Regional Workshop on Accelerating SDG Implementation: the role of Voluntary National and Local Reviews

*Seventh Meeting of the Forum of the Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on Sustainable Development*

Enrique V. Iglesias Room
ECLAC Headquarters Santiago de Chile
Monday, 15 April 2024
9:00 am - 5:00 pm Santiago, Chile

**DRAFT PROGRAMME**

9:00 – 9:30
**Welcome and Opening Remarks**
- Javier Medina Vásquez, Deputy Executive Secretary, ECLAC
- Neil Pierre, Acting Director, Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC), DESA (*virtual*)
- Elkin Velasquez, Regional Director LAC, UN-Habitat

**Moderator** – Humberto Soto, Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC’s Office in Mexico

9:30 – 10:15
**Session 1: Inevitable transformations and just transitions towards sustainability: the Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR 2023) and the reports of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG)**

**Moderator** – Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC

**Key messages from the Global Sustainable Development Report**
Jaime Miranda, Director of the Center of Excellence in Chronic Diseases of the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia, Co-chair of Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) 2023 (*virtual*)

**Peru’s experience in aligning its VNR 2024 with the GSDR 2023**
- Amaro Rivadeneira, National Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, National Center for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN), Peru (*video message*)
Key messages from Our Common Agenda policy briefs (UNSDG)
Humberto Soto, Social Affairs Officer, ECLAC’s Office in Mexico

Honduras’ experience in incorporating transitions towards sustainability into its VNR
• Lic. Ricardo Salgado, Secretary of State, Office of Strategic Planning, Honduras

Questions and answers

10:15-11:00 Session 2: VNRs and the acceleration of SDG implementation: best practices and lessons learned

Moderator – Abdullahi Abdulkadri, Social Affairs Officer, Subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, ECLAC

The VNRs at the 2024 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
• Presentation by Maame Agyeben, Associate Sustainable Development Officer, OISC, DESA (virtual)

Good practices in Voluntary National Review (VNR) reporting from the region of Latin America and the Caribbean
• Presentation by Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC

Latin American and Caribbean country experiences
• Carlos Applewhaithe, Development Analyst in the SDG Secretariat, Planning Institute of Jamaica
• Sérgio Godoy, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for the SDGs, General Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil
• Mgs. Gustavo Mateo Cuesta, Undersecretary General of Planning of the National Planning Secretariat, Ecuador (virtual)

Guiding questions
➢ Which best practices and lessons learned can you share regarding the VNR elaboration?
➢ What are the main opportunities for acceleration of the SDGs that are reflected in your VNR?
➢ How have you enabled meaningful engagement of relevant stakeholders in the preparation of your VNR?
➢ Are there any unresolved issues in the elaboration of your VNR? How have you solved the main challenges in preparing your VNR?
11:00-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-12:30 Session 3: Data for SDG Acceleration

Moderator: Daniel Taccari, Unit Chief, Statistical Innovation, Dissemination and SDG Unit, Statistical Division, ECLAC

- Denise Maldonado, Sustainable Development Unit, Ministry of Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management, Belize
- Milena del Carmen Carranza Vargas, Analyst, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica (virtual)

Connecting the dots – reporting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda between the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future

- Javier Surasky, Director of Research, Cepe!

Local level data collection in Bolivia and the Atlas Municipal of SDGs

- Edgar Pacheco, Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) – Bolivia (virtual)

Guiding questions

➢ Which best practices and lessons learned can you share regarding the VNR elaboration?
➢ Have you used any innovative data visualizations and storytelling in your VNR process?
➢ How have you overcome any challenges associated with data accessibility, including data disaggregation and identification of national indicators?
➢ How can local stakeholders support the provision of timely and disaggregated data for national SDG follow-up and VNR reports?

12:30 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 14:45 Session 4: Enhancing Multilevel Governance and Ensuring a Dialogue between the VNRs and VLRs – Experiences in preparing 2024 VNRs and VLRs

Moderator – Paulina Pizarro, Senior Research Assistant, ILPES, ECLAC

VNR/VLR Integration: developments at international level

- Presentation Carol Pollack, Inter-Regional Advisor, DSDG, DESA

National and sub-national experiences from the region

Presentations by government and local authorities:

- Honduras
  - José Rosales, Director, Strategic Planning Secretariat
  - Norman Sanchez, Mayor of the Municipality of Intibucá, Honduras
### Guiding questions

- **How have VNR and VLR processes contributed to dialogue and planning between national and subnational levels in terms of SDG implementation?**
- **What are the recommendations to strengthen the engagement of local and regional governments in the VNR process?**
- **How do VNRs and VLRs inform and strengthen each other?**
- **How have local and regional governments and stakeholders been engaged in the VNR process in your country? What are the main outcomes of this engagement?**
- **What are the main challenges, lessons learned and recommendations in conducting VLRs and/or utilizing VLRs in a Voluntary National Review?**

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**Moderator:** Fiona Littlejohn-Carrillo, Economic Affairs Officer, Sustainable Development and Human Settlements Division, ECLAC

**Perspectives from Local Governments**
- Constanza Figueroa, Secretary of Institutional and International Relations, Government of Salta, Argentina
- Marcos Antonio Benitez Velazquez, Mayor, Municipality of Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay
- David Anzaldo, Mayor from Camiri, Bolivia

**Regional Perspective**
- Lavito Bacarissa, Project Coordinator at the National Commission for the SDGs, General Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil, MINURVI

**Stakeholder perspective**
- Constanza Cárdenas, Public Policy Observatory, Andrés Bello University, Chile

**Guiding questions**

- **What experiences, challenges and innovative approaches can be shared in terms of fostering participatory approaches to the preparation of VLRs that “leave no one behind” and how can VLRs serve as a catalyst for increased engagement with key stakeholders?**
➢ What are some of the main challenges and bottlenecks for effective implementation of the SDGs at local level and what type of support is required to ensure that cities, local authorities, and communities are empowered and equipped to implement the SDGs?

➢ How can the VLR process and the resulting document serve as a means to inform and guide decision making, resource allocation and integrated local planning?

16:30-17:00 Closing of the Workshop and Next Steps

- Carol Pollack, Inter-Regional Advisor, DSDG, DESA
- Silvia Hernández Sánchez, Chief of Staff of the Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC