



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

VNR Lab “Leaving no one behind: Inclusive implementation and reporting”
Wednesday 10 July: 1:15 to 2:45pm in Conf. 11

Organized by DESA/DISD, EAPD and DPIDG

“Leaving no one behind (LNOB)” is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It represents the unequivocal commitment of all UN Member States to eradicate poverty in all its forms, end discrimination and exclusion, and reduce inequalities and address vulnerabilities, so that all people, regardless of their background, can fulfil their potential in life, and lead decent lives with dignity. This underscores the need for its 17 Sustainable Development Goals to be met for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society.

The 2018 VNR Lab on LNOB examined who are left behind in selected countries, identified good policies/measures taken to address specific needs of those who are left behind, as well as existing gaps, including lack of knowledge on how to identify and/or reach those furthest behind, and lack of national/local mechanisms for vulnerable groups to meaningfully participate in the VNR process (for example, due to time constraints, limited space or lack of universal accessibility, or in some cases, unwillingness to hear criticism). The UN system also noted that UN country team staff needed more practical guidance on how to operationalize the LNOB concept in their work with Member States and, starting in 2018, “LNOB: A UNSDG Operational Guide for UN Country Teams”¹ was prepared by an inter-agency Task Team under the auspices of the UN Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) and is now being field tested for finalization.

Building on the outcome of the 2018 VNR Lab, this year’s VNR Lab aims to focus on how public/civic institutions can create 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. The VNR Lab will be organized by DISD/DESA, in collaboration with EAPD/DESA, DPIDG/DESA, OHCHR, UNWomen and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies.

List of Speakers:

Moderator: **Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr**, Professor for International Affairs at the New School and Vice-Chair of the CDP

- Presentation of findings from VNR analysis on LNOB (5min)

Moderated dialogue with VNR countries (2019) and other stakeholders to make short interventions based on guiding questions (40min: 3 - 5min per speaker)

¹ Accessible at: <https://undg.org/document/leaving-no-one-behind-a-unsdg-operational-guide-for-un-country-teams-interim-draft/>

Panelists: **Mr. Jonas G. Allansson**, Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland

Dr. Hande Hacimahmutoğlu, Head of Department of Health, Employment and Social Protection, Presidency of Strategy and Budget Office of Turkey

Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo, Acting Director, Development Policy Division at the National Development Planning Commission, Ghana

Ms. Nicole Igloi (UNDP) and **Ms. Louise Nylin** (UNWomen), UN Working Group on LNOB

Mr. David Steven, Senior Fellow and Associate Director at New York University's Center on International Cooperation, and Director of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Mr. Mohammad Zia-ur-Rehman, Founder and Chief Executive of AwazCDS-Pakistan and Global Council member of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAP)

Ms. Sylvia Beales, Representative of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing

Ms. Joan Carling, Co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group

Ms. Diyana Yahaya, Representative of the Women's Major Group

Guiding questions 1: In your country, who are those left behind, and are there any institutional mechanisms or processes to involve them in the SDG implementation?

Guiding questions 2: In your country, what is the process of preparing the Voluntary National Review? Is there any space for those vulnerable groups to be included in the VNR preparation process?

Guiding questions 3: What are the roles of the international organizations and the civil society to ensure that no one is left behind, and the specific needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups are not only heard, but also reflected in decision-making processes, including VNR preparation and reporting processes?

Interactive dialogue with other participants (about 45 minutes)

* To be updated with a list of confirmed speakers.

Profiles of Speakers

Expert Moderator

Prof. Sakiko Fukuda-Parr is Professor of International Affairs at The New School. She is a development economist interested in human development and capabilities and the broad question of national and international policy strategies. Her current research includes projects on public policies and economic and social rights, and the impact of global goal setting on international development agendas. From 1995 to 2004, she was the lead author and Director of the UNDP Human Development Reports. Prior to this, she worked at the World Bank and UNDP on agriculture, aide coordination in Africa, and capacity development. In addition to CDP, she serves on the Lancet-University of Oslo Commission on Global Governance for Health, and the boards of the International Association for Feminist Economics, the Center for Economic and Social Rights, and Knowledge Ecology International. She also serves on the editorial boards of Feminist Economics and Journal of Human Development Capabilities.

Speakers

Mr. Jonas G. Allansson is the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland to the United Nations. Prior to the current position, Mr. Allansson has served in many positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well as the Deputy Permanent Representative of Iceland to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Dr. Hande Hacımahmutoğlu is the Head of Health, Employment and Social Protection Department at Presidency of Strategy and Budget Office under Presidency of Turkish Republic. Department of Health, Employment and Social Protection is responsible for designing public policies and allocating public investment budget to the public institutions in the areas of health, employment, social protection, migration, technical cooperation and poverty. She has a BA degree in Labour Economics from Ankara University, holds a MA degree in Globalisation and Development from the University of Warwick, and continues to her PhD study on Social Research Methodology in Hacettepe University, Institute of Population Studies. She started to work in the State Planning Organisation as assistant planning expert in 2003. During 2003-2017, she worked in the areas of social security, poverty, health, research and development. In December 2017, she has assigned as the head of Health and Social Security Department. In December 2018 due to transformation of Ministry of Development into Presidency of Strategy and Budget, her department restructured as Health, Employment and Social Protection Department.

Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo is the Acting Director, Development Policy Division at the National Development Planning Commission, Ghana. He is also the coordinator of Ghana's SDGs Implementation Coordinating Committee and leads the implementation of strategic actions aimed promoting inter-sectoral collaborations and multi-stakeholder partnerships. He coordinated the preparation of Ghana's SDGs baseline report, and Voluntary National Review. Felix is a member of the Global Council on SDG13, as well as the Inter-governmental Agency Group on Violence Against Children (IAEG-VAC) measurement.

Ms. Nicole Igloi is a Policy Specialist on Sustainable Development and the 2030 Agenda at the UN Development Programme's Strategic Policy Unit, which sets the agenda for horizon-scanning, identifies emerging opportunities and challenges for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In exploring ways to go from paper to practice, she is responsible for inter-agency collaboration, partnership building and outreach. Prior to joining UNDP, Ms. Igloi worked for the European Commission's Directorate-General (DG) EuropeAid, managing a regional energy cooperation programme, and DG Environment on financing environmental projects. She has also held positions in the energy and aluminium industries, as well as in business consultancies on environmental management, corporate social responsibility and communications. UNSDG interim operational guide on LNOB can be found [HERE](#).

Ms. Louise Nylin, Chief, Political Analysis and Programme Development Unit at UN Women

Mr. David Steven is the Senior Fellow and Associate Director at New York University's Center on International Cooperation and the Director of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – a group of member states, international organizations, global partnerships, and other partners exploring the challenge of delivering the 2030 Agenda targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). The Pathfinders launched the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies at UNGA in September 2017. Its Task Force on Justice recently published Justice for All which sets out a vision for delivering SDG16.3. David was a Senior External Adviser to and co-author of the UN/World Bank 2018 flagship report Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict and a co-author of the OECD's States of Fragility Report in 2015. He helped found Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children and served as its Senior Strategic Adviser. Other publications include Where Next? Ending Violence Against Children and Turning Ambition into Reality – Platforms and Partnerships for Delivering Agenda 2030.

Mr. Zia Ur Rehman, is a mathematician turned in to social activism since his young age when he founded, AwazCDS-Pakistan in 1995. He works for the socio-economic development and political empowerment of young people and women. He is well-known as a development advocate and lobbyist, community level civil and political rights activist, writer and poet in the development sector especially in Asia and around the globe. He has conceived and conducted many studies on women, girls and young peoples' rights in Pakistan. Currently he is serving as board member of Punjab Government's Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW), Global Co-Chair of Transparency, Accountability and Partnerships –TAP Network, Global Council member of Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Asia Development Alliance (ADA) and Facilitation Group member of Action 4 Sustainable Development (A4SD). He was nominated and one of the finalists for Nelson Mandela Graca Michael Innovation Awards 2016 against his struggles for youth engagement in democratic process and restoration of local governance in Pakistan. He also led the Leave No One Behind Campaign for the implementation of SDGs in Pakistan, the campaign was among the finalists of SDG Actions Award in 2018. He has represented Pakistan and spoken on behalf Pakistani and Asian CSOs many times in various local, national, regional and global conferences including UN.

Ms. Sylvia Beales: Formerly Head of Strategic Alliances at Helpage, and currently Director of BealesGelber Consult, an independent inclusive social development consultancy, Sylvia is member of, and strategic advisor to, Gray Panthers, and founder of the Stakeholder Group on Ageing, on whose behalf she spoke as one of the five civil society representatives selected to address the 2015 UN General Assembly. She is the strategic partnerships advisor for the Africa Platform for Social Protection (APSP), a distinguished Fellow of the International Council of Social Welfare and a volunteer refugee guide for the Helen Bamber Foundation for survivors of human cruelty. Since 2017 Sylvia has been collaborating closely with Global Campaign Against Poverty (GCAP) on ageing and inequality issues, and with Action for Sustainable Development (A4SD) to develop and roll out its toolkit and score card for the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Together with George Gelber of BealesGelber Consult Sylvia has recently completed the editing of 'Falling through the Cracks: Exposing inequalities in the EU and Beyond'.

Ms. Joan Carling is an indigenous activist from Cordillera region of the Philippines. She has been working on indigenous issues for more than 20 years from grassroots to international levels. She served as the Secretary-General of the Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact, a regional coalition of 50 indigenous organizations across Asia, from 2008 to 2016. She was an indigenous expert of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from 2014 to 2016. She is currently the co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG). Her fields of expertise include human rights, sustainable development, environment and climate change as well as on the principles and application of Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC).

Ms. Diyana Yahaya is the Programme Officer of the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law & Development (APWLD), the region's leading networks of feminist organizations and women with more

than 200 members representing groups of diverse women from 28 countries in Asia Pacific. At APWLD, Diyana has been working with women lawyers, policymakers, politicians, activists, trade unionists, grassroots and indigenous women to build their capacity and strengthen their work. Most recently, Diyana has been working with national women's rights organizations from different countries in the Asia Pacific region to build their capacity on the SDGs (its various targets and indicators) and how to monitor and review their government's implementation of the SDGs. She has also carried out analysis of the intersection between trade, finance and investment rules with the Agenda2030 and has participated in the negotiations of trade agreements such as the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development and the Annual Meeting of the World Bank and IMF.