



United Nations
Regional commissions
ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE



VNR LABS
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

2020 HLPF - VNR Lab

Innovative approaches to spur action and delivery on the 2030 Agenda: lessons from the regions.

THURSDAY, 9 JULY, 7:00 - 8:00 am (EST)

Background

Building back better while exiting the COVID-19 crisis will be the defining test of the international community's determination to drive forward the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Decade of Action, so as to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Multilateral action is needed to transform challenges into opportunities for inclusive, resilient and green sustainable development. Regional action and cooperation during and after the crisis enables longer-term cooperation on issues that will likely grow more acute after the pandemic has receded, as the world seeks new pathways towards achieving the 2030 Agenda. In this challenging context, countries have continued to receive support for the preparation of their VNRs, benefiting from the wealth of knowledge and experiences convened by the Regional Commissions and the Regional Fora for Sustainable Development. The VNR preparations processes at the regional level, including through exchange of experience, analysis of the means of implementation, work on data and statistics are also important stepping-stones towards the follow-up and review of the SDGs at the global level.

Objectives

Following the VNR Lab held in the margins of the 2019 HLPF, the 2020 Lab will continue to build on lessons emanating from VNR preparation processes in the regions, with a focus on identifying innovative approaches to spur action and inject momentum in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, considering the broader context of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lab will consider the lessons learned and outcomes of the regional follow-up and review processes and showcase innovative approaches and tools fostered by the Regional Commissions to respond to new and emerging needs expressed by member States. Examples of these approaches include the twinning of VNR countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the development of Voluntary Local Reviews in Africa, the establishment of VNR "communities of practice" in Latin America and the Caribbean, the role of cities and the local level in SDG implementation and resilience in the UNECE region, and the community of practice and dedicated knowledge, learning and collaborative platform in the Arab region



United Nations
Regional commissions
ECA ECLAC ESCAP ESCWA UNECE



VNR LABS
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The Lab will aim at facilitating a cross-regional learning of experiences in support of accelerated implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the country and regional levels. Representatives of VNR participating countries, regional organizations and other stakeholders will be invited to exchange experiences and recommendations in implementing these approaches, and to share how efforts to bring countries together at the regional level have been useful and will continue to be relevant in the context of the Decade of Action.

Agenda

7:00 Opening remarks, **by Mr. Amr Nour, Director of the Regional Commissions New York Office** (moderator)

7:03 Remarks by representatives from the regions showcasing innovative approaches emerging in the regions:

- *Arab region:* **Mr. Taher Belhassan, Director General of the Institute of Planning, Head of the Sustainable Development Committee, Ministry of Planning, State of Libya.**
- *Latin America and the Caribbean:* **Mr. Emanuel Porcelli, International Cooperation Coordinator, National Council for the Coordination of Social Policies, Argentina.**
- *Europe:* **Ms. Michaela Kauer, Director, Brussels Liaison Office, City of Vienna.**
- *Asia and the Pacific:* **Mr. Shombi Sharp, United Nations Resident Coordinator of Armenia.**
- *Africa:* **Mr. Pascal Byarugaba, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, SDG Secretariat, Office of the Prime Minister, Uganda.**

7:23 Discussion with participants.

7:33 Second round of remarks by speakers.

7:43 Second round of discussion.

7:58 Concluding remarks by moderator.