



VNR LABS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

“National Experience of the VNR Process – Tunisia”

Virtual VNR Lab: Session 16

*Thursday, 15 July 2021, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EST
(Virtual Event on Microsoft Teams)*

Background

In line with its commitments to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Tunisia presents its second Voluntary National Report 2021, and reaffirms its will and determination to implement the SDGs despite the context of the pandemic of COVID 19 very difficult.

The implementation of the SDGs in Tunisia began with the adoption of the first post-revolution development plan (2016-2020), and 80% of the SDG targets were in alignment with this plan. Tunisia has made progress as a young democracy born of an open and inclusive dialogue, and organized free and transparent presidential and legislative elections at the end of 2019.

Tunisia enjoys a high level of achievement in the SDGs on health and education. Access to electrification and drinking water is almost generalized throughout the country. The enrollment rate for 6-year-olds reached 99.5% for 2019-2020. The state guarantees access to health services to vulnerable populations.

Tunisia has been responsive in mitigating the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has resorted to general containment, which has made it possible to control the pressure on its health system. It has also taken a series of actions to guarantee the continuity of basic public social services. A special fund (“18-18”) was created to collect donations and strengthen the health sector. Various measures were taken to support vulnerable populations, such as vulnerable and low-income families. A 23-measure plan has been put in place to support businesses in the face of Covid-19, including the creation of two investment funds.

Thus, the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic has been severe. The national vaccination campaign only started in early March 2021. The Tunisian economy recorded a decline of 8.8% in 2020, with the direct effects of a drop in tax revenues, an increase in the budget deficit and public debt, worrying unemployment, an increase in poverty and a decrease in the investment. The fight against poverty in its various forms, unemployment and especially of young graduates, inequalities between men and women and regional disparities are challenges that Tunisia will still have to face and constitute priorities in its five-year development plan. Within this picture, the democratic transition of the country continues.

The VNR Lab will address the twin challenges of addressing the negative impact of the pandemic on the Tunisian economy and society, and at the same time assuring that progress in empowering all sectors in society benefit from the ongoing transition to a full and participatory society.

The objective of the VNR Lab is to present Tunisia’s national experience in its pandemic response and examine the lessons learned in the country’s democratic transition. Tunisia has taken initiatives to



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strengthen the health sector, support vulnerable populations, and carry out the vaccination campaign. The progress made on the democratic front will be highlighted in the scope of aligning the national plan with the SDG targets and the country's vision for 2030. The lab consists of two informational panels with time allocated for questions and discussion.

Programme of Speakers

Time	
2:00 – 2:20 pm	Panel #1: COVID-19 Impact, Response, and Recovery
2:20 – 2:30 pm	Q&A Discussion Moderated interactive discussion.
2:30 – 2:50 pm	Panel #2: Making a Democratic Transition
2:50 – 3:00 pm	Q&A Discussion Moderated interactive discussion.

Registration for this event is available [here](#).