



Importance of VNRs for national implementation

Pacific forum on
sustainable development

Apia, Samoa

21 – 23 October 2019

Principles of Voluntary National Reviews

Voluntary

encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led

country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships

including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience

facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances

reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

Benefits of VNRs

- **CATALYZER** – the preparatory process provides a great chance for meaningfully engaging all relevant stakeholders in SDG implementation
- **“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
- **“WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY” APPROACH** – VNRs encourage the engagement of all stakeholders in implementation and reporting on the 2030 Agenda
- **STOCKTAKING** – for many countries the VNR has been a kick-starter for mapping existing policies and their compatibility with the SDGs, implementation gaps and data availability
- **COORDINATION** – VNR preparation requires a coordinated effort and for many countries the institutional arrangements made have proved useful also for SDG implementation
- **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.

QUOTES FROM COUNTRIES

- *“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.”*

• Feedback on the VNRs from 2019 HLPF questionnaire (results from countries – 77 responded)

- 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 would make them more relevant for lessons learned
 - 62 % strongly agree & 24 % somewhat agree





Thank you!

