



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



United Nations

DESA
Statistics



Global Partnership
for Sustainable
Development Data

What: Virtual Expert peer exchange for VNR 2023 countries: data disaggregation and use of non-traditional data sources

Convened by: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UN Statistics Division, UN Foundation, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Data2X

When: Thursday, 2 February 2023, 7-9am EST/7-9pm ICT

Language: English and French interpretation

Zoom link: <https://unfoundation.zoom.us/j/93634445349> Meeting ID: 936 3444 5349

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), adopted by all Member States of the United Nations in September 2015, provide a visionary roadmap for all countries and stakeholders to strive for a world of sustainable prosperity, social inclusion and equality while at the same time preserving our planet and leaving no one behind¹. Effective follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda is essential for renewed action and progress in achieving the SDGs.

At the heart of this process are voluntary national reviews (VNRs), which have become a critical component of the review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and will continue to show the way forward and provide an essential source of lessons learned and experience sharing. The year 2023 is a pivotal year for the SDGs; not only is it a midway point towards the 2030 Agenda, but with the SDG Summit happening later in the year, it is an opportunity to reset and accelerate the progress towards the SDGs despite global challenges. VNRs will play a critical role in this process.

Between 2016 and 2022, countries across the world have presented a total of two hundred and twenty two (222) VNRs at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF). In 2023 it is expected that 41 countries will conduct their VNRs.

The VNR process is also a moment for countries to learn from each other through peer learning. By exchanging best practices, challenges and solutions, countries are better prepared to develop VNRs but importantly to institutionalize these practices beyond the VNR.

¹ Foreword in the [2022 Handbook for Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\)](#)

About the event

In order to foster learning for the 2023 VNR countries, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UN Statistics Division, UN Foundation, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data and Data2X will host a virtual peer exchange on the **2nd of February 2023- 7-9am EST/7-9pm ICT**. This exchange will provide a space for countries to learn from one another and to identify best practices in developing their VNRs.

Guided by the co-chairs of the Group of Friends of the Voluntary National Reviews- the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of the Philippines, the peer exchange will focus on the best practices in data availability, data disaggregation and the use of non-traditional data sources for SDG reporting. Each focus area will take a gendered lens as a cross-cutting area of interest for the countries.

Objectives

The peer exchange will serve to:

1. Provide a space for sharing best practices in the VNR development.
2. Provide a space for discussing common data challenges and joint problem solving in the VNR development process in regards to data disaggregation, data availability and non-traditional data sources.
3. Strengthen the sense of community among countries developing VNRs in 2023.

Target group

Countries presenting VNRs in 2023 with at least 2 country representatives from a) team responsible for VNR development (mostly Ministry of Planning) and b) National Statistical Offices as well as some economists and data officers from the UN RCOs.

Proposed Agenda

Time allocation	Agenda item & speakers
10 mins	Overall moderator: Ms. Jenna Slotin, Global Partnership Introduction and welcome remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marion Barthelemy, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination, UNDESA
20 mins	Panel discussion on best practices in data disaggregation for VNR reporting. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Silvia Manclossi, Assistant Deputy Director, Statistical Coherence and Inclusion Division/SDGs and Jennifer Thomas, Joint head of UK SDG Data, ONS-UK2. Emma Phiri, Gender Specialist, Zambia Statistics Agency Moderator: Yongyi Min, UNSD
15 mins	Q&A
20 mins	Panel discussion on best practices in data availability and the use of non-

	<p>traditional data for VNR reporting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Saruni Njipay, Senior Statistician, National Bureau of Statistics Tanzania 2. Kevin McCormack, Head of Division, Sustainable Development Goals Indicators & Reports, Central Statistics Office Ireland <p>Discussant: Country VNR focal point Tawaketini Autiko, Fiji</p> <p>Moderator: Karen Bett, Global Partnership</p>
15 mins	Q&A
30 mins	<p>Break out expert clinics for VNR countries</p> <p>Breakout room 1: Data Disaggregation</p> <p>Breakout room 2: Data availability and use of non-traditional data</p>
10 mins	<p>Regroup, closing remarks and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meriem El Hilali, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Morocco to the UN and Representative of Group of Friends of VNRs