

The Committee reviewed the analyses of the voluntary national reviews that it conducted annually from 2018 to 2022 and synthesized lessons learned into a consolidated set of findings and recommendations. While it welcomed the considerable improvements made in the reports during that period, concerns remain that the potential of the voluntary national reviews as a tool of mutual learning is not being reached. In that context, the Committee recommends launching a new generation of reviews to help rescue the Sustainable Development Goals. The “voluntary national reviews – version 2” should refocus the reports away from descriptive narratives towards more in-depth analysis of successes and failures, policy insights and identification of structural obstacles. The Committee further recommended improvements to the voluntary national review process through broader stakeholder participation, feedback loops that bring lessons learned back into national debates and decision-making, and greater space for civil society and shadow reports at the high-level political forum on sustainable development.

