

2023 High-Level Political Forum - VNR Lab

ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF REPORT WRITING The Experience of Timor-Leste

WEDNESDAY, 12 JULY 2023, 9:00 – 10:00 AM (EST)
UNHQ/NY, Conference Room 11

Background

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are the cornerstone of the national follow up and review process of the 2030 Agenda. Ensuring that VNRs feed into policymaking and are a central part of the national policy cycle is vital to accelerate implementation on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

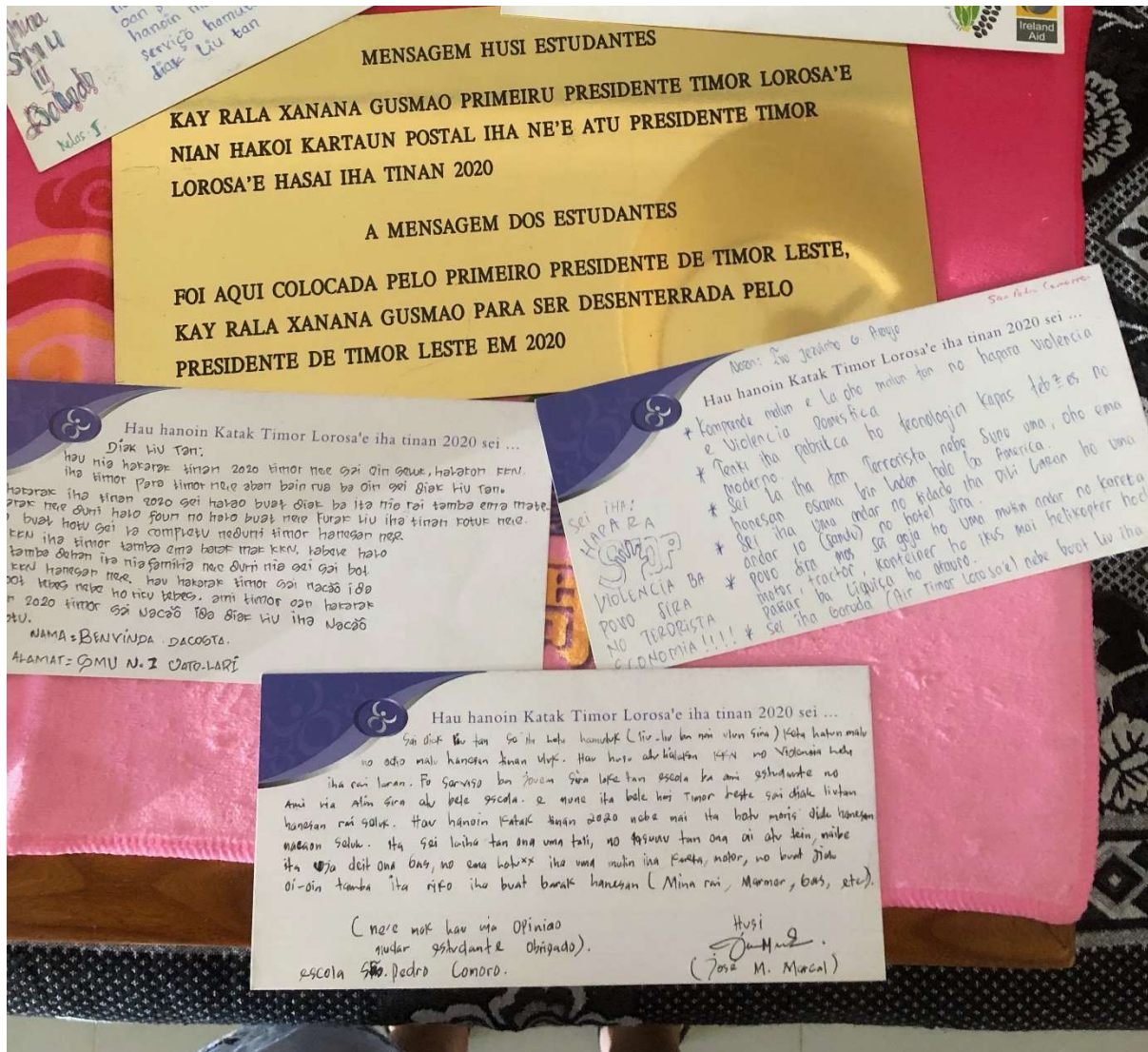
The most powerful way to get key messages across in the VNR is to develop a storyline which ties together the report. A storyline is the overarching message of the report, which runs through the different sections of the report. The storyline ties together the report and helps ensure that readers of the report come away with a clear understanding of the country's priorities and how the country seeks to address key challenges. It is important to let the VNR 'tell a story' about the national priorities and what the country has accomplished given the context.

The government of Timor-Leste, in partnership with the Resident Coordinator Office and the UNCT has told a very powerful story in its Second VNR by adopting a more creative and appealing format. The report follows a narrative style where different government representatives, the President of the Republic and other stakeholders are interviewed and lead the reader through a journey that started 20 years ago with a few Timorese children writing postcards and placing them in a capsule of time...

The report uses, also, another narrative tool. Back in 2002 the youth of Timor-Leste wrote postcards expressing their aspirations for the nation in 2020. Four of these postcards were retrieved in 2022, and feature at the beginning of the VNR which stems from them.

Timor-Leste chose a unique approach to gauge the youth's perspective on its progress towards the SDGs. This was accomplished by analysing these postcards created by young Timorese, which offered a ground-up perspective on key development issues to respond to their expectations regarding SDG implementation in the country. The VNR found that SDG 16 and SDG 17, focusing on peace, justice, strong institutions, and partnerships for the goals, were viewed by the youth as crucial underpinnings for development in Timor-Leste. They highlighted the significance of good governance, institutional development, and robust partnerships in this context.

Furthermore, they pointed out that SDG 4, 5, 8, 9, and 10, encompassing quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation, and infrastructure, and reduced inequalities, respectively, act as key catalysts, accelerating our progress towards development. Conversely, they perceived SDG 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, and 11, which deal with poverty, hunger, clean water and sanitation, affordable and clean energy, reduced inequalities respectively, as significant outcomes of our developmental efforts.



"I want in 2020 Timor-Leste will be different, erase KKN [corruption, collusion and nepotism] in Timor-Leste. I want in 2020, Timor-Leste will have improvements because many people are dying for this country, everything will not be complete if KKN persists. That is why if you become a Leader don't do the KKN, I want Timor-Leste to become a rich nation. As a Timorese, in 2020, I want my country should be better like other countries. **Bemvinda da Costa, female, 16 years old**

I think in 2020, Timor-Leste will be better than now because we will get our freedom and democracy to construct our country with love and peace. As students, we are asking to our leaders to not be selfish but think of us as your people so that we can work together to construct our Timor-Leste to be better. **Latonia M.L. Araujo, male, 17 years old**

Timor-Leste would be better if all the leaders work together. I ask to erase corruption, collusion and nepotism and domestic violence, create job opportunities for young people and construct new schools for students so that we can focus on our study, because we are the future to build this country to be like other countries. I think in 2020, our lives will be improved like in other countries. We will not have "Uma Talin" [traditional house], we will not burn wood to cook. But we will be using gas, and all people will live in white [modern] house, have their own cars, motorbikes and some other things because we are rich with petroleum, marble and gas. **Jose M Marcal, male, 17 years old**

Objectives and Guiding Questions

The Lab will reflect on alternative ways and approaches to report on SDG progress.

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Key questions for discussion will include:

- What is the benefit of using narrative approaches in the VNR report?
- Have other countries adopted alternative approaches over the years?
- How do different approaches engage the stakeholders?

Tentative Agenda

08:45 – 09:00	Registration
	Moderator: Carolina Azevedo, Chief, Communications and Results Reporting, DCO

09:00 – 09:05	<p>Welcome remarks H.E. Karlito Nunes, Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste to the United Nations</p>
09:05 – 09:10	<p>Setting the scene: VNRs, which stories do they tell?</p> <p>Riccardo Mesiano, Strategic Planner and Head of the RCO Timor-Leste</p>
09:10 – 09:25	<p>Country interventions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timor-Leste- Brigida Soares, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Technical Coordinator, ANAPMA, VNR coordinator • Mongolia- Balchinluvsan.L ,General director of Integrated policy department ,Ministry of Economy and Development • Uganda-Pascal Byarugaba, PM&E Specialist, SDG Secretariat-Office of the Prime Minister
09:25-09:35	<p>UN agencies and other stakeholders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juliet Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP • Jyotsna Mohan, CSO's perspective
09:35 – 09:55	<p>Open discussion</p>
09:55-10:00	<p>Wrap-up and vote of thanks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fred Soltau, Chief of Intergovernmental Policy & Review Branch, OISC/DESA

Modalities and registration

The event will take place in a hybrid format in conference room 11 at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York. Kindly note that in-person participants need to be registered / accredited for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (for more details on registration at the HLPF, see: <https://hlpf.un.org/2023/registration-participation>).

Contact

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