

Chapter 3

REPORT PREPARATION METHODOLOGY



3. Report Preparation Methodology

(1) Basic policy considerations in conducting VNR

This is the third VNR, following 2017 and 2021. For the previous 2021 VNR, due to the SDGs being promoted since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (hereinafter the “2030 Agenda”), improvements in domestic awareness regarding the SDGs had already been sufficiently realized. Therefore, moving forward, Japan will build upon this to change the behavior of each person, accelerate initiatives towards achieving the SDGs, and develop a progress evaluation system. Furthermore, Japan decided to build a system that reflected the opinions of young people and to conduct exchanges of opinions at roundtables with private sector members and civil society on a flexible schedule for future VNR processes.


Based on this, the SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles revised in December 2023 clearly stated the need to secure the participation of stakeholders that was even more diverse than before, especially young people, to manage the progress of SDGs based on scientific evidence and to move forward with initiatives aimed at achieving the SDGs, and to conduct VNR in 2025. By doing so, Japan demonstrated our determination to lead in efforts to ensure the sustainability of the international community as a whole and partake in discussions that focus on 2030 and beyond.

Taking these factors into account, during the implementation of the current VNR, efforts were made to review the structure of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable and the next-generation SDGs Promotion Platform. The approach involved proactively engaging in dialogue with a diverse range of stakeholders, with an eye toward the post-2030 period, and working collaboratively to ensure evidence-based initiatives and assessments of progress.

(2) Preparation Process for the Latest VNR Report

Preparations for the structure of the report began in April 2024 with an informal exchange of opinions with private sector members of the SDGs Promotion Roundtable. In September of the same year, a director-level meeting of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters was held and attended by all government ministries and agencies. Here, it was decided that the basic outline would follow the 2021 VNR and a review of the initiatives would be conducted based on the draft composition of the five priority items stipulated in the revised implementation guidelines. In terms of the preparation process, draft composition, and specific details to be included, these were discussed with the private sector members at the 19th SDGs Promotion Roundtable Meeting held in October 2024.

Additionally, from the perspective of ensuring the participation of the younger generation, a dialogue session with youth was held on March 17, 2025. Public comments on the draft VNR report, which included assessments written by stakeholders in addition to the Japanese government's evaluation, began on March 19. In comparison with the previous VNR process, where the public comment period was two weeks, this time a one-month period was secured. Furthermore, a stakeholder meeting for the VNR implementation was held on March 21. To enable participation regardless of region or disability, a hybrid format combining online and in-person participation was adopted, with approximately 150



participants. A total of 100 public comments were received (440 when counting multiple opinions within a single comment separately). A discussion on the draft of the report, which incorporated public comments and other feedback, was held by the 20th SDGs Promotion Roundtable on May 13 of the same year.

Moreover, as mentioned in the joint statement between the leaders of Japan and Bulgaria regarding the Japan-Bulgaria Strategic Partnership announced on May 20 of the same year, a peer review was conducted with Bulgaria.

After these processes, in June 2025, the report was officially approved by the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, headed by the Prime Minister and comprising all cabinet ministers.