



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VNR Labs 2019

Annotated Agenda

9-15 July 2019

No.	Date	Time	Venue	Topic	Lead Organizer
1	Tue 9 July	13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>Achieving policy integration</p> <p>Integrated approaches, strengthening coordination and coherence among fiscal, monetary, trade and development policy objectives, will remain critical for accelerating progress towards the SDGs. The interactive discussions at this VNR Lab will reflect on practical approaches to optimizing sustainable development outcomes, taking into account cross-sectional and inter-generational trade-offs.</p>	EAPD, UN DESA Contact: dpad@un.org
2	Wed 10 July	8:00 – 9:00	S-1522/23	<p>Making progress visible - SDG data visualization platforms</p> <p>This Lab will feature the presentation of different data platforms to visualize progress on the SDGs.</p>	OISC, UN DESA Contact: hlpf@un.org
3		13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>“Leaving no one behind”– Inclusive implementation and reporting</p> <p>“Leaving no one behind (LNOB)” is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Member States have committed to achieve sustainable development for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society. The 2018 VNR Lab on LNOB identified good policies/measures taken to address specific needs of those who are left behind, as well as existing gaps, including lack of adequate national/local mechanisms to enable meaningful participation of vulnerable groups in the VNR process. Building on the outcome of the 2018 VNR Lab, the VNR Lab this year aims to focus on how public and civic institutions can create/strengthen mechanisms to ensure inclusive processes, including decision-making in the implementation of SDGs, and in specific VNR preparatory and reporting processes at the national and local levels.</p>	DISD, UN DESA
4	Thu 11 July	8:00 – 9:00	S-1522/23	<p>From presentation to implementation: Regional support to the follow-up on the VNRs</p> <p>Progress in the implementation of Agenda 2030 will be the ultimate measure of success of the HLPF and its follow-up and review mechanisms. As we take stock of the first cycle of reviews, it is therefore time to turn the focus of the VNR process from presentation of plans to implementation. Further</p>	UN Regional Commissions Contact: dadam@un.org

				leveraging the regional level can contribute to identifying critical gaps and accelerators around which support to countries should be mobilized. Against this background, representatives of VNR participating countries, regional organizations and stakeholders will be invited to exchange experiences and identify good practices and recommendations emerging from the regions to support the follow-up on the VNRs, address gaps and accelerate implementation.	
5		13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>How can science advance national implementation?</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of strengthening the role of science in policy-making. From analyzing complex problems and identifying trade-offs and synergies, input from scientists is needed for sound assessments and concrete options for action at the national level. This Lab will highlight the experiences and lessons learned from feeding scientific input into policy processes.</p>	DSDG, UN DESA
6	Fri 12 July	8:00 – 9:00	S-2724	<p>Follow-up to the VNRs: Accelerating Implementation</p> <p>Conducting a voluntary national review is an intensive exercise for government, as well as all stakeholders involved. What can be done to ensure that the momentum generated by the review process continues into the implementation cycle? A variety of examples and good practices are emerging as countries take steps to capture the lessons learned during the review process. This Lab will share experiences from countries with regard to follow-up to the reviews. It will share good practices, lessons learned and recommendations for accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p>	DSDG, UN DESA
7		13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>Peacebuilding and sustaining peace through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a framework to strengthen and transform preventative action to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies. This Lab will offer participating countries the opportunity to share good practices on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through creating economic opportunities, strengthening institutions, reducing inequalities, as well as promoting just and inclusive societies. Participants – including Governments and civil society groups - will share their experiences on how the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is making a difference to people’s lives, especially those living in conditions of violent conflict and insecurity.</p>	IISB/OISC, UN DESA <i>Contact:</i> calabrini@un.org

8	Mon 15 July	8:00 – 9:00	CR-11	<p>Strengthening the thematic reviews during the next cycle</p> <p>The HLPF is mandated to carry out thematic reviews of progress on the SDGs, including cross-cutting issues. Thematic preparations have, among other things, taken stock of global progress towards achieving the SDGs, identified particular areas of concern and main challenges, and suggested ways forward in terms of policies, partnerships and coordinated actions at all levels. This Lab will examine good practices for strengthening national contributions for the next cycle of thematic reviews, drawing on examples from a range of stakeholders.</p>	DSDG, UN DESA
9		13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>Mobilizing resources and empowering people through inclusive finance</p> <p>This VNR Lab will provide an informal platform for countries and development partners to share experiences and best practices for developing and implementing policies and tools to promote inclusive finance in support of the SDGs. New products and technologies are rapidly changing the landscape of financial services, especially in developing countries. Financial empowerment, including access to credit and banking services, can be a key element of a strategy to lift communities out of poverty. Many countries are incorporating inclusive finance strategies into development plans and integrated financing frameworks. Understanding how to align policy and regulation with the 2030 Agenda is critical, given the growing complexity in the financing landscape arising from technology and innovation, including new actors and instruments. This session will highlight opportunities, innovations, and challenges in the field of inclusive finance.</p>	FSDO, UN DESA
10		18:15 – 19:45	CR-11	<p>Engaging all parts and levels of government, including parliaments – best practices from the VNR process</p> <p>This lab will focus on engaging all parts and levels of government, including parliaments, in SDG implementation at the national and subnational levels with a focus on illustrating how ministries, agencies and other public institutions collaborate across organizational boundaries through interlinked policies and initiatives. The format will consist of an informal exchange of good practices based on VNRs. Concrete challenges that countries are facing in engaging relevant institutions and stakeholders in addressing a specific SDG target and its interlinkages with other targets will also be considered. Each Member State will be invited to present one concrete case for discussion.</p>	DPIDG, UN DESA <i>Contact: blind@un.org</i>

Ministerial segment 16-18 July 2019

11	Tue 16 July	13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>Innovative formats to review national implementation</p> <p>The VNR Lab will focus on innovative formats to review national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including peer reviews and independent evaluations. Country representatives will share their experiences and lessons learned from these exercises with the objective to identify possible synergies with the Voluntary National Review process.</p>	OISC, UN DESA <i>Contact: hlpf@un.org</i>
12		18:30–20:00	S-1522/23	<p>Storytelling and communication strategies for the SDGs – best practices from VNR countries</p> <p>The 2030 Agenda presents a number of communication challenges and opportunities for governments, businesses, and stakeholders. Four years in, global awareness of the SDGs remains low. How do we not only raise awareness but also create ownership? How do we talk about challenges and the need for accelerated action, while also celebrating progress made? Governments spend significant time and energy putting together VNRs, which are meant to be snapshots of SDG progress -- but what happens before and after the HLPF? Governments are eager for good practices in communicating this ambitious, interconnected Agenda, and several have voiced the desire for support in socializing their VNRs (and more largely, the SDGs) in country. This Lab will bring together communicators, advocates, member states, experts, and other stakeholders to kick start a conversation about what effective, evidence-informed, inclusive storytelling on the SDGs and/or the issues behind them looks and could look like.</p>	UN Foundation
13	Wed 17 July	8:00 – 9:00	S-2724	<p>VNR country tbc – national experience of the VNR process</p> <p>XXX will share its challenges and lessons in preparing its VNR. Other countries and stakeholders will have the opportunity to share advice, propose support or ask questions.</p>	OISC, UN DESA <i>Contact: hlpf@un.org</i>
14		13:15 – 14:45	CR-11	<p>Bridging the policy-statistics gap: strengthening the use of data for evidence-based VNRs</p> <p>Data and statistics form the backbone of any reporting of the SDGs, including the VNRs. Without quality data, we cannot say with certainty what progress we are making and where gaps exist. One of the main issues identified in the previous VNR lab on data was the disconnect between policy makers and statisticians. As a multi-stakeholder process, the preparation of the VNRs provide a wonderful opportunity to bring these two communities together to discuss how the use of data could be strengthened for robust, evidence-driven VNRs. This session will provide a platform for policymakers and statisticians to discuss how this can be accomplished.</p>	Statistics Division, UN DESA <i>Contact: sapkotas@un.org</i>

15	Wed 17 July	18:30 – 20:00	S-1522/23	<p>Localizing the SDGs and VNRs: reporting on progress, challenges and opportunities</p> <p>Meaningful localization of the SDGs means making these global aspirations of the internationally agreed framework a reality for communities, households and individuals, particularly the most vulnerable and at risk of being left behind. Engaging local populations on SDG localization, including on the process of preparing Voluntary National Reviews, demands strong and tailored awareness-raising efforts, including through the power of local culture and in showcasing how the SDGs are relevant to all people, at all levels. Additionally, a number of local and regional governments have been engaging in preparing voluntary local reviews, adding specific perspectives towards local implementation. The purpose of this VNR Lab is to discuss how VNRs can be a tool in supporting localization of SDG implementation as well as on how to capture localization efforts in VNR reports.</p>	<p>DPIDG/DSDG, UN DESA <i>Contact:</i> Kim3@un.org</p>
16	Thu 18 July	8:00 – 9:00	CR-11	<p>Partnerships for VNRs</p> <p>To build momentum for SDG achievement at national and local levels, a range of stakeholders must commit to work together. Governments alone cannot achieve the SDGs and the role of partnerships at the national and local level is particularly important. These can ideally foster synergies among different actors, combine their resources and energies towards addressing specific shared objectives inspired by the SDGs, and enhance mutual accountability. Of the 102 countries that have so far submitted voluntary national review (VNR) reports to the HLPF, almost all mentioned partnerships as a means of implementation. But only a dozen or so referenced explicit efforts to foster partnerships. To help accelerate this slow but gathering momentum at national level and following on from the discussions at the 2019 ECOSOC Partnership Forum on how to build effective country-level partnership platforms, this VNR Lab proposes to bring together diverse actors to discuss, amongst others, how multi-stakeholder partnerships can help drive implementation of the SDGs and what enabling measures would need to be put in place at the country level to foster such multi-stakeholder partnerships.</p>	<p>DSDG, UN DESA</p>
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