



**The President
of the
Economic and Social Council**

28 July 2022

Excellency,

I am writing in relation to the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to be conducted at the July 2023 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), which will be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council.

I would like to inform you that, to date, expressions of interest for presenting VNRs at the 2023 HLPF have been received from Bahrain*, Belgium*, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Brunei Darussalam*, Central African Republic*, Comoros*, the European Union, Fiji*, France*, Iceland*, Ireland*, Kuwait*, Liechtenstein*, Lithuania*, Mongolia*, Panama**, Romania*, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Singapore*, Tajikistan*, Turkmenistan*, Uganda**, United Republic of Tanzania*, Uzbekistan* and Viet Nam*, which will be duly considered as part of the elaboration of the list of VNRs for 2023 (asterisk indicates number of VNRs presented thus far *second and **third time).

Based on the experience from this and previous years' forums, I would like to inform you that the maximum number of countries presenting during the 2023 HLPF cannot exceed 42. In finalizing the list, I will give priority to countries presenting their first voluntary national review, as well as to those who have not yet presented a VNR in the on-going four year cycle of the HLPF (2020-2023). As you are aware, while recognizing the voluntary nature of the VNRs, the General Assembly, in its resolution on the HLPF review (75/290B) encouraged countries to conduct a review once during the four-year cycle of the HLPF (annex, paragraph 18).

I also wish to thank H.E. Mr. Enrique Austria Manalo, Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Philippines, and H.E. Mr. Omar Hilale, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations, for their successful leadership of the Group of Friends of VNRs and for the Group's important contribution and support to the countries that presented VNRs at the July 2022 HLPF.

All Permanent Representatives and
Permanent Observers to the United Nations
Economic and Social Council
New York

The VNRs enable follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating progress. Remaining mindful of the voluntary nature of the VNRs, I encourage countries that have not yet presented a VNR, and countries that have not presented a VNR since the 2019 SDG Summit to consider doing so at the July 2023 HLPF.

It is my intention to close the list of VNRs for 2023 in the third week of September, so I would appreciate receiving your expression of interest by Thursday, 15 September 2022.

I look forward to working with all of you in preparing for a successful 2023 HLPF.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Lachezara Stoeva
President of ECOSOC