Benefit of preparing VNRs for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Irena Zubcevic, Chief, Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development, UN DESA
(zubcevic@un.org)

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Nadi, Fiji, 14-15 December 2020
Where we are globally

VNRs BY REGION 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 AND 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Present 2021</th>
<th>Not Yet Presented</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EEG</td>
<td>23</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAC</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEOG</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRESENTED or WILL PRESENT a VNR in 2021

NOT YET PRESENTED
## VNRs in the Pacific

### Who presented or will present their VNRs (12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>VNRs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Samoa</td>
<td>2016, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Kiribati</td>
<td>2018 (also LDC)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>Fiji</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nauru</td>
<td>2019</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Palau</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>2019 (also LDC)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tonga</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vanuatu</td>
<td>2019 (also LDC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>Micronesia (Federated States of)</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Solomon Islands (also LDC)</td>
<td>2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pacific – Not yet presented or expressed a wish to present a VNR (3)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Country</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cook Islands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Niue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tuvalu (also LDC)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Feedback on the VNRs from 2019 HLPF questionnaire

- VNRs have been useful for sharing lessons learned & experience gained:
  - 44% strongly agree & 45% somewhat agree
- VNRs have been useful for sharing SDG implementation challenges:
  - 41% strongly agree & 46% somewhat agree
- Preparation and presentation of VNRs Advanced National Implementation:
  - 42% strongly agree & 40% somewhat agree
- VNRs have been useful for Mobilizing Partnerships:
  - 32% strongly agree & 43% somewhat agree
- More specific guidance needs to be provided on the preparation, content and approach to VNRs
  - 66% strongly agree & 25% somewhat agree
- More time at the HLPF would make them more relevant for lessons learned
  - 62 % strongly agree & 24 % somewhat agree
Benefits of VNRs

- **CHANGES MINDSETS** – transformative actions
- **CATALYZER** – the preparatory process provides a great chance for meaningfully engaging all relevant stakeholders in SDG implementation through “Whole of Society” approach
- **“WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT” APPROACH** – VNRs provide a chance for obtaining buy-in from civil servants and creating incentives for integrated policy-making and service delivery
- **STOCKTAKING** – providing opportunities to see where a country is in implementation of the A 2030 and SDGs
- **COORDINATION** – VNR preparation requires a coordinated effort and for many countries the institutional arrangements made for VNRs have proved useful for SDG implementation and have made institutions stronger
- **INTEGRATION** – integration of SDGs into national development plans, aligning with budgets and identifying financial frameworks, integration of all three dimensions of sustainable development
- **IMPLEMENTATION** – chance to assess progress, strengthen data collection and use, strengthen M&E
- **AREAS FOR SUPPORT** – the report can be a great tool for identifying and communicating the areas in which the country requires additional support for implementation
- **PARTNERSHIPS** – the VNR process can be a great opportunity to forge partnerships at all levels, including with other countries
- **COMMUNICATION TOOL** of the agenda to citizens, civil society, academia, sub-national and local governments, private sector etc.
- **PLANNING TOOL FOR SUBSEQUENT VNRs** – preparing a plan for subsequent VNRs until 2030

The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results.
“The VNR process has allowed us to re-assess our development patterns, specifically the policy and institutional mechanisms since the 1990's, whether they are conducive to sustainable development and build stakeholder engagement around it.”

“The usefulness of designing different instruments to collect information from different actors, according to their competences was extremely useful. Also, we found value in using different tools, such as web questionnaires and online polls to gather information quickly.”

“The main benefits of attending VNR preparatory meetings was to learn from other countries on their experiences, it also helps us determine if we are on the right track and what pitfalls we can avoid.”
WHAT could be improved: recommendations bearing in mind voluntary and flexible nature of VNRs

National level

• Strengthening national ownership including through capacity building and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and through preparing the VNRs by national team using international assistance when needed

• Linking the VNRs to reporting to other mechanisms and conventions

• Strengthening monitoring and oversight including through parliaments and supreme audit institutions, strengthening cooperation among all branches of government

• Explaining the impacts of strategies and polices on national level implementation of the 2030 Agenda
WHAT could be improved: recommendations bearing in mind voluntary and flexible nature of VNRs

Global level

- Using SG voluntary common reporting guidelines to increase comparability, but also to improve overall quality of reports over time by learning from good practices and reflecting these by updating periodically the guidelines.
- Focusing VNR presentation at HLPF on explanation of impact of polices and strategies, lessons learned and peer learning that can be of benefit to all countries.
- Strengthening of interactive discussion including through providing more time for Q&A and getting recommendations.
- Strengthen the role of HLPF as a platform for peer learning and exchanging of experiences.
- Strengthen HLPF to serve as a broker and matchmaker for partnerships in the follow-up after the VNRs through looking at areas where countries need support.
Resources

Thank you!