Voluntary National Reviews at the HLPF: Reporting in 2023

Tonya Vaturi
Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

High-level Political Forum
on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

The HLPF has a "central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level"

(2030 Agenda paragraph 82)

The HLPF also aims to:
- ✓ enhance the integration of the Three dimensions of sustainable development
- ✓ provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on implementation and follow-up
- ✓ address new and emerging issues

2023 HLPF: 10 to 19 July 2023

Ministerial Segment: 17 to 19 July 2023

Theme: "Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels"

SDGs under review: **SDG 6** on clean water and sanitation, **SDG 7** on affordable and clean energy, **SDG 9** on industry, innovation and infrastructure, **SDG 11** on sustainable cities and communities, and **SDG 17** on partnerships for the Goals

However, VNR reports should cover all of the SDGs

The SDG Summit

The HLPF meets each year under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council for 8 days and **every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days.**

The next meeting under the General Assembly will be held in **September 2023**, and is referred to as the **SDG Summit**, where heads of state will come together to reconfirm their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and announce new initiatives to accelerate its implementation.

Principles of Voluntary National Reviews

Voluntary	encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries
Country-led	country-driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels
Rigorous and based on evidence	informed by country-led evaluations and data which is high-quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated
Learning experience	facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process
National circumstances	reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners
Open, Inclusive, Participatory	Including supporting reporting on progress by all relevant stakeholders

The VNR database contains over 300 reports from 189 countries

Database of all VNR reports
(333 entries):
https://hlpf.un.org/countries

Tools, lessons, best practices
(260 entries):
https://hlpf.un.org/tools

41 VNR presentations in 2023

Number of Times Presenting /Region	1st Time (2)	2nd time (38)	3rd Time (1)
Africa		Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia	
Asia Pacific		Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Fiji, Kuwait, Maldives, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Viet Nam	
Eastern Europe		Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia	
Latin America and the Caribbean	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Barbados, Guyana, Venezuela	Chile
Western Europe and Other	European Union	Belgium, Canada, France, Iceland, Ireland, Liechtenstein, Portugal	

How to maximize benefits from the first VNR?

✓ Embed VNRs into institutions and link the VNRs to report to other mechanisms and conventions

✓ Undertake costing analysis for SDGs and align with national budgets

✓ Strengthen policy coherence by identifying interlinkages among SDGs and assessing trade-offs

✓ Engage parliaments and supreme audit institutions

✓ Report at the national level before **<u>and after</u>** a VNR has been presented at the HLPF

✓ Take actions in the executive and legislative branches of government
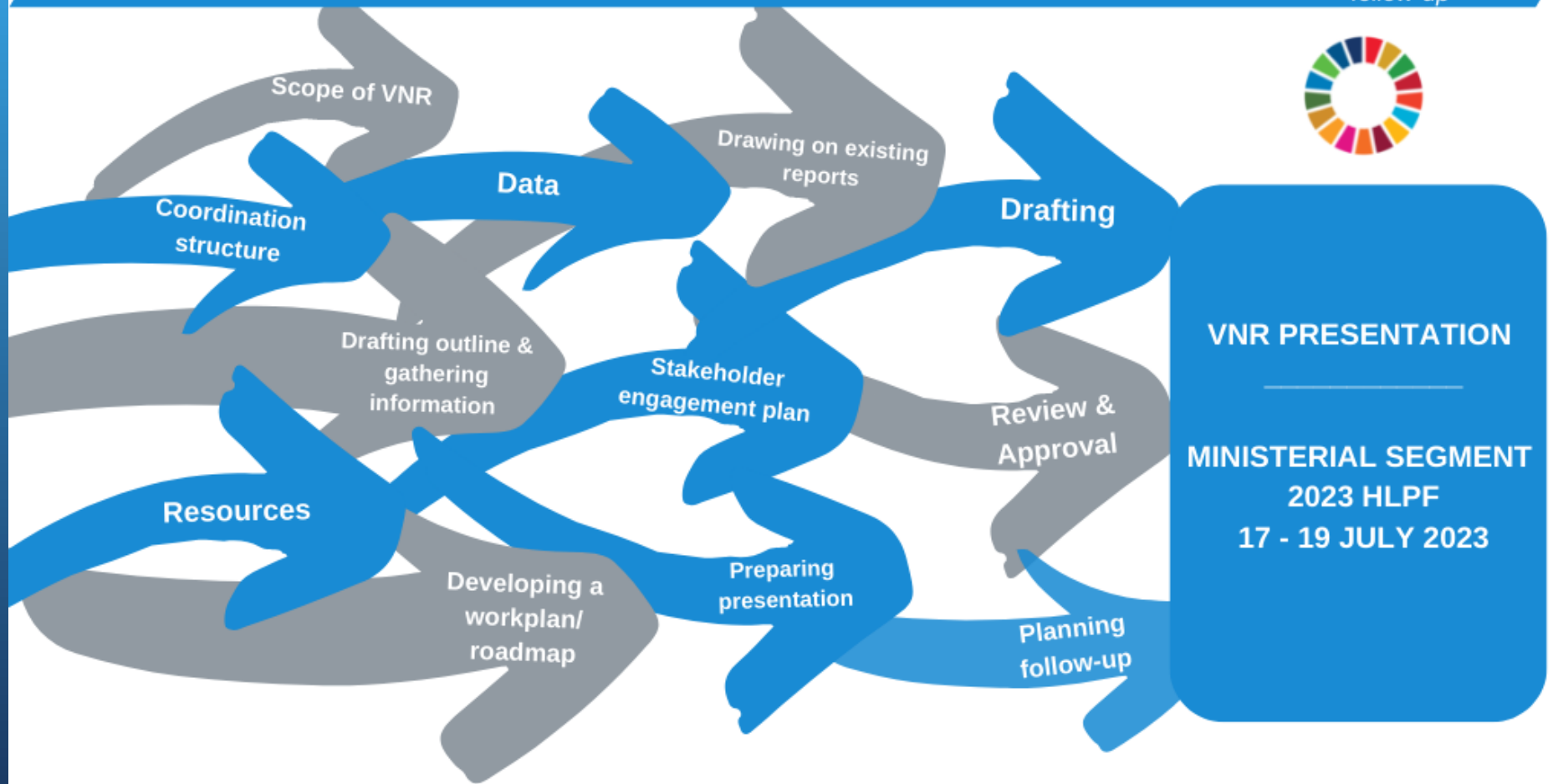
VNR Handbook

- **Secretary-General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for VNRs**
- **Checklist for VNR preparation and presentation**

Secretary-General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for VNRs

1. Opening Statement
2. Highlights
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

KEY ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER FOR VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

Timeline for 2023 Voluntary National Reviews

GLOBAL PREP I
MID-OCTOBER 2022

GLOBAL PREP. II
MID-MAR 2023

GLOBAL PREP. III
16 JULY 2023 | NEW YORK

REGIONAL PREP WORKSHOPS

FEBRUARY – APRIL 2023
IN COLLABORATION WITH
REGIONAL COMMISSIONS

VNR presentations
13 JUL 2023 and
17-19 JUL 2023
NEW YORK
MINISTERIAL SEGMENT
HLPF

>> **COUNTRY LEVEL ACTIVITIES** >>

DEADLINE I
3 MAY 2023
SUBMISSION OF
MAIN MESSAGES

DEADLINE II
9 JUNE 2023
SUBMISSION OF
FINAL REPORTS

DEADLINE III
16 JUNE 2023
SUBMISSION OF
AUDIVISUALS

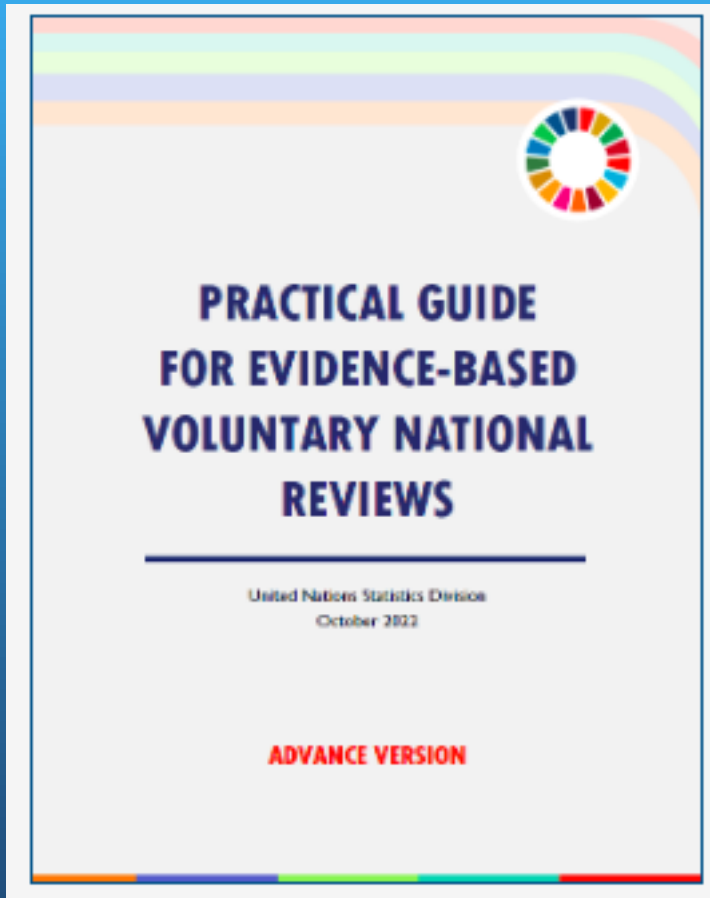**2023 VNR PRESENTATIONS**

VNR presentation at HLPF

Highlight the main messages and lessons from the VNR

- **Order of presentation** – proposed by the President of ECOSOC, countries agree among themselves
- **Who** will present? More than one presenter? Different ministries, civil society?
- **Time:** 10 minutes for each country to present, including use of multimedia
- **Interactive**: Questions from other Member States, as well as Major Groups and other Stakeholders

Parliamentary inclusion over time in VNRs

Country	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Andorra		Yes				Yes
Argentina				No		Yes
Belarus	Yes					Yes
Botswana	No					Yes
Cote D'Ivoire	Yes					Yes
Eswatini					No	Yes
Ethiopia	No					Yes
Ghana					Yes	Yes
Greece				Yes		Yes
Jordan	No					Yes
Lesotho			Yes			Yes
Pakistan			Yes			Yes
Senegal			Yes			Yes
Sri Lanka			No			Yes

Data and valuation systems

PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

United Nations Statistics Division
October 2022

ADVANCE VERSION

Welcome to the Open SDG Data Hub

https://unstats.un.org/SDGs/data4vnrs

https://unstats-undesa.opendata.arcgis.com

Questions for discussion

1. For countries reporting in 2023: what are the main messages this year that are different from your first VNR? How will your second VNR show progression and build on the previous report?

2. For countries that reported in 2022: what is the best advice you can give to the 2023 countries who are now in the process of drafting their second VNR report and preparing to present it at the HLPF in July?