VNR Lab

Path to equal: New Measurement Framework on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

15 July 2021, 8–9 am (EDT)

[Register here](#) (*to receive meeting link*)

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) lab "Path to equal: New Measurement Framework on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment", organized by UN Women, will be held virtually on 15 July 2021, 8–9 am (EDT) on the margins of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). This lab will provide an informal platform for Member States and other stakeholders to share experiences on integrating a gender perspective in the VNR process, including on the use of gender statistics, to ensure the gender-responsive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and national sustainable development strategies.

Only nine years remain to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and greater efforts are needed to diagnose the root causes of structural gender inequality, identify game-changers, and spur further commitments. A new measurement framework for gender equality and women's empowerment developed by UN Women and UNDP provides a powerful tool for this pursuit by illustrating a country's progress in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment through a dashboard of indicators. The dimensions and most of the indicators selected for quantifying the dimensions are SDG indicators and thus complement the policy efforts of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

This lab will highlight some of the findings from this work and its relevance for the preparation of VNRs, particularly in their assessment of the different forms of discrimination that women and girls face and their impact on society, and on accelerating progress in achieving the SDGs. The findings will also put a spotlight on intersectionality through a comparison of outcomes for women and girls from different wealth/income quintiles for 100+ countries. Featured speakers will include representatives from Member States, including from national statistical offices, who will share their experiences and reflections on good practices in integrating a gender perspective in the VNR process. The lab will be held under the Chatham House Rules and will be open to Member States, the UN system, and representatives of major groups and other stakeholders.

Questions for discussion

1. What are some good practices used by governments to ensure the systematic integration of a gender perspective in the VNR process in all stages, including initial planning and preparations, the drafting of the report, the presentation at HLPF, and the national follow-up process after HLPF?

2. How can the collection, analysis, use and distribution of gender statistics promote impactful policies to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls? How can UN Women and

UNDP's new measurement framework and dashboard of indicators provide support to Member States in this regard, particularly in the VNR process?

3. What are some challenges and gaps in integrating a gender perspective and a leave no one behind (LNOB) perspective in the VNRs, and using gender statistics in this regard? How have some of these challenges and gap been exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic? What are some specific examples of how these challenges are being addressed in your country?