



United Nations  
Regional commissions  
ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE



VNR LABS  
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

## 2021 HLPF - VNR Lab

### HOW DO INCLUSIVE VNRs HELP ACCELERATE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA? EXPERIENCES FROM THE REGIONS

FRIDAY, 9 JULY, 8:00 - 9:00 am (EST)

#### Opening remarks

by Ms. Rosa Malango, Director of Regional Commissions New York Office

Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Colleagues,

Welcome to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Lab organized by the UN Regional Commissions under the theme “How do inclusive VNRs help accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Experiences from the regions”

Before I proceed, allow me to briefly introduce myself. My name is Rosa Malango and I am humbled to have been appointed a few weeks ago, by the Secretary-General to lead the Regional Commissions New York Office. My almost 30 years of experience with the UN include my recent assignment as the UN Resident Coordinator and Designated Official in Uganda for five years where supported by a diverse group of partners I led the implementation of the reforms transforming the UN Country Team from 18 to 29 agencies working with Ugandans to bring the SDGs to life, I also worked to enhance efficiencies between the UNCT and the 10 UN entities in Entebbe, through my Office we provided critical backstopping support to political and peacekeeping missions. I have served in Guatemala, Cote d’Ivoire, Geneva, Angola and have been responsible for operations and partnerships in every continent.

Having served the past six years in the field, I look forward to my new role and stand ready to reinforce our partnerships with all of you guided by two critical instruments - the UN Charter and the Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The new RCNYO will work closely with the five Regional Commissions and all of you to make the extraordinary and valuable knowledge they generate more readily accessible by all national actors, influencers and other key stakeholders as we focus on implementing the SDGs during this last Decade of Action. COVID-19 has demonstrated the need for innovation, inclusiveness and impact in the way we do our work. It is my hope that we will work closely with you at strategic and technical levels to link

global policymaking to inspirational regional initiatives which can nurture interregional cooperation and success at national level.

Before I conclude, please accept my invitation to join us as we embark on this journey of transformation in this new world. Kindly consider taking two simple steps today, please sign up to our monthly newsletters and following us on social media, and secondly please reach out to us after today so that we can organize structured monthly dialogues on the innovative approaches being pursued at regional level. The links will be posted on the chat thread.

I would like to convey my heartfelt congratulations to the Regional Commissions and to my new team at RCNYO for this being the third consecutive year that you have come together to organize the Lab to exchange lessons from the VNR processes in the regions. As countries strive to address the impacts of the COVID19 pandemic and accelerate progress in the implementation of the SDGs, the Voluntary National Reviews remain critical tools to track of commitments and monitor implementation.

In our discussion today, we will focus on the importance of inclusive VNR processes in line with the SDGs which calls on us to leave no one behind in our pursuit of a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable future. Broad ownership of the SDGs and national development plans is key if we are to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the UN Charter.

We the people will hear today of experiences and innovations from the various regions on how to make the VNR process more inclusive and how to ensure that this shared ownership and inclusiveness helps to deliver better results. I wish to welcome our speakers as I moderate this session and look forward to an exciting exchange.

We have a very tight programme and a long diverse speaker lineup including representatives of countries presenting VNRs for the first time, civil society and UN staff. I kindly ask all speakers to keep to your time limit. I also ask you to focus on sharing concrete experiences and solutions. Please send any briefing notes, presentations to my team so that they can be uploaded immediately. Now let's start and inform the world.

Thank you for your attention.

###