Voluntary national reviews

2016 Sustainable Development Transition Forum

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Framework

• High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, shall carry out regular reviews (paragraph 84)
• Voluntary, including developed and developing countries, United Nations entities and other stakeholders
• State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants.
• Platform for partnerships
• Learning experience: Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned
Overview – 2016 HLPF

- **22 countries:** China, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Georgia, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela

- **Representative of UN membership:** different regions, e.g. European countries (7), Africa (5), countries in special situations, e.g. Least developed countries (3) and small island developing states (1)

- **BUT a crowded agenda:** Fitting the VNRs into the available time, respecting other mandates of the HLPF
Some messages from the VNRs

• **Mapping SDGs** against national plans and strategies → gap analysis

• **National baselines** – the importance of data

• **Reviewing institutional frameworks** → high-level coordination, choices about existing/new institutions, and multi-stakeholder involvement

• “**Whole-of-government**” approaches → obtaining buy-in from civil servants and creating incentives for integrated policy-making and service delivery

• **Communicating** the agenda to sub-national and local governments
Getting to grips with responsibility for implementation

Example from VNR presentation of Colombia

135
National Governments

4 Quality Education
5 Gender Equality
6 Clean Water and Sanitation
15 Life on Land

88
Require active role or commitment from the Private Sector

8 Decent Work and Economic Growth
9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
12 Responsible Consumption and Production

169
TARGETS

34
Global level as main scenario for action and implementation

10 Reduced Inequalities
14 Life on Land
17 Partnerships for the Goals

110
Require actions by the Subnational Governments and multilevel coordination

1 No Poverty
2 Zero Hunger
4 Quality Education
5 Gender Equality
11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
Way forward

• **VNR reports as resource**: contain a wealth of information → being analysed for insights regarding capacity development needs of countries

• **Continued engagement**: among reporting countries and new volunteers

• **Development and evolution of VNRs**: “experience gained from this and future sessions be taken into consideration in the development of new and flexible arrangements for the preparation of subsequent sessions”

• **Feedback and continuity**: What happens after a country has conducted a review?