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FROM AGREEMENT TO ACTION TOWARDS IMPLEMENTING THE 2030 AGENDA: LEARNING FROM THE FIRST VOLUNTEER NATIONAL REVIEWS - BACKGROUND DOCUMENT

Table of Contents

Paragraphs

FOREWORD

I.	CHINA	1 – 14
A.	Importance attached by China to Sustainable Agricultural Development	1
B.	Main Practices and Experiences.....	2 – 6
C.	Policy and Enabling Environment.....	7
D.	Practical Measures	8 – 10
E.	Next Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan.....	11 – 14
II.	ECUADOR	15 – 30
A.	Introduction.....	15 – 19
B.	Methodology	20 – 22
C.	Political Environment.....	23 – 28

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D. Implementation Measures	29
E. Next Steps.....	30
III. EGYPT	31 – 65
A. Introduction.....	31 – 32
B. Methodology	33
C. Policies and Enabling Environment	34 – 56
<i>Strengthening Broad-based ownership of the food security and nutrition related SDGs</i>	<i>34 – 36</i>
<i>Inclusive Institutional mechanisms.....</i>	<i>37 – 42</i>
<i>Incorporating the SDGs in national food security and nutrition frameworks</i>	<i>43 – 48</i>
<i>Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in national food security and nutrition policy</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Goals and targets</i>	<i>50 – 51</i>
<i>"Ensuring that no one is left behind".....</i>	<i>52 – 56</i>
D. Means Of Implementation.....	57 – 62
<i>Difficulties faced.....</i>	<i>60 – 62</i>
E. Next steps	63 – 65
IV. FINLAND	66 – 77
A. Introduction.....	66 – 67
B. Methodology	68 – 69
C. Policy and Enabling Environment.....	70
<i>Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in national food security and nutrition policy</i>	<i>71</i>
D. Ensuring that no one is left behind.....	72
E. Means of Implementation.....	73
F. Next steps.....	74 – 76
V. FRANCE	77 – 94
A. The main issues for France for Achievement of SDG2:	80 – 88
<i>Ensuring access for all to safe, nutritious and sufficient food linked to local regions and without waste –</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Reorientation of agricultural production with a view to threefold economic, environmental and social high performance.....</i>	<i>81 – 82</i>
<i>In response to these issues, France has launched the agroecology:</i>	<i>83 – 85</i>
<i>Contributing to the fight against climate change and preserving natural resources, soils in particular..</i>	<i>86 – 88</i>

B. Priority cooperation actions of France abroad.....	89 – 94
VI. MEXICO	95 – 103
VII. NORWAY	104 – 118
A. The 2030 Agenda: A roadmap for national action and global partnership	104 – 106
B. Challenges at the national level.....	107 – 108
C. National participation and ownership.....	119 – 112
D. A commitment to international solidarity to eradicate poverty and protect planetary boundaries	113 – 117
E. Integrating SDG 16, connecting peace and poverty	118
VIII. SWITZERLAND.....	119 – 138
A. Introduction.....	129 – 120
B. Methodology	121
C. Policy and Enabling Environment.....	122 – 134
<i>Incorporation of the SDGs in the national framework.....</i>	<i>123 – 130</i>
<i>International cooperation.....</i>	<i>131 – 134</i>
D. Means of implementation.....	135 – 137
E. Next steps	138 – 139

FOREWORD

Each of the 193 countries which have committed to eradicating all forms of poverty and hunger by 2030 through the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development now face the challenge of putting this unique agreement into action. Success in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at home, and in particular, the targets related to food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture in SDG2 and other related goals, will depend on the capacity of countries to (re)formulate and implement national, context specific policies which reflect all three dimensions of sustainable development, economic, social and environmental, as well as the indivisible goals and targets of the integrated 2030 Agenda. It will depend on success in fostering collective efforts, from national multistakeholders to regional or global organizations, and on collective ownership of the outcomes.

In July 2016, 22 countries volunteered to participate in the first exercise of national voluntary reporting on progress on SDGs, taking place in the High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (HLPF) in New York. Seven of these countries (China, Egypt, Finland, France, Mexico, Norway and Switzerland), joined by an additional volunteer country (Ecuador), responded to CFS' invitation to share their experience with other members and stakeholders of the Committee on their efforts to integrate their food security and nutrition strategies across national policies, and to reach

out to broaden participation and awareness around the 2030 Agenda among all stakeholders, in the spirit of the 2030 Agenda.

The contributions received from these countries are compiled herein and provide background to the discussion taking place at a CFS 43 Special Event “From Agreement to Action Towards Implementing the 2030 Agenda: Learning from the First Volunteer National Reviews”. This first dialogue at CFS on learning from country experience in addressing the 2030 Agenda reflects the commitment of CFS Members and Participants to putting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the achievement of the SDGs within its mandate, at the centre of its work until 2030.

I. CHINA

A. Importance attached by China to sustainable agricultural development

1. China is the most populous of the developing countries, and finding a sustainable way to feed over 1.3 billion people has always been a top priority of its Government. The Chinese Government has always attached great importance to sustainable development in agriculture, has launched a number of policies designed to strengthen agriculture, benefit farmers, and enrich rural areas, and is promoting the sustained development of agricultural production. Since 2004, China has achieved substantial and sustained increases in its grain output, which has been in excess of 1.2 trillion jin (equivalent to 0.7 trillion kg) for three consecutive years. Using less than 10 per cent of the world's arable land, China produces one fourth of the world's food and feeds one fifth of the world's population. In this way, not only has it ensured a supply of food for its own population of 1.3 billion people, but it has also laid a solid foundation for attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

B. Main Practices and Experiences

2. Taking the example of the development by China of food production, the following are the country's main experiences in this regard.

3. The first is the focus placed on policy guidance. Following its accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO), China first set in place, in accordance with WTO rules, a composite agricultural support framework combining production subsidies and pricing policies, which has played an important role in stabilizing markets and encouraging farmers to grow more grain.

4. The second is the focus placed on infrastructure development. China attaches great importance to the development of agricultural infrastructure, continuous efforts to increase financial investment and the improvement of agricultural production conditions. As a result, a number of major water conservation projects and high-quality farmlands capable of ensuring crop yields regardless of drought or flooding have been developed, and the quality of arable land has improved. At present, the effective irrigation area has reached 986 million mu [65.73 million hectares], accounting for 54.7 per cent of the country's total arable land, with a coefficient of efficient use of irrigation water of 0.52.

5. The third is the focus on science, technology and innovation. Importance is attached to food prosperity through science and technology, continued increases in investment in agricultural science and technology, and selective breeding and promotion of high quality varieties that have high yields and are more resistant. Green, high-yield and high-tech production modes are promoted in an integrated manner, and green, high-yield and efficient production of grain, cotton, oil and sugar is developed on a large scale, demonstrating and driving extensive and balanced increases in production. Currently, the contribution of progress in agricultural science and technology is in excess of 56 per cent, while the level of mechanization in the production of major crops has risen to 63 per cent.

6. The fourth is the focus on disaster prevention and mitigation. China has a vast land area, a rich variety of natural resources, and diverse forms of production. With global climate change, it is likely

that the frequency of natural disasters will increase. China is taking advantage of its institutional strengths; at this crucial moment in agricultural disaster resilience and relief, it is mobilizing extensive human, material and financial resources in order to provide for active circumvention and effective disaster prevention and relief, minimizing the damage caused by disasters.

C. Policy and Enabling Environment

7. Over the period of the twelfth five-year plan, China has achieved remarkable results in food production. It has provided strong support for sustaining the steady and rapid growth of the national economy, tackling a range of risks and challenges, and safeguarding the overall stability of the reform and development process, and has also made significant contributions to global food security. Since the eighteenth session of the National Congress of the Communist Party of China, the central Government has promoted a food security strategy adapted to new prevailing conditions and based on nationally oriented approaches to domestic demand, safeguarding production capacity, moderating imports, and invoking science and technology for support. It has also placed emphasis on the need to adhere to the fundamental principle of the strategy, which is to ensure the country's basic self-sufficiency in cereal grains and its absolute food security.

D. Practical Measures

8. First, efforts have been made to increase the area of high quality farmland and raise the quality of arable land. Work has been carried out to designate permanent basic croplands and build supporting facilities for them, so as to establish permanent and high-quality farmlands which are fully functional and consistent before, during and after production, and which strike a balance between production, ecology and livelihood. A focus has been placed on soil improvement, enhancing soil fertility, ensuring nutrient balance, and restoring soil quality. Guidance is provided according to classification, zoning is being promoted and the quality of farmland is being upgraded. Pilot tests are being carried out in the conservation and use of black earth soils in the north-east of the country, and integrated use is being made of composite agronomic measures to curb the degradation of black earth soils, and gradually restore and upgrade their organic matter content.

9. Second, work is under way to transform and upgrade livestock production methods. Large-scale breeding facilities are being organized and implemented, and financing is provided to support projects in innovative agricultural methods and subsidize improved varieties of livestock, thereby increasing livestock production capacity. Efforts continue to promote standardized large-scale livestock and poultry farming, to provide examples of standardized livestock and poultry, and to strengthen the supervision of model farms so that they might lead the way forward. Work is being carried out to establish model counties demonstrating green methods of raising livestock, and green development concepts are used to bring about improvements in quality and efficiency in livestock breeding. Thus a modern and environmentally friendly mode of development in livestock farming is established in which output is boosted, product safety is ensured and resources are conserved.

10. Third, continuous efforts are being made to strengthen the supporting role of agricultural science and technology. Breakthroughs have been made in basic research in such areas as genetics and breeding, and stress-tolerance mechanisms. Comprehensive upgrades have been made in research in the applications of technology to areas such as water-saving irrigation, development of pesticides and fertilizers, and circular agriculture, leading to a number of groundbreaking and excellent seed varieties which have significant potential for application and are covered by proprietary intellectual property rights. With a view to further advancing green, high-yield and cost-effective farming, a number of green and sustainable technical models have been developed which are regional, standardized and high-yield and which are adapted to different cultivation systems. In this way, improvements have been made to the efficiency and quality of food production.

E. Next Sustainable Agricultural Development Plan

11. Over the period of the thirteenth five-year plan and for the coming 15 years, China will vigorously implement its food production strategy based on farmland management and the application of technology, and will strengthen its agricultural infrastructure, accelerate progress in agricultural science and technology, improve supporting policies, and continue to build the country's overall capacity for grain production, with a view to ensuring national food security. At the same time, every effort will be made to guarantee the market supply of meat, egg and milk products to meet growing consumer demand. In particular, this will entail the following:

12. First, concerted efforts will be made to implement the farmland management strategy. This will involve developing farmland of a high standard that is capable of providing stable crops regardless of droughts or floods. China is integrating investment, optimizing layout, raising standards, building capacity, promoting innovation, and prioritizing investment in regions with potential for cereal production. It is designating permanent basic croplands and building supporting facilities for them, so as to establish permanent and high-quality farmlands which are fully functional and consistent before, during and after production, and which strike a balance between production, ecology and livelihood. Such efforts are providing a boost to the country's grain production capacity. A pilot system of rotation is being implemented to allow arable land to lie fallow, and focus is being placed on the rotation between grains and beans, grains and fodder crops, grains and other crops, in the Liandaowan area. Seasonal and annual fallowing systems are being piloted in selected areas with groundwater funnels, areas which have been contaminated with heavy metals and areas which are severely environmentally degraded. China is striving to develop, by 2020, 800 million mu [53.33 million hectares] of high-quality drought- and flood-resistant farmland, improve farmland production capabilities by a level of 0.5 nationwide, increase the organic content of soils by 0.5 percentage points, and ensure effective control of cropland acidification, salinization and pollution by heavy metals.

13. Second, a food crop production strategy based on applications of technology will be vigorously implemented. This will involve strengthening basic research in agriculture and pursuing continuous innovation in the areas of seeds, water conservation and the reduced use of fertilizers and pesticides. Efforts will be made to upgrade agricultural mechanization, optimize configurations of farm machinery and equipment, introduce a comprehensive model for mechanized production, foster organizations working for the diversification of agricultural machinery and the social adaptation of services, raise the proportion of fully mechanized food production and, over the period to 2020, strive to increase comprehensive mechanization in crop production to more than 68 per cent. Research on patterns underlying major agricultural and natural disasters will be enhanced; efforts will be made to raise the level of prediction and forecasting technologies; expanded research and demonstrations will be carried out in key techniques for the prevention of disasters and the mitigation of their impact on agriculture. Technological models for comprehensive disaster prevention and mitigation will be devised for different regions and measures taken to build disaster prevention and mitigation capacity in those regions.

14. Third, development quality in the area of livestock breeding of livestock will be improved. The stability of pig production will be maintained and the country's self-sufficiency in pork will be assured. Efforts will be made to speed up the development of herbivorous livestock, expand high-quality cattle and sheep production, and to promote circular modes of planting, breeding, farming and livestock-raising. Steps will be taken to ensure the improved development of the dairy industry, promote the improved breeding of dairy cows, strengthen the foundations of dairy production, develop high-yield quality control procedures, and enhance the overall quality of the China's dairy products.

II. ECUADOR

A. Introduction

15. Ecuador's approach to food sovereignty (which goes a step beyond food security) advocates the creation of a favourable legislative and regulatory environment to fulfil all the targets of goal 2 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Food sovereignty¹ defends the right of peoples to define their own food policies to guarantee that the population can feed itself sufficiently on food of adequate quality. Food sovereignty places food producers and consumers as the central elements in the production-consumption chain. This method of producing and consuming food is important for the work undertaken by the Ministry of Health, which is responsible for food and nutrition policies in Ecuador.

16. Ecuador's Constitution (2008) articulates food sovereignty, directly linked to the right to food, which is established in article 13 of the Charter. In 2009 the Organic Law on Food Sovereignty (LORSA)² came into force in order to fulfil this mandate. This legislation guarantees State participation in the food production and quality chain, boosting production and in turn promoting micro, small and medium production. Within this framework, the National System for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty (SISAN) was created, which is made up of government bodies and headed by the Plurinational and Intercultural Conference on Food Sovereignty (COPISA).

17. The role and responsibilities of SISAN include: a) drafting legislation, formulating and implementing public policies on food sovereignty, b) coordinating between civil society and different levels of government in affairs relating to food sovereignty, and c) promoting fulfilment of LORSA.

18. The government-backed National Plan for Good Living aims to reduce malnutrition that has been classified in objective number three: to improve people's quality of life, goal 3.3: to eradicate chronic undernutrition in children under age two; goal 3.4: to reverse the trend of obesity and overweight children in ages 5 to 11 down to 26.0 percent; goal 3.6: to increase to 64 percent the prevalence of exclusive breastfeeding in the first six months of life. This framework approach to food sovereignty is in accordance with what is stated in the constitution, legislation and related regulations, which create a favourable environment for putting in place a sustainable national process, provided that all stakeholders work towards common goals and objectives.

19. Over the last few years, there has been an ever greater need to link all matters relating to food with its effects on nutritional health, making the Ministry of Health's involvement in SISAN more unique. It is not just a question of the production-consumption chain, but also the effects of post-consumption. One of the Ministry of Health's objectives in adherence to the National Plan for Good Living 2013-2017 is to reverse the trend of overweight and obesity in children between four and 11 years of age. The figures demonstrate that six out of ten people in Ecuador aged between 19 and 60 years of age are overweight and obese, and 13.1 percent of households have a nutritional double burden³. In this case, the emphasis on food sovereignty, in terms of ensuring production and consumption of nutritional and healthy food, is inseparable from the public policies that attempt to control the production, sale and consumption of products with low nutritional values⁴. On the other hand, protection, promotion and support of breastfeeding, which consists of the most sovereign foods

¹ Within the framework of the strategic plan of the National System for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty-SISAN, Food Sovereignty is considered to be "*the right of peoples and the State to define their own agricultural and nutritional system to guarantee the Ecuadorian people healthy and culturally relevant food produced locally for a dignified and healthy life*".

² Amended on 27 December 2010

³ There are people living together in the same household that are overweight and/or obese and suffering from malnutrition. These conditions can sometimes occur in the same person.

⁴ The following serve as examples of these types of policy: the regulations on school canteens (<http://www.controlsanitario.gob.ec/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2014/10/A-514-REGLAMENTO-BARES-ESCOLARES.pdf>), the regulations on the labelling of processed foods (<http://copal.org.ar/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/ago-25-2014-sup.-2-ecuador.pdf>), and taxes on sugary drinks (<http://www.asambleanacional.gob.ec/sites/default/files/private/asambleanacional/filesasambleanacionalnameuid-29/Leyes%202013-2017/214%20ley-equilibrio-finanzas-31-03-2016/RO-Ley-Equilibrio-Finanzas-Publicas.pdf>).

of all and which produces the greatest benefits for the start of life, is another of the Plan's goals which, in the context of food security and sovereignty, is not really taken into account at an international level.

B. Methodology

20. In order to progress on food sovereignty and consolidate social participation, LORSA has set up the Plurinational and Intercultural Conference on Food Sovereignty (COPISA), an organization of "citizen power" responsible for coordinating community engagement between civil society institutions and organizations with legislative and executive powers. In addition it also includes the National System for Food and Nutrition Sovereignty (SISAN), which is made up of representatives from: the Ministry of Health (MSP), the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Aquaculture and Fisheries, the Ministry for the Environment, the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion, the National Secretariat for Planning and Development, decentralized provincial and autonomous governments, municipal and parish councils, special regimes, and members from the Plurinational and Intercultural Conference on Food Sovereignty (COPISA)⁵.

21. Technical support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) along with the Government of Brazil within the framework of South-South Cooperation helped in the drive to set up COPISA and SISAN. FAO has also helped to implement the concept of food sovereignty not only on national agendas but also on the agendas of other Andean regions.

22. SISAN initiatives do not only have national impact in terms of public policy discussions and proposals, but they also aim to work using practical experiences. The fact that it is headed by civil society representatives gives people a powerbase and a voice to small producers, consumers and other individuals who are involved in the food chain.

C. Political Environment

23. The approach to food sovereignty contained in the Constitution and LORSA helps to create an appropriate environment for drafting derivative regulatory instruments that take into account:

- i) access to food production factors, which are essentially access to water and land;
- ii) protection of agrobiodiversity that includes the protection, conservation, exchange and use of seeds;
- iii) research, technical assistance and a knowledge dialogue involving research on food sovereignty and food systems to aid policy decision-making;
- iv) agri-food production and marketing;
- v) promoting micro, small and medium production, especially agro-ecological and organic production, as well as rural and associative agro-industrial production;
- vi) access to capital and incentives such as insurances and subsidies to small and medium-sized producers;
- vii) domestic agri-food marketing and supply incentives;
- viii) food health and safety, including the regulation of biotechnology and its products;
- ix) consumption and nutrition, including incentivising people to consume food with a high nutritional value, food in emergencies and promoting national consumption;
- x) social participation, reflected in the set-up of SISAN and COPISA, including their roles and responsibilities.

⁵ Made up of nine representatives from civil society, selected and designated by the Social and Community Engagement Council (CPCCS), via a merit-based public contest. Those selected must be involved in activities relating to Food Sovereignty, Health and Nutrition. For more information, please go to: <http://www.soberaniaalimentaria.gob.ec/>

24. Each member of SISAN is committed to fulfilling what is stated in LORSA. Each institution and local government (parish, canton and province) is responsible for drafting a short-term and long-term operational plan that in the first instance fulfills national objectives such as those in the National Plan for Good Living, which are generally framed in international agreements such as the Declaration of the Decade of Action on Nutrition from 2016 to 2025 and the Rome Framework for Action of 2014, leading to fulfilment of the SDG.

25. Social environmental and economic approaches of sustainable development are covered in principle by food sovereignty as indicated in subheading para 11 a).

26. Of the proposed goals in SDG 2, the second (2.2), on ending all forms of malnutrition, represents the greatest challenge for the Ministry of Health;

- End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving by 2025 the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under five years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women, and older persons. The figure for chronic undernutrition in Ecuador is 23.9 percent⁶. Greater support is needed to operationalize international recommendations (including those from the CFS). The Ministry of Health's work on achieving this goal is a priority. Nevertheless, in order to achieve this, it is necessary to consider that malnutrition is multicausal, which is why a more holistic approach that does not only encompass health is necessary

27. The food sovereignty approach aims to positively affect all inhabitants of the country, especially the most vulnerable producers and consumers;

28. Given that the proposal is legal in nature and fulfills sustainable development criteria, the derivative policies must also respond to the same principle.

D. Implementation Measures

29. Among the many challenges, it is necessary to understand that the approach to food sovereignty is part of a process. Even though progress may appear to be slow, the first step is to create the appropriate environment for change. Some of the challenges, including those of human resources and funding, are related to interinstitutional linkages and local governments. Just as in other countries, there is a constant need for negotiations with the food industry, where over the last few years the need to prioritize principles on food sovereignty over private interests has become more apparent.

E. Next Steps

30. The Ministry of Health is planning a series of activities to be developed within the framework of the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025), endorsing the Rome Declaration. The plan aims to build interinstitutional linkages, which should take effect in the following months of 2016.

III. EGYPT

A. Introduction

31. Egypt has effectively participated in all phases of formulating the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Following its adoption, Egypt has turned its efforts towards its own sustainable development strategy (SDS): Egypt's vision 2030, spanning the three dimensions of

⁶ According to a survey on living conditions (ECV 2014) carried out by the National Statistics and Census Centre (INEC)

sustainable development, and outlining the broader principles that will guide Egypt in pursuing its development goals.

32. The government of Egypt acknowledges that promoting food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture growth are main pillars for achieving the 2030 Agenda. The agriculture sector contributes immensely to the Egyptian economy, providing livelihoods for 55 percent of the population and directly employing about 30 percent of the labor force and making up 14 percent of GDP. Egypt's full commitment to achieving SDG2 follow its efforts to successfully achieve the MDG on undernourishment.

B. Methodology

33. Egypt was actively engaged in the negotiation process that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, while at the same time, serious efforts were taking place at the national level in the preparation of the sustainable development strategy (SDS): Egypt's vision 2030, as such efforts started in the first half of 2014 and lasted for 2 years, during which about 150 specialized workshops and open meetings were organized to discuss the strategy with representatives of the private sector, civil society and international organization. A large number of experts, academics, and stakeholders participated in this process. All economic activity sectors showed a clear interest in participation, they also confirmed their interest in the inclusion of independent pillars of their own in the strategy, but the chosen sectors represent the priority of the country's current phase.

C. Policies and Enabling Environment

Strengthening Broad-based ownership of the food security and nutrition related SDGs

34. Egypt has adopted an ambitious approach characterized by a firm commitment and dynamic innovation towards achieving the full aspects of "Egypt's Vision 2030" launched in early 2016, in alignment with the 2030 agenda in terms of both content and implementation period.

35. The implementation process was reflected in the Government program for the period 2016-2018. In addition, the Government developed the sustainable development plan for the FY 2016/2017, which also represents the execution plan for the first year of SDS implementation. The strategy and the midterm program were presented and ratified by the parliament.

36. The Egyptian strategy includes the three main dimensions of sustainable development and has outlined a number of objectives, indicators, targets and programs that works with respect to the SDG2. The overarching aim of the strategy is for Egypt to possess a competitive, balanced and diversified economy, dependent on innovation and knowledge, based on justice, social integrity and participation, in a balanced and diversified ecological collaboration system, investing the ingenuity of place and human capital to achieve sustainable development and to improve Egyptians' quality of life, in a state-driven process, with the full participation of all relevant stakeholders

Inclusive Institutional mechanisms

37. The Egyptian Constitution covers the three dimensions of sustainable development. The constitution places a strong emphasis on the role of agriculture, by stating that agriculture is a basic component of the economy; and that the state works to provide appropriate pensions to small farmers, agricultural workers, hunters and informal labor in accordance with the law. The constitution states that the state commits to:

- Protecting and increasing land under cultivation.
- Providing the requirements of agricultural and animal production and buying basic agricultural crops at appropriate prices.

- The state also commits to the allocation of a percentage of reclaimed lands to small farmers and youth graduates.
- Protecting fisheries, protecting and supporting fishermen, and empowering them

38. A national inter-ministerial committee was established to follow up on the implementation of the SDGs, and ensure proper alignment of the SDGs with national strategies and priorities. Monitoring and evaluation units have been established in line ministries to support the monitoring of relevant programs and policies. A Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) was established to lead the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the SDGs and Egypt Vision 2030. Furthermore, Egypt has coordinated closely with UN agencies providing technical assistance in establishing the necessary mechanisms and sharing relevant tools to support the SDGs at the national level.

39. At the sectoral level; to localize the SDGs, a number of projects, programs, and initiatives working toward achieving the SDGs have been launched which cover the whole spectrum of the ten pillars of the SDS and the 17 SDGs. A key priority of these efforts is to ensure that those who are most in need, especially youth; women, individuals with special needs; and individuals in underserved areas are effectively targeted and their standards of living improved.

40. At the regional level, Egypt hosted the African Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on 17-19 May 2016, which was held under the theme of "Ensuring inclusive and integrated implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Agenda 2063."

41. Moreover, the second session of the Forum was convened in the context of the adoption of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). The Agenda includes concrete commitments that are directly relevant to the financing of not only the 2030 Agenda but also Agenda 2063. Most recently, Egypt has also organized High Level Meeting for National Reviews for the six voluntary countries presenting their national review at the 2016 High Level Political in Cairo in May 2016.

42. At the international level, Egypt volunteered to undertake the first national review of the 2016 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and participated in the "Global commodities forum" held in Nairobi on 15-16 July 2016.

Incorporating the SDGs in national food security and nutrition frameworks

43. Egypt has embarked on planning and implementing major national projects that serve the objectives of the inclusive and sustainable development. Egypt acknowledges that agriculture and rural developments are main contributors to food security, nutrition and poverty alleviation; as such developing the Agriculture sector is one of its main priorities.

44. In this vein, Egypt is keen to increase the agriculture productivity in a sustainable manner through reclaiming around 4 million acres by 2030, which in turn will support the economic diversification and serve the objectives of food security. This project will also create an integrated society in the new land, to support the overall SDS objective of increasing the urbanized area by 5 percent of its total area by 2030 at a rate of one percent every three years.

45. The SDS includes an integrated agro-industrial approach for specific crops, vegetables and fruits, and the facilities required for packaging and processing of products.

46. The Government of Egypt has addressed the challenge of food losses and waste. Egypt is planning to build a network to collect and store agriculture crops in strategic locations throughout the country, in order to strengthen farmers' access to markets and reduce losses resulting from transportation and storage; in addition, Egypt is looking forward to raise the available storage capacity and reduce the rate of loss of stores wheat and grain by connecting the garners with electronic

operating systems with a high level of precision that ensures safety and monitoring of the garners and wheat.

47. In this regard, the government of Egypt has adopted various guidelines that will help in achieving the strategic goals; such as:

- Increasing self-reliance to provide the strategic food commodities;
- Improving the sustainable patterns of consumption to improve nutrition levels and increase per capita food commodities of higher nutritional value;
- Reducing food loss rates, linking farms to market and applying electronic bread support system.
- Establishing independent food safety authority;
- Developing social security networks;
- Developing animal production sector by giving attention to animal health care.
- Developing the agriculture legislations to allow the reclamation and sustainable utilization of new agricultural lands.

48. Furthermore, Egypt has also carried out a number of projects and actions to meet climate change challenges, like increasing resilience for food security in Upper Egypt to face the extreme weather events in 14 poor villages.

Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in national food security and nutrition policy

49. The SDS reflects that the government of Egypt stresses the important role of agriculture and rural development as main pillars towards ensuring food security and poverty alleviation, which can in turn contribute significantly towards inclusive economic growth, social stability, and environmental protection.

Goals and targets

50. There are many key challenges facing the agriculture sector in Egypt, including the decline in water availability (Egypt suffers from a water deficit of up to 20 billion cubic meters of water annually), mitigation and adaptation to climate change, rapid decline in sources of non-renewable energy (fossil fuels including petroleum and gas); degradation, fragmentation and allocation of lands, high rates of population growth and production and consumption needs; building the technical and institutional capacities; in addition to the economic challenges.

51. Moreover, the population growth rate is among the key challenges, as according to the Central Authority for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) Egypt's population reached 91 million in June 2016 with a growth rate of 2.4 percent. Such rapid population growth may lead to increased levels of malnutrition and food insecurity, and of increased urban migration within Egypt.

"Ensuring that no one is left behind"

52. SDS has followed "the inclusive sustainable development" and "balanced regional development" principles; as general framework for improving the quality of lives and welfare for Egyptians, emphasizing the full participation in development, and ensuring its yields to all parties. The strategy emphasizes equal opportunities for all and adopted the principles of "no one is left behind", closing development gaps and efficient use of resources to ensure the rights of future generations.

53. The ministry of agriculture is keen on the extension of agriculture and food industries projects that specifically overcome unemployment in rural areas which includes a program for loss reduction of the pre and post-harvest operation in the agricultural products.

54. Egypt has maintained different social safety net schemes for food and nutrition security, ranging from bread subsidies, to ration cards, conditional cash transfers such as recently adopted national initiatives solidarity and dignity (Takaful and Karama). Takaful provides support to poor families conditional on the child's school attendance, on medical check-ups for mothers and children under 6 and on attending nutrition classes; while Karama provides unconditional income support to the elderly and people with disabilities. Some half a million people have been supported by the Takaful and Karama programmes by March 2016 and the programmes hope to reach some 1.5 million families by 2017.

55. The school feeding programme will cover all national school children between 4-12 years; bearing in mind that the national program has been gradually increased to cover up to 13.5 million children attending pre-primary to secondary schools in academic year 2015- 2016, where the budget allocated for it has reached around EGP 957,821,464 (957 million) and the WFP is considered a main contributor in the implementation process.

56. This Programme will eventually cover all government schools, in the context of both acting as a productive safety net, as well as a fiscally sustainable investment in human capital, to fit in the government's endeavour to achieve "Education for All", and provide social protection, especially for the poor "leading to Zero Hunger."

D. Means Of Implementation

57. Successful implementation of the SDGs depends on a comprehensive funding framework that goes beyond official development assistance (ODA) commitments, and encompasses efficient securing of funding through budget restructuring, attracting Foreign Direct Investment flows, and, strengthening the private sector, and encouraging Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). In conjunction with public and private funding; this is in addition to the effective technical and capacity building.

58. The Action Agenda established a strong foundation to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by securing sources of finance, technology and innovation, and promoting trade. The Action Agenda also serves as a guideline for actions by all stakeholders, whether governments, international organizations, business sector, civil society, or philanthropists.

59. Egypt's Vision 2030, is the platform for implementation of the SDGs through capitalizing on its existing institutions. The success in achieving the SDGs will mainly depend on the ability to overcome the challenges outlined by Egypt's sustainable development strategy.

Difficulties faced:

60. Financing and resource mobilization pose a major challenge to accelerating the SDG implementation.

61. The implementation process requires addressing human and institutional capacity gaps through the building of capabilities and competencies at all levels. The Government is working on harnessing the demographic dividend and significant effort is being focused on investing in Egypt's human capital, especially through education and training, and boosting decent and sustainable job creation. In this regard, specific efforts are directed at youth and women empowerment.

62. Regional disparities require broadening the scope of investment to ensure sustainability and reduce unequal access to resources. In that regard, the Government is exerting several efforts to address regional disparities by expanding the scope of investment in regions outside the major cities.

E. Next steps

63. The government of Egypt is collaborating with the UN specialized Agencies in preparing the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for Egypt 2018-2022, in accordance to

the national priorities, to ensure that the objectives of the country programs of each agency will work towards achieving the SDGs.

64. Egypt is keen to continue its efforts in implementing, as appropriate, the recommendations adopted by the CFS, as well as its commitment towards Rome Declaration on Nutrition” and “the Framework for Action in addition to the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition (2016-2025).

65. At the regional level, Egypt is keen to share its successful experiences for promoting sustainable development in these countries through the Egyptian Agency for Partnership for Development (EAPD) that provides capacity, building, sharing of expertise and providing development assistance, through various models for trilateral, bilateral and South-South cooperation, while focusing its attention to the agriculture sector. In that vein, Egypt intends to continue its efforts towards the implantation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between Egypt and FAO in June 2014, which aimed to establish a trilateral cooperation in Africa in the field of agriculture and food security, and to develop South–South cooperation.

IV. FINLAND

A. Introduction

66. Finland’s National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030 is under preparation and will be finalized by the end of 2016. Finland is committed to strengthening the existing means and finding innovative ways to increase the civic, public and private participation and to build ownership in sustainable development. Reaching out to the local communities, children and youth, people with disabilities and migrants is a special challenge. The National Implementation Plan will identify Finland’s strengths as well as major gaps and challenges to the implementation and it will provide evidence-based information on the need for action and will draw a baseline for Finnish action. Sustainable development is for everyone; in its implementation, the key principle is ‘leave no-one behind’. The Finnish Government has the primary responsibility for the work, but the civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders have an integral role in this endeavor.

67. Sustainable development is an important part of our food and nutrition policy. Scientific evidence from joint Nordic Nutrition Recommendations (see <https://www.norden.org/en/theme/nordic-nutrition-recommendation/nordic-nutrition-recommendations-2012>) on sustainable food consumption and healthy diets has been incorporated into the Finnish Nutrition Recommendations and Dietary Guidelines in 2014. They encourage to increase the use of vegetables, berries, fruits and whole-grain cereal products and set a limit to use of red meat and meat products. Guidance is given on sustainable choice of fish and other foods. A more plant-based diet contributes to both human and planetary health. Work towards a more plant-based diet is done by implementing the Government Resolution on the promotion of new and sustainable environmental and energy solutions in public procurement. Projects to promote the functioning of the food chain and other similar projects contribute to promoting raw material choices that are in line with sustainable consumption. A comprehensive action plan to implement global targets of NCD’s and other nutrition targets in a sustainable way will be ready by the end of 2016. National Food Strategy from 2010 is in a process of being updated by the end of this year and national implementation of food and nutrition related SDG’s will be part of this.

B. Methodology

68. The Prime Minister’s Office is in charge of coordinating the national implementation work and drawing up the national plan of Agenda 2030 implementation. The Office acts as the Coordination Secretariat, It works closely together with the Coordination Network, which comprises focal points from all government ministries and the Finnish Development Policy Committee. The Network ensures that all dimensions and aspects of sustainable development are taken into consideration in the implementation. The ministries are the key executors of Agenda 2030 through their sectoral

programmes, strategies, legislation and implementation of international agreements and commitments. Two broad-based committees, the National Commission on Sustainable Development and the Development Policy Committee, play a key role in the national implementation, assessment and monitoring of Agenda2030.

69. The National Commission on Sustainable Development prepared Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development already in 2013, while global negotiations on Agenda2030 were still under way. The commitment was drafted in order to make sustainable development tangible, enhance effectiveness in this regard, foster ownership and involve as many new actors as possible in sustainable development activities. This commitment has now been updated and aligned with the principles, goals and targets of Agenda2030. The eight objectives of the Commitment include all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of Agenda2030. SDG2 (zero hunger) is included in three national sustainable development objectives (equal prospect for well-being; a carbon neutral society and a resource-wise economy). By June 2016, over 220 actors, including enterprises, schools, cities, administration, non-governmental and other organizations, communities, political parties and even private individuals from all sectors of society, had signed more than 300 operational commitments. A large number of parties have committed themselves to measures such as preventing food wastage, increasing the energy efficiency of buildings, improving youth employment and making municipalities carbon-neutral.

C. Policy and Enabling Environment

70. We would like to highlight some specific issues which will be part of Finland's National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030 and may provide learnings for other countries.

Integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development in national food security and nutrition policy

71. All the three dimensions of sustainable development are considered in FSN policies in Finland:

a) **Environmental dimension: Climate-friendly food production and consumption.**

Climate change poses a great challenge for food production in Finland. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has drawn up a climate program for Finnish agriculture, called "Steps towards Climate Friendly Food". Its objective is to enhance the sustainability of the Finnish food system. The sustainability of the Finnish food system is founded on profitable food production and responsible consumption. By improving sustainability in a comprehensive way it is also possible to increase the profitability of production. Climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts are addressed at all stages of the food system. Climate-friendly food production is energy and material efficient, and its emissions per liter and kilo of production are minimized. Climate-friendly consumption is based on preferring plant-based food produced in a sustainable manner and avoiding food losses.

http://mnm.fi/documents/1410837/1867349/Climate_programme_agriculture_WEB_03072015.pdf/1a6f135c-068c-48aa-ad00-787562628314

b) **Economic dimension: Reducing food loss and waste all through the food system.**

Throwing away edible food is a significant ecological and economic burden. Every year the Finns throw away 20 – 30 kg of food per capita. Food waste needs to be reduced throughout the whole food chain, from field to fork. Among other things reducing food loss and waste is promoted by projects to enhance the functioning of the food chain. The projects aim to increase the awareness of and advice on the impacts of food loss and means to reduce it. Food business operators, trade and catering businesses are encouraged to donate excess food, not to waste it. National food safety authority, Evira, has developed a food donation guideline to facilitate safe food donations and to reduce food waste. There are currently 18

operational Society Commitments related to food waste. These commitments were given by the retail sector, food chain companies, schools, cities and NGOs

c) **Social dimension: Maternity and child health.** An example on the social dimension is our system of maternity and child health clinics that offer support and guidance on nutrition. As paying visit to a maternity clinic during pregnancy is linked to some social benefit, like baby-box – a gift from the government to all newborn babies, practically all families use them. When we started the system decades ago our infant mortality was high and undernutrition common. In the beginning the focus was to follow growth, weight and height and guidance on nutrition was important part of the system. Currently guidance on nutrition and weight management is given by public health nurses free of charge at maternity and child health clinics and in school health care. This guidance is based on family's needs and targets both parents.

D. Ensuring that no one is left behind

72. We would like to provide examples how nutrition and health policies in Finland, in past and in the future, guarantee that no-one is left behind:

a) Free school meals. There are many ways to improve child nutrition in Finland. In addition to the maternity and child health services there is provision of healthy school food free of charge to all pupils. Finland started giving school meals to children more than 60 years ago. At that time undernutrition among poor children was common and many were too hungry to go to school. Meal provision had many beneficial effects. It improved child health, school attendance and even helped women to find employment outside home. When school meals were started Finland was a poor country that had suffered greatly during wars. Yet, child nutrition was a high priority issue; it was an investment for the future of the nation. New guidelines for meals at school and in the kindergarten will come out later this year

b) Families to eat together. The government of Finland has committed to promoting population health. Improving dietary habits is one of the areas mentioned in the current government program. Many activities have been initiated to reach this goal. New guidelines called "Eating together- food recommendations for families with children" were launched recently and are now been implemented. These form a basis for guidance done at maternity and child health clinics. We have also initiated co-operation with food industry, retailers and catering sector to reduce salt, saturated fat and sugars in foods.

www.julkari.fi/handle/10024/130435

c) Global concern to leave no-one behind. Promoting food security and better nutrition is also part of Finland's new development policy, adopted on February 2016. Finland has aligned its development policy with the Agenda 2030 to support the capacity of developing countries to achieve the sustainable development goals and targets. The core goal of Finland's development policy is to eradicate extreme poverty and to reduce poverty and inequality as well as the realization of human rights. Finland's development policy will have a special focus on enhancing the rights and status of women and girls; improving the economies of developing countries to ensure more jobs, livelihood opportunities and wellbeing; democratic and better functioning societies ; increased food security and better access to water and energy and the sustainability of natural resources. The rights of children and the most vulnerable, notably the disabled are taken account of in all activities. Finnish development policy is based on the national development plans of the developing countries receiving our

support.<http://formin.finland.fi/Public/default.aspx?contentid=341918&nodeid=49540&contentlan=2&culture=en-US>

E. Means of Implementation

73. The agreement between UN Member States on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was a major achievement, but the true significance of Agenda2030 will only be determined through its successful implementation. This requires not only political will, but the appropriate tools and sufficient resources. The tools and resources for Finland's national implementation of Agenda2030 will be defined in the national implementation plan, which will be completed by the end of 2016. The integration of Agenda2030 with national budget planning is a key precondition for its successful national implementation. Transparent monitoring and reporting of Agenda2030 are prerequisites for accountability towards citizens. Finland's national sustainable development indicators) will be revised in the autumn of 2016 to correspond to the national sustainable development policy and the national Agenda2030 implementation plan, <http://www.findikaattori.fi/en/kestavakehitys>

F. Next steps

74. The National Implementation Plan for Agenda 2030 will be finalized by the end of 2016. It will define the key executors, determine tools for and approaches to implementing an integrated agenda and define the division of labour and partnerships between the public, private and civil society actors in the work on implementation. Further, the plan will outline the coordination, management, monitoring and review mechanisms. It will also offer a roadmap for the appropriate scheduling of activities and allocation of resources in Finland, both in domestic and in external action.

75. Finland has been ranked highly in several, index-based comparisons of sustainable development, but progress has not been sufficient during the recent years; this is a cause for concern. An analytical discussion on Finland's strengths and weaknesses, as well as solutions to improve the performance, is therefore needed.

76. One of the challenges in implementing Agenda2030 lies in bringing its somewhat remote goals and targets closer to citizens and making them tangible enough to incentivize the general public, organizations and municipalities to find everyday ways of contributing. In Finland, Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development and its operational commitments to action have proven fruitful in achieving this. Agenda2030 has been welcomed with enthusiasm and NGOs have already prepared programs for promoting the global Agenda2030. The private sector has also shown interest by engaging, for example, in Society's Commitment with concrete actions.

V. FRANCE

77. In line with its international commitment to sustainable development and its mobilisation for COP21, France, wishing to set an example, has begun to look at the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals at national level. For this reason, France has volunteered, alongside 21 other Member States, to present its approach to such implementation as early as the High-Level Policy Forum in July 2016.

78. Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 2 – “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture” – covers a number of issues. Achievement of this goal relates in France's view both to national policies linked to the sectors of agriculture, agrifood and the environment and to policy on development and international solidarity.

79. The national strategy of ecological transition towards sustainable development 2015-2020⁷ provides a reference framework at France's national level for action to promote sustainable economic and social development. Its core purpose is to initiate at every level – national, regional and local – action plans that reflect the goals and targets of Agenda 2030.

⁷ <http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/SNTEDD.pdf>

A. The main issues for France for Achievement of SDG2:

Ensuring access for all to safe, nutritious and sufficient food linked to local regions and without waste

80. Food relates to a range of major social, economic, sanitary and environmental issues. The food model is seen in France as a common good to be handed down to future generations. It therefore central to the goals of public food policy as defined in Article 1 of France's law on the future of agriculture and forestry and to its operational application, the French national food programme (PNA), which comprises four priority focuses:

- **Social justice:** by supporting food aid and adapting it to match the expectations and needs of the most disadvantaged population groups.
- **Food education and young people:** by developing, in conjunction with the ministry of education, of information and education on diet in schools and a rebuilding of the ties between agriculture and society.
- **Combating food waste:** by mobilising the actors in the food supply chain, ranging from agriculture, upstream, down to the consumer, the National Pact against Food Waste seeks to cut food waste by half by 2025.
- **Regional roots:** the expectations of consumers/citizens are high with regard to food quality. Local government and all actors in the agrifood sector have a fundamental role to play in restoring the now tenuous relationship between consumers and their food by means of practical action out in the regions, such as highlighting the value of "food heritage", using geographical indications for example, or the development of local food procurement with a preference for short distribution channels.

Reorientation of agricultural production with a view to threefold economic, environmental and social high performance

81. Growth in the global population will lead to growth in the need for food, which must be anticipated. At the same time, we are currently seeing increased demand for new ways of using biomass, which is seen as an alternative to fossil resources (energy, bioeconomics) within the framework of a circular economy, and a way of supporting the necessary energy and ecological transition in national economies.

82. Here, as elsewhere, the issue is the need to reconcile a high level of agricultural and agrifood production with the goal of achieving threefold economic, social and environmental high performance. Far from being opposed, environment and economy can be combined and reinforce each other. The need is to encourage and to support this fundamental, necessary and far-reaching change in agriculture, which is already under way.

In response to these issues, France has launched the agroecology:

83. The ambitious goal of agroecology is to set out an outlook for the future that is inspirational and a source of wealth creation by prioritising solutions which, by making use of the functionalities offered by agro-ecosystems, combine at one and the same time high economic performance, high environmental and sanitary performance and high social performance. Agriculture is faced with this challenge at both the individual level – on every farm and in every enterprise – and collectively, in sector organisation, in support for farmers and growers, and in regional dynamics.

84. A detailed action plan was drawn up in 2014 with 16 work areas comprising mobilisation of all actors, raising awareness and ensuring communication, teaching ways to produce differently, assisting farmers, limiting the use of pesticides and antibiotics, providing financial support for

agroecology-based approaches, calling on research and innovation, encouraging agricultural sub-sectors to go down the road of agroecology, taking into consideration the realities of France's overseas départements, promoting agroecology internationally and monitoring/evaluating the agroecology project.

85. The project's success simultaneously requires technical, technological and scientific innovation, social and collective innovation in terms of cooperation, organisation of work and modes of investment. The transition to new, more sustainable production models depends on major changes to ways of thinking, ways of acquiring knowledge and practices: for that reason, agricultural research and teaching have a fundamental role to play.

Contributing to the fight against climate change and preserving natural resources, soils in particular

86. The links between agriculture and climate change are extremely close. Agriculture is both among the sectors most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Agriculture must therefore adapt and reduce its impact on the climate, adopting an approach that does not threaten food security. Indeed, this issue is explicitly acknowledged in the agreement on the climate signed in Paris at COP21.⁸ It is true for France, where the impacts of the climate, which are destined to worsen, are already having an effect on cereal yields, contributing to a questioning of production methods in the wine and fruit sectors and affecting the quality and availability of fodder. French agriculture must also adapt its practices and its systems of production in order to reduce its GHG emissions (approximately 20% of greenhouse gas emissions in France) and optimise the mechanism of photosynthesis that ensures that this sector acts as an effective "carbon pump" capable of helping store atmospheric CO₂ in the form of carbon in the soil and biomass able to replace fossil resources and energy-intensive materials in other economic sectors (energy, transport, housing, etc.).

87. The effects of climate change vary between regions and types of agricultural production but they could lead to substantial changes in the geography of production. Agriculture will need to adjust to this new context in order to withstand the rise in average temperature and increasingly frequent extreme weather events. The contribution of farming (and forestry) to combating climate change, if it is to adapt effectively and reduce its emissions, will therefore involve concerted action to change farming practices, especially with regard to water management, soil cover, land use, nitrogen fertilisation and livestock feed, as well as upstream and downstream from production, through an improvement in the energy efficiency of the agrifood industries. The aim must be to enhance the resilience of holdings (economic resilience included), to reduce emissions while at the same time expanding the production of biomass and "carbon sinks" (protection of permanent grassland, agroforestry, soil cover, simplified growing techniques, reduced land artificialisation, etc.).

88. Natural resources constitute a good whose scarcity and benefits have been neglected for far too long. The soil in particular is a good that underpins agriculture and forestry across 80% of French national territory, based on fragile processes difficult and time-consuming to reverse. The multiplicity and importance of the roles it plays make it a valuable component of the common heritage of the nation to be preserved and put to good use. For example, preservation of the quality of agricultural and forest soils can reconcile productive and environmental functions. The task is therefore to maintain the fertility of the soil and to highlight the value of the ecosystemic services it can render (water, biodiversity, landscape, production of renewable resources).

⁸This interaction is central to Article 2 of the Paris Agreement: "[...] and foster climate resilience and low greenhouse gas emissions development, in a manner that does not threaten food production" and its preamble, which emphasises the need to safeguard food security

B. Priority cooperation actions of France abroad

89. France advocates family farming as productive of wealth and jobs and protective of ecosystems and biodiversity. The goal of France's action is to make lasting changes to the food and nutritional security of rural and urban households, essentially in Sub-Saharan Africa, through support for family farms, for agricultural sectors, particularly subsistence and livestock farming, and for policies on farming, food and nutrition, and including the goals and issues of sustainable development and food sovereignty.

90. France provides assistance, with the support of its research bodies, for the far-reaching changes imposed by the dual challenges of population growth and climate disruption. To that end, it supports initiatives aimed at restoring and enhancing soil fertility and the adoption of the methods of agroecology. For its development activities, it promotes the operational implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure and land, fisheries and forests in the context of national food security (VGGT), which aims to strengthen governance of access to land and natural resources, and the Principles for Responsible Investment in agriculture and food systems (RAI), adopted by the World food security Committee. Through Programmed Food Aid (AAP) it promotes reinforcement of the resilience of local populations likely to be undermined by economic, political or, indeed, climate-related shocks. The French Development Agency (AFD) currently provides assistance for the economic, social and environmental development of over 771,000 family holdings around the world, thus underpinning diversified, sustainable food systems.

91. In 2015, during the COP21, France launched the initiative "4 per 1000: soils for food security". This initiative acknowledged in the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, invites all partners to announce or implement practical actions for the storage of carbon in soil and the types of practice needed to achieve this (e.g. agroecology, agroforestry, conservation agriculture, countryside management). Research is central to the initiative. The goal is to establish both a research program and an action program promoting virtuous projects for climate and food security. This initiative is now supported by more than 170 partners.

92. The fight against undernutrition is one of the priorities of France's policy on development and international solidarity. In this domain France applies a multisector approach aimed at ensuring that greater consideration is given to nutrition in humanitarian and development programmes.

93. France actively advocates to its partners the need to give more consideration to issues related to combating hunger and malnutrition. It plays an active role for the improvement of global governance on these issues in the European Union, the United Nations organisations of which it is a member, the Committee on World Food Security, the G20, and also the G7.

94. A platform for French actors in food security, the Interministerial Group on Food Security (GISA)*, was set up in 2008 in order to make a contribution to reinforced multi-actor dialogue on issues of food security and nutrition in developing countries.

VI. MEXICO

95. The experience gained from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) clearly demonstrated that there needs to be greater commitment from the highest levels in order to successfully implement the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". During the adoption of resolution 70/1, President Enrique Peña Nieto clearly stated that the 2030 Agenda was a national commitment for Mexico.

96. For this reason, the leadership for the implementation of the SDGs will remain with the Office of the President of the Republic. Another reason is because specialist offices already exist that are

aligned with the goals set out in the National Development Plan 2014-2018, which are very similar to those in the 2030 Agenda.

97. The idea is to merge the contents from the 2030 Agenda to the work of the intersecretariat offices and commissions in Mexico that are already dealing with issues developed by previous governments, including climate change and social development.

98. We are currently working on a new IT platform with the latest technology, which includes all the information relating to the SDGs, as well as search criteria and separating data by gender, age, geographical location, schooling etc.

99. In view of the positive outcome of the set-up of the Specialized Technical Committee of the MDGs (a platform developed by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI), an organization classified as an autonomous body), the Set-up Agreement was modified towards the end of 2015 and it has now transformed into the Specialized Technical Committee of the Sustainable Development Goals (CTEODS).

100. Attempts were made to include information on these topics in the activities of senior officials in order to institutionalize the 2030 Agenda for Development and guarantee its “attachment”.

101. The aim is to make people aware of the new Agenda and make sure that the impact is felt not only at a federal level but also at state and municipal levels. We will also make efforts to teach SDGs to new state governments who will soon take up their new duties.

102. This institutionalization will help to promote the adoption of the topics in the 2030 Agenda, generating a blueprint of compliance in a network linking stakeholders in relationships that are not necessarily hierarchical, and at the same time ensuring mainstreaming. As SDGs become increasingly acknowledged, there will be greater pressure at a national and international level for public policies to remain geared towards due fulfilment.

103. A National Review on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was carried out in order to present a voluntary national review to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) under the auspices of The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). This review has helped to identify challenges and actions that must be carried out in order to get things back on track

a) Guarantee the appropriate budget and ensure alignment with the 2030 Agenda budget: We are aware of the need to analyse existing resources within the national budget that are intended for matters relating to the 2030 Agenda. We must also find a way of guaranteeing a reserve of necessary resources in order to fulfil the SDGs, as well as linking existing resources to the implementation of different aspects of the agenda as necessary, depending on the responsibilities of the different government institutions. Legislators can help support this process.

b) Participation of different stakeholders: We also need to establish clear mechanisms to facilitate the participation of different stakeholders involved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially those from civil society, although the private sector, parliamentarians and local government are also key stakeholders for the Agenda. We must also find the most effective way of creating public-private partnerships to share statistical data and to obtain additional resources on top of those already earmarked by the government, helping to meet the goals.

c) Fulfilling the agenda at a federal and local level: The 2030 Agenda is a commitment that must be fulfilled at all levels, taking into account the different aspects of sustainable development at a state and municipal level. We are thinking about involving all the governors in the country in this process, including new administrations that are about to begin their terms in office. This is so that they can have an SDG overview, to be taken into account when making their work plans from the very start of their respective administrations.

- d) Cooperation at a regional and global level: The principle of “not leaving anyone behind” must be maintained throughout the next few years, taking into account the inequalities that exist between Latin American countries and the Caribbean. We need to redouble our efforts under the leadership of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID), and support international organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and work undertaken by the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), including defining regional indicators. Mexico is also participating in several different “governance” fora on issues of international cooperation to benefit from the development of these coordinated efforts.
- e) The need to establish a shared language that is widely communicated: Finally, another challenge is to develop an effective national communication plan so that all stakeholders understand the government’s actions in terms of fulfilling the SDGs. This will help us to generate a sense of ownership and help share a common language on what needs to be done at all levels of government.

VII. NORWAY

A. The 2030 Agenda: A roadmap for national action and global partnership

104. Norway regards the 2030 Agenda with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a transformative global roadmap for our national and international efforts aimed at eradicating extreme poverty while protecting planetary boundaries and promoting prosperity, peace and justice. It is a universal agenda, to which all countries and all relevant stakeholders can and must contribute. With the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development and the Paris Agreement on climate change in place, the SDGs will be a powerful driver for national policy action, international cooperation, and collaborative partnerships.

105. Norway will follow up the 2030 Agenda, nationally and internationally, and in cooperation with other member states. The process of preparing Norway’s initial Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) has in itself contributed to greater political and public awareness about the SDGs in Norway. The Government has already taken important steps to identify challenges and integrate SDG reporting into the annual budget documents.

106. The Prime Minister is also engaged internationally, as Co-Chair, with the president of Ghana, of the UN Secretary-General’s SDG Advocacy Group. This review starts with a summary of key features of Norway’s initial national follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Details of national and international follow-up are covered in the Policy section, under ‘Goals and targets’. This Summary highlights policies, partnerships and practices that Norway believes could be of particular interest to the wider UN membership and stakeholders.

B. Challenges at the national level

107. UN reports and various international indexes show that Norway ranks high in terms of global implementation of the SDGs. At the same time, it is evident that implementing the 2030 Agenda will be demanding for Norway, too. The Government has identified a number of targets that pose particular challenges for domestic follow-up in Norway. These challenges relate to several of the SDGs and all three dimensions of sustainable development – social, economic, and environmental. Among the targets that are likely to remain the focus of political attention and policy development are those relating to sustainable consumption and production, health and education, equality, employment, and migration. The Government is giving priority to ensuring quality education and employment, especially for young people and those at risk of marginalisation. This is an important contribution to realising the 2030 Agenda vision of leaving no one behind. Challenges that have been identified at the national level include:

- Reducing non-communicable diseases and promoting mental health
- Increasing high-school completion rates
- Eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls
- Reducing the proportion of young people not in employment, education or training
- Ensuring sustainable infrastructure
- Sustaining income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average
- Improving urban air quality
- Halving food waste and reducing waste generation
- Reducing the impact of invasive alien species
- Reducing all forms of violence and related death rates and combating organised crime.

108. As for the crucial area of climate change, national follow-up of the Paris Agreement will constitute the main basis for action to fulfil SDG 13. Norway is committed to reducing emissions by at least 40 % by 2030, compared with the 1990 level. Norway is engaged in a dialogue on joint fulfilment of its 2030 commitment together with the EU.

C. National participation and ownership

109. Norway regards participatory, inclusive and representative decision-making as fundamental for a well-functioning society. Participation is vital for ensuring the national ownership necessary for effective and transparent follow-up of the SDGs.

110. At present, 40 % of the members of the Storting (Norwegian parliament) are women. The Storting has debated the post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs several times, most recently in November 2015. The Storting's approval of the annual state and national budget, which are key political documents in the Norwegian democratic system, is required to give the Government the mandate it needs to carry out its policies. Following the adoption of the SDGs in September 2015, the Government developed a plan for national follow-up of the SDGs in Norway, which is linked to the budget process. Responsibility for each of the 17 SDGs is given to a coordinating ministry, which is to consult with other ministries involved in the follow-up of various targets under the goal concerned. Each ministry is to report on the status of follow-up for its respective goal(s) in its budget proposal. The Ministry of Finance will then sum up the main points in the national budget white paper, which is presented to the Storting annually, along with the state budget. This ensures annual reporting on the follow-up of the SDGs to the Storting, in a well-established process.

111. The indigenous peoples' assembly, the Sámediggi (Sami Parliament), will be involved through dialogue with the line ministries and formal consultation mechanisms. The Government will also make use of existing mechanisms for cooperation with local and regional authorities.

112. Dialogue and partnerships with stakeholders including civil society, the business sector and academia is an enduring feature of the Norwegian political and democratic system in all relevant policy areas. The Government will continue to benefit from consultations with stakeholders in the SDG follow-up process. Engagement with the private sector and business will be important, including in achieving scaled-up implementation and financing with a view to realising the SDGs at global level. As far as spreading knowledge about the SDGs is concerned, the recommendation by the Ministry of Education to include the SDGs as part of the curriculum in schools is valuable.

D. A commitment to international solidarity to eradicate poverty and protect planetary boundaries

113. Norway has a long tradition of solidarity with developing and vulnerable countries, including through its provision of support for the UN and fulfilment of the target to allocate at least 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) to official development assistance (ODA). The commitment to work for

poverty eradication and provide ODA, currently at around 1% of Norway's GNI, continues to enjoy broad political and popular support. Norway's international follow-up of the SDGs and the global partnership in SDG 17 are discussed in this review.

114. Effective implementation also requires financing in the form of domestic resource mobilisation and tax collection, as well as business and private sector investments. Norway will continue to promote technology and knowledge transfer; open trade and market access; and capacity building to ensure effective and accountable governance institutions and respect for the rule of law and human rights.

115. Gender equality and rights for women and girls, access to education and health for all, and a human rights-based approach, are crucial factors for reducing extreme poverty and creating equal opportunities for all, including people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and marginalised groups. These policies are essential if we are to "leave no one behind" in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Examples of Norwegian priorities and partnerships in these areas include:

- Increasing ODA for education, with a special focus on girls' education, education in emergencies and education quality
- Maintaining a high level of investments in global health, in particular efforts to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality
- Working in partnerships, including with the private sector, Every Woman Every Child, the vaccine alliance GAVI, and the Global Partnership on Education (GPE)
- Engaging in partnerships under the UN, World Bank and other organisations to strengthen women's rights and gender equality in economic, social and political life, which is crucial for economic development and growth.

116. Sustainable natural resource management and climate change mitigation and adaptation are priority areas for Norway. Integrating climate and environment concerns into all our SDG follow-up efforts is key to achieving lasting sustainable development results.

117. Addressing the responsible use and protection of oceans and marine environments is particularly pressing. This is important for Norway and other coastal states, whose livelihoods and welfare depend on the sea. Clean oceans and seas are a global common good, and crucially linked to the efforts to address climate change and reduce CO₂ emissions through the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement. Healthy oceans are key to the 'blue economy'. Fisheries are a growing source of global nutrition and food security, while shipping trade routes are vital for global trade and hence for economic growth. Norway has established integrated ecosystem-based management plans for its sea areas. In May 2016, the Storting (Norwegian parliament) adopted a Norwegian Action Plan for Biodiversity, aimed at achieving the Aichi targets, and debated a new white paper on securing an efficient and climate-friendly energy supply. Norway will continue to share its experience and assist developing countries' efforts to manage and protect marine and other natural resources, including fisheries, forests, and energy. The objective must be to promote national welfare as well as global common goods. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea and other agreements to ensure well-regulated and responsible marine resource management are of fundamental importance in this regard. Examples of Norwegian priorities and partnerships in these areas include:

- Working with Latin American, African, and Asian partners in efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+).
- Supporting climate financing for vulnerable nations, including LDCs and SIDS, via multilateral mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, where Norway is a major donor.
- Support for promoting renewable energy in African and Asian countries, and sharing experience in the management of petroleum resources, a sector in which Norway is a major exporter.
- Reducing illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing as part of sustainable management of fish stocks, including cooperation with Russia in the Barents Sea.

- Stepping up efforts to reduce marine plastic litter and micro-plastics, including through an initiative taken at UNEA, and working with the US and others to make the ‘Our Ocean’ process a success.

E. Integrating SDG 16, connecting peace and poverty

118. The governance targets embedded in SDG 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions represent an important innovation and pillar of the 2030 Agenda and they were a key topic in the debate on the SDGs in the Storting in November 2015. Goal 16 is cross cutting and helps integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions with stability and security issues through its focus on the root causes of poverty, hunger and migration. Peace, justice and freedoms are key elements. In 2015, a white paper on human rights, and another on global security challenges, provided important policy guidance in this regard. Norway will continue to support peace, conflict prevention, and reconciliation efforts – which we see as a crucial foreign policy supplement to humanitarian and development assistance – including in situations of fragility and vulnerability. Examples of Norway’s international engagement include:

- Chair of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee (AHLC) for assistance to the Palestinians. Facilitator, together with Cuba, in the Colombian peace process. Cooperation with the African Union in support of African peacekeeping and capacity building.
- Support to international governance and institution building to promote transparency and accountability, counteract corruption and capital flight, and consolidate the rule of law.
- Work with multilateral, regional and bilateral partners to promote democracy and relevant human rights norms and standards, including by supporting the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and engaging in the Council of Europe.

VIII. SWITZERLAND

A. Introduction

119. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) adopted by the UN Member States on 25 September is at the top of Switzerland’s priority list with regard to sustainable development.

120. Switzerland is engaged at the highest level to ensure an effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda – both in its domestic and foreign policies, including in its relevant sector policies such as in its Food Security, Nutrition and Sustainable Agriculture policies (FSN and SA). Furthermore, following its long tradition of conducting political processes in an inclusive way, Switzerland attaches great importance to vertical cooperation between national, regional and local authorities as well as to broad stakeholder participation for the coordination of national and international policies. The participatory approach followed by Switzerland allows all stakeholder groups to get involved and creates ownership.

B. Methodology

121. The present submission is based on a report of the Swiss Confederation on “Switzerland’s initial steps towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” to be presented at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The latter was drafted by a temporary inter-ministerial working group on Agenda 2030, and discussed within a participatory consultation mechanism already established for prior purposes, ensuring a large stakeholder participation.

C. Policy and Enabling Environment

122. Switzerland's efforts to implement the Agenda 2030 follow two axes:

Incorporation of the SDGs in the national framework

123. The core instrument for Switzerland's national implementation is the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) which was renewed in January 2016. The SDS describes the contribution Switzerland will make to implementing the 2030 Agenda and to achieving the SDGs. SDS guidelines explain how the Swiss Confederation intends to integrate sustainability policy into all of its sectoral policy, including FSN and SA:

- Take responsibility for the future
- Balanced consideration of the three dimensions of sustainable development
- Incorporate sustainable development into all policy areas
- Improve coherence and coordination between policy areas
- Forge sustainable development partnerships

124. More specifically, SDS has set an action plan identifying the greatest need for action, based on the general focus areas of federal government policy overall, on the objectives determined by the 2030 Agenda and the outcomes of a multistakeholder dialogue. Looking at challenges and solutions at the nexus between different areas, most of the 9 priority action areas (and their related objectives) identified contain aspects that can be linked to FSN and SA:

- Consumption and production (SDG 12)
- Urban development, mobility and infrastructure (SDGs 9 and 11)
- Energy and climate (SDGs 7 and 13)
- Natural resources (SDGs 2, 6, 14, and 15)
- Economic and financial system (SDGs 8, 10, 16, and 17)
- Education, research and innovation (SDG 4)
- Social security (SDGs 1 and 16)
- Social cohesion and gender equality (SDGs 5, 10, and 16)
- Health (SDG 3)

125. CFS Products can help all involved stakeholders to achieve the priority action area related objectives pertaining to FSN and SA. In the action area 5 for example, CFS RAI Principles and VGGT could represent very useful tools for Swiss financial and commodity trading sectors to become more transparent and responsible in order to stand out internationally for its quality, integrity and stability and improve at the same time FSN and SA. As recent high level multistakeholder events can attest it, Switzerland is fully engaged in mobilizing the different stakeholders involved to raise general awareness and effectively implement CFS Products at all levels. Other CFS products, such as HLPE reports and related CFS policy recommendations on Food security and climate change or on Food Losses and Waste in the Context of Sustainable Food Systems can also represent useful tools to advance efficiently towards objectives related to action areas number 1, 3 and 4.

126. Implementation of sectoral policies, such as policies linked to FNS and SA is however primarily a matter for the federal offices concerned (such as Federal Office for Agriculture or the Federal Office for the Environment), which must ensure that sustainable development principles are integrated into their planning and internal processes and that all measures are well coordinated. In doing this, they must make use of synergies, ensure coherence between sectoral policies, and flag any conflicting objectives.

127. As an example, ongoing agricultural policy already provides a comprehensive support to develop sustainability in each farm in Switzerland, making sure no one is left behind. As well, Federal

Office for Agriculture's Vision for 2030 has already clearly and comprehensively integrated SDG and targets related to its field of work.

128. Another example is the cross-sectoral strategy that aims at sustainable outcomes is the Swiss strategy on Nutrition, which follows two axes:

- Information: Inform the population on a balanced diet, enabling thus healthy dietary choices.
- Collaboration with the private sector: improve the offer of healthier food and dishes (less salt, sugars and fat).

129. To ensure a broad participation and involvement in the implementation process related to FSN and SA and that no one is left behind, Switzerland also relies on existing mechanisms involving multiple stakeholders. The Swiss national FAO Committee (CNS-FAO), an extra parliamentary Commission, represent an outstanding opportunity to multiply the effects of FSN and SA actions and policies at national level. Composed by 15 members coming from different sectors (academic, private, civil society) involved in FSN and SA issues, the aim of this Committee is to closely follow FSN and SA issues. It also provides recommendations to the government on issues related to the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs, particularly those related to FSN and SA.

130. In Switzerland, sustainable development should therefore be achieved primarily by setting priorities and reallocating existing resources. It is to be implemented mainly via existing coordination and reconciliation mechanisms, while avoiding duplication and overlap

International cooperation

131. Switzerland's second axe of action to implement Agenda 2030 is linked to its foreign policy, including its foreign economic policy, international environment policy, international cooperation, and sectoral foreign policies. With its engagement in international processes geared towards specific sectors, Switzerland contributes to the advancement of sustainable development in its three dimensions. The coordination of Switzerland's international engagement linked to the Agenda 2030 is ensured by an inter-ministerial task force, which already coordinated Switzerland's engagement for the negotiations on the 2030 Agenda and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Through its Dispatch on International Cooperation 2017-2020 based on the 2030 Agenda and other points of reference, Switzerland sets out the following objectives, which guide its development cooperation for a period of four years:

- Contribute to the development of an international framework for responding to global challenges
- Prevent and manage the consequences of crisis and disaster, and of fragility; promote conflict transformation
- Support sustainable access to resources and services for all
- Promote sustainable economic growth
- Strengthen the rule of law and democratic participation; support institutions serving society and the economy
- Ensure respect for human rights and fundamental liberties, and support efforts to advance their cause
- Strengthen gender equality and the rights of women and girls.

132. With regard to the sectoral international policies such as climate change, biodiversity or agriculture, each federal office has the responsibility to coordinate its international engagement with other ministries to ensure policy coherence and orientation towards sustainable development.

133. Switzerland's efforts to develop institutional frameworks to implement the 2030 Agenda in the area of FSN and SA in an inclusive manner can be well illustrated by the **Sustainable Food Systems Programme (SFSP) of the 10-Year Framework of Programmes on Sustainable**

Consumption and Production (10YFP). This international multi-stakeholder initiative aims to accelerate the shift towards more sustainable food systems. The focus topics of the SFSP are: sustainable diets; sustainability all along food value chains; reduction of food losses and waste; multi-stakeholder platforms at local, national and regional levels; and resilient, inclusive, diverse food production systems. SFSP members promote activities that fall under these topics, in the areas of awareness raising, capacity development and facilitating access to knowledge, information and tools. Switzerland co-leads the SFSP together with South Africa, WWF and Hivos, with the support of a 23 member Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee and 70 partners worldwide.

134. The SFSP brings together existing initiatives and partnerships from all levels working in food related areas, highlighting good practices and success stories. As well, it builds synergies and promotes cooperation among stakeholders to leverage resources towards mutual objectives and minimise duplication of ongoing efforts. The programme focuses on strategic topics such as sustainable diets, the reduction of food losses and waste, sustainable value chains and resilience. The programme thus makes a direct contribution to the implementation of SDG2 on food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture, and SDG12 on sustainable consumption and production, as well as to a series of targets under other SDGs in areas including poverty reduction, health, biodiversity and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

D. Means of implementation

135. **Finance:** The implementation of the two axes strategy is assured via the budgets that have been approved by the individual federal offices. The Swiss Confederation also supports the comprehensive financing and implementation framework adopted by all UN member states at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development: the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA). Moreover, Switzerland is highly engaged in support of international conventions and standards in order to strengthen the normative global framework favouring the achievement of the SDGs. At international level, Switzerland mainly contributes to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through its international cooperation.

136. **Reporting:** Federal offices are required to include sustainable development in their sectoral policies periodic reports. In order to measure and report on contributions to the SDGs, Switzerland uses its comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system (MONET) in place since 2003. With its approximately 75 regularly updated indicators it is observed whether, Switzerland is on the path to sustainable development. In May 2016, the system's reference framework was amended in order to be ready to take into account the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, thus laying the foundation for both national and international reporting. The Confederation is also committed to actively engaging in the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) alongside all other countries and all relevant stakeholder representatives. Accordingly, it will participate in the planned periodic reporting and implementation monitoring for the SDGs, provide specific input on how the basis of data can be improved, and help developing countries to build their national capacities to draft strategies for sustainable development and to track their implementation.

137. **Institutional questions:** Questions related to institutional arrangements are examined too and modifications will be proposed where necessary. Particular attention will be paid to coordinating national, subnational and international processes as effectively as possible. Building on existing structures, the aim is to arrive at an efficient process within the Swiss Confederation to implement the 2030 Agenda in both domestic and foreign policy. Synergies should be created between national and international processes, while avoiding duplication and overlaps.

E. Next steps

138. Switzerland has launched a national process to define and take concrete steps to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Concretely, the following measures are being or will be taken during the 2016–17 transition phase:

- A baseline study and a gap analysis are being conducted to identify and define future areas for implementing the 2030 Agenda;
- The future process needed to implement the 2030 Agenda will be determined and the internal structure and the allocation of responsibilities within the Federal Administration will be defined;
- The sustainable monitoring system MONET to ensure adequate monitoring and reporting will be expanded;
- The modalities for stakeholder participation in consultations and in implementation partnerships for the 2030 Agenda will be determined;
- The reporting will be aligned with UN requirements, and Switzerland's first substantive report to the HLPF on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in 2018 will be prepared.

139. By early 2018, a report summarizing these efforts and formulating corresponding recommendations for Switzerland's implementation of the 2030 Agenda will be presented to the Federal Council. On the basis of the findings from the transition phase and decisions taken by the Federal Council, Switzerland will present a first comprehensive country review at the HLPF 2018