



# Engagement in Sri Lanka's SDG Implementation

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## Introduction

- The Government of Sri Lanka completed the Voluntary National Review (VNR) in June 2018
  - The Government sought the views of academia and scientists on certain sections of VNR;
  - The National Academy of Sciences Sri Lanka (NASSL) reviewed the VNR after offering its services;
  - NASSL proposed an inter-agency forum to provide guidance as an ongoing exercise.

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## Follow-up on the Initiative



- NASSL could not form the inter-agency forum largely due to lack of funds and the Ministerial changes;
- However, the Members of NASSL continue to provide assistance as and when necessary in their personal capacities;
- NASSL encourages such engagements

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## Voluntary Peoples' Review



- NASSL was also engaged with the Sri Lanka Stakeholder SDG Platform in discussions on the Voluntary Peoples' Review;
- Issues relating to 'Science Indicators for Policy Development' by the Government;
- Inadequate progress in linking science and technology and building a knowledge society in national implementation of SDGs

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## Current engagement



- In terms of the provisions in the Sustainable Development Act No. 19 of 2017, the Sustainable Development Council has been established;
- The Council proposes to prepare follow-up to VNR by preparing strategies for implementation of SDG;
- NASSL will be included in the Working Groups to provide expertise.

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## Potential Areas of Engagement



- Voluntary Peoples' Review found very low action on:
  - Awareness amongst general public, educators, Parliamentarians, local authorities & Private Sector;
  - Institutional coherence and Inter-agency coordination;
  - Policy coherence and national SDG framework;
  - Integrating Economic, Social and Environment.
- Some of these are potential areas for Academy's engagement.

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## Lessons



- NASSL had to proactively engage with the Government in SDG implementation; it relied more on Government's scientific institutions rather than independent fora such as NASSL;
- Whilst NASSL is best placed in assisting scientific indicators, it will need its own funding for such engagement;
- However, demonstration of available expertise can influence Government thinking on engaging the Academy.
- Positioning of the Academy (honest broker?; Civil Society player? Pro Government?)

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