



Workshop on Follow-up and Reporting for the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

23 – 25 October

23 October – Pacific SIDS VNR Workshop	
09:00 – 09:15	Aims and objectives for the VNR workshop sessions
	Format: Presentation by DESA
09:15 – 10:45	Session 1: VNR as an implementation tool
	<p>Session that aims to kick-off the peer learning and contribute to building a common understanding of the main functions of the VNR as a tool for implementation.</p> <p>Guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the ultimate goal of a voluntary national review? (Why VNRs) 2. What areas of implementation have proved most challenging? What are the main capacity gaps countries have identified? 3. What happens after the review process and presentation at the HLPF? (the Post-VNR phase) <p><i>Comment</i> - Friedrich Soltau, UN DESA (10 mins.)</p> <p>Small group discuss guiding questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What steps have been taken to follow-up on the VNR? 2. What areas of implementation have proved most challenging? What are the main capacity gaps countries have identified? 3. What were the main benefits derived from the VNR process? <p>Q&A</p>
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 13:00	Session 2: Pursuing an Integrated Sustainable Development Agenda in the Pacific
	<p>Addressing the Implementation Gap: Brief presentations on experiences in translating the SAMOA Pathway and the 2030 Agenda into national policy frameworks and their implementation frameworks</p> <p><i>Panel discussion</i></p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What has been the experience with integrating the SDGs and the SAMOA Pathway into national development plans and other policy frameworks? 2. How do we address implementation? What are some of the key lessons and recommendations from the Samoa Pathway review? 3. How can we resource and monitor implementation plans? <p>Discussion</p>

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break	
14:00 – 14:30	Session 3: Thematic discussions in parallel WGs Two topics are covered in smaller groups, with introductory presentations in plenary. Stakeholder engagement - Kick-off presentation by Friedrich Soltau, UN DESA Data and statistics - Kick-off presentation by Christopher Ryan, ESCAP	
14:30 – 15:30	WG A: Stakeholder engagement (DESA) Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: Two critical challenges, plus 2-3 good practices	WG B: Data and statistics (ESCAP) Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: Two critical challenges, plus 2-3 good practices
15:30 16:00	Break	
16:00 – 16:30	Session 4: Thematic discussions in parallel WGs Two topics are covered in smaller groups, with introductory presentations in plenary. Integrated planning and financing - Kick-off presentation by Sanjesh Naidu, ESCAP Leaving No One Behind - Kick-off presentation by Irena Zubcevic, DESA	
16:30 – 17:30	WG C: Integrated planning and financing (ESCAP) Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: Two critical challenges, plus 2-3 good practices	WG D: Leaving no one behind (DESA/Sub-regional organization) Facilitated exchange of experiences Outcome: Two critical challenges, plus 2-3 good practices

24 October	
09:00– 10:00	Session 5: Feedback and discussion WGs share good practices or solutions related to their topics. Q&A
10:00 – 11:00	Session 6: Cross-cutting challenges – sharing of best practises Focus Group discussion <i>Guiding questions:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to obtain the buy-in across different government entities and overcoming geographic isolation? 2. What mechanisms have worked for addressing interlinkages in SDG implementation? 3. How to engage local authorities in SDG implementation? 4. What are good practices in promoting the participation of parliamentarians, as well as other institutions promoting accountability, such as supreme audit institutions?
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break

11:30 – 12:30	<p>Session 7: Panel Discussion: Solutions session - good practices for enhancing implementation of the Agenda</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What can be done to scale up peer learning for implementation of the 2030 Agenda? 2. What can be done to build on the lessons learned during the VNRs? 3. What kinds of partnerships are facilitating capacity development activities? 4. What are good practices for strengthening M&E and reporting frameworks? 5. How can we make national planning and budgeting systems more effective for implementing the national and 2030 Development Agenda? <p>Note: Participants will be invited on day 2 to prepare short responses to share in this session</p>
12:30– 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 15:00	<p>Session 8: Synthesis and way forward</p> <p>This session will take stock of key messages and lessons learned in relation to follow-up to the SDGs, including support from the UN system and regional partners.</p>

25 October	Preparations of the first VNR (for the seven countries that have not yet prepared one, with other countries attending to share best practices)
9:00 –9.15	<p>Aims and objectives</p> <p>Expectations for the meeting</p> <p><i>Overview presentation on VNRs and 2020 HLPF</i></p>
9.15 – 11:00	<p>Benefits of preparing a VNR Countries that have presented a VNR to share experience and lessons learned during the VNR process Q&A</p> <p>Preparation of the VNR report</p> <p>Short presentation by DESA and ESCAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary-General’s voluntary guidelines for VNRs and how to best utilize them • Handbook for preparations of VNRs and how it can be of assistance • Stakeholder consultation • Lessons and common practices used in Pacific SIDS, including discussion on leveraging existing national planning and institutional systems, statistics and data in place to support VNR process and reporting • Best ways how to build partnerships and enhance peer learning for the preparation of a VNR report
11:00 – 11:30	Break
11:30 – 12:30	<p>Presentation of voluntary national reviews at HLPF</p> <p>Experience and lessons learned from 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019 VNRs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What type of presentations can be envisaged • Practical steps <p><i>Overview presentation on presentation of voluntary national reviews at the HLPF</i></p>
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30 – 16:00	Main elements of a workplan for preparing a VNR report and elements in the report

(Coffee on the go)	Working in working groups pairing those countries who have already submitted a VNR report with those who have not, assisted by DESA and ESCAP
16:00– 16:30	Next steps and follow-up to the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expectations from volunteering countries• Support needed