Israel’s VNR notes Palestinian citizens’ lower employment rate and weaker skill sets as due to “obstacles en route to the labor market,” implying to resolve this with social programs. Nowhere does it admit Israel’s institutional and physical apartheid imposed in both the 1948- and 1967-occupied territories.

UN Treaty Bodies repeatedly note Israel’s institutionalized material discrimination and para-statal institutions—World Zionist Organization/Jewish Agency, Jewish National Fund and affiliates—denying indigenous Palestinians’ their homes, land and other natural resources.

The VNR says sustainable-agriculture policies “ensure everyone everywhere has sufficient good quality food to lead a healthy life.” Meanwhile, Israel denies occupied Palestinians’ their own means of subsistence, particularly land and water, while a million in Gaza face hunger due to both blockade and UNRWA aid cuts by its principal sponsor.

OCHA cites Israel’s expulsion of the ‘Temporary International Presence in Hebron’ as exposing schoolchildren to more risks at the hands of Israeli soldiers and Jewish settlers.

Toward Goal 11, Israel’s VNR states that “better urbanism” strengthens the “inclusiveness of cities and regions.” Yet Israeli legislation and occupation forcibly expel Palestinians from Jerusalem by demolishing homes, stripping residency status, denying building permits, demographic manipulation and population transfer, as in the Naqab and West Bank Area C.

- Israel’s VNR promotes Zionist education for Palestinian citizens. How does this reconcile with Goals 4, 10 and 16?
- In this 15th year since the ICJ ruling on the illegal Apartheid Wall, how does Israel plan to comply, and ensure sustainable development in its path?
- The VNR is silent on the para-statals cited above setting development criteria across historic Palestine, chartered to discriminate against the indigenous people and conduct population transfer, while registered as tax-exempt charities in 50 other states. How can this reconcile with Goals 10, 16 and 17?