Overview of voluntary national reviews and the high-level political forum on sustainable development:

Evolving in the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development

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2021 HLPF Timeline

1-4 Mar
ECA Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

15-18 Mar
ECLAC Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

17-18 Mar
ECE Regional Forum on Sustainable Development

3 May
Deadline for submission of main messages of VNR reports from 2021 VNR countries

3 May
Deadline for submission of main messages of VNR reports from 2021 VNR countries

14 March
End of the second open call for SDG good practices in the implementation of 2030 Agenda

12-15 Apr
FFD Forum

4-5 May
STI Forum

Negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration

Negotiation of the Ministerial Declaration

13-16 Jul
High-level Segment of ECOSOC, including the 3-day ministerial segment of HLPF

11 Jun
Deadline for submission of VNR reports from 2021 VNR countries

Third Global VNR Workshop

15 Jul
Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in the last day of the HLS of ECOSOC

15 Jul
Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in the closing of the ministerial segment of HLPF

16 Jul
Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration in the closing of the ministerial segment of HLPF

End of the second open call for SDG good practices in the implementation of 2030 Agenda

Inputs from functional commissions of ECOSOC and other intergovernmental forums and bodies

Inputs from the Major Groups and other Stakeholders
## 42 VNR Countries in 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUMBER OF TIMES PRESENTING</th>
<th>AFRICA (10)</th>
<th>ASIA PACIFIC (13)</th>
<th>EASTERN EUROPE (2)</th>
<th>WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS (7)</th>
<th>LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (10)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First time (8)</td>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>DPRK Marshall Islands Myanmar</td>
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<td>San Marino</td>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda Cuba Nicaragua</td>
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<td>Second time (24)</td>
<td>Cabo Verde</td>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>Cyprus</td>
<td>Bahamas Dominican Republic Paraguay</td>
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<td>Chad</td>
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<td>Saudi Arabia</td>
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<td>Thailand</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Time (10)</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Azerbaijan</td>
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<td>Colombia</td>
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<td>Niger</td>
<td>Qatar</td>
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<td>Guatemala</td>
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<td>Sierra Leone</td>
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<td>Mexico</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42 VNR Countries in 2021
VNR Status in the Africa Region

Algeria (2019)  
Angola (2021)  
Benin (2017, 2018, 2020)  
Botswana (2017)  
Burkina Faso (2019)  
Burundi (2020)  
Cabo Verde (2018, 2021)  
Cameroon (2019)  
Central African Republic (2019)  
Chad (2019, 2021)  
Comoros (2020)  
Congo (2019)  
Cote d’Ivoire (2019)  
Democratic Republic of the Congo (2020)  
Djibouti  
Egypt (2016, 2018, 2021)  
Eritrea  
Equatorial Guinea  
Eswatini (2019)  
Ethiopia (2017)  
Gabon  
Gambia (2020)  
Ghana (2019)  
Guinea (2018)  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya (2017, 2020)  
Lesotho (2019)  
Liberia (2020)  
Libya (2020)  
Madagascar (2016, 2021)  
Malawi (2020)  
Mali (2018)  
Mauritania (2019)  
Mauritius (2019)  
Morocco (2016, 2020)  
Mozambique (2020)  
Namibia (2018, 2021)  
Nigeria (2017, 2020)  
Rwanda (2019)  
São Tomé and Príncipe  
Senegal (2018)  
Seychelles (2020)  
Sierra Leone (2016, 2019)  
Somalia  
South Africa (2019)  
South Sudan  
Sudan (2018)  
Tunisia (2019, 2021)  
Uganda (2016, 2020)  
United Republic of Tanzania (2019)  
Zambia (2020)  
VNRs: Key priorities from Africa

Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

✧ Investments in good governance, gender equality and human rights, reproductive health and the development of human capital
✧ Alignment of national and sub-national strategies and policies to achieve the SDGs
✧ Decentralization as a best practice of integrated policy that contributes to achieving the SDGs on a local level, addressing inequality, and focusing on the most vulnerable
✧ Addressing economical and social challenges requires development of a capable and effective State with sound institutions
VNRs:
Key priorities from Africa (continued)

*Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Zimbabwe*

✧ Leaving no one behind as an overarching principle
✧ SIDS, highly indebted and vulnerable countries require alternative, non-traditional mechanisms and indicators for accessing development financing
✧ Achieving universal and sustainable access to energy, water and sanitation is crucial for leaving no behind, and requires support from existing partners
✧ Adoption of a “green economy” as a tool to achieve sustainable development
✧ Capacity building support targeting civil society to enhance and broaden participation in the implementation of the SDGs
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on VNRs in 2020

Impacts of COVID-19

- Poverty eradication and food security
- Access to quality education
- Gender equality and gender-based violence
- Disruption of trade markets

COVID-19 recovery = opportunity for transformative change

- Health care and social protection
- Economic stimulus packages
- Coordinated approaches between governments and stakeholders
- Priority to address those who are most vulnerable and leave no one behind
Challenges in preparing VNRs

✧ Time frame for preparation
✧ SDG mainstreaming and established institutional frameworks
✧ Contributions of stakeholders
✧ Lack of baseline data
✧ Coordinating inputs and collecting data
✧ Strain on institutional capacity
✧ Internal structures
✧ Countries emerging from conflict
Preparing a VNR for submission to the HLPF:

Scope, content and timeline for 2021

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More Second and Third VNRs in 2021

First VNR

- Already in the 6th year of implementation more information is needed in monitoring and evaluation than was the case in 2016 and subsequent years

Subsequent VNRs

- Ensure that VNRs build on each other and show progress that is substantiated by data.
- Make a plan on how many VNRs to present until 2030

Apex

- Even if not all goals are achieved, progress will be tangible
Updated SG’s voluntary common reporting guidelines: What’s new in 2021?

- Include COVID-19 recovery plans
- Continuity and comparability of second and third VNRs
  - Highlight actions that show progress or changes from the first VNR
- New and emerging challenges
  - Discrimination and inequality
  - Impacts of climate change
- Voluntary local reviews
Outline of SG’s voluntary common reporting guidelines

I. Introduction

• In paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States identified a number of principles to guide the follow-up and review process at all levels. In preparing the voluntary national reviews, it is important that these principles be taken into account

II. Guiding principles

• Practical guidance on structure and content of the VNR - these have evolved over time

III. Structure and content of a report for the HLPF

• Practical guidance on structure and content of the VNR - these have evolved over time

IV. Making presentations at the HLPF

• The presentations at the HLPF have also evolved and adapted to changes
Updated SG’s voluntary common reporting guidelines
Structure of a VNR in 2021

1. Opening Statement
2. Highlights (1-2 pages)
3. Introduction
4. Methodology and process for preparation of the review
5. Policy and enabling environment
   a) **Ensuring** ownership of the SDGs
   b) **Integrating** the SDGs in national frameworks
   c) Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development
   d) Leaving no one behind
   e) Institutional mechanisms
   f) **Systemic issues and transformative actions**
6. Progress on Goals and targets **and evaluation of policies and measures**
7. **New and emerging challenges**
8. Means of implementation
9. Conclusions and next steps
10. Annexes
Scope And Content of a VNR in 2021

Report on ALL SDGs

PATH TO IMPLEMENTATION

It's all about PRINCIPLES OF THE 2030 AGENDA

GAPS

DAT

ACHIEVING GOALS TOGETHER

LINKING PROCESSES

HOW EVIDENCE

IMPACT!

The Way Forward

SUPPORT making a difference
Best practices for second and subsequent VNRs

- Second and subsequent VNRs should not be “second first VNRs”
- Need to build on continuity and deeper analysis explicitly drawing on gaps, challenges and way forward of the previous report
- Show where progress has been made based on monitoring and data
- If challenges identified in the 1st VNR still persist explain what measures or alternative solutions have been provided since then and their impact
- Opportunity to optimize existing mechanisms, national policies and practices and elaborate on short-/medium- and long-term action plans
- Ameliorate engagement of stakeholders and widen the base of stakeholders including reaching out to vulnerable groups and to subnational organizations
Format Of VNR presentation at the HLPF

• **The panel format**: presentations are held sequentially; when all the countries participating in the session have presented, questions are asked of the presenting countries. Mandatory format for all countries presenting for the second time.

• **The individual format**: a country makes its presentation, followed by questions.

• It is recommended that a minister or senior person leads this presentation but also to include non-state actors (civil society, youth, private sector).

• The order of presentations within a particular session is determined by the presenter's rank (unless otherwise agreed with the presenting countries).

• Countries presenting a VNR **for the first time** have 30 minutes each: 15 minutes for their presentation and 15 minutes for questions from other countries and stakeholders.

• **Countries presenting for the second or third time (panel format)** have 20 minutes each: 10 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for questions from other countries and stakeholders.

• Countries are encouraged to use the “Group of friends of VNRs" to support them with the presentation at the HLPF.
Guidance for 2021 VNR countries

Presentation at the HLPF
See how others have done it... VNR database

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

Search by..

- Year
- Keyword
- Country
Support to the VNR process

✧ 3 global workshops
✧ Regional and subregional workshops in UN regions
✧ Individual assistance upon request from countries
✧ Preparation of synthesis report of VNR reports each year
✧ SG’s voluntary common reporting guidelines
✧ Synthesis of main messages from VNR reports
✧ Handbook on preparation for VNRs updated each year
✧ Webinars as needed
What topics would you like covered at the Second global VNR workshop?

- Lessons learned from VNR 2020
- VNR report
- Covid impact on SDGs
- Data presentation
- Vulnerability due to Covid
- Visualisation
- Covid impact
- Good examples of 2020
- HLPF be in person or virtual?
- Multi stakeholders engagement
- Data disaggregation and LNOB
- Sample presentation video
- CSOs and private sector view
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021

Thank you/Merci