

Ensuring accountability for SDG4

Global Campaign for Education updates members on the follow-up and review of the SDGs

The Global Campaign for Education has released a briefing to update its members on the processes of follow-up and review for the SDGs that is underway this year. As in the previous year, reviews are underway nationally, regionally, and globally.

National reviews

The key mechanism to track progress on SDG implementation across all goals, including Goal 4, are Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

GCE's new briefing paper, [Time to Deliver: Voluntary National Reviews and for SDG4 and Education 2030](#), provides a useful guide to the VNR process.

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| Asia Pacific | Afghanistan , Azerbaijan, Bangladesh , India , Indonesia , Iran, Japan , Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal , Tajikistan, Thailand. |
| Latin America & the Caribbean | Argentina , Belize, Brazil , Chile , Costa Rica , El Salvador, Guatemala , Honduras , Panama, Peru , Uruguay |
| Europe | Belarus, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark , Italy , Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands , Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden |
| Africa | Benin , Botswana, Ethiopia , Kenya , Nigeria , Togo , Zimbabwe |
| MENA | Jordan , Qatar |

For this year, the countries listed - GCE member coalitions are in **bold**) - are undergoing Voluntary National Reviews (VNR). Member states in these countries are preparing official reports looking at the progress and

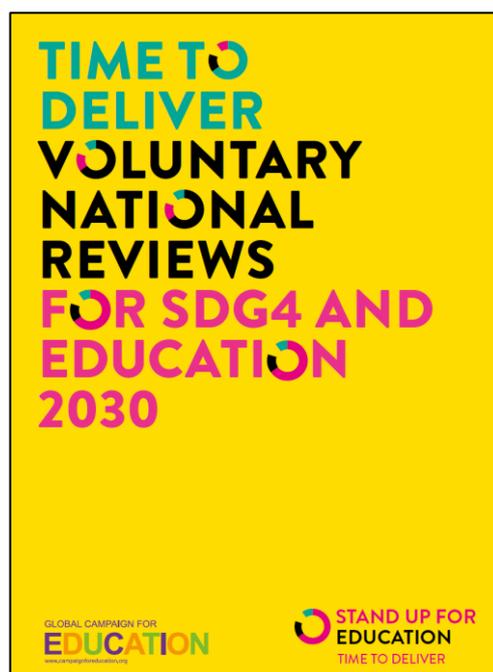
efforts made to streamline implementation nationally. Civil society input is expected to be taken as part of the process of reviewing and finalising these documents, making it important for education civil society to engage. Governments were expected to finalise the main messages as part of the reviews by 19 May and submit their final official reports by 16 June 2017 ahead of the final sharing of the report at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July.

The following six countries have already volunteered for review under the 2018 HLPF - Bahrain, Bhutan, Ireland, Jamaica, Republic of the Congo, and Singapore. This list is expected to grow after this year's HLPF.

Regional Reviews

The national reviews are accompanied by a process of regional reviews. These cover all the countries in the particular region, not only VNR countries, and are anchored by the UN Regional Commissions. These are accompanied by CSO pre-forums in several regions, as follows -

- 5 Apr 2017 - ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)
- 26 Apr 2017 - ECLAC: Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development (LAC RFSD)
- 29 Mar 2017 - ESCAP: Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD)



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- 3 May 2017 - ESCWA Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)
- 16 May 2017 - ECA Regional Forum on Sustainable Development (RFSD)



Countries undergoing the Voluntary National Reviews are preparing official reports looking at the progress and efforts made to streamline SDG and SDG4 implementation nationally.

Global Reviews

The High Level Political Forum is the apex body for follow up, review, and accountability globally where the results of the reviews taking place nationally, globally and thematically are shared. This year it will be held from 10-19 July 2017, including a three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 17-19 July 2017. The meeting will include a process of sharing the voluntary national reviews and regional reviews, and discussing overall progress made. A call for proposals to host side events at the HLPF is also out. All information regarding the meeting can be found [here](#).

The theme for this year is *'Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world'*.

A cluster of six goals will be reviewed this year plus Goal 17 which is reviewed each year. These year's goals are –

- Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
- Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
- Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
- Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
- Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
- Goal 17 - Revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development



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Major Groups and Other Stakeholders have been asked to make official submissions into the process in the form of position papers on the theme of the HLPF. The Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Major Group prepared a [position paper](#) which details the ways in which the SDGs are interconnected underscoring as well the importance of education to end poverty and hunger, achieve gender equality and ensure healthy lives.

The Education and Academia Stakeholder Group (EASG), of which GCE is an organising partner, will rana consultation with education civil society organisations to inform its [submission](#) to the HLPF.

This write-up contains excerpts from GCE's briefing on SDG4.