

The VNR has failed to demonstrate accelerated ambition to implement the SDGs.

Without a comprehensive delivery plan, the UK will not be able to tackle the critical gaps in achieving the goals, or reverse the policies leading to regression.

There is lack of progress in tackling the multiple factors that lead to inequalities.

Recent evidence from a UN special rapporteur noted the disproportionate impact of UK austerity policies on the poorest, women, people with disabilities, children, ethnic minorities, migrants and other marginalised groups.

This plan must demonstrate a significantly improved commitment to the UK's human rights obligations.

1) When will the Government create a transformative national action plan for achieving the SDGs, which ensures coherence across domestic and international policies, is led by a ministerial department with a cross-government mandate, and takes full account of the UK's human rights obligations?

The perspectives of diverse stakeholders are insufficiently reflected in the review, and the voices of the most marginalised are notably absent.

The proposed stakeholder engagement mechanism must be meaningful and accountable, involving a range of actors working across domestic and international issues.

2) When will the Government provide details on the proposed mechanism for stakeholder engagement, and specifically how will this engage marginalised groups and all levels of government?

3) And will it commit to a collaborative national SDG communication strategy to raise awareness and drive progress?

The Government has not sufficiently involved local government, so critical to the success of the goals, or the British Overseas Territories.

These stakeholders require greater direct support for delivery and for their voices to be properly heard.

It must engage with existing good practice, such as the leadership in Scotland and Wales, on the SDGs.

It must also engage with the recommendations in today's International Development Committee report, which we endorse.

4) How will the Government engage and support local authorities, devolved governments and British Overseas Territories, including direct funding and capacity-building, in delivering the SDGs?

Statement #2

The UK's delivery of the SDGs is undermined by inconsistency of policies at home and abroad and with its obligations to international human rights and environmental standards.

The VNR merely signposts interlinkages rather than exploring implications and solutions. This reflects a lack of policy coherence across government.

For example, the UK's investment in global mechanisms that support environmental sustainability is undermined by a lack of action to address domestic mass-consumption of products that contribute to environmental degradation.

1) Please detail how will the UK will close the gaps in coherence between international and domestic policy, human rights and environmental obligations?

The UK has not properly aligned its foreign policies with sustainable development.

Trade and defense priorities must not violate human rights obligations. For example, arms exports and licensing especially to countries that violate human rights must be subject to scrupulous, transparent examination and civil society review, to demonstrate continued commitment to achieving SDG 16+.

2) When will the UK commit to a comprehensive strategy that aligns sustainable development with trade, investment and decent work, security, peace and human rights?

The VNR process has failed to engage governments and stakeholders in partner countries in the Global South.

The UK's international approach must respect, and be led by national and regional priorities.

The UK government must provide more direct, financial and capacity-building support to national governments and local civil society, beyond data capacity, so they can take the lead in their own SDG planning, delivery and monitoring.

3) When will the UK increase direct support to governments and local civil society in the Global South to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and commit to including their perspectives and priorities in its ongoing reporting and implementation of the SDGs?

Statement #3

The UK has a vital role to play in the global achievement of the goals through direct support, partnerships and influence.

However, resolving incoherence in UK domestic and international action requires an understanding of the urgent and interconnected challenges we face, developed from a broad range of sources.

The government has not engaged constructively with the evidence and data available domestically and internationally from governmental bodies, experts and civil society, particularly data addressing the issues of multiple discrimination, access to health, education and housing, precarious employment and food insecurity.

1) How will the government initiate genuine dialogue on the complex causes and drivers of poverty and inequality, and better incorporate a broader range of evidence to achieve the SDGs?

The UK is not yet meeting its existing commitments to inclusive data disaggregation, and must go further by promoting global disaggregation by socio-economic status, ethnicity, language and religion.

This is urgent and essential in ensuring better visibility and policy responses for marginalised groups, and to deliver the UK's commitment to "leave no one behind".

2) When will the UK government take steps to fully deliver its existing commitments to inclusive data, and promote further disaggregation?

Data and evidence is also vital for ensuring that UK aid, trade and investment is targeted to where it is most needed, irrespective of narrow UK interests.

The percentage of Official Development Aid going to the countries requiring most support for the goals has decreased over the last few years.

The UK must also adopt a stronger and consistent approach to human rights, protecting labour standards and the rights of marginalised communities.

3) How will the UK better ensure development cooperation and assistance reaches those countries and communities left furthest behind, and adopt a stronger, consistent human-rights-based approach to its international support for the SDGs?