Reflections on the results of the 2022 VNR Regional Workshop, 2030 Agenda milestones and the road towards the HLPF 2022 in New York

Community of Practice for Caribbean VNR countries

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Reflections on the results of the 2022 VNR Regional Workshop

• The main goal was strengthening the knowledge and capacities of Latin American and Caribbean countries in the formulation of their VNRs as part of their national strategy to implement and monitor the 2030 Agenda.

• Attended by more than 100 representatives of 20 Latin American and Caribbean governments, ECLAC, DESA, DCO and other UN entities, UN Resident Coordinators and RCOs, as well as other actors, including civil society.

• Outcomes include greater regional dialogue, peer learning and exchange of good practices in the formulation of VNRs in different contexts, as well as in the national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its interlinkages with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

• Please visit the dedicated event website at https://www.cepal.org/en/events/regional-workshop-latin-american-and-caribbean-countries-presenting-their-voluntary-1
• **COVID-19 has posed a considerable challenge on SDG achievement.** The pandemic threatens to reverse the progress many countries have made on the SDGs. VNRs allow for an opportunity for countries to showcase policies that countries have taken to tackle and recover from COVID-19.

• **VNRs have been highly successful in monitoring progress towards the 2030 Agenda.** To date, 176 countries have submitted at least one VNR. 45 countries are expected to submit a VNR during the HLPF of 2022, after which only eight countries globally will remain to submit a VNR (Haiti as the only country in the LAC region).

• **The VNRs are much more than a report.** They are means to engage all parts of government and other stakeholders. VNRs can strengthen government policies and institutions, facilitate alignment with other national, regional and global development frameworks, raise public SDG awareness, mobilize multi-stakeholder support, and foster partnerships.
VNR Regional Workshop – Key Messages

• The nature of VNRs is evolving and an increasingly analytical tool of the complex national reality and for policy decision-making and monitoring. More VNRs look at the 2030 Agenda as a whole, integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development, and include the principle of LNOB. Many VNRs offer continuity between first and subsequent reports.

• LAC countries have made significant progress in integrating the SDGs into their national development plans and in the localization of the SDGs. In several countries there is a gradual process of decentralization of the governance of the 2030 Agenda, from the national to the subnational level.

• Achieving the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda will require strengthened institutions, cross-sector collaboration, more coherence, and innovative partnerships, such as the SDG Acceleration Actions.
Multiple challenges in the VNR process persist, including:

• Complexity of inter-sectoral and multi-level coordination

• Limited financial and time resources

• Urgent demands posed by the health crisis vs. the implementation of medium and long-term strategies

• Availability and incorporation of disaggregated data and statistics

• Administration changes and staff fluctuations
VNR Regional Workshop – Recommendations

• VNRs should be prepared in a cycle reporting logic, building on the conclusions of previous reports and laying out future steps for following ones.

• Elaborating a VNR is a complex, lengthy, and costly process. VNRs allow to develop national capacities, identify specific challenges and how to overcome those. VNR countries are encouraged to use available training opportunities, methodologies and tools, and request support to carry out a successful VNR.

• Looking ahead, countries are encouraged to build a national roadmap of VNR presentations until 2030 and link them to the most important national policy milestones in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

• VNR countries are encouraged to join the Group of Friends of the VNRs, further engage in peer-reviewing mechanism and establish partnerships with other countries to write a (sub-)regional chapter together.
### Upcoming 2030 Agenda milestones until the HLPF 2022

#### Global level

- **Committee of Experts on Public Administration** (4 to 8 April 2022, New York), including a dialogue with VNR countries on institutional aspects of SDG 16
- **ECOSOC Youth Forum** (19-20 April, NY)
- **Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for development** (25-28 April, NY)
- **UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15)** 2nd part (25 April-8 May, China)
- **UN Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum)** (5-6 May, NY)
- **ECOSOC Operational Activities for Development Segment** (17-19 May, NY)
- **World Economic Forum** (22-26 May, Davos)
- **UN Ocean Conference** (27 June-1 July, Portugal)
- **The UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF)** (5-18 July, New York)

#### Regional level

- **1st Conference of the Parties to the Escazú Agreement** (20-22 April, ECLAC, Santiago de Chile)
- **Extraordinary table of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean** (15-16 June, ECLAC, Santiago de Chile, dates TBC)
- **4th meeting of the Regional Conference on Population and Development in LAC** (28-30 June, ECLAC, Santiago de Chile)
Thank you