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Against all odds: Meaningful VNRs in fragile and conflict-affected situations

An HLPF 2024 VNR Lab organized by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in cooperation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

Date and time: Wednesday 17 July 2024, 9:00-10:00 NY time (EST)

Venue: Room S-1522/1523 (15th floor), with possibility to join online (hybrid)

Registration link: <https://indico.un.org/event/1012100/>

Background:

Countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations face complex challenges that require them to conduct their voluntary national review (VNR) using adapted, home-grown approaches and solutions. Indeed, ongoing conflict and humanitarian crises, fragmented institutions, lack of control over parts of the territories, displacement, lack of resources, scarcity of data, and limited opportunities for broad consultation – to name a few challenges – mean that global VNR guidelines may not always be feasible or applicable.

At the same time, conducting a VNR – a meaningful VNR - can offer opportunities for countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations to build institutional capacities, bring agreement on priorities among conflicting parties, gather data including on those most left behind, build partnerships, align humanitarian and recovery efforts with the SDGs, and cement peace.

A key question for countries in fragile and conflict-affected situations is how to conduct a meaningful VNR - a VNR that despite all odds continues to be guided by the principles set out in the 2030 Agenda for follow-up and review processes: open, inclusive, participatory, transparent, people-centered, gender-sensitive and evidence-based.

Objective:

The proposed VNR Lab invites candid reflection and peer learning on VNRs in fragile and conflict-affected situations across regions. It will showcase home-grown VNR approaches, solutions and innovations that have worked under such situations and helped produce meaningful and impactful VNRs.



VNR LABS
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The Lab will be held under the Chatham House rules and will be open to all in-person 2024 HLPF participants, with others joining online. Speakers will include representatives of Members States, UN and other stakeholders.

Suggested issues of discussion:

- Tailoring the SDGs and scoping the VNR to suit the national contexts in fragile and conflict-affected situations: what priorities to cover?
- Capturing the situation of vulnerable groups, including IDPs, women and youth, and ensuring their participation in VNR process
- Capturing sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions that address the impacts of conflict
- Using the VNR to align humanitarian and recovery efforts with the SDGs and promote the triple nexus
- Overcoming huge data gaps, using forecasts/scenarios
- Using the VNR to convey critical messages to the global community, including through presentation at the HLPF
- SDG coordination frameworks and collaborations that work in fragile situations
- Value of local level participation and inputs
- Linking the VNR to post-conflict reconciliation and rebuilding

Potential speaking countries: Lao PDR, Libya, South Sudan, Yemen, and others (to be confirmed).

Language: The working language will be English.

Draft program:

- 9:00 Opening remarks by moderator and presentation of speakers
- 9:03 Interventions showcasing country experiences
- 9:30 Q&A / open discussion with participants
- 10:00 Concluding remarks by moderator and end of Lab