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# VNR LABS

## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

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### Principles of effective governance in VNRs: Enhancing policy coherence for sustainable development

18 July 2023, 8:00-9:00 a.m. (EST)  
Conference room 11  
United Nations Headquarters New York

#### Concept note

Organized by: Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)/African Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



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Description: Policy coherence is now more important than ever considering the ongoing multiple global crises that the world faces. There is a renewed drive for policy coherence and integrated approaches in the policy debate around the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international or regional agreements (e.g., Agenda 2063). Identification of synergies and trade-offs, and recognizing interdependencies and interactions in the 2030 Agenda, are key first steps to ensure that public policies are coherent with one another and will achieve their intended results. Policy coherence is the subject of different sustainable development goal targets, including 17.14 and its indicator 17.14.1. The promotion of coherent policymaking is also one of the commonly used strategies to achieve sound policymaking, one of the [principles of effective governance](#) for sustainable development developed by the [Committee of Experts on Public Administration](#) and endorsed by ECOSOC in 2018<sup>1</sup>. It is also the focus of the [2019 OECD Recommendation on policy coherence for sustainable development](#) (PCSD), which, among others, encourages countries to adopt a long-term strategy for sustainable development, to strengthen their mechanisms for horizontal and vertical coherence, and to improve monitoring and reporting on PCSD. In this context, the lack of enforceability measures for PCSD and inadequate tools for anticipating and addressing cross-border impacts have proven particularly challenging, according to a recent OECD survey.

The VNR Lab intends to facilitate peer-to-peer learning on how to enhance policy coherence aimed at accelerating full implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will invite countries to share concrete examples

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<sup>1</sup> See also: CEPA strategy guidance note on promotion of coherent policymaking (2021). Available at: <https://publicadministration.un.org/Portals/1/Strategy%20note%20coherent%20policymaking%20Mar%202021.pdf>

of measures undertaken to foster and track policy coherence, including related challenges and success stories as well as progress made since their last VNR presentation. Given their active engagement in promoting policy coherence at the regional level, the VNR lab will also invite APRM and the OECD to give a regional perspective and elaborate on good practices.

Guiding questions:

- What concrete measures or actions has your country undertaken to further foster and track policy coherence, including (self-assessment) tools, capacity-building measures and institutional mechanisms designed to pursue coordinated and coherent policies?
- Can you give concrete examples of challenges related to fostering and tracking policy coherence in your country, including in relation to the SDGs to be discussed at the 2023 HLPF meeting? What is needed in order for countries to better take into account the transboundary impacts of their policymaking?
- What are main lessons, success stories and examples of good practices related to policy coherence in support of sustainable development?
- How can regional bodies or organisations better help countries in fostering policy coherence in support of the 2030 Agenda and other international or regional agreements (e.g., Agenda 2063)?

Format: The Lab will last for 1 hour and will be held in person in Conference room 11. It will be an interactive dialogue with six speakers who will make short initial interventions (max. 5 minutes). A moderated open discussion will follow, based on the questions presented above. Speakers are invited to address questions and comments in short and focused responses. Use of PowerPoint presentations is discouraged. The VNR lab will take place under the Chatham House Rule to allow for candid discussions. This also applies to the use of social media during the event.

Language: The VNR lab will take place in English only.

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Moderator: Ms. Veronique Verbruggen, Inter-Regional Advisor, Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government, UNDESA

Invited speakers:

1. Mr. Diego Vela, Chief of Staff of the Ministry of Social Development and Family, Chile
2. Mr. André Moz Caldas, Secretary of State for the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Portugal
3. Mr. Godfrey Kabera, Head of National Development Planning and Research, Ministry of Finance, Rwanda
4. Mr. Louis Meuleman, Vice-Chair, Committee of Experts on Public Administration, Visiting Professor at Public Governance Institute, KU Leuven, Senior Fellow at University of Massachusetts and Research Associate at Wageningen University (remote)
5. Mr. Ernesto Soria Morales, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD
6. Ms. Sara Tawfik Hamouda, Agenda 2063 and SDGs Expert, African Peer Review Mechanism