A brief overview of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021

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Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Follow-up and review:

- Paragraphs 79: National level
- Paragraph 84: Global level

Source: https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda
Principles of the VNRs

Source: A/RES/70/1, para 74

Voluntary
- Encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led
- Country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships
- Including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience
- Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances
- Reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

Open, Inclusive, Transparent
- Facilitates communication with all stakeholders
High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2021

- Thematic Review (SDGs & Theme)
- VNR Sessions (12-15 July)
Status of the VNRs

Since 2016, 168 countries have presented over 205 VNR reports during the HLPF:

- **2016** - 22 VNRs
- **2017** - 43 VNRs
- **2018** - 46 VNRs
- **2019** - 47 VNRs
- **2020** - 47 VNRs
- **2021** - 44 VNRs*

*Note: The number of VNRs for 2021 is preliminary and subject to updates.
After the 2021 HLPF ...

African Group:
~ 8 of the 54 countries remain to present a VNR

Asia Pacific Group:
~ 5 of the 53 countries remain to present a VNR

Eastern European Group:
~ All 23 countries have presented a VNR

Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC):
~ 5 of the 33 countries remain to present a VNR

Western European & others Group (WEOG):
~ 2 of the 30 countries remain to present a VNR
### 44 Countries will present a VNR at the 2021 HLPF

[sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/](sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/)

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<th>1st time Presenters (9)</th>
<th>2nd time Presenters (25)</th>
<th>3rd time Presenters (10)</th>
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<td>Angola</td>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
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<td>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</td>
<td>Bahamas</td>
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<td>Bolivia</td>
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<td>Cuba</td>
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<td>DPRK</td>
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<td>Marshall Islands</td>
<td>China</td>
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<td>Myanmar</td>
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<td>Nicaragua</td>
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<td>San Marino</td>
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<td>Dominican Republic</td>
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<td>Germany</td>
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<td>Iraq</td>
<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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<td>Japan</td>
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Regional Division of 2021 VNRs

- Western European & other States: 6
- Eastern European Group: 2
- Group of Latin America & Caribbean Countries: 11
- Asia Pacific Group: 15
- African Group: 10
Timeline for VNRs

3 May 2021:
~ Submission of main messages

11 June 2021:
~ Submission of final VNR reports

Source: DESA Handbook for the preparation of the VNRs, 2021 edition
Modalities

Modalities for 1st time presenters

• Countries presenting a VNR for the 1st time will have 15 minutes for their virtual presentation.

• Followed by a similar amount of time for questions from other countries and stakeholders.

• The 15-minute time allocation includes the use of audio-visual material, including videos.

• MGoS representatives can put a question to each of the countries presenting a VNR after each presentation. The MGoS VNR Task Group will outline the nomination process in further detail.

Modalities for 2nd / 3rd time presenters

• Countries presenting a VNR for the 2nd / 3rd time will have 10 minutes for their virtual presentation in panel format.

• Followed by a similar amount of time for questions from other countries and stakeholders.

• The 10 minutes time allocation includes the use of audio-visual material, including videos.

• MGoS representatives can put a question to each of the countries presenting a VNR once the presentations of the panel are complete. The MGoS VNR Task Group will outline the nomination process in further detail.
Resources

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the HLPF

UN DESA Handbook for the Preparation of the VNRs [AR] [CH] [EN] [ES] [FR] [RU]

Q&A for the VNRs at the 2021 HLPF

VNR Synthesis Report 2020

What is a ‘Good Practice’? A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda
Who is engaged in the VNRs?
<table>
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<th>Major Groups (9)</th>
<th>Stakeholder Groups (12)</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Business and Industry Major Group</td>
<td>Person with Disabilities Stakeholder Group</td>
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<td>Major Group for Children and Youth</td>
<td>Volunteers Stakeholders Group</td>
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<td>Farmers Major Group</td>
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<td>Indigenous Peoples Major Group</td>
<td>Education and Academia Stakeholder Group</td>
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<td>Local Authorities Major Group</td>
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<td>Non-Governmental Organization Major Group</td>
<td>Sendai Group (Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism)</td>
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<td>Scientific and Technological Community Major Group</td>
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<td>Women’s Major Group</td>
<td>LGBTI Stakeholder Group</td>
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<td>Workers and Trade Unions Major Group</td>
<td>Stakeholder Group for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent</td>
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<td>Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism</td>
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<td>Africa Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism</td>
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<td>ECE Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism</td>
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MGoS Self Organisation

- Self-organized space for Stakeholders to engage in HLPF through the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism (CM)
- Ensure broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF. Based in human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination
- Has a Coordination Mechanism with representatives of all groups to facilitate meaningful participation
- CM may create Tasks Groups for specific activities, they report directly to the CM and coordinate with Co-Chairs
- Contact the MGoS here: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos
UN GA Resolution 67/290 ensures the rights of MGos as follows:

- To attend all official meetings of the Forum
- To attend preparatory meetings of the Forum
- To intervene in official meetings
- To submit documents and present written and oral contributions
- To make recommendations
- To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat
• Bring national issues highlighted by key actors and civil society within VNR countries to the HLPF
• All statements are collaboration between different groups, respecting HR and gender equality aspects and considering how structural barriers are approached
• Statements are delivered on behalf of those who are working together on the statement (not the entire MGSoS)
• Input to country statements from transversal/cross-cutting and thematic viewpoints as well as interlinkages
• Statements incorporate a broad and diverse range of views from partners in the country
2030 Agenda - Levels of Stakeholder Participation

01 Inform
One-way communication, where governments inform stakeholders of their plans for implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda.

02 Consult
Stakeholders are meaningfully engaged with governments in generating plans and options for implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. Action plans based on decisions that arise from this input.

03 Involve
Governments and stakeholders decide together on the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. This is long-term, complex and demanding, requiring resources.

04 Collaborate
Final decision making placed in the hands of the stakeholders. Stakeholders collectively decide what should be implemented.

05 Empower
01 Inputs
Numerous countries have requested inputs from stakeholders and organized consultations to collect them.

02 Review
Governments have shared draft VNR reports with stakeholders for their feedback and comments.

03 Represent
Some included Stakeholder representatives in their official delegation sitting on the podium during the VNR presentation at the HLPF, ready to answer potential questions.

04 Present
Several countries have included presentations and comments from different stakeholders in their 15 minute Presentation or in their official report.
1. MGoS VNR Task Group is formed to guide the process (May)

2. Call for expressions of interest from all stakeholders active in the country via online questionnaire BY 18 JUNE: https://forms.gle/wQsRSbnERrQ68AGw6

3. Series of webinars in early June:
   • French: 7 June @ 9h – 10h EDT (NY);
   • Spanish: 8 June @ 2.30 – 3.30pm (NY);
   • English: 9 June @ 9am – 10am EDT (NY)

4. Connect active volunteers from each country and support them to work together as a group/country team (from 18 June)

5. Group to draft collaborative statement (300 words) and up to 3 questions (June-July)

6. Each group will then decide on one speaker for HLPF (July)
Remote participation and collaborative input in drafting MGoS statements for each VNR country is made possible.

Engagement of key actors within VNR countries.

Connecting and engaging in dialogue with CSOs organisations prior to the HLPF (those that are engaged in national implementation processes and VNR preparation).

Bring national issues highlighted by civil society at the grassroots level to the HLPF.

Statements at the HLPF are delivered by representatives of the national civil society.

Liasing with UN Secretariat on the process.
Further information

- MGos Constituency
- HLPF 2021 Website
  - sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#stakeholders
  - sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/
- UN DESA & MGos-CM Mailing List
- Preparatory Webinars
Q&A
Thank you, we look forward to your participation!

Contact us:

UN DESA: Gwilym Roberts-Harry, tomos.roberts-harry@un.org

MGoS VNR Task Group: Ricarda Motschilnig, policy@icae.global; Oli Henman, oli.henman@action4sd.org

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