

I note from your report the very close alignment of your National Sustainable Development Plan and the SDGs and the comprehensive consultative approach you have undertaken to review your NSDP, congratulations. We appreciate the recognition by the government of Vanuatu that engaging with civil society is necessary in the implementation of the SDGs. We would like to encourage the government to strengthen engagement mechanisms backed by the necessary financing that can ensure meaningful participation of local organizations and grassroots communities.

And so our questions to the delegation of Vanuatu are:

1. CSOs in Vanuatu is grateful for the relationship we have been able to build with the government, in part because our destiny is so clearly shared. What lessons have you learned through this process, or what practical advice do you think could be shared with other member states?
2. Poverty is a major challenge for a small island developing country such as Vanuatu. It has implications on youth literacy rate, education, and health related issues (such as limited access to contraceptives, or maternal and child healthcare), especially in the rural area. What is the government's response to these issues through meaningful engagement with youth and CSOs?
3. The impact of climate change in Vanuatu is clear. Is the government planning to set up a mechanism that provides financial assistance to enhance the climate actions that local communities that are already undertaking?
4. What are the government's plans to ensure that the new localisation policy is well funded and integrates human rights in its implementation and rebalancing its attention between International NGOs and local NGOs?