



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VNR LAB 10

Engaging all parts and levels of government

Monday, 15 July 2018, 18:15-19:45
United Nations Secretariat, S2726/27

Concept Note

Purpose

This VNR Lab's core theme is engagement of government in SDG implementation with focus on institution-building. The goal is to allow VNR countries to think about their institutional challenges and solutions to promote and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. As such, the lab will seek to provide actionable guidance on interlinking the different levels of administration in addressing common sustainable development objectives.

Discussions will be informal with focus on results-oriented exchange of experiences. Case studies will concentrate on how countries have mobilized various ministries, local governments and parliaments among others to implement and monitor the SDGs. Specific focus will be put on the pivotal role of parliaments, audit institutions and other stakeholders. The catalytic role of frontier technologies in bringing different parts and levels of government together will be included.

Country selection

The 2018 VNR synthesis report stresses that none of the SDGs can advance without peace, justice and strong institutions. It highlights three SDG 16-related themes: (i) participation, particularly of vulnerable groups, (ii) multi-stakeholder engagement in institution-building at national and subnational levels, and (iii) transparency and accountability.

A preliminary overview of the 2019 VNR key messages also reveals that both good governance in general and its institutional aspects more specifically are on Member States' radar. Noteworthy in the key messages this year are (i) the cross-cutting emphasis on solution-oriented innovations, (ii) research and development; and (iii) digital transformation as catalysts of inclusive and multisectoral SDG implementation.

Against this backdrop, country selection methodology is based on past achievements, current governance panorama and future projects of institutional reform. Past, current and future VNR presenting countries are included to shed light on different institutional engagement modalities that countries may adopt along their SDG implementation processes.

CROATIA—Croatia has adopted a strategic approach to SDG implementation with its currently drafted 2030 National Development Strategy (NDS), expected to be adopted by the first quarter of 2020. The country's long-term development focus on planning and implementation at the level of national, local

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and regional self-government can be helpful for institution-building projects in different developmental contexts.

INDONESIA-- Indonesia's innovative data platforms for early warning, monitoring and evaluation and inclusive audit are noteworthy. Countries and other stakeholders may learn from Indonesia's institutional processes for the successful design and rolling out of several agile control mechanisms in public administration.

SOUTH AFRICA--South Africa has taken significant steps towards complying with the recommendations of the most recent Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development on the creation of an African STI multi-stakeholder forum and an African platform for research and innovation exchange. This targeted focus on the enabling role of data and technology vis-à-vis government engagement can provide refreshing perspectives to those countries implementing the SDGs.

Format

The Secretariat will work with the selected countries to collect questions and draw attention to areas where countries are interested in further guidance or support. Participants may be asked to state a main challenge in establishing an appropriate institutional framework for implementation and review of the SDGs and/or involving subnational governments as well as a critical action taken to address the specific challenge(s) and suggest one piece of advice for countries in similar situations.

Each Member State will present initially for three-five minutes. They will answer the following three categories of questions:

- (i) **CHALLENGES and SOLUTIONS**--What is your one specific institutional challenge of engaging all parts and levels of government? Which solution(s) have you have considered or implemented to overcome this challenge?
- (ii) **SDG LINKAGES**--What are the dominant SDG targets associated with your institutional challenge and solution(s)?
- (iii) **INSTITUTIONAL INTROSPECTION** --Anything you would have done differently in retrospect and the institutional implications?

Time allocation

All presenters on the programme will have a maximum of **three-five minutes** to make their initial remarks. PowerPoints are discouraged. Interventions from the floor should not extend beyond three minutes. Participants may have the opportunity to speak more than once as guided by the moderator. Discussants may actively participate throughout and will have about seven minutes each at the end focusing respectively on the SDG/sectoral linkages and administrative/institutional integration.

All discussions will be held under the Chatham House rules.

AGENDA

Moderator: Mr. Geert Bouckaert, Bureau Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration; International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

Panellist Member States and other stakeholders:

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--Ambassador Vladimir Drobnyak, Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations

--Dr. Agus Joko Pramono, Member of the Audit Board of the Republic of Indonesia

--Mr Dumisane Mthembu, Senior Specialist: Multilateral Environmental Agreements, Department of Science and Technology, South Africa

--Mr. Jörn Geißelmann, Adviser, Partners for Review, Global Policy, Governance, GIZ

Other possible participants: Fiji, Sierra Leone, Argentina, Austria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Guatemala

Discussants:

Mr. Louis Meuleman, Bureau Member of the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration; Visiting professor, Public Governance Institute, University of Leuven, Belgium

Mr. David O'Connor, Sustainable Economist, SDG Delivery Team, World Resources Institute