

**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)**

**DCO/LACs Brief Intervention (5 Minutes)**

On behalf of our Regional Director for the UN Development Coordination Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (DCO/LAC) Mr. Roberto Valente, warm greetings to the representatives of countries presenting their Voluntary National Reports this year and to colleagues from ECLAC and DESA. Thank you for inviting DCO/LAC to share briefly on **Advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda.**

We know that all over this region people faced multiple and intersecting vulnerabilities before the Covid 19 pandemic and as the region hardest hit economically by the pandemic, LAC is struggling to recover. As a mother of 3, I relate all too well to the need for the region to rebound learning losses and continue to invest in reimagining the future of education to ensure that it is relevant to the needs of the societies of the region. On Social Protection, many people in the region still have no social protection, are struggling economically to survive day by day and millions are struggling with access to quality and affordable health care. **Getting the region back on track will require policy choices aligned with the 2030 Agenda and a clear emphasis on leaving no one behind.** Achieving full implementation of the SDGs will require whole of government and whole of society approaches grounded in fast-track policies and institutional innovations in the public and private sectors and among development partners.

As we reflect on ramping up work what's left of this final decade of action, its key that we keep at the centre of our work what the possibilities and the opportunities full implementation of the SDGs will mean for people who are furthest left behind.

Partnerships, Partnerships, partnerships: Past VNRs have taken a hard look at efforts to implement the SDGs, alongside, or as part of, efforts to overcome the pandemic and address its impacts. They show the diversity of measures taken to ensure social protection, health care, vaccination, economic recovery, food security, education, mental health, inclusion and employment. And they highlight the need for debt relief, disaster resilience, digitalization, and systems approach to overcome multiple challenges.

Countries across Latin America and the Caribbean are working hard to get on track to achieve the SDGs. We have seen from DCO/LAC countries working to integrate the SDGs into national policy frameworks, into national budgets, stimulus packages, investments or evolving from emergency social protection measures towards inclusive social protection systems.

From the Coordination standpoint, we know that the VNRs open opportunities for engaging across society, capitalizing of the VNRs and continuing the engagement of people most left behind. Achieving full implementation of the SDGs will require continued strengthening of institutions, cross sectoral collaboration and coherence as well innovative multilateral and other development partnerships. **Going forward** more initiatives will be needed to track progress on the SDGs.

- ✓ Other important areas of focus include:
- ✓ Creating and sustaining spaces for governments and their partners to identify what is needed to keep the promise of the SDGs remains critical.

- ✓ Identifying accelerated actions that look forward are important.

Before I close, we thank countries that will present VNRs for their continued commitment and leadership to data, to advancing efforts on national financing that are aimed at aligning public policy with the SDGs, job creation, collaboration with the private sector, and social protection. Latin America and the Caribbean has shown enormous commitment to unity, cooperation, key prerequisites for implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The opportunities that consultations such as the VNRs hold in general for engaging the whole of society, for focusing on the needs of the often invisible, the pockets of inequalities or the widening inequalities of those furthest behind first.

On this international women's day and every day we need to accelerate gender equality and economic transformation.

Finally, from the Development Coordination Office, with our 25 UN Country Teams across the region, under the leadership of 23 Resident Coordinators and with support from 25 UN Resident Coordinators office we stand ready to continue working with the entire UN system of agencies, funds, programmes and the Economic Commission to support countries with identifying their plans, needs and priorities to accelerate achievement in what's left of the decade of action.

Happy International women's day!