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Every year since 2015, nations come together in New York to evaluate their efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. UN DESA has been leading the support to the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and exploring innovative ways to improving it.

UN DESA...

- Organized the successful 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF), which, in addition to the plenary sessions, included close to 150 side events.
- Helped to prepare the 47 Member States who presented their SDG implementation and progress through Voluntary National Reviews.
- Supported expert reviews of the six SDGs considered at the HLPF.
- Informed the global discussion on SDG progress through leading the work on the Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report.

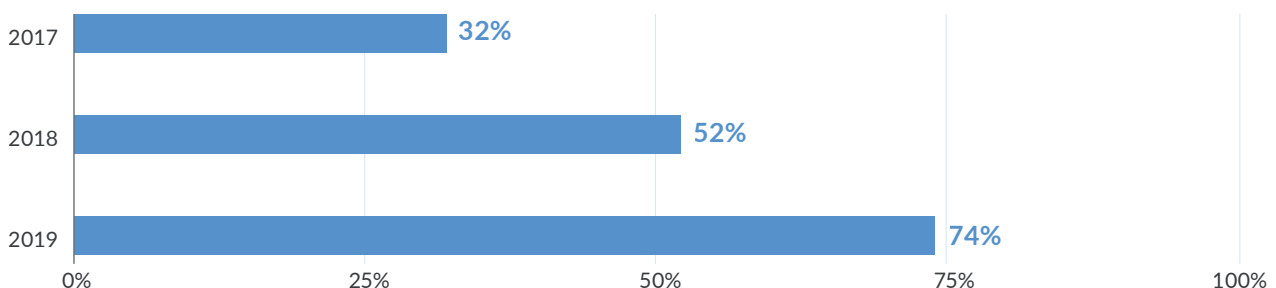
Strengthening the high-level political forum on sustainable development

The high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the central platform to review the implementation of the SDGs. With the July 2019 meeting, the forum completed its first cycle. The HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly, also known as the SDG Summit, gathered world leaders in September 2019 to review global progress on all 17 SDGs, and charted the way forward. It will be followed, in early 2020, by a review of the resolutions that govern the HLPF's functioning.

UN DESA spearheaded the thematic review of the SDGs at the HLPF in July by organizing several expert group meetings and conferences. UN DESA worked closely with other UN entities and stakeholders, helping to prepare the 47 Member States who would take the stage at the 2019 HLPF to present their VNRs. Over the years, a total of 142 countries have shared their plans and efforts to achieve the global goals.

Taking place on 9-18 July 2019 and gathering more than a thousand participants from across the globe, the HLPF delivered a clear picture of the state of play on SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities, SDG 13 on climate action, SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and SDG 17 on partnerships. The HLPF paved the way for the SDG Summit in September while advancing reflection on the theme *Empowering people*

Towards Universal Voluntary National Review Coverage
per cent of all countries that conducted a VNR





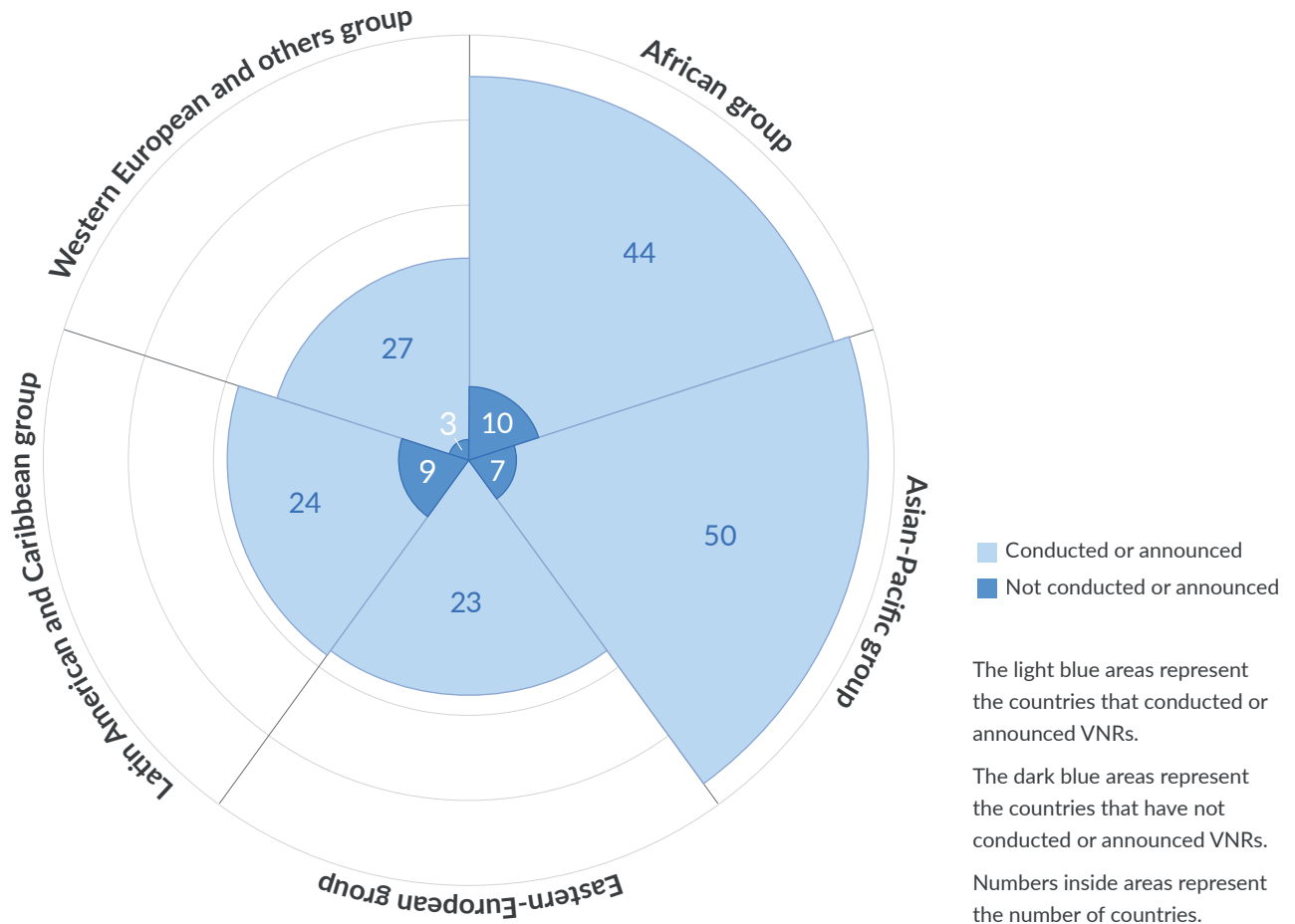
2019 high-level political forum (under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council)

- 130** Ministers
- 5** Special Events
- 150** Side Events
- 18** VNR Labs
- 2,000** registered civil society participants



One of the UN Secretary-General's most picked up quotes in July was delivered at the HLPF, saying that “the evidence is clear: development is not sustainable if it is not fair and inclusive – and rising inequality hinders long-term growth.”

Status of Voluntary Nation Review Preparation by Region [as of 18 Sept. 2019]



and ensuring inclusiveness and equality. The message was clear at this year's HLPF: we are not on track to achieve the SDGs, but we can still reach them if we step up and accelerate our actions.

In addition to plenary sessions, close to 150 side events were organized at the HLPF in July. Higher education, philanthropy, business for SDGs, and SDG training and capacity-building – were just some topics of special events organized by UN DESA during the forum. Engaging panels and interviews were also on full display in a buzzing SDG Media Zone on 9 and 10 July, featuring important influencers in sustainable development to highlight actions and solutions in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

According to the Global Media Analysis report prepared by the Department of Global Communications, HLPF was one of the UN's most-covered topics in July 2019.

The report also highlighted that media mostly reported from a national angle, featuring individual countries' progress towards meeting the SDGs.

The event created a buzz on social media. A testament to the interest shown for countries' presentations at the HLPF, UN DESA's most popular tweet in July, was the one announcing which countries were going to present at this year's forum. Shared on the eve of the event, that tweet earned 1,092 likes, 494 retweets, 287,417 impressions, 4,297 engagements and 1,448 link clicks.

Reviewing progress on the global goals

The **Report of the Secretary General: The Special Edition of the Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report**, was published as an official document ahead of the HLPF to help Member States and other stakeholders better grasp global SDG progress and inform their discussions at the forum.

Going beyond the usual data on SDG progress, the special edition also analysed the global response to the call of the 2030 Agenda and the gaps and challenges encountered over the first cycle of its implementation. It also described efforts necessary to accelerate SDG action. The report was

Special Events at the 2019 HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC

SDG Learning, Training and Practice: The 2019 edition featured ten learning sessions on crucial topics related to the implementation of the SDGs under review, co-organized by almost 50 partners from different sectors.

Enhancing capacity of Member States to engage stakeholders in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: In collaboration with UNITAR, the fourth version of an online training course on strengthening stakeholder engagement for the

implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda was introduced in 2019

Supporting stakeholder engagement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels: In 2019, for the first time, a Special Event on Philanthropy and the SDGs was held at the margins of the HLPF. Regional and Sub-national stakeholder workshops were organized as part of the country preparations for their VNRs.

← Tweet



47 countries will report on #SDGs progress at the 2019

#HLPF:



Here's everything else you need to know:

is.gd/2019hlpf

7:00 AM · Jul 8, 2019 · TweetDeck

494 Retweets 1.1K Likes

The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019



prepared in cooperation with the UN system Task Team on the HLPF.

The **Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019**, launched on the first day of the HLPF on 9 July, tells the stories of SDG progress with charts, infographics and maps, and presents an in-depth analysis of selected indicators. This report was prepared by UN DESA with inputs from more than 50 international and regional organizations. In addition to the global trends, this report also highlights regional progress and analyses.

Both reports highlighted that while countries embraced efforts to achieve the SDGs, they are facing mounting challenges, including a fast-changing climate, conflict, inequality, and persistent pockets of poverty and hunger. Despite some success, the current pace of progress is not sufficient to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. Monumental challenges remain. Urgent collective attention and more rapid action are needed to realize the 2030 Agenda's far-reaching vision.