Today's Agenda

➢ Stakeholder Engagement in VNRs (Agenda 2030 and its SDGs)
➢ Stakeholder Engagement in NDCs (Paris Agreement)
➢ How can we make Stakeholder Engagement meaningful and effective? – Analytical Framework

Stakeholder Engagement as one of the Propounding Principles of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs - VNRs

- All implementation and follow-up process to be **participatory and inclusive**, including all levels and sectors of government, civil society and the private sector, members of parliament, and national human rights institutions, among others. (para 74 and 84)

- **Stakeholders are recognized as valuable partners** in implementing Goals and raising public awareness. (UN DESA, 2024)

Growing Recognition: Stakeholder Engagement in NDC

*21. Of the **79% of Parties that referred to formal arrangements in place for domestic stakeholder consultation**, **93%** indicated that they conducted **consultations and engagement in an inclusive and participatory manner** and 81% of those specifically referenced gender-sensitive consultations.*

(UNFCCC, "NDC Synthesis Report," 2023)

Growing Recognition: referred in Global Stocktake
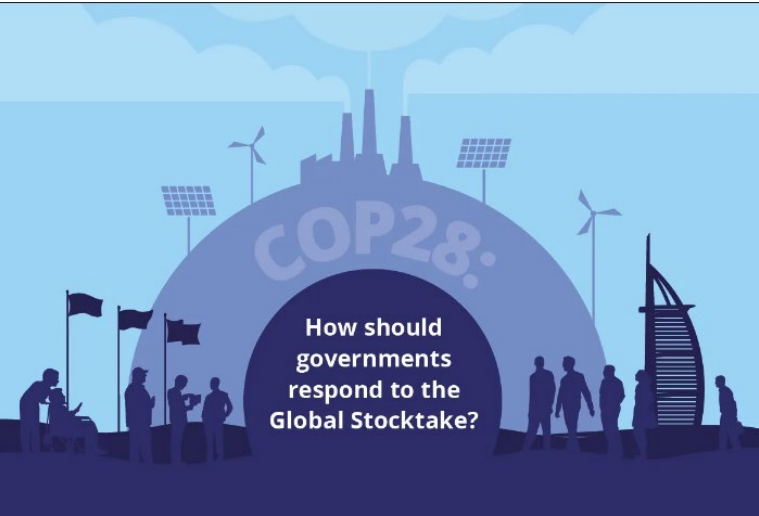
*9. Reaffirms that sustainable and just solutions to the climate crisis must be founded on **meaningful and effective social dialogue and participation of all stakeholders**, including Indigenous Peoples, local communities and governments, women, and youth and children, and notes that the global transition to low emissions and climate-resilient development provides opportunities and challenges for sustainable development and poverty eradication;*

(UNFCCC, Global Stocktake, 2024)

Growing Recognition: referred in IPCC AR6 Synthesis Report

Governance and Policies: *Drawing on diverse knowledges and cultural values, meaningful participation and inclusive engagement processes—including Indigenous Knowledge, local knowledge, and scientific knowledge—facilitates climate resilient development, builds capacity and allows locally appropriate and socially acceptable solutions. (high confidence)*

ipcc
INTERGOVERNMENTAL PANEL ON climate change

CLIMATE CHANGE 2023
Synthesis Report

Summary for Policymakers

A Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

Subject to final copy-edit and layout prior to its final publication
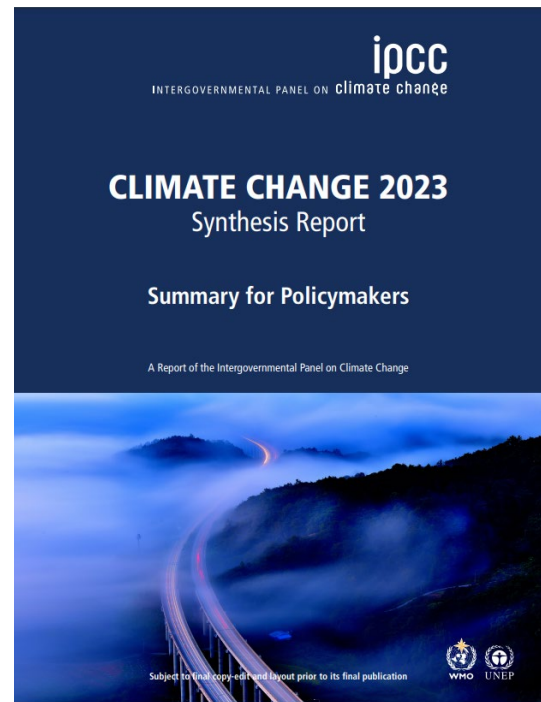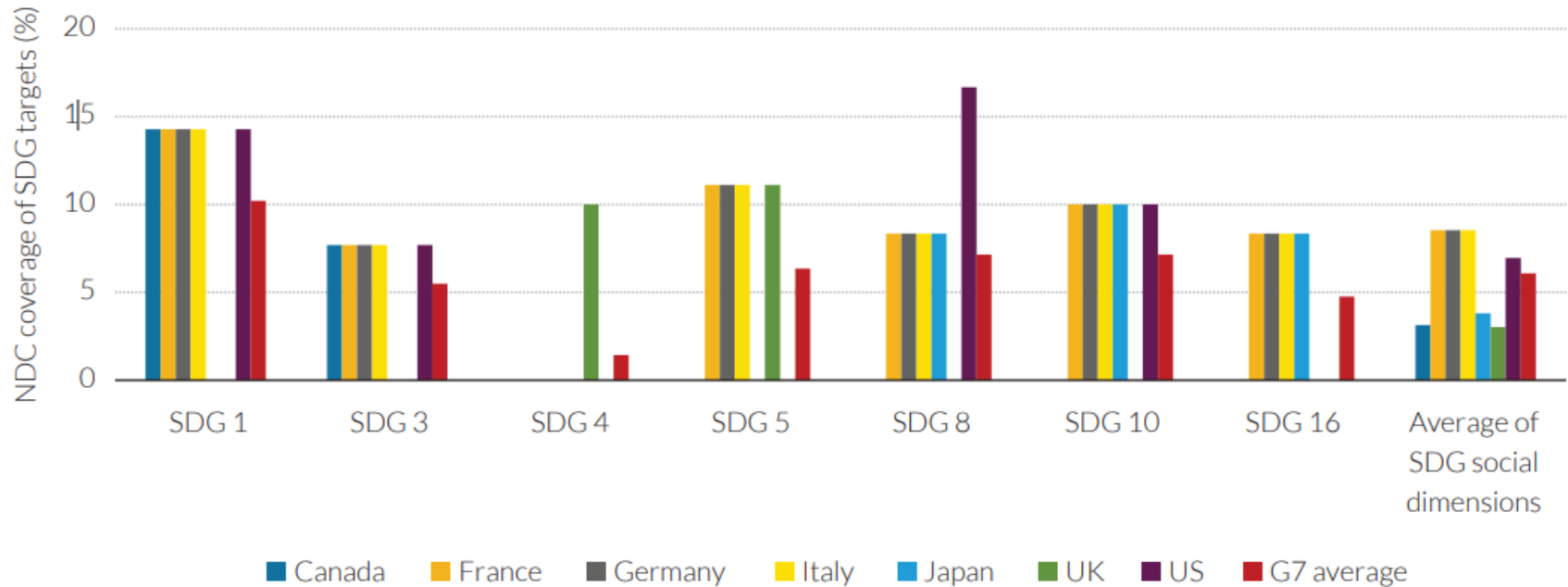
WMO UNEP

Figure 1: Social Dimensions of Sustainable Development Goals in the G7's Nationally Determined Contributions

G7 = Group of Seven, NDC = nationally determined contribution, SDG = Sustainable Development Goal, UK = United Kingdom, US = United States.

Source: Authors.

Zhou X. et al. (2023), *"Putting Societal Well-Being at the Core of G7 Climate Strategies: Entry Points and Enabling Reforms." Think 7, Policy Brief.*

Recap: Difference between VNRs and NDCs

	Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)	Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
Overall	• Agenda 2030 encourages country-led/driven regular and inclusive reviews of progress (para 79) • Voluntarily submitted to HLPF	• Paris Agreement (Article 4, para 2) requires each country to prepare, communicate, and maintain NDCs • Submitted every 5 years to UNFCCC
Aim	• Sharing of country's experiences to accelerate the SDGs implementation	• Representing country's politically backed commitments to meet Paris Agreement
Pros	• Backwards reviewing process • Greater stakeholder engagement • Inter-agency coordination	• Future-oriented strong commitment • Technical science-based decision-making
Cons	• The role of science may be weaker • The outcome is not binding	• Less cross-sectoral coordination • Less focus on social dimension

For Mutual Learning VNRs - NDCs Lessons Learned from VNR Reports

Lessons Learned from VNR Reports

Member States tend to report on Stakeholder Engagement in…

- Coordination and Governance Structures in SDG Implementation

- Development of National Priorities (Feasibility Study)

- Consultation for VNRs Development (Follow-up and Review)

- Partnership with Non-State Actors (e.g. Linking to SDG 16)

- Awareness-Raising

UN DESA (2020) "Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019)"
https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/26012VNRStakeholdersResearch.pdf

Most of the Member States highlight Stakeholder Engagement but seem to…

- **Struggle to set up** the mechanisms or **maintain** 'open, inclusive, participatory and transparent processes'

- Tend to conduct stakeholder engagement only **at the early stages** of the SDGs implementation cycle **or the very end of the stage**

- Provide less details on **why, who, what, when, where and how**

- Rarely report on the **quality** of the Stakeholder Engagement

How can we make Stakeholder Engagement Effective and Meaningful?

Some Insights from Youth Engagement from Research

IGES Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Principle and Dimension for Analyzing Meaningful Youth Engagement

Aims Justifications	Power Sharing	Transparency Accountability	Inclusivity Support
Farthing (2015); Bárta et al. (2021); Lansdown(2019)	Hart(1992); Cockburn(2000); Checkoway (2011)	Fletcher (2005); Kellet (2009)	Farthing (2015); Ndayala et al. (2016); Van Reeuwijk et al. (2018)

1. Aims & Justifications

Criteria/Components

- Right-based justification (c.f. Rights of the Child)

- Efficiency (e.g. inform priorities, improve policies)

- Building trust and maintaining social cohesion

2. Power sharing

Criteria/Components

- Youth can initiate activities and make their own decisions

- Work together and share decisions with adults with different responsibilities and competencies

- Youth as an **equal partner**

Roger Hart (1992)
"Children's Participation: From Tokenism to Citizenship" Florence: UNICEF International Child Development Centre

8. Young people-initiated. Shared decisions with adults

7. Young people-initiated and directed

6. Adult-initiated. Shared decisions with young people

5. Consulted and informed

4. Assigned but informed

PARTICIPATION

3. Tokenism

2. Decoration

1. Manipulation

NON-PARTICIPATION

ADAPTED FROM:
HART, R. (1992). Children's participation: From tokenism to citizenship, Florence: UNICEF International Child Development Centre.
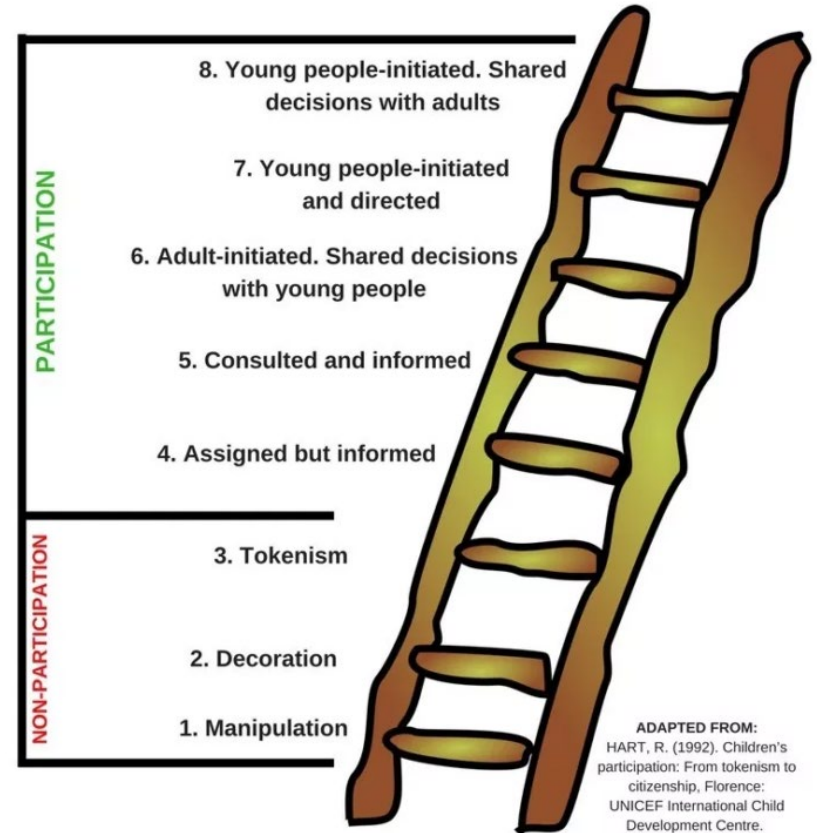
3. Transparency & Accountability

Criteria/Components

- Transparency throughout the processes

- Open communication channels

- Transparency strengthening Accountability for both sides
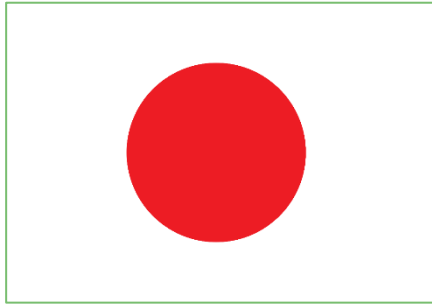**Youth ⇔ Government**

4. Inclusivity & Support   Criteria/Components

- Provide material and non-material support to enable their participation

- Capacity development, education and empowerment

- With focuses on the most marginalized and vulnerable (e.g. background, status, identity)

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Japan

VNR (2017, 2021)

◆ **"Next-Generation Platform for Promoting SDGs"**

- *Aim*: To disseminate Japan's SDGs model

- *Representation*: Member selection from 7 Steering Committee Youth Organizations

- *Power-sharing*: One member participates the "SDGs Promotion Round Table" since 2021

◆ **ESD Promotion**

- Renewed National Curriculum Standards: "to foster the builder of the sustainable society"

- *Aim*: Increase SDGs Awareness among youth and parents

Indonesia

VNR (2017, 2019, 2021)

◆ **VNR Preparation -** Consultations to Youth organizations

- *Transparency*: Clear information on the process
- *Accountability:* Youth Recommendations and Policy Response

◆ **SDG Centers and Campus Ambassadors**

- *Aim*: Disseminate and promote SDGs in/off campus through related activities

◆ **LNOB: Inclusive Monitoring and Data Collection**

- Approach **vulnerable young groups** via **Internet** to gain disaggregated data (e.g. age, gender, area) for better decision-making

Finland

VNR (2016, 2020)

◆ **"The Agenda 2030 Youth Group"**

- *Aim*: Bring more young people's voices to the decision-making process and public dialogue and inform other young people about SDGs

- *Power-sharing*: Invited to decision-making meetings

  e.g., drafting SD Strategy, budgeting, VNR Preparation

- The autonomy in the activities is guaranteed

  e.g. Creating SNS Contents for Young People

  Youth-led Conference: "Our Climate 2030"

- *Support*: by *Alliansi* (Finish National Youth Council) in member recruitment, capturing diversity, secretariat function, and coordination with the government

Denmark
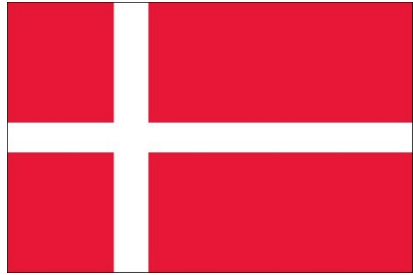
SDSN 2023 #3, VNR (2017, 2021)

◆**Danish Youth Council (DUF)**

- Contribution of VNR Chapter by Youth (DUF)

- *Support*: Youth-led activities and organizations addressing SDGs by DUF

- DUF: **umbrella organization** supporting and representing youth and youth organizations through education, partnerships, and youth involvement and financial assistance

◆ "Vulnerable children and young people, and child poverty"

"Provide assistance and opportunities for youth with disabilities, minority backgrounds, and financial difficulties to realize their potential and participate." (VNR, p.139)

Germany

VNR (2016, 2021)

◆ **VNR Position Paper**

- Individually Developed by UN Youth Delegates for Sustainable Development

◆ **German Federal Youth Council**

- Participates in **"Dialogue Group"** inputting the National Sustainable Development Strategy

◆ **Focus on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD)**

- Youth as a key stakeholder in public discussion on sustainable development
- Own Commitment Based Approach by Each Stakeholders

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Takeaways – Youth Engagement for Inclusivity or Disparities?

- Reporting Gaps in VNRs; but analysis helps lead to better engagement

- Can be used around policy formulation, implementation, data collection, and monitoring & reporting

- Youth as **Recipients** of SDG/Climate actions and **Contributors** simultaneously - Shifting from viewing youth as **Subjects of Care** and **Education** to recognizing them as **"Experts"** on Youth-related Issues

- **Mitigating Existing Disparities:** Avoid the risk of only a specific segment of groups participating, as this may exacerbate existing disparities/inequalities

Mutual Learning Processes – VNRs to NDCs

- Enable various stakeholders to **contribute** to the **different stages** (*ex-ante, durante, ex-post*), as well as the **analysis of stakeholder engagement**

- Enhance multi-level governance, including **varied means of participation**, deliberative decision-making, and multi-instrument policy mixes

- Prioritize the stakeholders **most likely at risk of being excluded**; open opportunities and lower barriers to inclusion based on **equity and justice (LNOB)**

- Analysis of practices can be conducted by government, stakeholders, and external actors (preferably jointly)
    - → VNRs and NDCs development as the **iterative exercise** for better inclusion

Questions to Move us Forward

- What mechanisms and platforms are available for stakeholders in your country?

- Which part of the processes can stakeholders participate?

- What is the aim/justification of the specific stakeholder engagement activities for NDCs/VNRs?

- Who can participate? Are representatives appropriate for the aim? If not, what kind of approaches can be taken?

- How can contributions from stakeholders be presented to the NDCs / VNRs?

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Thank you!