

ESCAP's support for VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

ESCAP can support Voluntary National Reviews through the following service lines:

1 Support to VNR formulation



1. Assessing SDG Progress: The national SDG progress assessment dashboard can serve as basis for communicating progress towards the 2030 Agenda in a simple, policy-relevant format and for scoping national priorities and plans. It can also provide a starting point for the VNR process. An [accessible tool](#) assesses whether a country is on track to meet the 17 SDGs and the likelihood of achieving the SDGs Targets by 2030, based entirely on national choice of targets, indicators and data. The methodology allows for the identification of areas of SDG progress which will require acceleration or course-correction.



2. Assessing the impact of COVID-19: ESCAP has developed an [Excel-based model](#) to assist countries in designing integrated policies and responses in the recovery from COVID-19 and in line with the 2030 Agenda. The model provides a snapshot of the national socio-economic context and lays out simple scenarios for designing integrated policy responses. The model incorporates social and environment indicators and captures broader social and environmental impacts of policy responses in addition to economic variables.



3. Calculating SDG Investment Needs: ESCAP has designed a framework for [calculating SDG investment requirements](#) in Asia-Pacific economies, assessing national investment needs for the SDGs. With this framework, ESCAP estimates that Asia-Pacific developing countries need to invest an additional \$1.5 trillion per year to achieve the SDGs by 2030.



4. Measuring inequality of opportunity and identifying those left behind: Using Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS), ESCAP's [classification and regression tree methodology](#) helps identify and visually present those left behind in terms of accessing key services and opportunities, such as education or healthcare, *closely* or *exactly* aligned with 15 different SDG indicators. The [dissimilarity index](#), or D-index, can also be used to measure overall inequality in accessing these key services and opportunities, including by province.



5. Identifying SDG interlinkages: ESCAP has developed a [methodology](#) to apply systems thinking approach to integrate the SDGs into national planning. The methodology is based on ESCAP's experience in applying system thinking into SDG integration and practical case studies. The tool will help producing an analysis of interlinkages between SDGs and national vision for sustainable development. Outputs: 1) SDGs interlinkages maps; 2) National Sustainable Development Plans (beyond VNRs)

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Support to VNR production process



1. VNR training and peer review: ESCAP offers on-site and [online training](#) for VNR [capacity development](#) to support Member States in developing a VNR plan. The training, organized in cooperation with the national coordinator for the 2030 Agenda and in consultation with the Government and other stakeholders, includes methodologies for report preparation and the development of *VNR Roadmaps*. After the training, the national coordinator and the VNR national taskforce have a deeper knowledge on the VNR process, have developed a VNR outline and are able to identify inputs, resources and perspectives needed for each section. Outputs: 1) VNR Roadmap; 2) Annotated VNR Outline.



2. Stakeholder engagement: The Stakeholder Engagement [Planning and Assessment Tool](#) for the 2030 Agenda can serve as basis for the development of a stakeholder engagement plan for the VNR, as part of the national process plan. The methodology helps national taskforces ensure a participatory process involving contributions of line ministries and other stakeholders and support the establishment of [multi-stakeholder partnerships](#). National level VNR workshops are also supported by ESCAP to facilitate feedback on draft VNR report and strengthen cross-sectoral networks of stakeholders for SDG implementation. Outputs: 1) Stakeholder Engagement Plan.



3. Twinning arrangements: To facilitate peer-learning, ESCAP brings together countries planning to develop VNRs with ones that have already presented VNRs through a 'Twinning Programme', in coordination with RC offices and national counterparts. ESCAP supports the twinning partners through study tours, joint online training and information sharing and peer-reviews of VNRs. Twinning partners have also the opportunity to organize and/or participate in side-events and joint presentation of the VNR at the APFSD and the HLPF. Outputs: 1) Study tours; 1) Peer-reviews; 3) Joint events at regional and global level



4. Voluntary Local Reviews: To help SDG localisation and capacity at city and subnational level, ESCAP has developed a set of guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The guidelines build on existing resources and provide practical tools, checklists, and templates that local governments and other stakeholders can use when conducting a VLR through a complimentary process with a country's VNR reporting.