# Global trends and good practices in institutional arrangements for effective SDG implementation

High-level National Forum on the Sustainable Development Goals
Organised by the Parliament of Mongolia and the Government of Mongolia in partnership
with the United Nations Country Office in Mongolia
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David Le Blanc, UN DESA

# Talk outline

- Global trends in national institutional arrangements for SDG implementation
- Global trends in monitoring, follow-up and review of the SDGs at the national level
- Examples of multi-stakeholder platforms around SDG implementation

# Global trends in national institutional arrangements for SDG implementation

- Broadening and deepening institutionalization of the 2030 Agenda in both developing and developed countries

- Most countries have effected changes in the following areas:
  - Adaptation of legal and regulatory frameworks for SDG implementation
  - Alignment of national strategies and plans with the SDGs
  - Creation of SDG implementation roadmaps or action plans
  - Creation of piloting/coordination structures in government for the SDGs
  - Development of national SDG monitoring, follow-up and review frameworks

- No regularities or "typical" patterns of institutionalization of the Goals are easily identifiable across countries

- Changes in the national political context can impact the national institutional frameworks for SDG implementation

DESA | **Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG)**
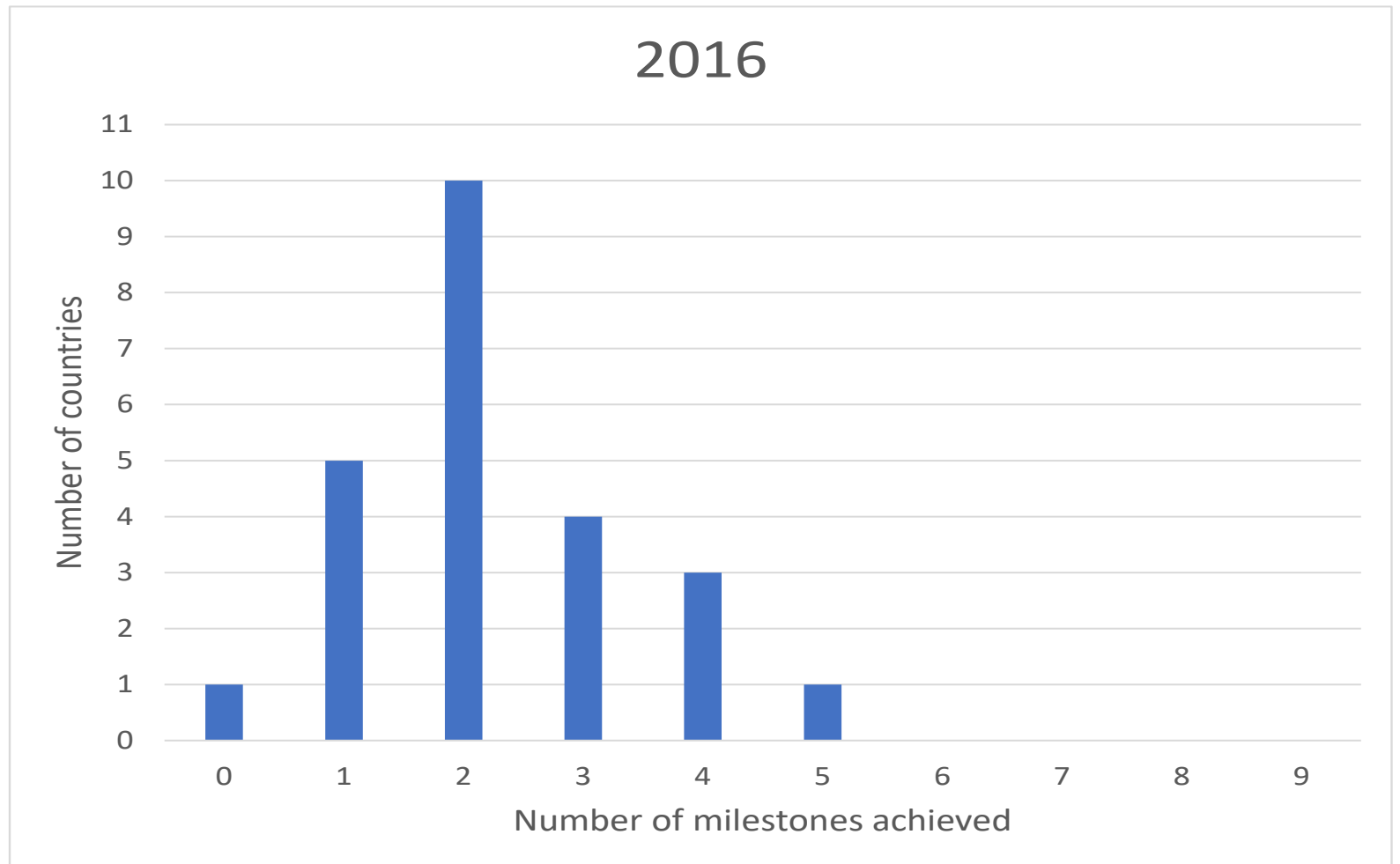
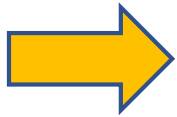# Achievement of 9 institutional milestones by 2020

Research sample of 24 diverse countries

Number of countries having achieved each milestone by 2020
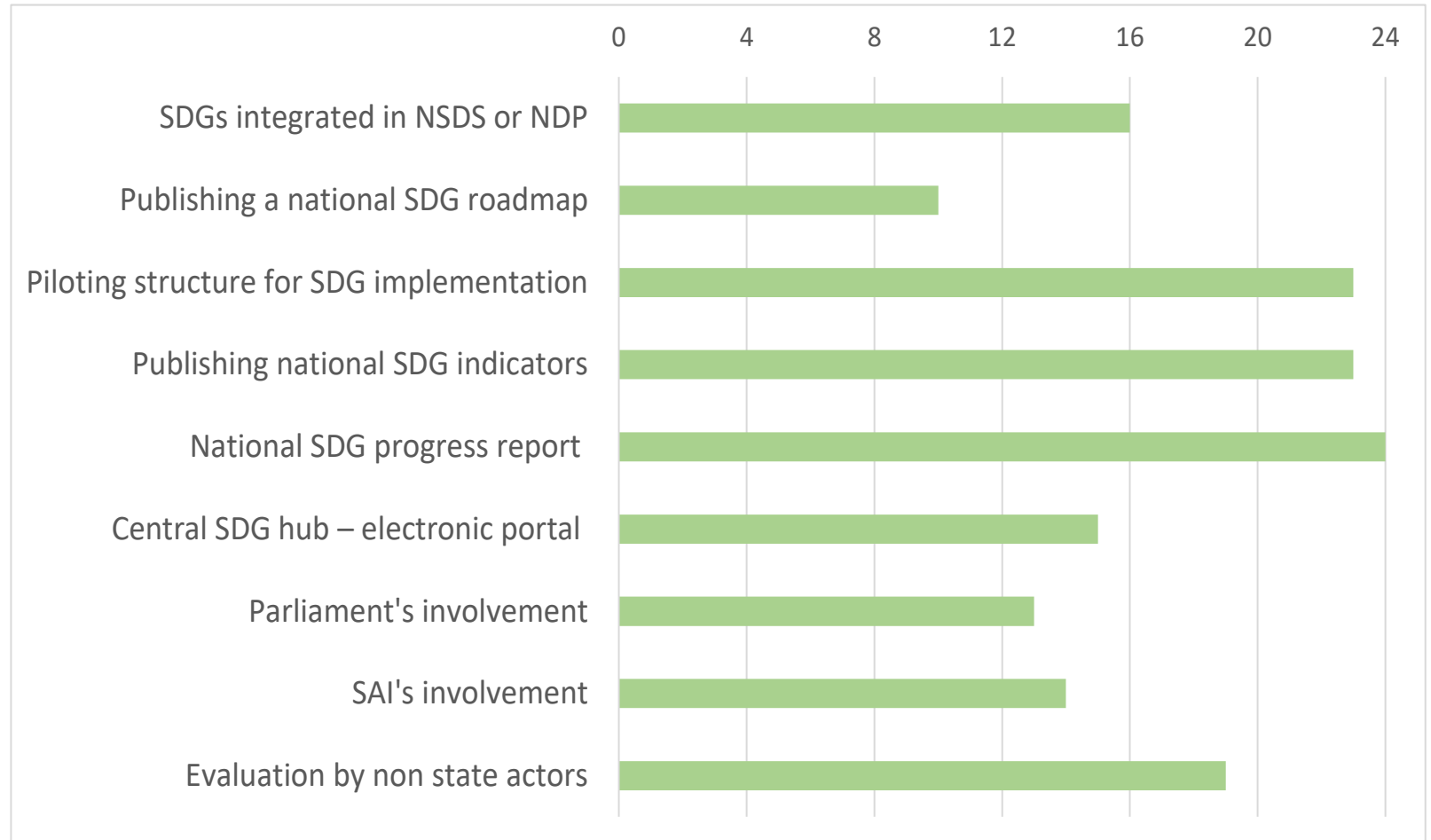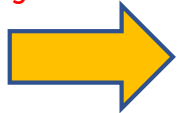
# Distribution of number of milestones achieved

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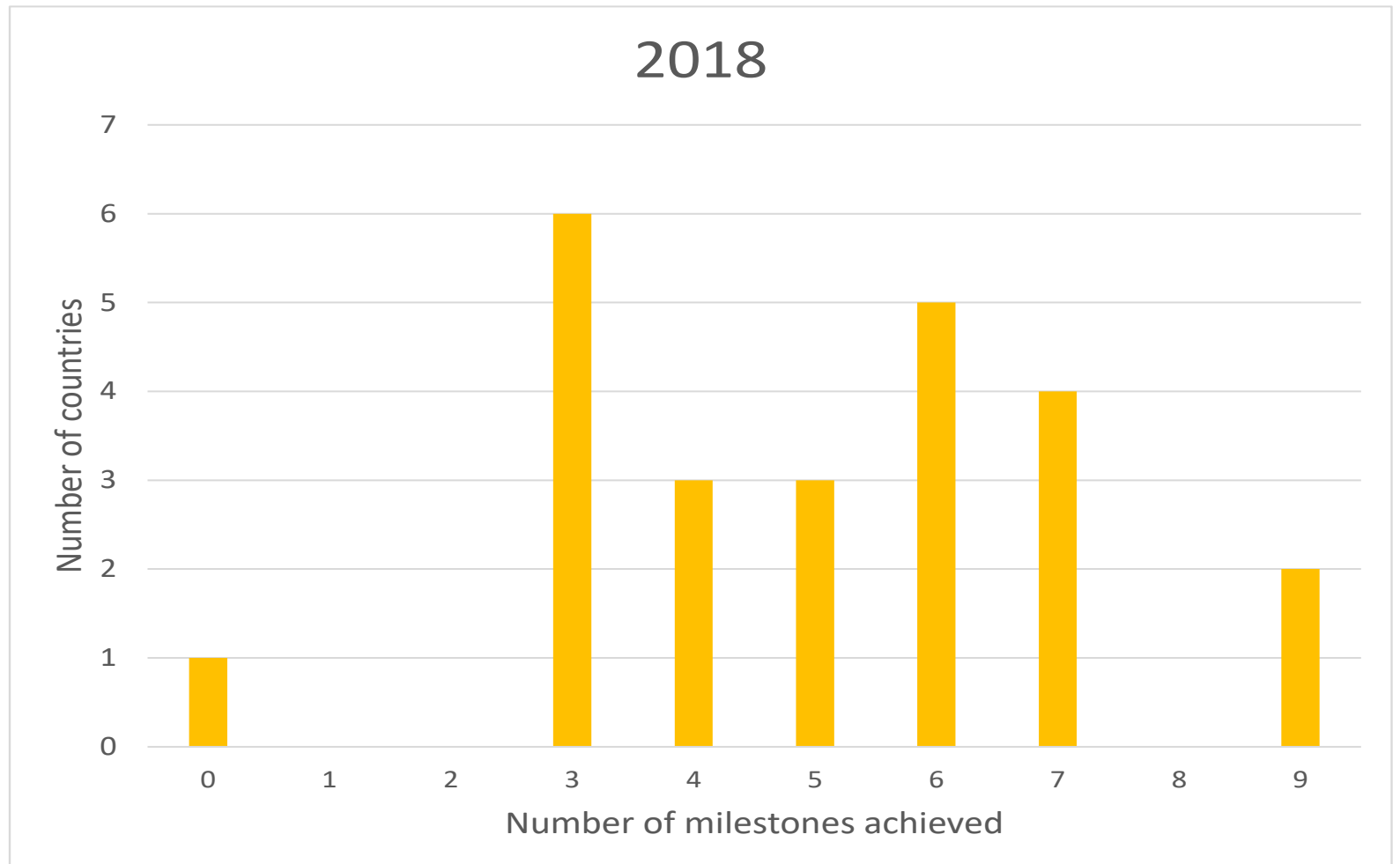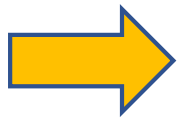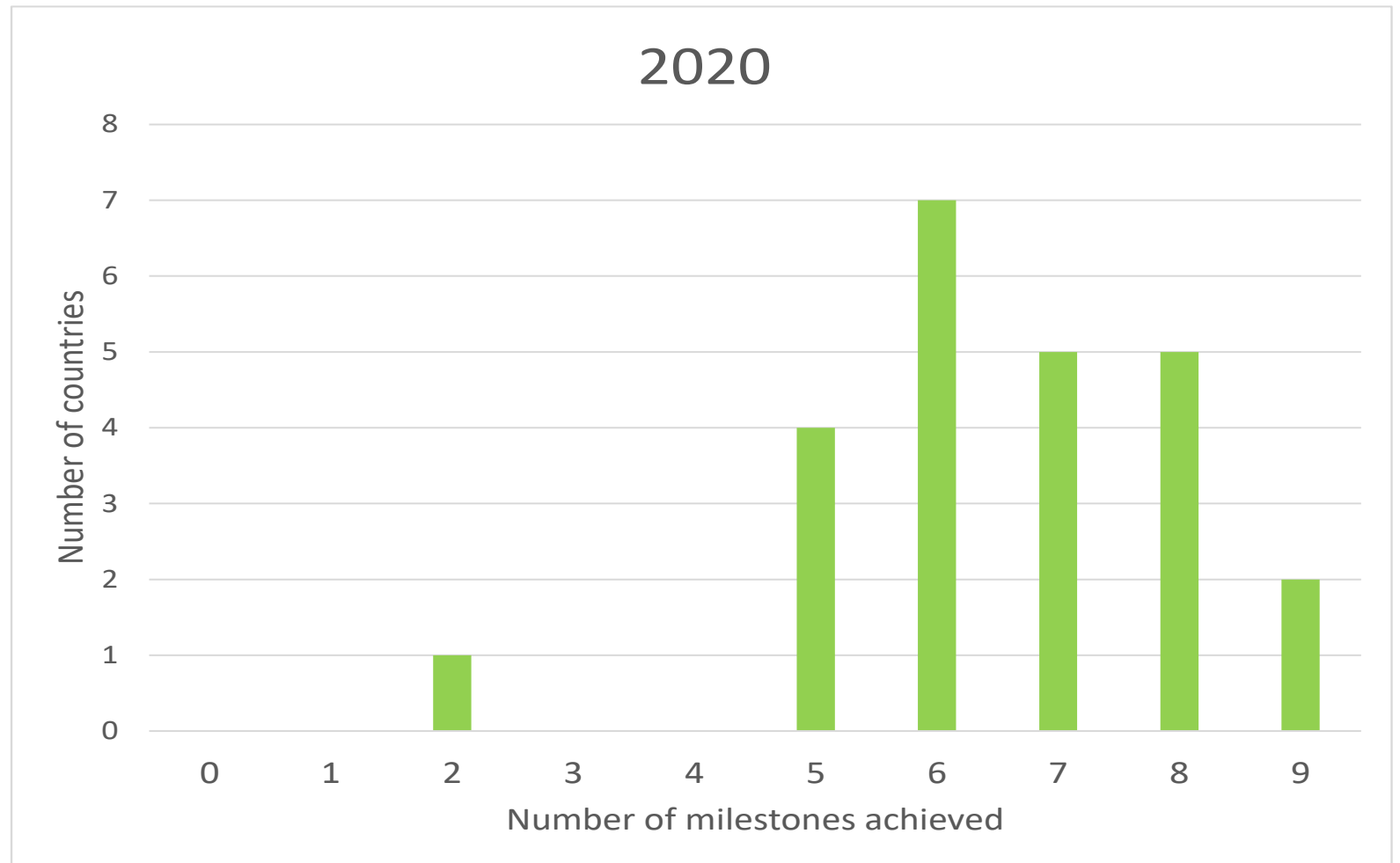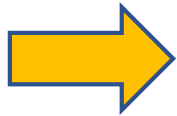
## 2018

Distribution of number of milestones achieved
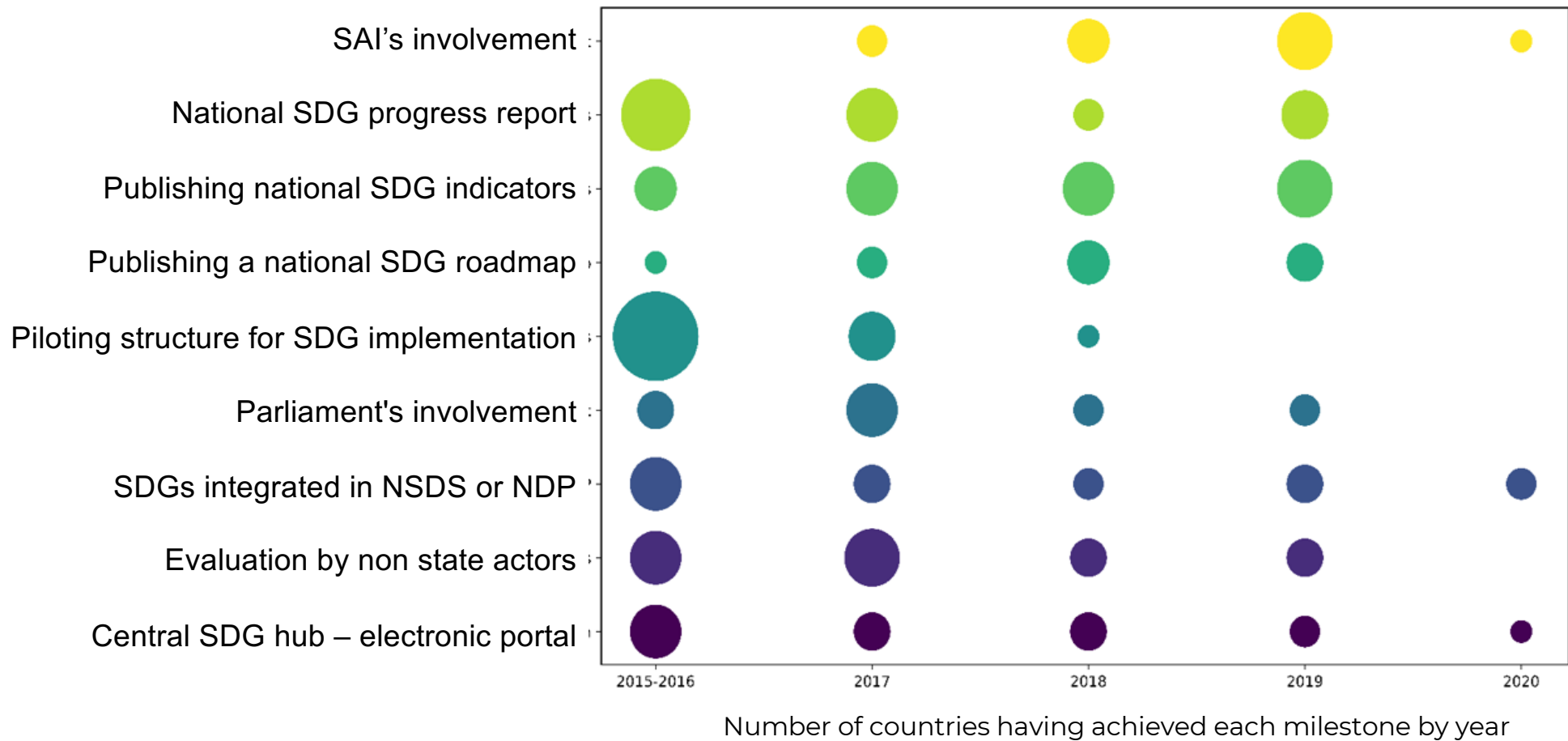
Research sample of 24 diverse countries

2020

Number of countries

Number of milestones achieved

No unique institutional development pattern in a sample of 24 countries

Number of countries having achieved each milestone by year

# Monitoring, follow-up and review at the national level: global trends

- Increased institutionalization, closely related to SDG integration in national processes
- Diverse institutional settings for SDG monitoring and follow-up systems
- Progress on indicators and data
  - Most countries producing data for global SDG indicators and/or have developed national SDG indicators
  - Data limitations
  - National strategies for the development of statistics not always aligned or revised based on SDGs
  - Disruptions in data collection systems from COVID-19
- Traction from voluntary national reviews at the global level
- Increasing national reporting on SDG progress
  - Varied frequency, focus and process
- Independent evaluations of national SDG implementation are very rare (exception: Finland)

# Monitoring, follow-up and review at the national level: global trends (continued)

Sub-national level
- In general, institutionalization less advanced than at national level
- Strong focus on indicators, with different approaches
- Reporting focused on the local context – e.g. recent rise of voluntary local reviews

Involvement of national oversight institutions
- Uneven role of parliaments in SDG implementation oversight across countries
- Different institutional settings for SDG oversight in parliament
- Few examples of regular reporting of progress from government to parliament
- In most countries, supreme audit institutions (SAIs) not formally part of the SDG follow-up and review system
- But SAIs have increasingly provided relevant inputs (audits of government preparedness to implement the SDGs, SDG implementation audits)

# Monitoring, follow-up and review at the national level: critical dimensions

## Integration with existing M&E systems
- Integration challenges with national and sectoral M&E systems and across levels of government
- Negative impacts on measurement, reporting

## Integration with performance systems
- Links between SDGs and existing performance systems (e.g. budget) are rare

## Feedback loops
- Evidence and data often do not inform policy-making
- Some exceptions: Finland's independent evaluation; uptake of recommendations from SDG audits in some countries

# Engagement of stakeholders in SDG implementation: global trends

- Entry points for various actors into SDG-related institutional processes are multiplying

- Yet, wide variations across countries in the levels of involvement of different state and non-state actors

- Many areas for potential interaction, different roles depending on stakeholders, varying degrees of institutionalization

- Potential for cross-country learning in every area of SDG implementation, including monitoring, evaluation, and capacity building

# Entry points for non-State stakeholders: examples

- Involvement in national institutional coordination mechanisms

- Participation in national consultative bodies (e.g., National Commissions on Sustainable Development)

- Nationalizing the Goals (through the adaptation of the SDGs, targets and indicators to the national and local contexts)

- Monitoring and reporting on SDG progress (participation in national SDG progress reports / voluntary national reviews; independent reviews of progress on the SDGs; voluntary local reviews)

- Science-policy interface

- Awareness-raising related to the SDGs

- Capacity building for public servants, civil society

# Institutionalized stakeholder engagement: Finland



United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Government Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda (2017, 2020)

**Prime Minister's Office Agenda2030 Coordination Secretariat**

**National Database on Global SDG Indicators**
Statistics Finland

**National Follow-up and Review Network**
Chair: Prime Minister's Office

Ministry for Foreign Affairs

**Sustainable Development Coordination Network**
All Government Ministries

Government Report on Development Policy (2016)

**Finnish Development Policy Committee**
CHAIR: Member of the Parliament

**National Commission on Sustainable Development**
CHAIR: Prime Minister

**Expert Panel for Sustainable Development**

**The 2030 Agenda Youth Group**

Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development (2016)

Source: Finland, 2020 VNR report, , p. 91.

# Variety of actors: Composition of the Estonian Commission for Sustainable Development

- Estonian Trade Union Confederation
- Estonian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Estonian Association for Environmental Management
- Estonian Council of Environmental NGOs
- Association of Estonian Cities
- Estonian Society for Nature Conservation
- Association of Rural Municipalities of Estonia
- Estonian Forest Society
- Estonian Heritage Society
- Estonian National Youth Council
- Estonian Chamber of Agriculture and Commerce
- Estonian Academy of Sciences
- Estonian Union for Health Promotion

- Estonian Union of Child Welfare
- Estonian Education Forum
- Estonian Chamber of Culture
- Universities Estonia
- Estonian Cooperation Assembly

Involved in the work of the Commission since 2016:

Estonian Roundtable for Development Cooperation

Estonian Association for the Club of Rome

Estonian Renewable Energy Association

The Responsible Business Forum of Estonia

Source: Estonia, 2020 VNR report, , p. 9.

# Civil society SDG platform: Kenya

- SDGs Kenya Forum for Sustainable Development, a group of more than 350 civil society organizations

- Collects and disseminates information on SDGs https://sdgkenyaforum.org/

- Produces reports on SDG implementation in Kenya

- Now co-chairs, along with the government and a private sector umbrella group, the Inter Agency Technical Working Committee (IATWC), which supports the SDG Coordination Directorate within the National Treasury and Planning Ministry
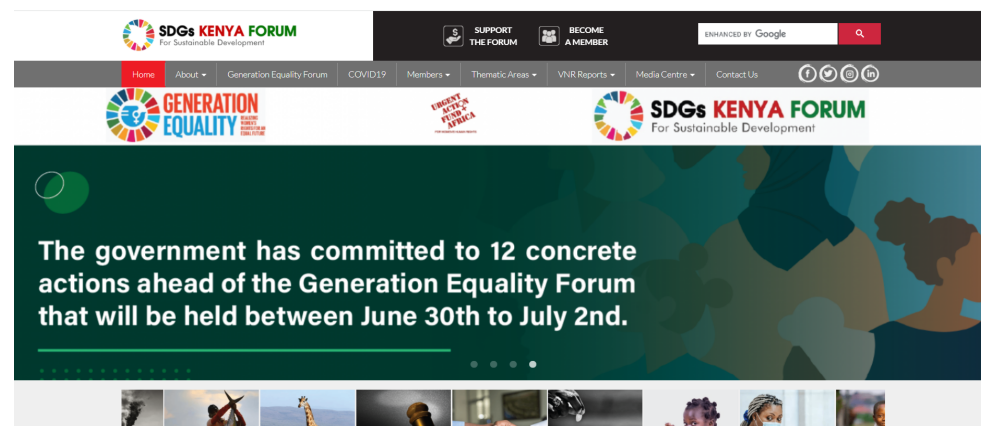
# Central SDG platform: Indonesia

- [http://sdgs.bappenas.go.id/](http://sdgs.bappenas.go.id/)

- Maintained by Ministry of Planning (Bappenas)

- Centralizes all the legal, regulatory and planning-related information on SDGs, guidelines, other resources

- Link to Indonesia's SDG Dashboard [http://sdgs.bappenas.go.id/dashboard/](http://sdgs.bappenas.go.id/dashboard/)
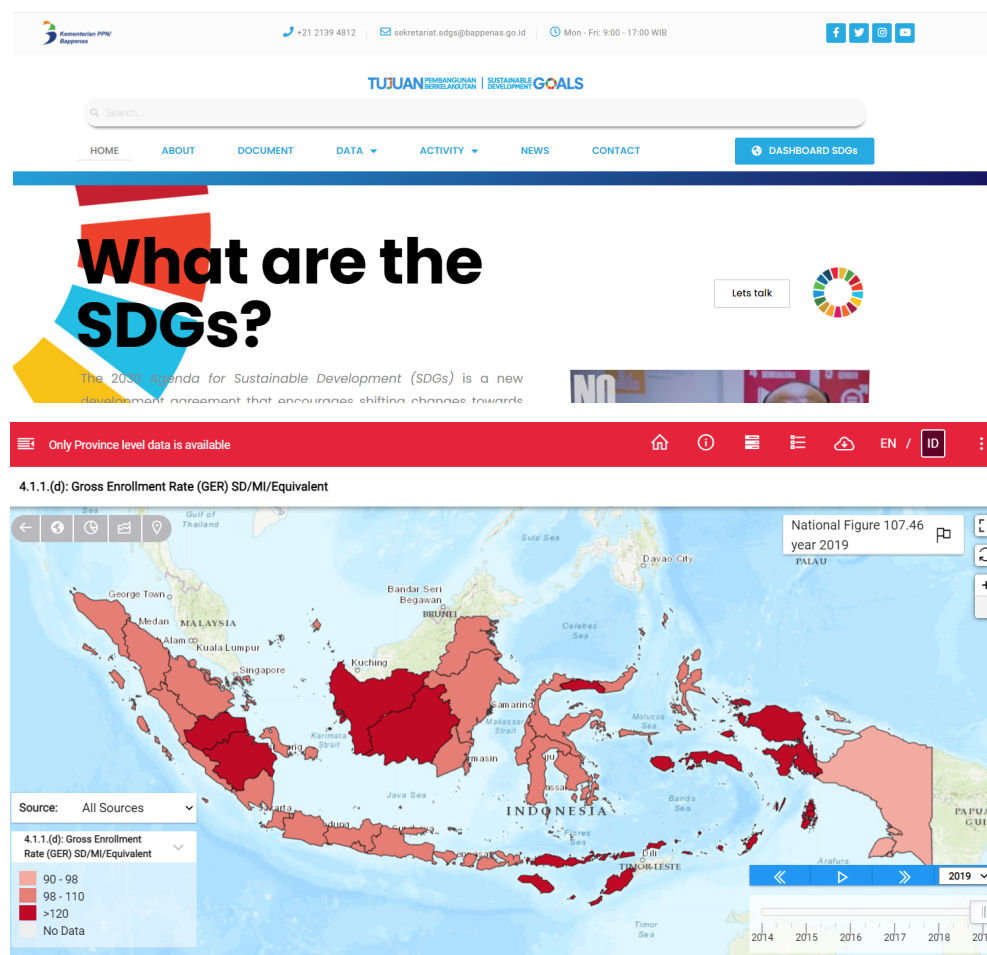
# Thank you

More details in The World Public Sector Report 2021, available at:
https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports