



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

29 July 2021

Excellency,

I write in relation to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to be conducted at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

I would like to inform you that prior to issuing this invitation, thus far the following countries have already formally expressed their wish to present VNRs at the 2022 HLPF, namely Djibouti, Eritrea, the Philippines, Senegal, Sri Lanka and Tuvalu, which will also duly be considered.

Building on the experience from the HLPFs thus far, I would like to encourage as many countries as possible to volunteer.

However, as I indicated at the ECOSOC Organizational Session on 23 July, it is also my well considered view that we should aim to maximize the value of the VNRs process and allow enough time for interactive discussions with the presenting countries.

To the extent possible, I plan to suggest an approach that limits the number of VNRs presentations at the 2022 HLPF, so as to allow meaningful interaction on each review while also giving priority to the first-time presenters and balance and diversity among presenting countries.

I will also continue to make good use of the Group of Friends of VNRs, which has been led thus far with great success by the Deputy-Permanent Representative of Mexico, Ambassador Juan Sandoval Mendiola, whom I thank sincerely and wish him well in his new posting as I understand he would be leaving New York very soon.

The VNRs are an essential tool to assess challenges and progress toward the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The VNRs also allow the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, and the mobilization of partnerships, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In the past, even countries in post conflict situations have presented VNRs and benefitted from this important process.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
New York

I therefore encourage those countries that have not yet presented a VNR at all, as well as those that already presented once some time ago to particularly consider volunteering to present a VNR at 2022 HLPF.

It is my intention to close the list before the end of September, so I would appreciate receiving your expression of interest by Friday, 17 September 2021.

I look forward to working with all of you in preparing for a successful 2022 meeting of the HLPF.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Collen Vixen Kelapile', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Collen Vixen Kelapile
President of ECOSOC