

The introduction of the General Health System (GHS) has given every Cypriot citizen equal access to high quality healthcare and constitutes a strategic means of accelerating the Cypriot vaccination programme with 47% of the population having received at least one vaccine dose.

Despite the negative impact of the pandemic on education, with school closures and suspension of lifelong learning programmes, the Committee for Gender Equality has produced comprehensive plans to tackle gender inequalities (SDG 5).

The energy policy of Cyprus has resulted in increased production of energy by clean sources, and a variety of government schemes aim to tackle inefficiencies as well as balance the effects of high energy consumption per capita (SDG 7). The impact of the pandemic on the labour market has been dramatic, consequently the government adopted a spending package, amounting to over 12% of Cyprus' GDP.

European funds, in combination with the ambitious Long-Term Economic Strategy, aim to promote a new economic model, which will focus on creating new industries, enhancing innovation and upgrading infrastructure - with the new high connectivity networks.

The set of policy tools that Cyprus utilizes focus on strengthening of administrative capacity and transparency within the public sector, in combination with increased investment in the justice sector and the local authority reform process - thus putting Cyprus on the right track in terms of building strong institutions.

Regarding peace efforts, Cyprus has maintained steadfast commitment towards peace, with negotiations taking place under UN auspices. However, secessionist actions, the illegal settlement of Varosha and the continuation of the occupation of 37% of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey constitutes a major barrier towards peace (SDG 16).

The VNR promises a whole-of-government approach for the Sustainable Development Agenda and a stronger partnership with all stakeholders. Our question is how will you reach out to all civil society stakeholders, including migrants and those made economically and socially insecure because of Covid 19?