



**Zimbabwe,  
Catholic  
Religious,  
and the  
2021 HLPF**

# High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

- Primary opportunity for review of nations' progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Held annually in New York in July (currently virtual due to COVID-19)
- Governments invited to present progress reports on a *voluntary* basis, known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)
- Civil society groups present their perspective on nations' progress (or lack thereof)
- Outcome: Governments produce a declaration with observations and intentions for year ahead (the "Ministerial Declaration")



# 2021 HLPF: 6-15 July 2021

**Theme: Sustainable COVID-19 recovery,  
especially in relation to...**

- SDG 1: poverty eradication
- SDG 2: zero hunger
- SDG 3: good health and well-being
- SDG 8: decent work and employment
- SDG 10: reduced inequalities within and among nations
- SDG 12: responsible production and consumption
- SDG 13: climate action
- SDG 16: justice, peace, strong institutions (good governance)
- SDG 17: partnerships to support all SDGs



# Governments presenting VNRs in 2021:

42 countries, including 8 African nations:

- Chad
- Egypt
- Madagascar
- Namibia
- Niger
- Sierra Leone
- Tunisia
- **Zimbabwe**



# Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

- Not enough time/space to give a comprehensive picture of reality
- Typically focus almost exclusively on positive news or strengths in national government's work toward SDGs
- Leave gaps in the story, especially related to how the most socially and economically excluded communities are faring
- Civil society role:
  - observe and fill gaps in governments' reports to help the global community understand the whole story by offering our perspective as a complement
  - hold governments accountable for delivery of *all* SDGs to *all* communities in their country
  - identify good policies and programmes that are accelerating (or have the potential to accelerate) national progress on SDGs



# Civil Society Networks Monitoring SDG Progress in Zimbabwe

- [Zimbabwe CSOs-SDG Reference Group](#)

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# VNR Reports from the National Government of Zimbabwe

- 2017: [full report](#) [summary](#)
- 2021: [full report](#) [summary](#)



## Government point person for SDG matters:

Mr. J. Moyo

Permanent Secretary for Environment and Tourism

Private Bag 7753 Causeway, Harare

# 2021 VNR “Main Messages” from Zimbabwe:



- Looking back:
  - Violence in all forms has declined due to public awareness about exploitation, heightened policing, “crime prevention & peace committees”, new laws protecting human rights
  - Agricultural yields increasing and production more environmentally sustainable
  - Maternal and child mortality and HIV declining as healthcare coverage and quality improves
  - Gender equality measures have been written into most national laws, improving women’s political participation, decision-making power, and economic security
- Looking ahead:
  - Emphasis on integration of SDGs across government agenda and institutions for social and economic development
  - New financial resources for development projects to come from heightened response to corruption/financial crimes, partnerships between government and private business, and remittances
  - Shift in diplomatic tactics based on financial incentives & sanctions will boost foreign investment and trade and improve rates of unemployment, informal employment, wage decline



# National SDG Progress Reports from Civil Society Networks in Zimbabwe

- 2017:
  - [Zimbabwe Civil Society Report \(submitted pre-HLPF\)](#)
  - [Post-HLPF Feedback Meeting Report](#)
  
- 2019: [Tracking Progress Together: CSOs Submissions into the SDGs National Progress Report](#)
  
- 2021:
  - [Preliminary results](#) of Zim CSO Ref Group on SDGs' *People's SDG Score Card* Consultation (watch from 4:37 to 1:13:19 at least)
  - *Sustainable Development Report: [Zimbabwe Country Profile](#)*



# Preliminary Reports from CSO Networks for 2021:



- From 2021 [People's SDG Score Card](#) Consultation:
  - Right policies and programme plans are in place but funding is not
  - *Lack of political will to implement plans*
  - *Materials for public SDG education & participation not widely accessible (on basis of language, age, ability)*
  - *Space for civil society input in SDG monitoring and evaluation offered but shrinking; most of process not transparent*

- From [2021 Sustainable Development Report: Zimbabwe Profile:](#)

- Lacking sufficient data to report on SDGs 1 (poverty) and 14 (life below water)
- SDG 13 (climate action) considered “achieved”

# Our Programme:

- Live sessions via video call:
  - ✓ 21 June
  - ❑ 2 July, 7:00pm-8:30pm (Harare time)
  - ❑ 20 July, 7:00pm-8:30pm (Harare time)
- Independent study and reflection between sessions
- Collaboration on a joint written reflection on:
  - Our experiences of/perspectives on Zimbabwe's progress toward SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, and/or 17
  - Practices or policies we recommend to local or national Zimbabwean government to accelerate progress in these areas
  - Recommendations and intentions for greater engagement of Zimbabwe's community of Catholic Sisters, Brothers, priests, and partners in mission in SDG monitoring and evaluation



## Before our next call: 2 July 2021, 7:00pm

- **Review** at least the *summaries* of the VNR reports submitted by your national government in 2017 and 2021 (if desired: also explore sections of the full 2017 report related to your ministry)
- Review at least one of the SDG progress reports that has been published by a Zimbabwean civil society network
- Reflect (and **prepare to share**):
  - Where does my experience ***align*** with the government and civil society reports?
  - Where does my experience ***conflict*** with the government and civil society reports?
  - What ***additional insights or recommendations*** do I have to offer to these reports based on my experience?

