



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Strengthening the use of data for evidence-based VNRs

Wednesday, 17 July 2019

1:15pm to 2:45pm; Room S-2726

United Nations Secretariat Building

Concept Note

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development stipulates reviewing the progress made on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets at national, regional and global levels. One of the follow-up and review mechanisms is the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) prepared by Member States that describe the progress they have made towards the SDGs. These reviews, prepared through a country-led process, are expected to facilitate sharing of experiences—both successes and challenges—among Member States, with a view towards accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

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 various stakeholders together to discuss how the use of data could be strengthened for robust, evidence-driven VNRs.

Objective of this event

This VNR lab aims to bring together national statisticians/policy makers from countries who have recently prepared VNRs, international partners, and other stakeholders to exchange knowledge and share practices on the using data for their voluntary national reviews and national SDG monitoring.

The discussions will focus on specific mechanisms, processes, partnerships and tools that countries have found useful in strengthening the use of data in their VNR reports. More specifically, the lab hopes to discuss some of these questions:



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- What have been the practices/approaches that statistical offices and their policy counterparts have used to increase the usage of data in the VNRs?
- What tools and solutions are available and what have countries found to be the most helpful?
- What are the specific challenges and needs?
- What role can other actor, such as international partners and stakeholders play?

Format of the event

The event will have panelists from member states who have recently produced a VNR, one representative of an international organization, and one civil society organization representative.

Keeping in line with the informal nature of the VNR lab and Chatham House rules that form the basis for VNR labs, this event will take form of informal discussions. To structure the discussions, the moderator will ask series of questions to the panelists; after each question, the panelists have three minutes to respond and then the floor will be open for the audience to ask any follow up questions and start general discussion.

The questions will cover broad themes that are outlined in the objective of the workshop.

More information

For additional information about this VNR lab, please contact

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