The 2022 Voluntary National Review Process

Extraordinary meeting of the Community of Practice for Latin American and Caribbean countries that present their VNRs

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Regional workshop for LAC countries conducting their VNRs in 2022

- Date and time: Tuesday, March 8, 2022, 2:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Costa Rica time, GMT-6)
- <u>Format</u>: The workshop will take place within the framework of the Fifth Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) on Sustainable Development in a virtual format.
- <u>Organizers</u>: The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- <u>Participants</u>: Government representatives at the technical level from countries that will present their VNRs in 2022 as well as other countries in the region, including those that actively participate in the Community of Practice; representatives of the UN system, including from DESA, ECLAC and the Resident Coordinator Offices (RCOs), as well as other actors, including civil society representatives.
- <u>Objective</u>: Enhance knowledge and capacities of the countries of LAC for the elaboration and preparation of their VNRs; strengthen the regional dimension of the VNR process; and identify common challenges and their potential solutions on the road towards the HLPF, 2030 and beyond.

Regional workshop for LAC countries conducting their VNRs in 2022

The proposal is to divide all 8 countries presenting their VNRs in 2022 into two groups according to their level of **VNR experience**. Putting the Caribbean first, the first substantial session of the workshop shall be dedicated to the 4 Caribbean countries presenting their first VNR in 2022 (Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Navis, and Suriname), taking their particular challenges as first-time presenters from the Caribbean into account. This panel is followed by the group of more experienced VNR countries, that will present for the second (Jamaica and El Salvador), third (Argentina) and fourth (Uruguay), reviewing the **continuity** and evolution of progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level.





Regional workshop for LAC countries conducting their VNRs in 2022

Countries will be invited to give **presentations** based on **guiding** questions, which will be followed by interactive discussions to encourage **dialogue** among all participants. The workshop will be held in a spirit of **peer-learning**, building on **concrete** country experiences. Last, but not least it shall be elaborated how to **build back better after the pandemic while advancing** the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the theme of the 2022 HLPF, by drawing on valuable lessons learned from the wealth of VNRs presented at the HLPF so far and the 40 sessions held of the **Community of Practice**, in addition to **key resources**, such as the **DESA Handbook and Repository of Best** Practices, SDG Gateway, & ECLAC's COVID-19 Observatory.



Common challenges in the VNR process

1. General orientation

- Conjunctural (short-term) vs. structural (long-standing) challenges
- Holistic approach (considering all 17 SDGs) or focus on individual SDGs, such as those under in-depth review
- Advances or strategies
- Quantitative or qualitative approach
- **2.** Incorporation/approximation of data and statistics
 - Detail vs. synthetic extract of data and statistics
 - Degree of data compilation and aggregation efforts
 - Data analysis



- 3. Incorporation of governance/internal management processes
 - Review of institutional framework vs. review of (recent) actions

Common challenges in the VNR process

4. Meaningful engagement of non-state actors

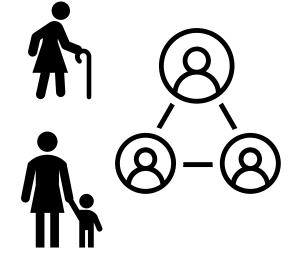
- Participatory consultation process involving diverse actors
- Incorporation of contents provided by other actors, including in the drafting of entire chapters or paragraphs
- Integrating the Leave No One behind (LNOB) principle

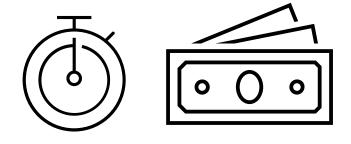
5. Continuity between subsequent VNRs

- A before/after comparison
- A review of what is new (not mentioned in previous VNR)
- Advancements of how challenges have been overcome

6. Means of implementation

- Incorporate advances in means of implementation
- Persistent resource / financing challenges





Recommendations for a successful VNR

- Understand SDG progress and identify implementation gaps and impact of COVID-19
- Take stock of **national ownership** and **integration of SDGs** into national plans and policies
- Reflect on implementation of policies to accelerate action for the SDGs
- Assess your institutional set-up for SDG implementation and the VNR
- Identify gaps in data and statistics and impacts of efforts to close them
- Identify who is being left behind
- Assess mechanisms for **stakeholder engagement** in SDG implementation and review
- Align SDG policies with budgets
- Identify next steps and forward-looking strategy towards 2030 and beyond
- Join the Group of Friends of VNRs (co-chaired by Philippines and Morocco) for exchange between countries, sharing lessons learned and best practices.









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