



VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW LABS 2019

Regional VNR Lab

From presentation to implementation: Regional support to the follow-up on the VNR process

THURSDAY, 11 JULY 8:00 - 9:00 am, S-1522/23

Background

Progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be the ultimate measure of success of the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and its follow-up and review mechanisms. As we take stock of the first cycle of reviews, it is therefore time to turn the focus of the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process from presentation of plans and institutional mechanisms to accelerating implementation towards the achievement of the SDGs. Governments and all other concerned stakeholders need to act upon the lessons learned, good practices and policy recommendations identified during the review processes at the global, regional, national and local levels. In particular, further leveraging the regional level can contribute to identifying critical common gaps and accelerators around which support to countries should be mobilized.

The Regional Forums for Sustainable Development (RFSDs), convened annually by the Regional Commissions, have consolidated their status as the regional multi-stakeholder platforms for exchanging knowledge, best practices and solutions to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the measurement of progress on the SDGs, in line with regional priorities and specificities.

In this context, countries have continued to receive support for the preparation of their VNRs, benefiting from the wealth of knowledge and experiences shared in these forums. The RFSDs are also valuable platforms for peer learning to identify commonalities, shared challenges and opportunities at the subregional and regional levels, which in turn strengthen the process of following up and reviewing the SDGs at the global level.

Objectives

Against this background, and building on the outcomes of the 2019 RFSDs, representatives of VNR participating countries, some of which have already presented twice to the HLPF, regional organizations and stakeholders will be invited to exchange experiences and identify good practices and recommendations emerging from the regions to support the follow-up on the VNRs, address gaps and accelerate SDG implementation at the country and regional levels.



Agenda

8:00 – 8:05	Opening	Amr Nour, RCNYO Director, acting as moderator
8:05 – 8:55	Discussion with participants	Questions for discussion to be initiated by representatives of the Regional Commissions and experts from VNR countries/other organizations, building on the experience of the regions
8:55- 9:00	Wrap-up	Amr Nour, RCNYO Director

Participants from the regions and questions for discussion (one per region)

- Latin America and the Caribbean** Ms. Luz Keila Virginia Gramajo Vilchez, Asesora Despacho Superior / Despacho Superior, Secretaría de Planificación y Programación de la Presidencia - Segeplán- Guatemala.
 - How have the RFSDs and their peer learning mechanisms contributed to strengthening the VNR processes in various regions?
- Africa:** Ms. Sara Hamouda, SDGs & Agenda 2063 Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism.
 - As we enter in the second cycle of reviews, how can the RFSDs more meaningfully support the VNRs and accelerate the implementation of Agenda 2030? How could the regional level contribute to a systematic follow-up to VNRs and identified gaps, and spur implementation efforts?
- UNECE region:** H.E. Yacov HADAS-HANDELSMAN, Special Envoy for Sustainability and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Israel
 - How could the VNR process better contribute to addressing regional and transboundary challenges and regional specificities? What role could the RFSDs play in guiding and informing the preparation of upcoming VNRs? **ECE**
- Asia Pacific:** Mr. Roy Trivedy, UN Resident Coordinator Timor Leste
 - How could the regional level support the mobilization of resources and forging of partnerships to address gaps identified in the VNRs with a view to accelerating implementation on the ground? How can regional peer review support such process?
- Arab States:** Ms. Karima El-Korri, Chief, 2030 Agenda Unit, ESCWA
 - What could be the role of different stakeholders (other regional and sub-regional organizations, UN entities, parliamentarians, science, CSOs, private sector, supreme audit institutions) in this process? How could their role and contributions at regional level be strengthened?