2023 Rwanda Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Localizing or domesticating SDGs into Rwandan Context Progress, Challenges and Opportunities

(MINECOFIN)

Presentation Outline

➢ Brief background on SDGs

➢ SDGs Domestication, Monitoring and Reporting

➢ SDGs into the National Development Framework

➢ Progress towards SDGs Domestication

➢ Critical challenges

➢ Opportunities (Critical success factors)

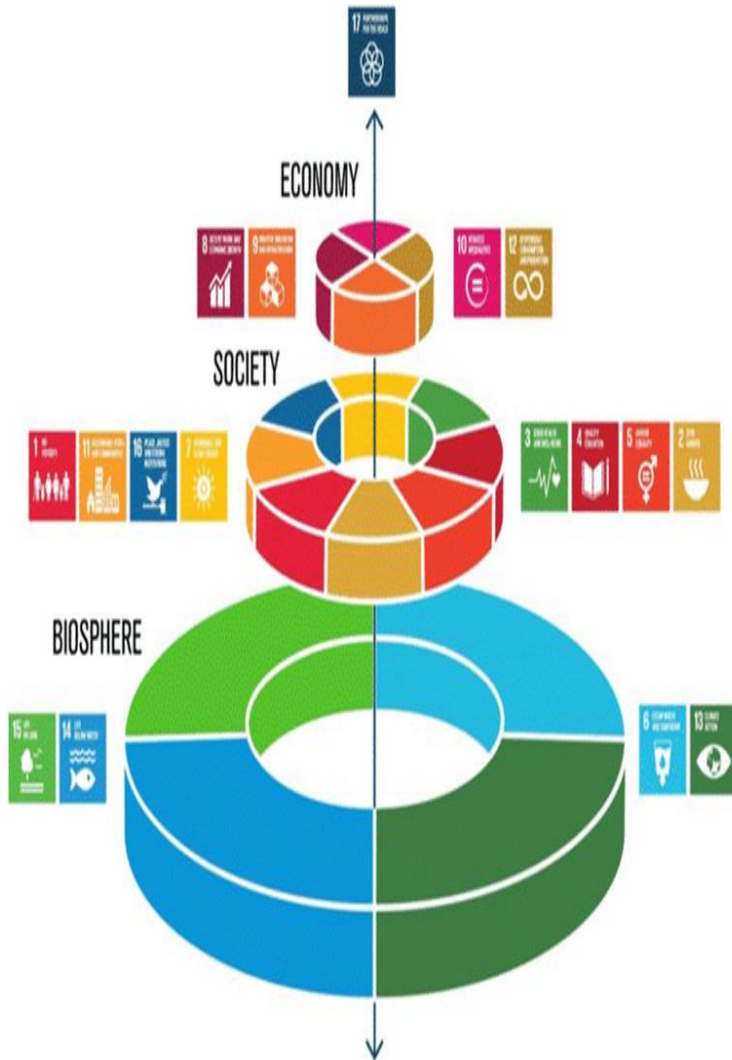➢ Policy Environment and Institutional Arrangement in Rwanda

Brief background on SDGs

➢ **Heads of States and Government** adopted **the new global Sustainable Development Goals** in New York from 25-27 September 2015

➢ **193 United Nations Member states** and at least 23 international organizations **agreed to achieve these Goals by the year 2030**

➢ **SDGs build upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals** and seek to address the unfinished businesses.

➢ **The SDGs are more ambitious and they include all countries** unlike the MDGs that were directed towards the developing countries

- 17 Goals
- 149 Targets and 232 Indicators

➢ Following the **adoption of the SDGs at global level** each country was expected **to integrate or domesticate** them in their national development context.

➢ In Rwanda, **the SDGs have been integrated in the national development agenda** through the National Strategy for Transformation (NST) and the related Sector Strategic Plans (SSPs) as well as the District Development Strategies (DDSs).

SDGs Domestication, Monitoring and Reporting

SDGs Domestication & Localization	SDGs Monitoring	Reporting on SDGs
SDGs were domesticated into the National Planning Framework including Vision 2050, NST2, Sector Strategic Plans as well as Localized in the District Development Strategies as illustrated in the figure in the **next slide**	❖ SDGs are monitored through the existing **National M&E Framework for NST2** i.e. through the Sector Working Groups ❖ **Information comes from different sources** e.g. surveys done by NISR as well as administrative sources. ❖ **This is compiled regularly by NISR in collaboration with MINECOFIN** to update the SDGs online portal accessed via (https://sustainabledevelopment-rwanda.github.io/)	❖ At Global Level, Rwanda like other Countries **committed to undertake regular and Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports for SDGs** implementation. ❖ **Rwanda presented her 1st and 2nd Voluntary National Review Report** at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development **in New York in 2019 and 2023.**

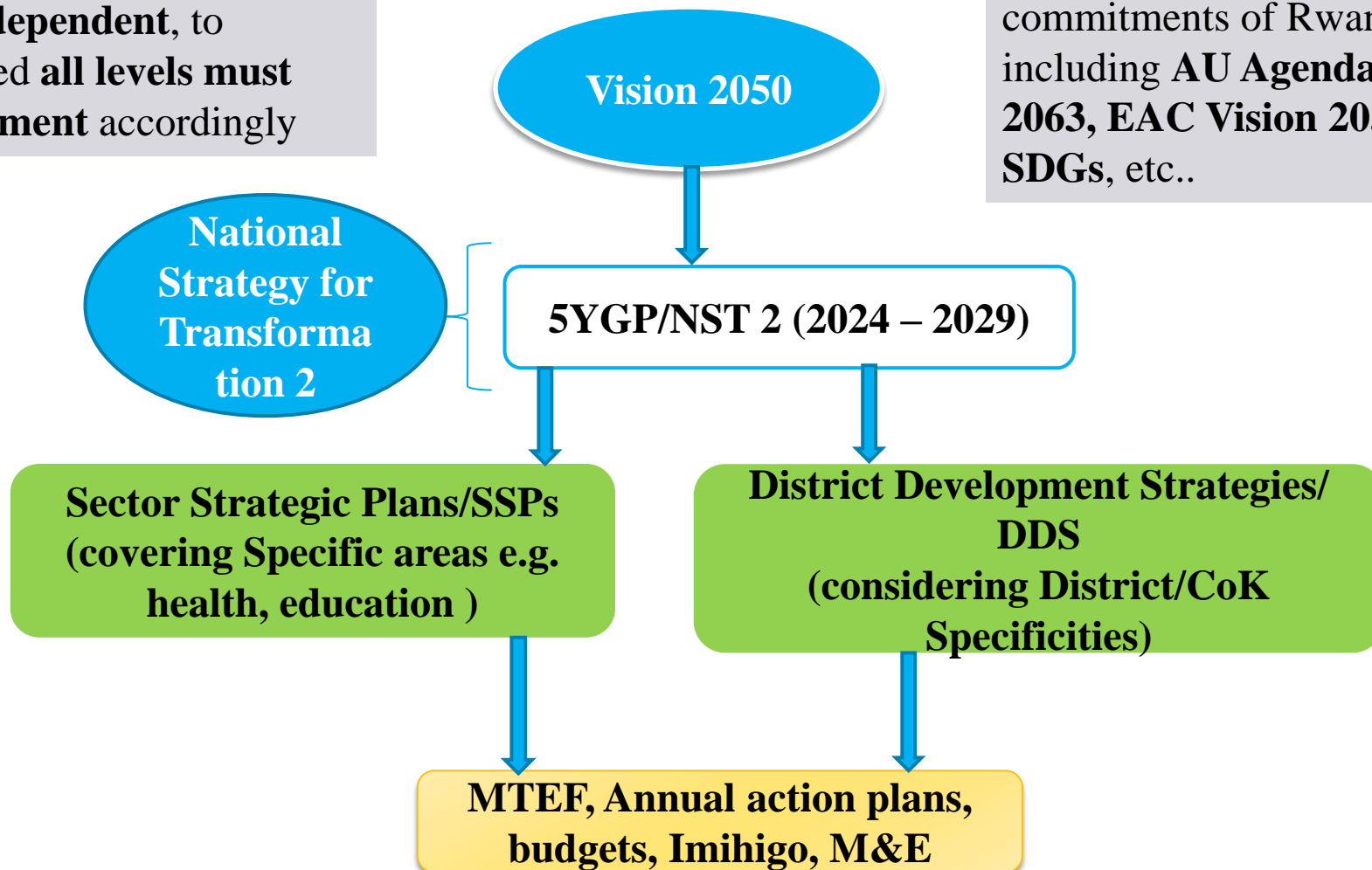# SDGs into the National Development Framework (Roadmap)

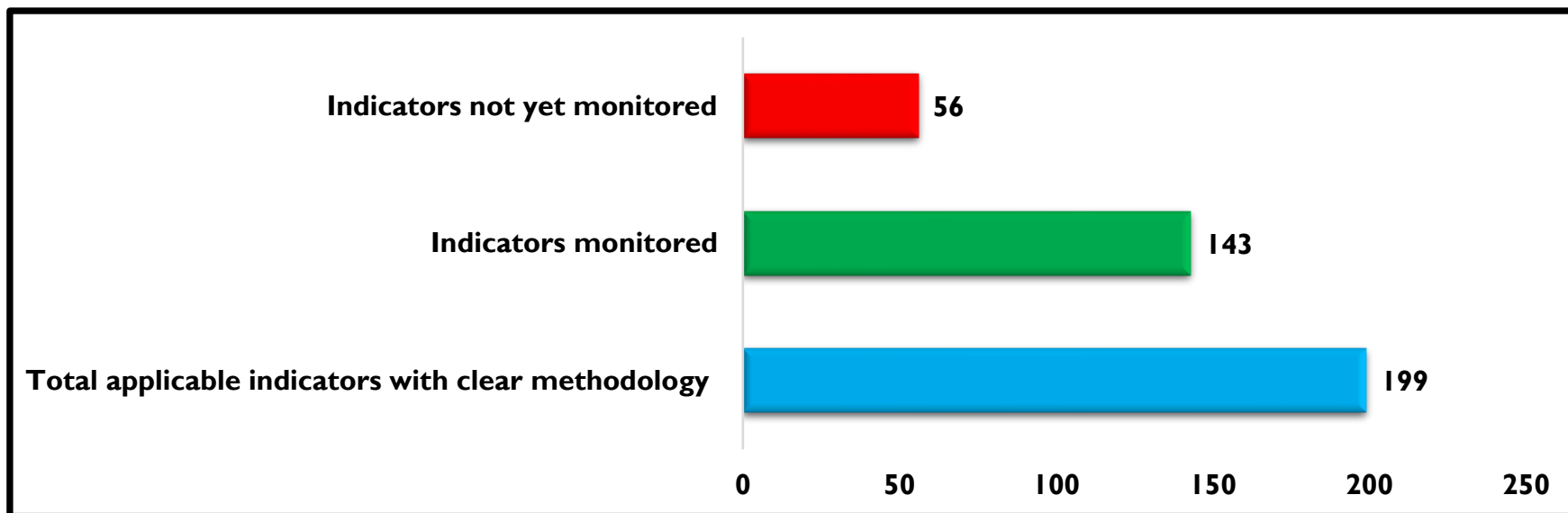| Timeframe	Key Activity
December 2015	**Cabinet approved Domestication Roadmap for SDGs**
2016	**Gap analysis**. - Undertake an in-depth analysis of the extent to which the existing National Planning Framework covered the SDGs (Looking at Fully, Partially, and not reflected).
2017	Holistic quality checks for all the draft of SSPs and NST1 indicators matrix (Including SDGs indicators)
	Data Gap Assessment for all the sectors (Looking at Available, easily feasible, etc..).
2018	Developed NST 1 and SDG Indicators **METADATA handbook**
	Integrating SDGs indicators into **NSDS3 (National Strategy for Development of Statistics in Rwanda)- The strategy includes plans to monitor indicators not currently monitored**

SDGs into National Development Agenda

The entire framework is **linked and interdependent**, to succeed **all levels must implement** accordingly

The Vision integrates international and regional commitments of Rwanda including **AU Agenda 2063, EAC Vision 2050, SDGs**, etc..

Vision 2050

National Strategy for Transformation 2

5YGP/NST 2 (2024 – 2029)

Sector Strategic Plans/SSPs (covering Specific areas e.g. health, education)

District Development Strategies/ DDS (considering District/CoK Specificities)

MTEF, Annual action plans, budgets, Imihigo, M&E

Progress towards SDGs Domestication

Following a recent updates on SDGs, more computation methodologies for indicators were provided, therefore increasing the number of indicators to be monitored.

Out of the 199 unique SDG Indicators applicable to Rwanda and with clear computation methodologies, **56 indicators (28%) are still not yet monitored**. **143 Indicators are currently monitored** and have data.

i.e. The current National SDGs **Statistical Capacity is at 72%**

Critical challenges implementing SDGs

Economic Inequality

- ❑ Persistent disparities in wealth and access to resources, especially in rural areas.

Climate Vulnerability

- ❑ Challenges in mitigating the impact of climate change, especially on agriculture-dependent communities.
- ❑ Droughts, floods, and land degradation threaten food security and livelihoods.

Resource Constraints

- ❑ Limited financial resources to fully implement all SDG-related initiatives.

Data Gaps:

- ❑ Inadequate disaggregated data to measure progress in areas like gender, disability, and informal economies.

Global Shocks:

- ❑ Economic setbacks from COVID-19 and global inflation pressures hinder achieving some SDGs.

Opportunities (success factors)

- **Increased resource mobilization through Innovative Financing Mechanisms** (climate finance, nature-based financing, private sector, blended financing).

- **Establishment of the revolution and big data department** at NISR to avail timely data.

- **Private Sector Participation** – continuous engagement to accelerate their role

- **Inclusive development model and leaving no one behind** – gender equality, youth engagement, pro-poor plans, unity and solidarity, integration of PwDs, etc..

- **Harnessing Technology and Digital Transformation**: for inclusive and sustainable development and development of resilience against potential future shocks.

- GoR is committed to taking **urgent actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change** as reflected in the "Revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)

SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR) Preparation and Reporting

Brief Background & Rationale for VNR Preparation

❖ Paragraph 74.   of Agenda 2030: Follow-up and review processes at all levels will be guided by the following principles:

  ❖ They will be **voluntary and country-led**,

  ❖ Will take into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and will respect policy space and priorities.

➢ VNRs a**re intended to track progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda**, including the SDGs and targets, in all countries, in a manner that respects their universal and integrated nature and all dimensions of sustainable development.

Guidelines for preparation of VNRs

❖ **VNRs should go beyond providing the status report & tell the story behind the status & way forward** i.e. Highlight progress, lessons learned, interventions/ innovations, challenges and plans to address underlying challenges to fast-track the realization of Agenda 2030.

❖ The process should be **inclusive enough** in order to prepare **a country & not a Government report.**

❖ The general guidance for VNR preparation (UN Secretary General guidelines) is that implementation status for **all goals** should be covered in the report,

❖ However, each year a **specific theme and certain Goals are selected to be discussed in-depth in the report**.

❖ **Elaboration process is participatory**, engaging multiple stakeholders and follows a rigorous process, **undergoing a series of validation steps**, up to final validation by stakeholders and the Cabinet of Ministers

VNR reporting status

2023 VNR report

▸ Rwanda presented her 2nd VNR in July 2023 at the HLPF

▸ The global theme was "**Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels**"

▸ The guideline requested for an in-depth analysis on the **five SDGs Goals** (6, 7 , 9, 11 & 17)

▸ Review also includes progress and actions undertaken on the previously selected VNR goals in 2019 in response to observed challenges, leaving No One behind section and New and Emerging challenges.

2019 VNR report

▸ **Rwanda presented her 1st VNR in July 2019 at the HLPF**

▸ The theme was about "**Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality**"

▸ The proposed **Six SDGs** of focus included (Goal 4, 8 , 10, 13, 16 &17).

These documents can be accessed on MINECOFIN website on this link

Policy Environment and Institutional Arrangement in Rwanda

Policy Environment on SDGs in Rwanda

Leaving no one behind

- Rwanda's development Agenda promotes the fundamental principle of Leaving No one behind irrespective of gender, age, disability, race, among others.

High level commitment on SDGs domestication:

- In 2015, the Cabinet adopted a roadmap and coordination mechanism for domestication and monitoring of SDGs.

Integration of the SDGs, climate change and environment dimensions in national frameworks

- SDGs are an integral part of the national development agenda and are intentionally reflected in –Vision 2050, the NST2, SSPs, DDS and CDS.

Institutional mechanisms

- National Priorities and the SDGs are implemented and monitored through a well-coordinated institutional framework from the top-level accountability organs to implementers. **A department at NISR was established to report on SDGs.**

Homegrown solution for delivery

- Home-grown solutions have been designed to track and measure effectiveness of service delivery and accountability across the board. (Imihigo)

Institutional Arrangement (SDGs coordination Framework)

Function	Organ
Policy Guidance and approval	Cabinet
Oversight	National steering committee
	UN Steering Committee
Overall Coordination	Ministry of Finance & Economic Planning
Local government coordination	Ministry of Local Government
SDGs Data generation	National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISR)
Technical consultation forums	Technical Steering Committee (Permanent Secretaries & Development Partners)- DPCG
	SDGs Task force
	Quality Review Sub Committee (MINECOFIN, UNDP and NISR)
	Sector working Groups
Stakeholder and Community outreach	Focus group discussions, Citizens, media etc.

Thank you