



A brief overview of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021

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**United
Nations**

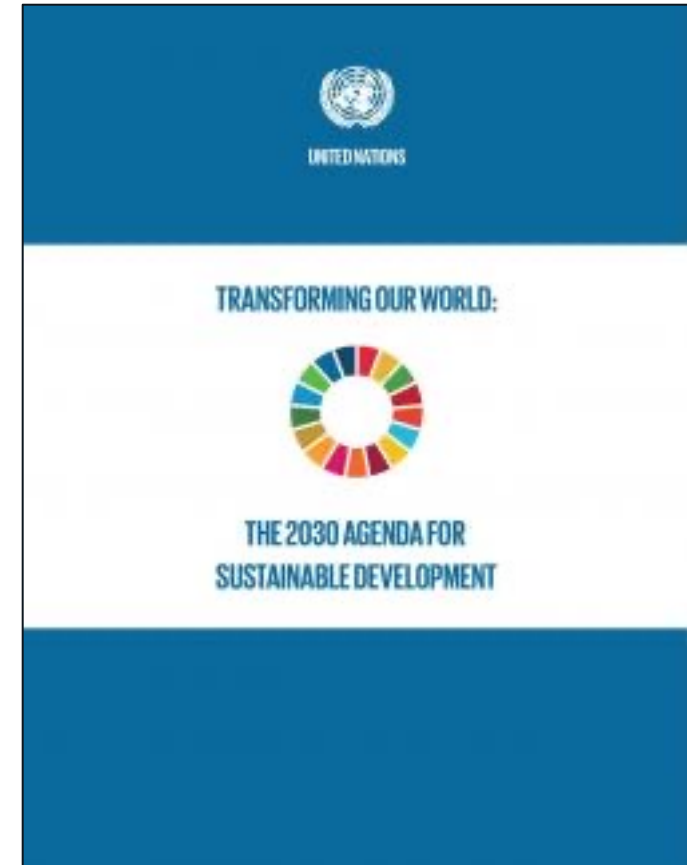
Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Follow-up and review:

- ❖ Paragraphs 79: National level
- ❖ Paragraph 84: Global level



Source: <https://sdqs.un.org/2030agenda>

Principles of the VNRs

[Source: A/RES/70/1, para 74](#)

Voluntary

~ Encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

State-led

~ Country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

Platform for partnerships

~ Including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

Learning experience

~ Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

National circumstances

~ Reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

Open, Inclusive, Transparent

~ Facilitates communication with all stakeholders

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2021

❖ Thematic Review (SDGs & Theme)

❖ VNR Sessions (12-15 July)

PROGRAMME FOR ECOSOC INTEGRATION SEGMENT, HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC*

| HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| Theme: Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development | | | | | |
| Week 1, 6-9 and 12 July 2021 | | | | | |
| Friday, 2 July | Tuesday, 6 July | Wednesday, 7 July | Thursday, 8 July | Friday, 9 July | Monday, 12 July |
| 9 AM - 1 PM | <p>9 – 9:30 AM Opening President of ECOSOC Vice President (Integration segment messages)</p> <p>9:30 AM – 12 PM The SDGs in time of crisis: A sustainable, inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 as an opportunity to realize the SDGs (Where do we stand on the SDGs given the dramatic impacts of COVID-19? Discussion based on the SG's SDG progress report and experiences of countries at various development levels, including MICs and other actors. What kind of policies can address COVID-19's impacts while putting us on track to realize the SDGs? This session will discuss resilience of health systems, equitable access to vaccine; social protection; challenges with learning/education; impacts on gender and economic dimensions)</p> <p>12 – 1 PM Ensuring that no one is left behind: (How do we protect the poorest and most vulnerable from the crisis and empower them to realize the SDGs?)</p> | <p>9 AM – 12 PM SDGs in focus: (How do we get on track to end poverty and hunger, and transform towards inclusive and sustainable economies?) (SDGs 1, 2, 8, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs)</p> <p>12 – 1 PM Looking at the 2020 targets: implementation and review (How are we doing on the 2020 targets? How can we keep reviewing them while keeping track of ongoing intergovernmental processes to keep the level of ambition of those targets?) (targets 2.5, 3.6, 6.6, 8.6, 8.b, 9.c, 12.4, 13.a, 12.4, 14.2, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 15.1 and 17.11.b, 8.b, 9.c, 15.2, 15.5, 15.8, 15.9 and 17.8 and their interrelations including with other goals)</p> | <p>9 AM – 12 PM SDGs in focus: How do we get on track for building more peaceful, equal and inclusive societies (SDGs 3, 10, 16, 17 and interlinkages among those goals and with other SDGs)</p> <p>12 – 1 PM Going local (How can we support local authorities in implementing the SDGs and how can we best build on voluntary local reviews?)</p> | <p>9 – 11 AM Coming together to help Small Island Developing States to get on a path to realize the SDGs</p> <p>11 AM – 1 PM Mobilizing science, technology and innovation and strengthening the science-policy-society interface (How do we ensure that science and technology support the realization of the SDGs for all and how do we bridge the digital divide? This session will include a dialogue with scientists preparing the Global Sustainable Development Report-GSDR)</p> | <p>9 AM – 11:30 AM Investing in the SDGs (How can public and private financing be scaled up to unlock catalytic investments for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda)</p> <p>11:30 AM – 1 PM 4 VNRs – 3rd timers</p> |
| 3 – 5 PM | <p>3 – 5 PM Building resilience against future shocks through structural changes and investment in sustainable infrastructure (How can we restructure our social and economic systems and develop the sustainable infrastructure we need (transport, water and sanitation, energy, ICT, urban systems, and social infrastructure) to build resilience and achieve the SDGs?)</p> | <p>3 – 5 PM SDGs in focus How do we revamp and transform consumption and production and address and mitigate climate change? (SDGs 12, 13, 17 and interlinkages among these goals and with other SDGs)</p> | <p>3 – 5 PM Restoring the conditions for SDG progress in African countries, Least Developed Countries and Landlocked Developing Countries</p> | <p>3 – 5 PM Vision and priorities of civil society, the private sector and other major groups and stakeholders, realizing the SDGs during the COVID-19 recovery</p> | <p>3 – 5 PM 6 VNRs – 3rd timers</p> |

HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Theme: Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development

| MINISTERIAL SEGMENT OF HLPF | | | | HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT |
|-----------------------------|--|---|--|--|
| Tuesday, 13 July | | | | Friday, 16 July |
| 9 AM - 1 PM | <p>9 – 10:30 AM Opening President of ECOSOC, Secretary-General, President of the General Assembly, Youth representatives Keynote speaker</p> <p>10:30 AM - 1 PM Voluntary national reviews 5 VNRs – 1st timers</p> | <p>9 – 10:30 AM Messages from the regions</p> <p>10:30 AM – 1 PM Voluntary national reviews 1 VNR – 1st timer 5 VNRs – 2nd timers</p> | <p>9 AM – 1 PM Voluntary national reviews 12 VNRs - 2nd timers</p> | <p>10 – 10:30 AM Introduction of SG reports on the theme of HLPF and ECOSOC and on long term impact of current trends on SDGs Report of the Committee on Development Policy</p> <p>10:30 AM - 1 PM Strengthening ECOSOC at its 75th anniversary for sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 and advancing the 2030 Agenda</p> |
| 3 – 6:00 PM | <p>3 – 3:15 PM Keynote by the President of the UN Environment Assembly</p> <p>3:15 – 4:45 PM Voluntary national reviews 3 VNRs – 1st timers</p> | <p>3 – 5 PM Voluntary national reviews 6 VNRs – 2nd timers</p> | <p>3 – 3:40 PM Voluntary national reviews 2 VNRs – 2nd timers</p> <p>3:40 – 5 PM Adoption of the Ministerial Declaration Conclusion of the HLPF</p> | <p>3 – 4:30 PM Scenarios and possible medium and long-term trends related to the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the achievement of SDGs</p> <p>4:30 – 6 PM Adoption of the Ministerial declaration and Conclusion of the HLS</p> |

Source: HLPF 2021 website, Programme

Status of the VNRs

Since 2016, 168 countries have presented over 205 VNR reports during the HLPF:

2016 - 22 VNRs

2017 - 43 VNRs

2018 - 46 VNRs

2019 - 47 VNRs

2020 - 47 VNRs

2021 - 44 VNRs*

VNR Statistics

After the 2021 HLPF ...

African Group:

~ 8 of the 54 countries remain to present a VNR

Asia Pacific Group:

~ 5 of the 53 countries remain to present a VNR

Eastern European Group:

~ All 23 countries have presented a VNR

Group of Latin America and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC):

~ 5 of the 33 countries remain to present a VNR

Western European & others Group (WEOG):

~ 2 of the 30 countries remain to present a VNR

44 Countries will present a VNR at the 2021 HLPF

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

| 1 st time Presenters (9) | 2 nd time Presenters (25) | | 3 rd time Presenters (10) |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| Angola | Afghanistan | Lao PDR | Azerbaijan |
| Antigua & Barbuda | Bahamas | Madagascar | Colombia |
| Bolivia | Bhutan | Malaysia | Egypt |
| Cuba | Cabo Verde | Namibia | Guatemala |
| DPRK | Chad | Norway | Indonesia |
| Marshall Islands | China | Paraguay | Mexico |
| Myanmar | Cyprus | Saudi Arabia | Niger |
| Nicaragua | Czech Republic | Spain | Qatar |
| San Marino | Denmark | Sweden | Sierra Leone |
| | Dominican Republic | Thailand | Uruguay |
| | Germany | Tunisia | |
| | Iraq | Zimbabwe | |
| | Japan | | |

Regional Division of 2021 VNRs

Western European
& other States: 6

Eastern European
Group: 2

Group of Latin
America & Caribbean
Countries: 11

Asia Pacific
Group: 15

African
Group: 10



Timeline for VNRs

3 May 2021

~ Submission of main messages

11 June 2021:

~ Submission of final VNR reports



Source: DESA Handbook for the preparation of the VNRs, 2021 edition

Modalities

Modalities for 1st time presenters

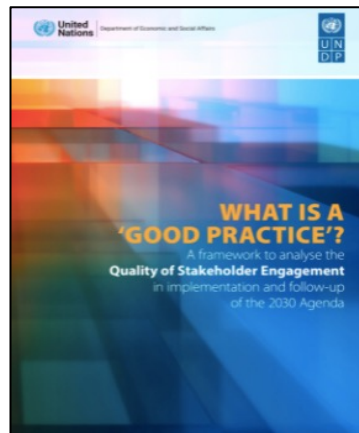
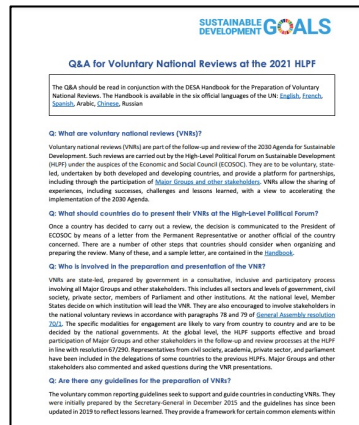
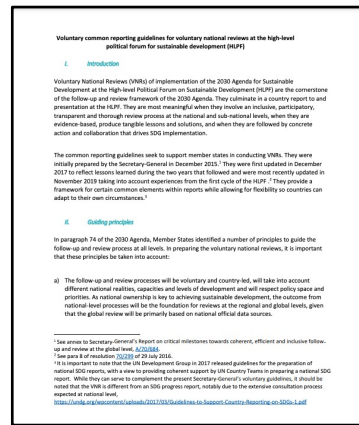
- Countries presenting a VNR for the 1st time will have 15 minutes for their virtual presentation.
- Followed by a similar amount of time for questions from other countries and stakeholders.
- The 15-minute time allocation includes the use of audio-visual material, including videos.
- MGoS representatives can put a question to each of the countries presenting a VNR after each presentation. The MGoS VNR Task Group will outline the nomination process in further detail.

Modalities for 2nd / 3rd time presenters

- Countries presenting a VNR for the 2nd / 3rd time will have 10 minutes for their virtual presentation in panel format.
- Followed by a similar amount of time for questions from other countries and stakeholders.
- The 10 minutes time allocation includes the use of audio-visual material, including videos.
- MGoS representatives can put a question to each of the countries presenting a VNR once the presentations of the panel are complete. The MGoS VNR Task Group will outline the nomination process in further detail.

Resources

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/



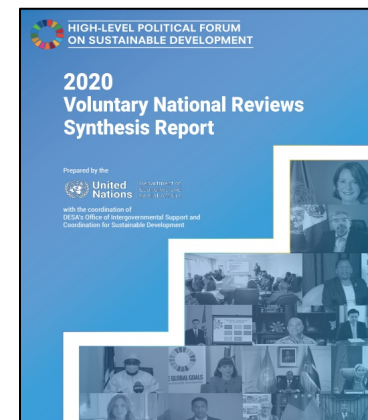
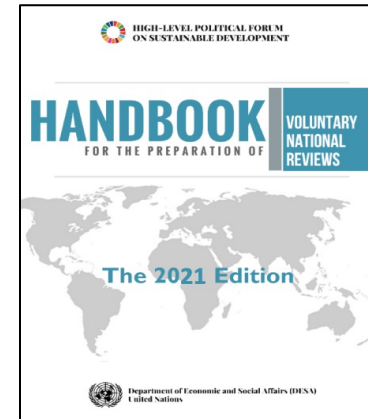
Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the HLPF

UN DESA Handbook for the Preparation of the VNRs [AR] [CH] [EN] [ES] [FR] [RU]

Q&A for the VNRs at the 2021 HLPF

VNR Synthesis Report 2020

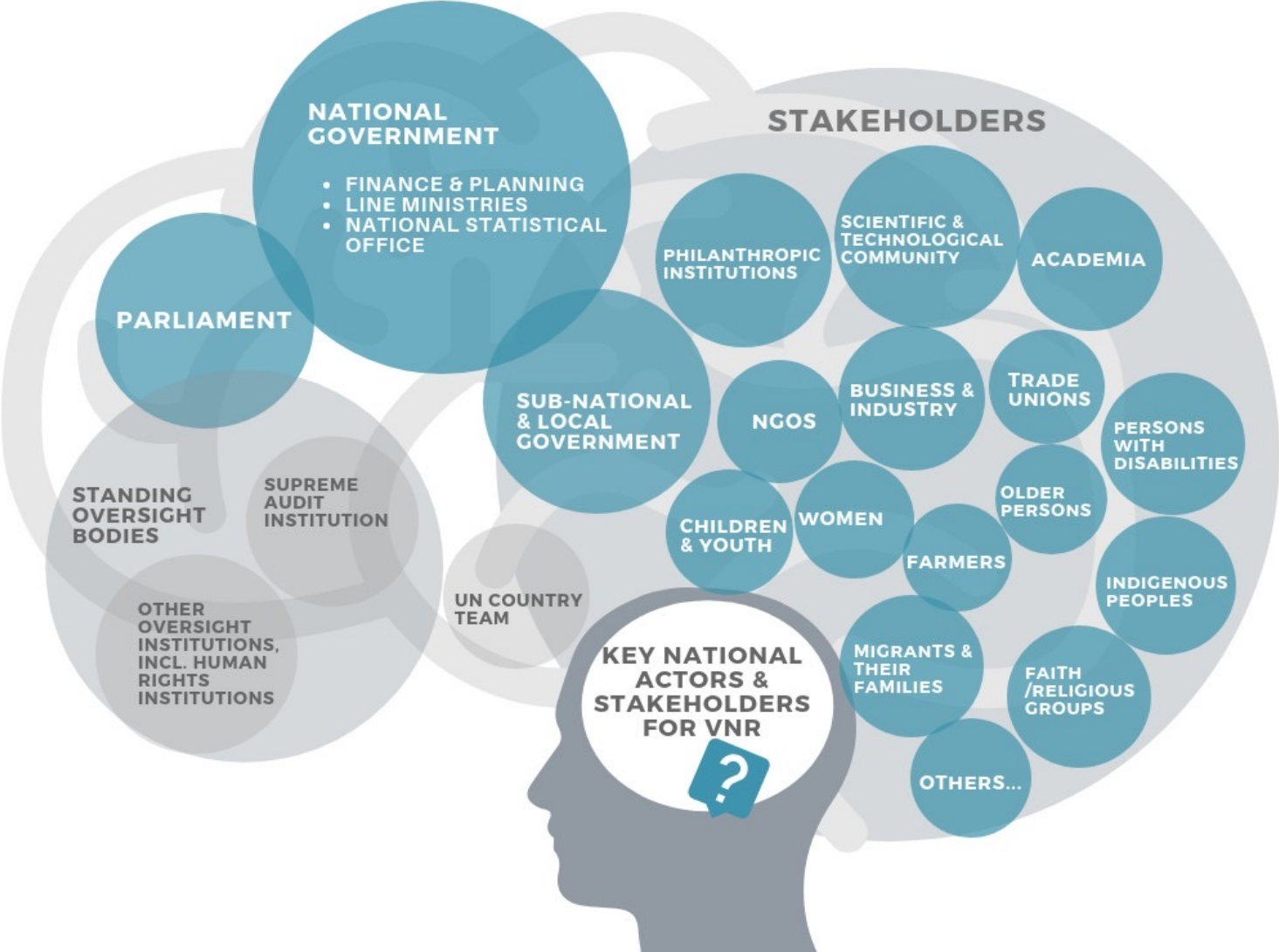
What is a 'Good Practice'? A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda



Q&A



Who is engaged in the VNRs?



Major Groups & other Stakeholders

MGoS-CM Terms of Reference

| Major Groups (9) | Stakeholder Groups (12) |
|---|--|
| <u>Business and Industry Major Group</u> | <u>Person with Disabilities Stakeholder Group</u> |
| <u>Major Group for Children and Youth</u> | <u>Volunteers Stakeholders Group</u> |
| <u>Farmers Major Group</u> | <u>Stakeholder Group on Ageing</u> |
| <u>Indigenous Peoples Major Group</u> | <u>Education and Academia Stakeholder Group</u> |
| <u>Local Authorities Major Group</u> | <u>Civil Society Financing for Development Group</u> |
| <u>Non-Governmental Organization Major Group</u> | <u>Sendai Group (Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism)</u> |
| <u>Scientific and Technological Community Major Group</u> | <u>Together 2030</u> |
| <u>Women's Major Group</u> | <u>LGBTI Stakeholder Group</u> |
| <u>Workers and Trade Unions Major Group</u> | Stakeholder Group for Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent |
| | <u>Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism</u> |
| | Africa Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism |
| | ECE Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism |

MGoS Self Organisation



- Self-organized space for Stakeholders to engage in HLPF through the MGoS HLPF Coordination Mechanism (CM)
- Ensure broad, open, transparent and inclusive participation in the HLPF. Based in human rights, gender equality, non-discrimination
- Has a Coordination Mechanism- with representatives of all groups to facilitate meaningful participation
- CM may create Tasks Groups for specific activities, they report directly to the CM and coordinate with Co-Chairs
- Contact the MGoS here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>

**UN GA
Resolution
67/290 ensures
the rights of
MGoS as
follows:**

To attend all official meetings of the Forum

To attend preparatory meetings of the Forum

To intervene in official meetings

To submit documents and present written and oral contributions

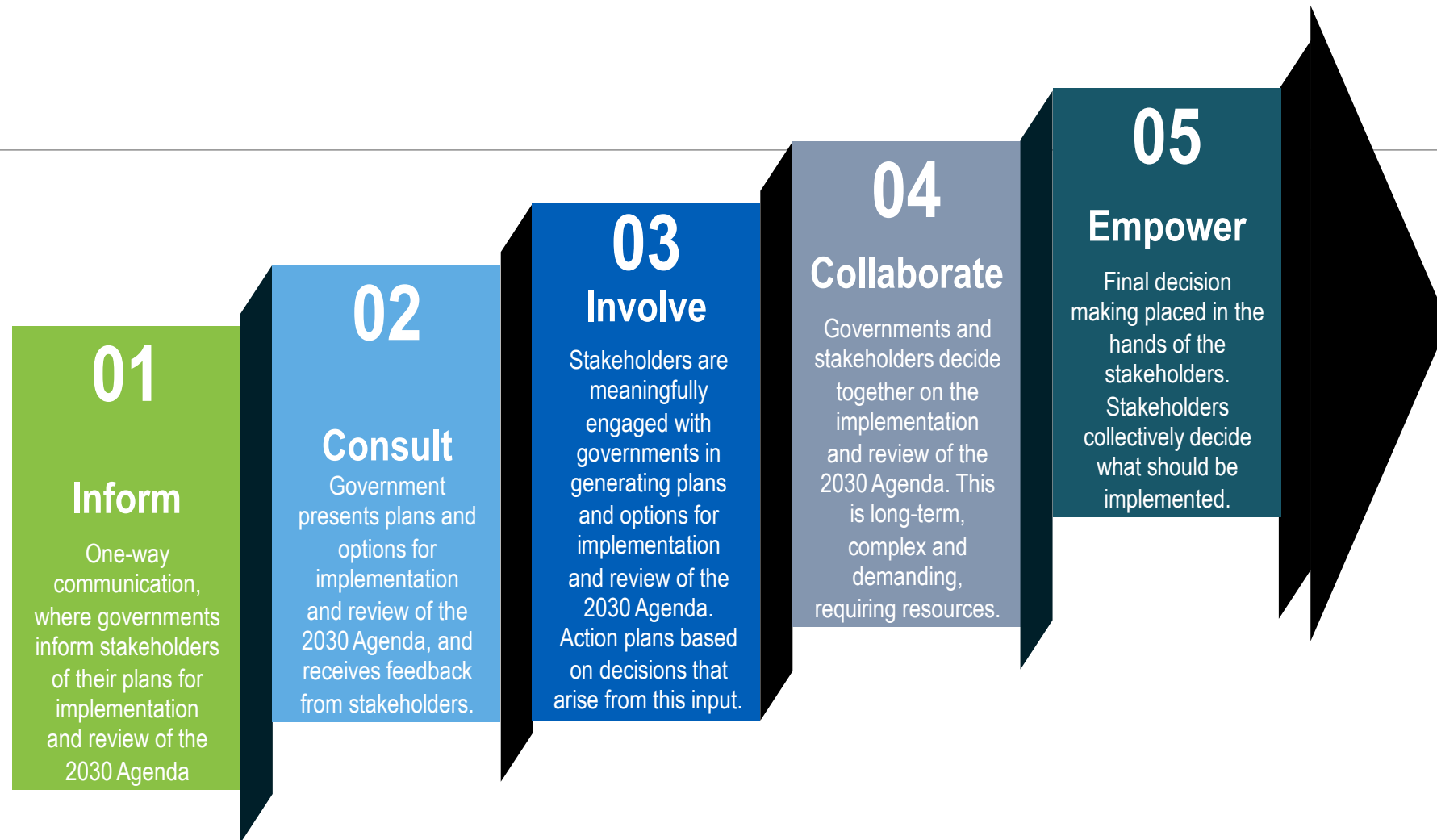
To make recommendations

To organize side events and round tables, in cooperation with Member States and the Secretariat

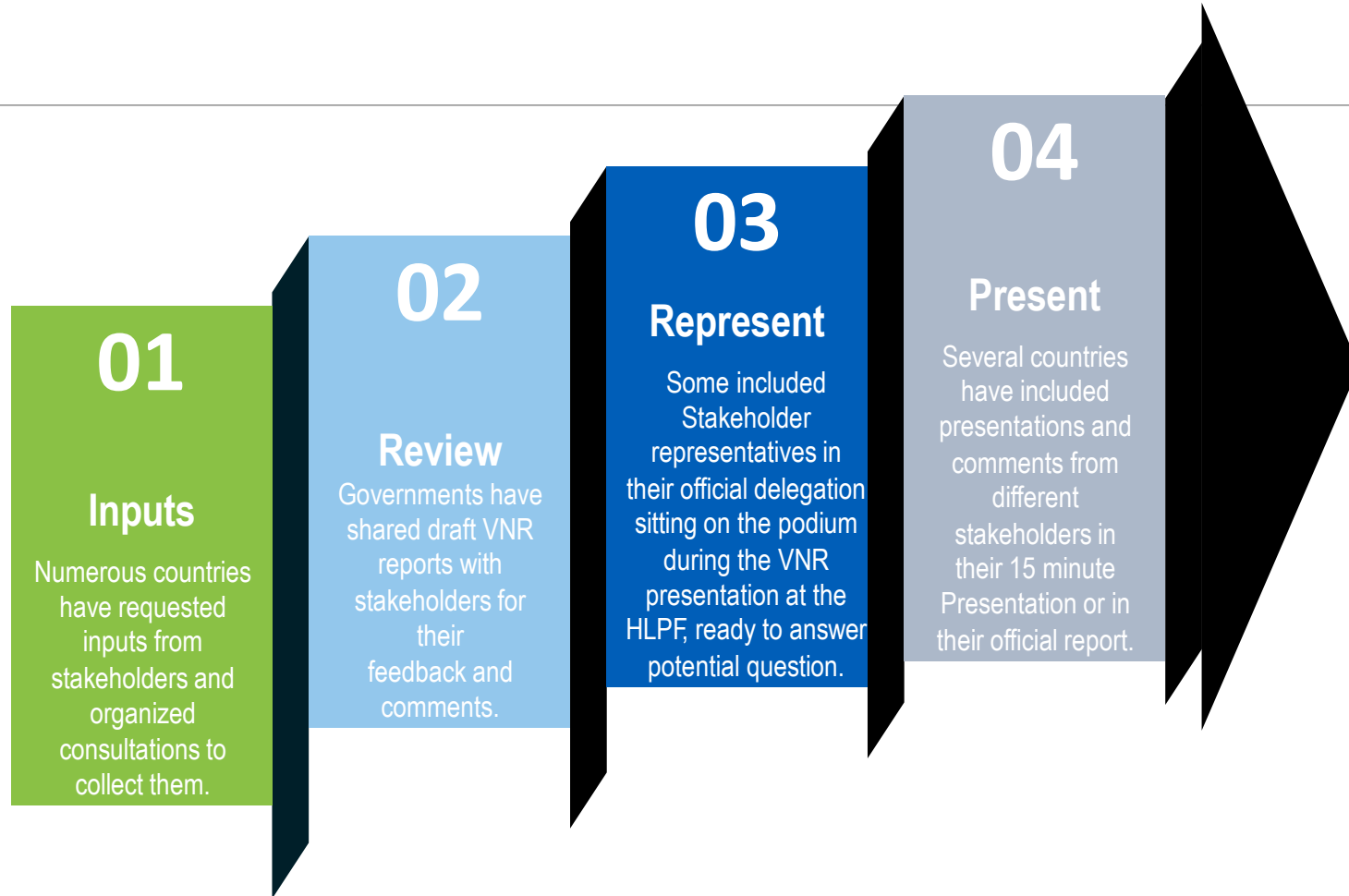
Principles for Stakeholder Involvement 2021

- **Bring national issues highlighted by key actors and civil society within VNR countries to the HLPF**
- **All statements are collaboration between different groups, respecting HR and gender equality aspects and considering how structural barriers are approached**
- **Statements are delivered on behalf of those who are working together on the statement (not the entire MGoS)**
- **Input to country statements from transversal/cross-cutting and thematic viewpoints as well as interlinkages**
- **Statements incorporate a broad and diverse range of views from partners in the country**

2030 Agenda-Levels of Stakeholder Participation



Stakeholder Engagement in VNR Process



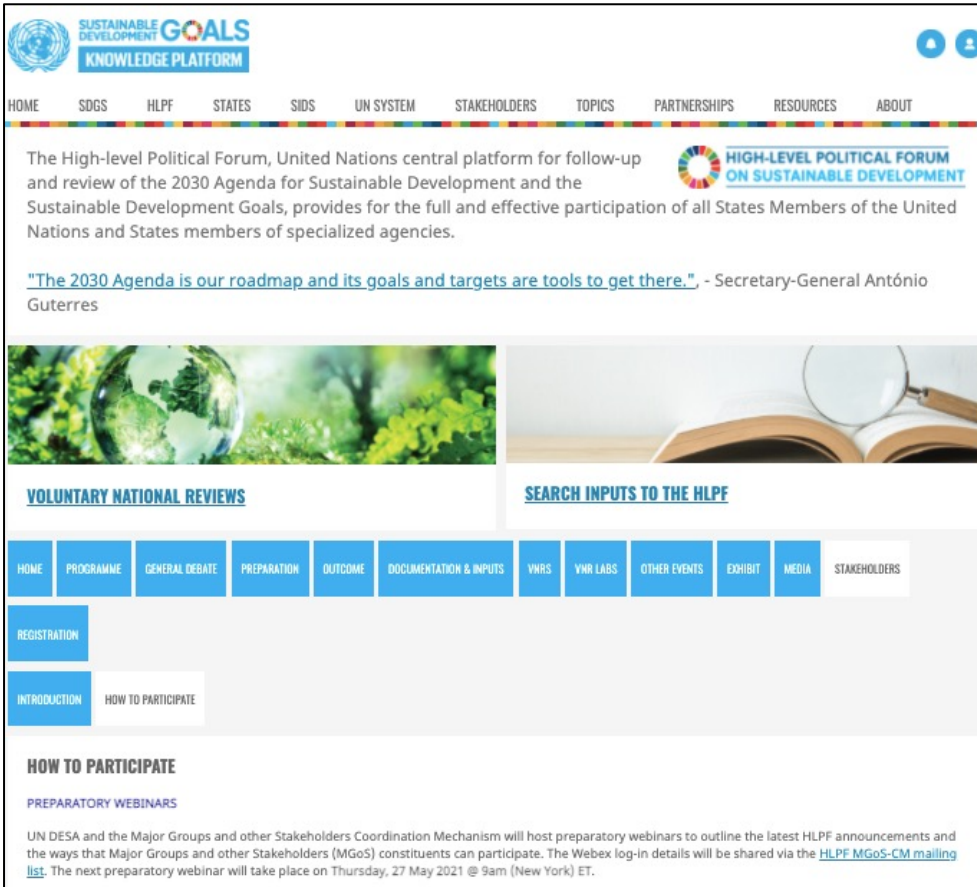
Process for Stakeholder Involvement 2021

1. MGoS VNR Task Group is formed to guide the process (May)
2. Call for expressions of interest from all stakeholders active in the country via online questionnaire BY 18 JUNE:
<https://forms.gle/wQsRSbnERrQ68AGw6>
3. Series of webinars in early June:
 - **French:** 7 June @ 9h – 10h EDT (NY);
 - **Spanish:** 8 June @ 2.30 – 3.30pm (NY);
 - **English:** 9 June @ 9am – 10am EDT (NY)
4. Connect active volunteers from each country and support them to work together as a group/country team (from 18 June)
5. Group to draft collaborative statement (300 words) and up to 3 questions (June-July)
6. Each group will then decide on one speaker for HLPF (July)

Collaborative Process for Stakeholder Involvement 2021

- Remote participation and collaborative input in drafting MGoS statements for each VNR country is made possible
- Engagement of key actors within VNR countries
- Connecting and engaging in dialogue with CSOs organisations prior to the HLPF (those that are engaged in national implementation processes and VNR preparation)
- Bring national issues highlighted by civil society at the grassroots level to the HLPF
- Statements at the HLPF are delivered by representatives of the national civil society
- Liaising with UN Secretariat on the process

Further information



The screenshot shows the website for the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The header includes the UN logo, 'SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM', and a navigation menu with links: HOME, SDGS, HLPF, STATES, SIDS, UN SYSTEM, STAKEHOLDERS, TOPICS, PARTNERSHIPS, RESOURCES, ABOUT. The main content area features a description of the forum, a quote from Secretary-General António Guterres, and two featured sections: 'VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS' and 'SEARCH INPUTS TO THE HLPF'. A secondary navigation bar contains links: HOME, PROGRAMME, GENERAL DEBATE, PREPARATION, OUTCOME, DOCUMENTATION & INPUTS, VNRS, VNR LABS, OTHER EVENTS, EXHIBIT, MEDIA, STAKEHOLDERS. Below this are 'REGISTRATION' and 'INTRODUCTION' buttons, with 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE' selected. The 'HOW TO PARTICIPATE' section includes a sub-section for 'PREPARATORY WEBINARS' and a paragraph of text.

HOME SDGS HLPF STATES SIDS UN SYSTEM STAKEHOLDERS TOPICS PARTNERSHIPS RESOURCES ABOUT

The High-level Political Forum, United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

["The 2030 Agenda is our roadmap and its goals and targets are tools to get there."](#) - Secretary-General António Guterres

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

SEARCH INPUTS TO THE HLPF

HOME PROGRAMME GENERAL DEBATE PREPARATION OUTCOME DOCUMENTATION & INPUTS VNRS VNR LABS OTHER EVENTS EXHIBIT MEDIA STAKEHOLDERS

REGISTRATION

INTRODUCTION HOW TO PARTICIPATE

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

PREPARATORY WEBINARS

UN DESA and the Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism will host preparatory webinars to outline the latest HLPF announcements and the ways that Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) constituents can participate. The Webex log-in details will be shared via the [HLPF MGoS-CM mailing list](#). The next preparatory webinar will take place on Thursday, 27 May 2021 @ 9am (New York) ET.

✓ **MGoS Constituency**

✓ **HLPF 2021 Website**

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021#stakeholders

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/

✓ **UN DESA & MGoS-CM Mailing List**

✓ **Preparatory Webinars**

Q&A



Thank you, we look forward to your participation!



Contact us:

UN DESA: Gwilym Roberts-Harry, tomos.roberts-harry@un.org

MGoS VNR Task Group: Ricarda Motschilnig, policy@icae.global ; Oli Henman, oli.henman@action4sd.org

sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2021

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>



United Nations

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