

MGOS RESPONSE AND QUESTIONS FROM THE CSOs IN COMOROS TO THE VNR OF THE GOVERNMENT OF COMOROS

For the Union of the Comoros, the economic impact of COVID 19 has paralyzed sectors of the economy. The government suggests that the current crises impedes progress toward full implementation of the SDGs. This need not be the case. Austerity, economic trauma, and stresses on the health of the Comoros people are real. “Building back better” must be built on smart planning. Re-affirming comments in the thoughtful and transparent VNR, government must partner with civil society (particularly youth) in order to achieve the SDGs. Improvement of the statistical and planning capacity of Comoros is a key factor to effectively recover from the health, environmental and economic crises all people from Comoros face.

Union of the Comoros acknowledges that current statistical production is inadequate for current needs and for achievement of the SDGs. Apart from INSEED, the departments in charge of statistics generally have very few or no professional statisticians within them. They have very limited material and financial means.

First, what is the plan to increase the quality of statistical capacity and how will these improvements be financed? Second, how can civil society partner with government to assure accurate, relevant and reliable data is collected and disseminated?

Accurate data will help recovery of the blue and green economies. It will also help direct access to quality health services, as well as address threats from climate change and other environmental issues. We must work toward change of personal habits, such as reduction in the use of tobacco, addressing cardiovascular disease and preventing diabetes. The task ahead is daunting. We know that the people of Comoros will become part of the solution if they are properly informed and have adequate resources to work with.