



Workshop to support Pacific VNR reporting in 2019 with a focus on **Indicator Development and its links to Planning/Budget processes**

Dates: 4-6 December, Nadi, Fiji

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC.

The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2019, five countries from the Pacific region (Fiji, Vanuatu, Tonga, Nauru and Palau) will be presenting their VNR to the HLPF. A key component of these reports will be focused on documenting the approaches countries are adopting to implement the indicator framework of the SDGs into their national planning and budgeting processes. To ensure sustainability and cohesiveness of reporting efforts, linking the monitoring of SDGs with performance measures used for associated national planning systems, and implementation processes (including budgets and resourcing) remains critical. By tackling data production, data use, implementation of development priorities and resourcing components collectively, the capacity to address national and global reporting needs is improved with more effective overall use of national systems for implementation/results monitoring (outcomes and output levels).

Cognizant of capacity challenges in PICs, and noting Forum Leaders directive for consolidated reporting systems aimed to reduce PIC reporting burdens, continuous efforts to monitor planned priorities and budget resourcing allocations tracked through relevant and connected indicators leads to coherent knowledge base for reporting. As such, should global development commitments be localized and mainstreamed as appropriate, national development plan (and sector plans) monitoring reports can provide solid basis for global reporting, including the VNR. Strengthening national planning and monitoring systems, and adapting as needed for multiple reporting requirements, leads to better ownership and accountability for results, and is likely to improve implementation results of planned priorities and resource allocation/use.

Workshop Objectives

The workshop will look to meet the following objectives for the representatives of the five countries undertaking their VNR reporting in 2019.

- 1) Provide an opportunity to information share on:
 - a. Their national planning/policy environment and its linkages to budgetary processes
 - b. Existing Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) processes, in particular their corresponding indicator frameworks
 - c. Activities undertaken nationally thus far to implement SDGs in to national processes, with a focus on national plans and corresponding indicator frameworks within M&E processes

- 2) Provide a better understanding on:
 - a. The VNR process, via a walk-through of the SG's voluntary guidelines
 - b. The importance of integrating indicator development with national planning and budgetary processes
 - c. Processes which should be considered in developing national sustainable development indicator sets which meet the needs of tracking progress of existing national development priorities, whilst accommodating regional/global reporting commitments such as SDGs

- 3) An opportunity to commence/further progress the process of producing the VNR report for their respective countries with a focus on:
 - a. Documenting the challenges and processes being adopted to align planning and budgetary processes to assist with implementing and resourcing of development priorities, for inclusion in the VNR report
 - b. Documenting the challenges and processes being adopted to identify all key national indicator priorities, and their ongoing production for national and regional/global reporting, for inclusion in the VNR report
 - c. Development of a strategy to identify and produce the key indicators which will add evidence to the main body of the VNR report, documenting sustainable development issues and progress

Workshop Outputs

Participants from the five countries undertaking their VNR reporting in 2019 attending the workshop will be required to produce the following outputs throughout the course of the workshop:

- a) A detailed work plan on activities to be undertaken to assist with their countries VNR report which addresses both:
 - a. the documentation of challenges, processes being undertaken to align indicator production with planning and budgetary processes for inclusion in the VNR report
 - b. the production of national priority indicators, especially those identified to provide evidence on key development issues tackled in the VNR report
- b) Initiate documentation on the challenges and processes being adopted to align planning and budgetary processes to assist with implementing and resourcing of development priorities
- c) Initiate documentation on the challenges and processes being adopted to identify all key national indicator priorities, and their ongoing production for national and regional/global reporting, AND further progress indicator development activities for national and regional/global reporting

Targeted Participants

The workshop will be aimed at the five countries undertaking their VNR in 2019; Fiji, Vanuatu, Palau, Nauru and Tonga

Representatives from the following departments will be targeted:

- National Statistics Office: Senior officer involved in indicator development, and preferably involved in SDG implementation activities undertaken thus far
- National Planning Office: Senior officer involved in development of national plans, with a knowledge of budgetary processes, and preferably involved in SDG implementation activities undertaken thus far
- Department overseeing SDG implementation nationally: Senior officer involved in the coordination of SDG implementation activities

Workshop Facilitators

The workshop will be facilitated by UNESCAP, UNDP and SPC.

Location and Timing

The workshop is planned to be conducted in Nadi over 3 days, from the 4-6 December.