

Ministerial Commitment Review

(A proposal for the SDGs Implementation Monitoring Committee to track the annual progress for SDGs in Bangladesh)

1. Context:

Sustainable Development Goals are globally recognized as ambitious and challenging in nature. Bangladesh is not an exception in this regard; however, the Government of Bangladesh is committed to attain the targets within in the stipulated deadline. Therefore, multi-pronged initiatives and approaches have been taken from various fronts. In the meantime formulation of action plan for individual ministry and division is under process. It is assumed that effective and regular progress tracking would be the key to success in our way towards the end. To comply with this idea, a formal review system needs to be put in place. Under the system, the lead ministries/ divisions [as stated in the SDG mapping hand book] may be asked to submit annual progress report (against the set targets) in consultation with relevant co-lead and associate ministries/ divisions (including their agencies/ organizations) primarily in 3 phases (2018, 2019 and 2020) aligned with the 7th FYP time. These reports subsequently can be presented before the panels to be composed of SDG steering committee, public representatives and representatives from the research and academic communities, private sectors and the NGOs.

2. Rationale:

Regular review and feedback is very important for ensuring effective implementation for a long term planning. It is expected that this system will be able to influx more dynamism in the action process of the ministries and divisions. And this regular review process will also be a platform for expediting further improvement in the ongoing activities. In addition, from 2021 the new Five Year Plan (8th) will be in effect. This proposed review, to be continued till 2020, will be able to provide in puts for the development of the 8th Five Year Plan. Moreover, at the global level, the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) will also end its Voluntary National Reviews (VNR); and from 2020 the global review for the SDG progress is expected to be a regular phenomenon. Through this proposed exercise of "**Ministerial Commitment Review (MCR)**" for the next 3 years, the ministries/ divisions will be ready for the committed reporting from 2021.

3. Expected Outputs:

The major possible outputs of the system are:

- a. A ministry/division wise annual review;
- b. A compiled and comprehensive annual SDG progress report ;

4. Target Organization:

All the lead ministries/divisions (as per SDG mapping handbook) will be the targeted organizations for this exercise.

5. Scope of the Review:

This review may be conducted in **three phases** (2018, 2019, and 2020). This review will be confined to the annual progress of the lead ministries/divisions with focus to the relevant SDG targets. The ministries/divisions will also be requested to report on local indicators (in addition to the global indicators) to track progress. A format of reporting (2000 words maximum) has been prepared by the SDG Working Team (SWT). The reporting format (Annex 1) delineates the content of the report with specific guidelines and explanations. The Time frame for progress monitoring/ review is **July to June (every year)**.

6. Mode of Operation

The ministries/ divisions will prepare the report based on the progress made on the last fiscal year (July to June) and submit it to General Economics Division (GED) **by 21st July every year**. GED will organize an **Annual Review Plenary** by the **1st week of July** (every year). The reporting ministry/ division will present their progress in the event where all the co-lead and associated ministries/ divisions/ organizations will be invited. Each ministry/ division will get 20 minutes to present plus 10 minutes for Q&A and clarification. Representatives from the private sector, academia and civil society organizations will also be invited to contribute to the plenary (minimum two working days).

7. Institutional arrangement

General Economics Division (GED) will coordinate the proposed system and annual event in consultation with the Principal Coordinator (SDG)'s Office. Governance Innovation Unit (GIU) will provide intellectual and capacity related support. Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) will be engaged in the process for data validation and authentication. A synthesis of the presented MCRs will be published by the GED by **August every year**.

STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF MINISTERIAL COMMITMENT REVIEW (MCR) REPORT

[Note: Ministries/ Divisions are requested to structure the report along the following format with a view to facilitating uniformity, consistency and comparability. Ministries/ divisions are expected to mention progress in the current financial year only. It is worth mentioning that this report is intended to review the progress and activities related to the relevant SDG targets. Therefore, ministries/ divisions are encouraged to pinpoint their specific activities/ progress pertaining to the SDG targets concerned. The linkage with the reported activities/ progress with the targets should be evident, either implicitly or explicitly. The report should be limited to a maximum of 2000 words in accordance with the following guidelines.]

1. Opening Statement (Maximum 100 words)

This opening statement on behalf the Minister of the ministry, is expected to highlight the current status of SDG progress, including reference to key strategies or policies to attain the 2030 Agenda.

2. Executive Summary (Maximum 200 words)

A one-to-two-page synthesis highlighting:

- Major achievement in terms of SDGs implementation
- Major policy intervention focusing SDGs
- Specific challenges faced in pursuing activities
- Major areas where it would need support in terms of finance, capacity-building, technology, partnerships, etc.
- A synopsis of the progress quantitatively in alignment with the 'M & E Framework of the SDGs' according to the following table. It should include only the indicators for which the reporting ministry is assigned as 'Lead Ministry'

Targets & Indicators	Baseline Data (Year)	Milestone for 2020	Progress (up to June 2018)	Source of Data

3. Introduction (Maximum 150 words)

The introduction may briefly describe key areas of direct relevance of the ministry/

division in the Agenda 2030. It may also identify the area/ theme in which the ministry/ division contribute indirectly, but reasonably significantly. This section may have an indication of major achievements with regard to SDGs implementation progress.

4. Methodology and process for preparation of the review (Maximum 150 words)

This section may discuss the methodology that was adopted for the review, including its scope, depth and limitations and how the principles on follow-up and review from the 2030 Agenda were used. Information on the process of preparation of the Ministerial Commitment Review may be presented, including, for example, how different stakeholders contributed to the review and whether and how the whole-of-Government approach was used; what mechanisms were used to engage stakeholders from civil society, academia, development partners and the business sector.

5. Policy and Enabling Environment (Maximum 500 words)

a. Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development Goals (Maximum 100 words)

This subsection could outline efforts made towards all stakeholders, including legislative bodies, the public, civil society and the private sector, to inform them of and involve them in the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. The review could address how different groups, particularly women and young people and marginalized sections of the society, have been engaged and how direct citizen engagement has been facilitated.

b. Incorporation of the SDGs in Policy Frameworks (Maximum 100 words)

This sub-section may outline critical initiatives that the ministry/ division has undertaken to adapt the SDGs targets to its policy documents (act, policy, plan, program, circular).

c. Integration of the three dimensions (Maximum 100 words)

This sub-section is expected to portray how the three dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental) are being integrated and how sustainable development policies are being designed and implemented to reflect such integration.

d. Leaving no one behind (Maximum 100 words)

In this sub-section, the ministry/ division is expected to mention specific initiative to

materialize the principle of leaving no one behind. In this regard, it may delineate how the concerns of marginalized and vulnerable groups have been recognized and what measures have been taken in the planning and implementation of the ministry's endeavor of achieving the SDGs to empower them.

e. Structural Challenges (Maximum 100 words)

In this sub-section the ministry/ division is expected to report on relevant structural issues or barriers it may have faced, including dependencies on other ministry/ division's role or policy. Countries can highlight the transformative policies, tools, institutional changes they have used to address these issues or barriers.

6. Progress on Specific Targets (Maximum 500 words)

Ministries are encouraged to provide brief information on progress and the status of all SDG targets for which it has been assigned the 'Lead Ministry'. This section should include major initiatives/ activities intended to achieve the relevant targets and the progress. It would be desirable to describe critical difficulties encountered in reaching them and how they could be addressed, referring, when appropriate, to data provided in a statistical annex. This may also illustrate innovative policies/ strategies to achieve the relevant targets, or examples that could be especially interesting for peer ministries/ divisions. It may also mention successes, challenges, emerging issues, and lessons learned, and describe what actions have been taken to address existing gaps and challenges. It could portray the gaps identified, solutions, best practices and areas requiring external intervention.

7. Means of implementation (Maximum 150 words)

Based on the challenges and trends mentioned in the previous section, this section may discuss how means of implementation are mobilized, and what difficulties were faced. It may also include requirement of additional resources needed for implementing the specific targets, with justification, including in terms of financing, capacity development and data needs, technology, and partnerships. It may also include specific proposal to mobilize the private sector and other stakeholders.

8. Way Forward (Maximum 150 words)

Based on the outcomes of the review, the ministry/ division should outline what steps are planned to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It could also indicate how it has planned to keep the momentum with the help of peer ministries, subordinate organizations and other stakeholders.

9. Conclusion (Maximum 100 words)

The section may present a summary of the analysis, findings and policy implications. It may discuss new or and emerging issues identified by the review. Lastly, the ministry/ division may indicate what lessons it has learned from the review process and how it will apply them in the future implementation and what support it would need in the future for preparing such reviews.

10. Annexes (not more than 10 pages)

The ministry/ division may include an annex with data, using the global SDG indicators and adding priority indicators identified at the national levels where appropriate. They may highlight whether statistics were collected from the national statistical system and pinpoint major gaps in official statistics on indicators. It may also include additional annexes where it would showcase best practices and/or policies and strategies that has advanced implementation of the 2030 Agenda.