

Summary Voluntary National Review 2019

The Road to Sustainable Development



Guatemala

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Commitment to the National Development Agenda: The SDGs and their articulation to the *K'atun National Development Plan: our Guatemala 2032*, July 2019. Great Hall Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center. Source: SEGEPLAN.



Progress on the commitment to the National Development Agenda: The SDGs and their articulation to the *K'atun National Development Plan: Our Guatemala 2032*, May 2019. Great Hall Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center. Source: SEGEPLAN.

1. OPENING STATEMENT

Voluntary National Review 2019: The Road to Sustainable Development

In 2014, Guatemala approved the *National Development Plan K'atun: our Guatemala 2032*, and in 2016, prioritized the 2030 Agenda by integrating 99 targets to the *Plan K'atun*, of which 16 were identified as strategic targets grouped into 10 National Development Priorities. Therefore, the Voluntary National Review report now submitted analyzes all 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the 10 National Development Priorities.

The report Guatemala submits today reviews the first five years of the Plan K'atun and was prepared with the participation and inputs of public institutions, municipalities, development councils, international development partners, the private sector, and civil society. Multiple spaces for dialogue and consultation have been used to collect valuable information on the actions implemented thus far, the progress made and the challenges that still persist in the country.

The national Development Council System (SISCODE) constitutes the channel to plan our country's development in a democratic, inclusive and participative manner. It is also the mechanism for the expression of citizens' needs from the local to the national level, and therefore represents a significant value for Guatemala. This System has also become an international benchmark for subnational participation and it is where the dream of a national development plan began, back in 2012. The Plan K'atun was approved in 2014 and was adopted as the main reference for the government administration starting in 2016.

During the first five years of the Plan K'atun, the foundations have been laid and long-term conditions generated for national development. In this context, the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals has represented a catalyst for the implementation of the National Development Plan, defining the National Development Priorities that are now guiding for all the actors in the country.

Since 2016 and reflecting our commitment to continued progress, we have prioritized targets and indicators, while analyzing their synergies and linkages, all based on solid technical analyses and backed by the needs of the population reflected in the Plan K'atun. The aim is to make our roads merge, and to find a common route, that allows us to address the critical issues still affecting Guatemala and that we must overcome to achieve sustainable development. 'Implementation Strategy for the National Development Priorities' is the main tool to ensure a feasible implementation of the targets, which ultimately shall be translated into improved living conditions of all Guatemalans.

As a State we have assumed the responsibility of putting the national development agenda in practice. This begins with changing the way we govern to solve structural problems. We have learned that this is only possible if we think in the medium - and long term, building a true 'whole-of-society' partnership, in an atmosphere of trust.

Thus, we are now seeing Guatemala in full transformation, and the preparation of this VNR has been a valuable opportunity to analyze the state of the country and to inform the population on the journey we have taken towards sustainable development. In addition, it is a moment of convergence with multiple stakeholders who, with their respective competencies, have a responsibility with - and a commitment to - the country. The lessons learned from the first VNR process in 2017 challenged us to broaden participation. We are proud to announce that this second VNR reflects the vision of the 22 Guatemalan departments, the municipalities and multiple social groups who, from their perspective, contributed to this review.

In 2019, these actors have reaffirmed their commitment to join efforts for the consolidation of the national development agenda, a commitment that we hope will be translated into reducing the remaining inequality gaps in Guatemala.

A commitment of this magnitude comes with great challenges for its fulfillment. However, we have learned that the shared route must be based on a robust national planning system, with stable cycles of planning, programming, monitoring and evaluation. Above all, it must be backed by a strong ethical and transparent commitment from all stakeholders.

This VNR is a response to this commitment and at the same time explains how the National Development Priorities have

become an opportunity to unify efforts and align interventions in order to make our actions more efficient.

We are aware that there is still a long way ahead of us. The National Development Plan itself sets the tone and timeline for the stages of implementation. Therefore, the steps taken in these first five years (2015-2019) will be decisive for the next five years (2020-2024), which should be oriented to an effective and consolidated implementation and thus to the achievement of a more equitable, inclusive Guatemala.



Jimmy Morales Cabrera
Constitutional President of the
Republic of Guatemala



Progress on the commitment to the National Development Agenda: The SDGs and their articulation in the *K'atun National Development Plan: our Guatemala 2032*, May 2019. Grand Room Miguel Angel Asturias Cultural Center. Source: SEGEPLAN.



Source: Ministry of Social Communication of the Presidency, 2019.

2. HIGHLIGHTS

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Our key to success: defining a development agenda that is embedded in the national context

In Guatemala, the *2030 Agenda* for Sustainable Development has been incorporated into the *National Development Plan K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032*, which was approved in 2014. Through the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into the national framework, the country identified ten National Development Priorities (PNDs, for its Spanish acronym) and 16 Strategic Development Targets (MEDs for their Spanish acronym) in 2017. To review progress and inform future action by the government and other stakeholders, a total of 237 indicators have been identified, of which 193 indicators stem from the global framework of the *2030 Agenda* and 44 from the *Plan K'atun*. Merging these agendas has led to effectiveness and sustainability; on the one hand, the *2030 Agenda* is merged into the five-year cycle of the *Plan K'atun* execution; and on the other, its implementation is guided by the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR) that convenes multiple national stakeholders for 20 years and constitutes the highest institution to formulate and monitor national development policies.

The Voluntary National Review - A milestone in the national efforts to achieve sustainable development

Resulting from the collaboration between state agencies and other Guatemalan stakeholders, this year's Voluntary National Review (VNR) constitutes an essential milestone in the national efforts to achieve sustainable development framed by the *Plan K'atun* and the *2030 Agenda*. Reviewing the progress made so far, the VNR assesses the first five-year implementation of the *Plan K'atun* (2015-2019). In addition, the report seeks to provide key inputs for the next government period starting in January 2020. In itself, the review process enabled assessing the national commitment to achieve sustainable development by representatives from the national government, civil society, indigenous peoples, private sector, municipalities and others. It also captures the lessons learnt in the continuous collaboration among key stakeholders in Guatemala.

Status of the National Development Priorities (PND)

This review analyzes advances on the PNDs and their MEDs, which represent the fusion of national development goals targets and targets by the *Plan K'atun* and

the *2030 Agenda*. Current statistical capacity allows for 120 of the 237 indicators prioritized for the PNDs to be measured.

For instance, the PND for Poverty Reduction and Social Protection (related to SDGs 1, 5, 8 and 10) reflects the impact of the general poverty affecting 59.3% of the population, while 23.4% live in conditions of extreme poverty (all in 2014). According to the PND related to Access to Health Services (SDG 3), the level of maternal mortality is at 105 in 2018, which is less than half compared to 1989 (SEGEPLAN 2019). Notably, in 2015 66.5% of the population had essential health coverage, while 37% relied on an insurance of the public health system. On the other hand, the review of the PND for Employment and Investment (SDGs 8, 9, 12) reveals persistent difficulties to expand the competitiveness of the tourism sector, while Land-Use Management (SDG 11) advances significantly with the growing number of municipalities that have developed Municipal Development Plans promoting sustainable development. Finally, in the PND for Access to Water and Natural Resources Management (SDGs 6, 7, 11 and 15), areas managed with forestry incentives have expanded substantially and the proportion of local authorities that implement water and sanitation projects increased from 44% to 84% in the period 2015-2018.

Let everyone rise, call everyone, so that no one is left behind, that we are not one, not two, but all as one, as stated in the Popol Vuh¹

The essence of Guatemala's sustainable development is carried by the commitment to achieve 'equality', as an axis of the *Plan K'atun* that embraces the principle of 'Leaving No One Behind' (LNOB). Building on the inclusive nature of the *Plan K'atun*, Guatemala is scaling up its efforts to achieve the PNDs for the most vulnerable sectors of the population. In light of persistent social and economic gaps, the country aims to improve its statistical capacity to produce disaggregated data by different population groups and geographic areas, which will contribute to a sharper focus of the government's public policies and programs. In 2018, the National Statistics Institute (INE) conducted the national Population and Housing Census, which covered variables to comply with the principle of LNOB. Furthermore, this VNR is in itself a reflection of the government's pledge to include all social groups through dozens of consultations and dialogues.

1. PopolVuh (translated as "Book of the People") is a text recounting the mythology, history and cosmology of the K'iche' people, one of the Maya peoples.

Lessons Guatemala shares with other countries

- Strong enablers for implementing the *2030 Agenda* are; i) A long-term development plan and ii) the System of Urban and Rural Development Councils (SISCODE) that serve as a development authority with representation of whole-of-government as well as representatives from civil society and private sector.
- Mainstreaming the *2030 Agenda* into the national long-term development vision constitutes an effective way to ensure the efficiency and sustainability of implementing the SDGs. This can be further strengthened by an already existing governance mechanism (in this case, CONADUR) with representation of the government, civil society and the private sector.
- Creating the foundations for consistent planning, implementation, monitoring and review of both global and national frameworks requires time, resources, flexibility, as well as a culture of collaboration and open data sharing among all stakeholders.
- In order to accelerate the implementation of the long-term development goals by efforts to localize the SDGs, the capacities of municipal governments need to be further developed with instruments that integrate municipal planning and land-use management.
- Sustainable development involves readjusting public policies and budgetary programming. Results-Based

Management anchored in program-based budgets can be a successful path as it generates sufficient incentives to frame all the government action in the PNDs.

Opportunities for the international community to be part of a successful process

- Respecting the principles of effective development cooperation, the alignment of donors and international organizations to national priorities needs to be strengthened through the use of national planning systems and results monitoring.
- International support to the implementation of national development priorities, to both central and subnational authorities, should be maintained and expanded.

The Voluntary National Review contributes to the government transition

For Guatemala, the VNR has become a technical instrument that facilitates the hand-over of the country's development efforts to the next administration. The review reflects the explicit consensus of the society on sustainable development. The Plan K'atun itself has emerged from a process that enabled all stakeholders to contribute to the definition of the country's development priorities and to agree on the "road to sustainable development" while also defining the roles and responsibilities of each actor with Guatemala's development.



Workshop for consultation and dialogue with members of Congress, 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.



Regular Meeting of the National Urban and Rural Development Council (CONADUR) where the VNR was approved, June 2019.
Source: Secretariat of Social Communication of the Presidency.

3. INTRODUCTION

3. INTRODUCTION

Resulting from the collaboration between government institutions and other national stakeholders of the State and Guatemalan society, the VNR, was presented to a national audience as well as submitted to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2019. It is a milestone in Guatemala's efforts to achieve sustainable development process collected in the *National Development Plan K'atun: Our Guatemala 2032 (hereinafter Plan K'atun)*.

This report summarizes the most important findings of the VNR based on the document published by Guatemala in June 2019. It reviews progress and challenges considering both frameworks of goals and targets that are merged into ten National Development Priorities (PNDs) since 2017. These PNDs contain 99 integrated targets, which are grouped into 16 Strategic Development Targets (MEDs) and 237 indicators from both the *2030 Agenda* and the *Plan K'atun*. The PNDs cover all SDGs in an effort to generate a solid point of departure for future revisions. In addition, the VNR reviews the aspects related to: governance, statistical capacity, public policy planning, government programs, financing, subnational articulation, and contributions from non-state actors. Importantly, the VNR analyzes the progress made in the SDGs and its targets related to the PND.

Both the national implementation of the *2030 Agenda* and the VNR process benefit from the fact that Guatemala's sustainable development process is framed in long-term planning outlined in the *Plan K'atun*, which establishes state action guidelines until the year 2032. Approved in August 2014, it is the first long-term development vision with which the country was endowed in its history (see Textbox 1). It was developed in an inclusive manner with the participation of a large number of organizations and citizens, as a way of addressing the persistent social gaps the principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB). It is thus not surprising that the *Plan K'atun* reveals virtually a total coincidence with the *2030 Agenda* in terms of themes and principles. The implementation of the *Plan K'atun* is carried out in five-years periods, with the first five years being covered by this report (2015-2019).

Regarding the *2030 Agenda*, Guatemala relies on the advantage of having inter-institutional governance structures in place that are responsible for development policies and programs.

TEXTBOX 1: THE PLAN K'ATUN GOES BEYOND ELECTORAL CYCLES

Through the *Plan K'atun*, Guatemala relies for the first time in its history on a vision of long-term development and transformation. The *Plan K'atun* built upon five axes: i) urban and rural development, ii) well-being, iii) wealth for all, natural resources, iv) the State as a guarantor of human rights and v) development.

Approved in 2014, the *Plan K'atun* is the result of an unprecedented effort of the public sector which was articulated both horizontally (between ministries) and vertically (with the departments and municipalities). Importantly, it arises from almost 400 consultations with over 13,000 citizens and representatives of organizations. It is therefore the product of an inclusive and participatory process (instead of collective social construction).

Importantly the *Plan K'atun* provides a framework for transformative change for the public institutions, particularly through the CONADUR and the subnational councils.

The ambition of the *Plan K'atun* is to be the benchmark for sustainable development beyond the government cycles: A benchmark fully anchored in the reality of the country and the aspirations of all citizens.

In a relatively short period (2016-2019), these structures not only took ownership of the global agreement, but also promoted the full integration of the SDGs and its targets into national strategic, institutional and statistical frameworks. Among these governance structures, the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR), created in 2002, is the political platform for democratic development planning, while the Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency (SEGEPLAN), functioning since 1954, serves as the CONADUR Secretariat.

Rooted in a long-term national process, the VNR process is based on a broad spectrum of lessons learned in previous stages, such as the experiences from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and the four MDG progress reports that were submitted until 2015. The VNR also builds upon the bases created by the

first VNR in 2017, which was mainly focused on country ownership as well as thematic and statistical alignment, the 2019 VNR also draws on the inputs from the update of progress on the SDGs that the government carried out in 2018.

The VNR seeks to reflect the national ownership of the sustainable development priorities, goals and targets. This concerns both central government institutions and subnational authorities, particularly the Departmental Development Councils and municipal governments. Beyond the executive branch, several Committees of Congress, as a sign of parliamentary commitment with this agenda, participated in the review. In addition, for this review the Judicial Branch in its capacity responded to the query.

With CONADUR's political leadership and SEGEPLAN's technical coordination, this VNR was carried out between September 2018, when the Council mandated the review, and June 2019 when the report was officially approved by the Council. Contributions of national and subnational government, civil society, private sector and international organizations were mobilized during the review process. This VNR meets the LNOB principle as it captures and systematizes the perceptions of different social groups.

In short, this VNR summary outlines, firstly, the methodology and the process used to systematize and validate the inputs of different stakeholders (chapter 4). Subsequently, it provides a brief analysis of the country context looking

into the national ownership of the **2030 Agenda**, the incorporation of the SDGs into national frameworks, progress and challenges related to data and statistics, the governance mechanisms, as well as the perspectives of non-state actors (chapter 5).

At the heart of the VNR is the analysis of the progress made on the ten PNDs as well as the challenges faced. The PND review includes the analysis of baselines and trends regarding the development of indicators, the contributions of stakeholders to overcome existing challenges, the perceptions of social groups, and perspectives for the future (chapter 6). This analysis is complemented with an assessment of the available means of implementation, with an emphasis on financing for development (chapter 7).

As a conclusion, the VNR summary highlights a number of next steps that can be explored by the government and other stakeholders (chapter 8). Finally, the review lists a number of conclusions deemed relevant for other countries and international agencies interested in supporting Guatemala's SDG implementation efforts (chapter 9).

Going forward, Guatemala's aim is to use the lessons learnt and the data collected for this report to accelerate the achievement of the PNDs and the **2030 Agenda** during the next five-year period of the **Plan K'atun** (2020-2024). The following pages reflect the numerous advances and challenges that can be addressed with the political will and technical commitment across sectors and by all levels of Government.



National Voluntary Review Workshops, June 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.



Information validation workshops for the Voluntary National Review, June 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.

4. METHODOLOGY AND PROCESS FOR PREPARATION OF THE VNR

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The review of the **2030 Agenda** is an integral element of the continuous monitoring that the government of Guatemala conducts in the context of the **Plan K'atun**, with a specific emphasis on merging the goals and targets of both frameworks. Covering the first period of the **Plan K'atun** (2015-2019), this VNR is dedicated to the adaptation and prioritization of the SDGs in the country, i.e., the creation and consolidation of strategic, institutional and programmatic conditions to implement the PNDs. This phase will also substantiate the following five-year period of the **Plan K'atun** (2020-2024) geared to accelerating progress on the SDGs and prioritized targets.

Complementing the first VNR submitted in 2017, which focused primarily on thematic and statistical adaptation, this year's VNR assesses the generation of national conditions and progress made in the implementation of the PNDs that merge the goals of the **Plan K'atun** and the **2030 Agenda**. The review began in September 2018 under the political leadership of CONADUR and with the technical coordination of SEGEPLAN, and culminated in June 2019. Meeting the guiding principles for follow-up and review highlighted the paragraph 74 of the **2030 Agenda**²; the review combines the following components:

- The analysis of current national conditions in terms of governance, institutional settings, statistical capacity, planning, policies and programmatic structures - using an institutional self-assessment tool called Plan Barómetro-, in addition to the process of incorporating the goals and target of the **Plan K'atun** and the **2030 Agenda** described in section 5.2. *This component is in line with principle f of para. 74 (use of existing platforms and processes).*

- Examination, systematization and validation of statistical information on baselines, as well as progress and trends in indicators prioritized for measuring the ten PNDs and their 16 MEDs. These indicators were merged from the SDGs and Plan K'atun into a single set of 237 indicators, and technical sheets for each indicator were drafted.

Statistical information was gathered and validated during 17 workshops with the participation of 114 representatives of different public institutions, as well as numerous bilateral meetings. This effort is a continuation of the process initiated during the 2016 statistical assessment that was carried out with a view to the 2017 VNR. As a result, 120 indicators with available data were defined. The indicators were validated by government stakeholders and approved with their respective baseline/s by the CONADUR. *This component is in line with principle b of para. 74 (track progress in implementing the universal goals and targets).*

- Central and municipal authorities mapped their contributions to each PND during consultations and workshops. A total of 22 departmental consultations (reaching 741 people); consultations in 152 municipalities and five regional consultations through the Regional Development Councils (COREDUR) were conducted. *This component is in line with the principles b and c of para. 74 (track progress in implementing the universal goals and targets; and mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships).*

- Consultations with Congress and several of its Committees were carried out within a six-month period. The exercise consisted of information-gathering including three workshops (April-May 2019) and an online questionnaire to which 19 of the total 38 Committees responded. *This component is in line with the principles c and d of para. 74 (mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships; and open, inclusive, participatory and transparent character, as well as support reporting by all relevant stakeholders).*

- Consultations with the Judicial Branch through formal communication channels were conducted. *This component is in line with the principles c and d of paragraph 74 (mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships; and open, inclusive, participatory and transparent character, as well as support reporting by all relevant stakeholders).*

2. Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, resolution A/RES/70/1
3. Parliamentary Committees included: Consumers and Users; National Security; Education; Food Safety; Disability Matters; Youth; Social Security; Indigenous Peoples; Children and Family; Culture; Environment, Ecology and Natural Resources; Legislation and Constitutional Matters; Migration; Housing; Farming; Sports; Women; Electoral Matters; as well as Regional Integration.

- A review of initiatives of non-state actors, particularly the private sector, took in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding that was established between SEGEPLAN and the Action Center for Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala (CentraRSE), an association consisting of more than 100-member companies. In addition, the review draws on a survey of the local network of the United Nations Global Compact and was informed by working meetings with the Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations (CACIF). More than 100 contributions from the private sector are reflected in a study submitted by CACIF and the Global Compact. *This component is in line with the principles c and d of article 74 (mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships; and open, inclusive, participatory and transparent character, as well as support reporting by all relevant stakeholders).*

- Consultations and analysis of the contributions of international development agencies and donors supporting the PND areas were conducted. The analysis was based on meetings and consultations held as a preparation for the third Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC). The Monitoring Round was conducted in 2018-2019 with the participation of 17 out of 39 donors operating in Guatemala. The review also relies on the results of the Report on Non-Re-

imbursable International Cooperation, which will be published in the second half of 2019, in which 22 participating donors registered 500 programs and projects. *This component is in line with the principle c of article 74 (mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships, (...) and coordination and effectiveness of the international development system).*

- Consultations and dialogues to gather the feedback from the Guatemalan population on Government efforts were carried out under the leadership and structure of CONADUR. In total, consultations were held with 298 representatives of different social groups. *This component found in line with the principles d and e of para. 74 (open, inclusive, participatory and transparent character; as well as people-centred, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind).*

The review process itself is a reflection of the degree of national ownership of the sustainable development goals and targets. It reiterates the advantages of integrating the **2030 Agenda** in a long-term national development process, and demonstrates that existing national governance mechanisms can mobilize the required means of implementation and partnerships in an efficient and inclusive way.

4. Consultations were conducted with women's organizations and groups; indigenous peoples; non-governmental organizations; academia; organizations of childhood, adolescence and youth; the Cairo+20 Driving Group; LGTBI population; cooperatives and MSME; people with disabilities; as well as peasant organizations.



Dialogue and consultation workshops in Totonicapán, November 2018. Source: SEGEPLAN.

5. POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

5.1. Ownership of the 2030 Agenda in Guatemala

Building on the lessons learnt from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Guatemala has advanced quickly in taking ownership of the **2030 Agenda** as a part of its political, programmatic, institutional and financial efforts to achieve sustainable development. Since its subscription in September 2015, the country has used the **2030 Agenda** as a catalyst and additional boost to the implementation of the long-term sustainable development vision, reflected in the *Plan K'atun*.

The ample thematic commonalities between the *Plan K'atun* and the **2030 Agenda** allowed the government to start implementing the *Strategy for Articulation of the SDGs to the National Development Plan* in June 2016. The alignment of the **2030 Agenda** with the *National Development Plan* facilitated the adoption and prioritization of the SDGs and their goals in the national context (see section 5.2). Since its creation in 2002, the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR) is the main platform for national development policies and programs and was mandated to be responsible for the implementation of the *Plan K'atun* and the **2030 Agenda**. CONADUR also constitutes the umbrella of the Departmental Development Councils (CODEDES) and its participation model comes from all levels of government, including the municipal and community level.

In order to enhance ownership of the National Plan and the **2030 Agenda**, 156 workshops and consultations with all relevant stakeholders were carried out. In addition, 32 workshops were held with technical units of the government, as well as 59 dissemination workshops with civil society. Once the articulation was culminated, CONADUR approved a *Implementation Strategy for the National Development Priorities* with accompanying guidelines in February 2017. National ownership will be strengthened, among other aspects, by adjusting institutional plans and the programmatic offer of the governmental entities to cater the PNDs. Among the components of this Strategy are: strengthening the statistical capacities in different institutions (see section 5.3), continuing investments in governance mechanisms (see section 5.4) and expanding financing for development (see chapter 7).

TEXTBOX 2: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE MUNICIPALITIES

Considering the wide gaps between territories and the multiple vulnerabilities in the municipalities, the government of Guatemala is committed to strengthening the capacities for planning, implementation and results monitoring through the Plans for Municipal Development and Land-Use Management (PDM-OT).

The PDM-OT methodology requires a direct alignment to the PND. It primarily aims to improve coordination with central government institutions, NGOs, international development organizations.

Through its departmental offices SEGEPLAN is currently deploying a wide range of technical assistance. At this stage it covers more than 200 of the 340 Guatemalan municipalities. This is part of the *National Plan for Municipal Strengthening (PLANAFOM)*, which is increasingly focused on the priorities and SDGs.

Inspired by the inclusive nature of the *Plan K'atun*, national ownership of the **2030 Agenda** encompasses multiple stakeholders adding to the efforts of the government. In July 2017, the presidents of the three State branches; the private sector, civil society and international development organizations endorsed a joint statement pledging to the **2030 Agenda** and its articulation with the *Plan K'atun* "in accordance with our roles and competencies, [with] efforts to make sustainable and inclusive development a reality for our country". A number of initiatives are already implemented by the private sector under the umbrellas of the UN Global Compact local network, CentraRSE and CACIF. These platforms lead the adaptation of national businesses to sustainable development, and thereby among others contribute to the dissemination and awareness of the SDGs among the population (for more details, see section 5.5).

In short, national ownership of sustainable development is high due to the commitment of the central government to generate mechanisms and inclusive processes of collaboration, planning and implementation.

Despite this promising panorama, there are also challenges, for instance, to foster knowledge and create ownership at the subnational and community levels. According to an online survey conducted as an input for this VNR, the **2030 Agenda** is however still perceived largely as a government-only framework. In addition, further efforts are needed to deepen sustainable development beyond the concepts, i.e. to plan, implement and account for results along the priorities and targets set in Guatemala.

5.2. Incorporation of the Sustainable Development Goals in national frameworks

As a result of an initial review of the thematic commonalities (calculated at 90%), Guatemala moved on to implement the **Strategy for Articulation of the SDGs to the National Development Plan**. In this framework, all 17 SDGs were prioritized, as well as 129 of the 169 targets and 200⁵ of the 241 indicators of the global framework. These were subsequently integrated in the ten PNDs.

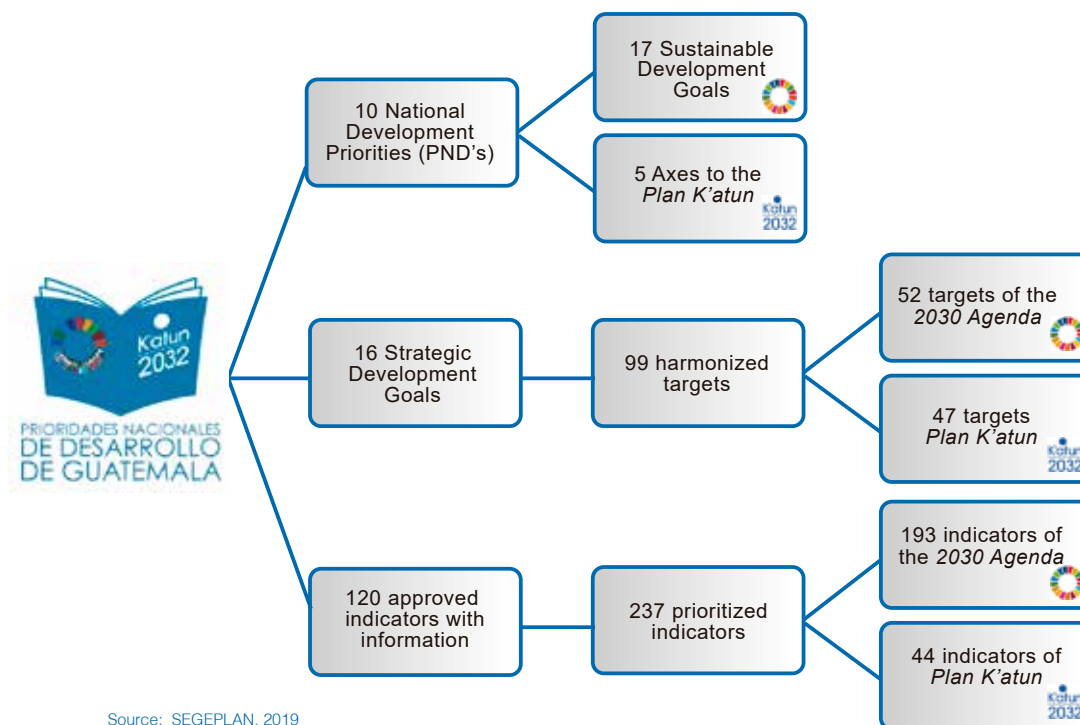
On this basis, the integration of the SDGs in the framework National **Plan K'atun** made swift progress. In February 2017, the **Strategy for Implementing the National Development Priorities** was launched. It embraces,

among others components, political and technical coordination, planning, financing and statistical systems.

The integration process consisted of two phases: The first step was an exercise to unify the development targets contained in the **Plan K'atun** and the **2030 Agenda**, generating a single harmonized list of 99 targets. 52 of these are originated in the **2030 Agenda** and 47 in the **Plan K'atun**. As a second step, the Strategic Development Targets (MEDs) were identified drawing on the hierarchy of the harmonized goals.

With the support of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), this process used the methodology of critical nodes and links that involves an analysis of networks, links and relationships. In total, among the 99 targets of the harmonized list, 16 nodal targets were identified. Nodal targets are those that reveal a greater number of linkages with other targets, represent problems of greater national relevance and therefore reflect the most important development needs in Guatemala. Annex 2 contains the 16 MEDs grouped according to the ten PNDs and their linkages to the respective SDGs, while figure 1 summarizes the different inputs merging in the PNDs.

Figure 1: Inputs merging into the National Development Priorities



Source: SEGEPLAN, 2019

5. This number has been reduced to 193 due to the updating of metadata, which has meant the integration of some. It has also led to the reduction of some, since they do not apply to Guatemala. Further detail are explained in Chapter IV of the National Voluntary Review.

In order to turn these MEDs into measurable results, inter-institutional roundtables were organized in 2018. The roundtables developed the causal, descriptive and explanatory models for each of the 16 targets, using the results based management methodology based on the progress already initiated by the *Government's general policy* for 2016-2020. This effort intends to incorporate the priorities and targets into the national planning instruments, including linking planning and budgeting at the institutional, sectoral and subnational levels which covers all public sector entities. This is rooted, on the one hand, in the mapping of existing gaps in the institutional goods and services allocated off to the national budget (see chapter 7). On the other hand, it relates to the design of 25 Strategic Development Results (REDs) that constitute long-term results with indicators and targets that, starting in 2020, will anchor budgetary programs in the MEDs. With these results, the cycle of integrating the SDGs in the *Plan K'atun* advances, now requiring constant alignment of results, products and activities within the budgetary programs.

5.3. Progress and challenges of the statistical systems

The integration of the *2030 Agenda* into the *Plan K'atun* was carried out not only at the level of policies and targets, but also in terms of statistical systems and capacities. In 2016, with assistance from ECLAC and under the leadership of INE, Guatemala analyzed its statistical capacity for the production of SDG indicators. INE also reviewed the structural limitations in the National Statistics System (SEN), revealing, for instance, the institutional dispersion of statistics, gaps in the application of standards and methodologies, insufficient data updates, and weak disaggregation.

In response to these challenges and according to a mandate issued by CONADUR, INE launched the *Management Strategy for Statistics Generation* (EGGE) in February 2017. The EGGE complements the Strategy of Implementation mentioned in section 5.2. The EGGE establishes the route to generate adequate, useful and timely data, and covers: (a) a diagnosis of the available statistical information, (b) criteria for standardization and quality of information to ensure a unified statistical process, and (c) the definition of Specific Strategies for Statistical Management (EEGE) for all government institutions producing statistics on national sustainable development. The ultimate aim is to generate baselines and to further advance data disaggregation.

Indeed, a critical aspect of the current SEN is the 'lack of available disaggregated data which limits the options to adjust political and programmatic approaches to take into account the different vulnerabilities of the population and territories, especially when it comes to indigenous peoples and specific subnational contexts. Based on the review of national statistical capacities in 2016, the government defined the indicators that would measure the PNDs, focusing on a total of 237 indicators, of which 193 were taken from the global framework of the *2030 Agenda* (equivalent to 81%), and 44 from the *Plan K'atun* (19%, see more details in Annex 1).

To assess the statistical capacity to produce data for these 237 indicators, SEGEPLAN and INE carried out - in collaboration with the institutions leading the respective PND - three exercises of systematization and analysis of the statistical information available for each of the prioritized indicators. The intention was to ensure the generation of baselines, and to identify options of measuring progress in the medium and long term.

The first exercise took place in the first semester of 2017 and explored 68 indicators linked to six SDGs (1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14) and three PNDs (poverty reduction and social protection; access to health services; food security and nutrition). The results fed into the VNR submitted to the United Nations in 2017.

In 2018, the review continued with the assessment of 48 indicators related to five SDGs (6, 7, 11, 12 and 15) and three PNDs (access to water and resource management; economic value of natural resources; and land-use management).

Finally, between October 2018 and May 2019, 121 indicators linked to six SDGs (4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17) and the four remaining national priorities (education; employment and investment; comprehensive fiscal reform; and institutional strengthening, security and justice) were reviewed. This assessment also included a complete review of all prioritized indicators, in order to determine the possibility to update or expand the information of the previous rounds of review.

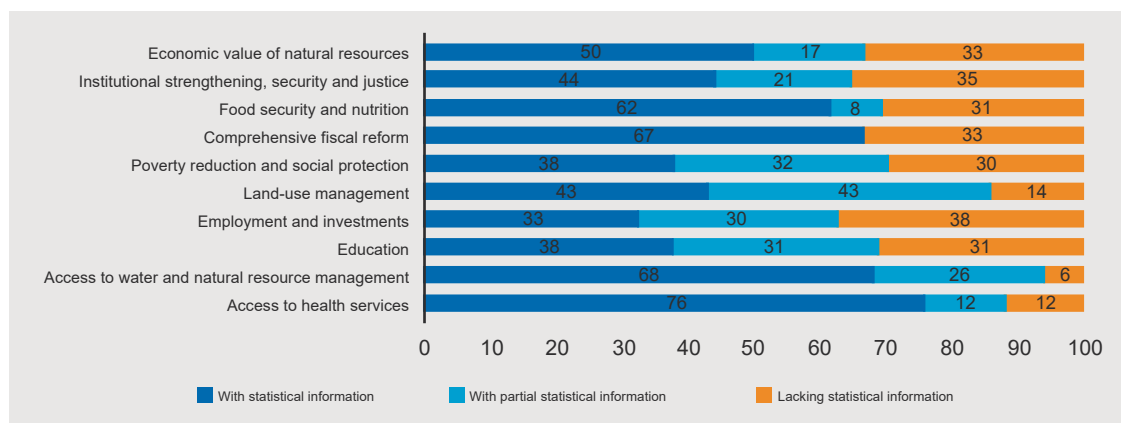
The overall result of assessing the 237 indicators demonstrated that Guatemala already produces statistical records allowing for estimation of 120 indicators (51%), while partial information is available for 58 indicators (24%), meaning that the country does not generate

the information according to the parameters established in the metadata, or produces a similar indicator. No information is produced for measuring the remaining 59 indicators (25%), and currently there is no methodology available that enables calculating results for these indicators.

Figure 2 summarizes the country's statistical capacity according to the PNDs. In concrete terms, PNDs covered mostly by indicators with available data are access to

health services (76% of related indicators with complete information); water and natural resources (68%); comprehensive fiscal reform (67%); and food security and nutrition (62%). Less data is available for the PNDs on employment (38%); institutional strengthening, security and justice (35%); economic value of natural resources and comprehensive fiscal reform (33% in both cases).

Figure 2: Statistical capacity per PND

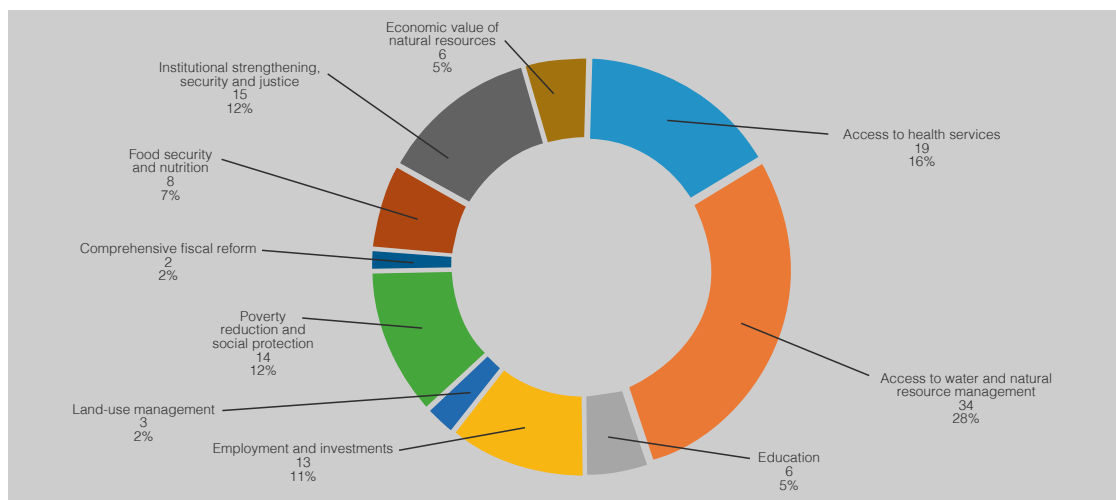


Source: SEGEPLAN, 2019.

Looking at the 120 indicators with statistical information by PND, those with the highest percentage of data availability are: Access to water and natural resources (28% of all indicators); access to health services (16%); as well as institutional strengthening security and justice;

poverty reduction and social protection (12% each). PNDs with lower percentage of available data are comprehensive tax reform and land-use management (2% each), followed by education and economic value of natural resources (5% each).⁶

Figure 3: Distribution of indicators with available data



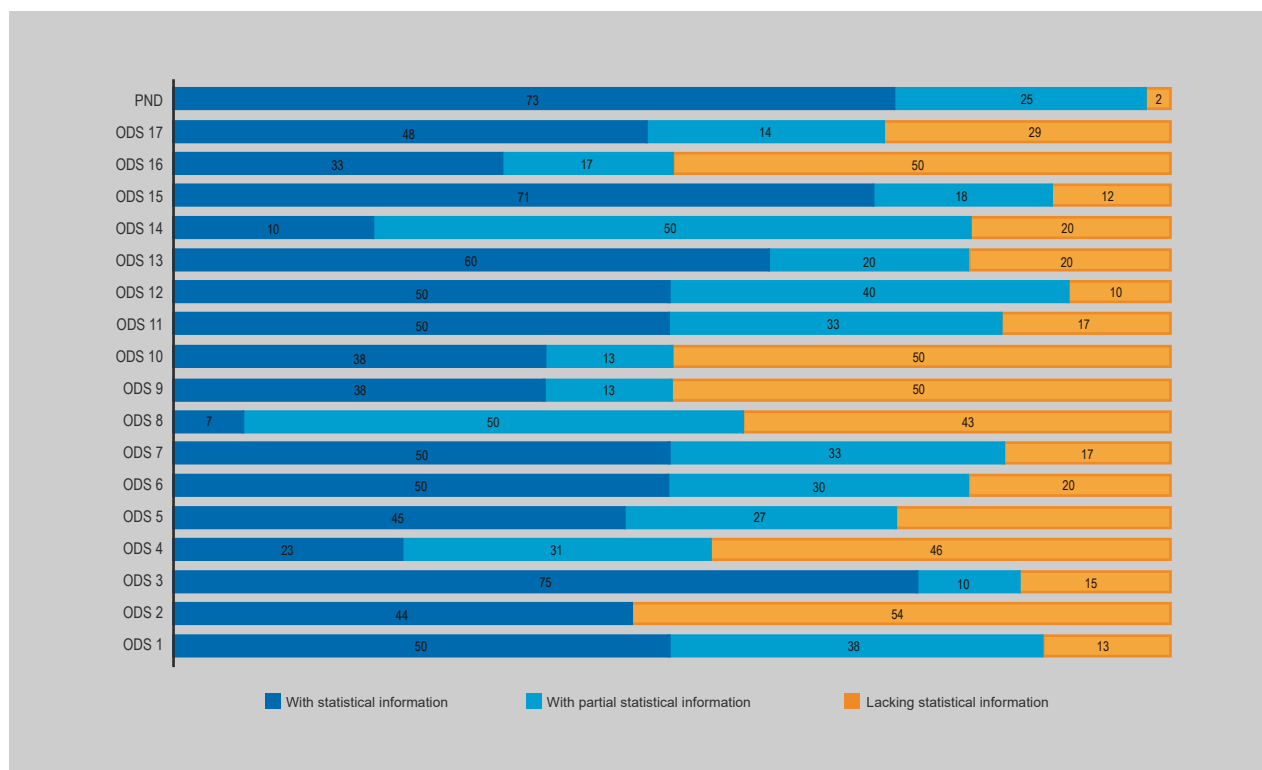
Source: SEGEPLAN, 2019.

6. 120 baselines and goals approved by CONADUR in its Decision Point (Punto Resolutivo) 07-2019

In terms of measuring the **2030 Agenda**, current statistical capacity is particularly strong for SDG 3 (75% of indicators have information), 15 (71%) and 13 (60%).

SDGs 14 (60%), 8 (50%) and 12 (40%). SDGs 9, 10 and 16 (50% each) and SDG 2 (54%) are most affected by indicators that lack data.

Figure 4: Statistical capacity per SDG



Source: SEGEPLAN, 2019.

In the long term, Guatemala must continue to strengthen the SEN to enable inter-institutional coordination in line with the EGGE. In order to anchor statistical capacity not only in the lead institutions but also at the sector level, a stronger role will be given to the Coordinating Offices for Sector Statistics (OCSE), which are inter-institutional technical units for the organization, integration and standardization of sector-level statistics under the INE umbrella. Administrative records will also be strengthened at the institutional level using INE guidelines, especially for indicators with partial or lacking availability of data, which might be integrated into future country-level surveys conducted by the INE (see textbox 3). At the institutional level, more financial and human resources should be invested in order to strengthen the Institutional Statistics Focal Points and the OCSE collaboration, while methodological routes to improve institutional statistical capacity need to be established.

As a structural challenge to meet the targets in the Guatemalan context it is vital, in the short term, to upgrade data disaggregation in order to monitor the deep and complex inequality gaps and inform political action geared to address the principle of LNOB.

TEXTBOX 3: INTEGRATION OF PND IN NATIONAL CENSUSES

Among the most significant steps to measure progress of the SDGs are the 2018 Population Census and the 2018 Housing Census. In line with the PND requirements and particularly the LNOB principle, updated and pertinent data was collected, with deeper disaggregation and distinctions by regions, therefore identifying the existing gaps with more precision.

5.4. Institutional governance mechanisms

The implementation of the PNDs is based on strong and solid governance. The National Council of Urban and Rural Development (CONADUR) serves as the political and strategic platform gathering representatives of the line ministries as well as representatives from different segments of the Guatemalan society, including municipalities, indigenous peoples' organizations, business associations, cooperatives⁷, NGOs and universities, among others. CONADUR is replicated through the subnational levels of the Development Council System, which includes regional, departmental, municipal and community councils.

Ensuring ownership at the political and strategic level, CONADUR instructed all public institutions, in line with their competences and attributions, to assume full responsibility for the design, planning and execution of the *Strategy for Implementing the National Development Priorities*.

In December 2017, the strategic process of alignment and ownership, the CONADUR approved, the ten National Development Priorities and their 16 MEDs (see section 5.3), emphasizing the inclusion of these into budget planning and design of each government institution for the period 2019-2032.

At the technical and operational level, the implementation of the *2030 Agenda* and the PNDs is facilitated by the Alignment, Monitoring and Evaluation Commission of the *Plan K'atun*, under the leadership of SEGEPLAN. This Commission is responsible for the implementation, both at the national and local level (*Strategy for Implementing National Development Priorities*) and in the territories and municipalities (through the integration of sustainable development priorities in the Plans for Municipal Development and Land-Use Management).

As its first component, the Implementation Strategy proposes the formation of a Committee that directly works with the Commission, which consist of three subcommittees that coordinates specific topics. These topics are Information Management, covering statistics, monitoring and reporting through the VNR(led by INE), Planning for Development to ensure that State interventions are focused on national priorities including the *2030 Agenda* (facilitated by SEGEPLAN),

and Financing for Development, which attempts to guide the means of implementation and specifically the financial sources towards national sustainable development (under the joint leadership of Ministry of Finance-MINFIN and SEGEPLAN, with support by Ministry of Foreign Affairs -MINEX).

Beyond the executive branch, CONADUR also promoted efforts to raise awareness of the PNDs at Congress and the Judiciary branch. In July 2017, a joint statement committed different actors to the national development agenda, calling among others for aspects, to "create the necessary political and legal frameworks enabling our commitment to the development of Guatemala"(paragraph 7) and to "improve access to justice and security, through legal reforms legal and institutional strengthening" (paragraph 8).

At the end of May 2019, this commitment was renewed during a public event with the participation of all stakeholders that were engaged in the development of the national plan. These partnerships have motivated the involvement of 19 congressional committees in the preparation of this year's VNR, sharing the bills and other legislative initiatives meant to accelerate the achievement of national priorities. Congress also provided feedback to the development of the PNDs, particularly in the area of Institutional Strengthening, Security and Justice.

During the following years, this institutional structure will help facilitate an increasingly effective and efficient implementation of the MEDs, from planning to accountability. The current challenges are related, among others, to the generation of sufficient institutional capacities, especially with respect to statistics and budgetary programming for the MEDs. Another challenge is the localization of national priorities in departmental, municipal and community contexts. Guatemala, through the CONADUR, can rely on existing mechanisms to address these challenges in a coordinated manner and with the shared commitment by all stakeholders that contribute to achieving sustainable development.

5.5. Perspectives and contributions by non-state actors

Non-state actors are involved in the implementation of the national priorities through the existing institutional framework. In this context, civil society organizations are an organic part of CONADUR, where they not only

7. The CONADUR convenes representatives of the government (President; Vice President; Municipal Corporations; Ministries of State; Secretariats; and Regional Councils for Urban and Rural Development -CORETUR-) and non-state actors (Mayan, Xinca and Garífuna Peoples; cooperative associations; associations of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises -MSME- of manufacturing and services sectors; peasant organizations; Coordinating Committee of Agrifood, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations -CACIF-; Workers' Organizations; Guatemalan Non-Governmental Development Organizations -NGOs-; women's organizations; and private universities)

influence the performance of the State, but also assume their roles and responsibilities to contribute to achieving sustainable development in Guatemala, particularly in the most vulnerable context. During the preparation of this VNR, civil society was proactively involved in the national and subnational consultations, expressing the perspectives of various population groups on government initiatives to advance in the PNDs, which were compiled in 11 dialogues and consultation workshops.

Specifically, the private sector has shown a remarkable progress in adapting to the **2030 Agenda** by initiating corporate social responsibility strategies and programs. The private sector primarily linked their contribution to economic targets, although social issues and governance are also of their interest. Main stakeholders collaborating with the government include CentraRSE, an association with 100-member companies operating in 20 sectors, and the local network of the UN Global Compact currently consisting of 36 national members.

In August 2018, SEGEPLAN and CentraRSE signed a Memorandum of Understanding that structures future collaboration around the PNDs and identifies joint actions to position these agendas in the private sector. It also aims to ensure the inclusion of business contributions in national reporting on progress made in implementing the PNDs. CentraRSE promotes business strategies focusing on economic, social and environmental sustainability, and hosts a corporate management program offering business solutions, roundtables, consultancies and various programs and projects (see textbox 4). Actions conducted jointly with the government include, among

TEXTBOX 4: CENTRARSE COMMITTED TO LABOR INCLUSION AND LABOR RIGHTS

As part of its **2030 Agenda** initiatives, CentraRSE launched in 2018 the Corporate Roundtable on Labor Inclusion which provides companies with tools allowing an improvement of recruitment and selection processes as well as advancements in labor inclusion and labor rights.

A total of 23 companies will participate in the upcoming second edition of the Recognition Prize for Inclusive Enterprises, to be granted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in October 2019.

others, the Eleventh Corporate Social Responsibility Forum titled "Transforming in order to change Guatemala" and the SDGs Expo, which were held in 2018.

Furthermore, the local network of the UN Global Compact focuses on awareness-raising, training and communicating key aspects of the **2030 Agenda**. It also supports the development of business sustainability reports in line with the SDGs. The Global Compact local network issued a brief study during the VNR process, which highlights the thematic priorities addressed by its members' strategies.

Most strategies relate to decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), health and wellbeing (SDG 3) and the reduction of inequalities (SDG 10).

Moreover, the Government, through the SEGEPLAN, has approached and engaged with CACIF in order to share information regarding the integration of the PND and collect information from the private sector that is relevant for the achievement of the sustainable development targets.

Consequently, a flexible and transparent context enables contributions of civil society and the private sector to the PNDs and the SDGs. Within the framework of the VNR, multiple business contributions were mapped, such as the CentraRSE-led "Labor Inclusion and Labor Rights" (relevant for the PND investment and employment) and "Eco Business Efficiency" (water and natural resources management) programs. Other initiatives include the "Alliance for Nutrition" of 18 agricultural companies, focused on the pregnancy and the first 24 months of the child's life, and the activities of the "Entrepreneurs for Education" seeking to promote the transformation of the education system.

The framework of implementation of long-term targets offers multiple opportunities to secure contributions of the different non-state actors that contribute to the national sustainable development efforts. Spaces for dialogue and coordination enable strengthening and refining of synergies, which are vital to speed up the achievement of the PNDs and MEDs, which will be further assessed in the next chapter.



Presentation National development priorities of the State of Guatemala, National Palace of Culture, April 2019.
Source: SEGEPLAN.

6. PROGRESS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

6. PROGRESS ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

6.1. National priority: poverty reduction and social protection

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 16 linked targets, of these:
2 *Plan K'atun*
14 SDGs

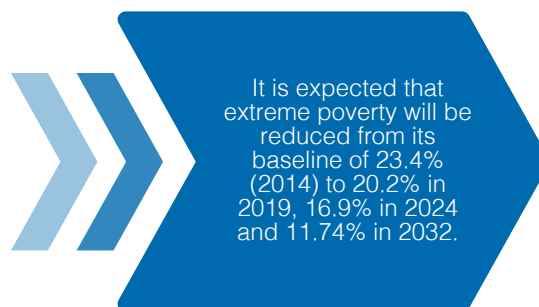
14 indicators with baseline and approved targets

Overcoming poverty and social inequality are historical aspirations for the people of Guatemala, yet the achievement of these aspirations still face considerable challenges. In Guatemala, 59.3% of the population lives in poverty, and more than 23% suffer extreme poverty, affecting especially indigenous populations and women, as well as the rural population. The reasons for poverty and its social, economic and political impact can be found in all development areas and constitutes a cross-cutting challenge. The current gaps are closely related to the limited provision of public goods and services, insufficient interventions to reduce inequality in different sectors and weak social protection measures. This is especially alarming in view of the multiple vulnerabilities faced by numerous social groups.



Committed to the fight against poverty and inequality, the government of Guatemala has driven multiple efforts to accelerate social inclusion and expand social protection from a comprehensive perspective. In particular, the Ministry of Social Development (MIDES) is carrying out public policies aimed at reducing poverty and extreme poverty, through programs in the areas of food security, integral health and quality education. In addition, programs promoted by the Secretariat of Social Works of the President's Wife (SOSEP) aim to improve the attention and protection of children, older persons, persons with disabilities and vulnerable families. These efforts are complemented with the Program of Economic Support to the Elderly and the Youth Employment Programs, as well as projects focusing on family farming and the peasant economy.

The revision of this national priority is based on two Strategic Development Targets (MEDs) that correspond to the **2030 Agenda** 10.2 (social inclusion) and 1.3 (social protection). For this PND, a total of 37 indicators were identified. Of these, 26 (70%) have full or partial data is available and 14 were approved in June 2019 by CONADUR with their respective baselines and goals. Among the SDG indicators, the country reports a slight decrease in the proportion of total government spending on social services between 2015 and 2018, from 44.37% to 43.72% of total (global indicator 1.a.2). The proportion of population living below the national poverty line (1.2.1) has not been measured since 2014, but had increased since 2011. However, social inequality, measured through the Gini Coefficient (as a national indicator), recorded improvements in this same period, although at a relatively low level (0.531 in 2014).⁸



During the consultations conducted for this VNR, different groups of the guatemalan society expressed their perception that poverty had increased in recent years and there was insufficient access to public services in different social and economic sectors. The participants indicated that the State suffers from weak institutions and the impact of corruption. Civil society organizations pointed out that the existing social programs were too limited in its scope and sustainability. In particular, vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities and young people highlighted the affect of social exclusion in their lives, and demanded better institutional programmatic and financial capabilities to overcome the deep social gaps and to leave no one behind.

Among the key elements to reduce inequality (SDG 10) and improve social protection (SDG 1), this review has identified the needs to expand public spending on social programs, extend social protection to vulnerable groups and enhance statistical capacity to address these groups through data-based public policies and programs.

8. The sources from which the statistical data for the indicators were obtained are specified in Chapter III of the National Voluntary Review and in the Statistical Annex of the complete document.

National Development Priority

**POVERTY REDUCTION AND
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

Progress

5,500
Scholarships
In **325** municipalities

Access to education for vulnerable youth.

**BETTER
SPENDING**

Development Councils have prioritized spending in water, sanitation, health and education.

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Human Development Index	2014	0.492	Index value
Extreme Poverty	2014	23.4	%
General Poverty	2014	59.3	%
Gini Coefficient	2014	0.531	Coefficient
Proportion of population with access to basic services	2014	30.8	%
Proportion of children (7-14) in child labor	2015	7.20	%
Illiteracy	2015	13.09	%
Housing deficit	2011	1.42	Million homes

GOALS
2019

ND
20.2
51.1
0.509
39
7.99
8.82
1.70

GOALS
2024

0.561
16.9
42.8
0.486
44
4.91
3.00
1.70

GOALS
2032

0.713
11.74
29.74
0.450
52
0
3.00
1.70

Challenges



INEQUALITY

Implementing interventions to address gaps and ensure attention to the most vulnerable groups.

Contributions and Perception

**SOCIAL
PROGRAMS**

Scholarships, meals, conditional cash transfers, economic support for specific groups.

**INEQUALITY
REDUCTION**

Programs for reducing inequality directed towards mothers.

All the participating actors identified actions that they carry out in contribution to this Priority.

6.2. National priority: access to health services

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 9 linked targets, of these:
3 *Plan K'atun*
6 SDGs

19 indicators with baseline and approved targets

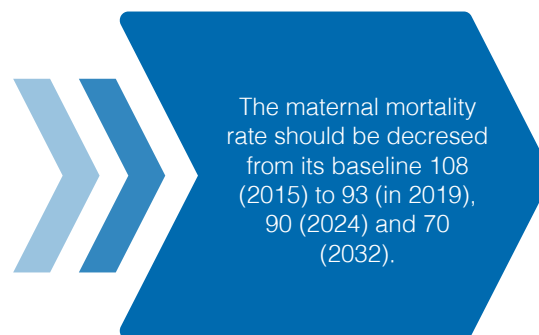
In Guatemala, the public health system faces multiple challenges, such as the fragmentation and weak managerial capacities of the Ministry of Health (MSPAS); limited investment in health; insufficient attention to the primary level and prevention strategies; as well as obsolete infrastructure and statistical systems. There is a lack of trained medical and paramedical staff, and the population perceives a decreasing quality of medical care.



Over the past years, the government of Guatemala has launched and deepened different programmatic approaches and inter-institutional mechanisms focused on improving the national health system. In this context, result-based budgeting approaches have been upgraded and statistical systems improved. Thematically, more attention is being paid to girls and other vulnerable groups who can access an increasingly focused and specialized service, including family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, care for victims of sexual violence, and others. At the subnational level, based on the *National Decentralization Agenda* approved in 2017, services are being extended by local Health Centers, with a special emphasis on maternal and child health.

This national priority is articulated through a MED which corresponds to the SDG target 3.8 (universal health coverage). Of the 25 established indicators for this priority, 22 indicators (88%) can be measured with full or partial

information. For most of the SDG indicators, data was only available until 2015, which consequently are considered baselines for future measurements. Specifically, maternal mortality per 100,000 live births stands at 110 (indicator 3.1.1) and 65.5% of births are attended by skilled health personnel (3.1.2). 48.9% of women in reproductive age practice family planning with modern methods (3.7.1). The mortality rate related to different non-communicable diseases is established for cardiovascular diseases (42.1), cancer (31.3), diabetes (24.9) and chronic respiratory diseases (5.2), all per 100,000 inhabitants (3.4.1). Although the information is incomplete, this review notes that 66.5% of the population has essential health coverage, while 37% have insurance from the public health system (3.8.1).



Public perception of the guatemalan health services is mixed. Some improvements in areas such as maternal and child care are expressed, while concern about delays at the systemic level (infrastructure, medications, medical staff, etc.) is expressed. Civil society organizations demanded a greater focus on prevention by reinforcing primary attention. The indigenous groups approved the support of the Ministry of Health towards traditional midwives, the use of ancestral medicine and the respect for alternative practices, also indicating that leaving no one behind is key to improve access to health at the subnational levels.

To meet the forecasts for this national priority, and in general for SDG 3, this review has detected different opportunities, particularly in strengthening and expanding the national health system, deepening the specialized attention to vulnerable groups, and propelling a change of culture towards prevention that requires decisive investments in the primary level of attention.

National Development Priority

ACCESS TO HEALTH SERVICES

Progress

80-82% and 84-88%
AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES

Medicines and surgical instruments in health centers.

IMPROVEMENT IN METROPOLITAN NETWORK OF HEALTH SERVICES

Strengthening seven second-level health centers and five motherhood units.

BETTER INVESTMENT
At first level health services.

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Proportion of births assisted by skilled health staff	2015	65.5	%
Proportion of children 12-23 months assisted by skilled health staff	2015	59	%
Fertility rate among 10-14 years old	2015	3	Rate/1,000
Fertility rate among 15-19 years old	2015	92	Rate/1,000
New HIV infections/1,000 inhabitants	2015	0.10	Rate
Mortality rate in children under 5 years old	2015	35	Rate
Neonatal mortality rate	2015	17	Rate
Neonatal mortality rate	2015	108	Rate

GOALS	GOALS	GOALS
2019	2024	2032
66	73	80
68.65	80.71	100
2.2	1.2	0
67.47	36.80	0
0.10	0.10	0.10
25	20	20
16	14	12
93	90	70

Challenges

INEQUALITY in access to health SERVICES

Strengthening needed at the first-level of health services and more attention to preventive health measures.

Contributions and perception

HEALTH SECTOR REFORM

Definition and promotion of the Implementation Strategy for the Health Sector Reform

BETTER SUPPLY LEVELS

For medicines and surgical instruments

Public perception of state health services is mixed, with some highlights regarding maternal and infant health.

6.3. National priority: access to water and natural resources management

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 23 linked targets, of these:
14 *Plan K'atun*
9 SDGs

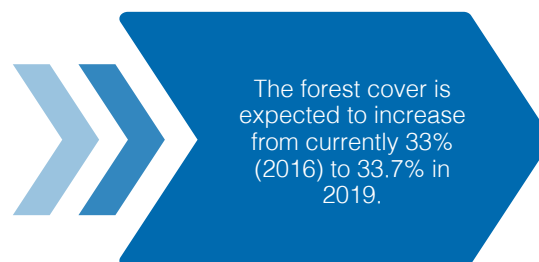
34 indicators with baseline and approved targets

Access to water and natural resources management are highly interlinked themes in Guatemala. Many natural areas, and especially the forests as well as water sources, are under enormous stress from unsustainable land use, inadequate systems for planning and management of natural resources, as well as deforestation. This is further exacerbated by the lack of knowledge of the importance of conserving natural resources, in addition to weak governance and institutional settings at both national and local levels. Undeniably, this is a complex development challenge as it refers not only to water resources, but also to environmental management, production and consumption patterns, land-use management and climate change resilience, among other aspects.



Addressing the challenges of water and natural resources management, the government of Guatemala has advanced in the design of public policies, programs and inter-institutional coordination mechanisms in the last five years. Key examples for public sector action are the *National Strategy for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)*, the *National strategy "Guatemala HuellaCeroO2" (zeroO2 footprint)* and public policies on irrigation and comprehensive management of marine-coastal areas. Sustainable forest management is encouraged through a number of initiatives such as; the Incentives Program for the Creation; Recovery, Management, Production and Protection of Forests (PROBOSQUE); and the Forest Incentives Program for Smallholders (PINPEP). In most of the areas of this PND, municipal competences play a critical role. There are a number of successful local efforts, though limited experiences exist in areas such as water management.

This PND contains two strategic development targets (MED) that coincide with the SDG targets 12.2 (sustainable management of natural resources) and 15.2 (sustainable forest management). In total 50 indicators have been established of which 47 (94%) are covered by complete or partial data availability. In June 2019, baselines and goals were approved for 34 of these. The SDG indicators include forest management (15.2.1), which reflects substantial improvements in terms of areas under management through forest incentives, specifically natural forests (from 291,267 to 342,534 ha, an increase of 17.5%), forest plantations (from 141,010 to 153,615 ha, 8.5%) and agroforestry systems (from 7,028 to 11,334 ha, 61.3%). These improvements were made between 2015 and 2017. The measurement of indicators related to target 12.2 only capture data until 2008 and indicate an upward trend of the material footprint in absolute terms, while the same variable decreases if it is calculated per capita and per GDP (12.2.1). Finally, between 2015 and 2018, the proportion of local authorities with water management and sanitation projects (6.b.1) has practically doubled: From 44.12% to 83.82% of all Guatemalan municipalities.



Apart from government action, the role of the private sector is relevant in all areas of this PND. Especially in the agricultural sector, corporate programs have been launched to foster efficient water use, recycling and renewable energy. CentraRSE's Corporate Ecoefficiency Program is a good example of an initiative that supports guatemalan businesses to manage environmental protection.

Guatemalan citizens perceive that especially for sustainable management and access to drinking water, there are still many pending tasks. However, at the local level, valuable initiatives of the System of Development Councils were highlighted, for instance in the area of forest management, and the effectiveness of the government reforestation programs is recognized. Different social groups emphasized that more effort was needed in the fight against deforestation and greater protection of water sources in the light of poor management and wide-spread pollution.

In order to achieve this PND, and specifically the related targets of SDG 12 and 15, this review has identified the need to strengthen water management at all levels, to implement a Law of Waters and to strengthen institutional capacities both nationally and locally, while ensuring that existing legislation is enforced, especially with regard to forest resources.

National Development Priority

**ACCESS TO WATER AND
MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

PANCC

National Action
Plan on Climate
Change

REDD

National Strategy for Reducing
Emissions from Deforestation and
Forest Degradation

Progress

INCREASE

**in FOREST
COVER**

3,800

Hectares through
forest plantations and
agroforestry systems

16,000

Hectares maintained

Incorporation
of **20,000**
Hectares

72,000
Hectares protected
under the natural
forest model

3,800

Hectares declared
as protected areas
in 3 municipalities

Q. 5,000,000

MILLIONS
invested in water
and sanitation

15 micro

BASINS
Included in the first
model in Central
America for waste
and residue
management

NATIONAL

Energy Plan 2017-2032
for the reduction of
Greenhouse Effect
Gases

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT	GOALS 2019	GOALS 2024	GOALS 2032
Degree of integrated water resources management implementation	2017	Low-25	1-100	>31	>41	>61
Percentage of energy sourced from hydroelectricity	2015	37.4	Percentage	50.95	50.95	50.95
Proportion of protected areas (land and water) in relation to national territory	2015	31.8	Percentage	31.9	31.9	31.9
Forest area as a proportion of total land area	2016	33	Percentage	33.7	33.7	33.7
Effectivity of the SIGAP management	2015	540	Degree	519	557	>600
Deforestation rate	2012-2016	0.55	Percentage	0.55	0.55	0.55

Challenges

**WATER
LAW Initiative**

that allows an integrated,
sustainable management of
hydric resources in the country.

**IMPROVE
GOVERNANCE**

interinstitutional coordination
to comply with national and
international regulations.

Contributions and perception

**MULTIPLE
ESTRATEGIES**

Implemented by all
actors for the protection
and conservation of
natural resources

**BUSINESS
PROGRAMS**

Development of programs
for efficient use of water,
recycling and renewable
energy

**FORESTRY
INCENTIVES
PINPEP**

Program for Small Land
Holders with Forestry
or Agroforestry
Vocation

RELEVANT FACT

People have a better
perception of the
importance of the efficient

**NATURAL
RESOURCE
CONSERVATION**

6.4. National priority: food security and nutrition

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 6 linked targets, of these:
3 *Plan K'atun*
3 SDGs

6 indicators with baseline and approved targets

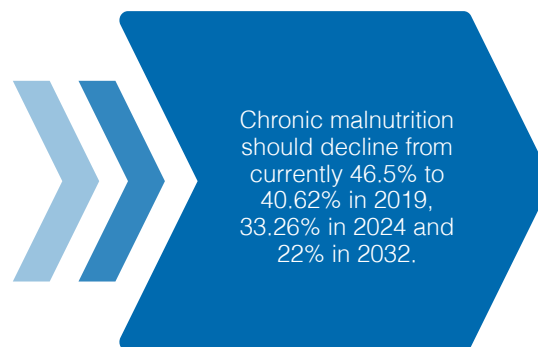
Food security and nutrition directly impacts sustainable development since it determines the physical, mental and social capabilities of the population. In Guatemala, chronic malnutrition among children under five years persists as a severe challenge, surpassing Latin American averages. The indigenous population, and in general people living in rural areas, are especially exposed to food insecurity and malnutrition. Notably, chronic malnutrition directly relates to other areas of sustainable development such as education (by affecting school performance), health (by generating physical complications) and economic growth (by predetermining professional abilities).



Responding to these challenges, the government of Guatemala has introduced various initiatives under the umbrella of the National Food Security and Nutrition System (SINASAN). Through its Operational Plan for 2016-2020, 110 watch sites have been established in 65 municipalities and 83 municipalities have been prioritized for the attention to seasonal hunger. Other initiatives promote: care for pregnant women; exclusive breastfeeding; school feeding, attention to children living on the streets; as well as incentives for family farming. Among the subnational mechanisms, the departmental plans for the fight against chronic malnutrition are promoted by the Departmental Commissions of Food Security and Nutrition (CODESAN).

This PND is articulated through a strategic development target (MED) defined at the national level (E2P2M1:

Reduction of chronic malnutrition in children under five years), which directly relates to the SDG 2. 13 indicators were identified for this PND, of which 8 have a baseline and goals that were approved in June 2019. Among the SDG indicators, progress is being reported in the fight against undernourishment (indicator 2.1.1), which falls from 16.5% of the population in 2014/2015 to 15.8% in 2016/2017. In 2014, the slight and severe food insecurity in guatemalan households (2.1.2) stood at 40.4% and 12.0%, respectively, constituting the baseline for future revisions. Similarly, the prevalence of acute malnutrition amounts to 0.7% in 2014 (2.2.2b), a situation that worsens in rural areas and among the indigenous population.



Guatemalan citizens perceive a surge in food insecurity due to lack of income, the impact of climate change, the increased cost of the basic basket and the fact that the actions of the State do not focus sufficiently on prevention. During consultations, the representatives of indigenous groups pointed to structural problems, such as access to land and poor support for small producers. Persons with disabilities recognized the positive impact of family gardening, while childhood organizations highlighted some improvements in chronic malnutrition among children.

To achieve this PND, and SDG 2 specifically, the review discussed the need to reinforce the integral nature of the State's actions (covering health, water, sanitation, agriculture, social protection, etc.). As the most vulnerable groups will face the consequences of malnutrition for many more decades, actions must be upgraded to fully focus and adapt interventions towards overcoming the existing gaps and inequalities as ensuring that no one is left behind.

National Development Priority

**FOOD SECURITY AND
NUTRITION**

Progress

INCREASE

in VACCINATION

More boys and girls
were vaccinated

103,851 under one
year old
83,913 1-5 year olds

**ACTIONS
FOR**

PRENATAL CARE

1,332,007 women
benefited
From growth monitoring
and development

CERTIFICATION
of
**26 HEALTH
SERVICES**
as Breastfeeding
Friendly

**1st MONITORING
SURVEY**

for actions to promote
food security and
nutrition in over

1,000 HOMES
NATIONWIDE

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Chronic malnutrition	2014 / 2015	46.5	%
Prevalence of undernourishment	2015	16.5	%
Prevalence of severe food insecurity	2014	12	%
Prevalence of moderate food insecurity	2014	24.9	%
Acute malnutrition	2014 / 2015	0.7	%
Rate of diarrheal diseases in children under 5 y/old	2015	3755	Rate

GOALS
2019

GOALS
2024

GOALS
2032

40.62
14.6
11.38
24.9
0.7
2507

33.26
12.18
10.75
24.9
0.7
2507

22
10
10
24.9
0.7
2507

Challenges

**REDUCING
CHRONIC MALNUTRITION
CONTINUALLY**

AND CONSISTENTLY

in children under 5 years
old, articulating multiple
existing actions to focalize
in critic areas and
prioritized population.

Contributions and perception

**FORMULATION
of POA-SAN**

Annual Operational Plan
for Food Security and
Nutrition

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION

of **ENPDC** 2016-2020

National Strategy for the
Prevention of Chronic
Malnutrition

**1 MILLION
BOYS AND GIRLS
BENEFITTED**

Under five years old in
2018 with:

- Vaccinations
- Growth monitoring
- Micronutrients supplements
- Deworming

**SEVERAL
INTERNATIONAL**

**COOPERATING
AGENCIES AND
PRIVATE SECTOR
INITIATIVES**
to address this goal.

The perception that people have is
that food security and nutrition is a
critical issue for the country,
especially in regards to children.

6.5. National priority: employment and investment

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 11 linked targets,
of these:
4 *Plan K'atun*
7 SDGs

13 indicators with baseline
and approved targets

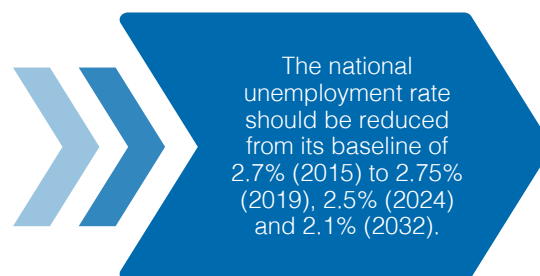
Similar to many developing countries, Guatemala has experienced a strong average economic growth over the past decades. However, economic growth has not yet translated into greater equality, while few investments and insufficient formal quality jobs have been generated. Core challenges for a more balanced economy relate to the limited financial capacity of the State, the persistent informality of the economy (7 out of 10 jobs are informal) and the slow development of productive sectors with innovative potential such as sustainable tourism. This PND is interlinked with other areas of the **2030 Agenda** such as; education (in particular technical and professional education); poverty and social inequality; as well as areas such as urban development, land-use management, roads and logistics infrastructure, among others.



Aiming to increase investments and improve the quality of employment, the government of Guatemala has promoted various public policies and programs since the adoption of the **2030 Agenda**. These include, among others, the **National Policy "Guatemala Emprende"** and the Trust Fund for the Small and Medium-sized Companies of the Ministry of Economy. A tripartite dialogue currently promotes a **National Competitiveness Policy** aiming to improve productivity in subnational territories. Decent work is being promoted through professionalization and specialization of human talent, as well as the enforcement of labor rights regulations, under the responsibility of the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. Some municipalities maintain the Municipal Single Window for Employment (VUME) that supports the population in the search for decent employment.

This national priority is assessed through three Strategic Development Targets (MED) that focus on growth of the GDP (target E3P1M1 of *Plan K'atun*), reduction of precarious

work (E3P4M1) and sustainable tourism (SDG target 8.9). 40 indicators are used to measure the targets of this priority, of which complete or partial data is available for 25 indicators (63%), while no data is available for the remaining indicators. In June 2019, the baselines and goals for 13 of these indicators have been approved. Among the SDG indicators, the added value of the manufacturing industry as a proportion of national GDP (SDG indicator 9.2.1) has remained stable at 17.6% between 2015 and 2018. Other variables of macroeconomic relevance - tariff rates (17.10.1), aid to trade (8.a.1) - have improved in recent years. By promoting decent work, the proportion of manufacturing employment in total employment has slightly increased, from 13.1% to 13.8% between 2015-2017 (9.2.2). In the MED related to sustainable tourism, Guatemala has declined from position 80 to 86 in the Tourism Competitiveness Index (TCI) of the World Economic Forum between 2015-2017. In both years, Guatemala maintained an absolute value of 3.5 on the ICT scale.



The national
unemployment rate
should be reduced
from its baseline of
2.7% (2015) to 2.75%
(2019), 2.5% (2024)
and 2.1% (2032).

Guatemala's private sector shows strong commitment to this PND as it influences all aspects of investments and employment. As an example, CentraRSE's Labor Inclusion and Labor Rights initiative promotes decent employment especially for groups that are traditionally left behind. The export sector, organized through AGEXPORT, also promotes several initiatives aimed at sustainable management of small and medium-sized companies.

In the public perception, all groups consulted for this review expressed concern about labor precariousness, lack of employment and insufficient wages. Civil society organizations particularly insisted on the need to apply and enforce existing legislation to combat exploitation of labor. Beyond these challenges, significant improvements were highlighted in areas such as; labor inclusion of workers with disabilities; and support to entrepreneurship of the indigenous population.

To achieve the targets of this PND, the VNR has detected multiple opportunities for strengthening economic growth through productive diversification and more equitable social distribution, improving the enabling environment for job creation and boosting the development of sustainable tourism that might have a positive impact on the other targets of this priority.

National Development Priority

**EMPLOYMENT AND
INVESTMENT**

Progress

**PROMOTION
of SUSTAINABLE
TOURISM**

In 2018 over two million tourists visited Guatemala.

PROMOTION
of micro, small and medium enterprises

APPROVAL
of National Competitiveness Policy 2018-2032

NATIONAL
Agreement for the competitive and sustainable development of tourism in Guatemala

ENTREPRENEURSHIP
Law approved in 2018

ROAD
infrastructure recovery

Challenges

**REDUCING
YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND
UNDEREMPLOYMENT**

Take advantage of the demographic bonus, in order to ensure decent employment that translates into a better quality of life and economic growth.

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT	GOALS 2019	GOALS 2024	GOALS 2032
Unemployment rate	2015	2.7	Percentage	2.75	2.50	2.10
Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities	2015	2,080	Currency (Q)	≥ 2,437	2,735.1	3,309.5
Manufacturing value added as a proportion of GDP and per capita	2015	17.6	Percentage	≥ 17.6	≥ 17.6	≥ 17.6
Annual growth rate of real GDP per capita	2015	1.78	Percentage	1.19	1.48	3.75
Tourism Competitiveness Index	2015	3.5	Index (1 - 6)	3.5	3.5	3.5

Contributions and perception

**INVESTMENTS
and DECENT
EMPLOYMENT**

this is the Priority that the private sector finds most links with.

**ESTABLISHING
VUME's**

Municipal Single Window for Employment to help people in their employment search.

RELEVANT FACT

**HAVING A
DECENT
JOB**

is one of the most highlighted concerns by the participants in dialogues and consultations.

6.6. National priority: economic value of natural resources

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 8 linked targets, of these:
3 *Plan K'atun*
5 SDGs

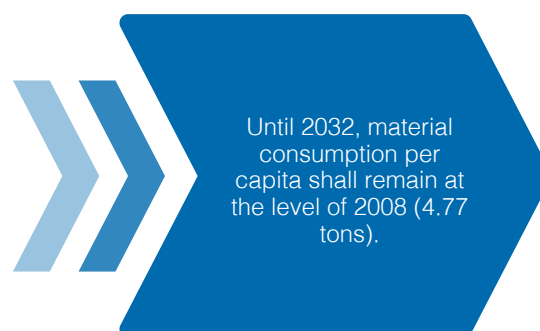
6 indicators with baseline and approved targets

The use and exploitation of natural resources usually neglects the environmental costs they generate, with serious consequences for the environment and particularly biodiversity. Guatemala is engaged in an incipient national debate on how to balance the economy with the environment, based on the economic valuation of natural resources. This requires, among other aspects, a solid understanding of the goods and services provided by ecosystems and the functions these fulfill in the long term. Examples are found in water resources, which are highly dependent on performance of ecosystems, particularly forests. There are numerous challenges surrounding the economic assessment of natural resources that relate to the legal and regulatory frameworks, the institutional capacities, business incentives, as well as the organization, training and mobilization of populations inhabiting these ecosystems.



Since 2015, the government of Guatemala has reinforced the institutional and programmatic structure related to the valuation of the natural resources, in addition to increased forest coverage and the improved management of biodiversity and water resources. In this context, the National Council for Protected Areas (CONAP) leads the Guatemalan System of Protected Areas (SIGAP) that currently covers 339 protected areas and a total extension of almost 3.5 million hectares. Furthermore, the National Institute of Forests (INAB) is promoting a series of water compensation mechanisms as well as forestry incentives through the PINPEP and PROBOSQUE programs.

For the review of this PND, Guatemala uses SDG target 15.9 (integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning). Progress is measured through 12 indicators, of which data is fully or partially available for eight (67%) indicators. In 2019, six of these indicators already have approved baselines and goals. As for SDG indicators, until 2014 progress was made towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 (indicator 15.9.1) that will serve as a baseline for future reviews. Another baseline is defined for national exclusive economic zones managed using ecosystem-based approaches (14.2.1), standing at 187,080 ha.



The valuation of natural resources and its instruments are a complex and relatively new matter, and the guatemalan civil society is in the early stages of analyzing these approaches. The consultations highlighted, however, palpable improvements in forest coverage and watershed management, among others. According to the consulted groups, the government needs to enforce existing legislation, strengthen the institutional environment and invest in technology. Representatives of both women and youth groups expressed concern over commercial exploitation of ecosystems, specifically by mining and hydroelectric companies, and asked for more government supervision and greater respect by companies for legal frameworks.

Considering the future performance of this PND, and in particular SDG 15, this VNR has detected the need to expand and consolidate existing mechanisms and programs for the valuation of ecosystems and their goods and services. In addition, compliance with the laws regulating the use of different natural resources must be enforced more consistently. Local capacities to manage and protect natural resources need to be improved, including those of the indigenous populations.

National Development Priority

**ECONOMIC VALUE OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

Progress

**IMPLEMENTATION
OF HYDRIC
COMPENSATION
MECHANISM**

that allow for voluntary agreements with users of environmental services.

**INCORPORATION
of
BIODIVERSITY**

In some national planning strategic instruments.

**7 MASTER
PLANS**

for the management of protected areas updated and 13 in process of updating.

Greater relevance of the issue in **NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS** and **INVOLVED STAKEHOLDERS**

Challenges

**MANAGEMENT
POLICIES**

For the management of protected areas updated and 13 in process of updating.

**COMPLIANCE
of VALID
LEGISLATION**

Strengthening institutions and investing in technology.

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT	GOALS 2019	GOALS 2024	GOALS 2032
Change in water-use efficiency over time	2010	102.14	m ³ /Q 1,000	102.14	102.14	102.14
Domestic material consumption per capita	2008	65,233	65,233	65,233	65,233	65,233
Domestic material consumption per capita	2008	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.77	4.77
Domestic material consumption per GDP	2008	338.18	338.18	338.18	338.18	338.18

Contributions and perception

BROADCAST MORE

information about this **PRIORITY**

This issue must be further divulged to be known by different stakeholders.

Representatives of different stakeholder groups expressed their concern over the exploitation of natural resources.

6.7. National priority: institutional strengthening, security and justice

This priority is directly related to:



Includes 15 linked targets, of these:
9 *Plan K'atun*
6 SDGs

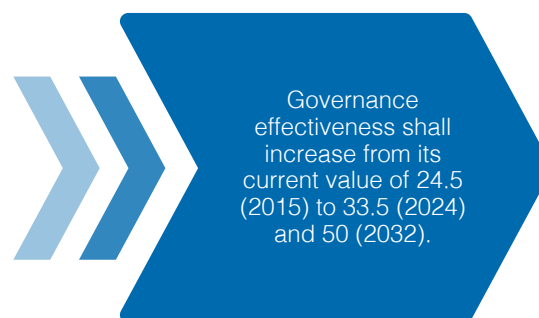
15 indicators with baseline and approved targets

One of the most ambitious aspirations of the Guatemalan society is linked to the strengthening of a State as a guarantor of human rights and driver of development with effective, efficient and transparent institutions. Many challenges exist due to the existence of corruption and bribery, and a weak institutional framework leads to low-quality public services. Ineffective public management can among others be explained by low human resource capacities and out-of-date organizational structures. Obstacles to security and justice include high levels of victimization and impunity, in addition to limited access to justice by the victims, especially those who have suffered social violence.



Since 2015, the government of Guatemala has expedited and fine-tuned public policies and programs seeking to invigorate the State's effectiveness and transparency, while also reinforcing security and justice. Coordination mechanisms such as the Presidential Commission of Open Public Management and Transparency, which was relaunched in March 2018, oversee compliance of international commitments to combat corruption. Furthermore, the Technical Board of Open Government is a multisectorial platform interacting with homonymous international partnerships. Among the Board's achievements are advances in open budgets, Access to Information and Open Government Data. Progress has also been made in strengthening statistical capacities, which is reflected in the censuses of 2018. The fight against corruption and violence has been intensified through improving capacities of the Prosecutor's Office and the National Police.

This national priority contains two Strategic Development Targets (MED) based on SDG targets 16.5 (reduction of corruption and bribery) and 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions). To measure the progress of the targets linked to these MEDs, 34 indicators are used. Of these, complete or partial data is available for 22 indicators (65%), and 15 indicators already feature baselines and goals that were approved in 2019. Currently, Guatemala can only provide data from 2010 that implies that 11.3% of businesses have experienced at least one bribe payment request by a public official in the previous 12 months (global indicator 16.5.2). Complementing the review of the two MEDs, Guatemala also analyzes violence rates, registering, among others, a reduction from 29.5 to 22.4 homicides per 100,000 inhabitants between 2015 and 2018 (16.1.1) and high levels of emotional, physical and sexual violence against women (5.2.1).



During the dialogues and consultations for this VNR, CSO representatives expressed their concern about the many gaps and challenges, including the need to improve institutional frameworks, to accelerate the fight against insecurity and to expedite the provision of justice, especially regarding the attention to victims. CSOs stressed that the fight against corruption maintains a persistent challenge which needs to be addressed through continuous controls, firmer justice, and strengthened capacities. Youth and vulnerable groups such as women and LGBTI persons expressed concern over the broad impact of violence and insecurity. In terms of LNOB, persons with disabilities and indigenous populations reported improved access to justice and more targeted assistance by the government.

Overall, the VNR has identified key aspects to advance in this PND that includes, among others, strengthening institutional capacities in the areas of transparency and the fight against corruption - taking advantage of different mechanisms supported by international partnerships and networks -, while also deepening the fight against insecurity and social violence.

National Development Priority

**INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING,
SECURITY AND JUSTICE**

Progress

TRANSPARENCY

- On-going Open Budget practices
- Creation of the presidential commission for open public management and transparency

SECURITY

- 7-point reduction of the homicide rate reaching an historical number of 22.48.
- 32-point reduction of the crime rate reaching 64.3.

INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- Reorganization of government cabinets
- XII population census and VII housing census in 2018
- National referendum to solve the territorial referendum with Belize

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age.	2014	Psychological 23.7 Physical 7.9 Sexual 2.6	Percentage
Unsented detainees as a proportion of overall prison population.	2015	48.2	Percentage
Governance Effectiveness Index.	2015	24.5	Index
Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population.	2015	29.5	Rate/ 100,000 p.

GOALS 2019

ND

GOALS 2024

P. 21.6
P. 7.2
S. 2.7

GOALS 2032

P. 20.6
P. 6.8
S. 2.2

Challenges

**STRENGTHENING
A CULTURE OF
TRANSPARENCY
and ZERO-TOLERANCE
for CORRUPTION**

Promote improvements in the civil service system and the judiciary.

Contributions and perception

**HIGHER
LINKAGE
of
INTERNATIONAL**

cooperation projects to key issues. This issue is highly relevant for civil society organizations.

BUSINESS SECTOR

INITIATIVES

To promote an ethics and transparency culture.

[On territories, prevalence of different kinds of violence is a concern.]

6.8. National priority: education

This priority is directly related to:



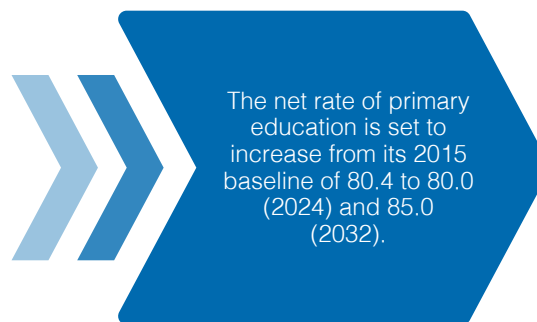
Includes 6 linked targets, of these:
1 *Plan K'atun*
5 SDGs

6 indicators with baseline and approved targets

Education is among the key priorities for achieving sustainable development in Guatemala, as it has linkages with numerous areas such as health, employment or climate resilience. Advances at all levels have been slow due to e.g., high school dropouts and low quality education. As a multilingual country, Guatemala faces distinct challenges, particularly with regard to the access to quality education for the indigenous populations. Barriers to the access for persons with disabilities, adolescence pregnancies, and high levels of social violence in schools and their environments all impact negatively on the country's progress on SDG 4.



Over the past years, the government of Guatemala has made progress in consolidating public policies and programmes in favor of the education sector. Relevant initiatives are; the Academic Teacher Professional Development Program (PADEP); and the National Program for Alternative Education (PRONEA). Guatemala is also strongly committed to teaching and learning mayan languages, for which centers of training have been established in 22 linguistic communities. Priority has been given to access to education for vulnerable groups, as well as various flexible adult education programs. The government has invested substantially in the physical infrastructure of 1,978 educational establishments. These efforts are coordinated closely with the departmental and municipal authorities. Finally, starting from the 2017-2018 academic year, sustainable development in the area of food security and climate change has been incorporated in the curricula of all graduate schools. In 2019, the subject for graduation work at the high school level will be the *Plan K'atun* and the SDGs.



The net rate of primary education is set to increase from its 2015 baseline of 80.4 to 80.0 (2024) and 85.0 (2032).

In order to review this PND, Guatemala has prioritized SDG target 4.1. To measure progress, 16 indicators are used, of which complete and partial data is available for eleven indicators (69%) and six indicators were approved with baseline and goals in June 2019. Among the global indicators, indicator 4.1.1 shows negative trends in reading and mathematics skills throughout, except the secondary level. In addition, there are significant gaps between urban and rural areas, and between different social strata. On the other hand, the participation rate in organized learning (4.2.2) has remained relatively stable between 2015 (80.3%) and 2017 (81.2%). The fight against illiteracy (national indicator E2P8M1) has successfully contributed to its reduction from 13.1% (2015) to 12.3% (2016). Among means of implementation, the supply of scholarships by the international community (4.b.1) is limited, reaching 550,000 USD in 2016 and 740,000 USD in 2017. Finally, school infrastructure (4.a.1) continues to be at low levels: Only 9.1% of primary education centers have internet access, a percentage that rises to 35.7% for lower secondary schools.

During the consultations, the Guatemalan population expressed a broad range of expectations of improvements for the education sector, while progress in areas such as scholarships and social support (school feeding, teaching materials, etc.) was highly valued. Regarding the LNOB principle, the Interinstitutional State Commission for Indigenous Affairs (CIIE) underscored the value of the Map of National Languages, which frames public policies of the multilingual State. Similarly, the *Inclusion Policy for People with Disability* was perceived as an essential milestone for the rights of these groups. More efforts were considered needed to benefit the LGBTI population and people living with HIV.

Among the factors essential to achieving this PND, and in particular SDG 4, the VNR has detected the need to continue improving the quality of education, investing in school infrastructure, and implementing specific strategies for overcoming both social and regional gaps.

National Development Priority

EDUCATION

Progress



OVER

6 POINTS

increase in preschool coverage

50.4% in 2017
53.0% in 2018.



MORE SCHOOL DAYS:
177 days in 2016
188 days in 2018.



MORE CHILDRENS AT SCHOOLS
Stopping the decrease in the elementary and middle education coverage rate.



RENOVATIONS IN SCHOOL BUILDINGS



School FEEDING LAW approved

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Students that reach a fluid reading level in first grade	2014	13.0	Percentage
Elementary education Net Rate	2015	80.4	Rate/100 students
Elementary education finishing rate	2015	50.1	Rate/100 students
Elementary education promotion rate in	2015	87.4	Rate/100 students
Elementary education school failure rate	2015	15.6	Rate/100 students
Illiteracy rate	2015	13.1	Rate/100 students over 15 years old

GOALS 2019

ND

GOALS 2024

19.0
77.7
ND
88.0
13.0
8.8

GOALS 2032

25.0
85.0
ND
92.0
7.0
3.0

Challenges



GUARANTEEING SCHOOL COVERAGE

COVERAGE WITH QUALITY AND EQUALITY to overcome repetition and desertion as well as promoting better access to middle and high education.

Contributions and perception

HOUSEHOLD EDUCATION SURVEY

STRATEGY for PARENTS involvement in education

PRONEA
National Alternative Education Program for over-age people who want to finish their elementary education.

BUSINESS for EDUCATION

Private sector initiative for incidence on educational issues.

Municipalities **PRIORITIZE SPENDING ON EDUCATION**

RELEVANT FACT

In the online survey carried out, it was the priority that was identified with the **GREATEST RELEVANCE**

6.9. National priority: land-use management

This priority is directly related to:

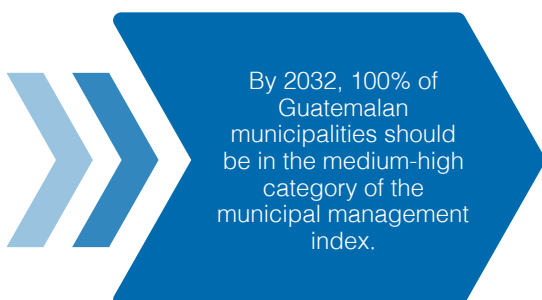


Includes 4 linked targets, of these:
4 Plan K'atun.

3 indicators with baseline and approved targets

Many countries around the world are struggling to enable sustainable development in regional and local contexts. As governments progress on the national SDG implementation, SDG localization efforts become increasingly urgent, including generating local planning and implementing capacities as well as ensuring accountability at the sub-national level. Many of the 340 Guatemalan municipalities still suffer from poor municipal management and land-use planning, with insufficient transparency, reduced political will and a limited knowledge of the legal and political framework. At the local level, limitations restrain the provision of high-quality public goods and services. These are more critical in rural areas, leading to substantial disadvantage.

Municipalities have competences on numerous aspects that contribute to sustainable development and that affect citizens directly. For instance, they are often responsible of the provision of safe public spaces as well as the collection and treatment of solid waste.



In order to strengthen municipal management, the government of Guatemala has prioritized training and technical assistance through the Institute for Municipal Development (INFOM) and SEGEPLAN. Launched in 2018, a strategy for Land-Use Management aims to support the successful implementation of plans for municipal development and land-Use management (PDM-OT) in all Guatemalan municipalities. Progress has been made in areas such as road infrastructure, wastewater and solid waste treatment, in addition to strengthening public transport and reducing environmental pollution.

Building on these initiatives, a number of municipalities have created offices dedicated to and specialized in Land-Use Management.



The PND on Land-Use Management contains two national strategic development targets (MED), related to the implementation of the PDM-OTs (E4P5M1), as well as greater management capacity of municipal governments (E1P3M2). Of the seven indicators selected to measure this priority, complete and partial data is available for six indicators (86%), and baselines and goals were approved for 3 indicators. The review of the national indicators shows that in 2016, two municipalities had PDM-OTs, which included rural-urban linkages. In 2018, this number increased to 91, while over 150 municipalities are working on their PDM-OTs in 2019.

On the other hand, according to the SEGEPLAN's Municipal Management Index (IGM), most municipalities only achieve low or medium-low management quality (293 in 2016). This seems to be consistent with data collected for the global indicators which indicate that since 2002, the national recycling rate (indicator 12.5.1) remained unchanged around 16-17%, while in 2010, only 15.4% of urban waste regularly collected had an adequate final discharge (11.6.1).

In the public perception mapped for this review, local planning should effectively focus on results, for example to enhance waste management. Indigenous groups indicated that subnational land-use management must respect the ethnical and cultural ownership of communal lands.

Future progress in this PND depends, among others, on the continued investment in the capacities of municipal governments. This should encompass not only planning, but also the implementation of accountability standards for local goods and services. Much will depend on the available sources and the scope of financing for municipal action on sustainable development.

National Development Priority

LAND-USE MANAGEMENT

Progress

91 MUNICIPALITIES
WITH FINISHED
plans in 2018

FORMULATION

and UPDATING

of municipal development
and land-use
management plans

OPERATIONALIZATION
of national development
priorities in territories

UPDATING

legal and normative instruments for
descentralization and operation of
urban and rural development
councils

Promotion
of the **NATIONAL**
AGENDA
for
descentralization

Proposal for
REFORMS
to the
REGULATION
of the Law of
urban and rural
development
councils

Challenges

**STRENGTHENING
MANAGEMENT
LEVELS**

IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
for the effective implementation
of development plans in
agreement with communities
and citizens.

INDICATORS

INDICATORS	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Municipal development plans that include functions and connections of rural and urban areas	2016	4.41	Percentage

INDICATORS	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT
Municipal Management Index	2016	14%	Municipalities in the mid-high category

86% of Guatemalan local governments carry out "low" and "medium low" territorial municipal management



Contribuciones and perception

Municipalities are participating in the
**FORMULATING
and UPDATING**
of **LOCAL**
development plans.

Stakeholders perceive
**LAND-USE
MANAGEMENT**
and decentralization as key issues
for the implementation of the
national development plan.

6.10. National priority: comprehensive fiscal reform

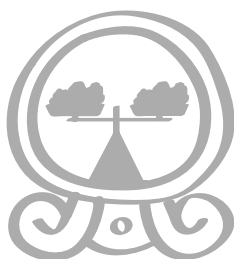
This priority is directly related to:



Includes 1 linked target, originated in *Plan K'atun*.

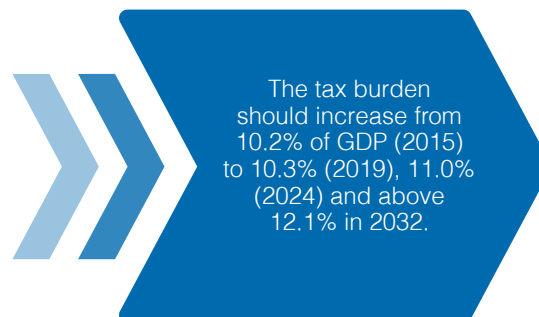
2 indicators with baseline and approved targets

To promote sustainable development, States must rely on public finances capable of providing goods and services in all social, economic and environmental dimensions affecting citizens' lives. As part of the *Plan K'atun*, the government identified the pressing need to update economic, monetary and fiscal policies. Specific focus is on increasing the fiscal space required to address the social needs impacting the country's poverty and social exclusion rates. Notably, Guatemala's tax burden is one of the lowest in the world, and public social spending has decreased over the last years. Exacerbating the low tax burden, external vulnerabilities (like fluctuation at international markets) and a weak tax administration also affects on Guatemala fiscal space.



In light of this structural challenge, the government of Guatemala has proposed to engage in a comprehensive fiscal reform that might cover all critical aspects: from State revenues to efficiency of public spending. Moving forward, the Ministry of Public Finance (MINFIN) has launched an Action Plan in order to accelerate fiscal transparency and ensure transparent public procurement, for which a new Vice Ministry has been created. Among other actions, the public contracting system GUATECOMPRAS has been reformed. In addition, since 2018, 20 decentralized and autonomous government entities have implemented performance-based budgeting, which strengthens the direction and monitoring of

public spending. Finally, the Superintendence of Tax Administration (SAT) is working on the modernization of the unified tax register which will be available online.



For this PND, one national strategic development target (MED) has been designated, which focuses on increased tax burden and social spending relative to the GDP (E3P7M1). Progress on this priority is assessed against four indicators, of which for two indicators baselines and goals were approved in 2019. In concrete terms, the tax burden (national indicator) has decreased from 11.3% in 2008 to 10.0% in 2018. Furthermore, the proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes (SDG indicator 17.1.2) has increased from 49.6% in 2016 to 55.8% in 2017 and 53.3% in 2018. Overall, the performance of both variables is considered insufficient for generating the fiscal and financial capacities needed for achieving sustainable development in Guatemala.

The social groups consulted for this VNR concurred with the urgency of promoting a comprehensive fiscal reform. Particularly young people underlined the central function that progressive taxes (such as those taxing labor income) should play in the reform.

Virtually all groups pointed out that large companies should be taxed adequately, while more should be done to fight tax evasion and to reduce the informal economy.

Going forward, the VNR identified a series of key factors required to advance in the achievement of the PND. Specifically, it is considered crucial to; foster the political and social dialogue on the fiscal reform; to invest in a capable tax administration with adequate technologies; and to ensure a comprehensive vision throughout the reform process.

National Development Priority

COMPREHENSIVE FISCAL REFORM

Progress

 **CREATION**
of **4.0**
VICEMINISTRY
OF FISCAL
TRANSPARENCY AND
ACQUISITIONS in the
Ministry of Finance

 **96%**
OF EFFECTIVE
BUDGETARY
EXECUTION
in 2018

 **3.6%**
INCREASE IN
TAX COLLECTION
In 2018 versus 2017

Challenges

 **GUATEMALA HAS THE
LOWEST TAX RATE
IN THE LATIN
America region.**

 **ESTABLISHING
MULTI-STAKEHOLDERS**
dialogues in the public
agenda for improvements
in the tax system and
social spending.

INDICATORS

	YEAR	VALUE	MEASUREMENT UNIT	GOALS 2019	GOALS 2024	GOALS 2032
Proportion of domestic budget funded by domestic taxes	2015	70.3	Percentage	75.3	76.5	≥78.5
Tax burden in proportion to GDP	2015	10.2	Percentage	10.3	11.0	>12.1

Contributions and perception

 Need for dialogue regarding financing for development. Stakeholders perceive a comprehensive tax reform as a key issue for the implementation of long term development goals.

International cooperation project aim to
**IMPROVE
TAX COLLECTION**
and social spending efficiency.

RELEVANT FACT

This national priority is
**A "BRIDGE" for the
IMPLEMENTATION**
of all other issues.



Information validation workshops for the Voluntary National Review, June 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.



Information validation workshops National Voluntary Review, June 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.

7. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

7. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The mobilization of financial, legal and technological resources, and political, institutional and statistical capacities is at the heart of the implementation of the **2030 Agenda** in Guatemala. Taking advantage of a favorable economic environment, the country is immersed in a deep process of analyzing, reviewing and readjusting the different sources of financing sustainable development, as well as the required capacities and technologies, particularly at the level of public policies, government programs and institutions.

Serving as the frame for the mobilization of the means of implementation, the National Implementation Strategy contains a Financing for Development component consisting of three subcomponents: (1) The review and readjustment of the public budget, (2) the promotion of a comprehensive fiscal reform that implies an in-depth review of economic, monetary, fiscal and debt policies, and (3) the alignment and effectiveness of the support of other stakeholders towards the MED. The latter includes promoting partnerships for development, particularly with the private sector and civil society.

Importantly, Guatemala maintains a strong commitment to domestic resource mobilization and adaptation, while seeking to ensure greater effectiveness and relevance of international and non-state contributions.

7.1. Reviewing and readjusting the public budget

As part of the Implementation Strategy, and with a view to the 2019 budget, Guatemala initiated the revision and readjustment of the public budget in order to ensure that resources are increasingly channeled towards the MEDs. For this purpose, the programmatic structures and their relevance for the prioritized MEDs were reviewed starting in April 2018. The revision found that only 19% of the products contained in budgetary programs (434 of 2,283 total) were directly linked to the MEDs. In other words, 80% of the planning for the national institutional budget is not directly linked to the PNDs. Based on this analysis, all institutions in charge of MEDs reviewed, in coordination with SEGEPLAN and MINFIN, their programmes and presented their demand in the open budget exercise in 2019. Ultimately, this process resulted in budgetary readjustments in order to ensure a more efficient allocation of resources in line with Guatemala's management for sustainable development results (see box 5).

The Strategic Development Results (REDs) are characterized by having defined in the scope of the planning and budgeting process. The 16 PNDs have been translated into 25 REDs. These are linked to the budgeting process and will therefore be submitted to the Congress of the Republic in the Preliminary Draft Budget in September 2019 to be enforced in the 2020 fiscal year and the 2020-2024 multi-annual budget. The process of anchoring the budget in the PNDs by linking budgetary programs to REDs included a total of 19 programs: 4 for social protection, 2 for access to health services, 1 for food security, 3 for access to water and natural resource management, 2 for employment and investment, 5 for strengthening institutional structures as well as 2 for education in 2019.

TEXTBOX 5: RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Since the fiscal year 2015, Guatemala introduced the Results Based Management approach in the budgetary planning and programming. This facilitates the operationalization of the PND, as well as the results-based monitoring and evaluation of public management.

As of 2018, MfR-based logical models have been defined for each MED with a view to the integration of the PNDs into the national budgets. This implied the design of Strategic Results of Development (RED), as key sustainable development indicators against which public management will be monitored and evaluated.

Beyond the programmatic structures, the VNR also analyzes the alignment of public investment which in 2018 reached 529 million USD (4,071.59 million quetzales) for 2,358 projects. There was a high thematic alignment with five PNDs, registering a 98.1% of total public investment oriented to national priorities. As of the fiscal year 2019, the National Public Investment System reflects the 10 PNDs and requires subnational and sectoral entities to prioritize and align their projects to these.

7.2. Adjusting fiscal policies

Guatemala is in an early stage of revising national public finances and debating a comprehensive fiscal reform. Starting from a limited tax base (for more details, see section 6.10), the purpose is to mobilize greater State revenues, ensure the sustainability of public debt and improve the quality of public spending with a view to PNDs, MEDs and the **2030 Agenda**, with a particular focus on addressing the remaining gaps as well as the vulnerabilities different social groups face. In this context the country aims to increase the tax burden from 10.0% in 2018 to 12.1%. It also seeks to expand social spending above 7% of GDP spent in 2010 (see also section 6.10), while public investment should reach at least 5% of GDP.

Several initiatives are already underway to improve transparent public finances in order to ensure a higher quality of public spending. Among these, the open budget modality, adopted in 2017, allows for dissemination and socialization of the financial requirements of State institutions. In 2019, the open budget exercise includes a projection of multiannual indicative ceilings that reflect the prioritization of programs in line with the PNDs.

TEXTBOX 6: MACROECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES FOR ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

According to recent IMF data, Guatemala enjoys a favorable economic situation thanks to solid economic growth (projected at 3.4% in 2019) and effective inflation control. There are few domestic economic risks as progress has been made in the fight against corruption and the business climate has improved. In fiscal policy, a deficit of 2.2-2.5% of GDP is maintained, while BANGUAT solid management of monetary policy has become key to containing inflation. Importantly, national saving and investment, both public and private, have remained stable in recent years, reflecting a strong and sustainable economic environment.

Guatemala's public finances have recently been reviewed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Highlighting a favorable macroeconomic context (see Textbox 6), the IMF stressed that the persistent gaps in infrastructure and social spending could be addressed with a fiscal policy better aligned with the SDGs and improved public financial management, among others aspects. One recommendation refers to anchoring the PND in the medium-term budgetary framework (2020-2024) and to consistently monitor and evaluate its performance.

Municipalities play an essential role in the investment in sustainable development. Between 2015 and 2018, about 75% of total public investment spending was channeled through local governments. At the municipal level, the key to promoting sustainable development in line with the *Plan K'atun* and the **2030 Agenda** are the PDM-OTs. Currently, 91 of Guatemala's 340 municipalities have a PDM-OT, while 200 more have expressed interest in designing their development plans.

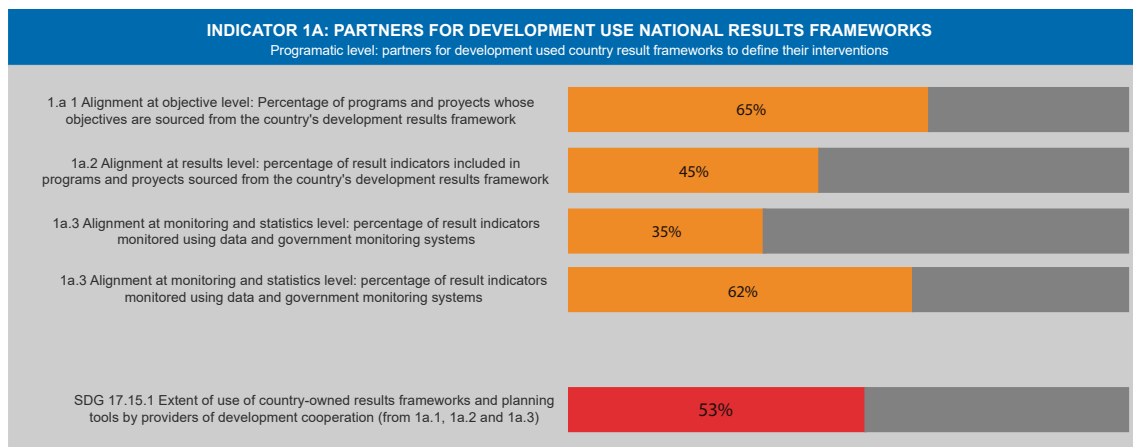
7.3. Ensuring effectiveness and alignment of external financial and technical support

In order to contribute to sustainable development, financial and technical support of international donors, the private sector and civil society need to be effective and aligned with the PNDs and MEDs.

In partnership with the international development organization active in Guatemala, the government is insisting in compliance with the principles of effective development cooperation, derived from the *Paris Declaration* and ratified through the Global Alliance for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC).

In concrete terms, progress has been made through a standardized process of alignment and joint prioritization between the executing entities and international donors. However, there is still a long way to go for aid to contribute effectively to the PNDs. According to the preliminary results of the third monitoring round for the AGCED which took place in 2018 - in which less than half of the donors active in the country participated - only 45% of the programs and projects is aligned with the national results frameworks, while 35% use data and government monitoring systems.

Figure 5: Results of the GPEDC Monitoring Round 2018



Source: SEGEPLAN, 2018

According to the preliminary results of the *Fifth Report of non-reimbursable international cooperation*, in the period of 2016-2018, donors invested the largest part of their support in SDG 16 (41% of the total 1,806 million), followed at great distance by SDGs 8 (15%) and 3 (12%). Seven SDGs receive contributions worth less than 1% of the total. In distribution by PNDs, there is a strong focus on the strengthening of institutional structures, security and justice (45%), followed by access to health services; and poverty reduction and social protection (both 12%). PNDs such as land-use management (0.6%) and economic value of natural resources (0.4%) received limited contributions, while there was no support for the PND of Comprehensive Fiscal Reform.

Looking into the performance in recent years, the thematic analysis of PNDs and MEDs (chapter 6) assessed Official Development Assistance (ODA) contributions in more detail. Overall, annual ODA is declining, from 402 million USD in 2008 to 278 million USD in 2017 (a decrease of 31%). Thematically, ODA was relatively stable in traditional sectors such as agriculture (indicator 2.a.2 of the *2030 Agenda*), health (3.b.2), or water and sanitation (6.a.1). In contrast, areas such as infrastructure (indicator 9.a.1) or environmentally sound technologies (17.7.1) suffered from a pronounced fluctuation of international support. Therefore, the government and donors need to strengthen joint efforts to increase international support to the goals and targets that are critical to implement the *2030 Agenda* in Guatemala.

Furthermore, different initiatives are underway to mobilize contributions from the private sector and civil society that contribute to the implementation of the national development

priorities and the SDGs. The increasing collaboration with CentraRSE and the Global Compact Local Network in Guatemala is particularly relevant. The former holds, among others, annual forums on sustainable development and currently serves as a focal point in the UNCTAD initiative on core indicators for entity reporting, which aims to enable businesses to measure their contribution to the *2030 Agenda*. For its part, guatemalan local network of the Global Compact launched a report on its participants' priorities in February 2019. The report found that economic growth and decent work (SDG 8), healthy lives and well-being (SDG 3), as well as reduced inequalities (SDG 10) are of particular relevance for guatemalan companies participating in the Global Compact. The report also notes that the *2030 Agenda* and the PNDs need further dissemination amongst the private sector, and that there are challenges to incorporate the SDGs in business strategies and a need to systematize private sector contributions to national sustainable development.

All in all, Guatemala is committed to a financing framework for sustainable development in line with the *Addis Ababa Action Agenda* (AAAA). Under the umbrella of the Implementation Strategy, several initiatives are moving forward with sustainable financing, for instance by reviewing and readjusting public expenditures, preparing a comprehensive fiscal reform, accelerating coordination with the international donors and engaging in partnerships with private sector and civil society. These processes will enable Guatemala to build a balanced architecture that encompasses all financing sources, while deepening the primary responsibility of the State to mobilize and manage public finance efficiently and sustainably.



Document presentation event "Acting in the present, thinking about the future" of CACIF, April 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.

8. NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PNDs

8. NEXT STEPS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PNDs

Since the adoption of the **2030 Agenda**, Guatemala has made substantial progress in generating the strategic, political, institutional and programmatic conditions needed to promote sustainable development for all.

The achievement of the SDGs and their targets will benefit from the full incorporation of the **2030 Agenda** in the national vision on long-term development ambitions articulated in the **Plan K'atun**, its various programmatic and operational tools, the PNDs, as well as the MEDs and REDs. In addition, solid governance mechanisms at all levels are focused on mainstreaming the goals and targets. This will ensure an effective, efficient and transparent implementation of the **2030 Agenda**.

During the first five-year period of the **Plan K'atun** (2015-2019), the government and other actors generated the conditions for long-term implementation. The next five years (2020-2024) should focus on the effective implementation, follow-up and review of the PNDs and the SDGs.

The new government administration taking office in January 2020 might be able to proceed quickly not only due to substantial technical advances (for instance, in statistical, programmatic and budgetary terms), but also thanks to a high-level commitment of all stakeholders to this process that is so vital for the future of the country.

In essence, rooted in the exceptional wealth of inputs collected for this VNR, the following specific opportunities have been identified for each stakeholder to continue contributing to the sustainable development of Guatemala:

8.1. Opportunities for the central government

- Focus the new five-year period (2020-2024) on the achievement and periodic monitoring of sustainable development results based on the 120 approved indicators and its statistical complementary framework.

- Continue investing in statistical capacities both centrally (INE) and in government institutions in charge of producing data on sustainable development through already existing mechanisms, such as the OCSE.

- Create standards for the baselines for all available indicators, in addition to generating adequate methodologies for the production of indicators for which data is currently unavailable.

- Ensure coherence between planning, programming and execution of the institutional outputs, so that these address the direct and indirect causes of the PNDs and take into account cost effectiveness.

- Link the general government policy with the national development agenda defined by the PNDs.

- Deepen the programmatic and budgetary link ages of PNDs and MEDs beyond the current focus on REDs, for example by further integrating these in the multi-annual budgetary frameworks.

- Broaden the commitment to the means of implementation and particularly to financing for development by e.g. strengthening private investment, trade, sustainable debt and technology transfer in order to complement the initiatives around domestic resource mobilization and ODA.

- Strengthen SEGEPLAN in order to consolidate its effective leadership in long-term development planning, and ensure a strong normative framework for its advisory role through a Development Planning Law or **Plan K'atun**.

- Promote the implementation of regulatory and normative frameworks that facilitate the articulation of inter-institutional efforts that among others clarify institutional roles in particular issues, for example the design and approval of a Law of Waters.

- Extend the decentralization of governing entities, by enhancing capacities to the subnational offices and ensuring vertical communication to secure coherence and focus of government actions in line with the PNDs as well as with public policies and plans.

- Articulate the national and institutional information systems, moving towards the modernization of institutional set-ups and promoting the exchange of information to provide more efficient services to the population and generate useful inputs for political decision-making.

- Advance towards a better understanding and closer monitoring of the potential impact of public policies and national legal and regulatory frameworks in the achievement of the PNDs and the SDGs, particularly with a view to trends regarding the nationally prioritized indicators.

Establish frameworks for social auditing and measuring the impact of national contributions to PND exemplified by the current initiatives of the private sector.

8.2. Opportunities for the Congress of the Republic

- Building up on their proactive involvement in the VNR, the parliamentary committees can continue their analysis of the relevance of legislative work relating to sustainable development, for example, through strengthening the links between law-making and the PNDs.

- While the PND for strengthening institutional structures, security and justice (SDG16) is the main area for legislative action, the adaptation of legal and regulatory frameworks to the PNDs covers all themes, from the criminal prosecution of femicides (SDG 5), the investment in higher education (SDG 4), regulation of public transport (SDG 11) and climate change (SDG 13).

- Establish a committee that monitors the PNDs and coordinates the work of the 38 thematic committees of the Congress to ensure achievement of these priorities.

- Secure financing for development through approval of the general revenue budget and expenditures aligned to the PND.

- Ensuring increasingly consistent linkages of the PNDs with the national budget, not only in terms of programming but also with a view to accountability by the government.

- Approving a planning law that guarantees that the programming of Guatemala's development priorities as part of the national budget of revenues and expenditures of government, is approved and executed for each fiscal year.

8.3. Opportunities for the municipalities

- Strengthening the territorial articulation of the PNDs and the *2030 Agenda* in the next five-year period, considering the multiple vulnerabilities and gaps at the local levels.

- Developing and approving PDM-OTs as an opportunity to promote sustainable development in the municipalities,

which requires greater capacity and political will, in addition to support from the central government and other stakeholders, including the donor community.

- Developing subnational monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, for example, by establishing a monitoring framework as part of the PDM-OT formulation, with periodic reviews allowing adjustments and improvements in the medium term.

- Taking advantage of the System of Development Councils, requires investing in technical capacities with a view to planning, implementation, monitoring and production of statistical data at the local level.

- Within the framework of the *National Decentralization Agenda*, moving forward with greater impetus in the effective subnational presence of the institutions of the central government, to close implementation gaps, especially regarding basic public services.

- Improving municipal institutional structures and capacities that can play a key role in overcoming the deep social and economic gaps that impact most of the indigenous population of rural areas.

- Ensure that investment is directed to the national priorities and addressing the populations most urgent needs.

8.4. Opportunities for non-state actors

- Consolidating the distinctive roles of non-state actors, including identification and clarification of key contributions to national sustainable development, as well as complementing the government's efforts by encouraging full participation in the CONADUR.

- Strengthening the role of the departmental development councils, as a mechanism for political participation and effective investments in sustainable projects that generate an impact on the living conditions of the population.

- Expanding public-private partnerships in areas such as infrastructure, transport and renewable energies, taking advantage of the current favorable macroeconomic context.

- Contributing to the dissemination, analysis and creation of knowledge about sustainable development and particularly the achievement of PNDs, MEDs and SDGs.

- Establishing frameworks for social auditing and measurement of impact of private sector contributions to PNDs, as already being defined by the private sector.

- Particularly with a view to the government transition, non-state actors play a vital role ensuring continuity and sustainability of the national ownership and monitoring. Existing mechanisms, such as CONADUR, can be used to generate political advocacy that guarantee the sustainability and development of Guatemala.

8.5. Opportunities for the international community

- Accelerating progress in aligning international cooperation to the PNDs and MEDs, while also ensuring a consistent use of national planning, measurement and statistical systems, in line with the commitments assumed within the framework of the GPEDC.

- Maintaining and expanding international support for the implementation of the **2030 Agenda** through the PNDs, particularly by supporting institutional and operational

capacities needed for planning and monitoring sustainable development results.

- Strengthening donor coordination mechanisms in order to move towards harmonization of financing processes and reducing duplication and dispersion of efforts.

- Creating spaces to ensure the continuous implementation of the **2030 Agenda** during the government transition phase, with a view to maintaining the dialogue and collaboration among non-state actors, specifically civil society and business sector.

- Promoting greater clarity in opportunities to receive ODA and improve its impact on the development of Guatemala, giving priority to efforts based on national need rather than donors' own program supply.



Dialogue and consultation workshops with representatives of cooperatives and MSMEs. Source: SEGEPLAN.



Dialogue and consultation workshop with young people. Source: SEGEPLAN, 2019.

9. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PROCESS IN GUATEMALA

9. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PROCESS IN GUATEMALA

As a continuous effort feeding into the implementation of the **2030 Agenda** in Guatemala, the VNR process has yielded a series of lessons learnt that may be relevant for other countries in their process to achieve sustainable development that leaves no one behind. In this sense, the road taken in recent years has led to the following main conclusions:

- The integration of the **2030 Agenda** in the national vision of long-term development – reflected in the *Plan K'atun* - constitutes a powerful instruments to ensure efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of the implementation of the global agreement as a whole, while facilitating ownership by applying a whole-of-government and a whole-of-society approach.

- One advantage of the **2030 Agenda** in Guatemala stems from the solid and inclusive platform provided by CONADUR. The structure created with CONADUR is unique and should be used to the maximum extent possible, in particular by strengthening the role of the Commission for Alignment, Monitoring and Evaluation. There is a need to fully implement these mandates. Furthermore, of key important is ensuring sustained mandates of the Development Councils, which should operate beyond the cycles of government and constitute the "home" of sustainable development where all relevant stakeholders meet.

- Building the foundation for consistent planning, implementation, monitoring and statistical measurement of the goals requires time, resources, flexibility and a collaborative culture among all the actors involved. It is only feasible with strong political will, and sufficient public and private resources from all levels of government and stakeholders. In Guatemala, this construction has taken more than 15 years.

- Developing national and local statistical capacities implies dedicated efforts within the public-institutional architecture. In Guatemala, INE is in charge of coordinating the production of these statistics, which is supported by effective mechanisms of inter-institutional collaboration at the sector level.

- Beyond the central government, ownership must be taken by all sectors and stakeholders. This not only means that all stakeholders need to be involved in formal mechanisms, but also requires that each stakeholder - State, civil society, private sector, nationally and locally - identifies and assumes its roles and responsibilities as well as identifies needs and opportunities.

- The three branches of the State play a key role in all areas of sustainable development. Particularly the Congress should not only focus on parliamentary supervision, but also contribute to the gradual generation of necessary legal frameworks and smart budgets focusing on the achievement of the PNDs and SDGs.

- Sustainable development requires a readjustment of public policies, programming and budgeting, in order to generate sufficient incentives to anchor all government action in national PNDs, by using the prioritized indicators to supervise and monitor government programs.

- The support of international cooperation can be further aligned by accelerating the political dialogue and engaging in mutual support build capacity development on both sides. Clarity on the critical points of the implementation of the PNDs might enable donors to orientate their support accordingly when identifying new frameworks for cooperation, aid and partnerships for development.

The next five years will focus on effective implementation of the PND and the **2030 Agenda**, using the institutional and regulatory mechanisms developed thus far and achieving results. It will be key that these results contribute to reducing the domestic gaps that ensures Guatemala's contribution to the global community that is increasingly just, inclusive and peaceful, and where no one is left behind.

To this end, the next government administration starting in 2020 should ensure continuity to the national development priorities emerged from the consensus and consultations with the guatemalan population in multiple areas since the formulation of the National Development Plan.

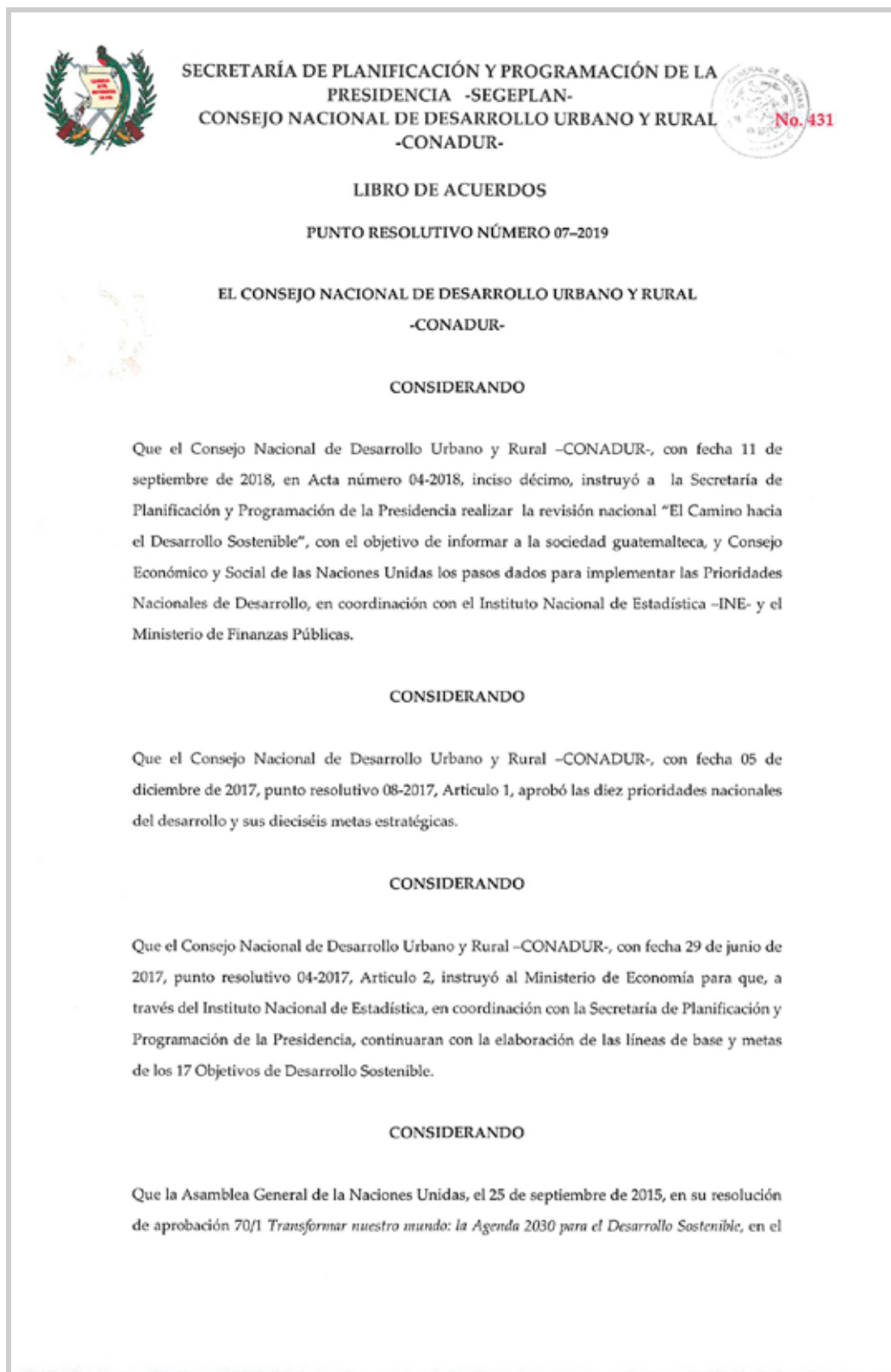


Presentation National Voluntary Review 2019 before the United Nations High Level Political Forum, July 2019. Source: SEGEPLAN.

10. ANNEXES

10. ANNEXES

ANNEX 1: *Resolution (Punto Resolutivo) 07-2019*





SECRETARÍA DE PLANIFICACIÓN Y PROGRAMACIÓN DE LA
 PRESIDENCIA -SEGEPLAN-
 CONSEJO NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO URBANO Y RURAL
 -CONADUR-



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artículo 72, los países miembros se comprometen a realizar un proceso sistemático de seguimiento y examen de la implementación de la Agenda 2030, estableciendo principios de dicho seguimiento en el artículo 74 y el 79 alentando a los Estados Miembros a que realicen exámenes periódicos e inclusivos, liderados e impulsados por los países, de los progresos nacionales y subnacionales que sean presentados a nivel regional y mundial según los artículo 80 y 82.

POR TANTO

En ejercicio de las funciones y atribuciones que le confieren los artículos: 225 de la Constitución Política de la República de Guatemala; 6 de la Ley de los Consejos de Desarrollo Urbano y Rural, Decreto número 11-2002 del Congreso de la República y sus reformas; literal g. del Reglamento de la Ley de los Consejos de Desarrollo Urbano y Rural, Acuerdo Gubernativo 461-2002 y sus reformas.

RESUELVE

Artículo 1. Aprobar el informe denominado "Revisión Nacional 2019: El Camino hacia el Desarrollo Sostenible" como evaluación de corto plazo del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo K'atun: Nuestra Guatemala al 2032 y pasos que ha dado el país para implementar las prioridades nacionales del desarrollo que contienen a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible, en continuidad al Examen Nacional Voluntario 2017.

Artículo 2. Se instruye a la Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia para que presente el informe "Revisión Nacional 2019: El Camino hacia el Desarrollo Sostenible" ante el Foro Político de Alto Nivel sobre desarrollo sostenible (FPAN) en seguimiento a las recomendaciones dadas a los países para la presentación de informes voluntarios emitidas por la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas con base en lo regulado en el artículo 84 de la Declaración Transformemos nuestro mundo.

Artículo 3. Instruir al Director Ejecutivo y al Secretario de este Consejo que coordine la comunicación a toda la institucionalidad pública y actores del desarrollo, los hallazgos y recomendaciones incluidas en el informe aprobado en el artículo 1 con la finalidad de



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-CONADUR-



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implementar las acciones necesarias para la implementación de las Prioridades Nacionales de Desarrollo.

Artículo 4. Se instruye a la Comisión de Alineación, Seguimiento y Evaluación del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo K'atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032, para socializar los resultados del informe Revisión Nacional 2019: "El Camino hacia el Desarrollo Sostenible" a nivel nacional.

Artículo 5. Aprobar las 120 líneas basales y metas contenidas en el informe Revisión Nacional 2019: El Camino hacia el Desarrollo Sostenible como el mecanismo para medir las diez Prioridades Nacionales de Desarrollo y sus metas, que integran a los Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible.

Artículo 6. Instruir al Ministerio de Economía para que a través del Instituto Nacional de Estadística, oficialice las líneas basales, metas y para que en coordinación con la Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia y las instituciones rectoras correspondientes, finalicen la generación de información estadística complementaria, con las desagregaciones necesarias especialmente por sexo, para el monitoreo de las Prioridades Nacionales de Desarrollo que se inició en 2016.

Artículo 7. Instruir a la Comisión de Alineación, Seguimiento y Evaluación del Plan Nacional de Desarrollo K'atun: Nuestra Guatemala 2032, realizar las acciones pertinentes para garantizar el Seguimiento y Evaluación interanual y participativo de las Prioridades Nacionales de Desarrollo, para su efectivo reporte nacional cada dos años.

Artículo 8. El presente Punto Resolutivo entra en vigencia inmediatamente.


Dado en la ciudad de Guatemala, a los veintiocho días del mes de junio del año dos mil diecinueve.

POR EL ORGANISMO EJECUTIVO


Jimmy Morales Cabrera

Coordinador del CONADUR y Presidente de la República de Guatemala




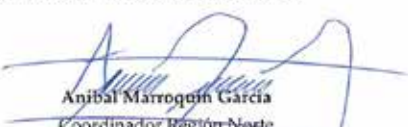












**SECRETARÍA DE PLANIFICACIÓN Y PROGRAMACIÓN DE LA
PRESIDENCIA -SEGEPLAN-
CONSEJO NACIONAL DE DESARROLLO URBANO Y RURAL
-CONADUR-**



LIBRO DE ACUERDOS

POR LOS CONSEJOS REGIONALES DE DESARROLLO URBANO Y RURAL

 Carlos Alberto Sagastume Cervantes Coordinador Región Nororiente	 Anibal Marroquin García Coordinador Región Norte
 Miguel Arnoldo Jiménez Coordinador Región Central	 Hugo Adolfo Orellana Cano Coordinador Región Sureste
 Elmer Apolonio Mateo Tojin Coordinador Región Noroccidente	 Pedro Javier Santiago López Coordinador Región Suroccidente
POR LAS CORPORACIONES MUNICIPALES DE LAS REGIONES	
 José Rocael Chamalé Enriquez Representante Región Metropolitana	 Henry Estuardo Ayala Dardón Representante Región Suroccidente
 Carlos Alexander Simaj Chan Representante Región Central	 Pedro Raymundo Representante Suplente Región Noroccidente
POR LA SOCIEDAD CIVIL	
 José Alberto Quej Xoy Representante Pueblos Mayas	 Irma Lucía Gutiérrez Tohom Representante de los Pueblos Mayas



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No. 436

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 Julio Rodríguez Alcón Representante de los Pueblos Mayas	 Rómulo Aurelio Caal Acaljá Representante de los Pueblos Mayas
 José Demecio Aguilar Ramírez Representante del Pueblo Xinka	 Rodolfo Timoteo Orozco Velásquez Representante de las Asociaciones Cooperativas
 Nineth Maximiliana Florian Vásquez, Representante de Organizaciones Campesinas	 Ezequiel Gonzalo Cruz Pérez Representante de Organizaciones Campesinas
 Ana María Prado García Representante de Organizaciones de Mujeres	 Aura Natividad López Chó Representante Suplente de Organizaciones de Mujeres
 Josue Alberto Rojas Jaco Representante suplente de las Asociaciones de Micro, Pequeñas y Medianas Empresas de los Sectores de la Manufactura y los Servicios	 Ricardo Adalberto Hernández Oajaca Presidente de Junta Directiva de la Comisión Nacional de la Niñez y de la Adolescencia
 Otto Rodolfo García Hernández Asociaciones Agropecuarias, Comerciales, Financieras e Industriales CACIF	

10.2 ANNEX 2: Summary of national development priorities and strategic development targets

National Development Priority (10 in total)	National logo	Related SDGs	Source of the target	Strategic Development Targets (MED) (16 in total)	Targets linked to this PND (99 in total)	Prioritized indicators (237 in total)
Poverty reduction and social protection				<p>[Target 10.2] By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.</p> <p>[Target 1.3] Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.</p>	16 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 14 Plan K'atun: 2	37 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 29 Plan K'atun: 8
Access to health services				[Target 3.8] Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.	9 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 3 Plan K'atun: 6	25 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 20 Plan K'atun: 5
Access to water and natural resource management				<p>[Target 12.2] By 2030, achieve the sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.</p> <p>[Target 15.2] By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.</p>	23 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 9 Plan K'atun: 14	50 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 39 Plan K'atun: 11
Food security and nutrition				[Target E2P2M1] By 2032, reduce chronic malnutrition in children under five years in at least 25%, with an emphasis on children of the Mayan, Xinka and Garifuna peoples, and in rural areas.	6 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 3 Plan K'atun: 3	13 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 11 Plan K'atun: 2
Employment and investments				<p>[Target E3P1M1] By 2032, real GDP growth has been gradual and sustained, reaching a rate of no less than 5.4%: a) Range between 3.4 and 4.4% in 2015-2020; b) range between 4.4 and 5.4% in 2021-2025. c) at least 5.4% in the following years, until reaching 2032.</p> <p>[Target E3P4M1] Labor precariousness has been reduced by generating decent and quality jobs (several sub-indicators)</p> <p>[Target 8.9] By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.</p>	11 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 7 Plan K'atun: 4	40 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 37 Plan K'atun: 3

				[Target 8.9] By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products.			
Economic value of natural resources				[Target 15.9] By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.	8 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 5 Plan K'atun: 3	12 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 10 Plan K'atun: 2	
Institutional strengthening, security and justice				[Target 16.5] Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. [Target 16.6] Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.	15 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 6 Plan K'atun: 9	34 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 29 Plan K'atun: 5	
Education				[Target 4.1] By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes.	6 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 1 Plan K'atun: 5	16 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 13 Plan K'atun: 3	
Comprehensive fiscal reform				[Target E3P7M1] Tax burden surpasses the 2007 level (12.1%), and social spending surpasses the level of 7% of GDP, obtained in 2010.	1 meta vinculada, de éstas: 2030 Agenda: 0 Plan K'atun: 1	3 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 2 Plan K'atun: 1	
Land-use management				[Target E4P5M1] 100% of the municipalities have comprehensive land-use management plans that are being implemented satisfactorily. [Target E1P3M2] En 2032, municipal governments achieve a greater management capacity in order to meet the needs and demands of citizens.	4 linked targets from: 2030 Agenda: 0 Plan K'atun: 4	7 indicators from: 2030 Agenda: 3 Plan K'atun: 4	

10.3 ANNEX 3: Credits

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (CONADUR)

Jimmy Morales Cabrera
COORDINATOR
PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA

Miguel Angel E. Moir S.
SECRETARY
SECRETARIAT OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING
-SEGEPLAN-

Jorge Neftalí Arreaga Cifuentes
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SECRETARIAT FOR EXECUTIVE COORDINATION -SCEP-

Víctor Manuel Martínez
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MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

José Luis Benito Ruiz
MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND HOUSING

Óscar Hugo López Rivas
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Mario Méndez Montenegro
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Elder Suchité Vargas
MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND SPORTS

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINING

Carlos Enrique Soto
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

Gabriel Vladimir Aguilera Bolaños
MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alfonso Rafael Alonzo Vargas
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Acisclo Valladares Urruela
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Yolanda del Rosario Sián Ramírez de Vásquez
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT FOR WOMEN

José Rocael Chamalé Enríquez
REPRESENTATIVE - METROPOLITAN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Edin Rolando Guerrero Milián
 REPRESENTATIVE - NORTHERN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Esbin René Guevara Salazar
 REPRESENTATIVE - NORTHEASTERN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Carlos Roberto Marroquín Fuentes
 REPRESENTATIVE - SOUTHEASTERN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Carlos Alexander Simaj
 REPRESENTATIVE - CENTRAL REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Henry Estuardo Ayala Dardón
 REPRESENTATIVE - SOUTHWESTERN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Carlos Armando Alvarado Figueroa
 REPRESENTATIVE - NORTHWESTERN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Carlos Antonio Kuylen Morales
 REPRESENTATIVE - PETÉN MUNICIPALITIES

Sadin Iván Díaz López
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 METROPOLITAN REGION

Aníbal Marroquín García
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 NORTHERN REGION

Carlos Alberto Sagastume
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 NORTHEASTERN REGION

Hugo Adolfo Orellana Cano
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Miguel Arnoldo Jiménez
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 CENTRAL REGION

Pedro Javier Santiago López
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 SOUTHWESTERN REGION

Elmer Apolonio Mateo Tojín
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 NORTHWESTERN REGION

Víctor Manuel Sigüenza Corado
 COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
 PETÉN.

José Alberto Quej
 REPRESENTATIVE - MAYAN PEOPLE

Irma Lucía Gutiérrez Tohom
REPRESENTATIVE - MAYAN PEOPLE

Julio Rodríguez Alcón
REPRESENTATIVE - MAYAN PEOPLE

Rómulo Aurelio Caal Acaljá
REPRESENTATIVE - MAYAN PEOPLE

José Demecio Aguilar Ramírez
REPRESENTATIVE - XINKA PEOPLE

Rodolfo Timoteo Orozco Velásquez
REPRESENTATIVE - COOPERATIVES

Josué Alberto Rojas Jaco
REPRESENTATIVE - MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Nineth Maximiliana Florián Vásquez
REPRESENTATIVE - FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS

Ezequiel Gonzalo Cruz Pérez
REPRESENTATIVE - FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS

Otto Rodolfo García Hernández
REPRESENTATIVE AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, FINANCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL
ASSOCIATIONS -CACIF-

Ángel Leonel Lavagnino del Valle
REPRESENTATIVE - WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS

Ana Rivera Bernal de Rivera
REPRESENTATIVE - NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Ana María Prado García
REPRESENTATIVE - WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Julia Mercedes Coroxón Ramírez
REPRESENTATIVE - WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Murphy Olympo Paiz Recinos
RECTOR - UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS OF GUATEMALA

Ricardo Adalberto Hernández Oajaca
PRESIDENT - BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR
CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE -CNNA-

COMMISSION FOR THE ALIGNING, MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Miguel Angel E. Moir S.
SECRETARIAT OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING -SEGEPLAN-

Mario Méndez Montenegro
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Acisclo Valladares Urruela
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY

Gabriel Vladimir Aguilera Bolaños
MINISTRY OF LABOR AND SOCIAL SECURITY

Alfonso Rafael Alonzo Vargas
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Jorge Neftalí Arreaga Cifuentes
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT FOR EXECUTIVE COORDINATION -SCEP-

Yolanda del Rosario Sián Ramírez de Vásquez
PRESIDENTIAL SECRETARIAT FOR WOMEN

Hugo Adolfo Orellana Cano
COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
SOUTHEASTERN REGION

Pedro Javier Santiago López
COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
SOUTHWESTERN REGION

Elmer Apolonio Mateo Tojín
COORDINATOR - REGIONAL COUNCIL FOR URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
NORTHWESTERN REGION

José Rocael Chamalé Enríquez
REPRESENTATIVE - METROPOLITAN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

Esbin René Guevara Salazar
REPRESENTATIVE - NORTHEASTERN REGION MUNICIPALITIES

José Alberto Quej
REPRESENTATIVE - MAYAN PEOPLE

Julio Rodríguez Alcón
REPRESENTATIVE - MAYAN PEOPLE

Nineth Maximiliana Florián Vásquez
REPRESENTATIVE - FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS

Ángel Leonel Lavagnino del Valle
REPRESENTATIVE - WORKERS ORGANIZATIONS

Ana Rivera Bernal de Rivera
REPRESENTATIVE - NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Julia Mercedes Coroxón Ramírez
REPRESENTATIVE - WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Ricardo Adalberto Hernández Oajaca
PRESIDENT — BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CHILDHOOD
AND ADOLESCENCE -CNNA-

10.4 ANNEX 4: Technical assistance for the Voluntary National Review 2019

STEERING GROUP

Miguel Angel E. Moir S.
SECRETARIAT FOR PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

Ramón Conrado Aguilar Reyes
UNDERSECRETARY FOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS

Luis Estuardo Ovando Lavagnino
UNDERSECRETARY FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING

Luis Antonio Catalán Gómez
UNDERSECRETARY FOR INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT

Roxana Michelle Prieto Andrade
UNDERSECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR
DEVELOPMENT

EXECUTIVE DIRECTION
Luz Keila Virginia Gramajo Vilchez

TECHNICAL COORDINATION
María Margarita Cano Roca y Gamaliel Alexander Martínez Marroquín

THEMATIC EXPERTS
UNDERSECRETARIAT FOR STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT ANALYSIS
Enrique Barco, Lucrecia Corzantes, Martha María Pacay, Silvia Montepeque, Estuardo Rodríguez, Shorjan Estrada, Gustavo Madrid, Sintia Morán, Mynor Ávila, Julio Tzirin, Gabriela Escobar, Claudia Galeano, César Alvarado, Mayra Chaicoj, Carolina Sotoj, Verónica Yoc, Beatriz Bravo, Sonia Barrera, María Alejandra Ángel, Victoria Mogollón, Roger Baldizón, Hans Quevedo, Wagner Caal, Irma Orozco, Berta Engleton, Ana Marroquín, Daniel Sandoval, Manu Martín García, Regina Rivera

UNDERSECRETARIAT FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING
Jorge Monterroso, Lourdes Monzón, Velia Moscoso, Julio Estrada, Delia Lucrecia Núñez, María Hortencia Del Cid, Elisa Herrera, Allan Medrano, Alicia Cifuentes, Edna Rocío Martínez, Edvan Marroquín, Diana Sagastume, Hilda Betzabé Arrechea, Juan Peneleu, Nery Búcaro, Paola Ochoa, Sharon Pinzón, Ana Carolina García, Yessenia Paola Zamora, Catarina Pérez, Celia Marilú Argueta, Álvaro Hugo Martínez

UNDERSECRETARIAT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIPS
FOR DEVELOPMENT
Nydia Suzely Garrido, Oliver Ávalos, María Betsabé Rosales, Rhina De León

UNDERSECRETARY FOR INVESTMENT FOR DEVELOPMENT
Stuart Romeo Villatoro, Astrid Jeanette Villacorta, Eduardo Alvarado

DELEGATIONS COORDINATION
José Alejandro Santillana, Juan Enrique Ávila, Gabriela Conde, Leyla Indira Chang

SUPPORT TEAM
Irma Yolanda Monroy, Verónica Noemí Vásquez, Lesly Gardenia Quino, Olga Leticia Lemus Ortíz.
Dirección de Comunicación Social. Dirección de Sistemas de la Información.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda
CACIF	Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial and Financial Associations
CentraRSE	Action Center for Corporate Social Responsibility in Guatemala
CIIE	Interinstitutional State Commission for Indigenous Affairs
CODEDES	Departmental Development Councils
CODESAN	Departmental Commissions for Food Security and Nutrition
CONADUR	Urban and Rural Development Council
CONAP	National Council for Protected Areas
COREDUR	Regional Urban and Regional Development Councils
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EEGE	Specific Strategies for Statistical Management
EGGE	Management Strategy for Statistics Generation
GPEDC	Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MfR	Management for Results
IGM	Municipal Management Index
INAB	National Institute of Forests
INE	National Statistics Institute
INFOM	Institute for Municipal Development
LGBTI	Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Intersex persons
LNOB	Leave No One Behind
MED	Strategic Development Target
MIDES	Ministry of Social Development
MINEX	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MINFIN	Ministry of Public Finance
MSME	Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
NGO	Non-governmental Organizations
OCSE	Coordinating Offices for Sector Statistics
ODA	Official Development Assistance
PADEP	Academic Teacher Professional Development Program
PINPEP	Forest Incentives Program for Smallholders
PDM-OT	Plans for Municipal Development and Land-Use Management
PLANAFOM	National Plan for Municipal Strengthening
PND	National Development Priorities
PROBOSQUE	Incentives Program for the Creation, Recovery, Management, Production and Protection of Forests
PRONEA	National Program for Alternative Education
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SAT	Superintendence of Tax Administration
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEGEPLAN	Secretariat for Planning and Programming of the Presidency
SEN	National Statistics System
SIGAP	Guatemalan System of Protected Areas
SINASAN	National System for Food Security and Nutrition
TCI	Tourism Competitiveness Index
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VUME	Municipal Single Window for Employment



Summary **Voluntary National Review 2019**

The Road to Sustainable Development



SISTEMA DE CONSEJOS
DE DESARROLLO
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With technical assistance of:



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Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia

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