

"Unleashing the Power of Collaboration: Boosting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Engagement for the 2030 Agenda"

VNR Lab on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Engagement for the 2023 United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

Monday 17 July 2023, 2-3 PM EDT

UNDESA, through its [Division for Sustainable Development Goals](#), organized the Voluntary National Review (VNR) Lab on "[Unleashing the Power of Collaboration: Boosting Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Engagement for the 2030 Agenda](#)". The objective was to discuss challenges, share lessons learned and good practices as well as report on innovative tools to strengthen and facilitate meaningful multi-stakeholder partnerships and engagement more systematically throughout the Voluntary National Review process and beyond.

The VNR Lab was opened by Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief of the Outreach and Partnerships Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (UNDESA). The VNR lab proceeded with a panel and interactive discussion. Invited speakers were Mr. André Moz Caldas (Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal), Mr. Aman Khaleel (Senior Planning Analyst, Maldives), Ms. Martina Kabisama (SAHRiNGON Tanzania Chapter) and Mr. Sandeep Chauhan (Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation). The panel was moderated by Mr. Pablo Fernández Marmissolle-Daguerre (Office of the Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments, UCLG).

Brief Summary Panel: What is Next for Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Engagement in VNRs?

Mr. André Moz Caldas (Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal) highlighted experiences from Portugal's second VNR process. Throughout the process, civil society and other stakeholders were asked to share their experiences and perspectives through various methods, including townhall meetings and online consultations. Fueled by the momentum they have built, Portugal aims to establish a lasting framework for continuous discussions with stakeholders, leading to the creation of an ambitious national roadmap with clear and measurable targets.

Mr. Aman Khaleel (Senior Planning Analyst, Maldives) described the implementation of a whole-of-government approach in the Maldives' second VNR process. To achieve this, they bolstered their coordination framework, fostering strong partnerships among the government, local councils, the private sector, and CSOs. Mr. Khaleel also noted some crucial lessons learned, which included the importance of facilitating information exchange through effective communication channels, the significance of capacity building and the need for resource mobilization.

Ms. Martina Kabisama (SAHRiNGON Tanzania Chapter) underscored the importance of inclusivity in the VNR process, with a specific emphasis on ensuring that no one is left behind, including local communities and children. This involves assessing who has been engaged in the

VNR, the accessibility of the VNR and how well it reaches and serves the people, especially considering language barriers in rural areas.

Mr. Sandeep Chauhan (Fiji Commerce & Employers Federation) focused on the insufficient participation of the private sector in VNR processes. He strongly advocated for their inclusion, particularly emphasizing the need to involve small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in decision-making and consultation procedures. Mr. Chauhan also called attention to the importance of public-private partnerships, programs promoting accessibility to decent work, job creation initiatives and literacy programs.

Interactive Discussion

During the VNR Lab, there was an interactive and engaging discussion involving representatives from Member States, youth, CSOs, and other stakeholders. The questions raised covered various crucial aspects, including addressing civil society recommendations, enhancing public-private sector engagement, improving youth engagement, data disaggregation and establishing legal frameworks for stakeholder involvement.

Participants suggested several measures to facilitate effective consultations and stakeholder engagement. Setting up digital consultations and establishing a national development planning framework were recommended to enhance community-level involvement. Youth National Councils were proposed as avenues to promote youth participation in national policymaking. Regional coordination systems were discussed as means to identify active stakeholders from different sectors and levels.

Another topic of discussion focused on the most effective communication of VNR outcomes to the public. All panelists and lead discussants emphasized the need for improvement in this area for future VNR processes

Tools and good practices to support stakeholder engagement and partnerships

Ms. Naiara Costa and Mr. Ola Goransson (UNDESA) presented valuable tools and good practices to support meaningful stakeholder engagement and partnerships, developed by UNDESA. This includes a [Massive Open Online Course \(MOOC\) on strengthening stakeholder engagement for the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda](#) and a [Practical Guide on Stakeholder Engagement and the 2030 Agenda](#), available in English, French and Spanish. In addition, the work of [2030 Agenda Partnership Accelerator](#) was highlighted, including its capacity building efforts at the national level, analytical work and guidebooks, such as [The SDG Partnership Guidebook](#).

More useful information is available online:

- <https://sdgs.un.org/stakeholders>
- <https://partnershipaccelerator.org>
- [VNR Lab on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Engagement | Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(un.org\)](#) (Including the recording)