

Voluntary National Review 2025 JAPAN

Report on the implementation of 2030 Agenda

June 2025
Cabinet Office
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

1 Voluntary National Review (VNR)

- United Nations member states regularly report on their progress towards achieving the SDGs. Japan is conducting its **third VNR this year. The report was submitted to the United Nations in June and will be presented at the United Nations headquarters in July.**
- In accordance with the UN guidelines, experts and civil society from various sectors, including the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, have actively participated in the preparation of the report. Public comments on the report were solicited from March 19 to April 18.

2 Features of this VNR Report

- With future discussions on sustainable development by 2030 and beyond in mind, the report focuses on Japan's challenges and initiatives that can serve as a model for the international community, **such as addressing the declining birthrates and population aging, promoting SDGs in local areas, and disaster risk reduction.**
- Cross-sectoral initiatives in areas like **the Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai Japan, GREEN × EXPO 2027, declining birthrates and population aging, public-private partnerships, youth, regional development, disaster risk reduction, and national resilience** are introduced in columns.
- Efforts and progress towards achieving the SDGs in our country are evaluated **objectively using data and evidence** as much as possible.
- The report is prepared based on the active involvement of experts, civil society, and youth, centered around the SDGs Promotion Roundtable, and also considers the report from the Expert Meeting on International Sustainability. In addition to evaluations by governmental agencies, an independent assessment by **experts, civil society, businesses, the legislature, and youth is included (Chapter 6).** The report also emphasizes the connections between various initiatives.

(1) Opening Message(Prime Minister Ishiba, Head of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters)

- Japan is promoting efforts to achieve the SDGs with steadfast determination aiming for realization by 2030. Japan will address issues such as a declining birthrate and an aging population, contraction in the workforce, disaster risk reduction, and regional revitalization.
- Prime Minister envisions “an enjoyable Japan”. Japan will realize a dynamic society where everyone feels safe and secure, where people with diverse values treat each other with respect, and where self-realization is achieved. Cooperation will be fostered among various stakeholders, including the government, civil society, business, academics, parliament, children, and youth.
- Through opportunities such as the Osaka-Kansai Expo, Japan will share its knowledge and experience regarding the SDGs and well-being, and encourage solidarity and cooperation in the international community. The two principles of human security and the rule of law, which Japan has been promoting at the United Nations, are becoming increasingly important.

(2) Overall Evaluation of SDGs Progress

- Japan's strength lies in the widespread awareness of the SDGs through society, with diverse stakeholders actively engaging in efforts to achieve these goals from their respective positions. Japan has been promoting initiatives to achieve the SDGs with an “all-Japan” approach.
- Progress has been observed in goals such as Goal 3 (Health and Well-being), Goal 8 (Economic Growth and Employment), Goal 9 (Infrastructure, Industry and Innovation), and Goal 13 (Climate Change). On the contrary, there are challenges in Goal 5 (Gender) and Goal 10 (Inequality).

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(3) Initiatives and Challenges by Key Areas

- **Establishing sustainable economic and social systems** (Innovation, sustainable finance, realization of a new form of capitalism with high wage increases, etc.)
- **Realizing an inclusive society where “No One is Left Behind”** (Response to declining birthrate and aging population, establishment of the Children and Family Agency, revision of the Barrier-Free Act triggered by the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, promotion of women's participation and gender equality, elimination of all forms of violence, etc.)
- **Strengthening efforts to address major global challenges** (Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, revising the Plan for Global Warming Countermeasures, formulating the 7th Strategic Energy Plan, developing the National Biodiversity Strategy, promoting disaster prevention and national resilience, promoting UHC, etc.)
- **Fostering cooperation and collaboration with the international community** (Promoting mobilization of private funds through Official Development Assistance (ODA) based on human security, etc.)
- **Sustaining peace and sustainable development in an integrated manner** (Promoting Women, Peace, and Security (WPS), etc.)

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(4) Japan's SDGs: Future Direction

- **Japan will further advance efforts to transform the solutions to societal challenges into engines for growth.** Achieving stable energy supply, economic growth, and decarbonization simultaneously. Accelerating the construction of a resilient circular economy and social system. Utilizing innovation across various fields, including AI, to achieve sustainable growth.
- **The principles of “leave no one behind” and “everyone will make it happen” are paramount.** The declining birthrate and aging population can be an opportunity to create a society that values each individual. Encouraging diverse individuals to advance connections, cooperation, and mutual assistance with others will contribute to enhancing well-being (a state of physical, mental, and social happiness). Japan will make concerted efforts to achieve the SDGs as a nation.
- **As a nation at the forefront of addressing (such as declining birthrates and population aging, regional revitalization, disaster risk reduction), Japan will demonstrate its initiatives and knowledge as a model and promote co-creation with developing countries to solve issues.**
- **Promoting human dignity and human security.** Embracing and contributing to the implementation of the Future Summit. **Promoting WPS.**
- **Playing a leading role in discussions and rule-making on international sustainability beyond 2030.**