

GREECE VNR 2022 NGO STATEMENT

July 12th 2022

We welcome the Greek Government's commitment to follow through on our country's duty in realizing Agenda 2030. Even though we cannot attest to significant progress since the previous Report in 2018, we consider this year's VNR process a positive step in establishing a permanent dialogue between the State, Civil Society and other actors that will expedite delivery.

Thus, we submit these key recommendations:

1. Enhancing data collection on SDGs, including citizen generated datasets.
2. Decreeing a Multi-Stakeholder Platform, with the participation of academia, the private sector, local authorities and civil society.
3. Establishing a Parliamentary Committee on Sustainable Development to enact legislation ensuring whole-of-government, whole-of-society, whole-of-nation approach.

Since the adoption of Agenda 2030, Greece has faced multiple crises that could partly justify delays in delivering the SDGs, making at the same time self-evident the existential need to accelerate implementation. Civil Society has significantly contributed to alleviate societal challenges and the State should invest in its capacity development.

The aim must be to include marginalized groups in the deliberations, such as Refugees, Roma, LGBTQ, persons with disabilities. It will also strengthen the Government's efforts to include Civil Society in the monitoring, which today is not truly feasible due to the absence of a systematic dialogue, the lack of a proper framework and Civil Society's diminishing capacity.

We acknowledge the Government's stated intention to inaugurate an ongoing monitoring mechanism, urge them to support continuous -not just during VNR years- public consultation starting from the municipal level, and we ask Minister Skertsos which are the steps that will make this a reality?

In conclusion, as the world faces a new wave of austerity which further endangers achieving the SDGs, and as Greek citizens recently endured ill-fated austerity measures that devastated our social fabric, what do we as a country contribute in terms of a Global Strategy to ensure social protection including access to health for all?