

Taiwan's

Voluntary National Review
The Implementation of
the UN Sustainable
Development Goals



Executive Yuan, Republic of China (Taiwan)
September 2017

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“Regeneration” by Cheng-Long Community Development Association

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Introduction

The United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which was held in September 2015 and attended by heads of state from around the world, unanimously adopted the report Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Agenda contains five sections, i.e., a preamble, a declaration, 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, a section on means of implementation and the global partnership, as well as follow-up and review. The last sections cover the follow-up and review at the national, regional, and global levels. The document serves as a key milestone in human mankind's pursuit of sustainable development, as well as a guideline for countries' related efforts.

Paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to conduct state-led regular and inclusive reviews, to be presented as voluntary national reviews and submitted to the annual UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF). Taiwan, in accordance with the HLPF's guidelines



Taiwan:
Area: 36,000 km²
Population: 23 million

for national voluntary review, has now produced its first such report.

Four hundred years ago the Portuguese called Taiwan Ilha Formosa because of its beautiful scenery. However, Taiwan is a relatively small island with a high population density, limited natural resources, frequent natural disasters, and a unique international status. As such, the urgency for Taiwan to pursue sustainable development is even greater than for other nations.

In addition, over the past several decades, the people of Taiwan have produced tremendous economic growth and established a participatory democracy. Unfortunately, in this process of economic development, Taiwan's natural environment has suffered from pollution and other damage, affecting sustainable development for future generations.

In response to the UN Earth Summit of 1992, Taiwan's Executive Yuan established the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSDD) in August 1997. Taiwan, while attaching equal importance to environmental protection, economic development, and social justice, is committed to building an inclusive, harmonious, prosperous, dynamic, and vibrant society based on intergenerational equity, social justice, a balance between environment and development, a knowledge economy, protection of human rights, the value of education, respect for indigenous traditions, and international participation. It is dedicated to creating a safe, healthy, comfortable, beautiful, and sustainable living environment, while fulfilling its responsibility as a member of the global village and working in coordination with other countries in the pursuit of global sustainable development.

The NCSDD, which is convened by the premier, consists of seven working groups and two task forces. Council members are composed of equal numbers of ministers of relevant ministries, experts and scholars, and representatives of non-governmental organizations. A minister-without-portfolio is also appointed by the premier as the chief executive officer and is responsible for overseeing the operations of the council and strengthening its implementation capabilities.

In the 20 years since it was founded, the NCSDD has completed several important documents on Taiwan's sustainable development, including Taiwan's Agenda 21, the National Sustainable Development Policy Guidelines, the Taiwan Sustainable Development Indicator System, Taiwan's Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Action Plans. These documents have served as the guidelines for the government and the public to promote sustainable development and review related progress.

President Tsai Ing-wen attaches great importance to advancing Taiwan's sustainable development. In her inaugural address in May 2016, President Tsai stressed that her administration would pursue a new economic model for sustainable development based on the core values of innovation, employment, and equitable distribution, and that while we pursue economic development, we should not forget our responsibility to the environment. On the issue of social fairness and justice, she stated that her administration would continue to work with civil society to align its policies with the values of diversity, equality, openness, transparency, and human rights, so as to deepen and evolve Taiwan's democratic institutions. And she added that Taiwan would work with friendly nations to jointly ensure a sustainable earth.

Presiding over an NCSD meeting in November 2016, then Premier Lin Chuan emphasized that, even though sustainable development was narrowly defined in the past to primarily cover environmental protection, its scope is actually very broad and any system or reform can have an impact on it. Instead of solely being a way to boost economic development and resolve social issues, sustainable development should be the goal of all government policies. Issues such as population aging, pension policy, and climate change are all related to it. He stated that the government would further advance its efforts by referring to the UN



Then Premier Lin Chuan chairs the 29th NCSD meeting

SDGs and taking into account the views of all sectors of society, adding that Taiwan should formulate national goals based on the UN SDGs, including goals for 2030 and targets for 2020.

Taiwan fully understands that joint action will be taken by countries in the next 15 years in pursuit of the 17 goals and 169 targets detailed in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in five extremely vital aspects, i.e., people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, to put the world on a course that is both sustainable and resilient. Taiwan will thus make reviews a key step in implementing its sustainable development goals in accordance with Paragraph 72 of the Agenda, which states that “We commit to engage in systematic follow-up and review of implementation of this Agenda over the next fifteen years. A robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, transparent and integrated follow-up and review framework will make a vital contribution to implementation and will help countries to maximize and track progress in implementing this Agenda in order to ensure that no one is left behind.” This Voluntary National Review contains an introduction, methodology and process for the preparation of the review, policies and enabling environments, implementation of the UN SDGs in recent years, measures for the next stage, and a conclusion. In addition to reviewing the progress in Taiwan’s overall efforts since the establishment of the NCSO 20 years ago as well as recent years’ efforts on implementing the UN SDGs, the report also elaborates on Taiwan’s own sustainable development goals formulated in accordance with the UN SDGs. The report calls on the world to work together with Taiwan to actively tackle sustainable development tasks, fulfill responsibilities as members of the international community, and pursue a win-win-win situation that benefits the development of society, the economy, and the environment, with the aim of transforming our world and realizing the vision and goals of the Agenda.

Methodology and Process for Preparation of the Review

Taiwan's Voluntary National Review was completed by the Executive Yuan's National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSO), which was responsible for the planning, information gathering and analysis, and drafting of the review. The NCSO, chaired by the premier, includes seven working groups and two task forces. It consists of 36 council members, including the premier and 11 ministers of related ministries, and 24 non-governmental members, such as scholars and experts, as well as representatives of social groups and indigenous peoples. The working groups and task forces are convened by designated ministries and agencies, namely, the Ministries of the Interior, Education, Economic Affairs, Transportation and Communications, and Health and Welfare, as well as the National Development Council, the Council of Agriculture, and the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA), which acts as the NCSO Secretariat. This review was drafted by the Secretariat and the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research, based on information provided by the working groups, task forces, and related ministries and agencies, and supplemented by international perspectives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Secretariat then submitted it for approval by the premier.

Chapter 4 gives an account of Taiwan's recent progress toward achieving the UN SDGs, focusing on promotion of global partnerships in sustainable development and based on information provided by the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF) on developmental and humanitarian assistance to other countries. TaiwanICDF is a specialized agency that gives priority to assistance in five core areas—agriculture, public health and medicine, education, the environment, and information and communications technology. In response to international development trends over the years, it has provided assistance to other countries through technical cooperation, investment and financing, educational training, and humanitarian aid.

Chapter 5 of this report enumerates measures for the next phase of development as recommended by government agencies and the NCSO working groups as well as its 24 non-governmental members. They include localized sustainable development goals and other targets that were identified with reference to the UN SDGs. During the 29th NCSO meeting held in November 2016, then Premier Lin Chuan asked the non-governmental members to join efforts to draw up Taiwan's SDGs and 2020 targets. Each member could join at most three working groups, which were chaired by the pertinent minister or deputy minister. Following a Secretariat survey to gauge their interest, the members each participated in two or three working groups, demonstrating selfless dedication and making immense

contributions during meetings held between February and July 2017. This review, therefore, covers the viewpoints of the government as well as those of social groups, indigenous peoples, the private sector, scholars, and experts. A broader range of public opinion will be incorporated in the future through public participation and social dialogue to ensure that Taiwan SDGs may better meet the expectations of the citizenry.

In brief, this Voluntary National Review Report was a combined effort by the NCSD, related ministries and agencies, the 24 NCSD civil-society members, TaiwanICDF, and the Taiwan Institute of Economic Research. It was compiled and completed between February and August of 2017.



"Subtle Balance" by artists in residence



Taiwan Butterfly Conservation Society conducts campus butterfly ecological environmental education activity at Taipei' s Dazhi Jiannan butterfly garden

Policy and Enabling Environment

The government of Taiwan attaches great importance to sustainable development. Following the establishment of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSA) in 1997, related laws were enacted and an institutional framework was put in place. As part of an effort to establish the legal framework, the Basic Environment Act was promulgated by the president in December 2002. This act accords legal status to the NCSA with its stipulation in Article 29 that “the Executive Yuan shall establish a national sustainable development commission to be responsible for relevant strategies and policies on national sustainable development matters. Said strategies and policies shall be conferred to relevant cabinet-level agencies for execution. Said commission shall be comprised of one-third each government representatives, academics and experts, and civic groups.” The NCSA has created a repository of documents for the implementation of sustainable development endeavors, including Taiwan Agenda 21, the Sustainable Development Indicator System, the Taiwan Declaration of Sustainable Development, the Action Plan for Sustainable Development, and Sustainable Development Policy Guidelines. These serve as a basis for the government and people of Taiwan to promote and review the progress made toward sustainable development goals.

To bolster local government endeavors, the Council for Economic Planning and Development (renamed the National Development Council, or NDC, in 2015), which participates in the NCSA, allocated subsidies in 2005 to 11 counties and municipalities across Taiwan to draw up initiatives for sustainable development. In 2007 and 2008, the Environmental Protection Administration (EPA), which undertakes secretariat work for the NCSA, appropriated similar funding for 12 counties and municipalities. By the end of 2008, all local governments in Taiwan had a set of documents in place to serve as the basis for realizing sustainable development.

To bolster its organizational structure, the NCSA is chaired by the head of Cabinet, the premier, to ensure efficient implementation of sustainable development. He is supported by a chief executive officer who concurrently serves as a minister-without-portfolio and oversees sustainable development matters as per instructions from the premier. The NCSA has four assistant executive officers, positions concurrently held by the deputy minister of the interior, economic affairs, the NDC, and the EPA. They assist the CEO in coordinating social, economic, and environmental affairs.



This report offers an overview of Taiwan’s efforts and progress in sustainable development. Although Taiwan is not a member of the United Nations, it is committed to supporting the UN’s call for sustainable development. In response to the resolutions adopted by the World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Taiwan established the Sustainable Development Indicator System in June 2003 to appraise its performance each year. Its annual evaluation and analysis report covering 12 categories of a total of 82 indicators has been published on the NCSD Network for 14 consecutive years.

In brief, the government of Taiwan accords immense significance to sustainable development. Since the NCSD was established 20 years ago, related laws and the institutional framework have been completed while sustainable development progress has been reviewed regularly over the past 14 years. This policy landscape is conducive to Taiwan’s promotion and review of its advancement toward realizing the UN SDGs.

Recent Progress Made by Taiwan in Implementing the UN SDGs (2015-2017)

The UN SDGs were approved at the 68th UN General Assembly on September 10, 2014, and incorporated into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by heads of state from nations worldwide at the UN Sustainable Development Summit on September 25, 2015. The following is a summary of important policies and initiatives implemented and global partnerships fostered by Taiwan since 2015 in line with the 17 UN SDGs:

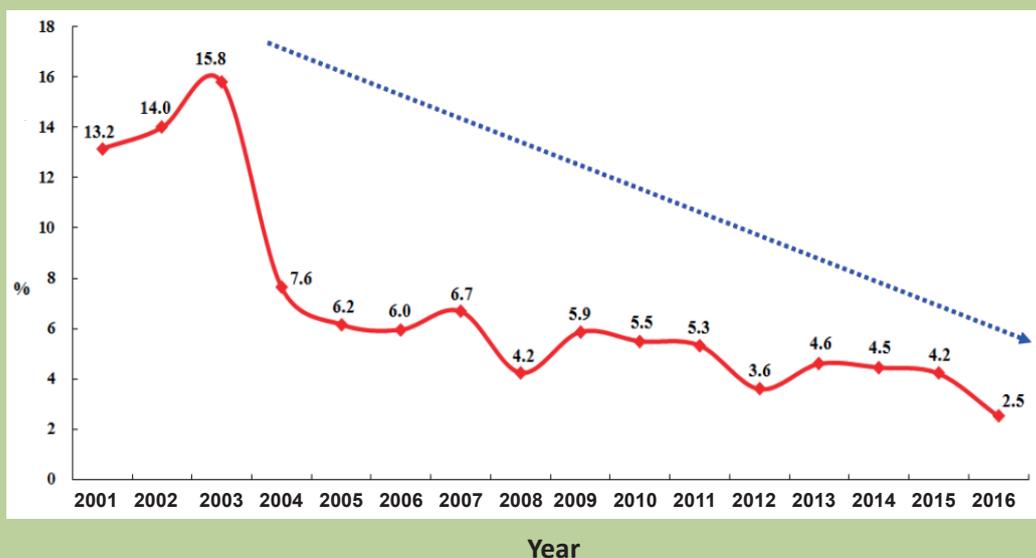
1. Key Domestic Policies and Initiatives (listed in chronological order)

1.1 Implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act (in line with SDGs 6, 15)

The Wetland Conservation Act, which took effect in February 2015, governs the planning, conservation, restoration, utilization, and management of wetlands. It aims to protect wetlands' natural flood detention function, maintain biodiversity, preserve ecosystems, and ensure that such wetlands are wisely used.

River Water Quality Improvement

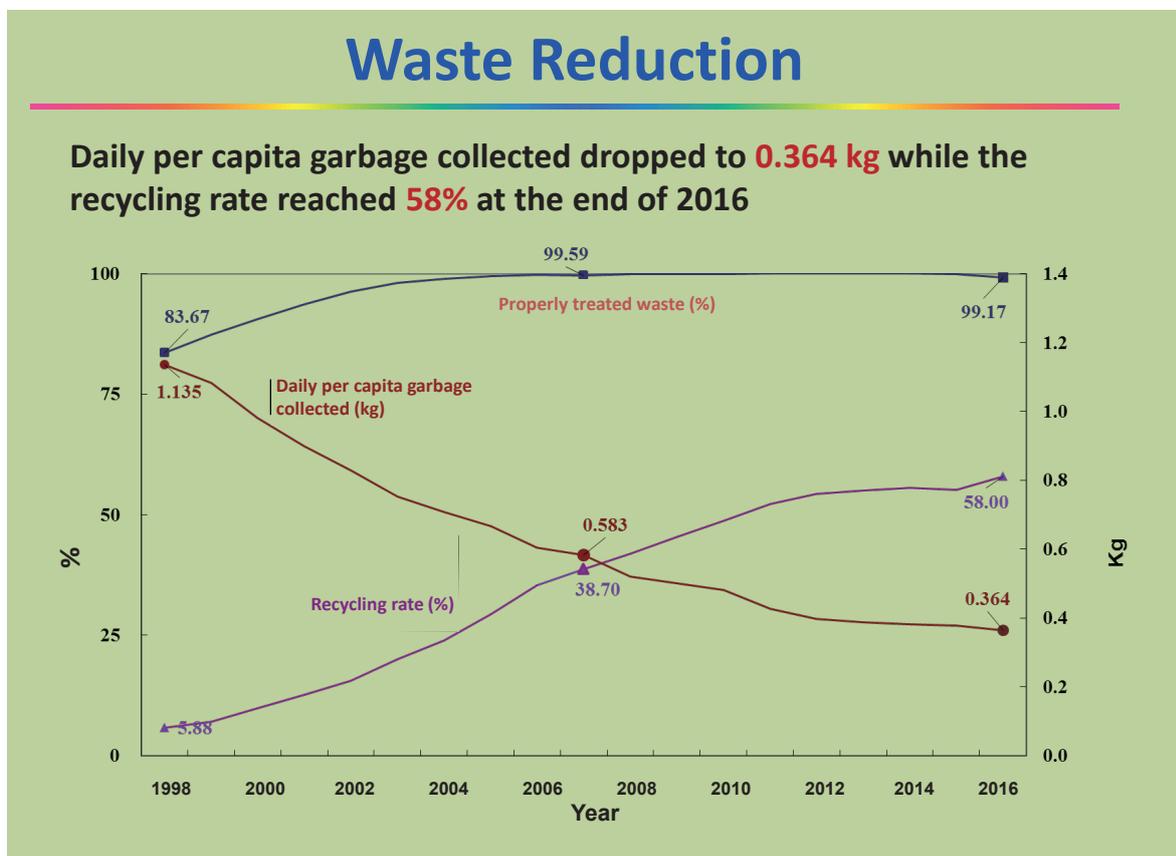
Severely polluted river-lengths fell to **2.5%** in 2016



Percentage of Severely Polluted River-lengths in 50 Major Rivers

1.2 Implementation of the Green Economy Promotion Strategies and Directions (in line with SDGs 8, 9, 11, 12)

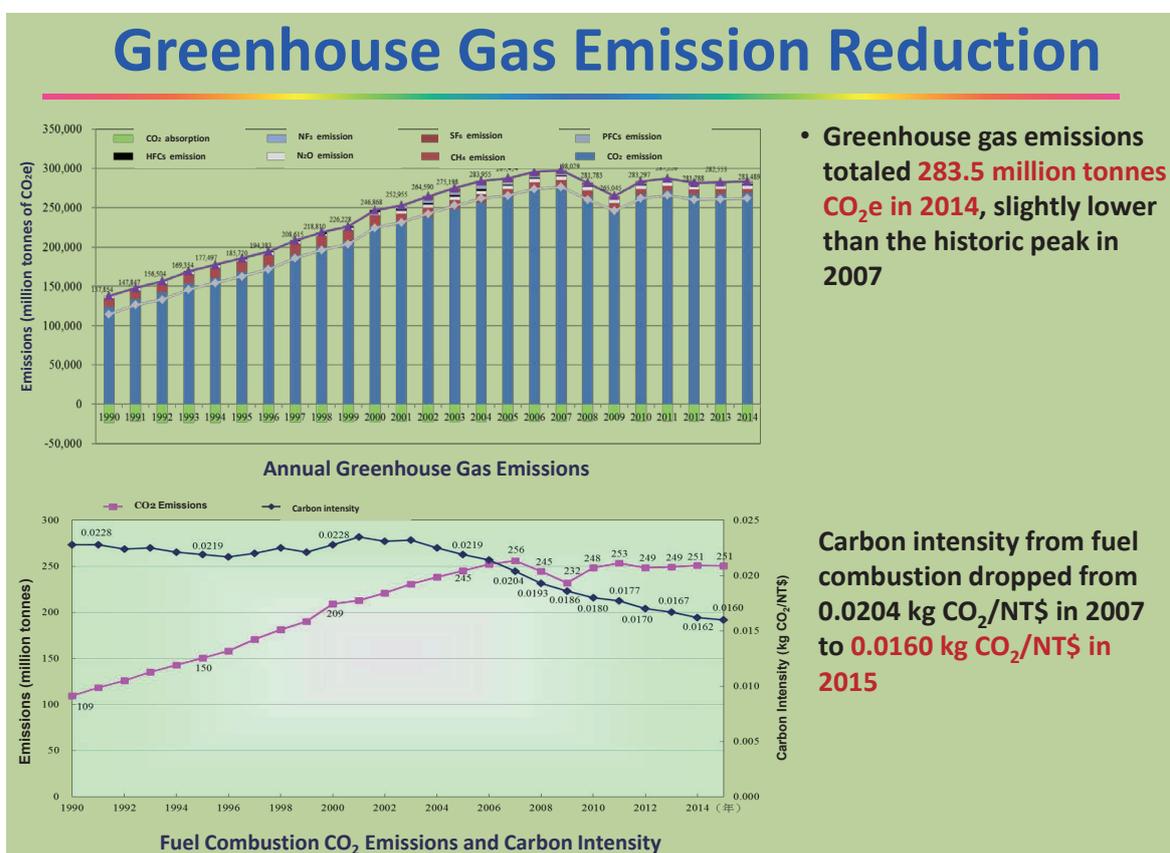
The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) approved a set of strategies for promoting the green economy in June 2015 echoing the main theme of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, as well as the conference’s outcome document titled The Future We Want, which states that the green economy should contribute “to eradicating poverty as well as sustained economic growth, enhancing social inclusion, improving human welfare and creating opportunities for employment and decent work for all, while maintaining the healthy functioning of the Earth’s ecosystems.” Taiwan’s policy guidelines cover basic principles, a vision, a strategic framework, overarching and departmental strategies, as well as follow-up actions. The vision is to lay a foundation for the transition to a green economy, and through integrated and foundational policies build a society that is marked by respect for nature, generational fairness, and equal wealth distribution. The overarching strategy is to strengthen five key aspects of the transition to a green economy, i.e., systems, society, nature, human resources, and manufacturing. These



will serve as core principles for the departmental strategies, which are based on the recommendations of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report titled Towards a Green Economy. The focus will be on 10 areas that will play a decisive role and receive major investments, i.e., agriculture, forestry, marine resources and fisheries, water resources, energy resources, manufacturing, transportation, environmental protection, cities and architecture, and travel.

1.3 Implementation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act (in line with SDG 13)

The Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, which was promulgated in July 2015, stipulates long-term greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for Taiwan as well as relevant review and adjustment mechanisms in response to the Kyoto Protocol and the Paris Agreement. Article 4 of the Act states that by 2050 emissions of greenhouse gases should be reduced to less than 50% of 2005 levels. In addition, in September 2015, Taiwan took the initiative to announce its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs). In February 2017, the Executive Yuan approved the National Climate Change Action Guidelines to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation. An interagency action plan has also been



activated in an effort to achieve the long-term greenhouse gas reduction targets to ensure Taiwan's sustainable development.

1.4 Reform of the Pension System (in line with SDG 10)

Pension reform is closely linked to national fiscal sustainability and generational justice. On May 30, 2016, the Office of the President issued guidelines for the establishment of the Pension Reform Committee to deal with issues arising from a rapidly aging society and decreasing birthrate. The National Conference on Pension Reform was convened by the Office of the President in January 2017 to gather opinions from all sectors of society. Subsequently, the Legislative Yuan passed the Act Governing Civil Servants' Retirement, Discharge, and Pensions on June 27, and the Act Governing the Retirement, Discharge, and Pensions of Public School Faculty and Staff on June 29. In the future, the government will continue to study ways to increase pension payments to groups that currently lack sufficient safeguards, strive to boost management efficiency of pension funds, and examine the possibility of integrating various pension systems and ways to proceed with such integration.

1.5 Increase of the Minimum Wage (in line with SDGs 1, 3)

In September 2016, the Executive Yuan reached a decision to raise Taiwan's minimum wage to improve workers' lives and protect their rights and interests, stipulating that the minimum hourly wage be raised by 5% effective October 1, 2016, and that the minimum monthly wage be raised by 5.56% to NT\$21,009 (US\$700) and the minimum hourly wage to NT\$133 (US\$4.43) effective January 1, 2017. The Ministry of Labor's Minimum Wage Review Committee decided in August 2017 that the minimum monthly wage would be increased by another 4.72% to NT\$22,000 (US\$733) effective January 1, 2018, while the minimum hourly wage would also be raised accordingly to NT\$140 (US\$4.67).

1.6 Promotion of the Marine Economy Integrated Development Policy (in line with SDG 14)

In September 2015, the government has drawn up plans to promote the integrated development of the marine economy in accordance with the spirit of sustainability. These plans cover three levels of such marine industries as sustainable fisheries and aquatic product processing, marine energy, shipbuilding, marine recreation and tourism, transportation services, and marine culture. Unique and outstanding sectors will be further strengthened and integrated through diverse forms of cooperation, paving the way for the joint promotion of the ocean economy.

1.7 Implementation of a Five-day Workweek Policy (in line with SDGs 1, 3)

In December 2016, the Legislative Yuan passed amendments to the Labor Standards Act, stipulating that workers shall have one mandatory fixed day off and one flexible

rest day per week. This measure aims to ensure that workers receive adequate time for rest, while maintaining flexibility.

1.8 Launch the Innovative Agriculture Promotion Program (in line with SDGs 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 14)

In December 2016, the Council of Agriculture briefed then Premier Lin Chuan on the Innovative Agriculture Promotion Program. The Program focuses on building a new agricultural paradigm, establishing agricultural safety systems, and bolstering agricultural marketing capabilities. It aims to employ technological innovation to add greater value to agricultural products and safeguard the welfare and income of farmers, while also advance the recycling of resources as well as the sustainability of the ecosystem and the environment. Premier Lin directed relevant agencies to set schedules and quickly implement and monitor the progress of aspects of the initiative that do not require law amendments, and to draft and submit bills to the Executive Yuan for aspects that can only be implemented following law amendments. Specific targets of this initiative as they relate to individual SDGs are as follows:

- SDG 1: Promoting agricultural insurance; offering farmers steady incomes
- SDG 2: Promoting a large-scale granary project; enhancing food security
- SDG 3: Implementing the five-point food safety policy; establishing a labeling system than can be trusted by consumers
- SDG 6: Promoting a farmland cultivation subsidy scheme to ensure that agricultural land is used for agricultural purposes; promoting methods of farming that are beneficial to the environment and reduce the use of chemicals
- SDG 7: Promoting biogas electricity generation
- SDG 12: Promoting methods of farming that are beneficial to the environment and reduce the use of chemicals
- SDG 14: Promoting sustainable fishing in a way that safeguards marine habitats

1.9 Revision of the Talent Cultivation and Education Program for New Immigrants (in line with SDGs 1, 4, 10, 11, 16)

On December 14, 2016, the Ministry of Education revised the talent cultivation and education program for new immigrants, so as to provide them with lifelong learning opportunities, facilitate their quick adaptation to the local environment, help them build a new life, and offer job opportunities. The program enables immigrants to employ their linguistic and cultural advantages, develop their skills and potential, and quickly assimilate into Taiwan's society. As part of the program, their languages are incorporated into elementary school curriculums, and priority is placed on matching relevant children or students proficient in related languages with internships or jobs offered by overseas Taiwanese businesses. In addition, the

program encourages new immigrants to share the culture and traditional customs of their home countries in order to give the Taiwanese people a better understanding of other cultures, which in turn contributes to greater cultural diversity and social inclusiveness.

1.10 Amendment to the Gender Equality Policy Guidelines (in line with SDG 5)

In January 2017, the Executive Yuan approved amendments to the Gender Equality Policy Guidelines, which were first promulgated in December 2011. The guidelines uphold three basic principles: gender equality is a core value in protecting social fairness and justice; improvement of women's rights is the primary task in promoting gender equality; and gender mainstreaming is an effective route to achieve people-oriented policies. Key aspects include equal rights, decision making, and influence; employment, economy, and welfare; education, culture, and media; physical safety and justice; health and healthcare; demography, marriage, and family; and the environment, energy, and technology.



President Tsai Ing-wen and then Premier Lin Chuan attend the closing meeting of the National Conference on Judicial Reform

1.11 Organization of the National Conference on Judicial Reform (in line with SDG 16)

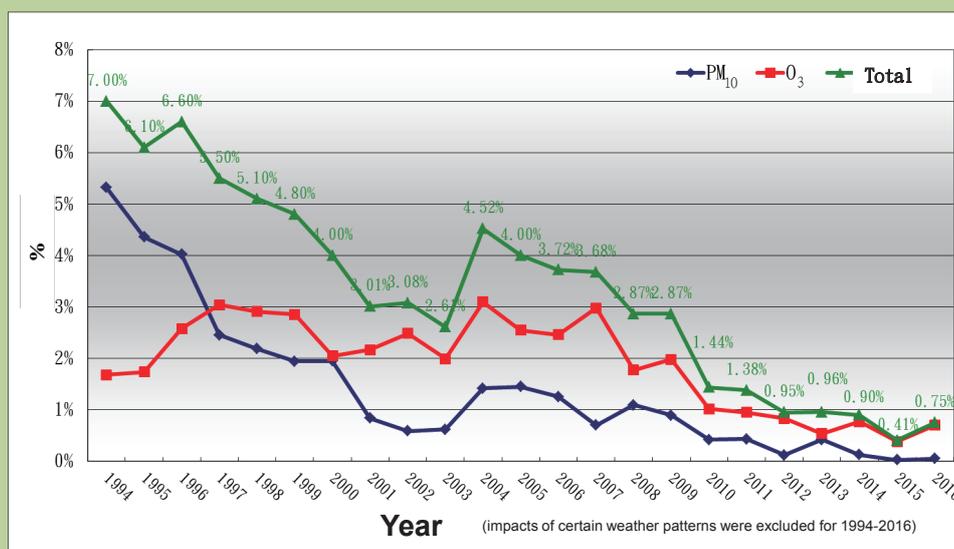
The National Conference on Judicial Reform organized by the Office of the President adopted more than a hundred resolutions following intensive subcommittee meetings held from February to June 2017. The resolutions discussed at the general closing meeting in August fostered social consensus and set the direction and timetable for judicial reform. During the period in which the subcommittee meetings were held and before any final conclusions had been reached, the Ministry of Justice was already proposing prosecutorial and prison administration reforms, as well as measures to raise the status and enhance the protection of crime victims.

1.12 Promotion of an air pollution control strategy (In line with SDGs 3, 13)

At a press conference at the Executive Yuan in April 2017, then Premier Lin announced a new air pollution control strategy, covering 14 measures as well as incentives and restrictions to be implemented simultaneously. The strategy has also set the goals to be achieved by the end of 2019, which include reducing the annual average PM2.5 concentration by 18.2% of that by the end of 2015, or from 22 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ to 18 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This strategy seeks to protect people's health and ensure that

Air Quality Improvement

Percentage of days with poor air quality dropped to **0.75%** in 2016



Taiwan fulfill its responsibility as a member of the international community.

1.13 Implementation of the Long-term Care Services Act (in line with SDGs 1, 3)

The Long-term Care Services Act was passed by the Legislative Yuan in May 2015 and took effect in June 2017. Long-term care is defined as the living support, assistance, social participation opportunities, care, and related medical services provided to meet the needs of individuals whose loss of certain mental and physical capacities has lasted for or is expected to last more than six months, or of their caregivers. Long-term care covers such items as at-home care, community care, institutional residency, and household caregiver support. In a statement, President Tsai Ing-wen emphasized that only when the government assists in caring for the elderly can young people devote their full energy to their careers.

1.14 Promotion of the Plastic-free Ocean Policy (in line with SDG 14)

In support of World Oceans Day and this year's theme of "Our Ocean, Our Future," the Environmental Protection Administration has implemented a policy to restrict, reduce, and remove plastics by cutting their usage at the source and preventing plastic garbage from reaching the ocean. In July 2017, the 19 coastal cities and counties in Taiwan jointly held a seabed cleanup activity. In the first six months of 2017, Taiwan removed 192 tons of trash from the sea and seabed. Cleanup activities will continue

Marine Pollution Control

◆ Promoting marine garbage cleanups and marine environmental education

At-source reduction

- Subsidizing local governments to hold events to clean up floating and seabed garbage
- Hold national beach cleanups on World Oceans Day



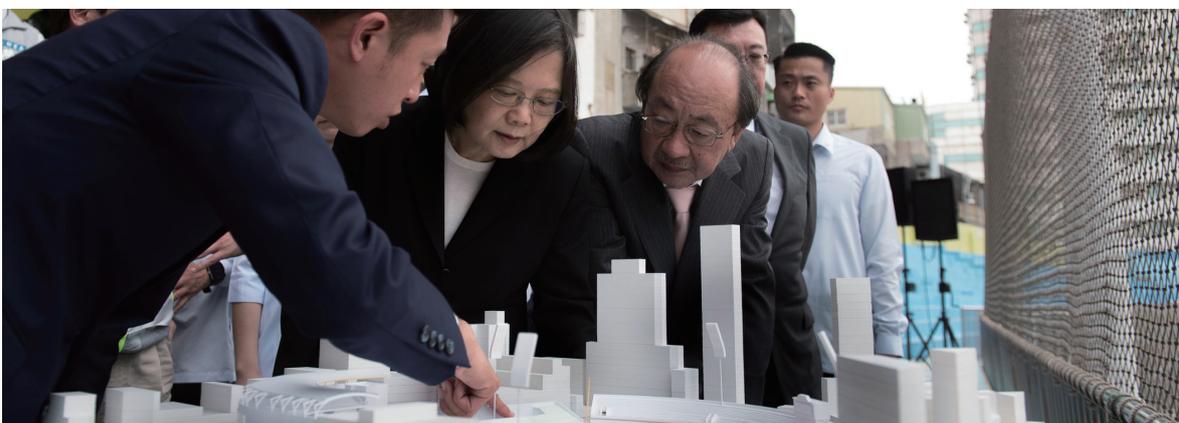
until the oceans are plastic free. Oceans around the world are estimated to contain 150 million metric tons of plastic garbage, and unless this amount is reduced, they will have more plastic garbage than fish by 2050. As an island nation and a member of the international community, Taiwan takes its responsibility in this regard very seriously.

1.15 Promulgation of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Construction Act (in line with SDGs 6, 7, 9, 11)

In accordance with the Forward-looking Infrastructure Construction Act, promulgated by presidential decree in July 2017, a budget of NT\$420 billion (US\$14 billion) will be allocated over a four-year period to eight major categories of infrastructure, i.e., railway projects to provide safe and fast transportation, water environments that are resilient to climate change, green energy infrastructure to ensure environmental sustainability, digital infrastructure to create a smart nation, urban and rural projects that balance regional development, childcare facilities to reverse declining birthrate trends, infrastructure to ensure food safety, and human resources infrastructure to nurture talent and boost employment. President Tsai has stated that to see a nation's prosperity, one must look not at cities but at rural areas, and that some of the key reasons for the government's implementation of the forward-looking infrastructure program are ensuring balanced regional development and offering a higher quality of life for every person living in Taiwan.

1.16 Implementation of the Indigenous Languages Development Act (in line with SDGs 10, 16)

The Indigenous Languages Development Act, passed by the Legislative Yuan in May 2017, recognizes indigenous languages as national languages and gives government agencies, schools, and state-run enterprises located in indigenous areas the option of issuing official documents in such languages. In a Facebook



President Tsai Ing-wen listens to the briefing of a forward-looking project

post of July 19, President Tsai shared an official document issued at the end of June by the Guangfu Township Office in Hualien County that was written in a romanized form of the Amis language. The President commented that this was the first official government document of its kind, and that it marked an important step toward achieving transitional justice for Taiwan's indigenous peoples, adding that the central and local governments remain committed to ensuring that even greater importance is attached to the rich and diverse indigenous cultures of Taiwan. County governments and township offices in Pingtung, Hualien, Taitung, and Nantou have also started to issue official documents in indigenous languages or in bilingual formats.

Taiwan has thus taken concrete actions in many different areas in line with the UN SDGs. The following is a concise summary of these actions as they relate to each SDG:

- ▶ SDG 1: Increase of the minimum wage, implementation of a five-day workweek policy, promotion of an agricultural innovation initiative, implementation of the Long-term Care Services Act, and revision of the talent cultivation and education program for new immigrants
- ▶ SDG 2: Promotion of an agricultural innovation initiative
- ▶ SDG 3: Increase of the minimum wage, promotion of an agricultural innovation initiative, implementation of a five-day workweek policy, promotion of an air pollution control strategy, and implementation of the Long-term Care Services Act
- ▶ SDG 4: Revision of the talent cultivation and education program for new immigrants
- ▶ SDG 5: Amendment to the Gender Equality Policy Guidelines
- ▶ SDG 6: Launching the Innovative Agriculture Promotion Program, implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act, and the promulgation of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Construction Act
- ▶ SDG 7: Promotion of the Innovative Agriculture Promotion program, and promulgation of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Act
- ▶ SDG 8: Promotion of the Green Economy Promotion Strategies and Directions
- ▶ SDG 9: Implementation of the Green Economy Promotion Strategies and Directions, promulgation of the Forward-looking Infrastructure Construction Act
- ▶ SDG 10: Reformation of the pension system, implementation of the Indigenous Languages Development Act, revision of the Talent Cultivation and Education Program for New Immigrants
- ▶ SDG 11: Launching the Innovative Agriculture Promotion Program, implementation of the Green Economy Promotion Strategies and Directions, and revision of the Talent Cultivation and Education Program for New Immigrants

- ▶ SDG 12: Launching the Innovative Agriculture Promotion Program, and implementation of the Green Economy Promotion Strategies and Directions
- ▶ SDG 13: Promulgation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Management Act, and implementation of the Air Pollution Control Strategies
- ▶ SDG 14: Promotion of the Ocean Economy Integrated Development Strategies, and promotion of the plastic-free ocean policy
- ▶ SDG 15: Implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act
- ▶ SDG 16: Organization of the National Conference on Judicial Reform, implementation of the Indigenous Languages Development Act, revision of the talent cultivation and education program for new immigrants

2.Global Partnerships

Taiwan has assisted other countries in their national development and conducted humanitarian assistance work through the International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF). Focused on five core areas, i.e., agriculture, public health and medicine, education, the environment, and information and communications technology, TaiwanICDF has long promoted development assistance in line with international trends by means of technical cooperation, investment and financing, international training courses, and humanitarian aid.

When the UN started promoting the SDGs, TaiwanICDF analyzed their content and incorporated those corresponding with its own core focus areas—i.e., SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture), SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages), SDG 4 (ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all), SDG 8 (promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive

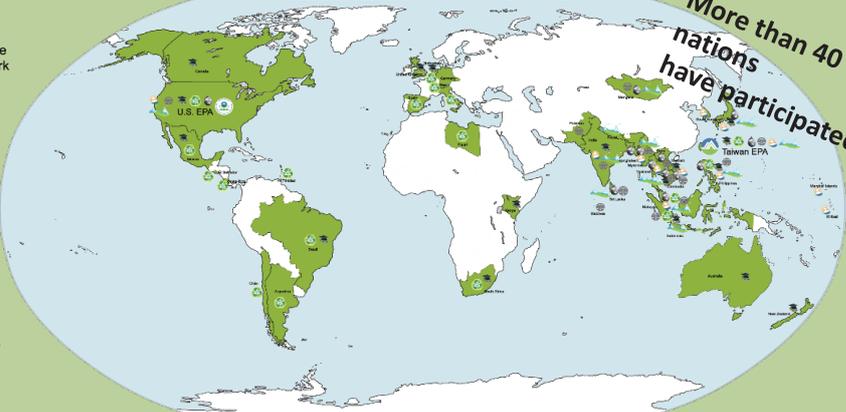


2016 Asia Dialogue on Carbon Trading & Measures for Carbon Emission Reduction

Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals

- **Goal 17: International Environmental Partnership (IEP)**

-  International E-Waste Management Network
-  Environmental Education
-  Environmental Law Enforcement
-  Climate Change Adaptation
-  Cities Clean Asia Partnership
-  Asia-Pacific Mercury Monitoring Network



More than 40 nations have participated



employment and decent work for all), and SDG 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development)—into its own performance indicators, so as to make sure that its projects correspond to international development aid trends.

Meanwhile, Taiwan’s EPA cooperated with the US Environmental Protection Agency in 2014 to launch the International Environmental Partnership (IEP), which serves as a platform for exchanges concerning international environmental protection between central government officials of various countries, city representatives, scholars, and communities. Promoting multilateral and regional collaboration, the IEP has organized over 60 events, in which more than 40 partner nations have taken part. The IEP has assisted Southeast Asian nations such as Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam in boosting the recycling and reuse of waste materials and strengthening air pollution control and management capabilities. Some of the participating countries are well on their way to resolving environmental issues by following Taiwan’s successful experiences.

The following table contains endeavors by TaiwanICDF and the IEP to promote global sustainable development partnerships:

Institute/ platform	Corresponding UN SDG	Project	Concrete actions	Progress
Taiwan ICDF	SDG 2: Zero hunger	Enhancement of small-scale aquaculture farms in rural areas of El Salvador	In line with El Salvador's family farming policy, the project encourages farmers to employ basic methods to raise tilapia, so as to achieve self-sufficiency. This offers rural residents easy access to animal protein, improving nutrition, enhancing food security, and advancing sustainable agriculture.	Three fry cultivation centers have been set up with an annual maximum output of 2.5 million. This is supplied to 1,200 aquaculture farms in 42 rural townships, meeting the need for affordable animal protein among poor people in rural areas.
	SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing	Capacity building for prevention and control of chronic renal failure in Belize	In line with the Belizean national health development policy, efforts are made through education to strengthen public healthcare capabilities for chronic conditions, enhance care, boost relevant data systems, and produce epidemiological reports with statistical analysis, so as to assist Belize in creating a prevention and control system for chronic renal conditions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training in Taiwan for six Belizean seed medical personnel (three doctors and three dialysis nurses) has been completed. 2. A total of 132 people have completed local courses on care for kidney patients, kidney dialysis, and public health promotion. 3. Taiwanese consultants have been dispatched to Belize on seven occasions to review the performance of the Belizean personnel who were trained in Taiwan. 4. Surveys were conducted on chronic and kidney diseases in local communities.

Institute/ platform	Corresponding UN SDG	Project	Concrete actions	Progress
Taiwan ICDF	SDG 4: Quality education	Higher education scholarship programs for international students	Students from developing nations come to Taiwan to enroll in undergraduate, graduate, and PhD programs. Opportunities are thereby provided for students to receive fair and high-quality education, assisting developing nations in cultivating policy planning, technical, and management experts.	The Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance works with 21 partner universities in Taiwan to provide 35 programs at the undergraduate, graduate, and PhD levels. Currently, 550 students from 39 countries are studying in Taiwan, with another 191 students from 35 countries expected to arrive in September 2017.
	SDG 8: Decent work and economic growth	EBRD Financial Intermediary Investment Special Fund— Small Business Account— Phase III	Assistance has been provided to financial institutions from countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the western Balkans, Central Asia, and the Commonwealth of Independent States to aid in their development. Funding channels for MSMEs have been strengthened to boost economic activity. In the future, this program will expand to cover green economy financing facilities to promote green investment.	In coordination with the EBRD, cooperative ties have been established with 19 financial institutions in nine countries in Central and Eastern Europe, the western Balkans, Central Asia, and North Africa, whereby funds are provided to MSMEs.

Institute/ platform	Corresponding UN SDG	Project	Concrete actions	Progress
Taiwan ICDF	SDG 2: Zero hunger	Enhancement of small-scale aquaculture farms in rural areas of El Salvador	In line with El Salvador’s family farming policy, the project encourages farmers to employ basic methods to raise tilapia, so as to achieve self-sufficiency. This offers rural residents easy access to animal protein, improving nutrition, enhancing food security, and advancing sustainable agriculture.	Three fry cultivation centers have been set up with an annual maximum output of 2.5 million. This is supplied to 1,200 aquaculture farms in 42 rural townships, meeting the need for affordable animal protein among poor people in rural areas.
	SDG 3: Good health and wellbeing	Capacity building for prevention and control of chronic renal failure in Belize	In line with the Belizean national health development policy, efforts are made through education to strengthen public healthcare capabilities for chronic conditions, enhance care, boost relevant data systems, and produce epidemiological reports with statistical analysis, so as to assist Belize in creating a prevention and control system for chronic renal conditions.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training in Taiwan for six Belizean seed medical personnel (three doctors and three dialysis nurses) has been completed. 2. A total of 132 people have completed local courses on care for kidney patients, kidney dialysis, and public health promotion. 3. Taiwanese consultants have been dispatched to Belize on seven occasions to review the performance of the Belizean personnel who were trained in Taiwan. 4. Surveys were conducted on chronic and kidney diseases in local communities.

3. By fully implementing the 17 UN SDGs, Taiwan boosts domestic sustainability and fulfills its responsibility as member of the international community

Since the announcement of the UN SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development more than two years ago, the ROC government has begun fully implementing these goals, including those that are to be the focus of HLPF reviews in 2017 (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 14, 17); in 2018 (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 17); and in 2019 (SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17). Taiwan thereby complies with the Agenda, which calls for action over the next fifteen years in areas of critical importance, i.e., people, planet, prosperity, peace, and partnership, in order to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path.



The implementation of SDGs 1 to 16 has already strengthened Taiwan's domestic sustainability. With regard to SDG 17, Taiwan is actively helping or cooperating with other countries to jointly promote sustainable development tasks, so as to fulfill its responsibilities as a member of the international community.

Strengthening Aquaculture Development among Rural Families Project (El Salvador) – Replenishing Tilapia fries



Members of the Taiwan Technical Mission in Capacity Building Project for the Prevention and Control of Chronic Renal Failure in Belize

Next steps

Integrating economic, social, and environmental concerns into Taiwan's sustainable development efforts has resulted in remarkable achievements. Such work, discussed in the previous chapter, was carried out over the past two years as our response to and implementation of the UN SDGs. Yet they signify but a beginning to a joint effort by Taiwan and the rest of the world to implement the goals.

Presiding over the 29th meeting of the National Council for Sustainable Development on November 3, 2016, then Premier Lin Chuan instructed that the government agency serving as convener for each of the council's working groups and task forces should convene relevant agencies to formulating the goals for 2030 and targets for 2020, with reference to the UN SDGs.

To expand civic involvement in the formulation of the goals, then Premier Lin Chuan requested the free participation of the council's non-government members in one to three working groups or task forces to help with goal-forging work. To make Taiwan's own sustainable development goals match its national needs, the Premier Lin also ordered the establishment of an additional goal, on top of the 17 existing UN goals, namely the establishment of a nuclear-free homeland by 2025.

Taiwan's SDGs for 2030

After six months of thorough discussion and consultations, a draft for the localized sustainable development goals for 2030 were brought forward, as presented in the table below.

Taiwan's SDGs echo the spirit of the UN SDGs and targets, and are an active response to its own developmental needs and the challenges it faces. This will help meet the expectations of the public and accelerate the fulfillment of the sustainable development vision.

Item	UN sustainable development goal	Taiwan's sustainable development goals for 2030
1	End poverty in all its forms everywhere	Strengthen social care services and economic security for the disadvantaged
2	End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture	Ensure food security, eliminate hunger, and advance sustainable agriculture

Item	UN sustainable development goal	Taiwan's sustainable development goals for 2030
3	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages	Ensure and promote healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages
4	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all	Ensure comprehensive, fair and high-quality education, as well as advocate lifelong learning opportunities for all
5	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls	Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6	Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	Ensure environmental quality and sustainable management of environmental resources
7	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all	Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all	Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9	Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation	Construct an affordable, safe, environment-friendly, resilient, and sustainable transportation infrastructure
10	Reduce inequality within and among countries	Reduce inequality within and among countries
11	Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	Develop urban and rural areas that show characteristics of fusion, safety, resilience, and sustainability
12	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development	Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources, and prevent the ocean environment from deteriorating
15	Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss	Conserve and sustainably use terrestrial ecosystems to ensure the persistence of biodiversity and the prevention of land degradation

Item	UN sustainable development goal	Taiwan's sustainable development goals for 2030
16	Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels	Promote a peaceful and diversified society. Ensure judicial equality and build an accountable and inclusive system
17	Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development	Establish diversified partnerships and work together to advance the sustainable vision
18		Establish a nuclear-free homeland by 2025

Localizing 2020 sustainable development targets for Taiwan

The NCSO working groups and task forces reviewed Taiwan's progress toward achieving 2030 SDGs, not only based on the UN SDGs but also the corresponding indicators adopted by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017 as recommended by NCSO non-governmental members. Following the consultations with the NCSO non-governmental members to determine future directions, the NCSO working groups and task forces drafted a framework for Taiwan's sustainable development targets.

Increasing public participation and social dialogue for advancement toward Taiwan SDGs

To increase civic participation and social dialogue, the NCSO will hold SDG forums nationwide that will bring Taiwan closer toward its SDGs, ensure that the goals meet the needs and expectations of the public, and allow for the incorporation of feasible suggestions from the public into promotional measures. The forums will be held over a two-month period by the convening ministry or agency for the various working groups to gather a variety of views through diverse and intensive dialogue with relevant business and social leaders and representatives. Each working group and task force will then prepare quantitative targets based on the opinions thus collected for submission to the NCSO for discussion and confirmation before pursuing them proactively.

Further enhancing global partnerships to help other countries realize the UN SDGs

In an effort to join in global endeavors toward realizing the UN SDGs, Taiwan will enhance all forms of international cooperation to share its sustainable development experience and successful examples with the rest of the world. It will also actively assist other countries achieve the SDGs in a concerted pursuit of the greatest welfare and sustainable development for all humanity.

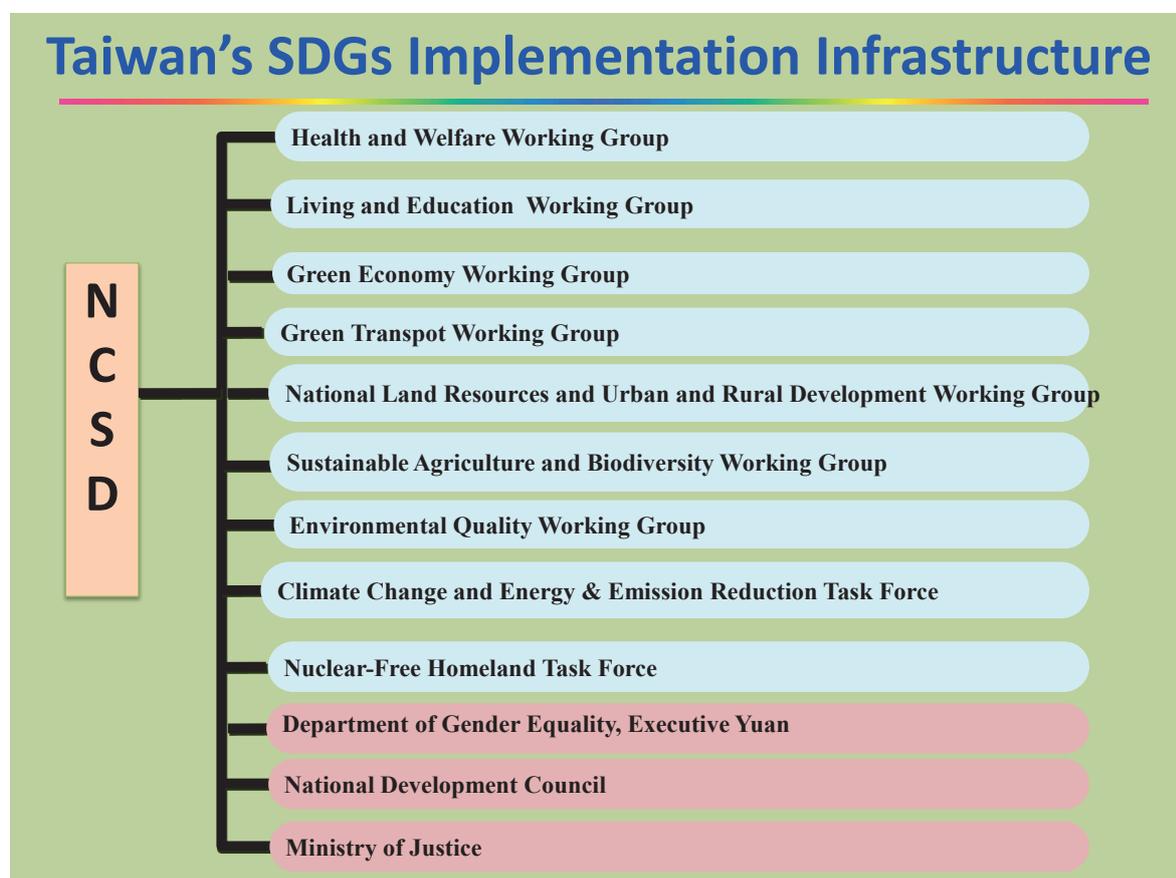
Monitoring and reviewing SDGs progress

A long-term effort is essential to attaining the SDGs. Taiwan’s progress will be continuously monitored and reviewed, and the targets will be revised on a rolling basis to keep pace with



international trends. Review findings will be regularly compiled and published in the Voluntary National Review to share Taiwan’s success with people in Taiwan as well as other countries and serve as the basis for formulating more effective strategies and enhancing progress toward the SDGs.

Expanding early childhood education and health by establishing more public kindergartens



Conclusion

This is the first Voluntary National Review published by Taiwan in accordance with the common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum. The review summarizes sustainable development endeavors made by Taiwan in the 20 years since the National Council for Sustainable Development was established, its institutional framework, repository of completed documents, and compilation of reviews. It also discusses key policies adopted and global partnerships developed by Taiwan in recent years to meet the UN sustainable development goals. Furthermore, the review outlines localized SDGs and targets prioritized for the next stage, identified through public participation and social dialogue, based on the 17 SDGs and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda as well as the 244 SDG Indicators adopted by the UN on March 17, 2017. This is a response to the appeal conveyed in Paragraph 79 on the 2030 Agenda that “reviews should draw on contributions from indigenous peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities. National parliaments as well as other institutions can also support these processes.”

Taiwan is not presently a member of the United Nations, but it wishes to observe UN sustainable development standards and join in global actions toward realizing SDGs while fulfilling its responsibilities as a member of the international community. The NCSD sent delegations to participate in side activities held during the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002, as well as the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012. It also acted in swift response to the resolutions adopted at each event. For example, the NCSD unveiled the Action Plan for Sustainable Development in December 2002, three months after the WSSD; similarly, it resolved to establish a green economy working group in September 2012, three months after Rio+20.

This will not be the only Voluntary National Review to be published by Taiwan. Regular review will be issued in a timely manner to inform the international community of and share with other countries its progress in sustainable development, its implementation of the UN SDGs, and its global partnerships toward realizing these goals. Taiwan wishes to participate in joint endeavors with other countries to pursue sustainable development for the planet and all of humanity.

Taiwan's Voluntary National Review

The Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals