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# Government and SDGs

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# Outline

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1. Overview
2. National Level SDGs Implementation
3. Local Level SDGs Implementation
4. Summary



# 1. Overview

## 1-1 Background

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### Background

Policies and efforts have been made towards achieving the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at global, regional, national and local level. **Many countries have expanded their governance structures for SDGs** to involve more stakeholders.

On the other hand, from literature review, **research on governance for SDGs at national and local level is limited** compared to global level.

→ Needs for research on

- 1) governance and policy making towards achieving the SDGs and
- 2) case analysis of activities at national and local level

### Research Contents

1. Research on governance for achieving the **SDGs at national level**
2. Case Studies for achieving the **SDGs at local level**, focusing on Japanese cases

→ How governments can take actions towards the 2030 Agenda and SDGs?



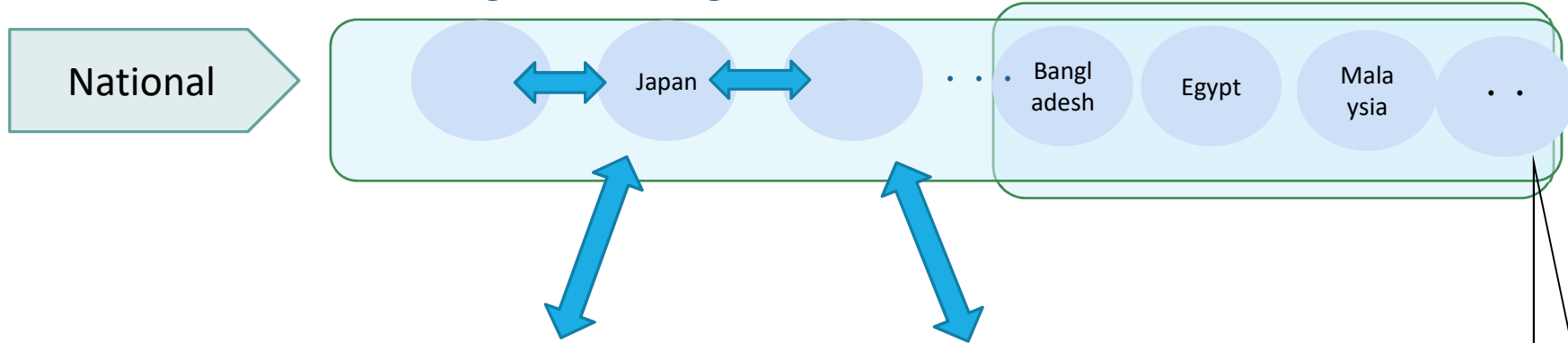
# 1. Overview

## 1-2 Research Scope

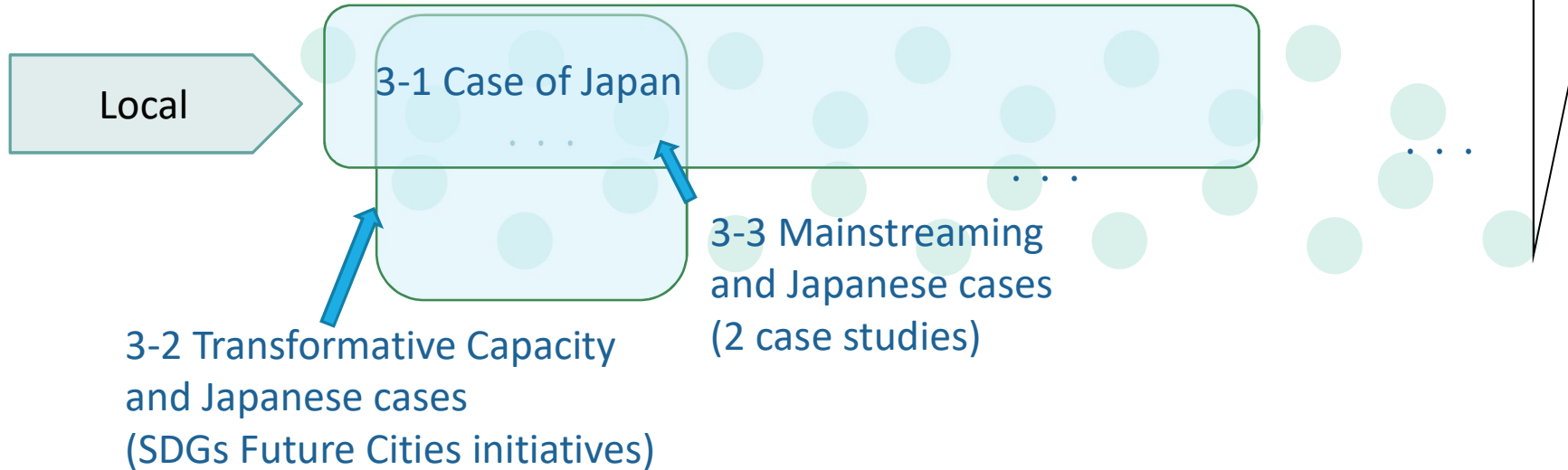
### 2. National Level SDGs Implementation

2-1 Progress in governance for SDGs  
2-2 Financing the 2030 Agenda

2-3 Implications on National  
Development Plans



### 3. Local Level SDGs Implementation



Policy recommendation for national and local level SDGs implementation



# 2. National Level SDGs Implementation

## 2-1 Progress in governance for SDGs

**Research Outline:** Identified qualitative criteria and analyzed 153 VNRs (2016-2019) to analyze governance for SDGs at national level.

**Findings:**

**Progress:**

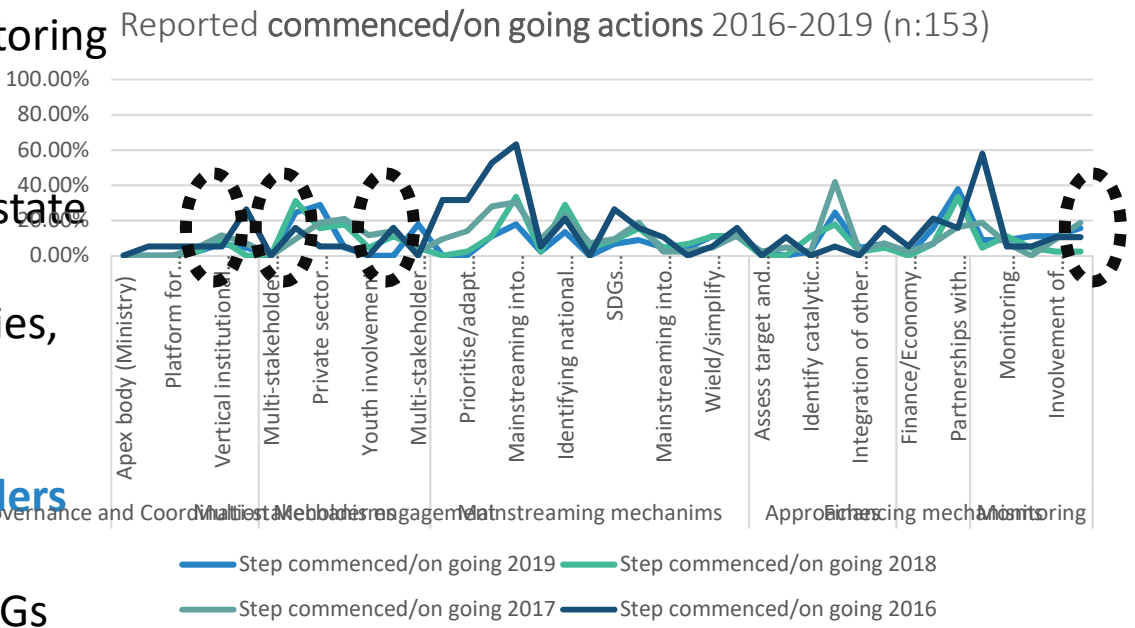
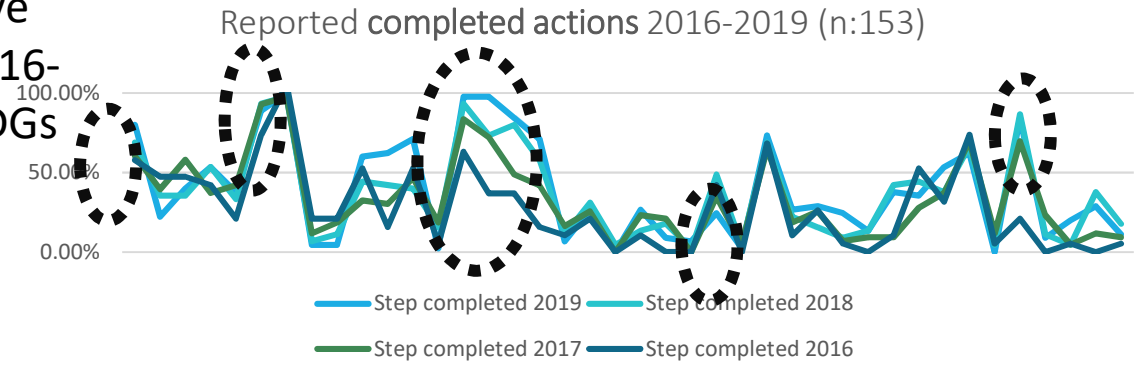
- Established **basic mechanisms** for horizontal coordination, multi-stakeholder consultation, SDGs mapping, monitoring at national level

**Trends:**

- Increasing partnerships** with non-state actors for SDGs financing.
- Mainstreaming** into national policies, plans, budgeting and local plans

**Challenges:**

- SDGs implementation by **stakeholders themselves**.
- Localizing and budgeting** of the SDGs
- Assessment of **interlinkages** among targets



Source: Okitasari, M. UNU-IAS, 2020

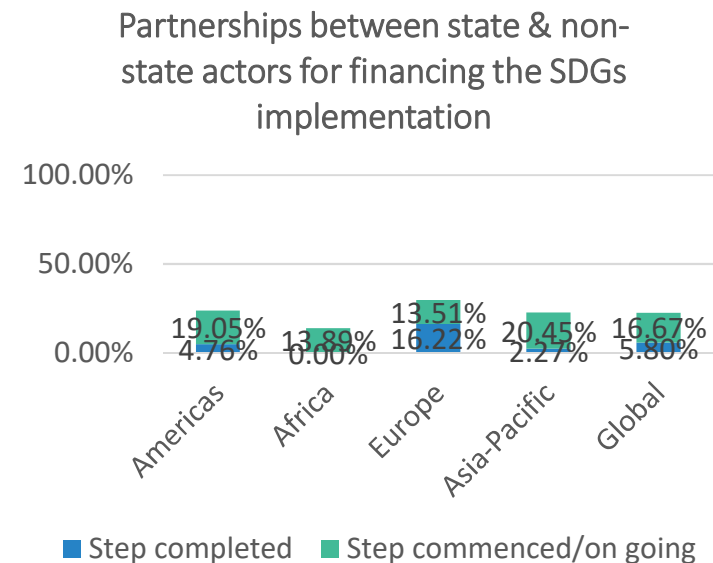
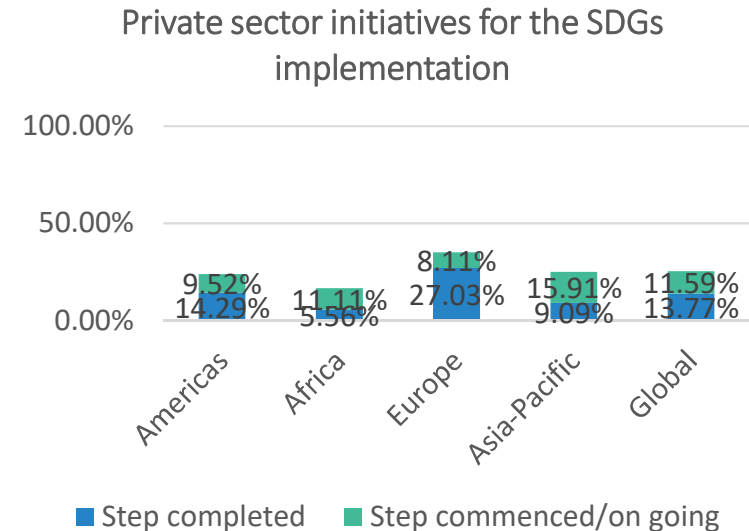


# 2. National Level SDGs Implementation

## 2-2 Financing the 2030 Agenda

### Findings: (Cont.)

- Most countries committed to financing part of national government budgets for SDGs.
- Some countries made **linkages between SDGs budgeting and policies**, and approx. 30 % sorted national government budgets into 17 goals (e.g., Colombia, Uruguay, Panama). Some countries identified linkages of all the government activities with specific SDGs and planning to link with budgetary process (e.g., Argentina, Honduras).
- Increasing trends on **pursuing financing involving non-state actors** as an alternative from state-led financing. Private sector-led initiatives for SDGs implementation is 30 % in EU and 10-20% for other regions.
- Importance of **finance ministry / department involvement** in mainstreaming process at earlier stage to integrate SDGs into budgetary process (e.g. Denmark).





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## 2. National Level SDGs Implementation

### 2-3 Implications on National Development Plans

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**Research Outline:** Analysed 6 selected cases with the most recent National Development Plans (NDPs) (Bangladesh, Egypt, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Tanzania) focusing on normative framework, structural reforms, and cognitive messages and capacities in order to understand how far the SDGs initiate a shift in NDPs.

#### Findings:

- NDPs show pragmatic adaptation to **development paradigms** introduced in the SDGs (e.g., No One Left Behind). All countries experiment with re-configuring of national planning to be **more inclusive and bottom-up** by inserting greater non-state actors' participation.
- **State characteristics** influences the SDGs localization, e.g., domestic interests narrate the language of SDGs in NDPs.
- SDGs provide a platform to spread **development approaches** (e.g., Evidence-based approach, scenario analysis, modelling).
- NDPs use language from the SDGs that **appeals to the prevailing domestic discussions** (e.g., less use of terminology on human rights in NDP in some countries).



*Source: Okitasari, M. & T. Katramiz (n.d) The national development plans after the SDGs: Steering implications of the global goals towards national development planning. Presented at the International SDG Research Symposium Global Goals 2020, 9-11 June 2020 (Virtual). Please do not quote- this is working in progress.*



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# 3. Local Level SDGs Implementation

## 3-1 Case of Japan

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### SDGs localization at global level

- SDGs mainstreaming in long-term plans and visions
  - Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)
- Ex; OECD, ASEAN, United Cities and Local Governments



### Case of Japan

#### At National Government Level

- SDGs Promotion Headquarters (2016) : Prime Minister and all the Cabinet Members
- SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles (2016) and its revision (2019): 8 Priority areas and SDGs Action Plan
- Round Table for SDGs: Representatives of multi-stakeholders and Ministries
- SDGs Mainstreaming into some national plans;
  - The 5<sup>th</sup> Basic Environment Plan** (2018): Regional Circular and Ecological Sphere
  - The 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of Comprehensive Revitalization Strategies for Cities, People, and Careers** (2019): KPI on SDGs for Regional Revitalization set; the ratio of local governments engaged towards the achievement of the SDGs (**up to 60 percent in FY 2024**)
- SDGs Future Cities** (2018-): Total 93 Local governments selected (2018-2020) / SDGs Public Private Partnership Platform for Local Revitalization



# 3. Local Level SDGs Implementation

## 3-3 Mainstreaming and Japanese cases

**Research Outline:** Developed an **analytical framework for evaluating mainstreaming for SDGs at the local level** and applied to 2 municipalities in Japan (SDGs Future Cities) to understand the opportunities and challenges for local governments in incorporating the 2030 Agenda into policy making

### Findings:

#### Opportunities

- 1) Strengthened coordination mechanisms
- 2) Wider stakeholders' development
- 3) Robust implementation
- 4) Possibilities to answer to local challenges

#### Challenges

- 1) Human capacity
- 2) Coordination with existing planning timing
- 3) Monitoring and review arrangements
- 4) Assessment of interlinkages

#### How to overcome?

- 1) **Multi-stakeholder partnership**
- 2) **Vertical communication with the national government**
- 3) **Pragmatic responses of local governments**

Category	Components of SDGs localization
1 Governance and Coordination Mechanisms	Governing body, political leadership, secretariat, finance department, new funding opportunities, informal communication, vertical and horizontal coordination
2 Mobilising stakeholders around the SDGs/ Partnership	Multi-stakeholders' involvement at planning or vision setting, project, monitoring/review stages, Institutional settings, awareness raising
3 SDGs incorporation policy mechanism	Mapping alignment, incorporating SDGs into the top agenda/ existing policies and plans, new strategy, prioritizing goals/targets/indicators, linking with legal power, linking with budget
4 Monitoring and review arrangements	Monitoring/ review arrangements, data collection
5 Interlinkages	Assess targets and goals interlinkages, policy coherence, introduction of featured approaches for the SDGs

Source: Masuda, H., Morita, K., Okitasari, M., T. Katramiz. *Governing the SDGs at the local level: Experiences of SDGs Future Cities in Japan*. Presented at the International SDG Research Symposium Global Goals 2020, 9-11 June 2020 (Virtual).  
Please do not quote- this is working in progress.



## 4. Summary

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The research has focused on governments' actions towards the 2030 Agenda and SDGs and analyzed governance and activities at both national and local levels.

### Interim Outcomes

#### 1. National Level SDGs Implementation

- **Clarified trends** (e.g., financing involving multi-stakeholders), **progress** (e.g., SDGs Mapping) **and challenges** (e.g., assessment of interlinkages among targets)
- Analyzed **shifts initiated by the SDGs in National Development Plans** (e.g., adaptation to inclusive approach, trends in reusing the SDGs to appeal to the domestic discussions)

#### 2. Local Level SDGs Implementation

- **Developed an analytical framework** for evaluating mainstreaming for SDGs
- From cases of Japan, identified **components for local level transformative capacity for the SDGs** (e.g., involvement of multi-stakeholders) and suggested **how to overcome challenges for mainstreaming** (e.g., communication with the national government).

### Direction for Outputs

- Clarification of requirements for **governance towards achieving the SDGs**
- **Policy recommendation** for global, national and local level SDGs implementation



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# Thank You

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