VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

EXPERIENCES FROM ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Kathmandu, Nepal 01-02 November 2017
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I. Background: the VNR process

- Link the national and global
- Are voluntary and state-led
- Outline progress, share successes and challenges
- Guidelines for presentation at HLPF
- Regional frameworks facilitate sharing experiences and learning from other’s experiences

**TIMELINE**

- **SEPT 2017-MAY 2018**: Regional preparatory meetings & DESA workshops
- **MAY 2018**: Main messages
- **JUNE 2018**: Final reports
- **JULY 2018**: HLPF
II. Reporting Countries from AP

2016 22 countries, 5 from the Asia Pacific Region
2017 43 countries, 11 from the Asia Pacific Region
2018 48 countries, 8 from the Asia Pacific Region
III. VNR in South and South-West Asia

2017 Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Maldives and Nepal; 2018 Bhutan and Sri Lanka
IV. Emerging issues

- Partnerships
- Financing \( \rightarrow \) Means of Implementation
- Data Availability \( \rightarrow \) Accountability, Monitoring and Evaluation, Reporting
- Integration of the 3D for SD
- Policy coherence \( \rightarrow \) Political will, lack of effective policy coordination and coherence
- Stakeholder participation and engagement \( \rightarrow \) Leaving no one behind
V. Mainstreaming SDGs at the National Level

- **Institutional capacity** → Coordination of the SDGs
- **Prioritization** → Localization of the SDGs and gaps analysis
- **Vertical/Horizontal Policy Coherence** → SDG integration into national planning
- **Multi stakeholder approaches** → Inclusiveness for SDG integration
- **Follow up & review** → Design national reporting and review framework
VI. Stakeholder Engagement – basic questions & challenges

- Who are the stakeholders? How do we choose the “right” ones?
- Ensuring inclusion & self-representation > addressing marginalization, geographic isolation, socio-cultural discrimination, language barriers, fear of retaliation
- How to conduct public outreach?
- How to go beyond consultation and committees to activation > engagement for transformation through a whole-of-society approach
- Effectively dealing with internal (within-government) & external stakeholders?
- What should be the engagement objectives in different 2030 Agenda implementation activities?

SYSTEMIC ISSUES

- Political commitment, awareness, trust deficits
- Ensuring meaningful engagement > keeping the “promise”
- Legal mandates, robust civic education, engagement capacity etc.
- Common understanding re: quality engagement
VII. Support for VNRs

REGIONAL & SUBREGIONAL FORA support VNR countries

- Facilitate peer learning & partnerships
- Strengthen follow up & review
- Promote integration
- In-depth review of the cluster of goals
- Discussion on the theme for the HLPF

a. CAPACITY BUILDING

- Workshop with VNR countries to prepare national review
- Share regional commonalities, challenges, lessons learned, progress
- Presenting format at HLPF: HL presenter, elements, panel, audio-visual aids

b. VNR Session & informal exchange @ the VNR Learning Café (APFSD)

c. Targeted technical support for regional learning
VIII. Lessons learned (from VNR main messages)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT
- Most vulnerable groups tend to be excluded
- Role of media in creating awareness
- Cross-sector communication
- Inclusion in high-level meetings
- CSOs key to SDG implementation
- Role of startups in transferring environmentally sound technologies

MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION & VNRs
- Data collection & sharing should be transparent
- Benchmarking is essential when preparing VNRs
- Share best practice & innovative solutions to achieve ambitious targets
- Language as a barrier for awareness & implementation
- Targets must be localized to fit national context

REGIONAL COLLABORATION TO INCREASE CAPACITY
Thank you

Caridad Canales Davila
ESCAP, Environment and Development Division
canalesc@un.org