



شعاع لحقوق الإنسان
SHOAA FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

— • ANALYSIS • —

Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review

**On the Implementation of
the Sustainable Development Goals**

An Analytical Review of the Content, Methodology, and Indicators,
Between the Official Narrative and the Reality of Implementation

Prepared by
SHOAA for Human Rights



July 2026

Analysis

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About this Document

This report provides an analysis of Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in light of the United Nations Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews. The analysis focuses on assessing the report's methodology, the quality of its data and indicators, and the extent to which it addresses issues related to governance, participation, human rights, gender equality, and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind." Its objective is to contribute to improving the quality of Voluntary National Reviews and to support the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Algeria.

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Executive Summary:

This report provides an analysis of Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in light of the United Nations Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews. It aims to assess the extent to which the report complies with the principles governing VNRs and addresses the economic, social, environmental, institutional, and human rights dimensions of sustainable development.

The analysis finds that the report reflects Algeria's continued commitment to implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlights progress in several areas, including social protection, infrastructure development, energy, digital transformation, and economic diversification, with a strong emphasis on mobilizing domestic resources and promoting public investment.

At the same time, the analysis concludes that the report is predominantly descriptive, placing greater emphasis on presenting government policies, programs, and investment projects than on evaluating the actual impact of these measures on sustainable development outcomes. It also notes that several key indicators rely on outdated data, while disaggregated data remain limited in a number of areas, thereby constraining a comprehensive assessment of progress.

The report further identifies limited treatment of several issues that are central to the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly the meaningful participation of civil society in the preparation of the VNR, the quality of data, gender equality, governance, the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the situation of the most vulnerable groups. It also highlights the limited discussion of the relationship between civic space and sustainable development, despite the recognition by the United Nations that inclusive participation and fundamental freedoms are essential enablers of sustainable development.

The analysis emphasizes that sustainable development cannot be measured solely by the scale of investment projects or infrastructure development. Rather, it also depends on effective and accountable institutions, the rule of law, freedom of expression, press freedom, judicial independence, transparency, and the meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies.

The report concludes with a set of recommendations addressed to the Algerian authorities, national institutions, the United Nations system, and civil society organizations. These recommendations call for strengthening participation and transparency in future Voluntary National Reviews, improving the quality and timeliness of data, expanding civic space, safeguarding freedom of expression and independent journalism, and reviewing legislation that may restrict peaceful participation in public affairs, thereby contributing to more inclusive and effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Introduction:

This analysis has been prepared as part of SHOAA for Human Rights' efforts to monitor Algeria's implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the occasion of Algeria's presentation of its 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) before the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). It aims to provide an independent critical assessment of the Voluntary National Review, based on the United Nations Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews, in order to evaluate the extent to which the report is consistent with international standards and its ability to present a balanced account of both progress achieved and the challenges that continue to hinder the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Voluntary National Review is one of the principal mechanisms established by the United Nations to monitor the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Its value, however, lies not merely in presenting policies, programmes, and achievements, but in its capacity to provide an objective and transparent assessment, supported by up-to-date and verifiable data, reflecting both progress and shortcomings. Such an assessment contributes to improving public policies, strengthening accountability, and accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations Guidelines emphasize that Voluntary National Reviews should be grounded in transparency, broad and meaningful participation, and the use of reliable and verifiable indicators. They also stress the importance of engaging all stakeholders—including civil society, academia, independent institutions, and the private sector. Furthermore, the Guidelines make clear that Voluntary National Reviews are not intended to serve as promotional documents for government policies, but rather as instruments for self-assessment, learning, and identifying gaps that require corrective action.

In this context, Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review primarily highlights government programmes, legislative reforms, and investment projects as indicators of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. However, an independent review of the report raises significant concerns regarding its methodology, the quality of its data, the comprehensiveness of its indicators, and the extent to which it addresses governance, human rights, public participation, gender equality, and the situation of the most vulnerable groups—issues that constitute essential components of the United Nations' framework for assessing Voluntary National Reviews.

Accordingly, this analysis examines the content of Algeria's Voluntary National Review by comparing it with the United Nations Guidelines, the Sustainable Development Goals and their indicators, as well as relevant national and international evidence. It does not seek to dispute the achievements presented in the report, but rather to assess their consistency with the available evidence, identify issues that have not been adequately addressed, and contribute to improving the quality of future Voluntary National Reviews. This approach is based on the understanding that sustainable development cannot be achieved through highlighting achievements alone, but also requires acknowledging challenges, strengthening transparency, ensuring meaningful participation, and reinforcing accountability.

Methodology:

This analysis adopts both qualitative and quantitative approaches to assess Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) in light of the United Nations Guidelines for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews and the normative framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is based on a systematic review of the report's content, assessing its consistency with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their indicators, the balance between the presentation of achievements and challenges, and the comprehensiveness of the data and indicators on which the report relies.

The analysis also compares the information contained in the report with relevant national and international indicators and reviews key United Nations reference documents in order to assess the report's compliance with the core principles governing Voluntary National Reviews, particularly transparency, participation, accountability, the use of up-to-date and verifiable data, and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind."

The analysis is based on the following sources and methods:

- A review of Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review submitted to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- A review of the United Nations Guidelines for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews and the key reference documents related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- An analysis of the quantitative indicators and statistical data presented in the report, including an assessment of their relevance, consistency, and timeliness.
- A comparison between the report's content and the Sustainable Development Goals and their global indicators, with particular attention to governance, participation, gender equality, poverty eradication, and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind."
- Consultation of reports and data issued by the United Nations and other relevant international organizations, as well as documented national sources, where necessary to clarify or complement the analysis.

This analysis follows an objective and evidence-based methodology aimed at evaluating the report against international standards, identifying both strengths and remaining challenges, and contributing to improving the quality of future Voluntary National Reviews and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in Algeria.

General Overview of the Report: Between the Main Messages and the Requirements of the Voluntary National Review:

Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) presents itself as an assessment of the country's progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It emphasizes that Algeria has adopted a development model based on social inclusion, economic diversification, innovation, and national ownership of its development pathways. The report highlights a series of key messages affirming continued progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals despite economic challenges, climate change, and regional developments. It also presents the Review as an evidence-based document reflecting the country's commitment to the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" and to the participation of all stakeholders in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The report places particular emphasis on government programs and reforms, investments in infrastructure, energy, digital transformation, and social protection, considering them as the main pillars of sustainable development. It further stresses that Algeria has aligned its legislation and national strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals through the mobilization of domestic resources, increased public investment, and the expansion of essential public services.

However, according to the United Nations Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews, VNRs are not assessed solely on their ability to showcase achievements. They are also expected to provide a balanced and comprehensive assessment of challenges, shortcomings, and lessons learned, based on up-to-date, verifiable data and meaningful stakeholder participation. Assessing the quality of a VNR therefore requires examining the consistency between its key messages and the evidence presented, as well as the extent to which it addresses the economic, social, environmental, institutional, and human rights dimensions of sustainable development.

From this perspective, the present analysis examines the consistency between the report's overall narrative and its detailed content by assessing its methodology, the quality of its data, and its treatment of issues related to participation, transparency, gender equality, governance, human rights, and the principle of "Leaving No One Behind." The purpose of this analysis is not to dispute the achievements presented in the report, but rather to evaluate them against the standards established by the United Nations for Voluntary National Reviews, thereby contributing to institutional learning, improved public policymaking, and greater accountability.

Analysis

First: Participation and Transparency in the Preparation of the Report (SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals)

The Voluntary National Review states that its preparation followed a participatory approach involving various stakeholders, including public institutions, the private sector, civil society organizations, universities, and several national bodies. The report presents this participation as one of the pillars of implementing the 2030 Agenda and as an expression of the partnership principle embodied in Sustainable Development Goal 17.

However, the report provides insufficient information to assess the inclusiveness and effectiveness of this participatory process. It does not explain the methodology used to identify and select participating stakeholders, specify the organizations that contributed to the report, or indicate the extent to which they represent the diversity of civil society. Nor does it publish the outcomes of the consultations or explain how comments and recommendations were incorporated into the final version of the report. The absence of this information weakens the ability to verify whether the report complies with the principle of meaningful participation emphasized in the United Nations Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews, making the reference to stakeholder engagement appear closer to a general declaration than to a participatory process that can be objectively assessed.

This issue is particularly significant because the United Nations Guidelines stress that participation should extend beyond consultative meetings and be based on open dialogue, transparency, and the meaningful involvement of all stakeholders, including independent civil society organizations, in evaluating public policies and formulating recommendations. They also emphasize the importance of documenting the consultation process and demonstrating its influence on the final report, thereby strengthening the credibility of the Voluntary National Review as a tool for institutional learning, accountability, and policy improvement rather than merely a document presenting government actions.

In the Algerian context, the report does not address the legal and institutional environment in which civil society organizations operate, nor does it examine the impact of restrictions that may affect certain associations, trade unions, or political actors in participating in public discussions on development policies. It also does not reflect differing perspectives or critical observations that may have emerged during the preparation process, making it difficult to assess the openness and pluralism of the consultations.

Beyond resource mobilization and international cooperation, SDG 17 also calls for building effective national partnerships based on participation, transparency, information sharing, and trust between public institutions and society. Strengthening the quality of future Voluntary National Reviews therefore requires a more transparent and inclusive methodology, including the publication of consultation mechanisms, disclosure of participating stakeholders, and clarification of how their contributions shaped the final report, in line with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Second: Data Quality Between Presenting Achievements and Measuring Results (SDG 1: No Poverty)

The Voluntary National Review presents itself as an evidence-based document for assessing progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. However, a review of the indicators included in the report shows that several key datasets on which it relies are based on outdated information or are not accompanied by methodological explanations that would allow their timeliness or comparability over time to be verified. This limits the ability to accurately assess actual progress in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty).

This is particularly evident in the report's treatment of poverty. It states that the extreme poverty rate does not exceed 0.5%, based on data from 2011. At the same time, it reports a poverty rate of 4.67% using the updated international poverty line of USD 4.20 per person per day (2021 Purchasing Power Parity), without providing recent national data or explaining the methodological differences between these two indicators. The reliance on indicators that are, in some cases, more than a decade old raises questions about the report's ability to measure actual progress and limits its value as a tool for evaluating public policies and supporting evidence-based decision-making, particularly in light of the significant economic and social changes experienced by Algeria in recent years, including the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, and declining purchasing power.

The issue extends beyond poverty indicators. In several sections, the report places greater emphasis on describing government policies, investment programmes, and public expenditure than on assessing the actual outcomes and impacts of these policies on people's lives. While it provides detailed information on completed projects and financial allocations, it devotes comparatively little attention to evaluating their contribution to poverty reduction, reducing social disparities, or improving well-being and quality of life. As a result, the report tends to measure inputs and activities rather than development outcomes and impacts, which is not fully consistent with the purpose of Voluntary National Reviews as instruments for assessing progress rather than simply documenting government efforts.

Furthermore, several social and economic indicators are presented in an aggregated manner, without disaggregation by sex, age, geographic location, or vulnerable groups. This limits the ability to assess whether different population groups have benefited equally from public policies and is inconsistent with the 2030 Agenda's emphasis on disaggregated data. The absence of such data makes it difficult to determine whether the groups most at risk of marginalization are effectively benefiting from public policies and weakens the report's capacity to assess development disparities and inequalities targeted by the Sustainable Development Goals.

The United Nations recognizes data quality as one of the fundamental requirements for credible Voluntary National Reviews, since reliable and up-to-date data provide the basis for evaluating public policies and measuring progress. Strengthening the credibility of future national reports therefore requires regularly updating statistical databases, publishing the methodologies used to calculate indicators, and linking government programmes to measurable outcomes and impacts. Such an approach would enable a more accurate and transparent assessment of progress towards SDG 1 while supporting evidence-based policymaking.

Third: Gender Equality Between Sectoral Achievements and Persistent Challenges (SDG 5: Gender Equality)

The Voluntary National Review highlights several positive indicators relating to gender equality, particularly progress in education and vocational training, as well as programmes aimed at women's economic empowerment, especially in rural areas, through financing mechanisms, support for women entrepreneurs, and income-generating activities. The report also notes that gender equality has been integrated across public policies as a key pillar of sustainable development.

While these efforts represent important contributions towards the implementation of SDG 5, the report focuses primarily on areas of progress without providing a balanced assessment of the challenges that women continue to face. This approach offers only a partial picture of gender equality by highlighting sectoral achievements while overlooking indicators that reveal persistent inequalities or setbacks in certain areas.

This is particularly evident in the area of political participation, where the report does not address the significant decline in women's representation in Parliament, which fell from 31.6% to 11.2%, before decreasing further to 5.65% following the legislative elections held on 2 July 2026. As this indicator is one of the internationally recognized measures for monitoring progress under SDG 5, its omission limits the comprehensiveness of the assessment. Including an analysis of this decline and its underlying causes would have provided a more balanced understanding of women's participation in decision-making.

The report also focuses on government initiatives to promote women's economic empowerment without providing updated data on women's labour force participation, unemployment rates, or existing disparities in access to employment and leadership positions. The absence of such indicators limits the ability to assess the effectiveness of these programmes and makes it difficult to evaluate their actual impact on women's economic empowerment and the reduction of gender inequalities.

Similarly, the report provides limited information on gender-based violence, including its prevalence, trends, and the effectiveness of measures adopted to prevent violence and protect survivors. It refers to existing legal and institutional frameworks without assessing their implementation or remaining challenges, despite the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls being one of the core targets of SDG 5. The lack of such assessment weakens the report's capacity to provide a comprehensive picture of women's rights, as progress cannot be measured solely by the existence of laws and policies, but also by their effectiveness in improving the lived realities of women and girls.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that gender equality requires more than expanding educational opportunities or implementing economic support programmes. It also requires ensuring women's full and effective participation in political and economic life, eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence, and removing barriers that hinder women's access to leadership and decision-making positions. From this perspective, emphasizing achievements while giving limited attention to persistent challenges reduces the report's ability to provide the balanced assessment expected under the United Nations Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews.

Fourth: Governance, Human Rights and Sustainable Development (SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)

The Voluntary National Review outlines a number of reforms aimed at modernizing public administration, digitalizing public services, and strengthening the legal and institutional framework, presenting these measures as part of the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which focuses on building effective and accountable institutions. The report also highlights initiatives related to anti-corruption efforts, digital governance, and improvements in public administration as key components of good governance.

However, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, governance extends beyond administrative reform and digital transformation. It also encompasses the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, the rule of law, judicial independence, access to information, freedom of expression, freedom of association, and meaningful participation in public affairs. By focusing primarily on administrative and institutional reforms, the report presents only a partial understanding of SDG 16, which the United Nations considers to be an integrated framework combining effective institutions with the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms.

The report does not provide a clear assessment of freedom of expression, press freedom, peaceful assembly, or freedom of association. Nor does it examine how the legal and institutional environment affects the ability of civil society organizations, academics, journalists, and experts to participate in public debate on development policies. Likewise, it does not assess judicial independence, fair trial guarantees, or access to justice. This omission makes it difficult to determine whether the report fully reflects the core targets of SDG 16, which extend beyond administrative performance to include the protection of rights, public trust in institutions, and meaningful participation in public life.

The report also does not discuss Algeria's performance in certain international governance and transparency indicators, referring instead to legislative and institutional measures to combat corruption without evaluating their practical impact. This approach limits the report's capacity to provide an objective assessment of governance reforms, as measuring progress requires evaluating their outcomes rather than merely describing their adoption.

In this context, the case of economist Djelloul Slama illustrates the close relationship between freedom of public debate and sustainable development. He was placed in pre-trial detention following media statements concerning the economic and technical aspects of the Gara Djebilet iron ore project, one of Algeria's flagship strategic projects. This case highlights the importance of ensuring an environment in which experts, researchers, and academics can freely contribute their knowledge and analysis to public debate, thereby strengthening evidence-based policymaking, as emphasized by the United Nations.

The continued prosecution of journalists and human rights defenders for the peaceful exercise of freedom of expression also raises concerns regarding the openness of civic space and the ability of different stakeholders to participate in monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Civic space is not separate from sustainable development; rather, it is one of its essential enabling conditions, fostering public oversight, informed debate, and more accountable governance.

Accordingly, assessing the implementation of SDG 16 remains incomplete if it focuses solely on administrative reforms while overlooking the broader institutional and human rights environment in which public policies are implemented. The omission of these dimensions not only reduces the comprehensiveness of the report but also limits its ability to assess one of the central pillars of sustainable development: the existence of strong, just, and inclusive institutions that enjoy public trust and enable meaningful participation.

Fifth: “Leaving No One Behind” Between Political Commitment and the Reality of Implementation (Cross-cutting Principle of the 2030 Agenda)

The Voluntary National Review emphasizes that the principle of "Leaving No One Behind" (LNOB) is one of the fundamental pillars of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Algeria. It notes that this commitment is reflected in the 2020 Constitution and supported through a broad range of social protection policies, public subsidies, health coverage, and housing programmes aimed at promoting social inclusion and reducing inequalities.

While these policies demonstrate a commitment to strengthening social protection, assessing compliance with the Leaving No One Behind principle requires more than describing government programmes. It requires identifying those who are most vulnerable to exclusion and measuring the extent to which they effectively benefit from public policies through up-to-date and verifiable data. In this regard, the report appears to treat the principle primarily as a broad political commitment rather than as an analytical framework supported by indicators capable of identifying those who continue to be left behind.

The report provides only limited assessment of several groups specifically recognized within the 2030 Agenda, including migrants and asylum seekers. It also lacks a comprehensive analysis of persons with disabilities, children in vulnerable situations, older persons, populations living in remote areas, and other groups that may face barriers in accessing public services, justice, or employment. The absence of such analysis limits the ability to assess the inclusiveness of public policies and makes it difficult to determine whether the most vulnerable groups are effectively benefiting from development and social protection programmes.

Furthermore, the report does not systematically present disaggregated data by sex, age, geographic location, disability, or other relevant characteristics. The absence of such data weakens the capacity to measure inequalities and makes it difficult to assess whether the reported progress is consistent with the core commitment of the 2030 Agenda to ensure that no individual or group is left behind.

The United Nations stresses that implementing the Leaving No One Behind principle requires systematic collection of disaggregated data, identification of marginalized groups, and analysis of the structural barriers preventing them from fully enjoying their rights and accessing public services. The absence of such analysis is therefore not merely a gap in data presentation; it limits the Voluntary National Review's ability to assess one of the fundamental principles of the 2030 Agenda.

To strengthen the credibility of future Voluntary National Reviews, future reports should include more comprehensive assessments of vulnerable populations, supported by disaggregated data consistent with international standards and linked to measurable policy outcomes. Such an approach would allow objective assessment of whether the commitment to Leaving No One Behind is being effectively translated into practice.

Sixth: Sustainable Development Between Infrastructure Projects and Governance (An Integrated Vision of the Sustainable Development Goals)

The Voluntary National Review places considerable emphasis on large-scale investment projects, highlighting progress in infrastructure, energy, railways, digital transformation, and green hydrogen as key drivers of economic growth and diversification. It also presents domestic resource mobilization and public investment as the principal means of financing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, portraying these initiatives as evidence of the State's commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Investment in infrastructure, energy, and public services undoubtedly plays an important role in promoting economic and social development. However, the concept of sustainable development, as defined by the 2030 Agenda, extends beyond the scale of investments and the number of completed projects. It also encompasses institutional quality, the rule of law, transparency, accountability, public participation, and the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Reducing sustainable development to its economic dimension overlooks the integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals, which are based on the interdependence of economic, social, environmental, institutional, and human rights dimensions.

In this regard, the report focuses primarily on inputs, such as investment volumes, the number of projects implemented, and public expenditure, rather than on the outcomes and impacts of these initiatives on improving quality of life, reducing social and regional disparities, increasing employment, enhancing productivity, and promoting balanced territorial development. This approach assesses policies largely in terms of resources invested and activities completed rather than their measurable impact on people's well-being and on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, thereby limiting the evaluative value of the Voluntary National Review.

The report also provides limited assessment of the long-term sustainability of these projects in terms of their environmental impact, economic efficiency, or capacity to meet the needs of present and future generations. The absence of such analysis limits the ability to determine whether these investments are genuinely sustainable, since the success of development projects should be measured not only by their completion but also by the durability of their benefits and their contribution to inclusive and balanced development over time.

The United Nations emphasizes that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals requires an integrated approach combining economic growth, social inclusion, environmental protection, and good governance. Development should therefore not be measured solely through economic indicators or investment levels, but also through respect for human rights, the effectiveness of public institutions, the quality of public services, and public trust in state institutions.

From this perspective, presenting investment projects and government programmes without adequately assessing their institutional, social, and human rights outcomes makes the report closer to a presentation of public policies than to a comprehensive assessment of sustainable development. Likewise, the absence of a systematic link between investment policies and governance indicators limits the report's ability to demonstrate progress towards sustainable development in its holistic sense, as defined by the United Nations.

Strengthening the quality of future Voluntary National Reviews therefore requires a more balanced approach that connects investment projects with institutional reforms and measures the impact of development policies on people, institutional quality, environmental protection, and inequality reduction, thereby more faithfully reflecting the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Conclusion:

This analysis concludes that Algeria's 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) reflects a declared political commitment to continuing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and presents a range of public programmes, reforms, and investment projects in the areas of infrastructure, social protection, energy, digital transformation, and economic diversification. However, the analysis also finds that the report is predominantly descriptive, placing greater emphasis on presenting government policies and initiatives than on assessing their outcomes and their actual contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The analysis further shows that the report does not sufficiently address several issues that constitute essential components of Voluntary National Reviews, particularly the quality of data, the meaningful participation of stakeholders, governance, human rights, institutional independence, freedom of expression, the openness of civic space, and the situation of vulnerable groups. The limited treatment of these dimensions reduces the report's capacity to provide a comprehensive and balanced assessment of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The analysis also demonstrates that progress in implementing the 2030 Agenda cannot be measured solely by the scale of investment, the number of infrastructure projects, or legislative reforms. It must also be assessed through indicators that measure the quality of institutions, the effectiveness of public policies, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the level of public participation, and the tangible impact of government action on improving people's lives and reducing inequalities.

From this perspective, strengthening the quality of future Voluntary National Reviews in Algeria requires adopting a more comprehensive and balanced approach based on updated data and indicators, greater transparency, meaningful participation of civil society, a broader civic space, and an enabling environment for open public debate, including the active contribution of experts, researchers, journalists, and civil society organizations to the discussion and evaluation of development policies. As recognized by the United Nations, sustainable development depends not only on mobilizing resources and implementing projects, but also on strong institutions, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the effective participation of all members of society.

Ultimately, the true value of a Voluntary National Review lies not merely in presenting achievements, but in serving as an instrument for self-assessment, institutional learning, improved public policymaking, and enhanced accountability. Only through such an approach can Voluntary National Reviews effectively contribute to more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development, in line with the commitments of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Recommendations:

Based on the findings of this analysis, SHOAA for Human Rights recommends the following:

1. **Enhance the transparency of future Voluntary National Reviews** by publishing the methodology used to prepare the report, disclosing participating stakeholders, documenting consultation outcomes, and explaining how stakeholders' comments were reflected in the final report.
2. **Improve the quality of data and indicators** by regularly updating statistical databases and using recent, disaggregated data by sex, age, disability, geographic location, and social groups to enable more accurate measurement of progress.
3. **Strengthen the evaluative nature of Voluntary National Reviews** by moving beyond describing programmes and projects towards assessing their measurable outcomes and actual impact on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
4. **Strengthen good governance and the rule of law** by reinforcing institutional independence, promoting transparency and accountability, and guaranteeing the right of access to information in order to strengthen public trust in state institutions.
5. **Expand civic space** by ensuring that civil society organizations, trade unions, universities, experts, and independent media can participate freely and effectively in public debate, monitor the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and contribute recommendations without undue restrictions.
6. **Guarantee freedom of expression, press freedom, freedom of association, and peaceful assembly**, recognizing these rights as essential components of transparency, accountability, and the effective implementation of **Sustainable Development Goal 16**.
7. **Promote a culture of dialogue, openness to diverse opinions, and constructive criticism**, while encouraging researchers, academics, experts, and journalists to contribute to public debate on economic, social, and environmental policies, recognizing that evidence-based policymaking depends on open exchange of knowledge and expertise.
8. **Ensure the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, researchers, and experts** from reprisals or restrictions related to the peaceful exercise of their rights to freedom of expression, research, and participation in public affairs, in accordance with Algeria's international human rights obligations.
9. **Strengthen the implementation of the "Leaving No One Behind" principle** by producing disaggregated data, identifying the most vulnerable groups, and systematically assessing the impact of public policies on persons with disabilities, migrants, children, older persons, remote communities, and other groups at risk of exclusion.
10. **Enhance cooperation with the United Nations system, national institutions, and civil society** in the preparation of future Voluntary National Reviews to ensure full alignment with the United Nations Guidelines and strengthen their role as tools for evaluation, learning, and public policy improvement.

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This analysis is based on a review of the following national and international sources:

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12. Reports and publications issued by relevant national and international institutions consulted for verification and analysis.
13. Reliable national and international media sources used to verify factual information cited in this analysis.

About SHOAA for Human Rights:

SHOAA for Human Rights is an independent non-governmental organization (NGO) headquartered in London, United Kingdom. The organization is dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights, the monitoring of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the preparation of studies, reports, and policy analyses, and the advancement of public policies in accordance with international human rights standards, the rule of law, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

SHOAA works to promote transparency, accountability, good governance, and the rule of law; strengthen civil society participation in public affairs; foster a culture of dialogue and openness to diverse perspectives; and encourage evidence-based policymaking. Through these efforts, the organization seeks to contribute to building societies that respect human rights and fundamental freedoms while advancing inclusive and sustainable development that places people at the centre of development.

SHOAA believes that respect for human rights is a fundamental prerequisite for sustainable development, and that achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires effective and accountable institutions, an open and vibrant civic space, and the meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the design, implementation, and evaluation of public policies, thereby promoting justice, equality, and sustainable development.

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