.
- A bill amending the Judicial Execution Law.
- Draft law amending the Arbitration Law.
- Draft law amending the Mediation for Settling Civil Disputes Law.

## **8. Conclusions**

While the inclusion of security concerns in the 2030 Agenda has broken new ground in approaching sustainable development, the realization of SDG16 to which they primarily pertain is lagging. At the end of the first four-year cycle of the HLPF, in 2019, progress on this goal was uneven, with the UN reporting that “no substantial advances have been made towards ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions at all levels, or increasing access to justice. Millions of people have been deprived of their security, rights and opportunities, while attacks on human rights activists and journalists are holding back development.”<sup>48</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has added further concerns, as “[it] has exposed inequalities, discrimination, and has tested, weakened and even led to shattered rights and protection systems in countries.”<sup>49</sup> In fact, one recent assessment concluded that “progress towards peace, security and conflict management is being set back by the pandemic, as strained social and economic conditions have exacerbated the vulnerabilities of the most disadvantaged groups, and lockdowns have provided opportunities for new illicit markets to thrive while disrupting other markets.”<sup>50</sup>

Security actors have the potential to both promote and hinder sustainable development, as dysfunctional security sectors can contribute to escalating instability, insecurity and conflict. Therefore, ensuring that national security sectors are well-governed and respectful of human rights and the rule of law is essential to supporting efforts towards the realization of peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, as envisioned under SDG16. VNR reports provide a snapshot of experiences and progress made towards the implementation of SDGs, and thus provide a useful resource, having captured a range of actionable policies and measures. Thus, this study sought to analyse whether SSG/R was referenced in VNR reports produced from 2016 to 2019.

Mentions of security actors in VNR reports varied greatly across reviews, both in terms of the extent to which they are referred to, and the type of actor that is referenced. The police were cited more frequently than any other actors, with some 70% of reviews mentioning the police at least once, and nearly one third of reviews making at least five such references. While the role of security actors in the SDGs is necessarily linked to SDG16, their contributions extend to a variety of issue areas related to sustainable development. In this respect, this analysis provided insights into different ways security actors can be relevant stakeholders in the context of sustainable development.

This research also found that 41% of VNR reports referred in some way to SSG/R, albeit mostly in inexplicit terms. However, these references vary considerably in their quality and the number of mentions of SSG/R per VNR report. While some presented more detailed descriptions of SSG/R, other references were superficial or fleeting. This study did not differentiate among the various levels of detail in these references. Moreover, VNR reports that did refer to SSG/R differ in the number of these mentions, as some include several examples of SSG/R, and some include only one single, brief mention. Overall, it is positive that around 40% of VNR reports examined here did refer to SSG/R to some degree, but these findings suggest that there is still potential to expand on SSG/R reporting in VNR reports, by reviewing it in a more substantive way, as well as in the number of reviews that address it.

Against the background of an increasing number of states developing their second or third VNR, these reviews should not be viewed as an end unto themselves, but rather as part of a process meant to foster SDG implementation and identify areas where further action is required. On this latter point, references in VNR reports to an absence of good SSG hindering progress towards sustainable development may be seen as an entry point. Conversely, mentions of good SSG as an objective in the context of the SDGs may have the potential to serve as a baseline for reviewing progress in future VNRs against these objectives, and sharing possible successes and challenges encountered in meeting them.

Finally, this analysis found very few references in VNR reports to the role of parliaments as overseers of the security sector, suggesting that parliamentary oversight and its contribution to good security sector governance could be emphasized to a greater degree in these reviews. Nevertheless, it should be noted that indirect references to parliament, in the context of their legislative function specifically, were not examined in this analysis and thus may appear more extensively than found here.

Taken as a whole, this study provides insights into the wealth and scope of linkages between security and sustainable development, thus reiterating that efforts in these two spheres should not be tackled siloed. Despite having entered the "Decade of Action," much progress is still needed to realize the ambitions set out in SDG16. To achieve these objectives, it will be essential to approach the fields of security and sustainable development in a mutually reinforcing way, building on the synergies of both fields.

## 9. Endnotes

- 1 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion* (New York: United Nations, 2019), p. 20.
- 2 United Nations General Assembly, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," Resolution adopted on 25 September 2015 (A/RES/70/1), p. 9, para. 35.
- 3 For the purposes of this paper, "security actors" refers to state security actors included in the keywords list in Annex 2.
- 4 United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, "The United Nations SSR Perspective," Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Security Sector Reform Unit (New York: United Nations, 2012), p. 2.
- 5 For example, APCOF and the Danish Institute for Human Rights conducted a review of the linkages between justice, security and the 2030 Agenda, with a focus on the role of the police. It highlights that SDG3, SDG5, SDG8, SDG10, SDG11 have a role for security and justice sectors. See: Louise Edwards and Sean Tait, *Justice, Security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa* (Copenhagen: The Danish institute for Human rights, 2016). Another study focuses on policing in the context of the 2030 Agenda and notes that SDG3, SDG9, SDG11, SDG14 and SDG15 are of relevance in terms of the role of security actors, and most notably the police. See: Ugliesa Ugi Zvekcic, "Reflections on policing and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," in *Criminal Justice and Security in central and Eastern Europe: From Common Sense to Evidence-based Policy-making*, edited by Gorazd Mesko, et al. (Maribor, 2018), pp. 42–49.
- 6 Vincenza Scherrer and Alba Bescos Pou, eds., *Security Sector Reform and Sustaining Peace* (Geneva: DCAF, 2019), p. 14.
- 7 UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) with the Government of Italy, *SDG16 Conference*, conference report (Rome 2019), p. 3.
- 8 To the author's knowledge.
- 9 This study is part of a forthcoming series of analyses of VNRs, all of which focus on how the role of oversight actors is reflected in these reviews. Future reports in this series will examine other oversight actors, including civil society organizations and ombuds institutions.
- 10 "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (A/RES/70/1), p.11, para. 45.
- 11 While 158 VNRs were submitted between 2016 and 2019, the sample under review includes only VNRs produced during this time in a text format, in English, French, or Spanish (see Methodology).
- 12 The VNRs analysed in this study are available on the HLPF website, at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>.
- 13 These were the VNRs of Belarus, China, Kiribati, Nauru, Oman, and Samoa.
- 14 UNDESA, "Workshop for the 2019 Voluntary National Reviews at the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development," Geneva, 16–17 October 2018, Summary, p. 4.
- 15 Sakiko Fukuda-Parr, et al., "Voluntary National Review Reports – what do they report on?" Committee for Development Policy, Background Paper No. 46, July 2018 (ST/ESA/2018/CD/46), p. 1.

- 16 “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (A/RES/70/1), p. 33, para. 79.
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- 17 UN Secretary-General, “Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF):”
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- 18 Shannon Kindornay and Renée Gendron, *Progressing National SDG Implementation: An independent assessment of the voluntary national review reports submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum in 2019* (Ottawa: Canadian Council for International Cooperation, 2020), p. iii.
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- 19 UNDESA, *Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews: The 2021 Edition*, (New York, 2020).
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- 20 See The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies “A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in Voluntary National Reviews” New York, 2020; and The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the TAP Network, *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the National Voluntary Reviews to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies* (2020).
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- 21 See Annex 1.
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- 22 Marianne Beisheim, “Are the HLPF’s Working Methods and Practices ‘Fit for Purpose?’” SWP Research Paper 9, 2018, p. 22.
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- 23 Liu Zhenmin, “Lessons learned from the first cycle of HLPF,” statement, New York, 18 July 2019, p. 2.
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- 24 Ibid.
- 
- 25 Sakiko Fukuda-Parr et al., “Voluntary National Review Reports: What do they (not) reveal?” Committee for Development Policy, Background Paper No. 50, July 2020 (ST/ESA/2020/CDP/50), p. 4.
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- 26 The data in this chart reflects the number of countries that submitted a VNR, disaggregated using World Bank income classifications (see Annex 1).
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- 27 As the database did not provide data for State of Palestine, it was not included in the analysed sample.
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- 28 The data in this chart reflects the number of countries that submitted one, two, or three VNRs, disaggregated using World Bank income classifications (see Annex 1).
- 
- 29 As the database did not provide data for State of Palestine, it was not included in the analysed sample.
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- 30 The regional groupings used in this report and the Statistical Annex on which this chart is based differentiates between Oceania, and Australia and New Zealand.
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- 31 The data in this chart reflects the number of countries that submitted a VNR, disaggregated using regional groupings for the SDG report and database (see Annex 1).
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- 32 The data in this chart reflects the number of countries that submitted one, two, or three VNRs, disaggregated using regional groupings for the SDG report and database (see Annex 1).
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- 33 “Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews,” p. 6.
- 
- 34 White and Case, “White & Case Review of the 2019 Voluntary National Reports with a focus on Sustainable Development Goal 16.”
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35 Targets 16.7 and 16.4 were reported on at the same rate in VNRs (61.7%).

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36 "White & Case Review of the 2019 Voluntary National Reports."

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37 These include: "Air Force," "Army," "Defence Force," "Defense Force," "Military," "Navy," and "Soldier"

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38 For the keywords searched, see Annex 2. Please note that all figures were rounded up.

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39 For a list of SSG/R examples per country, see Annex 3.

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40 It should also be noted that the VNRs of Niger (2018) and Senegal (2018) used a terminology very similar to the one searched in this study, as the former employed the French term "gouvernance sécuritaire" and the latter "gouvernance judiciaire et sécuritaire."

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41 As these instances pertain to a lack of good governance of the security sector, they were not included in the assessment of examples of SSG/R. In other words, the findings presented in this study exclude references to the absence of good SSG.

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42 Specifically, this represents a challenge to implementation of target 5.2, which seeks to "eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation."

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43 DCAF – Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance, "Parliaments," SSR Backgrounder Series (Geneva: DCAF, 2015), p. 2.

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44 Shannon Kindornay and Renée Gendron, *Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019)* (UN DESA, 2019), p. 5.

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45 Kindornay and Gendron, *Progressing National SDG Implementation: An independent assessment of the voluntary national review reports submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum in 2019*, p. 45.

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46 Pytrik Oosterhof, *2020 Voluntary National Reviews – a snapshot of trends in SDG reporting* (Bonn: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, 2020), p. 21.

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47 Pytrik Oosterhof, *SDG 16 in VNRs and Spotlight Reports Reporting on Progress, Reflecting on Inclusive Accountability Measures and Recommendations for going ahead* (Eschborn: GIZ and TAP Network, 2020), p. 9.

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48 United Nations, "The Sustainable Development Goals Report, 2019," (New York, 2019), p.54.

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49 United Nations Economic and Social Council, *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, advance unedited copy (E/2021/xxx), p. 27, para. 67.

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50 United Nations Economic and Social Council, "Synthesis of voluntary submissions by functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council and other intergovernmental bodies and forums," 26 April 2021 (E/HLPF/2021/4), p. 10, para. 39.

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## 10. Annex 1: List of countries<sup>1</sup>

Country	VNRs submitted over the 2016-2019 period	Regional category <sup>2</sup>	Income level category <sup>3</sup>
<i>Afghanistan</i>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Low income
<i>Albania</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<i>Algeria</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Lower middle income
<i>Andorra</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Angola</i>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<i>Argentina</i>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<i>Armenia</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Australia</i>	1	Australia and New Zealand	High income
<i>Austria</i>	0	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Azerbaijan</i>	2	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Bahamas</i>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<i>Bahrain</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<i>Bangladesh</i>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<i>Barbados</i>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<i>Belarus</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<i>Belgium</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Belize</i>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<i>Benin</i>	2	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income

1 DCAF aligns with the UN statement regarding geographical designations: "The designations employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever [...] concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries" (available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>). The terms "country," "state" and "economy" are also used interchangeably throughout the report.

2 Based on the regional groupings for the SDG report and database, available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>.

3 Based on World Bank income classifications, available at: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>.

<b><i>Bhutan</i></b>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Bolivia</i></b>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	Lower middle income
<b><i>Bosnia and Herzegovina</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<b><i>Botswana</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Upper middle income
<b><i>Brazil</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Brunei Darussalam</i></b>	0	Eastern and South-East Asia	High income
<b><i>Burkina Faso</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Bulgaria</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<b><i>Burundi</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Cabo Verde</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Cambodia</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Cameroon</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Canada</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Central African Republic</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Chad</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Chile</i></b>	2	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<b><i>China</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Upper middle income
<b><i>Colombia</i></b>	2	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Comoros</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Congo (Republic of the)</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Costa Rica</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Cote d'Ivoire</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Croatia</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Guinea</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Guinea Bissau</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Guyana</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Haiti</i></b>	0	Latin America and Caribbean	Low income
<b><i>Honduras</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Lower middle income
<b><i>Hungary</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income

<i>Iceland</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>India</i>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<i>Indonesia</i>	2	Eastern and South-east Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Iraq</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Ireland</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Israel</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<i>Italy</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Jamaica</i>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<i>Japan</i>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	High income
<i>Jordan</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Kazakhstan</i>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Kenya</i>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<i>Kiribati</i>	1	Oceania	Lower middle income
<i>Kuwait</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<i>Kyrgyz Republic</i>	0	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<i>Iran</i>	0	Central and Southern Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Lao People's Democratic Republic</i>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Lower middle income
<i>Latvia</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Lebanon</i>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Lesotho</i>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<i>Liberia</i>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<i>Libya</i>	0	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Liechtenstein</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Lithuania</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Luxembourg</i>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<i>Madagascar</i>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<i>Malawi</i>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<i>Malaysia</i>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Upper middle income
<i>Maldives</i>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Upper middle income

<b><i>Mali</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Malta</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Marshall Islands</i></b>	0	Oceania	Upper middle income
<b><i>Mauritania</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Mauritius</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	High income
<b><i>Mexico</i></b>	2	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Micronesia (Federal States of)</i></b>	0	Oceania	Lower middle income
<b><i>Monaco</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Mongolia</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Montenegro</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<b><i>Morocco</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Mozambique</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Myanmar</i></b>	0	Eastern and South-East Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Namibia</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Upper middle income
<b><i>Nauru</i></b>	1	Oceania	High income
<b><i>Nepal</i></b>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Netherlands</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>New Zealand</i></b>	1	Australia and New Zealand	High income
<b><i>Nicaragua</i></b>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	Lower middle income
<b><i>Niger</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Nigeria</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>North Macedonia</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<b><i>Norway</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Oman</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<b><i>Pakistan</i></b>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Palau</i></b>	1	Oceania	High income
<b><i>Panama</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<b><i>Papua New Guinea</i></b>	0	Oceania	Lower middle income
<b><i>Paraguay</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Peru</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income

<b><i>Philippines</i></b>	2	Eastern and South-east Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Poland</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Portugal</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Qatar</i></b>	2	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<b><i>Republic of Korea</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	High income
<b><i>Republic of Moldova</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	Lower middle income
<b><i>Romania</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Russian Federation</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<b><i>Rwanda</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Saint Kitts and Nevis</i></b>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<b><i>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</i></b>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Saint Lucia</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Samoa</i></b>	1	Oceania	Upper middle income
<b><i>San Marino</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Sao Tome and Principe</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Saudi Arabia</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<b><i>Senegal</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Serbia</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	Upper middle income
<b><i>Seychelles</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	High income
<b><i>Sierra Leone</i></b>	2	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Singapore</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	High income
<b><i>Slovakia</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Slovenia</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Solomon Islands</i></b>	0	Oceania	Lower middle income
<b><i>Somalia</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>South Africa</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Upper middle income
<b><i>South Sudan</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Spain</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Sri Lanka</i></b>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>State of Palestine</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Not reported on

<b><i>Sudan</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Low income
<b><i>Suriname</i></b>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Sweden</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Switzerland</i></b>	2	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Syrian Arab Republic</i></b>	0	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Low income
<b><i>Tajikistan</i></b>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Low income
<b><i>Thailand</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Upper middle income
<b><i>Timor Leste</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Togo</i></b>	3	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Tonga</i></b>	1	Oceania	Upper middle income
<b><i>Trinidad and Tobago</i></b>	0	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<b><i>Tunisia</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Turkey</i></b>	2	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Upper middle income
<b><i>Turkmenistan</i></b>	1	Central and Southern Asia	Upper middle income
<b><i>Tuvalu</i></b>	0	Oceania	Upper middle income
<b><i>Uganda</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Low income
<b><i>Ukraine</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	Lower middle income
<b><i>United Arab Emirates</i></b>	1	Northern Africa and Western Asia	High income
<b><i>United Kingdom</i></b>	1	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>United Republic of Tanzania</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>United States of America</i></b>	0	Europe and Northern America	High income
<b><i>Uruguay</i></b>	2	Latin America and the Caribbean	High income
<b><i>Uzbekistan</i></b>	0	Central and Southern Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Vanuatu</i></b>	1	Oceania	Lower middle income
<b><i>Venezuela</i></b>	1	Latin America and the Caribbean	Upper middle income
<b><i>Vietnam</i></b>	1	Eastern and South-east Asia	Lower middle income
<b><i>Yemen</i></b>	0	Northern Africa and Western Asia	Low income
<b><i>Zambia</i></b>	0	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income
<b><i>Zimbabwe</i></b>	1	Sub-Saharan Africa	Lower middle income

## 11. Annex 2: Codebook

Security actors and related terms		
Armed forces		
<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
Armed forces	Forces armées	Fuerzas armadas Fuerza armada
Army*	Armée*	Ejército
Land force		Fuerza de tierra Fuerza terrestre
Air force	Armée de l'air Force aérienne	Fuerza aérea Ejército del aire
Navy	Marine* Force navale	Armada* Fuerza naval
Soldier	Soldat	Soldado
Military	Militaire	Militar Castrense
Defence force	Force de défense Forces de défense	Fuerza de defensa Fuerzas de defensa
Police		
<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
Police (whole word)	Police* Policier Policière	Policía Policial

Policing	Maintien de l'ordre	Mantenimiento del orden	
Law enforcement	Force de l'ordre	Fuerza del orden	
	Forces de l'ordre	Fuerzas del orden	
	Force publique	Fuerza pública	
	Forces publiques	Fuerzas públicas	
	Représentant de la loi		
	Représentants de la loi		
<b>Other</b>			
<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	
<(gendarme)	<(gendarme)	<(gendarme)	
National guard	Garde nationale	Guardia nacional	
Presidential guard	Garde présidentielle	Guardia presidencial	
Intelligence*	Renseignement*	Inteligencia*	
Security force	Force de sécurité	Fuerza de seguridad	
	Forces de sécurité	Fuerzas de seguridad	
Security sector	Secteur de la sécurité	Sector de la seguridad	
Security and justice sector	Secteur de sécurité	Sector de seguridad	
	Secteur sécuritaire	Sector seguridad	
	Secteur judiciaire et sécuritaire	Sector de la justicia y de la seguridad	
	Secteurs judiciaires et sécuritaires	Sector de justicia y de seguridad	
	Secteur de la justice et de la sécurité	Sector justicia y seguridad	
	Secteurs de la justice et de la sécurité		Sectores de la justicia y de la seguridad
			Sectores de justicia y de seguridad
		Sectores de justicia y seguridad	
<b>Ministries</b>			
<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Spanish</i>	

Ministry of Defense	Ministère de la Défense	Ministerio de Defensa
Minister of Defense	Ministre de la Défense	Ministro de Defensa
Defense Ministry		
Defense Minister		
Ministry of Interior	Ministère de l'intérieur	Ministerio del Interior
Minister of Interior	Ministre de l'Intérieur	Ministro del Interior
Interior Ministry		
Interior Minister		
Security Sector Governance/ Reform		
English	French	Spanish
Security sector reform	Réforme du secteur de la sécurité	Reforma del sector de la seguridad
Security and justice sector reform	Réforme du secteur de sécurité	Reforma del sector de seguridad
	Réforme du secteur de la justice et de la sécurité	Reforma del sector seguridad
	Réforme du secteur sécuritaire	Reforma del sector de la justicia y de la seguridad
	Réforme du secteur judiciaire et sécuritaire	Reforma del sector de justicia y seguridad
	Réforme des secteurs de la justice et de la sécurité	Reforma del sector justicia y seguridad
	Réforme des secteurs judiciaires et sécuritaires	Reforma de los sectores de la justicia y de la seguridad
		Reforma de los sectores de justicia y de seguridad
		Reforma de los sectores justicia y seguridad
SSR	RSS	RSS

Security sector governance	Gouvernance du secteur de la sécurité	Gobernanza del sector de la seguridad
	Gouvernance du secteur de sécurité	Gobernanza del sector de seguridad
	Gouvernance du secteur sécuritaire	Gobernanza del sector seguridad
	Gouvernance du secteur de la justice et de la sécurité	Gobernanza del sector de la justicia y de la seguridad
	Gouvernance des secteurs de la justice et de la sécurité	Gobernanza del sector de justicia y de seguridad
	Gouvernance des secteurs judiciaires et sécuritaires	Gobernanza del sector justicia y seguridad
		Gobernanza de los sectores de justicia y de la seguridad
		Gobernanza de los sectores de justicia y seguridad
		Gobernanza de los sectores justicia y seguridad
SSG	GSS	GSS
<b>Parliaments</b>		
<i>English</i>	<i>French</i>	<i>Spanish</i>
<(congress)	Congrès	<(congres)
	Député	Diputad? Diputad?s
House of*	Chambre de*	Cámara de*
Legislature	Législature	Legislatura
National Assembly	Assemblée Nationale	Asamblea Nacional
<(parliament)	<(parlement)	<(parlamen)
<(senat)	<(sénat)	Senado Senatorial

Notes:

1. An asterisk (\*) indicates that manual coding was used.
2. A question mark (?) identifies alternative single characters (e.g., "defen?e" permits a simultaneous search for "defense" and "defence").
3. The "<(...)" notation indicates that the text between the brackets was searched with variable endings (e.g., "<(accountab)" permits a simultaneous search for "accountable" and "accountability").
4. The indication "*whole word*" identifies words exclusively as they were searched, ignoring plurals and other variations.
5. The presence of several keywords in the same cell denotes that each of these keywords was searched individually but that their counts were combined.
6. Border and customs services, prisons, and institutions responsible for civil emergencies were not included in the list of security actors under analysis due to methodological constraints pertaining to these keywords.
7. Manual coding was applied to all keywords for which the national or local name of a country's specific institution was identified. For keywords in the category "parliaments," only specific terms relating to national parliaments (by contrast to local or regional ones) were included.

## 12. Annex 3: VNRs featuring some reference to SSG/R

The table below presents excerpts from VNR reports that refer SSG/R to some degree. Please note that there may, or may not, be additional examples of SSG/R in these VNRs reports, beyond those listed here.

	VNR report	Example of SSG/R
1.	Albania, 2018	<p>The Law on the Vetting of the Police was adopted in March 2018 and provides the foundation of a process that has already started through which the future police force will be built, by clearing out incriminated, corrupt or professionally incapable personnel. The law is already effective and the institutions in charge of the clearing process among high ranking officers are being established. As a result of a radical improvement in the fight against cannabis cultivation, in 2017 there was a significant reduction in the number of cases of cannabis cultivation and the number of narcotic plants identified or destroyed by State Police structures, 38 times fewer than in 2016. A cross-institutional, central task force, named Operation Power of Law, is in charge of implementation of the action plan against organised crime.</p> <p>See: Republic of Albania, <i>Voluntary National Review on Sustainable Development Goals (2018)</i>, pp. 16–17.</p>
2.	Algeria, 2019	<p>Par ailleurs et aux fins de développer la contribution des citoyens à l'effort de sécurité qui relève de la responsabilité de toute la société, la Sûreté nationale, dans une démarche procédant du principe de la démocratie participative, s'est engagée depuis plus d'une dizaine d'année dans une politique visant le rapprochement du citoyen à travers la mise en oeuvre du concept de la police de proximité dont l'objectif est d'instaurer un climat de confiance entre les citoyens et l'institution de police.</p> <p>See: Algeria, <i>Rapport National Volontaire 2019, Progression de la mise en oeuvre des ODD (2019)</i>, pp. 148–149.</p>
3.	Australia, 2018	<p>Australia shares its experience and expertise to help strengthen capacity and leadership in our region. We have large governance programs in Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, Timor-Leste, the Solomon Islands and the Philippines. The Australian Federal Police works in the Pacific, Indonesia and Timor-Leste to help reduce violence, deliver justice and combat corruption. The Attorney-General's Department and Department of Home Affairs deliver international legal assistance programs to help strengthen national legal systems, promote the rule of law and prevent crime.</p> <p>See: Government of Australia, <i>Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (2018)</i>, p. 105.</p>

4.	Bahamas, 2018	<p>The Ministry of National Security, in an effort to align with its mandate, has restructured the agency and introduced new areas specifically: Communications, Liaisons, Inspectorate and Research and Development. The new areas are expected to promote the mission and vision of the Ministry, increase transparency and open communication between the Ministry and respective agencies and provide input to underpin policy making decisions.</p> <p>Other upcoming initiatives that will be undertaken by The Ministry include the establishment of the National Neighbourhood Watch Council, the reestablishment of the National Intelligence Agency.</p> <p>See: Government of The Bahamas, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals to the High Level Political Forum of the United Nations Economic and Social Council</i> (2018), p. 124.</p>
5.	Bahrain, 2018	<p>A mapping of the recommendations accepted by Bahrain in its Universal Periodic Review (UPR) with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): (Five recommendations) on capacity-building and training of judges and law enforcement personnel in accordance with international human rights standards and international conventions, and to disseminate a code of conduct for law enforcement personnel among themselves and in the society at large.</p> <p>See: Kingdom of Bahrain, <i>The Kingdom of Bahrain's First Voluntary National Review (2018) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2018), pp. 70–71.</p>
6.	Belgium, 2017	<p>The Belgian federal police has developed a solid experience in capacity building and in the planning, preparation and implementation of security sector reform (SSR) programs on the African continent. and is currently involved in such missions in Somalia, Tunisia, Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso. The fairly recent Belgian police reform operation in 2001 and restructuring of the Belgian federal police (2014), plus the functioning of Belgium as a federal state, have proven to be useful assets for the SSR process in Somalia, and are now also attracting interest from the government of Benin in its attempts to integrate the gendarmerie with local police forces.</p> <p>See: Belgium, <i>Pathways to Sustainable Development: First Belgian National Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda</i> (2017), p. 63.</p>

**7.** Belize, 2018

There have been several responses aimed at eliminating gender-based violence in Belize and children, adolescents and youth are recognized as important agents of change which underlines the necessity of investing in them and protecting them from violence and coercion with a view to addressing multidimensional deprivations, ending intergenerational poverty, harnessing the demographic dividend and empowering them to build a more prosperous future. Protocols for Sexual Violence have been adopted and disseminated by the Women's Department to a wide range of institutions to establish uniform policies and procedures to respond to sexual violence while the Domestic Violence Protocol for Police Officers has been revised to include a Complaint Mechanism linked to the Office of the Ombudsman. The Criminal Code has been revised several times to cover a wider range of sexual offences and to guarantee children greater protection. Legislative modifications addressing gender-based violence such as the Trafficking in Persons Prohibition Act (2012) and the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) Prohibition Act were made. The Domestic Violence Act, revised in 2007, permits greater castigatory measures for those who practice physical, sexual, emotional, psychological and financial abuse. The Act describes a spouse either as a married or unmarried spouse, recognizing customary practices such as common law marriage or de facto spouses. Furthermore, it makes provisions for court orders to be issued to protect the spouse and/or children as well as financial compensation for the victim for specific reasons.

See: Belize, *Belize's Voluntary National Review for the Sustainable Development Goals 2018, Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World* (2018), p. 36.

**8.** Bhutan, 2018

The study on Violence Against Children conducted in 2016 sheds light on the situation of children and their vulnerability to violence, exploitation, and abuse. Children are still vulnerable to violence and abuse. This is particularly true for children with disabilities, children from broken homes or living with extended families, and children from low economic backgrounds. The establishment of Law clubs in schools and promotion of legal knowledge under the "Know the Law- to protect your rights" series has increased awareness on legal rights of children. The Royal Bhutan Police (RBP) has established three Women and Child Protection Units (WCPU) in the country. The Youth Development and Rehabilitation Centre added a girls' dormitory to address the needs of young girls in conflict with the law. A family and children bench was established under the Thimphu Dzongkhag Court; and several police-youth partnership programmes have been initiated since 2008 to promote social responsibility in children.

See: Royal Government of Bhutan, *Bhutan's Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2018), p. 70.

9.	Burkina Faso, 2019	<p>Dans le domaine de la promotion de l'élimination des MGF/excision, les actions ont consisté à l'organisation de séances de sensibilisation dans toutes les provinces (45) et communes (351), à l'organisation d'audiences foraines sur l'excision, l'appui financier aux brigades de gendarmerie et de commissariats de police pour la sensibilisation, la dissuasion et la répression sur les MGF ; la prise en charge des filles victimes de l'excision, la formation des acteurs de promotion de l'élimination des MGF (travailleurs sociaux, de la santé, animateurs des réseaux/ONG ou associations) en technique d'animation des discussions en petits groupes, en techniques de réparation des séquelles et complications de l'excision.</p> <p>See: Burkina Faso, <i>Repport National Volontaire de Mise en Oeuvre des Objectifs de Développement Durable (2016-2018)</i> (2019), p. 46.</p>
10.	Cambodia, 2019	<p>The RGC has been striving to consolidate peace, political stability and social order as the fundamental foundation to strengthen good governance, the rule of law and respect for human rights in accordance with national laws and regulations. Good governance continues to be at the core of national development priorities and progress continues on the implementation of all major reforms entitled (1) the Fight against Corruption, (2) the Public Administration Reform, (3) the Legal and Judicial Reform, (4) the Reform of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces, (5) the Public Financial Management Reform, and (6) the Decentralization and De-concentration reforms. The engagement of all relevant stakeholders through the creation of Technical Working Groups (TWGs) has also been ensured.</p> <p>See: Royal Government of Cambodia, <i>Cambodia's Voluntary National Review 2019 on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2019), p. 38.</p>
11.	Canada, 2018	<p>The Government of Canada is reviewing its national security framework to improve the accountability and effectiveness of national security and intelligence agencies, and ensure that the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion underpin all activities. The Government is also developing new national security legislation that strikes a balance between protecting fundamental rights and protecting the safety and security of Canadians. The Government is taking action to increase the representation of women and other under-represented groups in fields such as the judiciary, law enforcement, security and intelligence.</p> <p>See: Government of Canada, <i>Canada's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Review</i> (2018), p. 113.</p>
12.	Central African Republic, 2017	<p>Le premier pilier du [Plan National de Relèvement et de Consolidation de la Paix en Centrafrique] qui vise à restaurer la paix, la sécurité et la réconciliation nationale, facteurs fondamentaux pour la normalisation et le relèvement, comprend quatre objectifs stratégiques (OS) que sont: (OS1.2) Promouvoir la stabilité par la réforme du secteur de la sécurité ; cet objectif stratégique cadre avec une cible (C16.4). Il s'agit de mettre en place un système de sécurité efficace pour assurer la protection des biens et des personnes, gage de stabilité et prospérité.</p> <p>See: Central African Republic, <i>Rapport National Volontaire de suivi de mise en oeuvre</i> (2017), p. 21.</p>

<p><b>13.</b></p>	<p>Chile, 2017</p>	<p>En el marco del Plan de Violencia, se inició el “Programa Nacional de Formación de Monitoras y Monitores Comunitarios en Materias de Violencia de Género” en 88 comunas de las 15 regiones del país, habiéndose formado entre 2015 y 2016 a 3.647 dirigentes y dirigentes sociales en prevención de la violencia contra las mujeres. Se han creado 54 Redes Locales de Monitoras/es Comunitarios/as de Prevención de VCM; se destaca el curso e-learning “Herramientas para el abordaje de la VCM” que busca fortalecer las competencias de los actores que están en primera línea para prevenir la violencia contra las mujeres y prestar atención a las víctimas. En 2016 participaron 475 funcionarios y funcionarias públicas, 22,1% pertenecen a las policías. A la fecha 550 funcionarias/os públicos se han capacitado. El Poder Judicial ha ampliado las actividades y programas de capacitación de jueces y juezas, sobre todas en las formas de violencia contra las mujeres, a fin de proporcionar asistencia adecuada a las víctimas. Se ha creado la figura del Encargada/o Regional de Femicidios, 15 abogados y abogadas de dedicación exclusiva a estos casos, así como para la prevención de la violencia extrema.</p> <p>See: Gobierno de Chile, Consejo Nacional para la Implementación de la Agenda 2030 y el Desarrollo Sostenible, <i>Informe Nacional Voluntario</i> (2017), p. 40.</p>
<p><b>14.</b></p>	<p>Chile, 2019</p>	<p>A través de estas 5 áreas se pretende crear una mejor articulación entre todos los actores que tienen relación con la seguridad pública, es decir, policías (Carabineros de Chile y Policía de Investigaciones), Ministerio del Interior y Seguridad Pública, Ministerio Público y un Consejo Asesor representante de la sociedad civil, que tendrá una composición pluralista, incluyendo alcaldes y miembros de la academia. Para la debida articulación entre actores, se observa como principal necesidad la especialización y profesionalización de las policías, determinando qué funciones cumple cada una. A la vez, se destaca el esfuerzo por descentralizar y ejecutar planes regionales de seguridad, protagonizados por los Consejos Regionales de Seguridad Pública, integrados por el intendente, policías, Ministerio Público, Gendarmería, Servicio Nacional para la Prevención y Rehabilitación del Consumo de Drogas y Alcohol (SENDA) y alcaldes.</p> <p>See: Gobierno de Chile, <i>Informe Nacional Voluntario, Chile 2019</i> (2019), p. 124</p>
<p><b>15.</b></p>	<p>Costa Rica, 2017</p>	<p>Durante el periodo 2011 – 2014, se destaca la modificación del término „equidad” por el de „igualdad” realizado por el Poder Judicial en su política institucional, lo cual amplía el abanico de posibilidades en el abordaje de las diferentes políticas y acciones definidas por el Estado para garantizar el acceso a la justicia de las mujeres. En este sentido, desde esta instancia se vienen realizando esfuerzos para la capacitación de las personas funcionarias de la Defensa Pública y la Policía Judicial, con el fin de que conozcan y apliquen los principios y acuerdos de la Convención relacionados con la perspectiva de género, derechos humanos y eliminación de la discriminación. Por su parte, el Instituto Nacional de la Mujer (INAMU) ha desarrollado procesos de capacitación sobre los derechos humanos de las mujeres y el principio de igualdad y no discriminación dirigidos a personas de entidades públicas, grupos de mujeres y la sociedad civil en general.</p> <p>See: Costa Rica, <i>Costa Rica: Construyendo una vision compartida del desarrollo sostenible, reporte nacional voluntario de los objetivos de desarrollo sostenible</i> (2017), p. 51.</p>

16.	Côte d'Ivoire, 2019	<p>Les autorités ivoiriennes ont doté, avec l'appui technique et financier des partenaires techniques et financiers les unités de police, de gendarmerie, et les services judiciaires de services adaptés à la prise en charge de ces cas de violence basées sur le genre. Ainsi, quarante-quatre (44) bureaux d'accueils genres y ont été installés. Ces BAG apportent des services et mesures de protection spécialement adaptées aux survivantes des violences, leur facilitant l'accès à la justice.</p> <p>See: Ministère du Plan et du Développement de la Côte d'Ivoire, <i>Rapport volontaire de la mise en œuvre des objectifs de développement durable en Côte d'Ivoire</i> (2019), p. 71.</p>
17.	Cyprus, 2017	<p>During the past few years, Cyprus Police have made efforts to enhance and reinforce combating of all forms of discrimination, as well as to promote awareness on diversity and multiculturalism. In accordance with relevant policy established in 2013, training curricula have been revised and special courses on legislation and policy on combating racist violence, xenophobia and discrimination were introduced. Moreover, a Memorandum of Understanding for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights was signed between the Cypriot police and Non-Governmental Organizations, to further improve and develop closer cooperation between the Contracting Parties for the protection and promotion of human rights. The Office for Combating Discrimination is responsible for the implementation of preventive measures as well as for monitoring intervention tactics to combat racism, discrimination and xenophobia within police procedure. A Human Rights Office for detainees is also in place, for the protection of their rights. Its activities include training of officers, preparation of relevant circulars and guiding manuals in the field of handling detainees and the operation of police detention centers as well as improvement of living conditions in detention facilities, in cooperation with the relevant Departments involved.</p> <p>See: Republic of Cyprus, <i>Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cyprus</i> (2017), p. 57.</p>
18.	Ecuador, 2018	<p>En relación al cumplimiento de este objetivo se han definido los siguientes mecanismos: [...]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Modelo de Gestión para el eje preventivo: es un programa basado en proporcionar los servicios estratégicos de la Policía Comunitaria, lo que ha permitido generar alertas tempranas para la gestión de riesgo en víctimas de violencia intrafamiliar, valoración del riesgo y detección de necesidades inmediatas para atención integral y la aplicación de instrumentos técnicos que permitan determinar y valorar factores de riesgo. [...]</li> </ul> <p>See: Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo de Ecuador, <i>Examen Nacional Voluntario</i> (2018), p. 110.</p>

19.	Estonia, 2016	<p>The police organisation was reformed in order to increase the responsibility and responsiveness to community needs of the Police and Border Guard Board. The main services needed to serve the community, such as patrols, prevention and district work, and proceedings for offences committed in the community, were all brought together into local police departments.</p> <p>See: Republic of Estonia, Government Office, <i>Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Estonia</i> (2016), p. 52.</p>
20.	Fiji, 2019	<p>Since ratification, Fiji has embarked on a First Hour Procedure Project, in partnership with the United Kingdom, aimed at improving the overall efficiency and effectiveness within the law enforcement and detention sectors. The project seeks to substantially reduce the risk of torture and ill-treatment by imposing more stringent measures of accountability and improving remedial recourse against violations of detained persons' rights in the initial period.</p> <p>See: Republic of Fiji, <i>Voluntary National Review, Fiji's Progress in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2019), p. 70.</p>
21.	France, 2016	<p>The French armed forces are contributing to conflict prevention and optimising the interaction between troops and the civilian environment in terms of security, governance, health, justice, freedom and economic sufficiency in international theatres of operations.</p> <p>See: French Republic, <i>Report on the Implementation by France of the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2016), p. 45.</p>
22.	Ghana, 2019	<p>Some of the interventions used over the years to address homicide and crimes in general are enhancement of police-public relations, improved recruitment processes, upholding professionalism, improving ethical standards and rules of engagement, retooling the police, improving the conditions of service, capacity building, enhancing witness protection, use of technology, etc.</p> <p>See: Republic of Ghana, <i>Ghana: Voluntary National Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2019), p. 69.</p>

<p><b>23.</b></p>	<p>Greece, 2018</p>	<p>Moreover, with a view to combating all forms of violence, including trafficking and exploitation (SDGs 5.2, 8.7, 16.2), the Public Security Directorate and the Directorate of Prosecution of Cyber-crimes of the Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the General Secretariat for Gender Equality and the competent ministries, have been implementing, based on the relevant national and international legislation, an Anti-crime Policy Programme. Through this programme, the above mentioned Directorates develop and operate a central system of collection, elaboration and analysis of cyber-crimes related information, carry out special investigative procedures in compliance with the procedural guarantees in force, and train police officers on the fight against trafficking in human beings and domestic violence. They also investigate cases of exploitation of minors and child pornography and sexual offences committed via the internet or by the use of information and communication technologies.</p> <p>See: Hellenic Republic, <i>Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2018), p. 49.</p>
<p><b>24.</b></p>	<p>Guatemala, 2019</p>	<p>Prioridad Nacional de Desarrollo – Fortalecimiento institucional, seguridad y justicia</p> <p>Esta prioridad enfatiza la importancia de la coordinación interinstitucional y el fortalecimiento del sector de seguridad y justicia, lo cual requiere mejorar los procesos internos encaminados a la formación, capacitación y generación de acciones oportunas, que permitan soluciones en el corto y mediano plazos y que, a la vez, promuevan la rendición de cuentas, la transparencia y el ejercicio de auditoría social.</p> <p>See: Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia de Guatemala, <i>Revisión Nacional Voluntaria 2019, El camino hacia el desarrollo sostenible</i> (2019), p. 292.</p>
<p><b>25.</b></p>	<p>Guinea, 2018</p>	<p>Le gouvernement guinéen, en partenariat avec la Commission de Consolidation de la Paix de l'Organisation des Nations Unies, a engagé d'importantes réformes du secteur de sécurité (Armée et Police) avec pour priorité l'assainissement du fonctionnement des corps de défense, ainsi que le renforcement de leurs capacités, dans le but d'établir une nouvelle relation de confiance avec les populations." Les réformes engagées ont permis d'enregistrer quelques progrès mais les défis à relever restent importants.</p> <p>See: Guinea, <i>Contribution Nationale Volontaire à la mise en œuvre des ODD au Forum Politique de Haut-Niveau</i> (2018), p. 80.</p>

<p><b>26.</b></p>	<p>Guyana, 2019</p>	<p>To support the protection of life and property from destruction by fires, three new Fire Stations were constructed within three new towns in hinterland communities of Guyana – Lethem, Mahadia and Mabaruma. The quality of the country’s firefighting capabilities was enhanced with the construction of a Fire Fighting Simulator training facility constructed at Leonora. As the Prison Service and the Fire Service continue to undergo much needed improvements, so too has the Guyana Police Force. The Force has benefitted from the rehabilitation of 12 Police Stations, designed to promote a victim-friendly policing service during investigations into sensitive matters such as domestic violence, evidence collection and also to conduct identification parades. Additionally, training of 138 police officers in criminal and forensic investigation techniques as well as community engagements were undertaken. The Police’s Crime and Social Observatory has also been strengthened through the recruitment of three (3) Data Analysts and one (1) Gender Demographic Data Specialist.</p> <p>See: Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, Ministry of Finance, <i>First Voluntary National Review of the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2019), pp. 83–84.</p>
<p><b>27.</b></p>	<p>Hungary, 2018</p>	<p>Since many of the victims of human trafficking and prostitution come from children’s homes, the Police play an active role in the sensitization of the residents of children’s homes as well as the professionals who are in daily contact with them. To prevent the victimization of children raised in and leaving children’s homes and also high school students, county police headquarters have regularly held crime prevention.</p> <p>See: Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, <i>Voluntary National Review of Hungary on the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda</i> (2018), p. 58.</p>
<p><b>28.</b></p>	<p>Iceland, 2019</p>	<p>In April 2018, Iceland ratified the Council of Europe’s Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence of 2011. The Convention provides for the rights of victims and the obligations of public bodies to protect and assist women subjected to violence, to educate the public, government and professionals, to take preventive measures against violence, and provide solutions and treatment for abusers. In addition, the Minister of Justice has adopted an Action Plan on Handling of Sexual Offences by the Judicial System, and the government has provided additional funding for implementation of actions based on it. They include increasing the number of employees of the police and District Prosecutor, increasing continuing education and improving police investigation facilities and procedures for handling sexual offences. Special attention needs to be paid to the conditions and needs of groups of women that are particularly vulnerable to any kind of violence, such as disabled women and women of foreign origin.</p> <p>See: Government of Iceland, Prime Minister’s Office, <i>Iceland’s Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Review</i> (2019), p. 44.</p>

<p><b>29.</b></p>	<p>Indonesia, 2019</p>	<p>Based on the Government Annual Work Plan Document, the policy directive to achieve the three main targets of SDG16 in 2019 and beyond are:</p> <p>[...] Legal development aimed towards transparent and accountable law enforcement as well as improving the effectiveness of prevention and eradication of corruption through policy directive: 1.) increase efforts to eradicate legal mafias through stronger integrity and optimal oversight in the law enforcement system; 2.) improve the legal culture of communities through information dissemination by law enforcement agencies and other relevant stakeholders; 3.) improve harmonization and synchronization of law on anti-corruption and human rights mainstreaming; 4.) improve the understanding of law enforcers and citizens through education and training on human rights; 5.) improve the quality of legal services through: (a) mediation, small claim court, and other court services innovation; and (b) immigration services, law administration, correctional facilities, and intellectual property rights; and 6.) improve the quality and quantity of technology and information to support law enforcement.</p> <p>See: Republic of Indonesia, <i>Voluntary National Reviews (VNR), Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality</i> (2019), pp. 169–171.</p>
<p><b>30.</b></p>	<p>Iraq, 2019</p>	<p>In 2015, 29 journalists lost their lives in the context of their media and media work (including 20 journalists in Mosul). The number dropped to 15 in 2016 and 16 in 2017 (liii). Until 2016, there were no effective mechanisms to protect journalists and combat impunity. But the Iraqi National Committee for the Protection of Journalists and the Fight against Impunity was formed under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Justice to monitor the protection of journalists, to report on risks and threats, and to provide official information and reports on the subject. At the initiative of the Minister of the Interior and the Directorate of Public Relations and Information at the Ministry, the Special Investigation Unit was formed in the Ministry of the Interior, which consists of three directorates: the Directorate of Counterterrorism and Crime, the Directorate of Human Rights and the Directorate of Relations and Information, to follow up all the cases of journalists and media professionals And workers in the media and press organizations and have their status in the Ministry of the Interior in Baghdad and have a presence in all provinces through the police leadership (liv).</p> <p>See: Iraq, <i>First National Voluntary Review on Sustainable Development Goals 2019 (The Triumph of National Will)</i> (2019), p. 63.</p>

<p><b>31.</b></p>	<p>Ireland, 2018</p>	<p>An Garda Síochána continues to monitor all new and emerging crime trends, including trends relating to violent crime. Garda Operation Thor involves a broad range of activities to tackle organised crime gangs and other prolific offenders as well as working with communities to prevent crime. This comprehensive national operation is supported by the enhanced Government investment in Garda resources, including an allocation of almost €100 million for Garda overtime in 2017. Furthermore, An Garda Síochána's Modernisation and Renewal Programme 2016-2021 places a strong emphasis on developing and supporting the community policing ethos of the organisation and enhancing the current delivery model so that Gardaí spend more time in the community, gaining public confidence and trust and providing a greater sense of security. It will result in the introduction of multi-skilled Community Policing Teams in every district. Community Policing Teams will be made-up of Gardaí from a number of different units who will work with the local community to prevent and detect crime, including all forms of serious crime. Substantial progress is being made by An Garda Síochána in tackling these forms of crime, particularly the area of property-related crime [SDG 16.1].</p> <p>See: Government of Ireland, <i>Ireland: Voluntary National Review 2018, Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</i> (2018), p. 92.</p>
<p><b>32.</b></p>	<p>Israel, 2019</p>	<p>Public awareness and trust in law enforcement organizations are a necessary condition for the implementation of the Ministry of Public Security's work plan, objectives and goals. Therefore, the ministry will formulate and implement a systemic program for raising the trust of the citizenry in the law enforcement system. In order to reduce the potential of friction inherent in the police officer citizen encounter and to increase transparency, the implementation of the body cameras project will be advanced. The first stage of the project was launched in the Tel Aviv District in January 2019, with 420 cameras distributed to police officers. The project is slated to include 8,000 cameras in total, to be distributed in all police districts. The objective is to raise the level of public confidence in the operation of the ministry and its operational bodies by means of a formal public relations program, while increasing transparency, implementing a concept of procedural and multicultural justice in the activity of the ministry's operational bodies and implementing the body camera project.</p> <p>See: Israel, <i>Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, National Review</i> (2019), p. 282.</p>
<p><b>33.</b></p>	<p>Jamaica, 2018</p>	<p>In 2016, the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) with assistance from the US Government launched a body worn camera project as part of a pilot to improve accountability, human rights record and public trust in the police. Official use of the body cameras began in February 2017. Some 120 body cameras were presented to the JCF to be used initially in six police divisions in the Kingston and St. Andrew.</p> <p>See: Planning Institute of Jamaica, <i>Jamaica Voluntary national Review Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2018), p. 97.</p>

<p><b>34.</b></p>	<p>Jordan, 2017</p>	<p>The Jordanian National Plan of Action for the Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 for the years (2017-2020) is being finalized to ensure the full and effective participation of women in security and peace and to ensure equal opportunities for women to lead on an equal footing with men at all levels of decision-making. The plan focuses on four main outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Achieve the active participation of women working in security, military and peace-keeping sectors;</li> <li>- Achieve the active participation of women in the processes of peace-building and peace-making and in combating extremist ideologies and violent extremism; [...]</li> </ul> <p>See: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, <i>Jordan's Way to Sustainable Development, First National Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda</i> (2017), p. 47.</p>
<p><b>35.</b></p>	<p>Kazakhstan, 2019</p>	<p>A striking example of the constructive interaction between public authorities and the non-governmental sector is the work of the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) against Torture. The NPM, established in 2014 under the "Ombudsman" model, provides a wide range of powers and independence to members of the civil society in conducting preventative visits to closed government institutions.</p> <p>To date, 2,500 preventive visits to various closed institutions have been carried out, with the mechanism proving to be effective in preventing torture. It has now been expanded to include children's and social institutions. The substantive recommendations of NPM participants have contributed to the modernization of the law enforcement system and the implementation of institutional reforms for the rule of law.</p> <p>See: Ministry of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, <i>Voluntary National Review 2019 on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2019), p. 120.</p>
<p><b>36.</b></p>	<p>Latvia, 2018</p>	<p>Local governments, non-governmental organisations, State Police and other institutions are co-operating to prevent violence. A police risk assessment questionnaire (for use in calls regarding family conflict, including domestic violence) has been developed and tested. The risk assessment enables police officers to better identify and recognise different forms of domestic violence, and to explain to the victim the various ways in which the violent party can be kept at a distance. The police officer and the victim of domestic violence jointly fill out the questionnaire to determine the risk of recurrence. The police then collaborate with other responsible institutions and the victim to deter another incident.</p> <p>See: Latvia, <i>Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2018), p. 59.</p>

37.	Lebanon, 2018	<p>The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Emigrants, with EU support, is leading work on a draft national counter terrorism strategy. The ISF have adopted a 2018–2022 strategy aimed towards ‘ensuring a more secure society’. It focuses on fostering stability, safety and security; partnering with society; protecting human rights and raising accountability; and building the ISF’s professional capacities, effectiveness, and efficacy.</p> <p>See: Lebanon, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2018)</i>, p. 60.</p>
38.	Lesotho, 2019	<p>In collaboration with UN Women and UNICEF, consensus and capacity for special interest groups - the women, youth, children, elders, traditional leaders - was built to participate in reform dialogues. The groups produced common positions articulating their issues on the reforms. The MSND Plenary I produced a Joint Communiqué on reforms and in-district guidelines jointly developed by NDPC and Lesotho Council of NGOs. Basotho were given an opportunity to participate and provide opinions on the reforms through 389 country-wide community level consultations (Lipitso) and 76 district level gateway meetings. A counselling and psychosocial support programme for members of security sector and their spouses was initiated as well as, security sector human rights due diligence policy assessment and mitigation. The Training of Trainers on human rights and respect for rule of law among the security sector was conducted thereby creating a pool of trainers to multiply the training in their respective formations. A Communications Strategy and materials on national dialogue and reforms have been developed to ensure effective communication on reforms among the Basotho.</p> <p>See: Kingdom of Lesotho, <i>The Kingdom of Lesotho Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda 2030 Report 2019 (2019)</i>, p. 87–88.</p>
39.	Malaysia, 2017	<p>National Blue Ocean Strategy initiatives –</p> <p>Implemented since 2009, this Strategy could be a way forward to better mobilise resources Malaysia reportedly saved more than RM3.5 billion as a result of the NBOS initiatives between 2009 and 2016. For example, opening 15 Urban Transformation Centres saved RM1.5 billion by combining resources of departments and agencies, while redeploying police officers from desk to patrol work saved RM1.3 billion; police-military shared trainings saved RM700 million. These savings could be channeled to other development needs. While large savings have been reported for inter-Government agency initiatives, more than half of the NBOS initiatives leveraged resource contributions from non-Government stakeholders, including CSOs, NGOs, educational institutions and volunteers.</p> <p>See: Economic Planning Unit of the Government of Malaysia, <i>Sustainable Development Goals Voluntary National Review 2017 (2017)</i>, p. 64.</p>

40.	Mauritania, 2019	<p>Le rôle des comités de village, en étroite coopération avec les autorités locales, consiste à promouvoir les Droits de l'Homme grâce à la collaboration entre ces comités et les forces de sécurité déployées dans la région. Ce partenariat pourrait renforcer la stabilité et la primauté du droit. La participation aux processus de prise de décision continue de favoriser l'efficacité et l'efficience des institutions locales pour répondre aux défis de la paix et du développement économique.</p> <p>See: Islamic Republic of Mauritania, <i>Revue Nationale Volontaire des Objectifs de Développement Durable</i> (2019), p. 85.</p>
41.	Mauritius, 2019	<p>Institutions - A Ministry dedicated to Justice, Human Rights and Institutional Reforms (MJHRIR) was set up in September 2017. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), set up in 2001 under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1998, undertakes enquiries into complaints alleging breaches of civil and political rights referred to in Chapter II of the Constitution against public bodies and members of the police force. The National Preventive Mechanism Division focuses on prison visits and the elaboration of recommendations regarding the improvement of the treatment and conditions of persons in detention. The Police Complaints Division, designated to investigate complaints against members of the police force and to enhance public confidence in the effectiveness of the police complaints system, has been replaced by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.</p> <p>See: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius, <i>Voluntary National Review Report of Mauritius 2019</i> (2019), p. 103.</p>
42.	Namibia, 2018	<p>Key interventions supporting SDG5: [...]</p> <p>Strategies for the attainment of the targets:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. increase financial and human capacity of service providers in police, justice, security and education for integrated prevention, protection and response services for victims of GBV, human trafficking and violence. [...]</li> </ol> <p>See: Republic of Namibia, <i>Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, Voluntary National Review 2018</i> (2018), p. 25.</p>
43.	New Zealand, 2019	<p>The pilot currently operates in two major districts. ISR is a multi-agency project hosted by New Zealand Police to ensure the immediate safety of victims and children and to work with perpetrators to prevent further violence. It aims to put families and whānau at the centre by listening to the victim's voice and creating Family Safety Plans based on individual risks and needs. Information is shared efficiently with relevant agencies to facilitate improved outcomes for families while respecting their privacy and dignity. ISR aims to coordinate all agencies to enable them to work together to ensure that those effected by relevant family violence receive a co-ordinated and tailored response that addresses their individual risks and needs.</p> <p>See: New Zealand, <i>Towards a Better Future, Together, New Zealand's Progress Towards the SDGs – 2019</i> (2019), p. 113.</p>

44.	Norway, 2016	<p>Norway remains committed to supporting conflict prevention and promoting peace and reconciliation through UN, multilateral and bilateral efforts. In this area, Norway is able to build on its longstanding engagement, including in the Middle East; on its experience as chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for assistance to the Palestinian people; and on its role as facilitator, together with Cuba, in the Colombian peace process. The Government also gives high priority to supporting capacity-building measures for security sector reform in developing countries, in UN peace operations and other international operations, and in regional organisations. Norway has an MOU with the African Union (AU) on capacity-building through the programme Training for Peace in Africa (TFP). Norway supports efforts to broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance.</p> <p>See: Norway, <i>Voluntary National Review Presented at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)</i> (2016), p. 26.</p>
45.	Pakistan, 2019	<p>The Doing Business Reform Plan is also being implemented to support businesses and start-ups, with a view to improving the investment climate. Sindh's public sector reform initiative aims to mobilize revenues through an overhaul of tax policy, by improving administrative efficiency and by enhancing the performance of the public financial management and procurement system. In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, police reforms have been the linchpin of the Government's efforts. These involve increasing quotas for women in the police to 10 percent, forming women-only police stations and Women Complaint Cells in other selected stations. The Citizen Feedback Model (CFM) is another important reform adopted across the province, which collects users' feedback on the quality of public services accessed. In Balochistan, the Governance Support Project, implemented in partnership with academia, aims to improve the capacity of public officials in project management, monitoring and evaluation, appraisal, financial management and procurement.</p> <p>See: Government of Pakistan, <i>Pakistan's Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Voluntary National Review</i> (2019), p. 52.</p>
46.	Palau, 2019	<p>Law enforcement: The Ministry of Justice is committed to the effective, non-discriminatory, and transparent enforcement of Palau laws and regulations. Accordingly, in 2017-2018, the Ministry has acted to strengthen operations. Examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Regulations governing the Bureau of Public Safety and for the Division of Labor updated</li> <li>- Police Practice Committee established</li> <li>- Narcotics Enforcement Agency established</li> <li>- Anti-Human Trafficking Office established [...]</li> </ul> <p>See: Republic of Palau, <i>Pathway to 2030, Progressing with Our Past Toward a Resilient, Sustainable, and Equitable Future, 1st Voluntary National Review on the SDGs</i> (2019), p. 55.</p>

47.	Rwanda, 2019	<p>The Gallup's Law and Order Index 2018, which gauges people's sense of personal security and their personal experiences with crime and law enforcement, indicated that 83 percent of Rwandan residents have confidence in the local police force and feel safe walking alone at night, thus positioning Rwanda as the second safest place in Africa.</p> <p>See: Republic of Rwanda, <i>2019 Rwanda Voluntary National Review (VNR) Report</i> (2019), p. 58.</p>
48.	Senegal, 2018	<p>Des services juridiques gratuits ont été offerts à 1 252 personnes, dans la boutique de Droit de Pikine dont 1 068 femmes soit 85%, quarante (40) para-juristes et 150 relais (Bajenu Gox, personnel maison de justice, femmes de groupements etc.) initiés aux Droits humains. Ces activités concourent au renforcement et à la création d'un système intégré de services de promotion et de protection des droits des femmes de proximité avec la création de deux nouvelles boutiques de droit (CEDAF de Thiès et Centre Intégré de Développement Economique et Social (CIDES) de Kaolack) par le MFFE. En 2017, en plus de 24 agents de forces de police et de gendarmerie et des 33 magistrats (parquet et siège), cent dix-neuf agents de Sécurité de Proximité (ASP) ont été formés sur les thématiques relatives à la prohibition de la torture et des mauvais traitements en droit interne et international. L'année 2017 enregistre 40 visites organisées de lieux de privation de liberté et cinq visites inopinées dans la région de Dakar.</p> <p>See: Republic of Senegal, <i>Revue Nationale Volontaire, Rapport Final</i> (2018), p. 100.</p>
49.	Sierra Leone, 2019	<p>Sierra Leone is ranked as the most peaceful country in West Africa, 3rd in Sub-Saharan Africa and 35th in the world. Sierra Leone is also among the 71 countries that were more peaceful in 2018 than in 2017. There has been a total decrease in overall crime rate across the country from 1.08 from in 2017 to 0.80 in 2018. The Sierra Leone Police (SLP) continues to collaborate with other security and Intelligence agencies, stakeholders, including local communities, as there has been great improvement in the general security situation throughout the country. Through community policing and partnership, the government has also put under control certain public order offences like riots, violent disorder, and affray among others.</p> <p>See: Government of Sierra Leone, <i>2019 VNR Report on SDGs in Sierra Leone</i> (2019), p. 31.</p>

50.	Singapore, 2018	<p>As a Party to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), we are committed to implementing measures that address the needs of women, and promote gender equality and women’s rights. For instance, Singapore adopts a zero-tolerance policy towards sexual offences. The Singapore Police Force works closely with the National Crime Prevention Council, an NGO, to raise awareness on sexual offences. Our strategy is two-fold – to encourage victims of outrage of modesty to alert the authorities immediately, as well as to warn would-be offenders of the legal repercussions of committing such offences. This has been implemented through several outreach programmes. We also work with public entertainment outlets to introduce deterrence measures such as the installation of surveillance cameras and ensuring sufficient lighting.</p> <p>See: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, <i>Towards a Sustainable and Resilient Singapore, Singapore’s Voluntary National Review Report to the 2018 UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</i> (2018), p. 61.</p>
51.	South Africa, 2019	<p>It is important to address the complete breakdown in confidence between the police and the community, as the police are failing to manage the high levels of violence in the society. A Community Policing Policy has been developed that seeks to reinforce the community policing approach in line with Sec 206(3) of the Constitution, which requires provinces to promote good relations between the police and the community. Community policing is an approach that recognizes the shared responsibility of police and the community in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all citizens.</p> <p>See: South Africa, <i>2019 South Africa Voluntary National Review, Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality</i> (2019), p. 106.</p>
52.	Spain, 2018	<p>With respect to persons with disabilities, particular concern has been raised about the rising number of hate crimes committed against those with disability. This worrying situation was reported in the 2017 Ombuds Annual Report, together with difficulties in securing access to justice for women with disabilities and for persons with intellectual disabilities. Nevertheless, the Report acknowledges improvements in police treatment towards persons with an intellectual disability who may have suffered criminal victimization (intervention as a witness during the police process, procedural adaptations to ensure access to justice under equal conditions, etc.).</p> <p>See: Government of Spain, <i>Spain’s Report for the 2018 Voluntary National Review</i> (2018), p. 78.</p>

53. Sri Lanka, 2018

Target 16.3 requires promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensuring equal access to justice for all. Through the enactment of the 19th Amendment and introducing independent institutions such as the Police Commission, Judicial Service Commission, and building capacities such as forensics, investigation, the work of the judiciary has regained credibility. The recent accreditation of the National Human Rights Commission to 'A Grade', by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Commissions (GANRI), is a clear testimony of enhanced institutional capacity that has helped improved the rule of law in the country. The number of indictments served has increased due to empowerment of investigators, and the number of detainees who have not been sentenced as a proportion of the overall prison population was 0.5 in 2016.<sup>154</sup> The Government also works closely with the ICRC to improve conditions in the Prisons.

See: Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, *Voluntary national Review on the Status of Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (2018)*, p. 99.

54. State of Palestine, 2018

Strengthening the rule of law and access to justice is a national priority that the Palestinian government is committed to achieving. To this end, the Palestinian government created a committee that aims to unify the justice system in the north and south of the west bank, as well as creating a national strategy to provide legal representation to all citizens in court. The Palestinian government has been developing the infrastructure needed to increase the capacity of the judicial system, as well as using ITC systems in the judicial system that makes accessing the judicial system more efficient. As a result, the overwhelming majority of households believe Palestinian justice institutions are legitimate; subsequently, 91.7% would call the police when in danger, 71% consider Palestinian courts as the only legitimate mechanism for resolving legal disputes; and 63.3% are confident they would receive prompt assistance from the police. These results are indicative of growing faith in Palestinian justice. These improvements were a result of the implementation of the 2005 Presidential Decree establishing the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC), investigations, prosecutions, and adjudications of corruption cases have risen steadily within the specially mandated Corruption Crimes Court. The commission has produced a National Strategy on Anticorruption (2015-2018) aimed at limiting opportunities for corrupt practices through extensive dialogue with government, CSOs, the private sector, and Arab and international organizations.

See: State of Palestine, *Palestinian National Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda (2018)*, pp. 77–78.

<p><b>55.</b></p>	<p>Sudan, 2018</p>	<p>The role of women in peace building is a powerfully emerging trend in the country. Women, who constitute half of the population, suffered the most from conflict, separation and disintegration of their families, and endured the sufferings of their children from malnutrition, poor health and diseases, and illiteracy. These conditions, among other reasons, have inspired women to engage in peace building and to push for inclusion of gender issues in peace negotiations. Consultations with Sudanese women have led to the inclusion of gender issues in the Joint Assessment Mission. Women groups from Darfur played a pivotal role in the Doha rounds of negotiations on peace in Darfur. They also raised issues on women's participation in decision making. Consequently, out of 41 members of Darfur Regional Authority 10 were women. A large number of women have joined the security forces, especially as police officers. The increasing participation of women in the security forces will make peace building and post-conflict activities participatory and inclusive.</p> <p>See: National Population Council, <i>Voluntary national Review 2018, Implementation of Agenda 2030 and the SDGs for Peace and Development in the Sudan</i> (2018), p. 39.</p>
<p><b>56.</b></p>	<p>Timor Leste, 2019</p>	<p>Security and political inclusion have been underpinned by reforms and increased professionalization in the army and police. After the 2006 crisis, Security Sector Reform was undertaken. The strengthening of the security forces enabled the country to overcome the recent political impasse and maintain peace and stability. The police reform strategy, including the introduction of Suco (village) officers and community policing approaches, has proven to be very effective in promoting security and improving the performance of police. Community policing approaches have shown that crime in Timor-Leste can be greatly reduced by building trust and fostering more effective partnerships, cooperation and problem-solving between the community and the police (The Asia Foundation, 2016a). Despite the success of these initiatives, it is important that the community-oriented policing approach is adopted by the wider police force (PNTL) and moves beyond community police units. The National Human Rights Institution and the UN, in close collaboration with the national police and the army, have been implementing a standardized programme of human rights training for both forces, since 2014 for the police, and since 2018 for the army, contributing to the professionalisation of the army. One decade after the crisis, the legitimacy of the army and the police has increased within the Timorese population (Belun, 2017b).</p> <p>See: Government of Timor Leste, <i>Report on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals: From ashes to reconciliation, reconstruction and sustainable development, Voluntary National Review of Timor-Leste 2019</i> (2019), pp. 39–40.</p>

<p><b>57.</b></p>	<p>Togo, 2017</p>	<p>These actions led to the following achievements: (i) 1,217 violence cases in 2015 and 769 cases in 2016 benefited from legal assistance during hearings in all the 6 centres (Lomé, Kpalimé, Bafilo, Tsévié, Aného and Atakpamé); (ii) 1500 copies of religious and traditional publications promoting the fight against gender based violence were published and distributed; (iii) 30 magistrates and judicial police officers were trained in gender based violence and on the right of women and girl; (iv) 10 hearing centres benefited from operational support; (v) 200 women benefited from capacity building workshops on women's participation in decentralisation and social development between 2013 and 2016; (vi) 2,917 community based agency were trained on gender equity; (vii) 929 persons were trained in gender and gender equity; (viii) 303 national actors were trained on gender sensitivity and women's right (women's access to land) and national capacity of 700 key stakeholders with special emphasis on women land right; and (ix) African mechanisms on the promotion and protection of women and girls' rights were disseminated. With respect to women empowerment, several training activities were organised on skill development and living techniques, on credit and savings, processing and conservation of agro food products, leadership and the management of micro enterprises.</p> <p>See: Togolese Republic, <i>Togo Country Report</i> (2017), p. 28.</p>
<p><b>58.</b></p>	<p>Turkey, 2019</p>	<p>In the context of ensuring equal access to justice, considerable steps were taken in the context of ensuring the rule of law and facilitating equal access to justice for all.</p> <p>Through the amendment of the Constitution in 2017, the impartiality of the judiciary was strengthened, military courts and martial law were abolished.</p> <p>See: Turkey, <i>Turkey's Sustainable Development Goals, 2nd VNR, 2019: "Strong Ground towards Common Goals"</i> (2019), p. 123.</p>
<p><b>59.</b></p>	<p>United Arab Emirates, 2017</p>	<p>Challenges in securing fundamental human rights are being overcome through numerous initiatives. One example is an initiative called "Your Protection...Our Happiness" to identify, protect and assist victims of trafficking and rights abuses. The three pillars of Dubai Police's approach to combatting human trafficking are: crime prevention, training and capacity-building and support services for victims of trafficking.</p> <p>a. Commitment to Training and Capacity-Building</p> <p>Strengthen systems and procedures for identifying victims of trafficking. Invest in training for law enforcement officials to enhance their capabilities to identify and mobilize support for victims.</p> <p>See: National Committee on Sustainable Development Goals of the United Arab Emirates, <i>UAE and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Excellence in Implementation</i> (2017), p. 131.</p>

60.	United Kingdom, 2019	<p>The UK is transforming the law enforcement response, seeing more police operations than ever before; overhauling support for victims; and working with businesses to eradicate forced labour from UK supply chains. As a result, more victims than ever before are being identified. In 2018, 6,993 potential victims were identified in the UK – a 36% increase on 2017 (see Goal 16).</p> <p>See: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, <i>Voluntary National Review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals</i> (2019), p. 107.</p>
61.	United Republic of Tanzania, 2019	<p>The United Republic of Tanzania continues to strengthen its internal security organs by providing training, equipment and exposure. The Police Force has undergone significant reforms, which enabled streamlining of roles. To strengthen the internal security of the practices, known as Community Policing. This has been the focus for response to prevent and counter violent extremism. Community Policing has been instrumental to improving communication with the general public, and the promotion of citizens’ participation in security matters. As a practice, communities are encouraged to form units that can prevent and detect crime. Community Policing arrangements have proved to be a success that has led to crime rates declining by 4.5 percent.</p> <p>See: United Republic of Tanzania, <i>Voluntary National Review (VNR) 2019: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality</i> (2019), p. 95.</p>
62.	Uruguay, 2017	<p>Se han dado también pasos importantes y consistentes respecto al avance en promover sociedades pacíficas e inclusivas para el desarrollo sostenible, facilitar el acceso a la justicia para todos y crear instituciones eficaces, responsables e inclusivas a todos los niveles, favorecidos por una institucionalidad robusta y un conjunto de nuevas propuestas e iniciativas en esta línea. Se destacan en este campo, la articulación de esfuerzos referidos a la modernización del accionar policial, la puesta en marcha en 2017 de un nuevo Código Procesal Penal (que conlleva múltiples cambios en materia de acceso a la justicia y en la institucionalidad involucrada, tanto a nivel de Poder Judicial como en la Fiscalía General de la Nación y los procesos, plataforma y dispositivos asociados a ésta). Estas medidas, junto con otras, son fundamentales en las estrategias orientadas a la prevención, disminución y registro de situaciones de la violencia, que presenta particulares desafíos en el caso de los niños, niñas y mujeres, así como en personas en situación de encierro.</p> <p>See: Uruguay, <i>Informe Nacional Voluntario</i> (2017), p. 261.</p>
63.	Vanuatu, 2019	<p>SOC 5.5: Strengthen links between traditional and formal justice systems and the role of chiefs in maintaining peace and stability (SDG Indicators 16.7.2)</p> <p>Police community engagement is ongoing. Crime statistics offer an insight into the level of activity of police in and around communities. In 2017, there were 122 community engagement meetings through police awareness program. Additionally, (Police Assistance 619), 1,717 crime scenes visited, and 6,939 patrols conducted. There were also 70 mediation and meeting conducted with the communities Police reports also show 4,826 incidents of vandalism reported in 2017.</p> <p>See: Republic of Vanuatu, <i>Republic of Vanuatu Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</i> (2019), p. 44.</p>



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