



**Inclusive Reporting:
Examining Multi-Stakeholder Engagement in the VNR Process**

Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Room 1522/1523, UN Secretariat

Background

The 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) is taking place amid complex global challenges, shaped by the overlapping crises of the COVID-19 recovery, conflict, and climate change. It is also situated amid several critical global moments, such as the SDG Summit in September 2023, which marked the mid-point towards the achievement of the SDGs, and the Summit of the Future (SotF) in September 2024.

The Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) have emerged as a critical mechanism for tracking progress on the SDGs and fostering accountability among Member States. VNRs provide an opportunity for countries to showcase their achievements, share experiences, and identify challenges in SDG implementation, with stakeholder engagement remaining crucial to this process.

The VNR Lab, organized by the UN Foundation on the sidelines of the 2024 HLPF, aims to delve into the best practices and challenges of stakeholder engagement within the VNR process. Specifically focusing on Kenya, the VNR Lab will highlight the country's experience with multistakeholder reporting and the role of civil society in producing shadow reports alongside official VNR submissions. The session will feature a conversation between government officials, researchers, and other stakeholders to explore the role that civil society's capacity may play in driving and monitoring the SDG agenda through challenging times.

Objectives

- **Provide a platform** for Member States and stakeholders to discuss challenges, opportunities, and good practices in SDG reporting in the context of multiple global crises.
- **Create an opportunity** to spotlight examples of successful collaboration between Member States and stakeholders in support of measuring the SDG implementation and progress through VNRs.

- **Build momentum and synergy** around unique opportunities in 2024, such as the Summit of the Future, and maintain consistency with the commitments made at the 2023 SDG Summit.

Speakers

- **Ms. Florence Syevuo**, Executive Director, SDGs Kenya Forum
- **Mr. Davis Adieno**, Senior Director of Programs, Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD)
- **Mr. Moses Chege**, Country Director for Kenya, Sightsavers
- **Ms. Esther Kimani**, Founder and Director, Zamara Foundation
- **Dr. Mithika Mwenda**, Executive Director, Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA)

Moderator - **Ms. Julie Kofoed**, Senior Director, Sustainable Development Initiatives, UN Foundation

Respondent

- **Ms. Anita Dywaba**, UN Foundation Next Generation Fellows

Programme

1:15 - 1:20 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Welcome by Ms. Julie Kofoed, Senior Director, Sustainable Development Initiatives, UN Foundation (5 minutes)
1:20 - 2:05 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Panel discussion (45 minutes)
2:05 - 2:35 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Q&A and interventions from the floor (30 minutes)
2:35 - 2:45 pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Summary and closing (10 minutes)

Proposed discussion questions:

- How can countries effectively engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including marginalized communities, in the VNR process to ensure comprehensive and inclusive SDG reporting?
- What are the most significant challenges faced by Member States in integrating multi-stakeholder feedback into their VNRs, and what best practices can be adopted to overcome these challenges?
- How did your organization engage in the VNR processes? How have you seen the engagement of civil society in the process evolve over time?

- How can the VNRs and the preparatory process be more accessible to stakeholders? What could governments do to better include stakeholders in their VNR process?
- In what ways can civil society organizations contribute to enhancing the transparency and accountability of the VNR process?
- How have you seen the engagement of civil society in the process evolve over time?
- How can data and technology be leveraged to improve the accuracy, timeliness, and inclusiveness of SDG reporting, particularly in the context of multiple global crises?
- What strategies can be implemented to sustain momentum and ensure the alignment of national SDG efforts with global commitments made at key summits like the SDG Summit and the Summit of the Future?