

Djibouti Statement VNR 2022: Major Group of Children & Youth

Thank you Mister President,

We congratulate Djibouti on conducting its first Voluntary National Review. The VNR faithfully reports on all Goals and Targets, however briefly, and provides indicators in Annex, despite the many noted challenges in producing statistics.

It speaks of “empowered stakeholders, particularly CSOs and vulnerable groups fully participating in national development policies and strategies,” including in the VNR process. It cites the preparatory committee having one civil society representative per region, but identifies none

We note Djibouti’s burden of including refugees in national socio-economic systems and the liability of extraterritorial states, particularly its closest neighbors, for it.

We appreciate the treatment of education, health and protection as “rights” and find little gender inequality in schools and advances in women’s representation in political and administrative decision making. Unfortunately, FGM remains prevalent. Notably, however, the VNR is rare in its region for the acknowledgement of Target 5.a.

We note a new multidimensional method of assessing poverty, replacing the old monetary-and-income-based criteria. But the VNR continues to measure economic performance by the defunct criterion of “growth”

Questions:

1. On SDG 5.a commitments: While the Family Code guarantees gender-equal access and control over land, how is this achieved in practice?
2. With so little arable land and rainfall, local agricultural produce covers only 10% of the population's food needs. The VNR also notes a lack of local seeds to store from between seasons. What measures are in place to achieve food sovereignty, especially amid the current crisis?