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

Contact: Judith Kaulem (077306887 /judith@prftzim.org),

Executive Director of the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust

Twitter: @ZimCSOSDGRefGrp

National Association of NGOs-Zimbabwe (NANGO-Zim)

Contact: Leonard Mandishara (0717401832),

NANGO Director

Email: info.nango-zim@gmail.com

Twitter: @nangozim



VNR Reports from the National Government of Zimbabwe

• 2017: <u>full report</u> <u>summary</u>

• 2021: <u>full report</u> <u>summary</u>



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:

Looing 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:

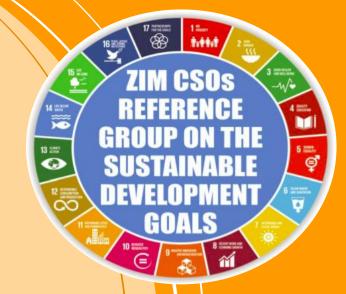
- Emphasis on integration of SDGs across government agenda and institutions for social and economic development
- New financial resources for development projects to come from heightened response to corruption/financial crimes, partnerships between government and private business, and remittances
- Shift 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



- 2021:
 - Preliminary results of Zim CSO Ref Group on SDGs' People's SDG Score Card Consultation (watch from 4:37 to 1:13:19 a least)
 - Sustainable Development Report: Zimbabwe Country Profile



Preliminary Reports from CSO Networks for 2021:

- > From 2021 <u>People's SDG Score Card</u> Consultation:
 - Right policies and programme plans are in place but funding in 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 <u>2021 Sustainable Development Report:</u> 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 <u>align</u> with the government and civil society reports?
 - Where does my experience <u>conflict</u> with the government and civil society reports?
 - What <u>additional insights or recommendations</u> do I have to offer to these reports based on my experience?

