



United Nations
Economic Commission for Africa

Linkages from VLRs to National Reviews, the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the HLPF



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(ECA)

VLR Workshop
Banjul, The Gambia
14 January 2022

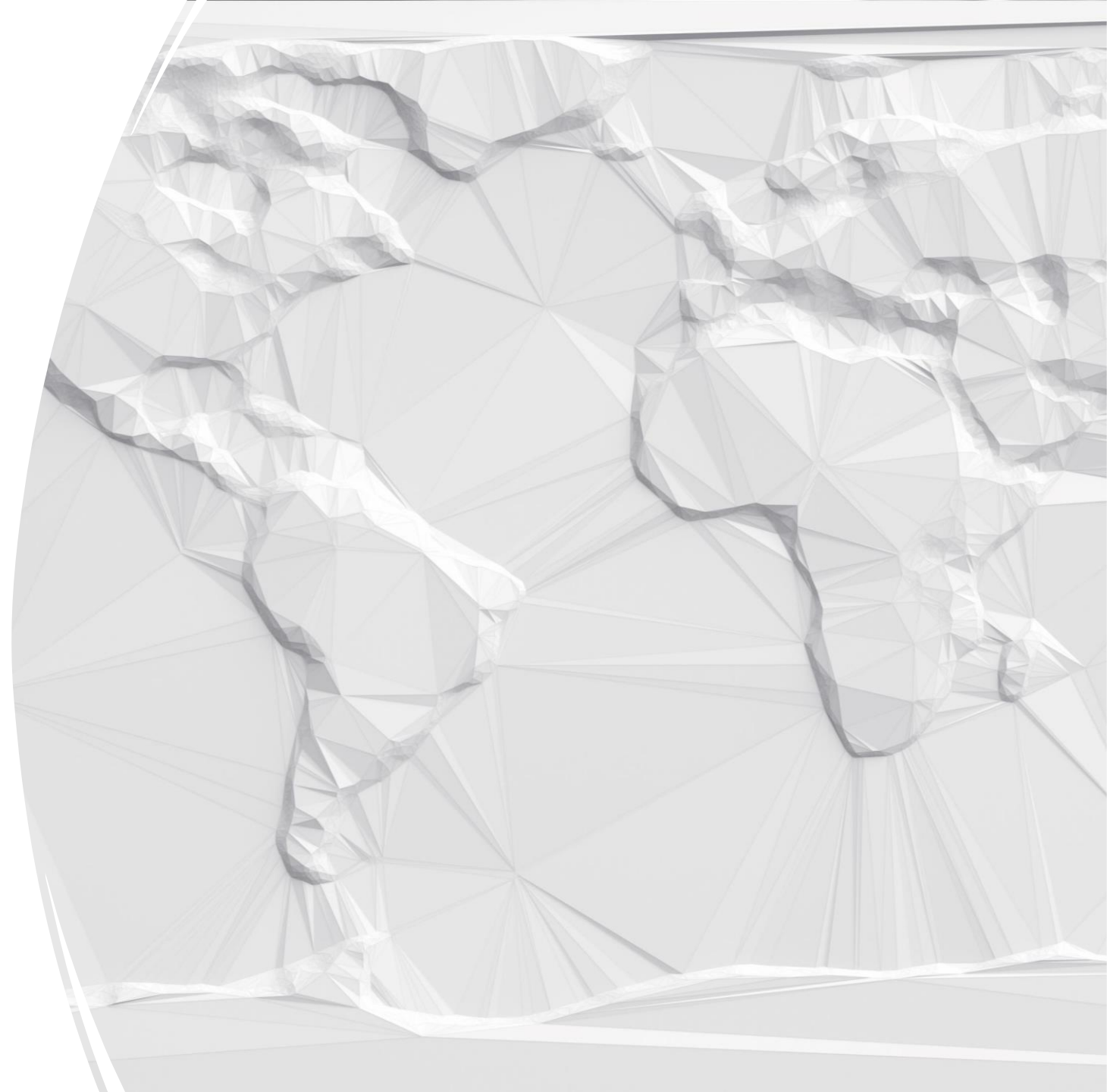
Why a Voluntary National Review?

- 1 Link country's sustainable development efforts together
- 2 Take stock of progress towards regional/global goals
- 3 Tool to engage stakeholders
- 4 Build a roadmap towards specific targets
- 5 Share lessons with others
- 6 Fulfil SDG reporting obligations



2022 VNRs

- 2022 – the most VNRs ever, and most from Africa ever
- VNRs planned for 2022: 22 Africa, 8 LAC, 7 Asia Pacific, 6 Western Europe, 3 Eastern Europe
- For Africa: a record 7 for the first time, 14 for the second time, 1 for the fourth time
- By the 2022 HLPF, 53 African countries will have submitted a VNR.



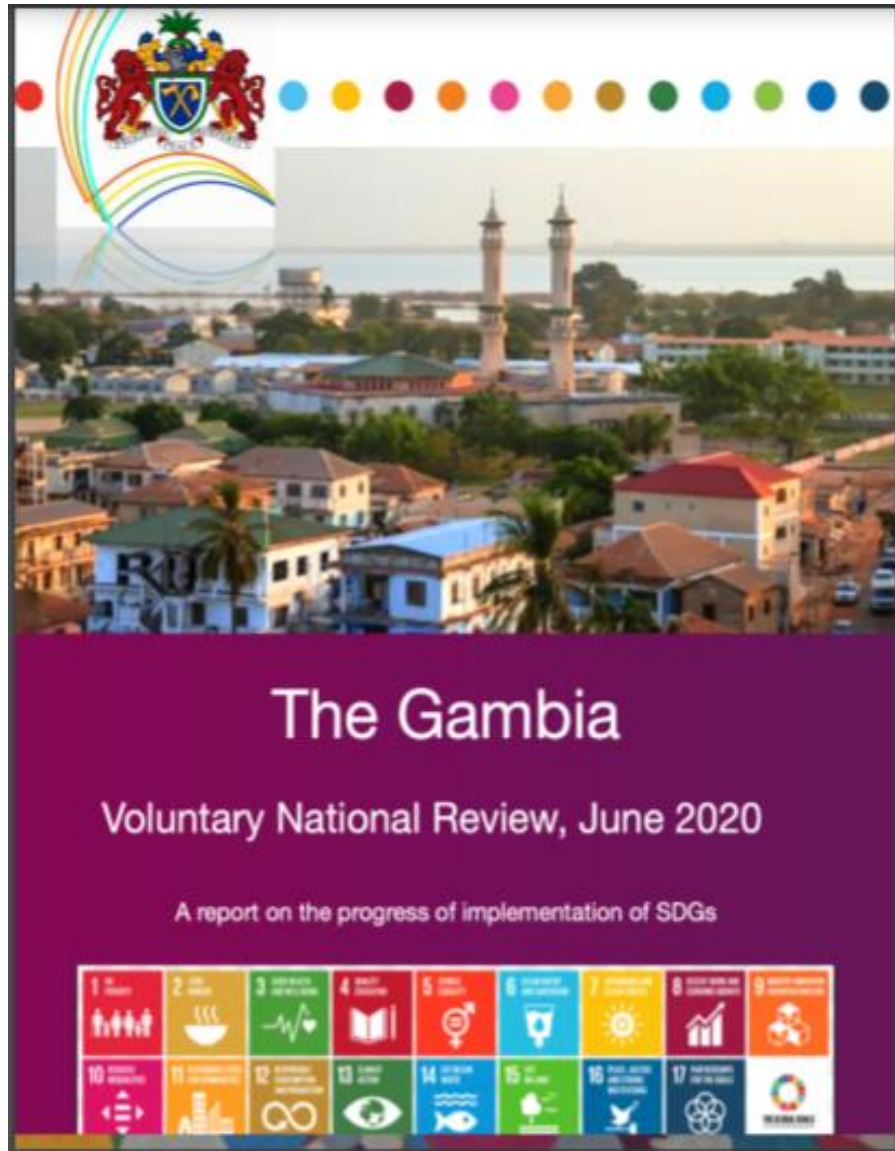
Timeline for 2022 Voluntary National Reviews



Format of the VNR

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

The Gambia 2020 VNR



POST-VNR REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS

Blended NDP Mid-term evaluation and Covid-19 Recovery plan



[26TH OCTOBER TO 18TH NOVEMBER, 2020]

COORDINATED BY DIRECTORATE OF DEVELOPMENT PLANNING
[MoFEA]

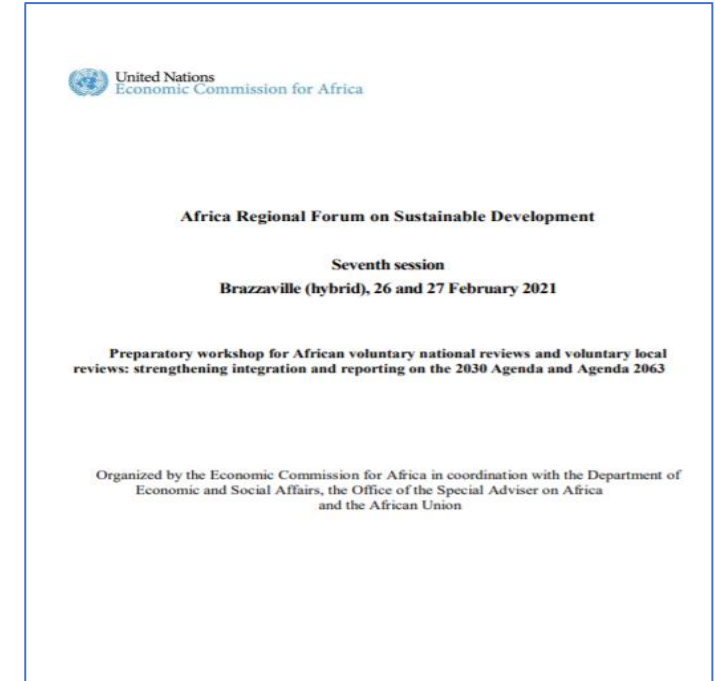
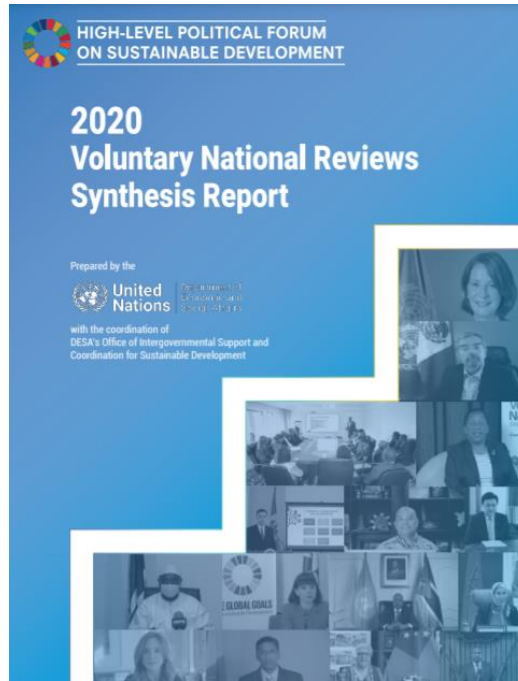
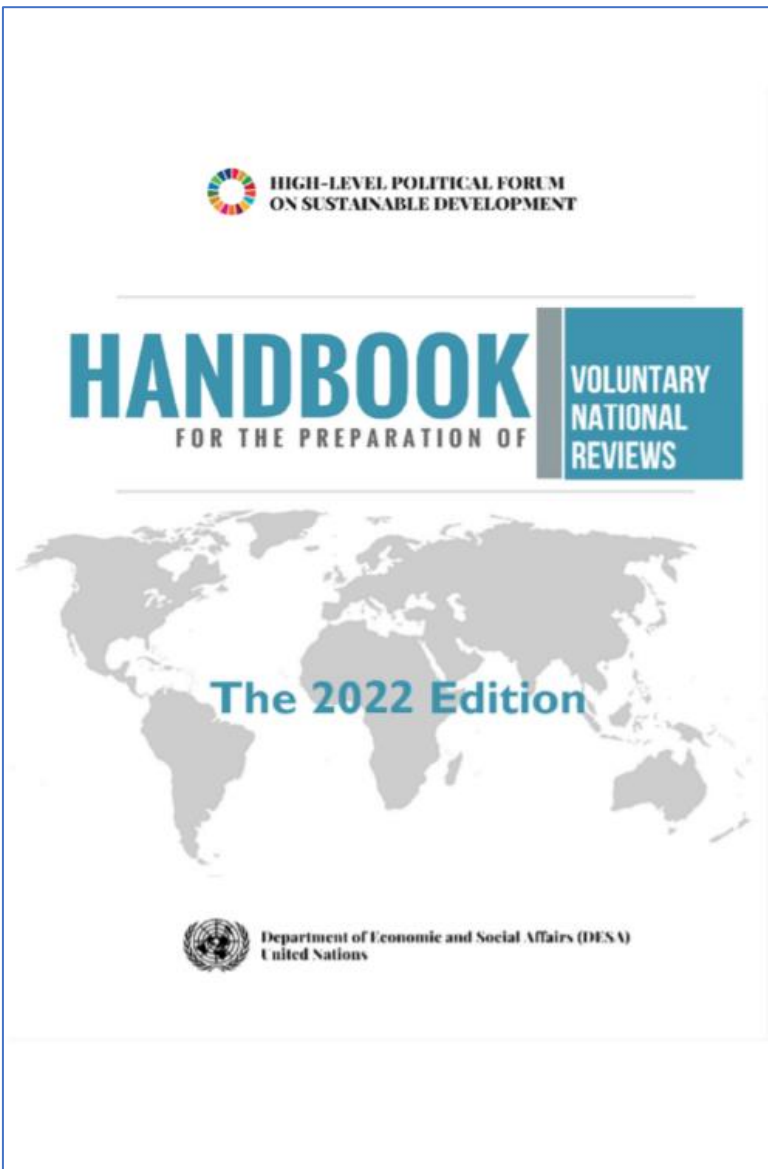
Tenets of a successful VNR

- ✓ High-level political commitment
- ✓ Collaboration among all departments
- ✓ Closely involves Stakeholders
- ✓ Data / evidence-based
- ✓ All SDGs and Agenda 2063 goals
- ✓ Honest reflection



Tips for 2nd-time VNRs

- Focus on the key SDGs most directly relevant to your national and local development plans
- Examine how the roadmap and goals from first VNR have panned out
- Capturing the impact of COVID on the sustainable development agenda, and also how SDG/A2063 and COVID recovery efforts can be linked



- BY YEAR**
- 2023 show expression of interest
- 2023
 - 2022
 - 2021
 - 2020
 - 2019
 - 2018
 - 2017
 - 2016

299 results | in all years

2017	Afghanistan	(EN)			
2021	Afghanistan*	(EN)			
2018	Albania	(EN)			
2019	Algeria	(FR)			
2018	Andorra	(FR)			
2022	Andorra*				
2021	Angola	(EN)			



VNR Best Practices from Africa

- **Cape Verde**
 - Municipalities have their own SDG alignment plans; decentralization of planning was helpful
 - Stakeholders and data – drew from baseline already engaged in policy processes.
- **Egypt** – linking with Agenda 2063
 - Strong political commitment to address both agendas simultaneously, in 1st, 2nd and 3rd VNR
- **The Gambia**
 - VNR coordination committee was very diverse across government and non-government.
- **Ghana**
 - Linked consultation process with data collection steps, started early
- **Seychelles**
 - SDGs / Agenda 2063 mainstreamed into national development plan
- **Sierra Leone** – overcoming COVID challenge
 - Proactively engaged in remote contact with stakeholders; assisted these stakeholders in accessing means to communicate virtually
- **Uganda**
 - Innovative SDG outreach to the youth, polling of young people.

Linking the local and the national

- Importance of SDG and Agenda 2063 localization at all levels
- Data – local to complement national, and vice versa
- VLR informs national reviews with stakeholders, community organizing, empowering local gov't.
- The Gambia amongst many countries doing both VNRs and VLRs in 2022 – excellent opportunity
- ECA working to support VLRs and linking with VNRs

ARFSD

- **Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development**
- Every March, Africa's high-level meeting on pressing issues in sustainable development, environment, SDGs/A2063
- Milestone and major event for VNRs and VLRs in Africa
- ARFSD 2020/21: featured many African VLRs at different stages of development
- ARFSD 2021 and this year: institutionalized interaction between national and local
- Kigali, Rwanda, 1-5 March



#ARFSD2021



The Gambia at ARFSD

- 1-2 March: VNR-VLR Workshop
- 3-5 March: High-level panel sessions (session on VNRs 3 March, session on VLRs 4 March)
- Representation of The Gambia – local
- Representation of The Gambia – national
- Benefits of participation: share VLR experience; learn and share lessons with other second-time VNRs, discussion others who have done both VNRs and VLRs.
- Overall as key input to HLPF

High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

- The main global forum to focus on very pressing and timely issues relevant to all countries, redouble efforts towards these, build and harness partnerships, share success stories (i.e. VNRs / VLRs)
- 2022: July 5-7 and 11-15
- SDGs of focus: 4, 5, 14, 15 and 17
- Venue for proactive engagement between countries, stakeholders, organizations
- Venue for VLR-specific discussions



THANK YOU!

Ideas
to
Action