



Preparing the VNR and presentations at the HLPF

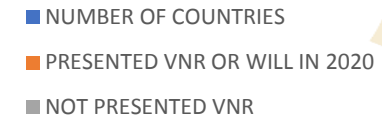
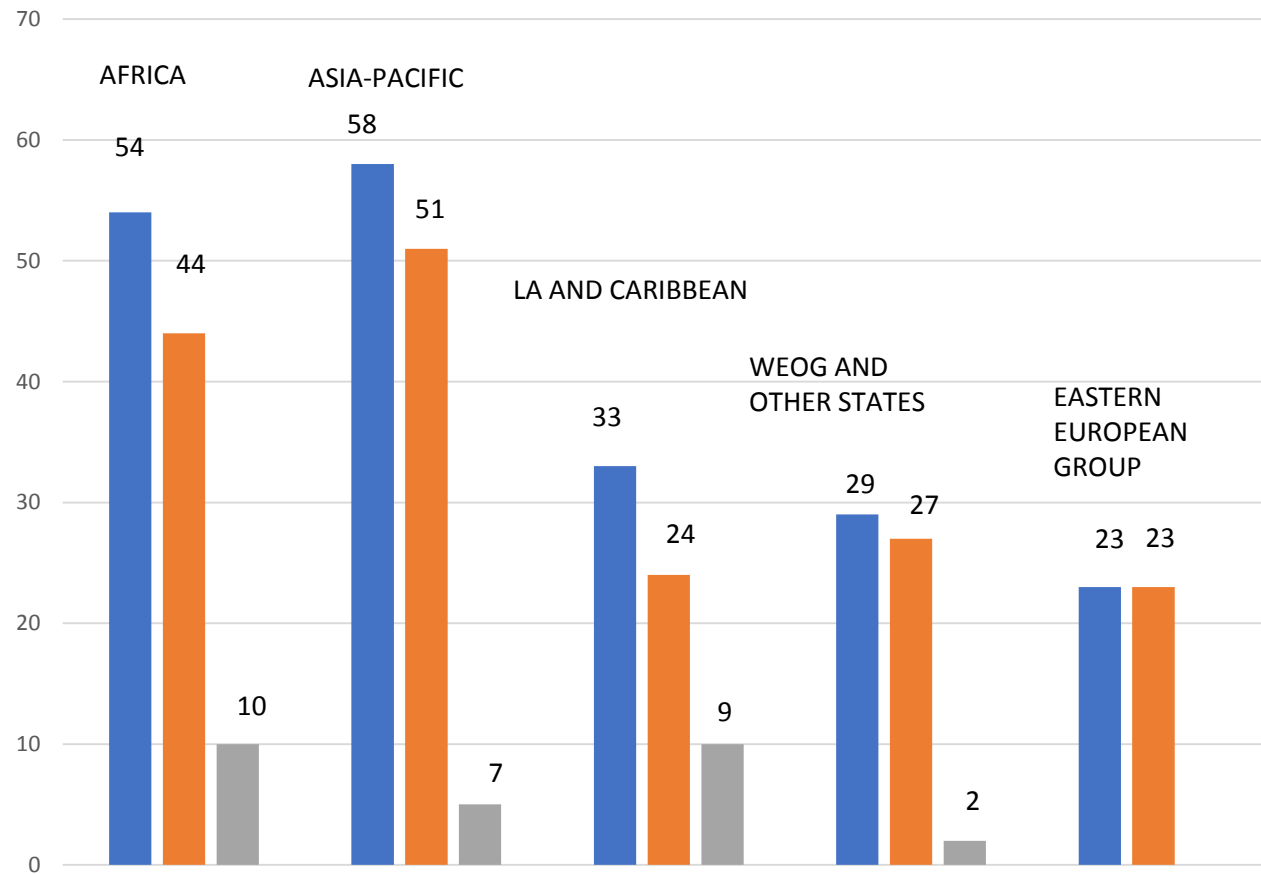
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Apia, 25 October 2019

Where we are globally

VNR PRESENTATIONS BY REGION INCLUDING 2020

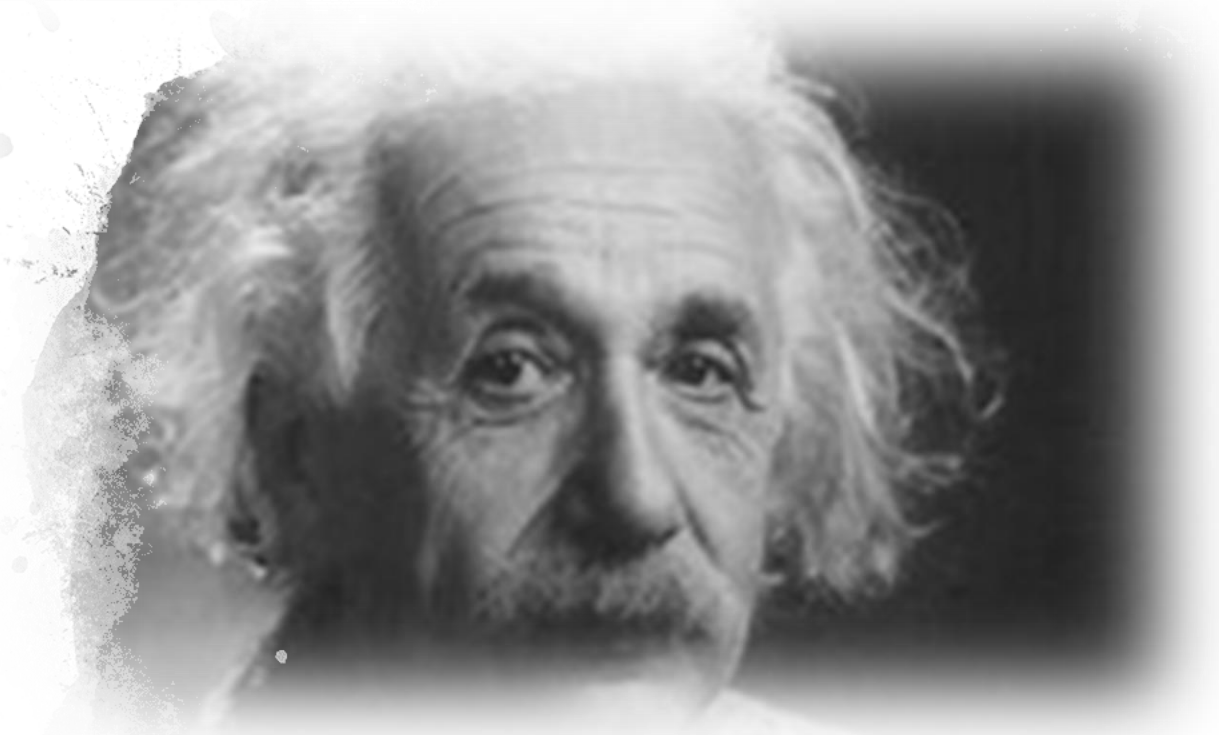


VNRs IN THE PACIFIC

Pacific – Who presented or will present their VNRs (12)		
2016		
1.	Samoa	2016, 2020
2018		
2.	Kiribati	2018 (also LDC)
2019		
3.	Fiji	2019
4.	Nauru	2019
5.	Palau	2019
6.	Timor-Leste	2019 (also LDC)
7.	Tonga	2019
8.	Vanuatu	2019 (also LDC)
2020		
9.	Micronesia (Federated States of)	2020
10.	Papua New Guinea	2020
11.	Solomon Islands (also LDC)	2020
2021		
12.	Marshall Islands	2021
Pacific – Not yet presented or expressed a wish to present a VNR (3)		
1.	Cook Islands	
2.	Niue	
3.	Tuvalu (also LDC)	

WHY UNDERTAKE A VNR?

- Changes mindsets
- Identifies and acts on priorities
- Maps gaps and defines challenges
- Engages all stakeholders
- Draws lessons and provides critical reflections on the process:
 - increased level of meaningful consultations
 - whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach
 - forging of partnerships



The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results

Lessons learned from 2019 VNR countries

“If countries knew what their aim was in conducting a VNR, it could positively influence their presentation.”

- 1. Start the process early.*
- 2. Make a work plan that will include consultations with stakeholders.*
- 3. Include your country's Mission to the UN at every stage, using Skype, WhatsApp, Facetime, where possible.*
- 4. Make institutional arrangements that include a policy guidance 'tier' AND a technical advisory 'tier.' If there are administrative regions or many islands make up your country, ensure that the institutional arrangements include the regional governments.*
- 5. Determine drafting arrangements early - who will draft what? By when?*
- 6. Establish early arrangements for the (means of) inclusion of stakeholders. Decide whether the NGO sector will be encouraged to produce a 'shadow' report.*
- 7. Know your presenting team well ahead of time, if possible.*
- 8. Make your presentation interesting and not 'cookie-cutter.'”*

SUPPORT TO VNR PROCESS

Preparatory process

UN DESA in cooperation with UN country teams, regional commissions and regional and subregional organizations as appropriate conducts a preparatory process for VNR countries through

- 3 global workshops
- Regional and subregional workshops in UN regions
- Individual assistance upon request from countries
- Preparation of synthesis report of VNR reports each year
- SG voluntary common reporting guidelines
- Synthesis of main messages from VNR reports
- Handbook on preparation for VNRs updated each year



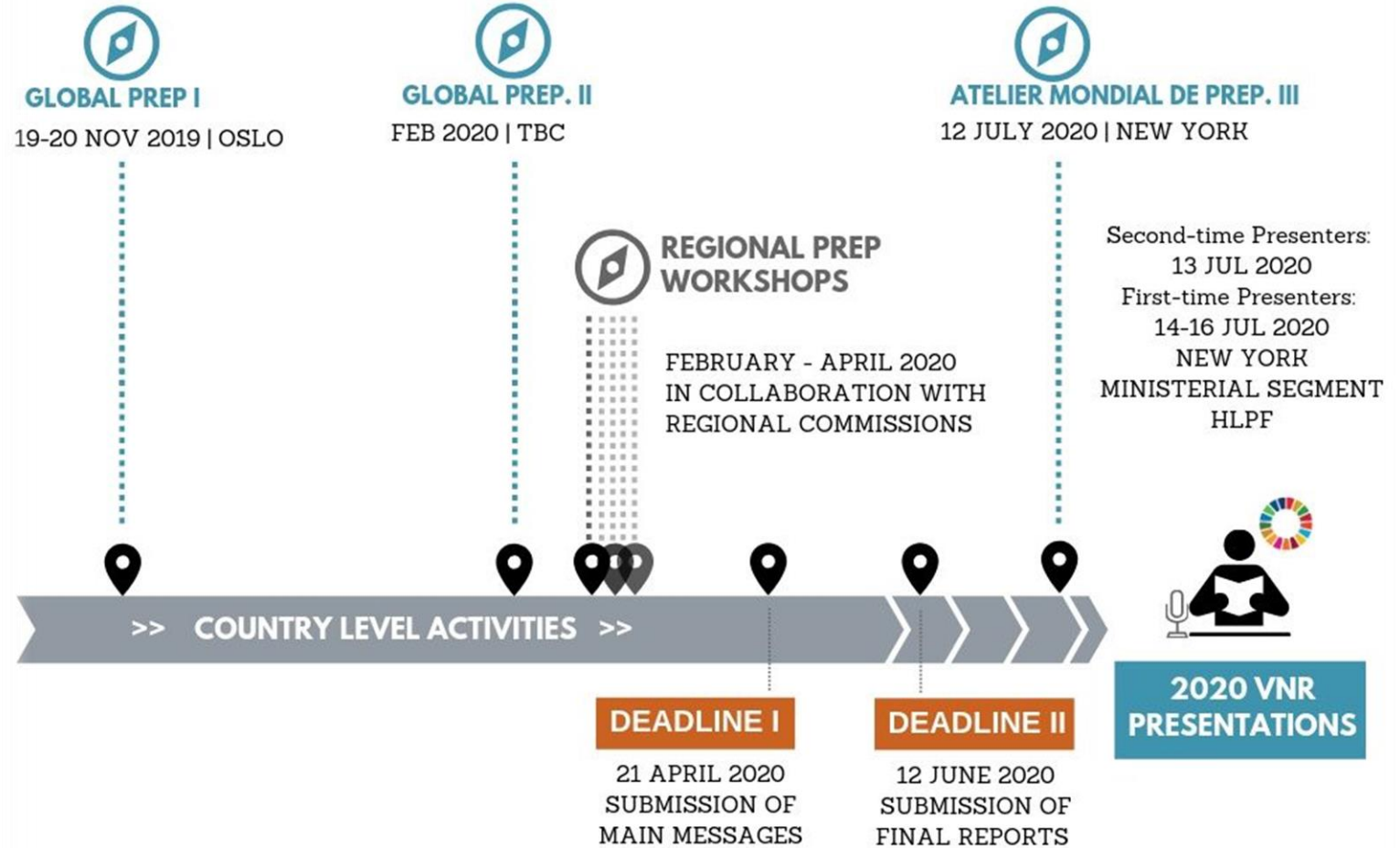
Benefits from preparatory process

- Familiarization with VNR process, peer learning and capacity building
- Sharing of lessons learned, best practices and experiences from countries who have already presented their VNRs
- Regional and subregional specificities discussed among VNR countries and benefits and challenges connected to them

Challenges from preparatory process

- Insufficient time and resources for more robust capacity building
- Better coordinated support by the UN system
- Lack of comparability among reports due to different approaches and methods used

Timeline for 2020 Voluntary National Reviews



Timeline for
2020 VNRs

PRESENTATION AT THE HLPF

Each first-time presenter has 15 minutes for presentation and up to 15 min Q&A

Each second-time presenter has 10 minutes for presentation and up to 10 min Q&A

Format for presentation: individual/panel/interactive

Consider choosing a friend from the Group of friends of VNRs

Each VNR country will have focal point from DESA

Consider presenting and/or participating in VNR Labs

Consider having a side event and also maybe including other presenting countries

VNR preparation checklist

Item	Actions
1. Initial preparation and organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Send letter to President of ECOSOC to communicate decision to conduct a VNR.<input type="checkbox"/> Assign responsibility for coordinating and preparing the VNR.<input type="checkbox"/> Estimate and identify resources required.<input type="checkbox"/> Consider scope of review.<input type="checkbox"/> Develop work plan/road map with deliverables aligned to HLPF deadlines (e.g. submission of Main Messages and VNR Report).<input type="checkbox"/> Map key national actors (e.g. Parliament, line ministries, national statistical office, local government officials, stakeholders).<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare draft outline of VNR and develop key messages.<input type="checkbox"/> Assign information- and data-gathering tasks, including drawing on existing national documents and previous VNR reports.
2. Stakeholder Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> Contact relevant government departments (line ministries) and agencies, setting out basic details, e.g. about the VNR, the information/data requested, and establishment of a focal point.<input type="checkbox"/> Develop stakeholder engagement plan which identifies key stakeholders, and method of engagement (consider offline and online options).<input type="checkbox"/> Establish awareness-raising and public outreach component to disseminate avenues for stakeholder engagement in the VNR process, making use of government communication services, social media, etc.<input type="checkbox"/> Make sure targeted efforts are made to reach groups that are marginalised and at risk of being left behind.

VNR preparation checklist

3. VNR Preparation

- Review and incorporate material received, including data, other reports and previous VNRs.
- Follow-up with government colleagues/information providers to secure missing material or provide additional analysis.
- Decide on participants for the preparatory global and regional workshops.
- Prepare zero draft, including identifying remaining gaps, together with stakeholders.
- Prepare draft of Main Messages (not more than 700 words) for approval and submission to DESA by **21 April 2020**.
- Carry out internal review of VNR, including quality control, allowing time for resolution of possibly contentious issues.
- Establish comment period and circulate draft to relevant government officials.
- Provide opportunity for stakeholders to comment and integrate comments from all national actors and stakeholders to the greatest extent possible.
- Edit the VNR and arrange for translation into English, if needed/desirable, and design and layout.
- Submit for endorsement and approval if required (for example to the Minister, Prime Minister, Cabinet).
- Transmit electronic copy of the VNR to DESA by **12 June 2020**.

4. HLPF Presentation

- Fill out questionnaire and return to DESA (deadline will be indicated) for information on HLPF presentation.
- Inform DESA of preferred presentation format (panel / individual), presenter, and composition of delegation.
- Produce visual materials for the VNR presentations. Deadlines for submission of audiovisual materials to DESA will be indicated.
- Select key messages for VNR presentation, with time limit scheduled for that year in mind.

**WHAT could be
improved:
recommendations
bearing in mind
voluntary and
flexible nature of
VNRs**

National level

- Strengthening national ownership including through capacity building and whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach and through preparing the VNRs by national team using international assistance when needed
- Linking the VNRs to reporting to other mechanisms and conventions
- Strengthening monitoring and oversight including through parliaments and supreme audit institutions, strengthening cooperation among all branches of government
- Explaining the impacts of strategies and policies on national level implementation of the 2030 Agenda

**WHAT could be improved:
recommendations bearing in mind voluntary and flexible nature of VNRs**

Global level

- Using SG voluntary common reporting guidelines to increase comparability, but also to improve overall quality of reports over time by learning from good practices and reflecting these by updating periodically the guidelines
- Focusing VNR presentation at HLPF on explanation of impact of policies and strategies, lessons learned and peer learning that can be of benefit to all countries
- Strengthening of interactive discussion including through providing more time for Q&A and getting recommendations
- Strengthen the role of HLPF as a platform for peer learning and exchanging of experiences
- Strengthen HLPF to serve as a broker and matchmaker for partnerships in the follow-up after the VNRs through looking at areas where countries need support



Resources

- Voluntary National Review Database
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>
- VNR Synthesis Reports (2019 [coming soon] | [2018](#) | [2017](#) | [2016](#))
- VNR Handbook including SG Voluntary reporting guidelines – 2019 edition [\[AR\]](#) [\[EN\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [2020 edition coming soon]

Thank you!

