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## **Ninth Citizen Monitoring**

**Follow-up on the recommendations presented to the National Government for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs**

**June 2023 - May 2024**

## Ninth Citizen Monitoring

**Follow-up on the recommendations presented to the National Government for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs**

**CONFEDERACIÓN COLOMBIANA DE ONG – CCONG**  
**BOGOTÁ, D.C. COLOMBIA**  
[www.ccong.org.co](http://www.ccong.org.co)

**LILIANA PATRICIA RODRÍGUEZ BURGOS**  
CCONG Executive Director

**LUZ ÁNGELA RAMÍREZ RUIZ**  
CCONG Program Manager

**GISEL PEDROZA**  
CCONG Investigator

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## Index

<b>i</b>	<b>The results of the Ninth Citizen Monitoring</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Citizen Monitoring Assessment June 2023 - May 2024</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Assessment Voluntary National Report VNR 2023 - 2024</b> .....	<b>7</b>
<b>1.3</b>	<b>Assessment of the CSOs contribution of to the Sustainable Development Goals – SDG</b> .....	<b>8</b>
<b>ii</b>	<b>Citizen recommendations for the fulfillment of the Development Agenda and the goals established for the country</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>To promote compliance with the SDGs, by harmonizing the policies, programs, resources, and public decisions established in the National Development Plan with the goals established for the SDGs</b> .....	<b>10</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>To achieve compliance with the SDGs, starting from the fight against corruption, and through transparency and probity in the management of public resources and decisions</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>To achieve compliance with the SDGs, in the concurrence in the execution of Territorial Development Plans.</b> .....	<b>12</b>

## Ninth Citizen Monitoring

### Follow-up on the recommendations presented to the National Government for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals - SDGs

The Colombian Confederation of NGOs – CCONG contributes with this Ninth Citizen Monitoring to make visible the differentiative and relevant contribution of social organizations to the SDGs and to value the actions carried out by the National Government to accomplish with the commitments of the Sustainable Development Agenda, based on the guarantee of the political and civil rights for CSOs (access to public information; planning and participation; social control) so that they can exercise their social and political role as an actor co-responsible for Development.

#### i The results of the Ninth Citizen Monitoring

The results of the Ninth Citizen Monitoring shows the assessment of the results of national public management, in the time period between June 2023 to May 2024 to the six recommendations presented by CSOs to the National Government to achieve the SDGs; recommendations whose purpose is:

- Recommendation 1:** The SDGs become effective in the territories
- Recommendation 2:** The SDGs become effective with communities (CSOs)
- Recommendation 3:** The SDGs are implemented through participation and political dialogue
- Recommendation 4:** The SDGs require to strengthening of government institutions to accomplish with public policies
- Recommendation 5:** The SDGs require to fight against corruption corrupción
- Recommendation 6:** The SDGs should be the indicators for public accountability











## 1.1 Citizen Monitoring Assessment June 2023-May 2024

The Ninth Citizen Monitoring provides an assessment of the progress in each of the statements of the established traffic light methodology.

**Chart No. 1:** Results of Citizen Monitoring June 2023 – May 2024.

Recommendations to the National Government for the implementation of the SDGs 2030		Citizen Monitoring April 2024
<b>1. The SDGs are made effective in the territories: municipalities, districts and departments: articulation of the SDG goals with national and territorial planning and budgeting.</b>	<b>National Level</b>	
	The National Development Plan (2022-2026) is formulated and approved based on the SDGs (Law 2294 of 2023).	↓
	The national budget (2022-2026) is formally established by an administrative act. (CONPES Document 3918 of 2018).	==
	National public policies have been re-formulated based on the SDGs by administrative actor.	==
	There is a follow-up and monitoring system for the country's SDG goals, the results and impacts are measured and publicly reported (CONPES 3918 of 2018).	↓
	In the preparation of the National Voluntary Report - NVR, the Government carries out a public consultation, open to development sectors and actors.	==
	<b>Territorial Country Level</b>	
	The Territorial Development plans (2024-2027) look out the implementation for compliance with the SDGs.	↑
	Territorial public policies have been re-formulated based on the SDGs, in accordance with the guidelines of the National Government (CONPES Document 3981 of 2018).	==
	<b>2. The SDGs become effective with communities (NGOs, CSOs)</b>	In order to guarantee the rights to the protection of the lives of social leaders, the National Government complies with administrative acts, has a monitoring system and publicly reports the results and impacts. (Decree 2137 of 2018. Intersectoral Commission of the Timely Action Action Plan, PAO).
Digital Government Index - IGD, which is the guarantee of the right to public information, at the national level is greater than 66/100 points.		==
In order to promote and strengthen a citizen culture of SDGs, the National Government complies with the enacted administrative acts; as well as it measures and publicly reports results and impacts. (CONPES Document 3918 of 2018).		==

Recommendations to the National Government for the implementation of the SDGs 2030		Citizen Monitoring April 2024
<b>3. The SDGs are implemented through Participation and Political Dialogue</b>	The National Government promotes the creation and sustained and systematic action of the Multi-actor Platform, with annual meetings with the SDG Technical Committee and the SDG Commission. The minutes and action plan are visible (CONPES Document 3981 of 2018).	
	The Political Dialogue with the National Planning Council – NPC, regarding the SDGs, is promoted by the National Government; the results of the monitoring and follow-up exercises to the National Development Plan are binding with regard to the SDGs (Law 152 of 1994).	
	Using participatory budgets the Government has formally designed (administrative act) processes to guarantee the preparation, execution and monitoring of the SDGs (Law 1757 of 2015 art 90-93).	
	In order to guarantee the right to monitoring and social control, the Government has formally established (administrative act) incentives to promote social control and citizen oversight regarding compliance with the SDGs.	
	Oversight Network 850 of 2003 - Institutional Network to support citizen oversight.	
	The National Congress (Senate and Representatives Chamber) monitors compliance with the SDGs and promotes political dialogue with development actors and recognizes the results of citizen monitoring.	
	The international community promotes monitoring and evaluation; produces information; provides technical and financial assistance, and provides political support to development actors in achieving the SDGs. United Nations System: SDG in Colombia: The challenges for 2030. Bogotá, 2018. European Union.	
<b>4. The SDGs require the strengthening of government institutional capacity to comply with Public Policies</b> (High Level Interinstitutional Commission for the Post-2015 Development Agenda, created by Decree 280 of 2015)	The institutional body of the SDGs created by administrative act has an action plan or annual schedule that is visible and public on an easily accessible WEB portal or on the official portal of the SDGs (Decree 280 of 2015).	
	The reformulation of public policies is carried out in accordance with the country's SDG goals; with the different levels of the Government promoting dialogue with CSOs and other development sectors.	
	The capacity strengthening plan for public officials includes SDG topics. Resolution 390 of 2017; National Training and Capacity Development Plan CONPES Document 3918 of 2018 (DAFP and ESAP).	

Recommendations to the National Government for the implementation of the SDGs 2030		Citizen Monitoring April 2024
<b>5. The SDGs require the fight against corruption and transparency</b>	The National Citizen Commission Against Corruption has the government guarantees to carry out its functions; it produces annual reports and its recommendations and suggestions are implemented (Law 1474 of 2011).	 
	The government has ICT procedures and instruments to interact with citizens with timely, truthful, and sufficient information in order to protect the right to public information about the SDGs. (Law 1712 of 2014, CONPES Document 3918 of 2018, CONPES Documents 3975 of 2019 - Digital Government Policy)	 
	There are citizen reporting channels implemented for acts of corruption, which are timely, agile and with security guarantees for the complainant. Transparency Secretariat: denunciacorrupcion@presidencia.gov.co	 
<b>6. The SDGs must be the indicators for Public Accountability</b>	Public accountability for compliance with the SDGs is implemented and publicly reported (results and impacts) by the National Government (CONPES 3918 of 2018; 3654 of 2010 and 3918 of 2018)	 

Source: CCONG, Bogotá, May 2024

## 1.2 Assessment Voluntary National Report VNR 2023-2024

Citizen Monitoring provides the assessment to the National Voluntary Report – VNR, which is one of the mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing compliance and progress of the 2030 Agenda at the national and sub-national level, that the National Government will present at the United Nations High Level Political Forum in July 2024.

It is specified that the National Voluntary Report – VNR has the following purposes:

- To be an instrument of **accountability** of governments regarding the fulfillment of their commitments to the Agenda<sup>1</sup>.
- To be a base instrument to “**strengthen government policies and institutions** and to mobilize the support of multiple stakeholders and foster alliances for the SDGs implementation”<sup>2</sup>.
- To be an instrument that seeks to strengthen **trust** between the different development actors, since it must “facilitate the interaction and dialogue of the actors, as well as the monitoring and evaluation of intersectoral action around the SDGs”<sup>3</sup>.
- To be an instrument that facilitates the **peers’ exchange of experiences**, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with the main interest to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda<sup>4</sup>.
- To be an instrument **to accelerate the implementation** of the 2030 Agenda.

The CONPES document 3918 establishes that VNR is the “...balance of a public nature and... during the preparation of the voluntary reports, it is planned the **participation of non-governmental actors**”<sup>5</sup>.

Although the CCONG has access to the VNR prepared by the National Government, it will not comment on it because as of the closing date of the Ninth Citizen Monitoring, the National Government has not published it and it is not accessible to public information (DNP Portal: <https://ods.dnp.gov.co/es/resources>, reviewed on 06/26/2024).

### 1.3 Assessment of the CSOs contribution of to the Sustainable Development Goals – SDG

The Public Social Accountability – RSPC (by it capitals in spanish)<sup>6</sup>, as a self-regulation exercise of CSOs, assesses the contribution of the 148 CSOs to the 17 SDGs between 2022-2023, based on their social and political role, as well as the actions collaborative and concurrent with the public and private sectors and cooperation agencies for the realization of public goods.

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<sup>1</sup> DNP; Documento CONPES 3918 de 2018, CONPES Document 3918 of 2018, <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Econ%C3%B3micos/3918.pdf>, revised in April 2024.

<sup>2</sup> CEPAL; Idem.

<sup>3</sup> CEPAL; Idem.

<sup>4</sup> CEPAL; Idem.

<sup>5</sup> DNP; Documento CONPES 3918 de 2018; CONPES Document 3918 of 2018; <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Econ%C3%B3micos/3918.pdf>, revised in April 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Colombian Confederation of NGOs, CCONG, Public Social Accountability [www.ccong.org.co/rspc](http://www.ccong.org.co/rspc)



**Figure No. 1:** CSOs contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2023



**Source:** CCONG, *The Public Social Accountability – RSPC 2022-2023*; Bogotá, May 2024

## ii Citizen recommendations for the fulfillment of the Development Agenda and the goals established for the country

### 1 To promote compliance with the SDGs, by harmonizing the policies, programs, resources, and public decisions established in the National Development Plan with the goals established for the SDGs.

In this occasion, there are three recommendations that we propose to the National Government:

**First,** to promote **institutional processes that allow explicit recognition that programs, projects and resources also contribute to the fulfillment of international commitments** - SDG, which also implies renewing the forms of relationships, coordination and cooperation between public institutions, in addition to restoring in public service, an organizational culture based on achieving the guarantee of rights, and not only on the execution of procedures.

In this sense, CSOs and all social organizations, in their autonomy and diversity, must have **guaranteed participation in the execution of public resources to achieve the SDGs**. The expertise and recognition of the social sector must be recognized in the execution of territorial, sectoral and population processes, that allows achieving the SDGs; that is why it is necessary to open public contracting processes to these actors, based on their suitability and experience. It concentrates resources on a single social actor, breaks the social dynamics in the territories, weakening social capital and Participatory Democracy.

**Second,** and although the SINERGIA Monitoring System (2024) has already been reformulated, an additional effort is needed to be done to ensure that **the information on which the Government Accountability practice is based on**, about the progress and challenges of the execution of the National Development Plan - PND, be able to show up the contributions -coordinated and articulated inter-institutionally- moving forward to fulfill each of the SDGs with specific advances for each one of them. In this sense, we also invite the government to make the SDG Web Portal to become the up-to-date and timely pedagogical tool that guarantees the right of access to Public Information, and invites multiple actors to be contributors to the fulfillment of the SDG.

**Third,** to promote, to improve, and if necessary **to renew, the High-Level Inter-institutional Commission for the enlistment and effective implementation** of the Post-2015 Development Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)<sup>7</sup>, so that it can fulfill its enlistment objectives. and effective implementation of the SDGs, with public policies, prospective planning, and monitoring and evaluation so that the goals are effectively met.

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<sup>7</sup> Decree 280, 2015 <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=66611>, revised in May 2023.

Likewise, there are three recommendations for other development actors:

**First**, and this is recurring, to provide all the guarantees to promote, to improve, and if necessary to renew the Multi Actor Platform for the SDGs<sup>8</sup>, so that can fulfill its role, especially, in the issues of dialogue and relationship with the High Level Inter- institutional Commission, and with the exercise of citizen control and oversight, turning it into a true instance of permanent social and political dialogue in an autonomous way, with financial, institutional and technical support from the National Government.

**Second**, to remind other development actors (private sector, cooperation agencies, CSOs and all other social actors) to fulfill their role and to direct their actions to contribute, with their financial, political and technical resources, to achieving the SDGs. Thus, and recognizing the role of International Agencies, to build a “Colombian Cooperation Agenda to achieve the SDGs”, so its resources can be managed by CSOs and the private sector then they can become good actors for monitoring and evaluation of compliance with the SDGs.

**Third**, that CSOs have to enhance and to strengthen their Value Offer, in order to contribute with their actions, with other development actors, in the fulfillment of the SDGs. Likewise, to implement permanent and systematic monitoring, oversight and social control processes to recognize the progress and challenges and facilitate that the SDGs become a reality and with these the rights of citizens of all the territories of the country are guaranteed.

## 2 To achieve compliance with the SDGs, starting from the fight against corruption, and through transparency and probity in the management of public resources and decisions.

It is reiterated that Sustainable Development requires all the resources to achieve it, everyone is everyone. For this reason, it is necessary for the National Government to generate and guarantee that all public resources “are sacred,” and that any deviation from them must be subject to moral and legal sanction.

On this occasion there are two recommendations that are presented to the National Government:

**First**, to recognize that citizens are the center of sustainable development, and consequently **the right to information about the SDGs must be guaranteed**. Consequently, the Government must make the ODS – DNP web portal<sup>9</sup> efficient as the instrument that allows permanent dialogue with the different development actors. This, accompanied by pedagogical communicative processes with the purpose of disseminating and socializing issues related to the international agenda. Only then citizens who are aware of their rights and their role can contribute to strengthening the social rule of law and democracy.

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<sup>8</sup> CONPES 3918 de 2018. CONPES 3918 of 2018. <https://colaboracion.dnp.gov.co/CDT/Conpes/Econ%C3%B3micos/3918.pdf>. “the exchange of experience and cooperation between sectors for the implementation of global objectives and goals... defines guidelines for accountability through spaces for dialogue and social control... and articulation with other development agendas, such as the green growth policy”. Reviewed in March 2023.

<sup>9</sup> DNP – Portal WEB ODS, <https://ods.dnp.gov.co/>, revised in May 2024.

**Second,** and this is recurrent and urgent, to provide all the guarantees to promote, to improve, and if necessary to renew the **National Citizen Commission for the Fight against Corruption**<sup>10</sup> so that autonomously, with financial, institutional and technical support from the National Government, it can fulfill its role, especially in relation to the monitoring, evaluation and recommendations of the policies, plans and programs that are implemented in the fight against corruption, and to present a report to the citizens at least once (1) every year.

For other development actors, the recommendations focus on:

**First,** to demand that the Anti-Corruption Statute (art 16) be made effective regarding **the responsibility of development actors (public, private, social) in contracting and public decisions**, recognizing criminal acts for those who offer or grant to managers, **administrators**, employees or advisors of a company, association or foundation a gift or any unjustified benefit to benefit him or a third party. The fight against corruption and transparency is a duty of all actors.

**Second,** the **public denunciation of acts of corruption**, by any development actor although this becomes a permanent risk.

### 3 To achieve compliance with the SDGs, in the concurrence in the execution of Territorial Development Plans.

Citizens recognize that their lives are transformed when their territory is transformed, otherwise, they do not feel that their rights are effective. And in Colombia, a country of regions, where development is so uneven, where decentralization is increasingly debatable, all the necessary actions must be implemented so that the SDGs become possible, tangible, and effective in the departments and municipalities. throughout the country, otherwise “many will be left behind.”

Thus, the three recommendations for the National Government are the following:

**First,** to advance all actions that allow **reaching agreements to achieve Peace**, without peace there is no development. And that must be the one established by the Constitutional Court<sup>11</sup> “it can be understood in various ways:

- i As an end or purpose, both of domestic law and international law.
- ii As an ideal state.
- iii As a protocol for action in the midst of of conflicts.

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<sup>10</sup> Law 1474 of 2011, article 65, Anti-Corruption statute; Decree 4632 of 2011. <https://www.funcionpublica.gov.co/eva/gestornormativo/norma.php?i=43292>, revised in March 2024.

<sup>11</sup> CONSTITUTIONAL COURT 18th May, 2006. “By which provisions are dictated for the reincorporation of members of armed groups organized outside the law, who contribute effectively to the achievement of national peace and other provisions are dictated for humanitarian agreements”, and against the law in its entirety”. Sentence C-370 by 2006. <http://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2006/C-370-06.htm>; Sentence C-928 by 2005. <http://www.corteconstitucional.gov.co/relatoria/2005/C-928-05.htm>, revised in April 2024.

- iv As a collective right.
- v As a fundamental or subjective right.
- vi As a citizen or constitutional duty”.

**Second,** strengthening the **constitutional right of decentralization**, which means in practice generating institutional, legal and financial capacities, so that, in an articulated and coordinated manner, the financial, technical and human capital resources of the National Government are made effective with all the resources of the territorial governments. Of course, this generates greater demands, surely higher transaction costs, but it is the only guarantee that comprehensive and sustainable development is achieved.

**Third,** to recognize that territorial planning, both **development plans and territorial planning plans**, reflects, or at least it is expected to reflect, the territorial realities, and above all the solutions for their transformation, in accordance with their realities. This then means that every effort must be made so that these instruments are harmonized in line with compliance with the SDGs.

For other development actors, the main recommendation is:

Strengthen the **National Planning System** and all instances of Participatory Democracy. All social actors that are part of these must review and renew the practices, functions and processes that guarantees the effective planning of all resources that allow compliance with the SDGs.

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