



VNR LABS

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

UN system's coordinated support to VNRs facilitated by the Resident Coordinator System

Lead organizer: UN Development Coordination Office (DCO)

Date: 15 July, 14:00-15:00 (EST)

Venue: UN HQ, Conference Room 11 and Virtual

Link : <https://unvc.webex.com/unvc/j.php?MTID=mb617a910014a1961c20236ef04c0d28b>

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Concept Note

The Voluntary National Review (VNR) is an important instrument and a strategic moment to take stock of the progress towards SDGs and identify ways to accelerate progress at the country level.

The UN development system on the ground under the leadership of the Resident Coordinators (RCs) plays a pivotal role in supporting Governments in preparation of the VNRs. RCs and RC offices (RCOs) ensure that the coordinated support and expertise of all UN entities (both resident and non-resident) are channeled towards VNRs to meet the demands of the Government and other stakeholders to deliver a 'whole of society' owned VNRs. In many countries, UN system provides technical support on analysis of the progress towards SDGs and also provide thematic analysis from the UN's comparative advantage (such as gender equality, human rights or leave no one behind analysis) and often provides overall quality review of the VNR. In many countries, UN system supports Government to seek inputs from a broad array of stakeholders including civil society, representatives of major groups and development partners to the VNR. In most of these cases, RCOs act as the one-stop shop for the Governments to ensure that all these essential support for a high-quality VNR is made available from both resident and non-resident entities in a timely manner.

Against this background, DCO will organize a VNR Lab at the HLPF with the theme of '**UN system's coordinated support to VNRs facilitated by RCs/RCOs**' scheduled for 15 July, 14:00 -15:00 (EST).

At this VNR Lab, RCs will present the cases of coordinated UN support for VNRs. Representatives from the member States and other stakeholders will highlight the value-addition of the UN support in producing high quality VNRs through inclusive process. This will be followed by a Q&A oriented at countries planning to formulate VNRs in future on how to avail the UN support to VNRs. The VNR lab will discuss:



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1. What are the key areas support offered by the UN at the country level in formulation of the VNR? How did the Resident Coordinators ensure coordinated support of the VNR?
2. What was the value addition of UN support in terms of the overall quality of the VNR process from the perspective of the Governments and other stakeholders?
3. What is the role of the UN system on the ground in supporting Governments and other stakeholders in following-up on the VNR findings?

Draft Agenda

14:00 -14:05: Welcome remarks Ms. Rosemary Kalapurackal, Deputy Director, UN Development Coordination Office

14:05 -14:10: Overall introduction by the moderator, Mr. Oli Hennan, Action for Sustainable Development and lead consultant, [a project of good VNR practices](#)

14:10-14:15: Towards evidence-based and forward-looking VNRs, Ms. Laurel Patterson, Global Head of the UNDP SDG Integration team.

14:15-14:30: The nature of the UN support for VNRs [brief interventions for 3 minutes by RCs]

- Mr. Zia Choudhury, UN Resident Coordinator, **Botswana**
- Mr. Garry Conille, UN Resident Coordinator, **Jamaica**
- Ms. Michaela Friberg Storey, UN Resident Coordinator, **Kazakhstan**
- Mr. Philippe Poinot, UN Resident Coordinator, **Cote d'Ivoire**

14:30 – 14:45: Reflections from member States and other stakeholders on the value addition of coordinated UN support to VNRs. [3-5 mns per intervention]

- Ms. Chamindry Saparamadu, Director General, Sustainable Development Council, **Sri Lanka**
- Mr. Wayne Henry, Director General for the Planning Institute, **Jamaica** (PIOJ)
- Member State representative, Government of **Kazakhstan** (tbc)
- Ms. Maipelo Phale, Acting Executive Director, **Botswana** Council of Non-Governmental Organisations (BOCONGO)
- Mr. Ouattara Diakalia, Société Civile Ivoirienne (CSCI), **Cote d'Ivoire**

14:45-14:55: Q&A

14:55-15:00: Concluding remarks by the moderator