Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) aim at taking stock of the status of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, identifying good practices, lessons learned, as well as remaining gaps and challenges. Their main purpose is to enhance the implementation of the Agenda 2030 through reporting on progress made, while also providing a platform for partnerships.

Given that human rights are central to the 2030 Agenda and its promise to leave no one behind, any review of progress made needs to also take account of human issues such as inequality, discrimination, accountability, rule of law, participation and inclusion, as they are linked to the SDGs, their targets and indicators. Human rights analysis can inform reporting on SDGs that have corresponding rights (e.g. water, health, housing). It can help identify groups at risk of being left behind, those furthest behind, and ways of effectively addressing their situation.

In addition to VNR reporting, States also report to and engage with international human rights mechanisms, namely Treaty Bodies, Universal Periodic Review, and Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. Given the mutually reinforcing relationship between human rights and the 2030 Agenda, crucial for ensuring accelerated progress towards achieving the SDGs, systematically linking VNR engagement with the work of the human rights mechanism brings many benefits.

An increasing number of States as well as civil society organizations is working to ensure these processes are better connected and systematically and strategically coordinate.

The VNR Lab will seek to showcase best practices in aligning VNR and human rights reporting and engagement, and demonstrate how this has led to concrete benefits, such as improved quality of the reports, reduced reporting burdens, increased participatory nature of the exercise, and improved implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.

The event will provide an opportunity for participants to exchange relevant experiences and learn about tools, such as the Universal Human Rights Index, which bring together human rights and the 2030 Agenda.
**Format:**
The VNR Lab will be an interactive discussion consisting of a panel of speakers representing up to four Member States and one representative of civil society, followed by an open discussion. Following the welcome address by the organizer, the chair and panelists will have five (5) minutes each for their presentation. A moderated discussion will follow, with interventions from the floor not to exceed three minutes. In conclusion, each panelist will be given up to two (2) minutes for any concluding thoughts.

**Please note also:**
- The VNR lab will take place under the Chatham House rules to allow for candid discussions. This also applies to the use of social media during the event.
- Once the floor is open for an interactive discussion, participants will be able to request the floor through the chat function. The Chair will give the floor to speakers in chronological order, while also taking into account ensuring a balance of stakeholders (Member States, UN entities, civil society and others).
- Use of PowerPoint (or similar) presentations is discouraged.
- The event will take place in **English**. Due to the limitations of the platform, no interpretation or sign language will be provided.