



VNR LABS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

#HLPF #SDGs #GlobalGoals #StandUp4HumanRights

Aligning reporting processes: Voluntary National Reviews and international human rights mechanisms

*Monday, 13 July, 8:00-9:00am New York time
(virtual event on MS Teams platform)*

CONCEPT NOTE

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 2030 Agenda 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 conducted under the human rights mechanisms 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 showcase best practices from Austria, Samoa, Costa Rica, Ukraine and Nigeria in aligning VNR and human rights reporting and engagement. It will demonstrate how this has led to concrete benefits, such as improved reporting quality, reduced reporting burdens, increased participatory nature of the exercise, and improved implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The event will also provide an opportunity for participants to exchange experiences and learn about tools, such as the [Universal Human Rights Index](#), which bring together human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

Panelists:

- **Amb. Alexander Marschik** (chairperson), Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations in New York
- **Francella Strickland**, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, International Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Samoa
- **Amb. Alejandra Solano Cabalceta**, Director General of Foreign Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Costa Rica
- **Kateryna Levchenko**, Government Commissioner for Gender Policy, Ukraine
- **Judith Ekaete Umoh**, Secretary, African Disability Forum, Executive Director, FACICP Disability Plus, Nigeria

Respondent:

- **Gianni Magazzeni**, Chief, UPR Branch, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights

Interactive discussion**Format:**

The VNR Lab will be an interactive discussion consisting of a panel of five speakers, followed by a respondent and an open discussion.

The panelists will have five (5) minutes each for their initial presentation. The respondent will follow with three (3) minutes for their intervention.

An interactive discussion, moderated by the chairperson, will allow for interventions from the floor not to exceed three minutes, taken in chronological order.

Please note also:

- The VNR lab will take place under Chatham House rules to allow for candid discussions. This also applies to the use of social media during the event.
- The VNR lab is limited to 250 participants. All registered participants, including those that may not be able to join the meeting, will receive a short summary of 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 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 only**. Due to the limitations of the platform, no interpretation or sign language will be provided.