VNR-Lab 9 SDG advisory bodies and their role in national sustainable development policy cycles

Hosted by the German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) and UN DESA

Monday, 12. July: 1-2:30 pm EST (19-20:30 pm CET)  
In English/ French and Spanish

Abstract: This VNR-Lab will debate the importance and various forms of national sustainable development policies, including national strategies, policy cycle, prioritization processes and the use of indicators. It will also discuss Voluntary National Reviews and peer review processes and how they can relate to the policy cycles at national level. The discussions will examine the impact of inputs from reviews at the international level on national policies and strategies. A number of national multi-stakeholder advisory bodies will outline how they work together with their governments to deliver on the 2030 Agenda. The event will shed light on the variety of existing multi-stakeholder platforms and their concrete role in the local implementation of the SDGs and in facilitating consensus and inclusive advice on policies to realize the 2030 Agenda.

Guiding questions:

1) How is your VNR drafting process anchored in national policy processes and frameworks?
2) What kind of policy-cycles (steps related to drafting and updating policies and to ensuring that policies inform each other) are in place at national and local level to ensure policy coherence?
3) What mechanisms are in place to ensure a two-way relationship between the SDG Advisory Body and the Government?

Format: VNR-Labs at the United Nations HLPF in New York are a lively space for open debates and interaction on issues related to VNR preparations. Despite the virtual format, this lab will aim to ensure a dynamic dialogue. Four countries will share their insights through a dialogue between the governments and their multi-stakeholder advisory body. Each country will have roughly 15 minutes to share their insights. This will be followed by a debate among all four countries and with the audience.

Moderation: The VNR-Lab will be moderated by RNE and a Global Forum partner.

Registration: [RSVP here]
# Timeline

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Content and Speaker</th>
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<td>19:00</td>
<td><strong>Welcome</strong> by the <em>moderation team</em></td>
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| 19:05 | **Introductory remarks from the hosts of the event:**  
- Ms. Barthélemy, Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Support, UN DESA  
- Mr. Pahl, Secretary General, German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) |
| 19:15 | **Dialogue on anchoring the VNR drafting process in national and local policy cycles in Benin and Namibia:**  
Insights shared from Benin, VNR 2020:  
- Mr. Aguessy, SDG-Unit Government of Benin  
- Mr. Vignon, Maison de la Societe de Civile, Benin  
Insights shared from Namibia, VNR 2021:  
- Mr. Sibeya, Program Director, National Planning Commission, Government of Namibia  
- Member of the Multi-Stakeholder Committee (tbc)  
- Ms. Gloria Simubali, Sustainable Development Advisory Council Namibia (tbc) |
| 19:45 | **Dialogue on anchoring the VNR drafting process in national and local policy cycles in Germany and Norway:**  
Insights shared from Norway, VNR 2021:  
- Ministry of Local Government and Modernization (tbc)  
- Mr. Strandenaes, Senior Advisor on Governance and Sustainable Development at Stakeholder Forum  
Insights shared from Germany, VNR 2021:  
- Mr. Bauernfeind, Head of Division Sustainable Development, Federal Chancellery  
- Ms. Wieczorek-Zeul, Council Member, German Council for Sustainable Development (RNE) |
| 20:10 | **Panel discussion/key statements on the role of institutionalized multi-stakeholder bodies for national sustainable development policy cycles**  
- *all speakers* - |
| 20:25 | **Bringing the debate into concert with findings from recent research on MSP-advisory bodies:**  
- Ms. Jean-Pierre Figueroa, Senior Researcher, The Partnering Initiative (TPI)  
- Ms. De-Sas Kropiwnicki-Gruber, Senior Researcher, British Columbia Council for International Cooperation (BCCIC) |
| 20:30 | **Farewell**, by the moderation team |