

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 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



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?