

## The VNR in a Nutshell – National Strategies for SDGs.

### Philippines

Capital	Manila
Population	100,9million
Area (in sq.km)	9,706,961
Languages	Filipino, English and various ethnic languages
Poverty rate	26.3%
Per capita income	\$7,915.2
Human Development Index (2015)	0.688
Tourist Arrivals	5,361000



Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority, 2015; Human Development Report, 2015, UNWTO

The recognition of the role of tourism in sustainable development and the emphasis placed in the SDGs on the development of public policies for sustainable tourism is a landmark breakthrough that provides a unique opportunity for all governments to create a sound and favourable policy foundation.

The first two years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have shown that countries are making headway in aligning national strategies, adapting institutional frameworks and adjusting policies to realize the SDGs.

The countries' efforts have been reported in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), presented by UN Member States during the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2016 and 2017

**Title of VNR:** Voluntary National Review at the 2016 High-Level Political Forum On the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

**Presenter for VNR:** Rosemarie G Edillon, Deputy Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority of the Philippines

#### **National Thematic Focus:**

1. Sustain current macroeconomic policies, including fiscal, monetary and trade policies;
2. Institute progressive tax reform, including a more effective tax collection and indexing of taxes to inflation. A tax reform package will be submitted to Congress by September 2016.
3. Increase competitiveness and the ease of doing business by drawing upon successful models used to attract business to local cities., Moreover, pursue the relaxation of the Constitutional restrictions on foreign ownership, except land ownership, to attract more foreign direct investments.
4. Accelerate annual infrastructure spending to reach 5 percent of the gross domestic product, with public-private partnerships playing a key role.
5. Promote rural and value chain development to increase agricultural and rural enterprise productivity and rural tourism.
6. Ensure security of land tenure to encourage investments and address bottlenecks in land management and titles.
7. Invest in human capital development, including health and education systems, and match skills and training to meet the demands of businesses and the private sector;
8. Promote science, technology and the creative arts to enhance innovation and creative capacity towards self-sustaining and inclusive development.

9. Improve social protection programs, including the government's conditional cash transfer program, to protect the poor against instability and economic shocks; and
10. Strengthen the implementation of the Responsible Parenthood and Reproductive Health Law to enable Filipinos, especially poor couples, to make informed choices on financial and family planning.

### **Institutional Arrangement:**

Providing political leadership and oversight:

- The implementation of PDP 2017-2022, which essentially allows for the operationalization of the 2030 Agenda in the country, will be done through the NEDA Board and its Committees. The NEDA Board is composed of the President as chairman, the Secretary of Socio-Economic Planning and NEDA Director-General as vice-chairman, and the following as members: the Executive Secretary and the Secretaries of Finance, Trade and Industry, Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources, Public Works and Highways, Budget and Management, Labor and Employment, Interior and Local Government, Health, Foreign Affairs, and Agrarian, Science and Technology, and Transportation and Communications, as well as the Deputy Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Coordination:

- Assisting the NEDA Board in the performance of its functions are seven cabinet-level interagency committees: (a) Development Budget Coordination Committee, (b) Infrastructure Committee, (c) Investment Coordination Committee, (d) Social Development Committee, (e) Committee on Tariff and Related Matters, (f) Regional Development Committee, and (g) National Land Use Committee.
- The operationalization will also be done through the Cabinet Clusters as reorganized by Executive Order 24, signed on 16 May 2017:
- For example, SDGs relating to education, health, and social protection will be discussed by the NEDA-Social Development Committee while those on infrastructure development will be tackled by the NEDA-Infrastructure Committee. On the other hand, climate action, environmental sustainability and disaster risk reduction and management will be covered by the Cabinet Cluster on Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation and Disaster Risk Reduction while peace and security will be discussed by the Cabinet Cluster on Security, Justice and Peace.

### **SDG Incorporation to National Framework:**

In the Philippines, the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) released the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022 which is anchored on the President's Socioeconomic Agenda and geared towards AmBisyon Natin 2040 – the country's long-term development plan. All of the development issues covered by the SDGs which are relevant to the country are covered in the PDP.

The PDP covers all the 17 SDGs. While not all the SDG targets are spelled out in the document, the strategies laid out in the PDP, as well as those in sectoral plans, shall address the development issues relevant to the Philippines under the 2030 Agenda.

In terms of drafting a long-term roadmap, it is now more likely that such a document will be focused on the pursuit of the AmBisyon Natin 2040. Gearing towards the country's long-term vision will lead to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as Ambisyon Natin 2040 also encompasses the economic, social and environmental dimensions of development.

**Tourism Ministry /NTA portfolio:**

[Philippines Department of Tourism](#)

**Tourism and SDG in Philippines:**

**Opportunities**

- **Rural Development**
- **Food security and agriculture**
- **Value chain development**



In the new administration's Ten Point Socio-economic Agenda, **rural value chain development** is used to increase agricultural and rural enterprise productivity and **rural tourism**.

**Resources and Useful Links**

[Philippines VNR 2016](#)