



Regional workshop for Latin American and Caribbean countries that will present their Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2022

Tuesday 8 March 2022

2:30 - 5:00 pm Costa Rica time (GMT-6)

Introduction

This year, eight Latin American and Caribbean countries will formally present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) during the [United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#) in July 2022: Argentina, Dominica, El Salvador, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, and Uruguay.

Within the framework of the fifth meeting of the [Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development](#), which will take place from March 7 to 9, 2022 in San José, Costa Rica in a hybrid format, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) will organize a virtual regional workshop on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 mainly orientated towards these eight countries.

It is expected that other countries will also participate in this workshop, including those that actively participate in ECLAC's Community of Practice¹ on VNRs, which was established in 2019 as an informal space for exchange of peer-learning between the technical teams of the national mechanisms in charge of following up on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in general and the process of preparing VNRs in particular.

¹ The Community of Practice includes government officials, professionals, researchers, and technicians, as well as representatives of ECLAC and the rest of the United Nations System, and also invites representatives from civil society, the private sector and academia. Between December 2019 and the beginning of 2022, 40 virtual sessions have been held to support the countries of the region in the process of preparing their VNRs and the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda. Topics of discussion include the localization of the 2030 Agenda, the meaningful engagement of stakeholders, data and statistics, financing for development, among others. More information: <https://www.cepal.org/es/temas/agenda-2030-desarrollo-sostenible/comunidad-practica-la-cepal-informes-nacionales-voluntarios>



Background

The countries of the LAC region have appropriated the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a State commitment, in broad cooperation with multiple actors, including civil society, youth, the private sector, academia, local authorities and legislative and parliamentary authorities, among others. Between 2016 and 2021, 28 of the 33 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean reported their progress in the ownership, monitoring and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with the presentation of at least one VNR at the HLPF. Of these 28 countries, 14 countries presented a VNR on more than one occasion (Argentina, Bahamas, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay).

Despite the multiple challenges posed by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the region, the commitment and sustained effort of the countries to ensure the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) remains very solid: 20 countries of the region have submitted their VNRs to the HLPF between 2020 (Argentina, Barbados, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago) and 2021 (Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Dominican Republic and Uruguay).

While the 2030 Agenda continues to be the roadmap for a sustainable post-pandemic recovery, the VNRs continue to be the main mechanisms for reviewing the progress and challenges in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level and allow accounting for the trajectory and the strategies of each country. They also generate opportunities for peer learning and collective reflection on common or cross-border challenges of sustainable development. The emergence in the region of a series of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), innovative exercises that express the commitment of actors at the sub-national, municipal and local levels with the 2030 Agenda, also constitute a tool for appropriation of the 2030 Agenda and complement national monitoring and review efforts.



Goal of the workshop

The main goal of the workshop is to strengthen the knowledge, peer learning and capacities of the countries of LAC for the elaboration and preparation of VNRs, as part of their strategy for the implementation and national follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Furthermore, it is designed to strengthen the space and the regional dimension of the process of preparing the VNRs towards their presentation to the HLPF and to identify the common challenges of the countries of the region as well as solutions to overcome them.

Methodology

The workshop will include interactive sessions on national efforts to prepare for VNRs and follow-up to the 2030 Agenda in the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific areas will be discussed, such as the strategies and roadmaps for the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda in all its dimensions in the medium and long term, the importance of the territorialization of the SDGs, and progress on statistical monitoring processes, among others. The lessons learned from the VNR presentations made between 2016 and 2021² will also be addressed, as well as the key messages that emerged from the Community of Practice. Additionally, the VNRs will be reflected on as a tool to rebuild better in the face of the pandemic and accelerate action for the SDGs within the framework of the Decade of Action.

The workshop will be held in a spirit of peer learning by encouraging the exchange of concrete experiences from the participating countries. Countries will be invited to give presentations based on guiding questions, which will be followed by interactive discussions to encourage dialogue and exchange among all participants.

Participants

Representatives of governments from Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of DESA and ECLAC, Resident Coordinators of the UN system in countries of the region and representatives of their offices, and other officials of the United Nations system will participate in the meeting, as well as other actors, including civil society.

² See [here](#) a map of all the countries in the region that have presented their VNR between 2016 and 2021.



Expected results

Expected outcomes of this workshop include:

- Greater regional dialogue, peer learning and exchange of good practices in the formulation, dissemination and presentation of VNRs in different national contexts, as well as in the national responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and its interlinkages with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- Strengthening of the capacities of the participants to link the VNRs with the national long-term implementation strategies of the 2030 Agenda, link subnational and local efforts and identify their contribution to the VNR process.

Connection details and logistical information

The regional workshop will take place in a virtual format through a ZOOM platform provided by ECLAC, accessible at this link:

<https://cepal-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEocOapqzluHdf-NcapnpYlafEDcdeirUWk>

Meeting Number: 955 7315 9473

Meeting Password: 983346

Note: The session will be available one hour ahead of the event to carry out connection tests.

All sessions of this workshop will have simultaneous interpretation between Spanish and English.

Contacts

Inquiries and requests related to the organization and preparation of this workshop can be sent to:

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Preliminary programme

Welcome and workshop goals

02.30 - 02.45 pm

Welcome

Moderation: Cielo Morales, Directora ILPES, ECLAC

Alicia Bárcena, Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations

02.45 - 03.00 pm

Introduction and workshop goals

Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer,
Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Maame Agyeben, Associate Sustainable Development Officer,
Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)

Session 1: The first VNR and the particular challenges of the Caribbean

03.00 - 03.05 pm

Introduction and moderation

Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Coordinator of the Statistics and Social Development Unit, ECLAC Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean

03.05 - 03.12 pm

The experience of Grenada in their first VNR process

H.E Keisha McGuire, Permanent Representative of Grenada to the United Nations

03.12 - 03.19 pm

The experience of Suriname in their first VNR process

Elizabeth Bradley, Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation of the Republic of Suriname



03.19 - 03.26 pm **The experience of Saint Kitts and Nevis in their first VNR process**
Auren Manners, Senior Project Analyst, Economic Affairs and Public Sector Investment Planning Ministry of Sustainable Development, Saint Kitts and Nevis

03.26 - 03.33 pm **The experience of Dominica in their first VNR process**
Gloria Joseph, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development and Renewable Energy, Dominica

Guiding questions

- What are the challenges your country is facing in advancing sustainable development in the current context?
- How do you think the VNR will help address these short-term challenges, as well as advance the implementation of the Global Agenda and the SDGs in your country by 2030?

Discussion with participants

03.33 - 03.45 pm Comments by Member States and UN Representatives

Session 2: The continuity of the VNRs and advances in the implementation and follow-up on the 2030 Agenda at the national level

03.45 - 03.50 pm **Introduction and moderation**
Humberto Soto, Social Affairs Officer, Office Mexico, ECLAC

03.50 - 03.57 pm **The experience of Jamaica in their second VNR process**
Latoya Clarke, Programme Director, The SDG Secretariat, Jamaica

03.57 - 04.04 pm **The experience of El Salvador in their second VNR process**
Francisco Martínez, Technical Manager, Specialist Social Research, National Council for Sustainable Development, El Salvador

04.04 - 04.11 pm **The experience of Argentina in their third VNR process**
Dr. Fernando Quiroga, Coordinator of the SDG Project, Argentina

04.11 - 04.18 pm **The experience of Uruguay in their fourth VNR process**
Ec. Horacio Bafico, Advisor to the Director of the Office of Planning and Budget (OPP) and Economist, Uruguay



Guiding questions

- How will you prepare your 2022 VNR based on your review(s) from the previous year(s)?
- What lessons learned from previous reviews informed the process of 2022?
- How does your VNR contribute to the national implementation strategy of the 2030 Agenda?

Discussion with participants

04.18 – 04.30 pm Comments by Member States and UN Representatives

Session 3: Building a better future after the pandemic while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

04.30 - 04.35 pm	Introduction and moderation Valeria Torres, Governance Affairs Officer, ILPES, ECLAC
04.35 - 04.40 pm	How is a VNR analyzed at the global level? From the first to the fourth generation of VNRs Dr. Javier Surasky, Coordinator of the Governance Area for Development, CEPEI
04.40 - 04.45 pm	Advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the LAC region Yolanda Durant, Sustainable Development Officer, United Nations Development Coordination Office (DCO)
04.45 - 04.50 pm	The Community of Practice on VNRs as a learning space between peers on the 2030 Agenda Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC
04.50 - 04.55 pm	SDG Gateway and CEPALSTAT Daniel Taccari, Area Coordinator, Statistics Division, ECLAC

Discussion with participants

04.55 - 05.00 pm Comments by Member States and UN Representatives

Closing