Voluntary National Reviews

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South-East Asia
2024 Voluntary National Reviews Clinic

Wednesday 8 November 2023, Bangkok, Thailand
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PRINCIPLES OF FUR AND VNR

VNR PROCESS TIMELINE

HOW TO STRENGTHEN A VNR

2ND GENERATION VNR
What comes to mind when thinking of Voluntary National Reviews?
What are, in your opinion, the main barriers to the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda process?
To what extend have you been involved in VNR processes in your country?
PRINCIPLES of FOLLOW-UP and REVIEW

- VOLUNTARY & COUNTRY-LED
- TRACK PROGRESS IN A HOLISTIC AND INTEGRATED WAY
- LONG-TERM ORIENTATION
- SUPPORT REPORTING BY ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS
- BUILDING ON EXISTING PLATFORMS AND PROCESSES
- PEOPLE CENTERED, GENDER SENSITIVE, RESPECTING HUMAN RIGHTS, LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND
- RIGOROUS, EVIDENCE BASED, HIGH QUALITY DATA
- ENHANCE CAPACITY BUILDING SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
- ACTIVE SUPPORT BY THE UN SYSTEM AND OTHER MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS
Follow-up and review plays a critical role in ensuring effective SDG implementation, much of which needs to happen at the national level.
## ELEMENTS of a VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

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<th>Voluntary</th>
<th>Encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries</th>
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<td>Country-led</td>
<td>Country-driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels</td>
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<td>Rigorous and based on evidence</td>
<td>Informed by country-led evaluations and data, which is high-quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated</td>
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<td>Learning experience</td>
<td>Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of an ongoing process</td>
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<td>National circumstances</td>
<td>Reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners</td>
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<td>Open, Inclusive, Participatory</td>
<td>Includes supporting reporting on progress by all relevant stakeholders</td>
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VNR as a PROCESS

"But the VNRs are not simply a report or a presentation at the HLPF. They are a national process of in-depth review and consultation on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda ... Ultimately, VNRs create space for governments and their partners to identify what is needed to keep the promise of the SDGs." – Amina J. Mohammed, UN Deputy Secretary-General

A Simplified Roadmap for VNR

**Key Messages**
- 700 words, key highlights

**VNR Presentation**
- Presentation at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in New York July

**VNR Preparation**
- September onwards
  - Workplan, coordination, stakeholder consultations, data collection and analysis, storyline & methodology

**Main Report**
- June
  - Deadline mid-June

**VNRs into Action**
- July
  - After July
  - ACTION PLAN
    - Backstory
    - Stakeholders
    - Potential
    - Check
    - Leadership
    - Objective
PREPARATORY PHASE

Where to start?

Take stock of previous VNR process and report - lessons and challenges

Review and refresh institutional arrangements and establish VNR Team

Identify resources needed: financial, technical, human resources

Plan how to engage stakeholders & communicate about the VNR

Data gap analysis/SDG Progress Assessment, collect data from ministries
What’s next?

Develop theme of report/storyline and SDGs to focus on

Review and analyse data and findings on SDG trajectory since past VNR

Review national SDG indicator framework and plan statistical annex

Start communication, outreach and stakeholder engagement activities
DATA: THE CORNERSTONE OF A VNR

A Simplified DATA Roadmap for VNR

**Data assessment**
Collect data from the stakeholders, makes a data inventory and assess data gaps

**Data incorporation**
Create the narrative based on the data. Include a Statistical Annex

**Preparation and planning**
Coordinated by NSO, review of data institutions and processes, creation of a VNR data team

**Data collection and analysis**
Data collection and analysis and explore other data sources to fill in data gaps

**VNR presentation and post-analysis**
Create a data story in VNR presentation (infographics, visualizations, maps, etc.)
Post evaluation analysis

Reliable data and statistics are crucial for evidence-based VNRs.

Applying human rights approaches and using human rights data can help place the most vulnerable at the center of policymaking.
Include a strong **storyline** on key SDGs relevant to the national context - not just an update on SDGs

Evidence-based and analytical, assess implementation challenges

**Policy coherence for an integrated agenda**, identify and assess trade-offs or synergies in policy strategies

**Forward looking**, include concrete action plans and next steps, that address findings of past VNRs and address future context

**Highly participatory**, engage government and stakeholders in discussions on next steps and how integrate VNR findings into national plans

Include a **feedback mechanism**, lessons learned are considered in domestic policy formulation and introduced in public discourse
HOW VNRs SUPPORT SDG ACCELERATION

INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
Assess interlinkages and synergies, improve institutional arrangements and coordination

MOBILISE MEANS of IMPLEMENTATION
Assess financing gaps and identify new opportunities, beyond business as usual

PARTNERSHIPS
Enhance communication, coordination and collaboration among sectors and stakeholders domestically and internationally

INCORPORATION of SDGs into NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS
Identify gaps, assess challenges and recommend strategies to overcome barriers

TRACK PROGRESS
Improve data collection and analysis, filling data gaps, set-up national monitoring coordination mechanisms
Stronger policy-data integration
Enhanced evidence-based policy making
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WRAP UP: HOW to INCREASE the IMPACT of a VNR

Substantive content, analytical depth and policy focus
Create a strong narrative

Use the data – utilize data analysis to develop a national indicator framework (SDG Progress Assessment)

Create platforms for safe and open dialogue with stakeholders that continues beyond the VNR

Identify the means of implementation
Leverage transformative change

Outline practical next steps & follow up actions

Plan the post-VNR period – how the review will be presented to parliament and integrated into monitoring and review processes
“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”
OPPORTUNITIES for ENGAGEMENT at the APFSD

Side Events (in-person and virtual)
deadline 07.11.2023

SDG Acceleration Pavilion Exhibition
deadline 07.11.2023

Call for Major Groups and other Stakeholders
deadline 31.10.2023

Virtual Exhibition
deadline 07.11.2023

Visit the 11 APFSD event page / GET ENGAGED
Connects two or more countries in the region that are preparing their VNRs in the same year. ESCAP provides financial, facilitation and coordination support to link the countries during their VNR process. The programme involves study tours, online workshops and joint knowledge sharing events.

To strengthen the VNR process through peer learning.

Learn from each other’s reforms and good practice.

To promote partnerships and South-South cooperation on the SDGs.
WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?

- Online meetings and workshops on different topics
- Connecting via online platform
- Study tour
- Online peer-review workshop of 1st Drafts of VNR
- Joint side events at APFSD / HLPF & presenting side-by-side at HLPF
Putting the VNR into action: Developing practical next steps and planning the post-VNR period

Stakeholder engagement in Voluntary National Reviews: Feedback and follow-up

Guide to VNR Storyline and Planning
https://repository.unescap.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12870/6415/ESCAP-2023-MN-Guide-VNR-Storyline-Planning.pdf?_gl=1*odoksp*_ga*OTAzNTA5NzQuMTY5NjQ3NTcwOQ..*_ga_SB1ZX36Y86*MTY5NjUwMjE1MC4zLjAuMTY5NjUwMjE1NC41Ni4wLjA.

2nd VNR Guidance tool: A practical guidance tool for 2nd VNRs
https://www.unescap.org/resources/practical-guidance-tool-2nd-vnrs

Increasing the Impact Of Voluntary National Reviews: the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation
THANK YOU

VNRs/ESCAP

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