

Virtual VNR lab 10: What should institutions look like to support SDG implementation and how best to reflect it in VNR reporting?

Friday, 10 July, 12:30 - 14:00 (Eastern Time, New York)

Online - via Teams

Concept note and programme

Organized by: Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

Description: The importance of national institutions for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is increasingly recognized, particularly since last year's high-level political forum. In order to implement all of the SDGs at the desired scale and speed, institutions need to be capable and adequately resourced, to innovate, and to effectively work with one another to deliver key policy functions.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, countries around the world have experimented with institutional arrangements for strategizing and planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and policy integration, adjusting institutional set-ups to be better positioned to deliver the SDGs. This has encompassed, among other things, attempts to improve horizontal coordination, enhance synergies and collaboration among levels of government, and enable meaningful engagement with non-state actors. Such experimentation over the past five years can reveal critical insights and lessons.

This lab will focus on what institutions should look like to support accelerated implementation of all the SDGs, including at the sub-national level, and how to reflect progress in achieving more effective governance for sustainable development in voluntary national review (VNR) reporting using the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) principles of effective governance for sustainable development as a guide. It will offer participating governments the opportunity to share good practices. Concrete challenges that countries are facing in strengthening institutional capabilities for SDG implementation will also be considered.

Guiding questions:

- 1) How do countries assess the effectiveness of their institutional arrangements for implementing the SDGs?
- 2) How are key elements of countries' institutional set-ups – central and local government entities and levels, parliaments, supreme audit institutions, civil society, academia, etc. – working together to deliver the SDGs?
- 3) How have institutional arrangements been adjusted since 2015 to enhance the capacity of institutions to deliver specific policy functions in relation to the SDGs, such as policy design, programme implementation, and monitoring and evaluation?
- 4) What are key capacity gaps across government for implementing the SDGs, and what is being done by governments to address them?

Format: The VNR lab brings together representatives of national governments that are presenting their VNRs in 2020 to share institutional experiences and insights. The lab will also include experts from UN CEPA and the African Peer Review Mechanism. Presenters will each be invited to present one concrete case, in approximately 5 minutes. A moderated open discussion will follow the presentations, with short interventions conveyed from the floor. The discussant may actively participate throughout. Speakers are invited to address questions and comments in short and focused interventions.

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.

Provisional programme

Welcome remarks

Mr. Elliott Harris, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development and Chief Economist

Panelists

- Ms. Annika Lindblom, Secretary General, National Commission on Sustainable Development, **Finland**
- Mr. Adrián Moreira Muñoz, Advisor to the Minister and VNR Coordinator, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, **Costa Rica**
- Mr. Abdeslam Nadah, Director of Planning, High Planning Commission (Haut Commissariat au Plan), **Morocco**
- Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal, Hon. Member, National Planning Commission, **Nepal**
- Prof. Eddy Maloka, Chief Executive Officer of the **African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM)**

Discussant: Ms. Cristina Duarte, Former Minister of Finance, Planning and Public Administration of Cabo Verde; member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration

Moderator: Mr. Louis Meuleman, Visiting Professor of public governance at KU Leuven; Senior Fellow at University of Massachusetts Boston; member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration