

Voluntary National Reviews at the 2021 HLPF

Regional workshop for Latin American and Caribbean countries
presenting their VNRs in 2021

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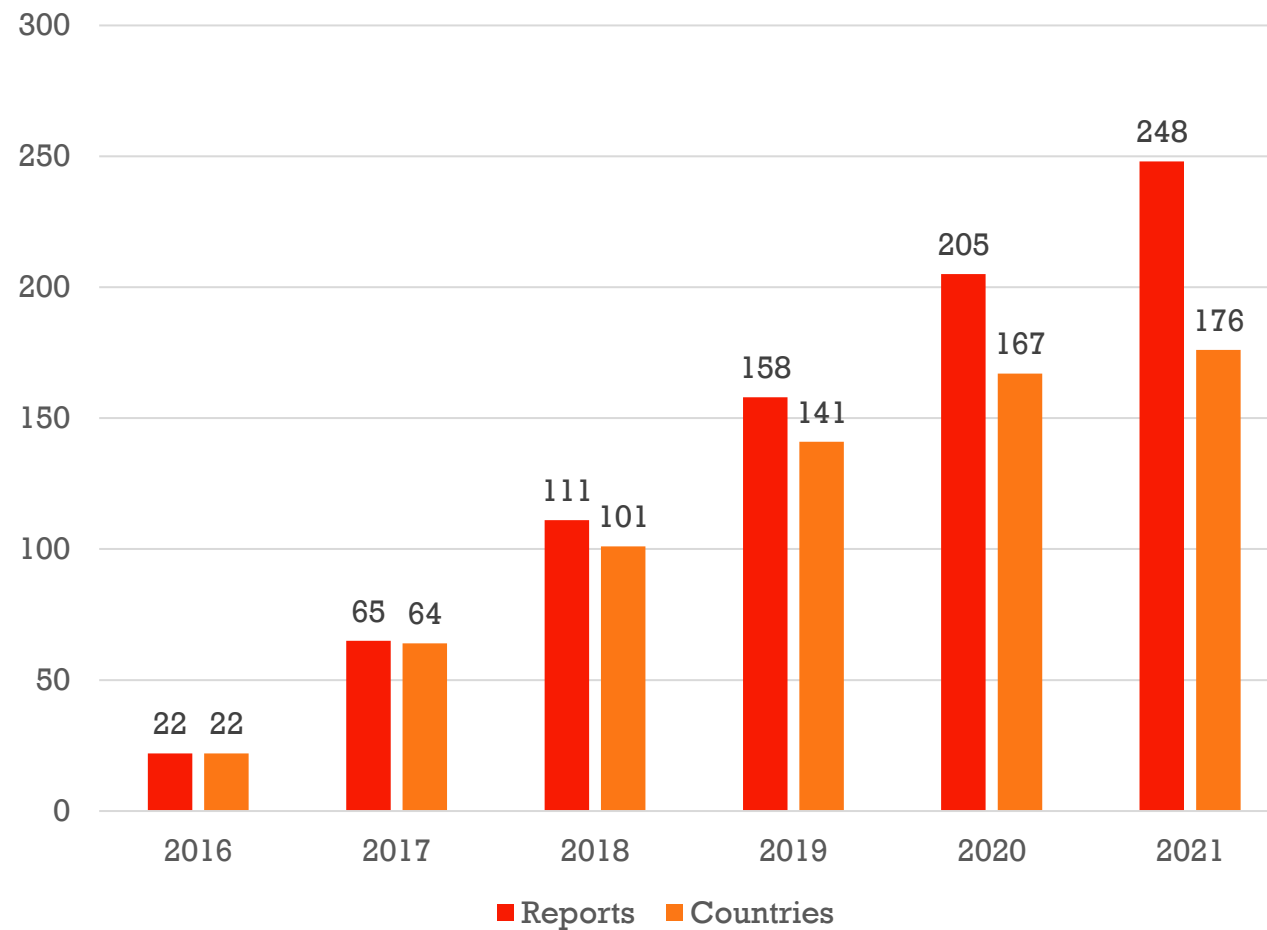


We have developed
a resilient mechanism
of robust VNRs globally

- 168 countries have presented over 205 VNRs in five years as of July 2020
- Each year between 40 and 45 countries report; too little time to present all of the content
- For 2021 VNRs, while challenged by Covid-19, still 43 countries are volunteering
- Virtual-only participation in 2020 had its benefits
- A growing group of countries presenting for the second or third time
- Many countries incorporating VNRs in national plans
- Building an impressive global evidence base: online database, synthesis reports, and much external analysis

The growth of VNR reporting, 2016-2021

Number of reports and countries having presented at least once, 2016-2021



The background features several sets of concentric, curved lines in light gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of motion and depth. A prominent red speech bubble is positioned on the left side of the slide.

The global
process is
maturing

- More learning from previous experiences and from other countries' experiences. This will include learning through digital platforms.
- Five years done, ten years to go: we are well on our way.

11 ECLAC member
countries reporting in
2021

- **First time:**
 - Antigua and Barbuda
 - Bolivia
 - Cuba
 - Nicaragua
- **Second time:**
 - Bahamas (2018)
 - Dominican Republic (2018)
 - Paraguay (2018)
- **Third time:**
 - Colombia (2016, 2018)
 - Guatemala (2017, 2019)
 - Mexico (2016, 2018)
 - Uruguay (2017, 2018)

Basics of the 2021 HLPF

- 2021 HLPF - 6-15 July 2021 *rain or shine*
- Theme: "***Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development***".
- SDGs under review: 1, 2, 3, 8, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17
but your VNR report should cover ALL of the SDGs ☺
- Format (virtual/in-person/hybrid) to be considered

Difference in reporting
for the first time or
a second (*or third*) time?

- **First timers (30 mins at the HLPF):**
 - Strong need to set and align national goals aligned with the 2030 Agenda
 - Report should set framework for follow-up - Making sure that the actions to be undertaken will lead towards achievable outcomes by 2030.
- **Second and third timers (20 mins at the HLPF):**
 - **Continuity and comparability with earlier reports:**
 - Highlighting actions that show progress and changes from earlier report(s)
 - Report on how the process of implementation has developed (institutions, stakeholders, data) and lessons learned
 - Dealing with externalities (changes of govt; conflict; disasters; Covid, ..)

Two important
deadlines this
year

3 May 2021: Main messages of the VNR report

- Maximum 700 words with main conclusions and a few words on the process
- Compiled into an official document published online on HLPF website. Example:
undocs.org/E/HLPF/2020/5

11 June 2021: Submit the VNR report

- Will *not* be translated into official language by the UN
- Will be posted on the HLPF 2021 website:
sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021
- Also posted on your own country page on the online VNR database: sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

(Second global workshop for 2021 countries to be held in 7-8 April 2021)

From the
checklist in the
Handbook...

1. Initial preparation and organization
2. Stakeholder engagement
3. VNR preparation
4. Presentation at the HLPF

From the checklist
in the
Handbook... part
3 (don't panic)

Review and incorporate material received, including data, other reports and previous VNRs.

Follow-up with government colleagues/information providers to secure missing material or provide additional analysis.

Decide on participants for the preparatory global and regional workshops.

Prepare zero draft, including identifying remaining gaps, together with stakeholders.

Prepare draft of Main Messages (not more than 700 words) for approval and submission to DESA by 3 May 2021.

Carry out internal review of VNR, including quality control, allowing time for resolution of possibly contentious issues.

Establish comment period and circulate draft to relevant government officials.

Provide opportunity for stakeholders to comment and integrate comments from all national actors and stakeholders to the greatest extent possible.

Edit the VNR and arrange for translation into English, if needed/desirable, and design and layout.

Submit for endorsement and approval if required (for example to the Minister, Prime Minister, Cabinet).

Transmit electronic copy to DESA by 11 June 2021

Updated guidelines on structure of a VNR report

[\(link\)](#)

1. Opening statement, highlights, introduction
2. Methodology and process for preparing the report
3. Policy and enabling environment
 - a. *Ensuring* ownership of SDGs
 - b. *Integrating* SDGs in national frameworks
 - c. Integration of 3 dimensions of SD
 - d. Leave no one behind
 - e. Institutional mechanisms
 - f. *Systemic issues and transformative actions*
4. Progress on goals and targets and evaluation of policies and measures
5. New and emerging challenges
6. Means of implementation
7. Conclusion and next steps
8. Annexes

New elements in italics underlined

A red speech bubble graphic with a white outline, containing white text. The bubble has a tail pointing downwards and to the right.

What are these new and emerging challenges

- **Report on Covid-19 recovery plans as they relate to your country**
- **Continuity and comparability of your first, second and third VNR report**
- **Other new and emerging challenges:**
 - **Discrimination and inequality**
 - **Impacts of climate change**
 - **Vulnerability**
- **Also consider how often you want to present until 2030**

This is by no
means
prescriptive!

- Every country is different
- Many countries are already far in the consultation and preparation process of their 2021 report
- The V in VNR stands for Voluntary -> it is your report and you decide what is best!

Thank You and Good Luck!

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