VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

Caridad Canales

Environment and Development Division, ESCAP
Follow Up & Review: guiding principles

- Voluntary and country-led
- Track progress in a holistic and integrated way
- Longer-term orientation
- Support reporting by all relevant stakeholders
- People-centered, gender sensitive, respecting human rights, leave no one behind
- Building on existing platforms and processes
- Rigorous, evidence-based, high quality data
- Enhance capacity-building support for developing countries
- “Active support” by the UN system and other multilateral institutions
VNR: the Process

Global
- High Level Political Forum (HLPF)

Regional
- Regional Peer Review (APFSD)

National
- National Reporting and Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)
Why doing a VNR: opportunities

- Creating Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships
- Highlight Country Priorities
- Strengthening Policy Integration & Coherence
- Stakeholder Buy in Ownership & Activation
- Awareness Raising, & Advocacy
- Financing Prioritizing Investments, Multiplying Investors Pool
- Leaving No One Behind
- Enhanced Monitoring, Accountability, Evaluation, Reporting
“EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY”

In-depth review of the cluster of goals

2019

2020

2021
VNRs in the Asia Pacific
VNR roadmap - 4 basic phases

- **Phase 1**: Planning (including setting scope & structure) & institutionalizing
- **Phase 2**: Gathering inputs, data
- **Phase 3**: Writing & review
- **Phase 4**: Presentation & follow up
Reference material for VNR preparation:

- Revised voluntary Secretary-General’s guidelines
- Handbook for the Preparation of VNRs
- UNDG Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the SDGs
- DESA VNR Database and Synthesis Reports
Data and indicators
Reliable and credible, relevant to the context (localization needed); goals & target prioritisation;

Policy coherence and integration
Incorporation of the SDGS into national frameworks - Integration of the 3 dimensions - Institutional mechanisms; structural issues/barriers - means of implementation;

Stakeholder engagement and advocacy
to promote ownership and action, better understand drivers and solutions - internal SE to support institutionalization - external SE for participation and outreach;

Leaving no one behind
Support marginalized and vulnerable groups – throughout report.
Structure of VNR Report

- Opening statement
- Highlights
- Introduction
- Methodology and process for the preparation of the review
- Policy and enabling environment
- Progress on Goals and targets
- Means of implementations
- Next steps
- Conclusions
- Annexes
VNR presentation at the HLPF

- Simplify complex messages through videos, infographics, data visualizations
- Highlight key messages
- Touch on critical issues on implementation
- Share best practices
- Provide space for stakeholders’ views
- Team up with other reporting countries
VNRs as a MEANS to ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION

- VNR as part of the policy cycle
- Dissemination - How to reach the broad public?
- How to address the challenges highlighted with the VNR process?
- How to institutionalize the monitoring and review process?
- Share the findings at regional level to enhance peer learning and regional cooperation.
- Clearly define the value added and objective – this is not a report for the UN – communicate national culture and approach – use as a strength;
- Proper attention to integration and leave-no-one behind;
- Invest in a powerful, meaningful presentation at the HLPF;
- Balance! – objectively show strengths and weaknesses;
- Creativity and partnership strengthens outcomes and impact;
- Stakeholder engagement planning and analysis is critical – start early, decide where stakeholders inputs can strengthen and add value;
- Plan for after the report – dissemination, feedback to stakeholders. The report is a step in the process.
Questions?

Thank you!