



VNR LABS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

“Building Bridges: Engaging Stakeholders to Advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

VNR Lab on Multi-Stakeholder Engagement Practices for the 2024 United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

Monday 15 July, 13:15-14:45 PM EDT

UN Headquarters New York, 15th floor, Room S-1522/23

Organized by UNDESA (Division for Sustainable Development Goals, DSDG) and the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS CM)

As of 19 June 2024

Background

The United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development will be held from 8 - 17 July 2024, under the theme *“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions”*.

For the seventh year, a series of **Voluntary National Review (VNR) Labs** are being convened on the margins of the HLPF. The VNR Labs will provide an informal platform for experience sharing and reflection on the VNR process under the overarching theme of *“Towards Sustainable, Resilient and Innovative Solutions”*.

It is crucial to establish dialogue between political decision-makers and stakeholders across all sectors to reinforce the 2030 Agenda. Stakeholders have front-row know-how, making their active participation crucially needed to achieve the SDGs. Without active involvement from every sector of society, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs cannot be realized.

This VNR Lab will highlight exemplary stakeholder engagement practices and experiences from Member States presenting Voluntary National Reviews in 2024. This informal setting will offer a space for dialogue between Member States and stakeholders to explore the origins of these practices and the challenges they face, including reflections on how to learn from them for future review sessions. Furthermore, it will address strategies for sustaining stakeholder engagement beyond the VNR process, and

particularly the strong need for involvement of partners in the follow-up process. Finally, this VNR Lab will discuss tools and methodologies that can facilitate meaningful stakeholder engagement processes.

This VNR Lab is organized by UNDESA, through its Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), and the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism (MGoS CM).

Objectives

The VNR Lab on stakeholder engagement practices will provide a platform for sharing best practices, reflecting on lessons learned, and addressing challenges related to stakeholder engagement in VNR processes. By fostering an open dialogue between Member States, stakeholders and UN representatives, this lab aims to facilitate the exchange of insights from involving stakeholders across diverse sectors in the VNR process. Moreover, it will delve into strategies on how to continue the conversation and ensure meaningful stakeholder participation in the follow-up of the VNR process.

Format and outcomes

This event will be held in-person on the 15th floor of the UN Headquarters in New York, room S-1522/23.

Everyone with a valid UN ground pass or HLPF badge will be able to join this VNR Lab. There is no registration, and participation is on a first-come, first-served basis up to the capacity of the room (estimated 80 participants). The event will not be livestreamed or recorded, but presentation slides and a summary will be available on the event's webpage.

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday 15 July 13:15-14:45 PM EDT

Moderator: Naiara Costa, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, DSDG, DESA

13:15 - 13:20	Opening Remarks
13:20 - 14:00	Panel: Showcasing good practices of meaningful stakeholder engagement in the VNR process <i>4 Minutes interventions from Member States and stakeholders flagging one good practice of meaningful stakeholder engagement in the 2024 VNR process</i>
14:00 - 14:20	Interactive Discussion <i>Open floor for participants interventions</i> Keeping the momentum – focusing on the follow-up of the VNR process and the essential involvement of partners

14:20 – 14:40	Major Groups and Other Stakeholders Contribution to the VNR process – from global to local
14:40 - 14:45	Closing Remarks