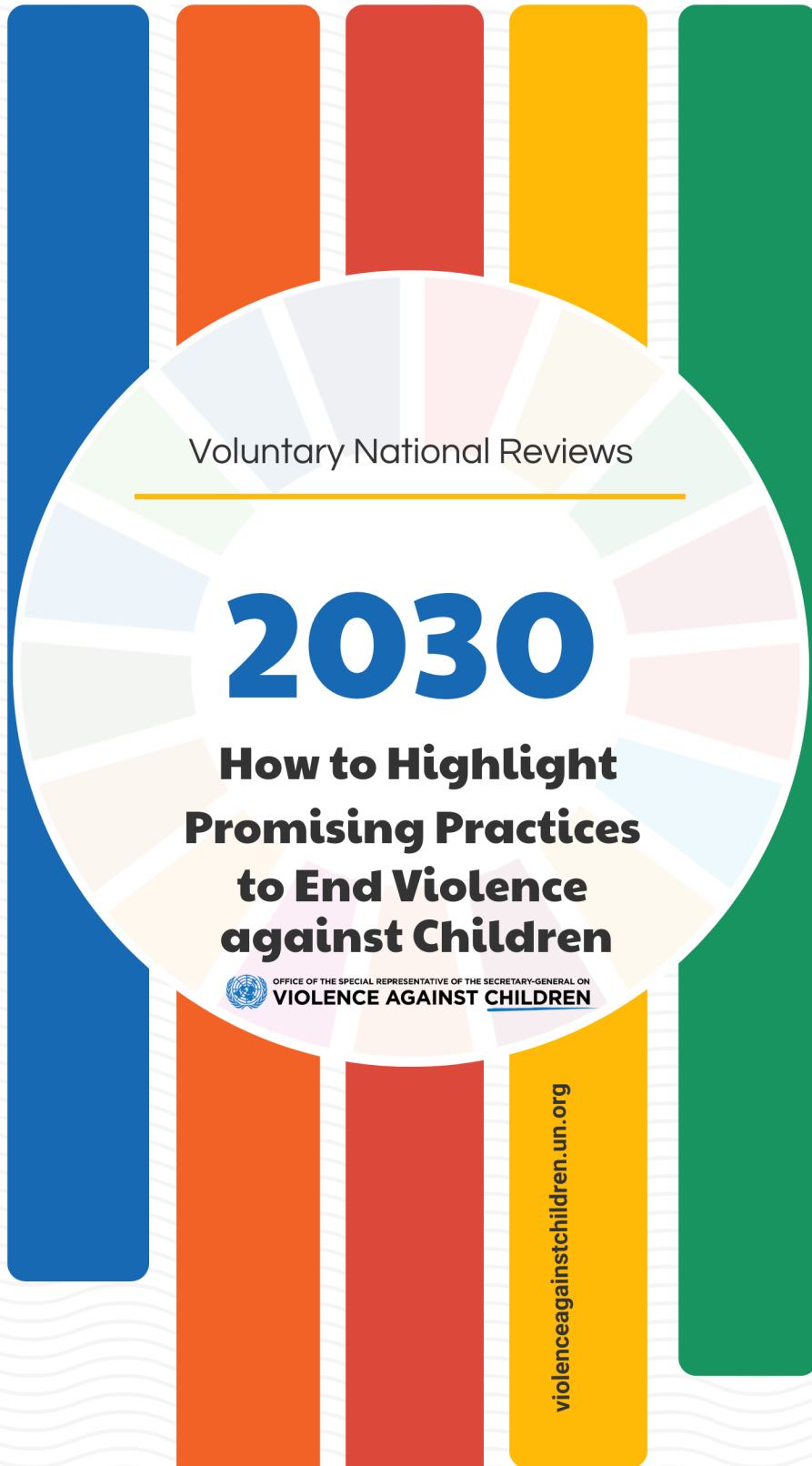


# DECADE OF ACTION



Voluntary National Reviews

# 2030

**How to Highlight  
Promising Practices  
to End Violence  
against Children**

 OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
**VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN**

[violenceagainstchildren.un.org](http://violenceagainstchildren.un.org)

**No Violence is Justifiable  
All Violence against Children is Preventable**

# INTRODUCTION



## Najat Maalla M'jid

Special Representative of the UN  
Secretary-General on  
Violence against Children

Children's protection from violence is at the core of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and an obligation for Member States to fulfil. As the "Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs by 2030" kicks off, communities around the world are coming together to accelerate efforts to reach the SDGs. Achieving the SDGs will help reduce the risk of violence in children's lives and provide effective responses for its victims. At the same time, failing to reach the SDG targets related to violence against children – especially target 16.2 – will hinder social and economic progress across the whole 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Celebration of the 75th anniversary of the United Nations in 2020 provides a unique opportunity to increase momentum towards the realization of every child's right to live free from violence. The international community needs to ensure children are at the front and center of these discussions and active participants in making the decisions that shape their world.

### SDGS and violence against children

All 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals touch children's lives in one way or another while the drivers of violence against children span the political, economic, social and cultural policy environments. This briefing note aims to support Member States as they prepare their voluntary national reviews (VNR) by highlighting how the SDGs and ending violence against children are closely linked. It encourages Member States to use their VNR to report on promising practices and initiatives showing that violence against children is preventable.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has key targets aimed at ending different forms of violence against children, as well as targets to address factors that drive violence against children. Poverty, gender inequality, climate change and natural disasters, and social discrimination make children more vulnerable to various forms of violence, including human trafficking.

# Creating a safe, inclusive and empowering environment for all children!

## Ending all forms of violence against children

Targets:  
16.1  
16.2

## Drivers and Vulnerability of Children to Violence

Targets:

1.1	3.3	3.5	4.5	10.2	13.3
1.2	3.4	3.6	4.7	10.7	16.3
1.3	3.5	3.7	4.A	11.1	16.7
2.1	3.6	3.8	5.1	11.2	16.9
2.2	3.7	4.1	6.1	11.5	
3.2	3.8	4.2	6.2	11.7	



## Specific forms of violence

Targets:  
4.A  
5.1  
5.2  
5.3  
8.7

If we don't end all forms of violence against children, 11 of the 17 SDGs cannot be met!

# SDG targets directly related to Violence against children

## Ending all forms of violence against children

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16.1 - Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

16.2 - End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children



## Specific forms of violence

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Violence in Schools, Peer Violence including Bullying

4. A - Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Violence against Women and Girls

5.1 - End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

5.2 - Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation



5 GENDER EQUALITY



Harmful practices

5.3 - Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Child labour

8.7 - Take immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms





# SDG targets Addressing Drivers and Vulnerability of Children to Violence

## Poverty, hunger, health water and sanitation

1  
NO  
POVERTY



1.1 - Eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere

1.2 - Reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

1.3 - Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all



2  
ZERO  
HUNGER



2.1 - End hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round

2.2 - End all forms of malnutrition, including achieving, by 2025, the internationally agreed targets on stunting and wasting in children under 5 years of age, and address the nutritional needs of adolescent girls, pregnant and lactating women and older persons



3  
GOOD HEALTH  
AND WELL-BEING



3.2 - End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age, with all countries aiming to reduce neonatal mortality to at least as low as 12 per 1,000 live births and under-5 mortality to at least as low as 25 per 1,000 live births

3.3 - End the epidemics of AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected tropical diseases and combat hepatitis, water-borne diseases and other communicable diseases

3.4 - Reduce by one third premature mortality from non-communicable diseases through prevention and treatment and promote mental health and well-being

3.5 - Strengthen the prevention and treatment of substance abuse, including narcotic drug abuse and harmful use of alcohol

3.6 - Halve the number of global deaths and injuries from road traffic accidents

3.7 - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes

3.8 - Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all



6  
CLEAN WATER  
AND SANITATION



6.1 - Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

6.2 - Achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations



# SDG targets Addressing Drivers and Vulnerability of Children to Violence

## Education

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



4.1 - Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 - Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.5 - Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.7 - Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development



## Gender

5 GENDER EQUALITY



5.1 - End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere



## Safe environment

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



4.A - Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all

11.1 - Ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

11.2 - Provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations

11.5 - Significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.7 - Provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16.4 - Significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

# SDG targets Addressing Drivers and Vulnerability of Children to Violence

## Migration, equality and inclusion

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



10.2 - Empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all  
10.7 - Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies



## Climate Action

13 CLIMATE ACTION



13.3 - Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning



## Justice for Children

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16.3 - Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all



## Participation

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16.7 - Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels



## Right to identity

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



16.9 - Provide legal identity for all, including birth registration





# 5 STEPS TO INCORPORATE CHILDREN'S VOICES IN THE VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

1



## Identify Government Entity

Identify the Governmental entity responsible for the participation of children in the VNR process. Responsibility for children's well-being can be spread across different ministries and offices, so make sure all are included in the discussion.



2



## Identify areas of reporting

Identify the Governmental entity responsible for the participation of children in the VNR process. All SDGs are connected to the well-being of children. 12 out of 17 goals are related to violence against children.



4

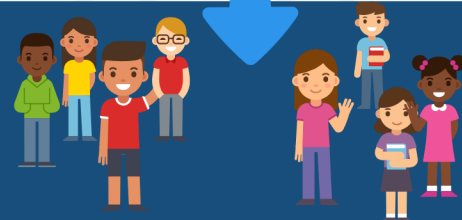


## Identify a focal point

Identify a focal point to agree on a method for consultation, reporting and inclusion of results in VNR. The consultation should not be a list of demands from children, but identify issues that can be addressed in such a manner that they can be translated into legislation, policy, practice, etc.



3



## Identify children's organizations

Identify children's organizations, where children are the main actors. These can be local; national organizations; membership organizations or others. Are there child-led initiatives in your country that promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda?



5



## Reporting of results

- Incorporate children's concerns, views and opinions throughout the Report for each SDG.
- Dedicate a separate/special chapter compiling children's issues as related to the different SDGs.



- If working with children organizations, some modalities are:
  - Representatives are invited to interact with Government
  - Children do their own consultation and report back on the results
- If no organization is chosen, an alternative is to scale a consultation at national level or with a representative sample, and identify a method to gather children's opinions (e.g. poll, survey, school exercise, etc.)



**Is there a comprehensive policy framework that:**

1. Provides for strong coordination at national and local levels, with clear accountability mechanisms.
2. Addresses all forms of violence in all settings, online and offline, through a life-cycle approach.
3. Addresses all children in vulnerable situations.
4. Connects with other relevant national and local policies (e.g. violence against women, public health, social protection, education).
5. Includes all key stakeholders in its design, delivery and evaluation.
6. Has measurable, time-bound targets and is subject to robust monitoring and evaluation.



**Is there a comprehensive legal framework that:**

1. Prohibits all forms of violence in all settings, without exception. This includes physical, psychological and sexual violence online or offline, as well as neglect, exploitation, sale, trafficking and all harmful practices.
2. Provides for access to safe and child-sensitive complaint and reporting mechanisms.
3. Provides for strong mandatory reporting obligations and protections for those who report child abuse.
4. Provides access to child-friendly and gender-sensitive justice
5. Provides for restorative justice, diversion programmes and alternatives to detention for children who harm other children.
6. Provides for free legal aid, effective remedies and redress.
7. Ends impunity for offenders.

# Progress and promising practices



There is detailed guidance to support Member States in adopting a rights-based approach to ending violence against children. There is also a growing body of evidence on what interventions and approaches are most effective in reducing and eliminating violence. Member States are encouraged to highlight the action taken or planned in this area in their VNRs. This could include information on the following elements.



**Do the legal and policy frameworks address all levels of prevention and the drivers of violence, including through:**

1. Provides for strong coordination at national and local levels, with clear accountability mechanisms.
2. Addresses all forms of violence in all settings, online and offline, through a life-cycle approach.
3. Addresses all children in vulnerable situations.
4. Connects with other relevant national and local policies (e.g. violence against women, public health, social protection, education)
5. Includes all key stakeholders in its design, delivery and evaluation.
6. Has measurable, time-bound targets and is subject to robust monitoring and evaluation.



**Are there integrated, multidisciplinary services - including physical and mental health, child protection, justice, education and social welfare services – that are accessible to all children and:**

1. Have strong intersectoral co-operation, referral and information-sharing.
2. Have appropriate training and support for professionals, including strong investment in the social care workforce.
3. Have high standards of care and case management, as well inspection and monitoring of services.
4. Provide holistic services with proper follow-up, addressing immediate needs as well as the child's longer-term recovery and reintegration.



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## **Data**



Is timely, quality and disaggregated qualitative and quantitative data on violence against children being gathered, including on risk and protective factors and on children in vulnerable situations? Are all interventions informed by the best available evidence?

## **Budget**



Has the implementation of the comprehensive policy framework been fully costed, with sufficient financial, human and technical resources allocated to ensure delivery?

## **Participation**



Has the meaningful and ethical participation of children been incorporated in the design, delivery and evaluation of the policy framework on violence against children?

## **Partnerships**



Are broad partnerships at the national and local levels being built or strengthened to tackle violence against children, bringing together children, public authorities, civil society, the private sector, community organizations, faith-based organizations, academia and the media? Is your State active in global partnerships working to end violence against children?