

**HLPF official side event**

# **The roles and functions of multi-stakeholder platforms for SDGs in the follow-up and review (FUR)**

**Nobue Amanuma, Fellow,  
Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)  
UNHQ on July 17, 2024**

# Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

- **Policy research think tank** in Japan
- Aims to facilitate a **transition to a sustainable, resilient and inclusive Asia-Pacific region** through research
- Acts as an **Agent of Change**
- Areas of work: Climate, energy, biodiversity, water, SDGs, sustainable consumption and production
- Latest research topic include **synergy** between climate and SDGs



# Support for planning and Implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Vietnam (SPI-NDC)

**Targeted SDGs**  
3.9/7.3/8.3/9.4/11.3/13.2/17.9

## Summary

Following the adoption in 2015 of the Paris Agreement, a new international framework for combating climate change, the Vietnam and Environment (MONRE), submitted a draft national commitment "Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC)" (voluntary Nations in 2020. Under the coordination of MONRE, ministries and agencies need to develop and implement sector-level greenhouse gas (GHG) emission notifications, guidelines, and measure, report, and verify (MRV) GHG emission. Furthermore, in addition to efforts by each ministry, private companies that own facilities will be required to submit GHG emission reduction plans. The Vietnamese government and private sector do not have sufficient knowledge to implement such activities, and the development of GHG emissions are not yet systematic on the Vietnamese side, which involves many challenges. JICA's technical assistance participation in the implementation of the NDC. JICA's technical assistance will contribute to improving the capacity of the Vietnamese government in formulating

## Launch "Synergy Case Studies by JICA" in collaboration with IGES at HLPF2024!

Web link: <https://www.iges.or.jp/en/pub/jica-synergy-cases-jp/ja>

(Japanese version first, English version later)

JICA is therefore providing practical training and other activities to encourage private sector investment in decarbonization. JICA conducted a study to calculate and implement GHG emission reductions from the Hanoi BRT Line 1 by applying the methodology for modal shift (MRT) developed in the "Information Collection and Verification Study on Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) in the Urban Railway Sector in Vietnam (JICA, February 2021)," using actual operational data.

## 国際協力において気候変動対策とSDGsに相乗効果(シナジー)をもたらすJICAの取組事例

2024年7月

独立行政法人 国際協力機構(JICA)

三戸森宏治、難波江優香、森實順子、粕谷泰洋

公益財団法人 地球環境戦略研究機関(IGES)

藤野純一、小野田真二、Pavel Hejcik、天沼伸恵



**Reference :** Support for planning and implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in Vietnam (SPI-NDC)

<https://www.jica.go.jp/oda/project/1904109/index.html>

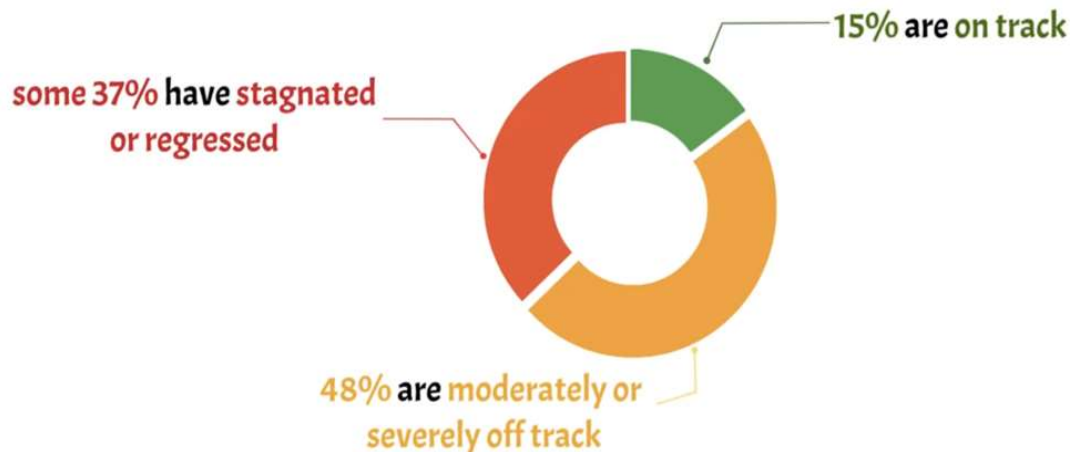
# Outline

- Setting the scene (background and framework)
- Multi-stakeholder SDG platform in Japan

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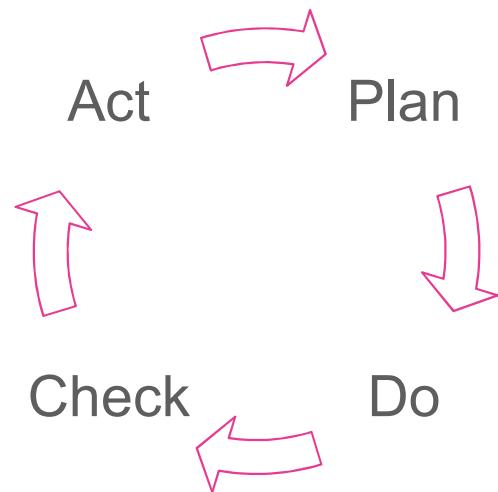
# SDGs are not on track. Stronger FUR is needed.



Source: UN 2023

- The Political Declaration of the SDG Summit states that the HLPF will help “to further strengthen the FUR of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.
- Achieving the SDGs requires robust FUR processes that boost accountability, empower different stakeholders, and connect disparate voices involved in SDG implementation.
- Revitalizing multi-stakeholder platforms is essential to ensuring that FUR leads to the transformations required to achieve the SDGs.
- This event will discuss **how multi-stakeholder platforms can be involved in the FUR process at national level in an effective and meaningful way.**

# FUR is part of the PDCA cycle



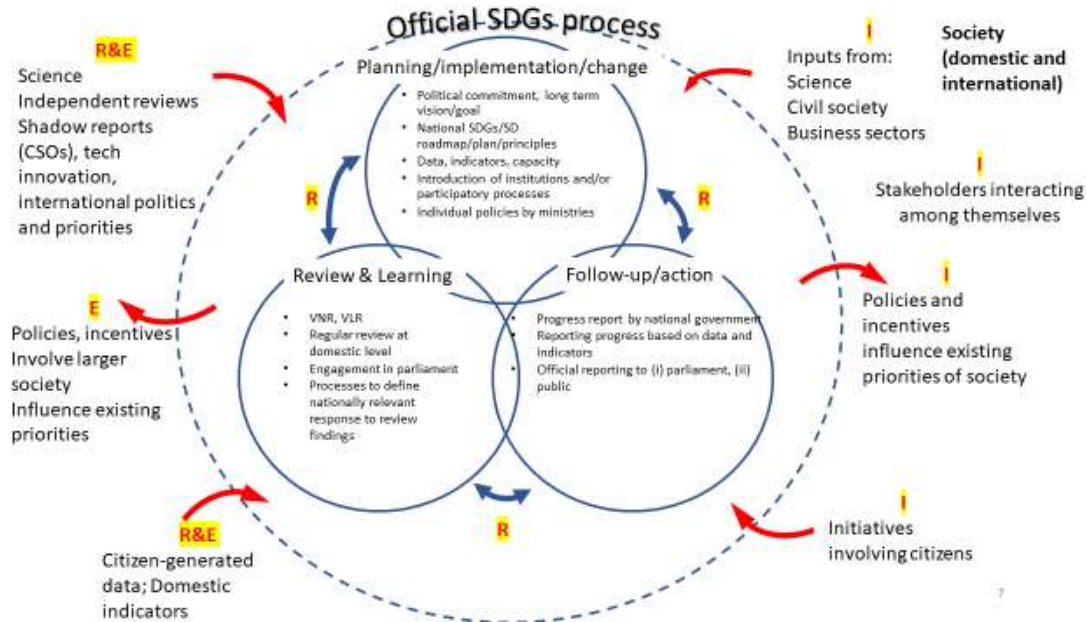
- SDGs follows a policy cycle approach based on PDCA (plan, do, check, act) :

Policy formulation (P) → policy implementation (D) → evaluation (C) → policy revision (A)

- PDCA approach supports efficiency and incremental improvement, and assumes *the existing system is already good*
- Lack of SDG progress → incremental approach is not enough
- Need for more ambition to realise SDGs transformative potential
- IGES is in the process of identifying the institutional design elements for FUR that leads to transformation

# PDCA + REI Elements for transformation

## From IGES' research



- **Responsiveness** - a dynamic SDG architecture (recognised by institutions and activities that show ability to respond to new knowledge through learnings, reviews, emerging issues and situations)
- **Embeddedness** - SDG architecture embedded in society (recognised by institutions and activities that show SDGs are part of the in-country reality influencing priorities and policies, and not just in a parallel bubble separate from country priorities)
- **Interactiveness** - SDG architecture brings in views and knowledge from multiple stakeholders and also empowers these stakeholders.



# Multi-stakeholder platforms for stronger FUR

- A multistakeholder platform is a key piece of the institutional architecture that can shift us from PDCA-based FUR to a more transformative FUR by
  - Helping to respond to new knowledge and emerging issues including through experimental approach
  - Enhancing communication between government and stakeholders and within stakeholders
  - Integrating SDGs or sustainability in other areas of work
  - Providing independent review and knowledge to FUR process
  - Making governments accountable
  - Making FUR robust and inclusive
  - Empowering stakeholders
- Questions include
  - Purpose of the platform
  - Financial support vs independence
  - Size of the platform vs depth of discussion
  - Representations of platform members
  - Selection criteria and who select the members

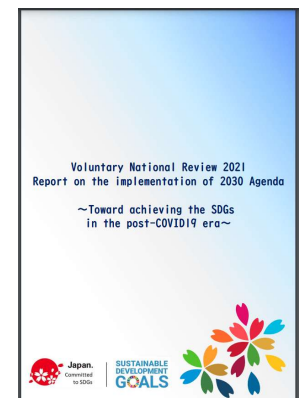
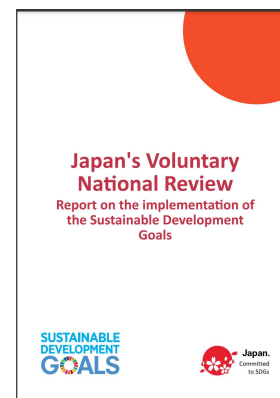
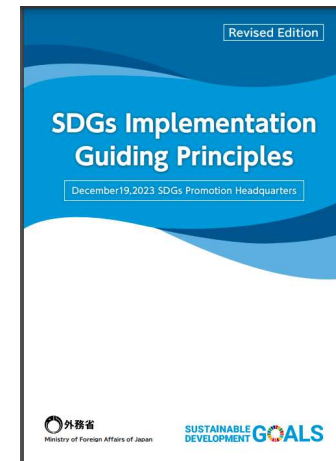
# Outline

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# SDG strategies and plans in Japan

## Key documents

- “SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles” includes context, priority areas, efforts for implementation, and expectations on various stakeholders. (Formulated in 2016, revised in 2019 and 2023)
- SDGs Action Plans (from 2018 to 2023) summarizes SDG policy measures by ministries
- VNR in 2017 and 2021. Next one in 2025.



# Multi-stakeholder Platform in Japan

## Roles and functions of SDGs Promotion Roundtable

Secretariat by the Cabinet Secretariat with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs etc.

### SDGs Promotion Headquarters

Chaired by Prime Minister

Comprised of all ministers

### SDGs Promotion Roundtable

Comprised of A) 28 reps from 21 relevant ministries/agencies and

B) non-governmental stakeholders (15):

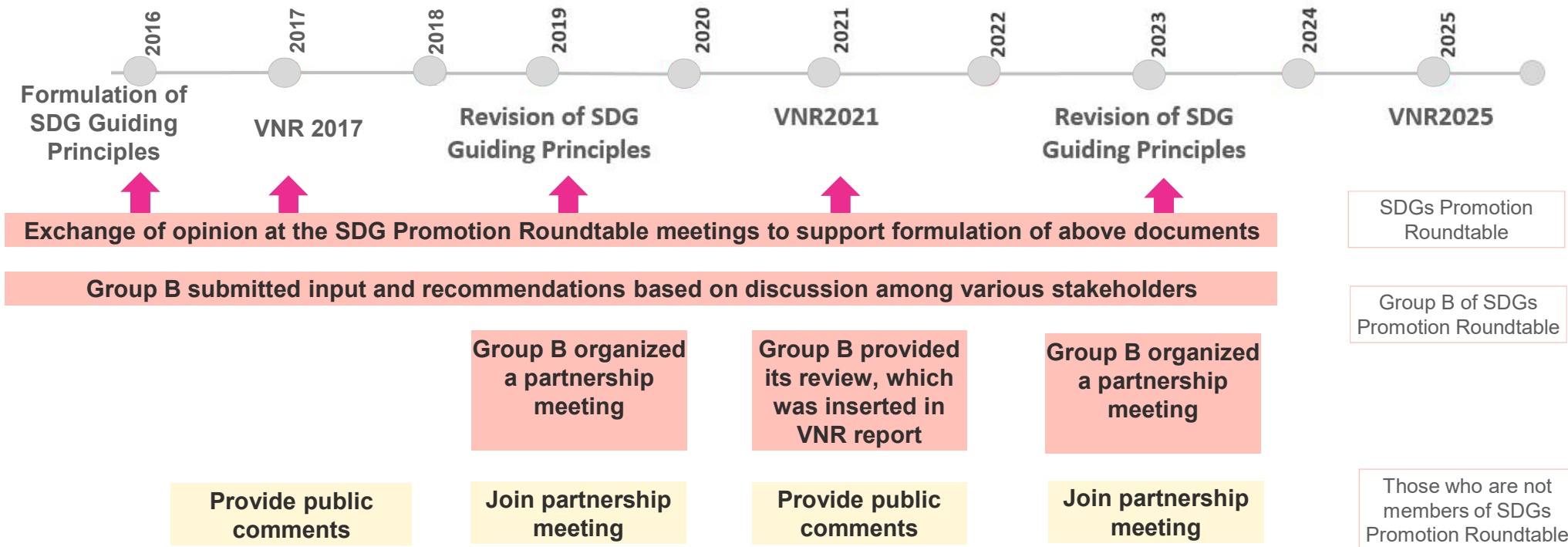
- NGOs/ NPOs
- Labor union
- Coop
- Consumer association
- Business sector
- Local government and entities
- Youth
- Academia
- UN organizations

- Established in 2016
- Aims to promote comprehensive and effective implementation of measures related to the SDGs through close coordination among relevant ministries.
- Meets twice a year to approve key documents and recipients of “SDG Awards” etc.

- Established in 2016 under the SDGs Promotion HQ
- Aims to promote Japan's efforts to achieve the SDGs in cooperation with a wide range of stakeholders through exchange of opinions
- Meets twice a year usually just before the SDG Promotion Headquarters meet
- 2 year term, renewable

# Multi-stakeholder Platform in Japan

## Its major contribution to SDG FUR process in Japan



# Multi-stakeholder Platform in Japan

## Impacts

- Influenced and contributed to the formulation of major SDG documents and structures (e.g. VNR and establishing working groups)
- Platform sought out new knowledge and reflected it in the SDG documents etc. (responsiveness)
- Involved a wider range of stakeholders in Japan in FUR process, integrating their views and knowledge in its recommendations, facilitating interaction among stakeholders to a certain degree (interactiveness)
- Roundtable members' understanding of other stakeholders views and capacity to work with them may have been enhanced (interactiveness)

# Multi-stakeholder Platform in Japan

## Challenges

- Not clear if the multi-stakeholder discussion facilitated sustainability to be integrated in other areas of policies and practices (embeddedness)
- Some of the recommendations by Group B of the SDG Promotion Roundtable were “not taken up” – room for more communication within the Roundtable (interactiveness)
- Engagement of the wider public depends on voluntary initiatives by Group B without continuous funding - difficult to foresee their activities and plans

# Questions to presenters

- The purposes, roles and functions of the multi-stakeholder platform.
- How the multi-stakeholder platform has contributed to the FUR including the VNR process.
- Experiences of making meaningful impacts on SDGs process or transformation toward sustainability through the platform activities

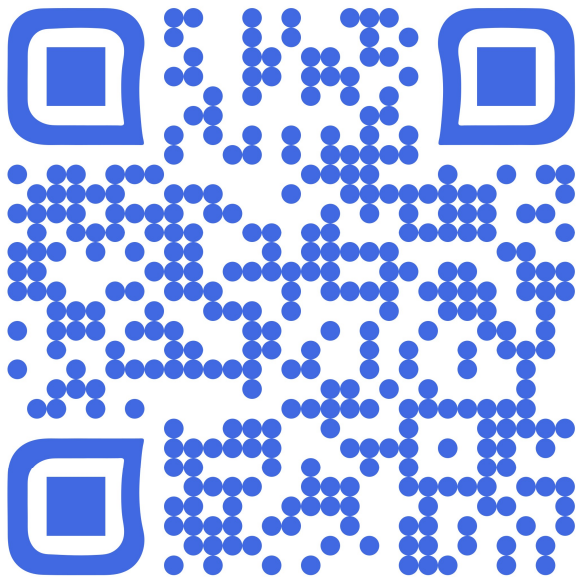


# State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2024 Report

Based on IGES' research at local level

State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2024:

STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
2030 AGENDA



- It focuses on 48 VLR reports published in 2023 by local and regional governments.
- It zooms in on six selected cases—namely, Agadir, Buenos Aires, Fatih, Rottenburg am Neckar, Tokyo and Vantaa—to better understand the inner mechanisms of locally implementing the SDGs.
- The report concludes that accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda requires that local and regional governments (LRGs) are empowered to continue their engagement with the SDGs.
- LRGs must be equipped with enhanced resources—including access to **finance**, **capacity building** and **human resources**.

# Discussion topics

- Are the multi-stakeholder platforms equipped to support effective FUR and transformation toward sustainability?
- What challenges have the platforms faced to be fully empowered to make FUR robust and support transformational changes?
- How can these challenges be overcome?