

SDGs in the Netherlands: national report & HLPF – 09 February 2017

Since the adoption of the SDGs in 2015 the Netherlands have worked on the implementation of the 17 integrated and universal Goals. This brief outlines progress on Dutch national SDG reporting and the 2017 UN Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

National reporting

- The Netherlands is in the process of integrating SDG implementation into the regular policy cycle through measuring, consulting and reporting on SDG progress.
- Hugo von Meijenfeldt is Coordinator National SDG implementation and heads an inter-ministerial SDG focal point group to formulate and stimulate government action. The group proposes SDG implementation strategies to the Council of Ministers. At the moment, Minister Ploumen for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation is the coordinating cabinet member.
- Two letters to Parliament (in Dutch) outline [policy initiatives](#) for every SDG (May 2016) and an [approach to SDG implementation](#) (September 2016). A periodically updated overview of Dutch policies contributing to the SDGs can be found [here](#).
- The Netherlands is working closely with stakeholders to promote SDG implementation in partnership. The [SDG charter](#) is a growing multi-stakeholder platform of over 80 Dutch companies, NGOs, knowledge institutes and philanthropists who have declared their wish to contribute to the SDGs in partnership.
- The Dutch National Statistical Office (CBS) published [a report](#) (also available in English) measuring the SDGs in the Netherlands. The report provides a initial picture of SDG progress in the Netherlands and is the first of an annual publication. CBS is currently working on improving data availability for SDG measuring, up from the currently available 37% of all SDG indicators.
- The CBS report constitutes the starting point for an initial consultation on setting Dutch SDG priorities. On 8 December 2016 the SDG Charter co-organized an event with over 400 participants to define [action areas](#) for themselves (summaries of the parallel sessions on specific themes as well as a compact overview of outcomes can be found [here](#)).
- In May 2017 an annual report on SDG implementation will be presented to Parliament through the regular budget and reporting cycle. All Dutch citizens are invited to contribute to the report through an [online consultation](#). Apart from the general part, stakeholders are writing their own part of the report through four representative organisations: Global Compact (representing private actors), Kaleidos (representing knowledge institutions), Partos (representing NGOs) and VNG, the Association of Dutch municipalities (representing local governments).

UN Voluntary National Review

- The Kingdom of the Netherlands will present a Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDG progress to the UN during the annual [High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development](#) (HLPF) in July 2017.
- The [four countries of the Kingdom](#) (Aruba, Curacao, the Netherlands and St Maarten) will individually report on national progress through their respective policy cycles and will jointly report to the HLPF. For the Netherlands, the progress report prepared in cooperation with stakeholders will provide the inputs for the HLPF.
- The HLPF is an annual UN Forum tasked with global SDG monitoring. Next to a global report on SDG progress UN Member states are invited to voluntarily show national progress through the [VNR](#), consisting of a written report as well as a presentation to UN Memberstates during the HLPF High-Level Segment (2017 dates: 17-19 July).

- The total of 40 VNR countries in 2017 (up from 22 in 2016) shows momentum for SDG implementation among UN Memberstates for SDGs. In 2016, VNR presenting countries mostly reported on SDGs considering their national priorities and approaches. They highlighted the need for active involvement of stakeholders, coherence and coordination between institutions and following up and monitoring the implementation of the SDGs.
- Each year the HLPF has an additional thematic focus on a number of SDGs. For 2017 these are:
 - o SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere
 - o SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
 - o SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
 - o SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
 - o SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
 - o SDG 14: Conserve and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

SDG Calender

Action	Date
Deadline online consultation SDG report	March 1st
SDG progress report sent to Parliament	May 1st
HLPF presentation	July 17th – 19th (exact date to be decided)