

Overview of voluntary national reviews and the high-level political forum on sustainable development:

Evolving in the Decade of Action and Delivery for sustainable development

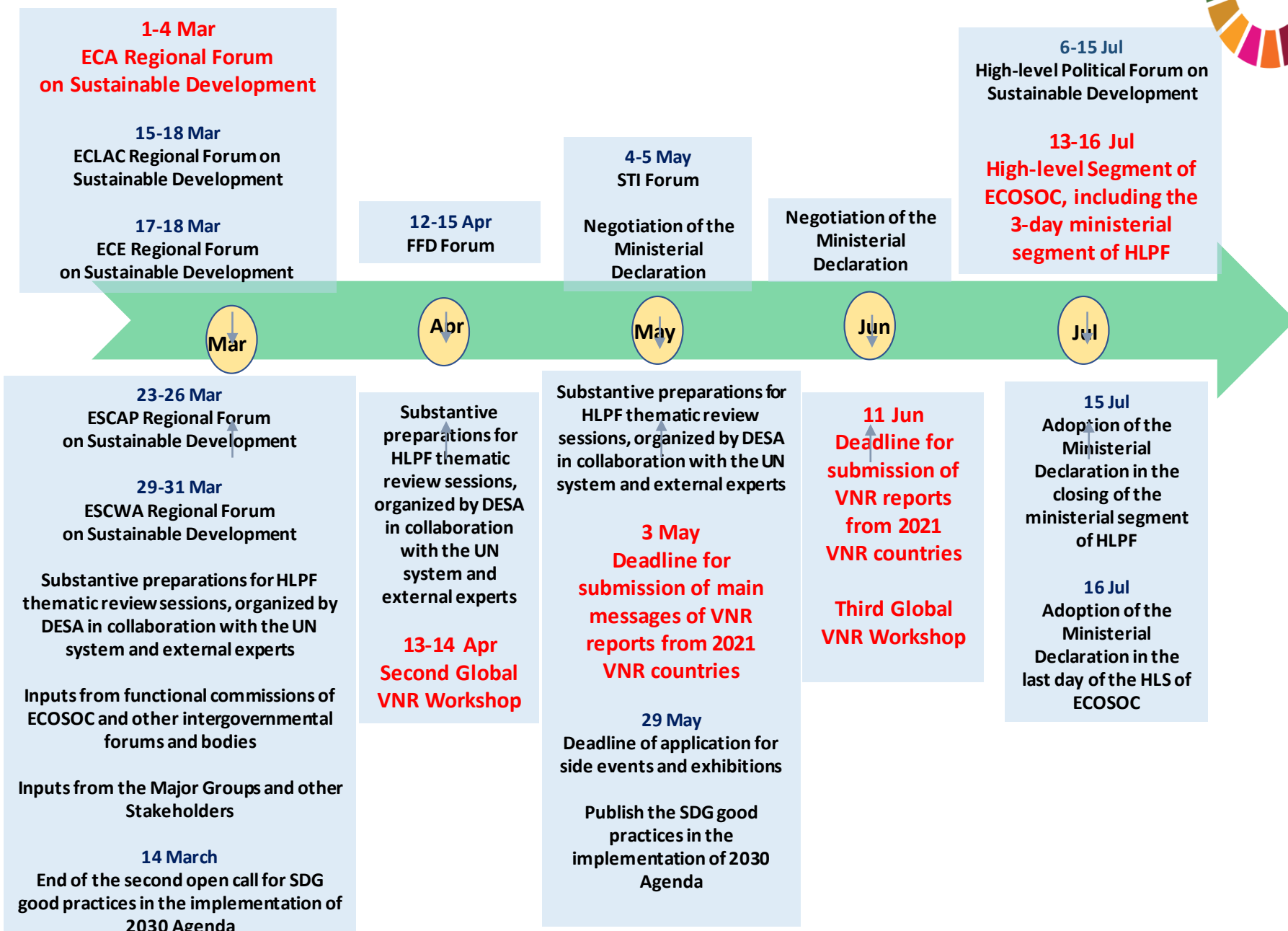
Tonya Vaturi

Intergovernmental Policy and Review Branch

Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development

UN DESA

2021 HLPF Timeline



42 VNR Countries in 2021

NUMBER OF TIMES PRESENTING	AFRICA (10)	ASIA PACIFIC (13)	EASTERN EUROPE (2)	WESTERN EUROPE AND OTHERS (7)	LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (10)
First time (8)	Angola	DPRK Marshall Islands Myanmar		San Marino	Antigua and Barbuda Cuba Nicaragua
Second time (24)	Cabo Verde Chad Madagascar Namibia Tunisia Zimbabwe	Bhutan China Iraq Japan Lao Malaysia Saudi Arabia Thailand	Czech Republic	Cyprus Denmark Germany Norway Spain Sweden	Bahamas Dominican Republic Paraguay
Third Time (10)	Egypt Niger Sierra Leone	Indonesia Qatar	Azerbaijan		Colombia Guatemala Mexico Uruguay

VNR Status in the Africa Region



Algeria (2019)
Angola (2021)
Benin (2017, 2018, 2020)
Botswana (2017)
Burkina Faso (2019)
Burundi (2020)
Cabo Verde (2018, 2021)
Cameroon (2019)
Central African Republic (2019)
Chad (2019, 2021)
Comoros (2020)
Congo (2019)
Cote d'Ivoire (2019)
Democratic Republic of the Congo (2020)
Djibouti
Egypt (2016, 2018, 2021)
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini (2019)
Ethiopia (2017)
Gabon
Gambia (2020)
Ghana (2019)
Guinea (2018)
Guinea-Bissau
Kenya (2017, 2020)
Lesotho (2019)
Liberia (2020)
Libya (2020)
Madagascar (2016, 2021)
Malawi (2020)
Mali (2018)
Mauritania (2019)
Mauritius (2019)
Morocco (2016, 2020)
Mozambique (2020)
Namibia (2018, 2021)
Niger (2018, 2020, 2021)
Nigeria (2017, 2020)
Rwanda (2019)
São Tomé and Príncipe
Senegal (2018)
Seychelles (2020)
Sierra Leone (2016, 2019)
Somalia
South Africa (2019)
South Sudan
Sudan (2018)
Togo (2016, 2017, 2018)
Tunisia (2019, 2021)
Uganda (2016, 2020)
United Republic of Tanzania (2019)
Zambia (2020)
Zimbabwe (2017, 2020, 2021)

VNRs: Key priorities from Africa

Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

- ✧ Investments in good governance, gender equality and human rights, reproductive health and the development of human capital
- ✧ Alignment of national and sub-national strategies and policies to achieve the SDGs
- ✧ Decentralization as a best practice of integrated policy that contributes to achieving the SDGs on a local level, addressing inequality, and focusing on the most vulnerable
- ✧ Addressing economical and social challenges requires development of a capable and effective State with sound institutions



VNRs: Key priorities from Africa (continued)

Cabo Verde, Chad, Egypt, Madagascar, Namibia, Niger, Sierra Leone, Tunisia, Zimbabwe

- ✧ Leaving no one behind as an overarching principle
- ✧ SIDS, highly indebted and vulnerable countries require alternative, non-traditional mechanisms and indicators for accessing development financing
- ✧ Achieving universal and sustainable access to energy, water and sanitation is crucial for leaving no behind, and requires support from existing partners
- ✧ Adoption of a “green economy” as a tool to achieve sustainable development
- ✧ Capacity building support targeting civil society to enhance and broaden participation in the implementation of the SDGs



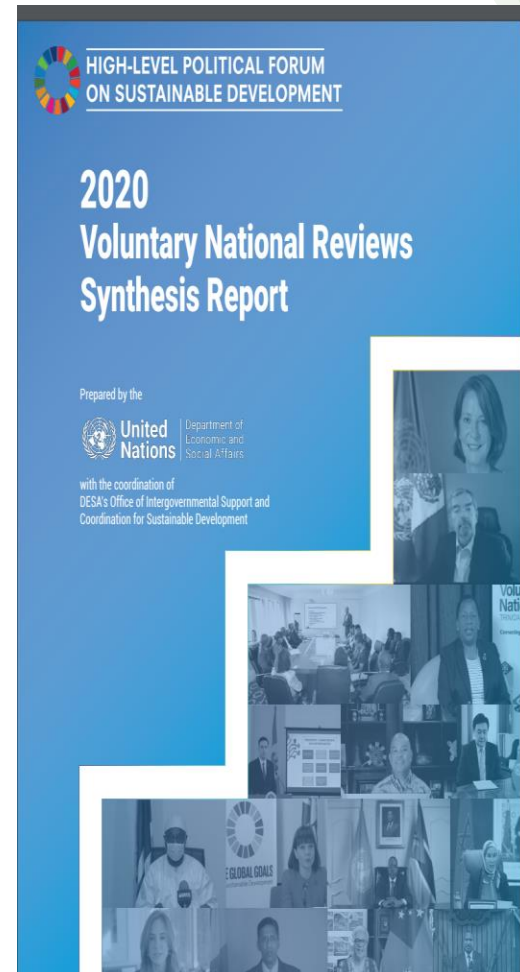
Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on VNRs in 2020

Impacts of COVID-19

- Poverty eradication and food security
- Access to quality education
- Gender equality and gender-based violence
- Disruption of trade markets

COVID-19 recovery = opportunity for transformative change

- Health care and social protection
- Economic stimulus packages
- Coordinated approaches between governments and stakeholders
- Priority to address those who are most vulnerable and leave no one behind





Challenges in preparing VNRs

- ✧ Time frame for preparation
- ✧ SDG mainstreaming and established institutional frameworks
- ✧ Contributions of stakeholders
- ✧ Lack of baseline data
- ✧ Coordinating inputs and collecting data
- ✧ Strain on institutional capacity
- ✧ Internal structures
- ✧ Countries emerging from conflict





Preparing a
VNR for
submission to
the HLPF:

Scope, content
and timeline for
2021

Tonya Vaturi
Intergovernmental Policy and Review
Branch
Office of Intergovernmental Support
and Coordination for Sustainable
Development
UN DESA

More Second and Third VNRs in 2021

First VNR



Already in the 6th year of implementation more information is needed in monitoring and evaluation than was the case in 2016 and subsequent years

Subsequent VNRs



Ensure that VNRs build on each other and show progress that is substantiated by data. Make a plan on how many VNRs to present until 2030



**Apex
Even if not all goals are achieved, progress will be tangible**

Updated SG's voluntary common reporting guidelines: What's new in 2021?



- ✧ **Include COVID-19 recovery plans**
- ✧ **Continuity and comparability of second and third VNRs**
 - ✧ Highlight actions that show progress or changes from the first VNR
- ✧ **New and emerging challenges**
 - ✧ Discrimination and inequality
 - ✧ Impacts of climate change
- ✧ **Voluntary local reviews**



Outline of SG's voluntary common reporting guidelines

I. Introduction

II. Guiding principles

- In paragraph 74 of the 2030 Agenda, Member States identified a number of principles to guide the follow-up and review process at all levels. In preparing the voluntary national reviews, it is important that these principles be taken into account

III. Structure and content of a report for the HLPF

- Practical guidance on structure and content of the VNR- these have evolved over time

IV. Making presentations at the HLPF

- The presentations at the HLPF have also evolved and adapted to changes



Updated SG's voluntary common reporting guidelines

Structure of a VNR in 2021

1. Opening Statement
2. Highlights (1-2 pages)
3. Introduction
4. Methodology and process for preparation of the review
5. Policy and enabling environment
 - a) **Ensuring** ownership of the SDGs
 - b) **Integrating** the SDGs in national frameworks
 - c) Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development
 - d) Leaving no one behind
 - e) Institutional mechanisms
 - f) **Systemic issues and transformative actions**
6. Progress on Goals and targets **and evaluation of policies and measures**
7. **New and emerging challenges**
8. Means of implementation
9. Conclusions and next steps
10. Annexes

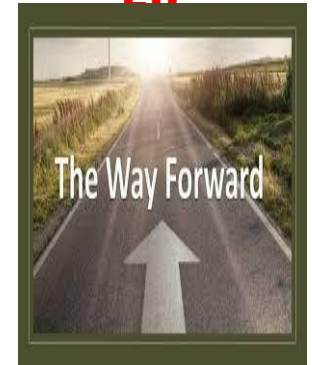
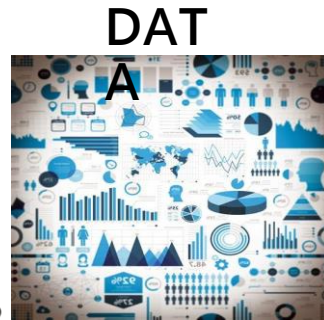


Scope And Content of a VNR in 2021

Report on
ALL SDGs



Sustainable Development Goals
Image: Global Goals www.globalgoals.org



Best practices for second and subsequent VNRs

- Second and subsequent VNRs should not be “second first VNRs”
- Need to build on continuity and deeper analysis explicitly drawing on gaps, challenges and way forward of the previous report
- Show where progress has been made based on monitoring and data
- If challenges identified in the 1st VNR still persist explain what measures or alternative solutions have been provided since then and their impact
- Opportunity to optimize existing mechanisms, national policies and practices and elaborate on short-/medium- and long-term action plans
- Ameliorate engagement of stakeholders and widen the base of stakeholders including reaching out to vulnerable groups and to subnational organizations



Format Of VNR presentation at the HLPF

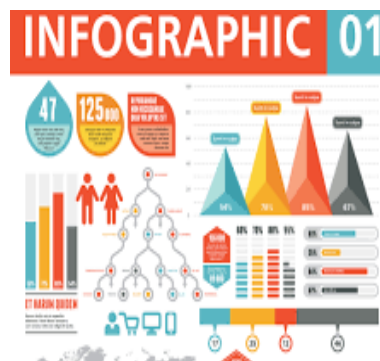


- **The panel format:** presentations are held sequentially; when all the countries participating in the session have presented, questions are asked of the presenting countries. Mandatory format for all countries presenting for the second time.
- **The individual format:** a country makes its presentation, followed by questions.
- It is recommended that a minister or senior person leads this presentation but also to include non-state actors (civil society, youth, private sector).
- The order of presentations within a particular session is determined by the presenter's rank (unless otherwise agreed with the presenting countries).
- Countries presenting a VNR for the first time have 30 minutes each: 15 minutes for their presentation and 15 minutes for questions from other countries and stakeholders.
- **Countries presenting for the second or third time (panel format) have 20 minutes each: 10 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for questions from other countries and stakeholders.**
- Countries are encouraged to use the “Group of friends of VNRs” to support them with the presentation at the HLPF.

Guidance for 2021 VNR countries

Presentation at the HLPF

Main Messages



See how others have done it... VNR database

The screenshot shows the Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform website. The header includes the UN logo and the text 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM'. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: HOME, HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM, STATES, SDGs, SDSS, TOPICS, UN SYSTEM, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT, PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES, and ABOUT. The main content area features a large image of a globe with green leaves, and the text 'HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT' and 'VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS'. Below this is a section titled 'Voluntary National Reviews Database' with a paragraph of text and a 'FEATURED' section containing a bullet point: 'UPDATED Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF)'. The URL 'sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/' is visible at the bottom of the screenshot.

Search by ..

- Year
- Keyword
- Country

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

SS

Support to the VNR process



- ✧ 3 global workshops
- ✧ Regional and subregional workshops in UN regions
- ✧ Individual assistance upon request from countries
- ✧ Preparation of synthesis report of VNR reports each year
- ✧ SG's voluntary common reporting guidelines
- ✧ Synthesis of main messages from VNR reports
- ✧ Handbook on preparation for VNRs updated each year
- ✧ Webinars as needed

What topics would you like covered at the Second global VNR workshop?

0 2 0



Covid impact Sdgs and data

The result of group of friends

Lessons learned from VNR 2020

How to do a virtual VNR (if)

VNR report

Covid impact on sdgs

stakeholder representation

Data presentation

Vulnerability due to covid

VNR Best practices 2020

VNR presentation

Visualisation

Covid impact

Data triangulation

The methodology of VNR

Good examples of 2020

multi stakeholders engagement

HLPF be In person or virtual?

Data disaggregation and LNOB

Sample presentation video

CSOs and private sector view



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

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021>

Thank you/Merci

