Webinar on the 2020 Voluntary National Reviews

24 March 2020
10:00 – 12:00 ICT
The Role of Second Generation VNRs

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In general, aim to:
- assess progress
- identify challenges
- inform recommendations for follow-up
- mobilize multi-stakeholder involvement and partnerships
- strengthen policies and institutions of governments

2nd generation VNRs:
- demonstrate renewed and continued commitment
- catalyse progress
- maintain awareness
- establish a platform for dialogue
- provide a platform to deliver the promises
Frist vs. Second Generation VNRs

First Generation VNRs
• static logic
• starting situation

Second Generation VNRs
• dynamic perspective
• reporting on the process and progress
Second Generation VNRs

It is expected, that countries incorporate the experiences, feedback and lessons learned from the previous review, to proceed with an advanced process and approach in the second VNR.

➢ encouraging more stakeholders to get meaningfully involved
➢ providing a more complete picture of progress
➢ improving the VNR process and the methodology used to conduct consultations and draft the report
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>First generation VNRs</th>
<th>Second Generation VNRs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General objective</td>
<td>To report relevant progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extension</td>
<td>The 2030 Agenda and its SDGs as a whole</td>
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<tr>
<td>Practical objective</td>
<td>Present the country’s first steps in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs at the national level</td>
<td>Present the continuity of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs at the national level</td>
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<tr>
<td>Projection of the report</td>
<td>Towards the future</td>
<td>Towards the future and from the past, taking the previous VNR as a reference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Approach perspective</td>
<td>Establishes the baseline from which the work begins and presents its first results</td>
<td>Informs about the evolution of the results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inputs</td>
<td>It does not include inputs originated in previous presentations</td>
<td>It includes inputs generated as a result of its first VNR, including the results of the socialization of the previous VNR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability</td>
<td>Informs about measures to adopt</td>
<td>It informs about the progress in the adoption of the measures included in the first VNR, and presents new measures to be adopted</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avoid duplication</td>
<td>With other reports</td>
<td>With other reports and with what was reported in the first VNR</td>
</tr>
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<td>Rigorosity and evidence based</td>
<td>Presents a first data set</td>
<td>It presents the evolution of the first data set and the improvements introduced in it</td>
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Source: Cepei, 2019
Second Generation VNR Reports

- More comprehensive and detailed
- Focus on the continuing progress
- Reflect on follow-up actions
- Make reference to the previous report
- Lessons learned and areas of progress

Suggestions:
- systematic review of progress from one to the next VNR
- follow-up actions between reporting periods
Institutional Mechanisms and Mainstreaming

• Turkey
  • The Presidency of Strategy and Budget became the **new focal point for SDGs** and coordinated the 2nd generation VNR
  • For each SDG, institutional responsibility was assigned to a ministry

• The Philippines
  • Incorporation of the SDGs into its national development framework as a ‘next step’ in its first VNR, was taken up in its second VNR
  • SDGs were **incorporated into the Philippine Development Plan**
  • A **Sub-Committee on the SDGs** was created for resource mobilization
Stakeholder Engagement

**Indonesia**
- All stakeholders were informed about the VNR timeline and schedule
- The **SDGs National Coordinating Team** enabled a more coordinated and participatory preparation and formulation of process of the 2nd VNR in 2019
- **Online and offline consultations**, incorporation of best practices, SDG Centres

**Turkey**
- A **circular** was sent to representatives from government bodies, NGOs, companies and municipalities **for direct consultation**
- National Sustainable Development Goals **Best Practices database**
VNR Process and Methodology

• The Philippines
  • Meetings to map key stakeholders and include previous years’ feedback
  • Consultation workshops to gather inputs and data
  • SDG Website to solicit comments on the draft of the VNR
  • “the VNR process is as important as the product itself”

• Azerbaijan
  • Methodology of the review was based on the Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines by the Secretary-General and UNDESA
Progress on the Goals and Targets

- encouraged to provide a complete picture of achievement, with information on the progress of all SDGs

- **Content**
  - Policy Mainstreaming, Assessment, Best Practices
  - Trend Analysis, Challenges, The Way Forward, Lessons Learned
  - Policies, Legislation, Important Developments and Improvement Areas, Next Steps
Recommendations

• Take a cycle perspective
• Retrieve the ‘next steps’ committed in the previous VNR
• Express how feedback and input on the first report was incorporated
• Inform, share and request
• Identify and inform about progress, stagnations and setbacks
• Encourage broad stakeholder involvement
• Identify whether the processes produce changes for vulnerable groups
• Cover all 17 SDGs
• Be clear on the ‘next steps’, challenges, and needed support
Thank you!
Reference Material

Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF

- “to promote consistency and comparability”
- “to help inform the process of review and generate reflections on implementation”

Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews

- supplement the guidelines
- provide basic information on the steps to take when preparing VNRs
- Available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, and Spanish

Further Readings: Cepei, 2019; Partners for Review, 2019