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Concept Note

Virtual workshop: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Follow-up to the Voluntary National Reviews in the North and Central Asia region

14 December

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda defines a robust follow-up and review process and encourages countries to conduct voluntary national reviews (VNRs) to assess progress related to attaining the sustainable development goals nationally. Voluntary national reviews present an opportunity for a country to assess progress in the achievement of the SDGs and plan appropriate policies, structures, processes and programmes to effectively achieve them. The VNR process has allowed countries to take stock of their current policies towards the SDGs, and to map out required means of implementation and develop their own recommendations for further work. Ensuring that the VNR process results in robust follow up will be key for ensuring continued implementation of the SDGs. There is an increased interest by countries in followup to the voluntary national reviews, to realize their potential to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Background

Countries have identified - and reflected in their VNRs - a range of challenges and gaps in their implementation frameworks. These include the need to create ownership of the SDGs; promote meaningful stakeholder engagement and develop mechanisms for institutionalized consultation with civil society; integrate the SDGs into national sustainable development strategies and development plans; strengthen systems for data collection and analysis; and enhance national monitoring and evaluation systems.

Of the 9 countries in North and Central Asia, all have conducted VNR, with three (Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia) having completed a second review (see below) also Azerbaijan will present the third VNR in 2021.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Armenia						



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Azerbaijan						
Georgia						
Kazakhstan						

Kyrgyzstan						
Russia						
Tajikistan						
Turkmenistan						
Uzbekistan						

This group of countries will be in an ideal position to assess the best way to implement recommendations, lessons learned and good practices.

Objective

This virtual workshop aims to build the capacity of countries in the North and Central Asia region to implement lessons learned from the VNR process, with a focus on keys areas such national sustainable development strategies and plans, data collection, and engagement of various stakeholders in the SDG implementation. It seeks to assist countries to implement solutions and address gaps that they have identified in their VNRs. It will increase participants' awareness of follow-up to the reviews through expert presentations and facilitated peer-to-peer learning through an exchange of experiences and lessons learned.

Participation and organization

Participation in the workshop will be from 9 countries of the North and Central Asia region. Participants will be working-level government officials, as well as key stakeholders, engaged in national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The workshop is co-organized by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the ESCAP Sub-Regional Office for North and Central Asia.

Draft Agenda



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Implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Follow-up to the Voluntary National Reviews in the North and Central Asia region

14 December 2020, virtual modality

09:30 (Almaty) 22:30(NYC)	Connection check/logging on to platform
10:00 – 10:15 (Almaty) 23:00 – 23:15 (NYC)	Welcome and opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA- Mr. Nikolay Pomoshchnikov, Officer-in-Charge, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia - Aims and objectives of the workshop



<p>10:15 – 10:55 (Almaty)</p> <p>(40 minutes)</p> <p>23:15 – 23:55 (NYC)</p>	<p>Setting the scene: Progress and challenges implementing the 2030 Agenda in North and Central Asia</p> <p>This session that aims to kick-off the peer learning and contribute to building a common understanding of the status of implementation of the 2030 Agenda in North and Central Asia through the lens of the VNRs.</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DESA</p> <p>Panel discussion (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Natia Tsikaradze, National Coordinator for SDGs, Administration of Government, Georgia - Mr. Elnur Ibrahimov, Adviser on Socio-Economic Issues, Secretariat of the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development, Azerbaijan - Mr. Anvarkhon Umarkhodjaev, Head, Department on SDGs, Ministry of Economic Development and Poverty Reduction, Uzbekistan - Ms. Elena Panova, UN Resident Coordinator in Turkmenistan
	<p>Q&A</p> <p><i>Guiding questions</i> (panellists asked to prepare beforehand):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What area of implementation has proved most challenging? 2. What is one good practice or lesson learned during the VNR process? 3. What are key next steps to support implementation during the post-VNR phase?
<p>10:55 – 11:00 (Almaty)</p> <p>23:55 – 24:00 (NYC)</p>	<p>Briefing and splitting into break-out rooms -</p> <p>Objectives of session</p>



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<p>11:00 – 11:25 (Almaty)</p> <p>25 min</p> <p>00:00 – 00:25 (NYC)</p>	<p>Break-out Room A: Data and statistics for the SDGs</p> <p>Kick-off presentation: Ms. Gemma Van Halderen, Director, Statistics Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Facilitated exchange of experiences - Outcome: 2-3 good practices</p>	<p>Break-out Room B: Effective stakeholder engagement</p> <p>Kick-off presentation: Ms. Natalja Wehmer, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP co-moderated by Ms. Dinara Azhigaliyeva, Associate Expert, ESCAP</p> <p>Facilitated exchange of experiences - Outcome: 2-3 good practices</p>
<p>11:25 – 11:35</p> <p>10 min</p> <p>00:25 – 00:25 (NYC)</p>	<p>Rapid feedback session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moderated session with key highlights from break-out groups 	
<p>11:35 – 11:55 (Almaty)</p> <p>20 min</p> <p>00:35 – 00:55</p>	<p>Going forward: Good practices for enhancing implementation of the Agenda</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Riccardo Mesiano, Sustainable Development Officer, Environment and Development Division, ESCAP</p> <p>Panel discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Anton Tsvetov, Deputy Director, Department of Multilateral Economic Cooperation and Special Projects, Ministry of Economic Development, Russian Federation - Mr. Fuad Humbatov, Deputy Secretary-General, National Confederation of Entrepreneurs, Azerbaijan - Ms. Tatiana Tretiakova, Coordinator, National M&E Network, Kyrgyzstan 	



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	<p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What are good practices for addressing financing challenges and gaps?2. What are examples of multi-stakeholder partnerships for capacity development activities and supporting implementation?3. What are good practices for strengthening M&E and reporting frameworks?4. How can we make national planning and budgeting systems more effective for implementing the national and 2030 Development Agenda?
<p>11:55 – 12:00 (Almaty) 5 min 00:55 – 01:00 (NYC)</p>	<p>Closing</p>