

# A brief overview of the voluntary national reviews (VNRs) at the High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

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[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020)

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## Structure, theme and [programme](#) : structure

M	T	W	T	F
<u>Week 1</u>				
6 July Integration Segment of ECOSOC	7 July Day 1	8 July Day 2	9 July Day 3	10 July Day 4
<u>Week 2</u>				
13 July Day 5 - VNRs	14 July Ministerial VNRs	15 July Ministerial VNRs	16 July Ministerial VNRs	17 July High-Level Segment of ECOSOC

PROGRAMME FOR ECOSOC INTEGRATION SEGMENT, HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC\*

INTEGRATION SEGMENT	HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT					
	Theme: Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development					
	Week 1, 6-10 and 13 July 2020					
Monday, 6 July	Tuesday, 7 July	Wednesday, 8 July	Thursday, 9 July	Friday, 10 July	Monday, 13 July	
9 AM – 12 PM	<p><b>9-9:20 AM</b> Opening</p> <p><b>9:20-10:40 AM</b> Getting back on track for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals</p> <p><b>10:40-11:50 AM</b> Leaving no one behind in the context of COVID-19 and the decade of action and delivery</p> <p><b>11:50-12:00 PM</b> Closing</p>	<p><b>9 – 9:15 AM</b> Opening President of ECOSOC</p> <p><b>9:15 AM – 12 PM</b> <u>Launching the decade of action at a time of crisis: Keeping the focus on the SDGs while combatting COVID-19</u></p> <p><i>(The impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs, SDGs Progress report, 2020 targets, regional dimensions and countries at different levels of development including middle-income countries, data, institutions for integrated policy making)</i></p>	<p><b>9 – 10 AM</b> <u>Building back better after COVID-19: and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs</u> <i>(continued):</i></p> <p>Responding to the economic shocks, relaunching growth, sharing economic benefits and addressing developing countries' financing challenges <i>[Most closely related SDGs: SDG 5, SDG 7, SDG 8, SDG 10, and SDG 17]</i></p> <p><b>10 AM-12 PM</b> <u>Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and the Samoa Pathway:</u> <u>Small Island Developing States</u></p>	<p><b>9 – 10:30 AM</b> <u>Building back better after COVID-19: and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs</u> <i>(continued):</i></p> <p>Bolstering local action to control the pandemic and accelerate implementation <i>[Most closely related SDGs: SDG 9, SDG 11, and SDG 17]</i></p> <p><b>10:30 AM -12 PM</b> <u>Are we leaving no one behind in eradicating poverty and working towards the 2030 Agenda?</u> <i>(including what COVID-19 is telling us about inequalities and the weaknesses in our social systems)</i></p>	<p><u>Means of implementation to match the scope of the crisis and the breadth of our ambition for 2030:</u></p> <p><b>9-10 AM</b> Mobilizing well directed financing</p> <p><b>10 -11 AM</b> Science, technology and innovation</p> <p><b>11 AM – 12 PM</b> <u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p>Nigeria Slovenia</p>	<p><b>9 AM – 12 PM</b> <u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p>Bangladesh Georgia India Morocco Nepal Niger Uganda</p>
	2 – 5 PM	<p><u>Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs</u></p> <p><b>2 – 3 PM</b> Protecting and advancing human wellbeing and ending poverty <i>[Most closely related SDGs: SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 16, and SDG17]</i></p> <p><b>3 -- 4 PM</b> Ending hunger and achieving food security <i>[Most closely related SDGs: SDG 2, SDG 3 and SDG17]</i></p> <p><b>4 – 5 PM</b> <u>Transformative pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda: a whole of society approach taking into account the impact of COVID19</u> <i>(Stakeholder perspective)</i></p>	<p><u>Building back better after COVID-19 and acting where we will have the greatest impact on the SDGs</u> <i>(continued):</i></p> <p><b>2 – 3 PM</b> Protecting the planet and building resilience <i>[Most closely related SDGs: SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15, and SDG 17]</i></p> <p><b>3 – 4 PM</b> Sustaining efforts to ensure access to sustainable energy <i>[Most closely related SDGs: SDG 7, SDG 12, SDG 13, and SDG 17]</i></p>	<p><b>2 – 4 PM</b></p> <p><u>Mobilizing international solidarity, accelerating action and embarking on new pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda and respond to COVID-19:</u></p> <p><u>African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries</u></p>	<p><b>2 – 4 PM</b></p> <p><u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p>Armenia Ecuador Honduras Kenya Samoa</p>	<p><b>2 – 4 PM</b></p> <p><u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p>Argentina Benin Costa Rica Panama Peru</p>

\* The programme is based on the Political Declaration adopted at the SDG Summit in September 2019 (A/RES/74/4) and the theme of the HLPF (GA decision A/74/508) and inspired by the Global Sustainable Development Report without prejudice to the ongoing review of the resolutions A/RES/67/290 and A/RES/70/299.

\*\*The above-mentioned SDGs are the ones most closely associated with the theme of these sessions. The sessions will look at synergies and trade-offs among these SDGs and across all the SDGs.

**HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL**

*Theme: Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*

MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF HLPF			HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT	
	Tuesday, 14 July	Wednesday, 15 July	Thursday, 16 July	
<b>9 AM - 1 PM</b>	<p align="center"><b>9 – 10 AM</b> <b>Opening</b> President of ECOSOC, SG, President of the General Assembly, PM Finland, Youth representatives</p> <p align="center"><b>10 AM - 1 PM</b> <u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p align="center">Finland</p> <p align="center">Brunei Darussalam Bulgaria Burundi Gambia Russian Federation</p>	<p align="center"><b>9 – 10 AM</b> <u>Messages from the regions</u></p> <p align="center"><b>10 AM – 1 PM</b> <u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p align="center">Estonia</p> <p align="center">Austria Seychelles Syrian Arab Republic Ukraine Uzbekistan</p>	<p align="center"><b>9 AM – 1 PM</b> <u>Voluntary national reviews</u></p> <p align="center">Comoros DRC Kyrgyzstan Libya Malawi Republic of Moldova Zambia</p>	<p align="center"><b>9 – 9:30 AM</b> Introduction of SG reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC and on long term impact of current trends on SDGs Report of the Committee on Development Policy</p> <p align="center"><b>9:30-10:30 AM</b> Multilateralism after COVID 19: what kind of UN do we need at the 75th anniversary?</p> <p align="center"><b>10:30 - 11:30 AM</b> Where are we heading? Visions and scenarios for the future of the SDGs following the COVID-19 crisis</p> <p align="center"><b>11:30 AM – 12:30 PM</b> Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration Conclusion of the high-level segment</p>

# Structure, theme and programme: themes

HLPF TIMELINE	
2020	Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development
2019	HLPF under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality
	HLPF under the auspices of the General Assembly (SDG Summit)
2018	Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies
2017	Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world
2016	Ensuring that no one is left behind



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## Structure, theme and programme: [theme](#)

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Accelerated action and transformative pathways:  
realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable  
development

GA decision 74/305 adopted as draft decision [A/74/L.11](#) on 15 November 2019



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# Voluntary National Reviews ...

1. Strengthen political will, national ownership, institutions and coordination
2. Identify areas where support is needed
3. Provide an important communication tool
4. Change mindsets
5. Draw lessons and provides critical reflections on 2030 implementation
6. Stimulate continued national conversations after VNR has been presented



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# Voluntary National Reviews ...

Since 2016, 158 VNRs have been presented by 142 countries.

2016 - 22 VNRs

2017 - 43 VNRs

2018 - 46 VNRs

2019 - 47 VNRs

2020 – 47 VNRs



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# Voluntary National Reviews ...

## After the July 2020 HLPF ....

- Of the WEOG Group, out of 30 countries, only 3 will not have presented their VNR
- Of the Eastern European Group, all 23 countries will have presented
- Of the Asia-Pacific Group, out of 57 countries, 8 will not have presented their VNR
- Of the African countries, out of 54 countries, 9 will not have presented their VNR
- Of Latin American and the Caribbean Group, out of 33, 9 will not have presented their VNR



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**FIRST TIME PRESENTERS (26)****SECOND AND THIRD TIME PRESENTERS (21)**

<b>Austria</b>	<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>Argentina</b>	<b>Kenya</b>
<b>Barbados</b>	<b>North Macedonia</b>	<b>Armenia</b>	<b>Morocco</b>
<b>Brunei Darussalam</b>	<b>Papua New Guinea</b>	<b>Bangladesh</b>	<b>Nepal</b>
<b>Bulgaria</b>	<b>Republic of Moldova</b>	<b>Benin</b>	<b>Niger</b>
<b>Burundi</b>	<b>Russian Federation</b>	<b>Costa Rica</b>	<b>Nigeria</b>
<b>Comoros</b>	<b>Saint Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	<b>Ecuador</b>	<b>Panama</b>
<b>Democratic Rep of the Congo</b>	<b>Seychelles</b>	<b>Estonia</b>	<b>Peru</b>
<b>Gambia</b>	<b>Solomon Islands</b>	<b>Finland</b>	<b>Samoa</b>
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	<b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	<b>Georgia</b>	<b>Slovenia</b>
<b>Liberia</b>	<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	<b>Honduras</b>	<b>Uganda</b>
<b>Libya</b>	<b>Ukraine</b>	<b>India</b>	
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>Uzbekistan</b>		
<b>Micronesia</b>	<b>Zambia</b>		

47 countries  
will present  
a VNR in  
2020

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## Timeline for 2020 Voluntary National Reviews



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# Voluntary National Reviews ...

## Modalities for first time presenters

- Countries presenting a VNR for the first time will have 15 minutes for their presentation.
- Followed by a similar amount of time for questions from other countries and stakeholders (and time for technical changes)
- The 15-minute time allocation includes the use of audio-visual material, including videos.

## Modalities for second/ third time presenters

- Countries presenting a VNR for the second time will have 10 minutes for their presentation in a panel format.
- Followed by a similar amount of time for questions from other countries and stakeholders (and time for technical changes)
- The 10 minutes time allocation includes the use of audio-visual material, including videos.



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# Voluntary National Reviews - Resources

- Updated [voluntary common reporting guidelines](#) for VNRs at the HLPF
- Handbook for VNR Preparations [\[AR\]](#) [\[CH\]](#) [\[EN\]](#) [\[ES\]](#) [\[FR\]](#) [\[RU\]](#)
- [Q&A](#) for VNRs at the 2019 HLPF
- VNR Synthesis Report [2019](#), [2018](#), [2017](#) and [2016](#)

All the above can be found at HLPF VNR database  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>



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# Major groups and other stakeholders

The screenshot shows the 'Stakeholders' page on the Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform. The page features a navigation menu with options like HOME, SDGS, HLPF, STATES, SIDS, UN SYSTEM, STAKEHOLDERS, TOPICS, PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. A sidebar on the left lists 'STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT' categories such as Business and Industry, Children and Youth, Farmers, Indigenous Peoples, Local Authorities, NGOs, Scientific & Technological Community, Women, Workers and Trade Unions, Persons with Disabilities, Volunteers, Ageing, Education and Academia, High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, National Capacity Building, Post 2015 process, Statements, and Documents. The main content area is titled 'Stakeholders' and contains text explaining the role of Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGOs) in the 2030 Agenda. A callout box asks users to complete a registration form. At the bottom, there are three small images: a tree with gears, a girl thinking, and a person working in a field.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>

The screenshot shows the 'How to Participate' page on the Sustainable Development Goals Knowledge Platform. The page features a navigation menu with options like HOME, SDGS, HLPF, STATES, SIDS, UN SYSTEM, STAKEHOLDERS, TOPICS, PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. A sidebar on the left lists 'REGISTRATION', 'INTRODUCTION', and 'CONTRIBUTIONS'. The main content area is titled 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE' and contains text explaining the process of participating in the HLPF. A callout box asks users to complete a registration form. At the bottom, there are three small images: a tree with gears, a girl thinking, and a person working in a field.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2020#introduction>



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# Thank you!

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