MOOC «Strengthening stakeholder engagement for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda»

UN DESA and UNITAR massive open online course
Learning Guide 2020
Course duration: 6 months
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Background

Further to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in September 2015, 4 rounds of reviews of its implementation took place at the global level in July 2016 – 2019 in the context of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and one under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (SDG Summit, held in 2019). Almost 150 countries have already presented their Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF. All UN Member States are expected to conduct regular and inclusive national reviews of progress on the SDGs and contribute to regional and global reviews. Such reviews should draw on national processes and include contributions from different stakeholders. This massive open online course (MOOC) is designed to support this process and is aimed at strengthening the capacities of Governments to engage in an effective and meaningful way with MGoS (Major Groups and other stakeholders) as they implement and review progress towards the achievement of the SDGs. It complements a range of other capacity development activities being rolled out, among other, by UN Secretariat to meet the needs of both governments and other stakeholders with regards to the 2030 Agenda and HLPF process.

Target audience

This e-learning course is designed for government officials in charge of coordination with MGoS as part of the mainstreaming and review of the SDGs as well as other stakeholders such as UN staff, local governments, civil society and others who expressed an interest in this topic. At the end of the course participants will be able to get a certificate provided that they have met the certification requirements described in the “Certification and feedback” section.

Learning objectives

Following the completion of the course, participants will be able to

1) To describe the rationale behind the need for Governments to engage with MGoS in formulating and reviewing SDG policies;
2) To map key national stakeholders with a special focus on those who are the furthest behind;
3) To assess the relevance of different models of engagement practiced by other countries as part of VNRs in their respective countries;
4) To identify practical ways to engage with key national stakeholders, incl. vulnerable groups, in the context of preparations for VNRs;
5) To develop long-term strategies for ensuring continuous stakeholder engagement as part of regular national review processes for the SDGs.

Structure

Module 1. Understanding the need for stakeholder engagement in the 2030 Agenda at the national level
Module 2. Learning about approaches and tools for strengthening stakeholder engagement for the SDGs
Module 3. Designing successful strategies for stakeholder engagement in national implementation and review processes for the 2030 Agenda
Learning methodology

This 15-week MOOC course consists of three modules developed around the overall learning objectives, as well as second-level learning objectives specific to each module. Each module has 3 units. Each module is developed as an interactive presentation complemented by a set of exercises (formative assessment). These formative exercises can be taken either prior or after the consultation of the content of the module to improve the understanding of the issues under discussion, and retain the acquired knowledge. Each module is followed by an objective multiple-choice assessment (summative assessment). Net study time for all modules is between 10-12 hours (2.0 hr. Module 1, 4.5 hr. Module 2 and 5.5 hr. Module 3) including all theory, activities, and assessments.

Module 1.

Module 1 deals with the important role assigned to participatory approaches and to stakeholder engagement in the 2030 Agenda as Governments move to the domestication of the Sustainable Development Goals, their implementation and set-up of mechanisms to review the progress achieved. It will aim to respond to a series of questions, such as why national Governments are expected to put in place meaningful stakeholder engagement processes to review progress on the 2030 Agenda; how this is relevant in the context of the preparations for participating in the Voluntary National Reviews, i.e., country presentations during the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held under the auspices of the ECOSOC; and how these different stakeholders are defined in the context of the 2030 Agenda and preceding intergovernmental processes pertaining to sustainable development.

As a result of taking this module, participants will improve their awareness about the follow-up and review framework defined in the 2030 Agenda and its main principles (Unit 1), will refresh their knowledge of the history and definition of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (Unit 2); and will enhance their capacities to analyze the importance of promoting multi-stakeholder engagement strategies to the national implementation and review of progress on the “localized” SDGs (Unit 3).

Learning objectives

1. Describe the main principles and different levels of the follow-up and review framework for the 2030 Agenda
2. Define Major Groups and other Stakeholders and their role in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda at global, regional and national level
3. Analyse the rationale behind the need for Governments to engage other Stakeholders in the national implementation and review processes for the 2030 Agenda

Structure

Unit 1. Main principles and levels of the follow-up and review framework for the 2030 Agenda

Unit 2. Major Groups and Other Stakeholders

Unit 3. Rationale to engage MGos in the national implementation and review processes for the 2030 Agenda

Module 2.

The previous module explains that national reviews of progress should draw on contributions from a range of national stakeholders and provide a foundation for regional and global-level reviews, including
in the context of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) delivered by UN Member States at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) up to 2 times until 2030. But how exactly can these contributions be channelled to inform national reviews? Should relevant engagement strategies be designed as a discrete exercise aimed essentially at preparing a presentation for the HLPF and be limited to consultations? Or should they be linked to long-term national review mechanisms?

As a result of this module, participants will gain a better understanding of different levels of engagement that can be envisaged by Governments (Unit 1), enhance their knowledge of best practices for strengthening the participation of key stakeholders and possible components of national review processes for the 2030 Agenda (Unit 2), and learn about key approaches and tools to effectively engage stakeholders in the review and implementation processes up to 2030 (Unit 3). The description of possible engagement approaches will be complemented by an illustration of good practices, including from the “early starters” having participated in the 2017 and 2016 VNRs.

After completing the 3 Units, participants will have an overview of various elements that might be useful for meaningfully engaging stakeholders in the VNR process. Towards the end of the module, participants will have an opportunity to reflect on those elements and the relevance of different practices in their specific country contexts, as part of defining the levels of engagement, tools and approaches to use in their VNR processes.

Learning objectives

1. Describe four levels of engagement and best practices for meaningful engagement processes in the context of national SDG reviews

2. Define main approaches and provide examples of tools used by Governments to promote participation and contribution of key national stakeholders to the implementation and review processes for the 2030 Agenda

3. Assess the relevance of different approaches and tools and identify relevant existing multi-stakeholder bodies for the country’s VNR stakeholder engagement processes

Structure

Unit 1. Levels of engagement for strengthening participation for the SDGs

Unit 2. Best practices for strengthening participation in national reviews of progress on the SDGs

Unit 3. Approaches, methods and tools for strengthening stakeholder engagement for the SDGs

Module 3.

The success of Agenda 2030 depends to a large extent on the meaningful engagement of stakeholders in national level implementation and review processes. But what does this imply in practice? Additionally, who are these stakeholders, what are the challenges they are facing and most importantly how do we reach the furthest behind? After completing Module 3, participants will have improved their knowledge and skills needed to expand their countries’ outreach efforts to various stakeholders, ensuring that no one is left behind. They will learn techniques for mapping key stakeholders, with a special emphasis on vulnerable groups, in Unit 1, acquire skills to identify challenges and solutions for their engagement in Unit 2 and be introduced to a step-by-step methodology to develop VNR stakeholder engagement strategies in Unit 3.
Learning objectives

1. Map key national stakeholders, in particular those groups that are the furthest behind, as well as their needs and contributions, in the context of national implementation and review processes for Agenda 2030

2. Identify common challenges in engaging MGoS and specifically vulnerable groups and identify potential solutions to these challenges.

3. Develop long-term strategies for ensuring continuous stakeholder engagement in national implementation and review processes for Agenda 2030

Structure

Unit 1. Mapping national stakeholders

Unit 2: Common challenges and solutions for national stakeholder engagement

Unit 3. Design a VNR Stakeholder Engagement Strategy

Certification and feedback

Each of the three modules is followed by an objective multiple-choice assessment or a quiz. Three attempts are allowed per quiz. The attempt with the highest score is retained as the grade for the module. Each attempt proposes 10 questions drawn at random from the respective question bank. For each question, the correct responses add up to 1 point. Each incorrect response is penalized individually by -0.1 point. Participants would need to obtain a minimum of 7 points out of 10 points for each module quiz in order to complete the assessment requirements.

Those participants who complete the requirements for the 3 online modules are entitled to a certificate of completion. Participants will be requested to provide feedback on the course by filling in a feedback form which can be accessed through the link in the ‘Course Evaluation’ section on the course home page.

Technical requirements

Browser:
- The course works best with Firefox 3.6 or higher (download for free at http://www.mozilla-europe.org/en/firefox)
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome (download for free at https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/browser/)
- It is not recommended to use Internet Explorer for technical reasons
- Note JavaScript & Cookies must be enabled

Software:
- Adobe Flash Player (download for free at http://get.adobe.com/flashplayer)
- Microsoft Office (Windows or Apple version) or Open Office (download for free at http://www.openoffice.org)

Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X
Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
Modem: 56 K