

A large, modern conference room with a massive, glowing circular light fixture on the ceiling. The room is filled with people seated at long desks, many wearing headphones, suggesting a formal meeting or conference. The walls are wood-paneled, and there are windows along the back wall. The overall atmosphere is professional and busy.

**PREPARING AND
PRESENTING
VOLUNTARY NATIONAL
REVIEWS
AT THE HLPF**

HOW CAN THE VNR PROCESS SUPPORT NATIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA?



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Strengthens political will, national ownership, institutions and coordination

Identifies areas where support is needed

Provides an important communication tool

Changes mindsets

Draws lessons and provides critical reflections on the process

Provides impetus to continue national implementation after the VNR has been presented at the HLPF

PRINCIPLES OF VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

Voluntary

encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led

country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships

including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience

facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances

reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

Open, Inclusive, Transparent

Facilitates communication with all stakeholders

BENEFITS OF VNRS

CATALYZER

STOCKTAKING

COORDINATION

“WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT” APPROACH

“WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY” APPROACH

AREAS FOR SUPPORT

COMMUNICATION TOOL



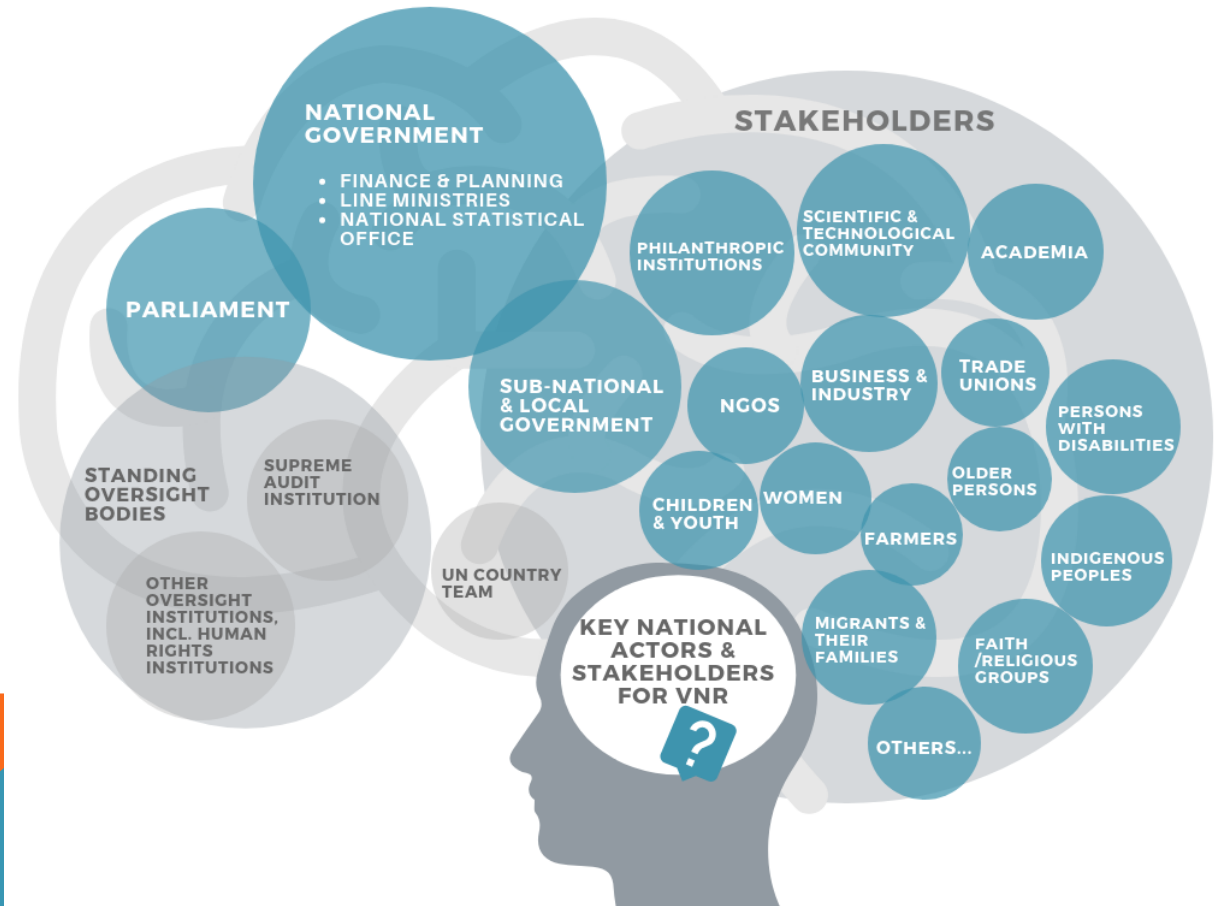
WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAXIMIZE BENEFITS FROM THE VNRS?

- ✓ Embed VNRS into institutions and link the VNRS to report to other mechanisms and conventions
- ✓ Undertake costing analysis for SDGs and align with national budgets
- ✓ Strengthen policy coherence, interlinkages among SDGs and assess trade-offs
- ✓ Monitor SDG implementation including through parliaments and supreme audit institutions
- ✓ Measure impacts of strategies and policies put in place
- ✓ Report at the national level before **and after** a VNR has been presented at the HLPF

Strengthen VNR follow-up by implementing lessons learned from other countries at HLPF

Take actions in the executive and legislative branches of government

WHO IS ENGAGED IN THE VNRS?

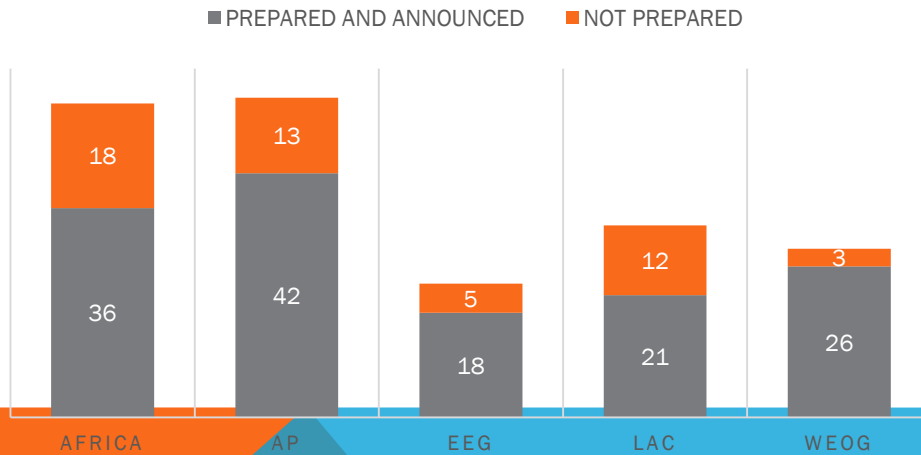


GLOBAL STATUS OF VNRS

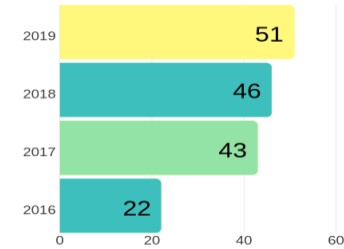
Voluntary National Reviews



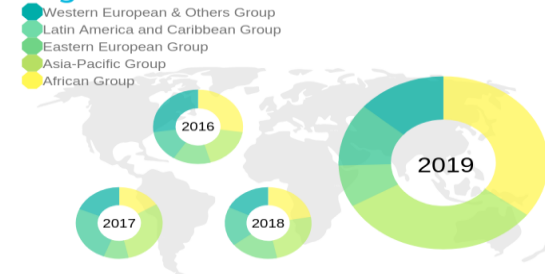
STATUS OF VNRS 2016 - 2019



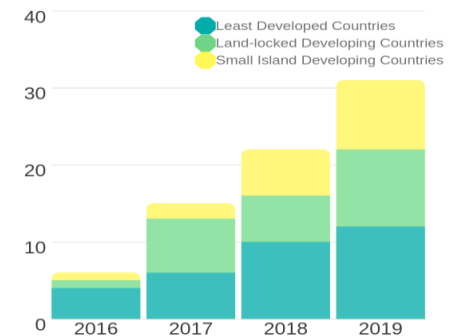
Number of Countries



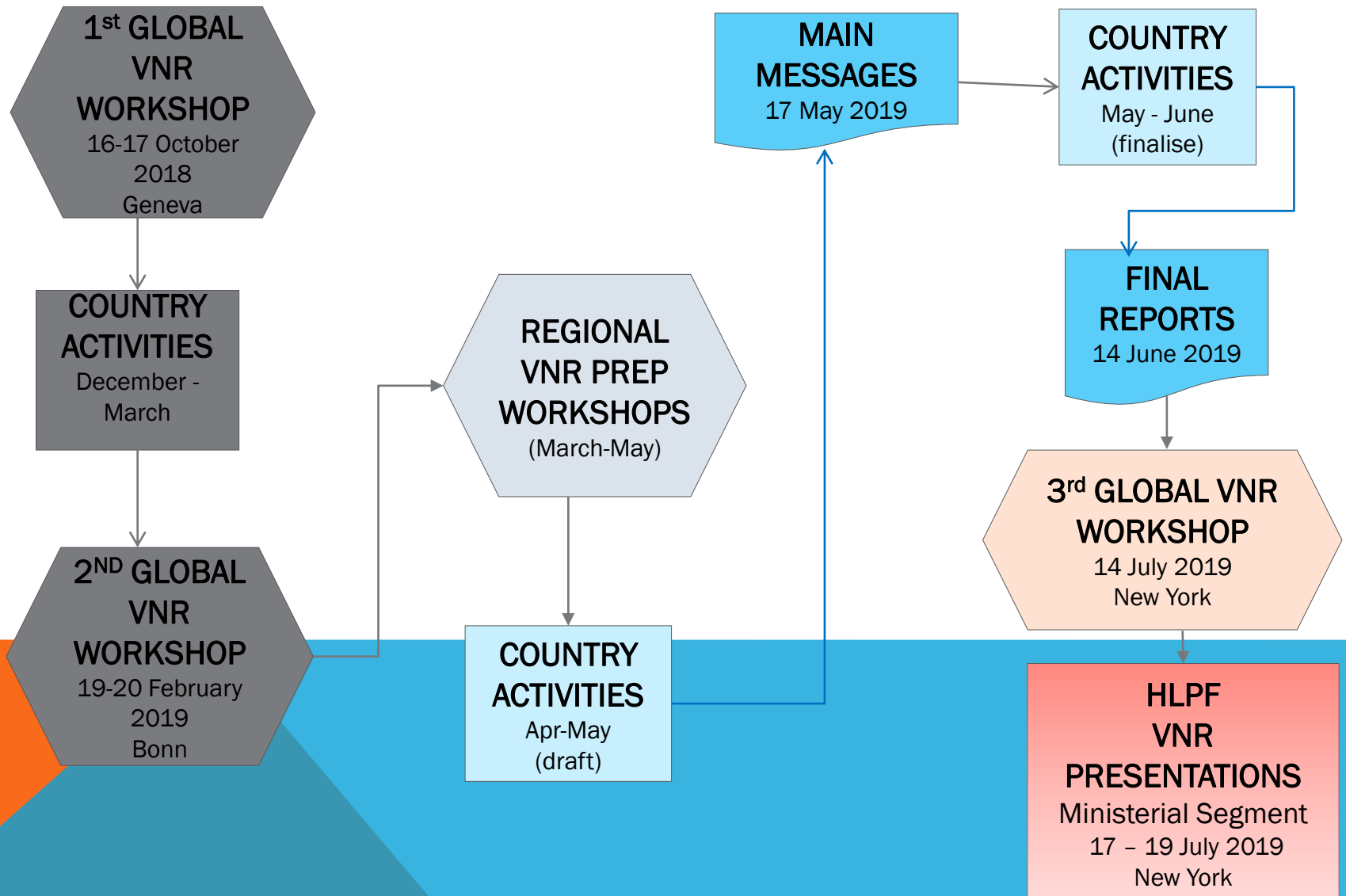
Regional Distribution



Countries in Special Situations



TIMELINE FOR 2019 HLPF VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS



2019 VNRs

VNR
Countries
at the
HLPF
in
2019

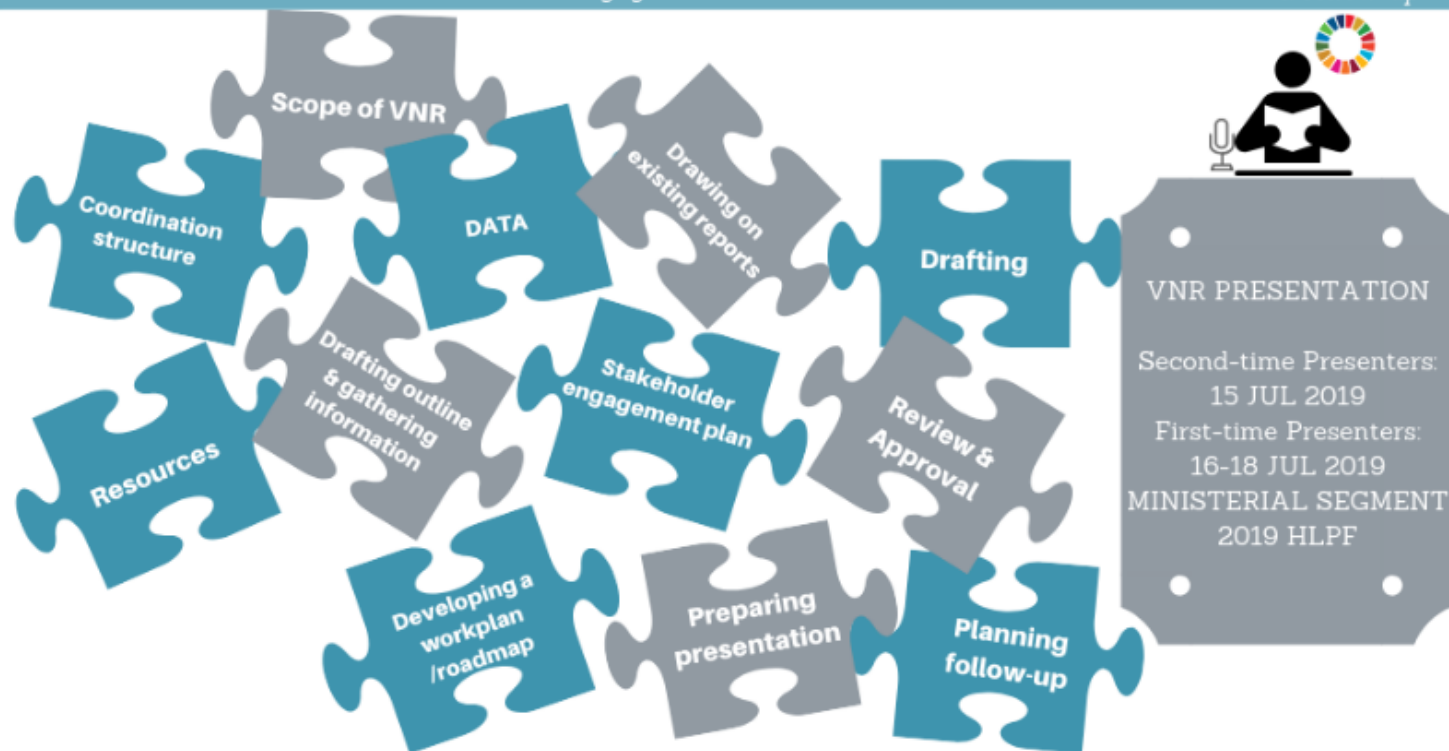
FIRST TIME PRESENTERS (41)			SECOND TIME PRESENTERS (8)
Algeria	Iceland	Rwanda	Azerbaijan
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Iraq	Saint Lucia	Chile
Burkina Faso	Israel	Serbia	El Salvador
Cambodia	Kazakhstan	South Africa	Guatemala
Cameroon	Kuwait	Timor-Leste	Indonesia
CAR	Lesotho	Tonga	Philippines
Chad	Liechtenstein	Tunisia	Sierra Leone
Congo	Mauritania	Turkmenistan	Turkey
Cote d'Ivoire	Mauritius	UK	
Croatia	Mongolia	Tanzania	
Eritrea	Nauru	Vanuatu	
Eswatini			
Fiji	New Zealand		
Ghana	Oman		
Guyana	Pakistan		
	Palau		

KEY ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER FOR NATIONAL REVIEWS

OFFICIAL
INDICATION
OF INTEREST

SUBMISSION OF
MAIN MESSAGES
17 MAY 2019

SUBMISSION OF
FINAL REPORTS
14 JUN 2019





**WHAT
SHOULD BE
INCLUDED IN
A VNR?**

UN SECRETARY- GENERAL'S VOLUNTARY COMMON REPORTING GUIDELINES

To promote comparability and consistency and help countries structure their VNRs, the Secretary General has developed a set of common reporting guidelines.



SG GUIDELINES: HIGHLIGHTS

VNRs should:

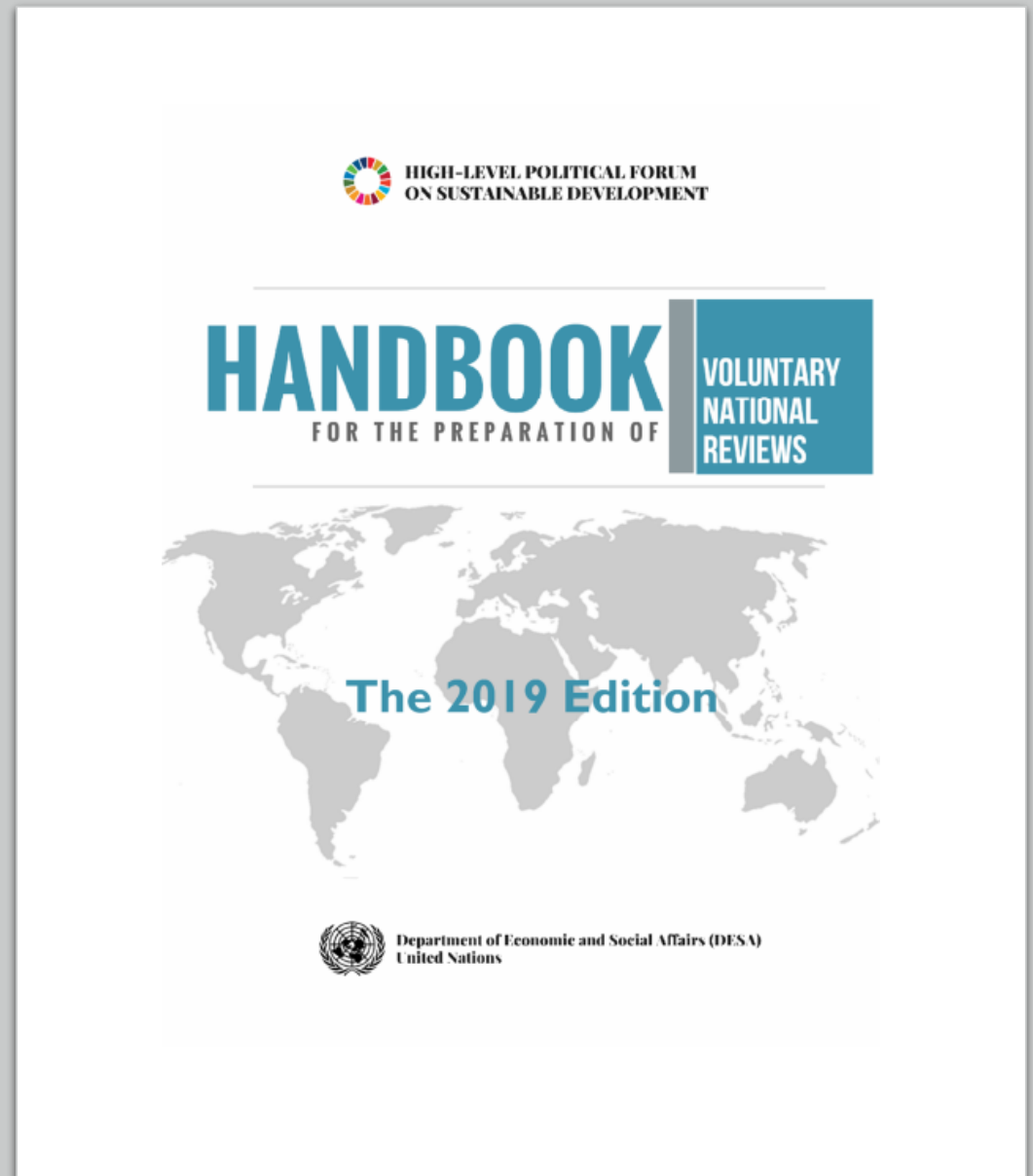
- ✓ be **open, inclusive, participatory and transparent** for all people and will **support reporting by all relevant stakeholders**.
- ✓ be **people-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights** and have a particular focus on the **poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind**.
- ✓ maintain a **longer-term orientation, identify achievements, challenges, gaps and critical success factors** and support countries in making informed policy choices.
- ✓ Help to **mobilize the necessary means of implementation and partnerships, support the identification of solutions and best practices and promote the coordination and effectiveness of the international development system**.

VNR HANDBOOK

Supplement to the SG's
guidelines

Provides basic,
practical
information on the
steps that countries
may take when
preparing VNRs

Available in English,
Arabic, Chinese,
French, and
Spanish



COMPONENTS OF A VNR

Highlights (summary)

- overall progress, best practices, lessons learned, key challenges and support needed

Introduction

- context and objectives of the review, key features of the country context, **policy architecture and policy tools for integrating the three dimensions of sustainable development**

Methodology of the review

- discuss the process for preparation of the national review
- whole-of-government approach and mechanisms for stakeholder engagement

Components of a VNR

Policy and Enabling Environment

- a) Creating ownership of the SDGs;**
 - efforts made towards all stakeholders to inform them on and involve them in the SDGs
- b) Incorporation of the SDGs in national framework;**
 - initiatives undertaken to adapt the SDGs and targets to its national circumstances
 - policy coherence and interlinkages
 - implementation challenges and way forward
- c) Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development**
- d) Leaving no one behind**
- e) Institutional mechanisms**
 - how the country has adapted its institutional framework in light of the 2030 Agenda, coordination and integration to achieve policy coherence
- f) Structural issues**

Components of a VNR

Goals and targets

- Brief information on progress and the status of all 17 SDGs
- Critical difficulties in reaching goals and how they have been addressed

Means of implementation

- How MOI are mobilized, difficulties, and what additional resources are needed.
- How financial systems and resource allocations are aligned with 2030 Agenda
- Technology; capacity development and data needs; multi-stakeholder partnerships

Next steps

- Next steps to enhance implementation, national and sub-national level, dissemination

Conclusion

- summary of analysis, findings and policy implications and how to apply lessons learned in the future

Annex

statistical annex with data and/or annexes to showcase best practices or comments from stakeholders

**VNR
| MAIN
MESSAGES:
SUGGESTIONS**

Possible content of
main messages:

- Key plans/strategies for implementation of SDGs
- Priority SDGs (if any)
- Main challenges encountered & areas of progress
- Stakeholder involvement/consultation
- Means of implementation

INSIGHTS



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The HLPF has proven to be an integrative platform for follow-up and review of 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the global level

Thematic focus on the theme and SDGs produced valuable in-depth analysis and recommendations

Voluntary national reviews are instrumental to gain insight at the national level for follow-up and review

Regional forums for sustainable development represent a valuable link between national and global levels

Engagement of all stakeholders at all levels is the only way to implement 2030 Agenda and SDGs

BEST PRACTICES IN VNR DEVELOPMENT

Start early

Designate coordinator(s) and the “penholder(s)”

Engage a broad range of stakeholders early on

Focus on quality, not quantity

Include a statistical annex, if suitable

Address implementation of all 17 SDGs

Include analysis, lessons learned and detailed examples

Avoid mere listings of strategies and programmes

Showcase both strengths and weaknesses

Identify areas where additional support is needed

Spell out the next steps in implementation



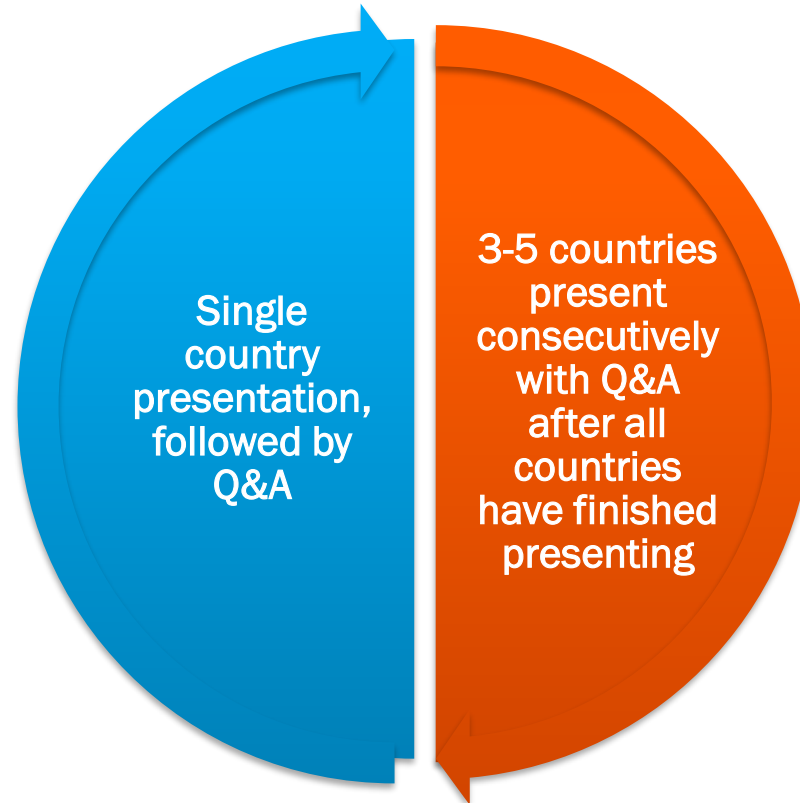
VNR PRESENTATION AT HLPF

Highlight
the main
messages

lessons
from the
VNR

- **Order of presentation** – proposed by the President of ECOSOC, countries agree among themselves
- **Who will present?** More than one presenter? Different ministries, civil society?
- **Time:** 15 minutes for each country to present, including use of multimedia, e.g. short films
- **Interactive:** Questions from other Member States, as well as Major Groups and other Stakeholders

POSSIBLE FORMATS for VNR PRESENTATIONS



**VNR PRESENTATION AT
HLPF**

PRESENTING YOUR VNR AT THE HLPF

Who will present? Consider the most senior official; various government departments, representatives from any Major Group including private sector

What to present:

Key messages of the VNR process; how the review has aligned with national development priorities; opportunities for partnerships moving forward.
Audiovisuals are welcome!



IMPORTANT DEADLINE #1

17 May 2019: Submit the main messages of the VNR report

Maximum 700 words

Should have the main conclusions of the VNR report

A few words on the process and relations

Messages allow countries and stakeholders to prepare for the HLPF –so include lessons, challenges and needs

Official UN document: will be edited and translated into UN languages

Published online: in 2018: <https://undocs.org/E/HLPF/2018/5>

IMPORTANT DEADLINE #2

14 June 2019: Submit the VNR report

No maximum number of words

Should be in UN language –consider a second language for wider reach

Will not be translated into official languages by the UN

Will be posted on the HLPF 2019 website: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019

Also linked on the VNR database: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/



See how others have done it... VNR database

The screenshot shows the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following items: HOME, HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM, STATES, SIDS, SDSS, TOPICS, UN SYSTEM, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. The main header features the UN logo and the text 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM'. Below the navigation bar, there is a large banner image of a globe with green leaves. To the right of the globe, the text reads 'HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT' and 'VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS'. Below the banner, the page title is 'Voluntary National Reviews Database'. The main content area contains a paragraph explaining the purpose of VNRs and a 'FEATURED' section with a link to 'UPDATED Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF)'. The footer of the page states: 'This online platform is dedicated to compiling information from countries' participation in the...'

Search by ..

- Year
- Keyword
- Country

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/



STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE VNR PROCESS

2030 Agenda-Levels of Stakeholder Participation

01

Inform

One-way communication, where governments inform stakeholders of their plans for implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda

02

Consult

Government presents plans and options for implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda, and receives feedback from stakeholders.

03
Involve

Stakeholders are meaningfully engaged with governments in generating plans and options for implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. Action plans based on decisions that arise from this input.

04

Collaborate

Governments and stakeholders decide together on the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. This is long-term, complex and demanding, requiring resources.

05

Empower

Final decision making placed in the hands of the stakeholders. Stakeholders collectively decide what should be implemented.

Stakeholder Engagement in VNR Process

01

Inputs

Numerous countries have requested inputs from stakeholders and organized consultations to collect them.

02

Review

Governments have shared draft VNR reports with stakeholders for their feedback and comments.

03

Represent

Some included Stakeholder representatives in their official delegation sitting on the podium during the VNR presentation at the HLPF, ready to answer potential question.

04

Present

Several countries have included presentations and comments from different stakeholders in their 15 minute Presentation or in their official report.

Levels of Participation - Inform



In the **Maldives**, the government works with the official “Public Service Media” in disseminating information related to the SDGs. Capacity building workshops have been organized for journalists from various media in order to enhance and develop their skills to report on the SDGs.



In the **Netherlands**, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities (VNG) launched the Municipalities4Global Goals campaign to promote awareness of the SDGs among municipalities and help them contribute to the goals.

Levels of Participation - Consult



In **Sierra Leone**, consultations were held both in the capital and in each of the country's districts. The consultations engaged officials from the federal government, parliament, local governments, the private sector, trade unions, civil society and universities on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country.



Brazil established the online portal "Participa.br", a social media instrument providing participation tools for citizens, networks, social movements and organizations, enabling dialogue among governmental bodies and society, through public consultations, debates, conferences and online events.



Chile, in cooperation with UNDP, designed focus groups that sought to prioritize the voice and participation of different populations such as persons with disabilities, immigrants, and indigenous peoples.

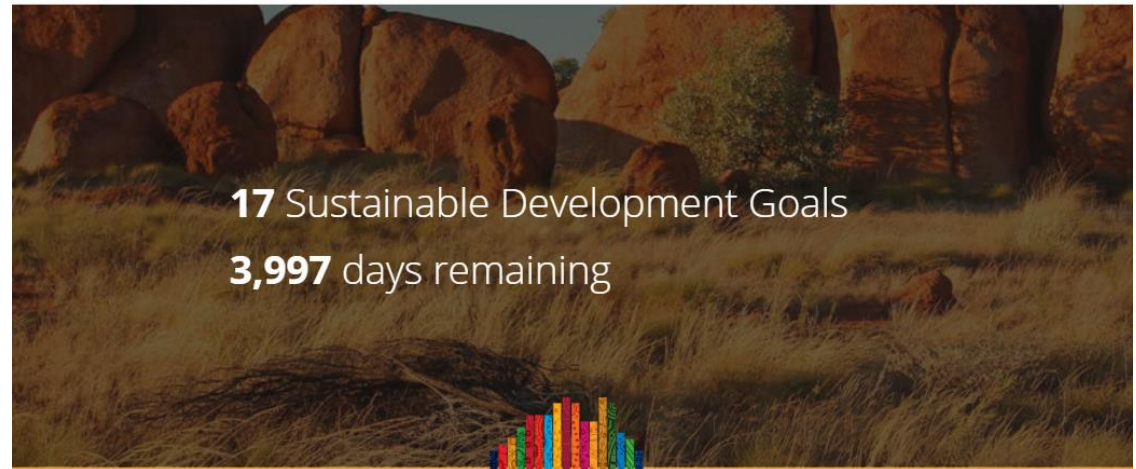
Levels of Participation – Consult/Involve



About us The Goals Projects Partners Resources News [+ Add your project](#)

The **Australian government** along with **Global Compact Network Australia**, have set up a website to provide Australia with a live and ongoing platform to centralize and showcase action being taken across government, business, civil society and academia to advance the SDGs in the Australian context.

Organizations that are undertaking concrete initiatives to help Australia deliver on the Sustainable Development goals are invited to submit case studies to the platform's database which include the initiatives' impact.



Find out how Australian organisations are doing their part to help Australia meet the Sustainable Development Goals, or [add your own case study](#).



For More Information- <https://sdgs.org.au/>

Levels of Participation- Involve/Collaborate



The **Estonian** Sustainable Development Commission is an advisory body consisting of civil society umbrella organizations and covers different fields of sustainable development. The Commission meets 4-5 times per year to discuss drafts of strategic action plans before they are adopted by the government and to publish focus reports with policy recommendations.



In **Norway**, the indigenous peoples' assembly, the Sámeddigi (Sami Parliament) engages in dialogues on the 2030 Agenda with line ministries and formal consultation mechanisms. Consultations have strengthened the Sámediggi's role as a representative voice for the Sami people and increased the awareness of Sami issues within the government. Sami culture is taken into consideration in policies particularly for fisheries and ecosystems protection, restoration and sustainable use of natural resources.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN VNRs AT THE HLPF

MGoS participation in VNR presentations at the HLPF

- Each country has 10-15 minutes to present
- After presentations, there is time for Q&A, in which Major Groups and other Stakeholders can participate
- Participation in the VNR sessions is coordinated by the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism

There are also a number of “VNR labs” which occur during the HLPF, and provide room for informal dialogue between Member States and Major Groups and other Stakeholders on specific topics related to the VNRs



RESOURCES



UN Secretary-General's updated voluntary common reporting guidelines for VNRs at the HLPF

Handbook for VNR Preparations

Q&A for VNRs at the 2019 HLPF

VNR Synthesis Report 2018, 2017 and 2016

**All the above can be found at HLPF VNR database
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>**

Thank you!



**HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

We look forward to your participation!
For the latest information and to register (April
2019), visit
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2019>
Contact link on website