

**Workshop on Preparing Evidence-based  
Voluntary National Reviews for 2021 HLPF**

18-19 January 2021 | 8-11 am EST

Virtual

**Tentative Agenda**

*(as of 18 January 2021)*

**Monday, 18 January 2021**

**1. Opening and Introduction to the Workshop**, Ms. Yongyi Min, DESA UNSD and Ms. Irena Zubcevic, DESA OISC [8:00-8:10 am]

**2. Session 1: National SDG monitoring mechanisms and processes** [8:10-9:10 am]

*Objective: This session will focus on best practices and lessons learned from national monitoring mechanisms or the institutional arrangements for the SDGs, data sharing and data flow arrangements for monitoring the SDGs, and inclusive national SDG review processes carried out by countries.*

- a. Presentation: Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD
- b. Country experiences:
  - i. Ms. Nada Yacoub, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt
  - ii. Ms. Aya Yoshida, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan
- c. Discussion

Discussion questions for Session 1:

*1.1 What efforts are being made to set up a national monitoring coordination mechanism to support the collection of data for an evidence-based VNR? Which ministries are involved, and what role does the national statistical office play in the institutional mechanism?*

*1.2 How to include data and statistics in the VNR and prepare the statistical annex? What are the main challenges faced with data collection and management for the preparation of the VNR?*

*1.3 How have you addressed data gaps in your current VNR process? For second and third-time presenters, has your monitoring process improved over the past VNR processes and can you share your good experiences?*

*1.4 Are there any non-governmental stakeholders involved in the national SDG monitoring processes?*

Short break [9:10-9:15 am]

### **3. Session 2: Assessing and including the impacts of COVID-19 in VNRs [9:15-10:05 am]**

*Objective: This session will focus on how countries have carried out data collection processes and monitoring of the SDGs and on the impacts COVID-19 is having on SDG progress. In addition, the session will highlight ways to report these impacts in the VNR.*

- a. Presentation: Ms. Heather Page, UNSD
- b. Country experiences:
  - i. Ms. Mercedes Gallego, Ministry of Social Rights and 2030 Agenda, and Ms. Ana Carmen Saura, National Institute of Statistics, Spain
  - ii. Mr. Nyi Nyi Maung, Central Statistical Organization, Myanmar
- c. Discussion

#### Discussion questions for Session 2:

*2.1 What areas of the SDGs have been most affected by the pandemic in your country? How can the impacts of COVID-19 on progress towards the SDGs be reflected in the 2021 VNR?*

*2.2 What impact has the pandemic had on the preparation of the country's VNR and on monitoring the SDG Goals and targets?*

*2.3 Are there any actions and good practices taken place to ensure the operational continuity of data programmes by national statistical offices to provide high quality data needed by governments and all sectors of society to respond to the COVID-19 crisis?*

### **4. Session 3: Integrating new data sources and data innovations for official statistics and partnerships with stakeholders [10:05-10:55 am]**

*Objective: Countries are actively engaged in integrating new data sources and data innovation into official statistics to fully describe the progress of SDG implementation at the national level. The following session will focus on best practices and experiences in integrating new data sources and innovations for official statistics, SDG monitoring during the COVID-19 pandemic and partnerships with stakeholders which can support evidence-based VNRs.*

- a. Presentation: Mr. Luis Gonzalez Morales, UNSD
- b. Country experiences:
  - i. Mr. Niels Ploug, Statistics Denmark
  - ii. Ms. Karen Chavez, National Administrative Department of Statistics (DANE), Colombia
- c. Discussion

#### Discussion questions for Session 3:

*3.1 Are there any new data sources or data innovations used for SDG monitoring, particularly, in light of the COVID-19 situation? Can you share your country experiences?*

*3.2 What could be the advantages for NSOs of using new data sources and innovations to report on SDG indicators? Has the NSO established any partnerships with universities/research institutions/civil society groups/business for joint data collection of SDG-relevant data for VNR reporting?*

3.3 How to harness data and statistics produced by non-official sources, such as data from the private sector, civil society, academia, and other research institutions, while ensuring data quality?

**5. Summary of Day 1/Conclusion [10:55-11:00 am]**

**Tuesday, 19 January 2021**

**6. Welcome to Day 2 and re-cap of Day 1, Ms. Yongyi Min, UNSD [8:00-8:15 am]**

**7. Session 4: Data disaggregation and leaving no one behind [8:15-9:25 am]**

*Objective: This session will focus on how countries identify national data disaggregation priorities, and define tools and practices to improve the collection of disaggregated data. Discuss and conduct a mini mapping identifying data sources and policy priority areas with data for ensuring LNOB.*

- a. Presentation: Ms. Yongyi Min and Ms. Heather Page, UNSD
- b. Country experiences:
  - i. Mr. Phousavanh Chanthasombath, Lao Statistics Bureau, Lao PDR
- c. Discussion

Discussion questions for Session 4:

4.1 According to your country's policy priorities, who are the most vulnerable populations in your country context? With COVID-19, have other vulnerable groups been identified/focused on?

4.2 What are the main challenges your country is facing in order to report data for vulnerable groups (e.g., the poor, women, the disabled, older persons)?

4.3 Can any country share their experience on data sources, techniques or best practices that have been most helpful for collecting disaggregated data for different vulnerable populations? For example, has the NSO and/or partner agencies made special efforts to collect data at the necessary level of disaggregation (e.g., disability status, migrant status) for SDG reporting?

Short break [9:25-9:30 am]

**8. Session 5: Communicating data in VNRs and engaging data users [9:30-10:30 am]**

*Objective: This session will focus on how best to analyse, use and communicate data and present it in VNRs. In addition, participants will be able to share experiences and good practices on user engagement and data literacy in the VNR process.*

- a. Presentation: Ms. Elena de Jesus, UNSD
- b. Country experiences:
  - i. Ms. Roslawati Yahya, Department of Statistics, Malaysia
  - ii. Mr. Godfrey Matsinde, Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency, Zimbabwe

c. Discussion

Discussion questions for Session 5:

5.1 *What are the main challenges around presenting data and statistics in VNRs? For second and third-time presenters- how have you improved the use and communication of data in the VNRs? What are the lessons learned from the first report?*

5.2 *In what ways will the information in the VNR and on SDG implementation be promoted or disseminated to the public in your country (i.e. dashboard, video, website, etc.)?*

5.3 *What data elements do you plan to include in your 2021 VNR? Statistical annex, charts/tables, infographics, geospatial analysis/maps, link to story maps, link to online data portal/dashboard, etc.*

**9. Summary of Day 2/Conclusion [10:30-10:40 am]**