



**High-Level Political Forum 2019**  
**16th meeting, VNR report on England**  
**16th July 2019**  
**Delivered by Mari-Claire Price, RESURJ.**

The VNR has failed to demonstrate accelerated ambition to implement the SDGs.

Without a comprehensive delivery plan, the UK will not be able to tackle the critical gaps in achieving the goals, or reverse the policies leading to regression.

There is lack of progress in tackling the multiple factors that lead to inequalities.

Recent evidence from a UN special rapporteur noted the disproportionate impact of UK austerity policies on the poorest, women, people with disabilities, children, ethnic minorities, migrants and other marginalised groups.

This plan must demonstrate a significantly improved commitment to the UK's human rights obligations.

**1) When will the Government create a transformative national action plan for achieving the SDGs, which ensures coherence across domestic and international policies, is led by a ministerial department with a cross-government mandate, and takes full account of the UK's human rights obligations?**

The perspectives of diverse stakeholders are insufficiently reflected in the review, and the voices of the most marginalised are notably absent.

The proposed stakeholder engagement mechanism must be meaningful and accountable, involving a range of actors working across domestic and international issues.

**2) When will the Government provide details on the proposed mechanism for stakeholder engagement, and specifically how will this engage marginalised groups and all levels of government?**

**3) And will it commit to a collaborative national SDG communication strategy to raise awareness and drive progress?**

The Government has not sufficiently involved local government, so critical to the success of the goals, or the British Overseas Territories.

These stakeholders require greater direct support for delivery and for their voices to be properly heard.

It must engage with existing good practice, such as the leadership in Scotland and Wales, on the SDGs.

It must also engage with the recommendations in today's International Development Committee report, which we endorse.

**4) How will the Government engage and support local authorities, devolved governments and British Overseas Territories, including direct funding and capacity-building, in delivering the SDGs?**