

Voluntary National Reviews: An overview and how to integrate ABAS reporting

ABAS Capacity Building Workshop
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Agenda

1. An overview of VNR process
2. Integrating ABAS reporting in VNRs
3. Resources

VNRs: The basics

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to **"conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven"**
- The VNR process aims to facilitate **sharing experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned**, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- VNRs also serve to **improve evidence and data** on the SDGs, **strengthen policies and institutions** of governments to monitor progress on sustainable development and to **mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships** for the implementation of the SDGs

VNRs: The principles



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Voluntary

encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led

country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships

including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience

facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances

reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners



VNRs: The content

1. Opening statement
2. Highlights
3. Introduction
4. Methodology of the review
5. Policy and enabling environment
6. Progress on Goals and targets
7. Means of implementation
8. New and emerging challenges
9. Conclusion and next steps
10. Annexes, including statistical annex

VNRs: A decade of SIDS reporting



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Year	Latin America and the Caribbean	Asia and the Pacific	Africa
2016		Samoa	
2017	Belize	Maldives	
2018	Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica	Kiribati, Singapore	Cabo Verde
2019	Guyana, Saint Lucia	Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu	Mauritius
2020	Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago	Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands	Comoros, Seychelles
2021	Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Cuba, Dominican Republic	Marshall Islands	Cabo Verde
2022	Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, Suriname	Tuvalu	Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe
2023	Barbados, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis	Fiji, Maldives, Singapore, Timor-Leste	Comoros
2024	Belize	Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu	Mauritius
2025	Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Suriname	Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea	Seychelles
2026	Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis	Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tonga	Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau

Legend:

One VNR/Two VNRs/Three VNRs



Integrating ABAS reporting into VNRs: Why?

- VNRs are the primary reporting mechanism for sustainable development progress
- They already mobilize whole-of-government coordination, data production, and stakeholder engagement
- ABAS explicitly seeks **synergies with existing mechanisms** to minimize additional reporting burdens for SIDS



Integrating ABAS reporting into VNRS: How?

- **Chapter 5 (Policy and enabling environment):** ABAS as a central SIDS development agenda
- **Chapter 6 (Progress on Goals and targets):** Data and narratives on indicators for the ABAS M&E framework can be reported alongside those for the SDGs
- **Chapter 7 (Means of implementation):** Link to ABAS deliverables (e.g., SIDS Centre of Excellence, MVI, data capacity)
- **Chapter 8 (New and emerging challenges):** Data gaps assessed through ABAS/SDG processes
- **Statistical annex:** Embed ABAS indicators in the statistical annex alongside SDG indicators

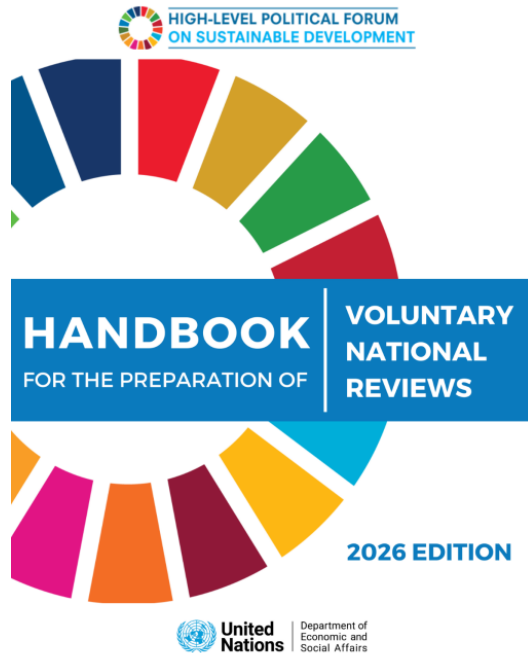
Integrating ABAS reporting into VNRs: How?

- **National coordination mechanisms:** Use existing VNR coordination committees to include ABAS focal points
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Include ABAS themes in VNR consultations—local government, youth, climate actors, civil society
- **Data systems and flows:** Integrate ABAS indicators into NSO-led SDG data pipelines

Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews

Website:

<https://hlpf.un.org/vnrs>

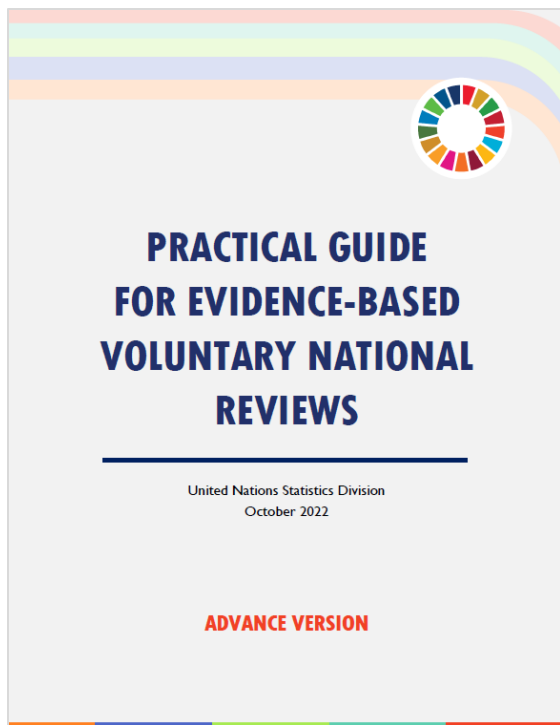


- **A step-by-step guide:** The handbook provides clear guidance on the full process of preparing a VNR: signaling the intention to conduct a VNR, organizing multi-stakeholder consultations, integrating the SDGs into national policies, and producing and presenting the VNR at the HLPF
- **Tools for assessing progress:** The handbook also clarifies how to identify and communicate progress made, policy gaps and structural challenges, lessons learned, and priority actions for advancing the SDGs

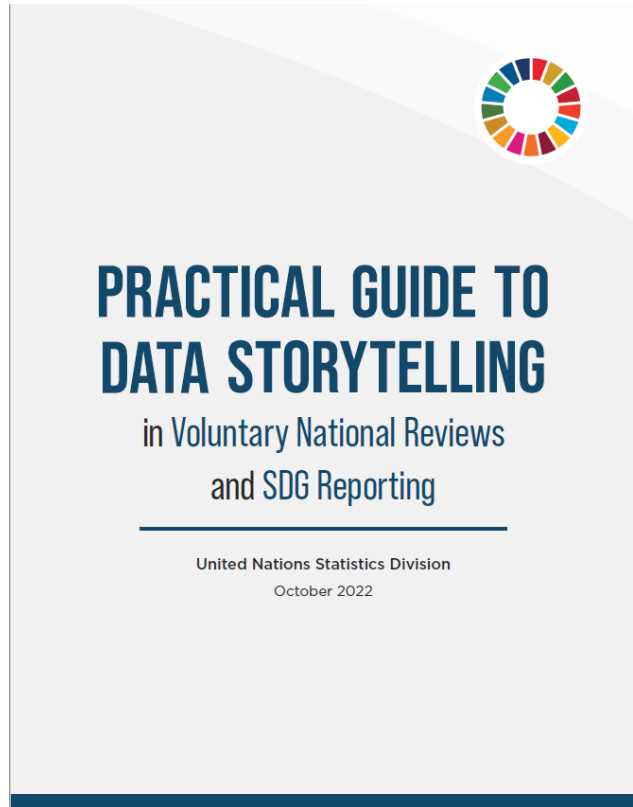
Practical Guide for Evidence-based VNRs

Website:

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/data4vnrs/>



- **The Guide:** Complementary resource for countries on how to use data and statistics on SDGs to support evidence-based VNRs.
- **Approach:** Roadmap method with good practice examples, outlining key stages in the national VNR process for enhancing data.
- **Looking ahead:** VNR process can also help to identify strengths and weaknesses of statistical systems and statistical capacity building opportunities.



The site contains:

- **Practical Guide to help countries and national statistics offices better tell data stories for their audience.**
- Intended to help statisticians, data scientists, policy makers, analysts, managers, and communicators tell convincing data stories in Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and SDG reporting, with a focus on understanding the context and constructing the narrative.
- Contains examples drawn from VNRs and SDG reporting as well as other external sources.
- **Presentation and video also available.**



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Thank you!