**Collective Statement** [**Link**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/147xWiOGfgTnukjhjB8mJ_g1qnMLy9k8gx0dZJm9OzDE/edit?usp=sharing)**| Latvia** [**Link**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ISzR_ijSfiya1LLJiPmp4P57CMyUj1c8s2rbEfxRV4Y/edit?usp=sharing) **| Niger** [**Link**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Wr8KnZ1H-NsVzOq0bD8mEb_Mdf6544jiDtWWKs-eY4U/edit) **| Sudan** [**Link**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qz07JEcu2xqKayMXotqDMabkSNh2CCBR-aP3073-Kzg/edit) **| Albania** [**Link**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ns8zTrzq3BX0mJZkpXiALT0tNMSddUAHAqp5f73jMKo/edit) **| Cross-cutting** [**Link**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1gRBClSBS_3SUkwbGRXSEVZckZGM2w0U3FWRUZfWEk4YVZ3/view)

**VNR - Common Statement with Questions**

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**1.st. Statement**

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We, civil society groups from Albania, Latvia, Niger and Sudan appreciate SDG efforts and the VNRs, but each year process and review demonstrates the ever-closing space for civil society partners. They also reflect the need for policy coherence of development commitments with human rights obligations, especially nondiscrimination against minorities, women and people with disability.

We have one question per country for you:

1. What steps will Niger take to ensure the CSO participation in all their diversity, including organizations of women, youth and persons with disabilities within the national reviews and evaluation of all development programs, in line with national and international legal and regulatory instruments? Will states commit to increasing budgets to support the most-vulnerable populations?

2. Sudan continues with measures to promote peace in Darfur, such as reconciling land-tenure. However, in other regions, there are no conflict-reparations measures taken, as yet. In particular, the Nuba Mountain peoples remain dispossessed of tenure. These ‘left behind’ peoples also need to be protected from land grabs and industrialization of agriculture, in line with the targets from SDG1, 2 and 5

3. In Latvia, we are aware about the conclusions of the report by NGOs pointing out narrowing civic space. Therefore, our question is what systemic - institutional and legal instruments will be used to bring back and enlarge the civic space in the country and include civil society, in all its diversity, and including young people and persons with disabilities, in the national development planning system on equal basis as social partners?

4. As mentioned in the VNR, there are challenges for persons with disabilities to access schools and small town institutions. Schools and public institutions often lack safe sanitation facilities for women and girls. The country lacks sufficient budget for these specific infrastructures as well as for teachers. How is the Albanian government planning to solve this problem?

Nous, les groupes de la société civile d'Albanie, de Lettonie, du Niger et du Soudan apprécions les efforts déployés pour la mise en œuvre des ODD ainsi que le processus des ENV. Néanmoins le processus et l'examen démontrent chaque année un rétrécissement de l’espace des partenaires de la société civile. Ils reflètent également la nécessité d'une cohérence politique des engagements de développement avec les obligations en matière de droits de l'homme, notamment en ce qui concerne la non-discrimination envers les minorités, les femmes et les personnes handicapées.

Nous avons une question par pays pour vous :

1. Quelles mesures le Niger prendra-t-il pour assurer la participation des OSC dans toute leur diversité, y compris les organisations de femmes, de jeunes et de personnes handicapées, dans le cadre des examens et évaluations nationales de tous les programmes de développement, conformément aux instruments juridiques et réglementaires nationaux et internationaux ? Les États s'engageront-ils à augmenter les budgets pour soutenir les populations les plus vulnérables?

2. NOUVELLE VERSION: Le Soudan poursuit ses activités de paix au Darfour en conciliant le régime foncier. Cependant, dans d’autres régions du pays, il n’y a pas encore eu des mesures de réparations de conflit. Notamment, les peuples des monts Nuba restent dépossédés de terres et de recources. Comment sur l’entièreté du territoire nous pouvons assurer que les populations « laissés de côté » sont proteger contre l'accaparement des terres et l'agriculture corporatiste, en accord avec les ODD1,2 et 5 (et spécifiquement 1.4, 2.3 et 5.a) ?

3. En Lettonie, nous sommes conscients des conclusions du rapport des ONG soulignant le rétrécissement de l'espace civique. Par conséquent, notre question est de savoir quels instruments systémiques, institutionnels et juridiques seront utilisés pour rétablir et élargir l'espace civique dans le pays et inclure la société civile, dans toute sa diversité, y compris les jeunes et les personnes handicapées, dans le système national de planification du développement, sur un pied d'égalité avec les partenaires sociaux?

4. Comme indiqué dans le VNR, il manque les infrastructures nécessaires pour les personnes handicapées en particulier dans les écoles et les petites villes. Aussi, il manque l’accès à l’assainissement, une hygiène adéquate et une gestion de l'hygiène menstruelle dans les écoles et les institutions publiques pour femmes et les filles. Comment le gouvernement albanais envisage-t-il de créer les infrastructures nécessaires, essayant ainsi de réduire les disparités et de réaliser le principe «ne laisser personne de côté »?

**2nd statement**

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Thank you for giving me the floor, we have another question for Latvia, Albania and Sudan:

Our questions are:

1. **Latvia** has one of the highest resource intensity and income inequality in Europe. We don’t see how the existing policies integrate all three dimensions of sustainable development, for example recent tax reform aimed to improve economic situation, but significantly decreased donations for NGOs, or health reform left behind the most vulnerable. How do you plan to integrate all three dimensions of sustainable development into the next national development plan?
2. **Albania,** like most countries, has great challenges with waste collection and treatment, in particular medical, plastic and chemical waste. The VNR shows a DECLINE of 20% of waste treated. The National Strategic Policy Framework does not prioritise waste management as aimed at under SDG12 and 3. Even though the ministry of environment did do a good awareness raising campaign on cleaning up trash, and is phasing out single use plastics, much MORE is needed. My question is in particular about harmful waste such as medical and chemical waste, which concrete steps are planned?
3. **Sudan**: The SDG processes started only recently, but government parties do not fully acknowledge or understand citizen partnership. Both the government focal point and UN agencies deal with civil society selectively, excluding many relevant actors and foregoing much needed innovation. What will Sudan do to remedy this?
4. Niger: Negative perceptions of people with disabilities are one of the most important barriers to the inclusion of these people in the society according to the FNPH report on the implementation of the SDGs in Niger. Could you please tell us what new measures will the state of Niger take to change the negative perceptions of communities and promote a better understanding of disability?

Third Statement:

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Thank you for giving me the floor, we have another set of question for Latvia, Sudan, Albania and Niger:

Our questions are:

1. Latvia has a high renewable energy content in its primary energy balance. However, most of it is outdated and inefficient hydro and biomass based solutions. Latvia, which does not have its own fossil fuels, is also subsidizing consumption of nonrenewable energy resources. How do you see way forward for Latvia to reach SDG7 which aims to increase the share of renewable energy and eliminate energy poverty?
2. How does Sudan plans to achieve needed deep policy reform for investment, trade and taxation, combatting pervasive corruption and participatory and inclusive approaches to SDG implementation, monitoring and proper evaluation?
3. Albania: More and more, gender-based violence and especially the killings of girls and women are increasing. Although many efforts are being made and many initiatives are being taken by either the Government or the civil society, the situation is not improving, on the contrary, it is getting worse. What are the systemic problems in your opinion? What should be done?
4. Niger. What steps will be taken to demedicalize HIV screening and care for patients living with HIV as well as empower key and affected populations?