



Agenda Item 3: Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through voluntary national reviews

ESCAP Hall, United Nations Conference Center, Bangkok

Wednesday 21st February 2024 9:00 - 11:30 (UTC+7)

Background

The 2030 Agenda encourages member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress through voluntary national reviews (VNRs). Through ESCAP Resolution 73/1, member States resolved to support follow-up and review of progress on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the regional level through supporting the presentation of voluntary national reviews. The Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (APFSD) provides an opportunity to share regional perspectives and good practices on follow up and review and support the presentation of voluntary national reviews at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2024.

The VNR session at the Forum aims to strengthen VNR preparation through identifying regional commonalities and lessons learned from reviews undertaken so far. Furthermore, the session will facilitate the exchange of good practice and lessons on how member States are utilizing the VNR process to strengthen policy coherence.

In 2024, **eleven** countries from the region will be preparing their VNR: **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Federate States of Micronesia, Georgia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Lao P.D.R., Nepal, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu**. While the Islamic Republic of Iran will be presenting for the first time and Azerbaijan for the fourth time, the remaining countries will be presenting for the second or third time. Second generation VNRs play a critical part of the follow-up and review process, as they can facilitate the integration of SDGs into policymaking and planning processes and acceleration the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The Session

The session will feature an interactive panel with interventions from countries presenting their VNR in 2024 and will include government officials and key stakeholders, including from the private sector, civil society, and the parliament. The panel will be facilitated by a UN Resident Coordinator from a country that is conducting the VNR in 2024, who will also serve as a discussant.

The panel will focus on how strengthening both vertical and horizontal policy integration through the voluntary national reviews is crucial for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Voluntary national reviews can help enhance policy



coherence at both the national and subnational levels, ensuring that all levels of government are aligned in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

Panellists will be engaged in a discussion to unpack the linkages between the voluntary national reviews and other national and sub-national development objectives, including those specifically related to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing States. Thereby, it aims to indicate how the voluntary national review process can support countries in ensuring policy coherence and integration at the horizontal and vertical level.

The session will be followed by an opportunity for country and stakeholder statements.

Tentative programme

Session	Topic	Time
Opening of session	<p>Chair:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr. Min Bahadur Shreshtha, Vice-Chairman of the National Planning Commission of Nepal <p><i>Chair to formally open the session.</i></p>	9:00 - 9:05
<p>Moderated panel discussion *(from the podium on sofas)</p>	<p><i>The purpose of this panel is to stimulate discussion on how the VNR process can support countries in ensuring policy coherence and integration at the horizontal and vertical level.</i></p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Karla Hershey, UN Resident Coordinator in Bhutan <p><i>The moderator will lead the discussion by posing 1 question to each of the panelists focusing on policy coherence. After the first round, the moderator will ask delegates from the floor to pose 1 follow-up question to one of the panelists.</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Norliza Hashim, Chief Executive, Malaysia's Ministry of Housing and Local Government, Malaysia Mr. Huseyn Huseynov, Secretary of National Coordination Council on Sustainable Development, Azerbaijan Ms. Julliette Hakwa, Head - Monitoring & Evaluation Unit, Department of Strategic Policy, Planning, and Aid Coordination Unit, Office of the Prime Minister, Vanuatu Mr. Daya Sagar Shrestha, Executive Director, National Campaign for Sustainable Development (NACASUD), Nepal 	9:05 – 10:20



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Villaney Remengesau, Member/Advisor, Belau Association of NGO (BANGO), Palau 	
Interventions from the floor *(from their seats)	Interveners: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Karima El Korri, Resident Coordinator in Malaysia, Singapore, and Brunei Darussalam Mr. Tapan Misha, Resident Coordinator in Mongolia Mr. Dirk Wagener, Resident Coordinator in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu Ms. Pauline Tamesis, Resident Coordinator in Vietnam Ms. Funmi Balogun, Resident Coordinator in Timor Leste 	
Summary of the discussion	Moderator: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Karla Hershey, UN Resident Coordinator in Bhutan <p><i>The moderator will summarise key points from the discussion and make his/her own reflection on the VNR process.</i></p>	10:20 - 10:25
Dialogue with member States and stakeholders	<p><i>The Chair of the Forum will invite interventions from member States and stakeholders on their own experience and reflections on how the voluntary national review process can support policy integration and coherence among development agendas.</i></p> <p><i>Chair to facilitate the country and stakeholder statements (3 minutes max per statement).</i></p>	10:25 - 11:25
Closing	Chair to formally close the session.	11:25 - 11:30

For more information, please contact:

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