



Voluntary National Reviews

Sara Libera ZANETTI

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

**North and Central Asia
2024 Voluntary National Reviews Clinic**

Friday 3 November 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan



TABLE OF CONTENTS



PRINCIPLES OF FUR AND VNR



VNR PROCESS TIMELINE



HOW TO STRENGTHEN A VNR



2ND GENERATION VNR

slido



**What comes to mind when thinking of
Voluntary National Reviews?**

slido



What are, in your opinion, the main barriers to the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda process?

slido



To what extent have you been involved in VNR processes in your country?



PRINCIPLES of FOLLOW-UP and REVIEW

**VOLUNTARY &
COUNTRY-LED**

**TRACK PROGRESS IN
A HOLISTIC AND
INTEGRATED WAY**

**LONG-TERM
ORIENTATION**

**SUPPORT REPORTING
BY ALL RELEVANT
STAKEHOLDERS**

**BUILDING ON
EXISTING PLATFORMS
AND PROCESSES**

**PEOPLE CENTERED,
GENDER SENSITIVE,
RESPECTING HUMAN
RIGHTS, LEAVING NO
ONE BEHIND**

**RIGOUROUS,
EVIDENCE BASED,
HIGH QUALITY DATA**

**ENHANCE CAPACITY
BUILDING SUPPORT
FOR DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES**

**ACTIVE SUPPORT BY
THE UN SYSTEM AND
OTHER MULTILATERAL
INSTITUTIONS**



NATIONAL

Voluntary
National
Reviews



*Follow-up and review plays a critical role in ensuring effective SDG implementation, much of which needs to happen at the **national** level*



REGIONAL Peer Review



Asia-Pacific
Forum on
Sustainable
Development
February 2024



GLOBAL

High-Level
Political
Forum on
Sustainable
Development
July 2024





ELEMENTS of a VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW

Voluntary	Encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries
Country-led	Country-driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels
Rigorous and based on evidence	Informed by country-led evaluations and data, which is high-quality, accessible, reliable and disaggregated
Learning experience	Facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of an ongoing process
National circumstances	Reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners
Open, Inclusive, Participatory	Includes supporting reporting on progress by all relevant stakeholders

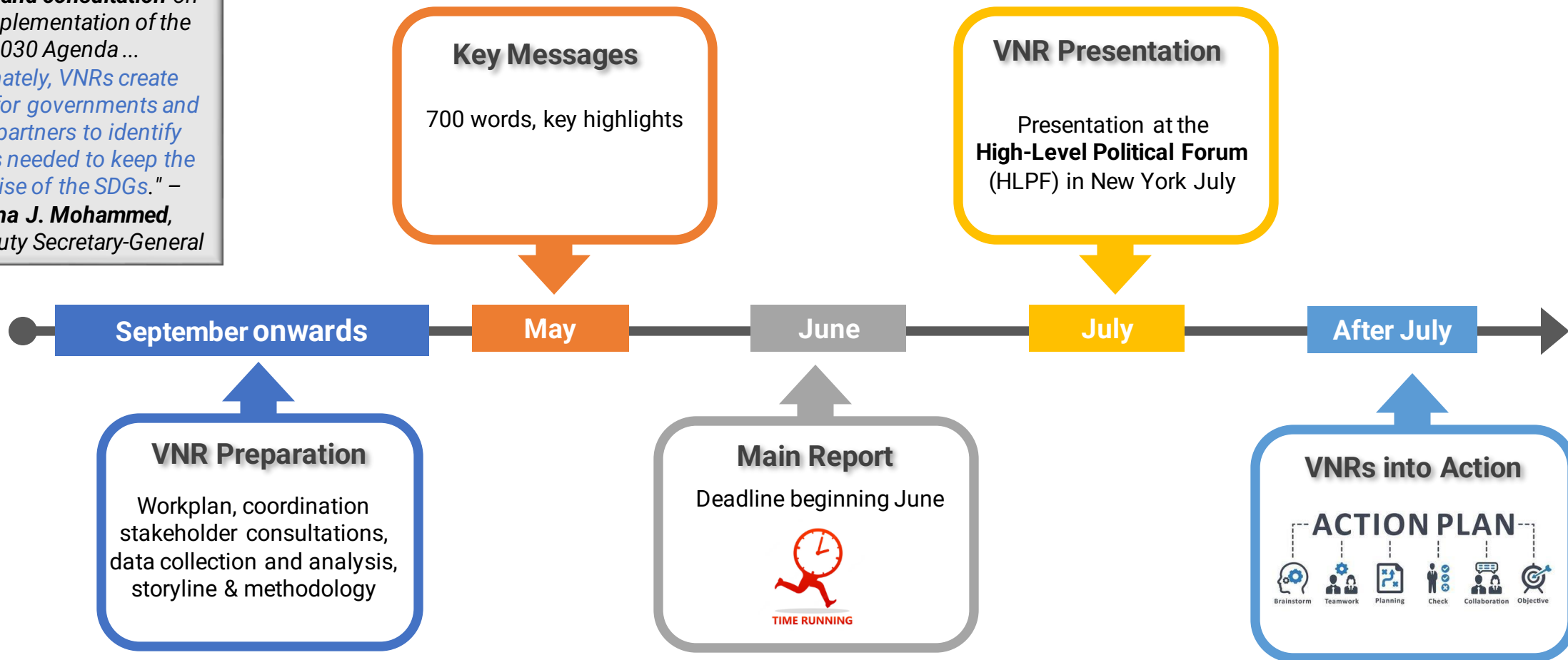


"But the VNRs are not simply a report or a presentation at the HLPF. They are a **national process of in-depth review and consultation** on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda...

Ultimately, VNRs create space for governments and their partners to identify what is needed to keep the promise of the SDGs." –

Amina J. Mohammed,
UN Deputy Secretary-General

A Simplified Roadmap for VNR





Where to start?



Where to start?

Take stock of previous VNR process and report - lessons and challenges

Review and refresh **institutional arrangements** and establish **VNR Team**

Identify resources needed: financial, technical, human resources

Plan how to **engage stakeholders** & communicate about the VNR

Data gap analysis/SDG Progress Assessment, collect data from ministries



The most powerful way to get the main messages across in a VNR is to develop a **storyline** that ties together the report.

A *storyline* is the **overarching message** of the report

What's next?

Develop **theme** of report/**storyline** and SDGs to focus on

Review and analyse data and findings on SDG trajectory since past VNR

Review **national SDG indicator framework** and plan statistical annex

Start communication, **outreach** and **stakeholder engagement** activities

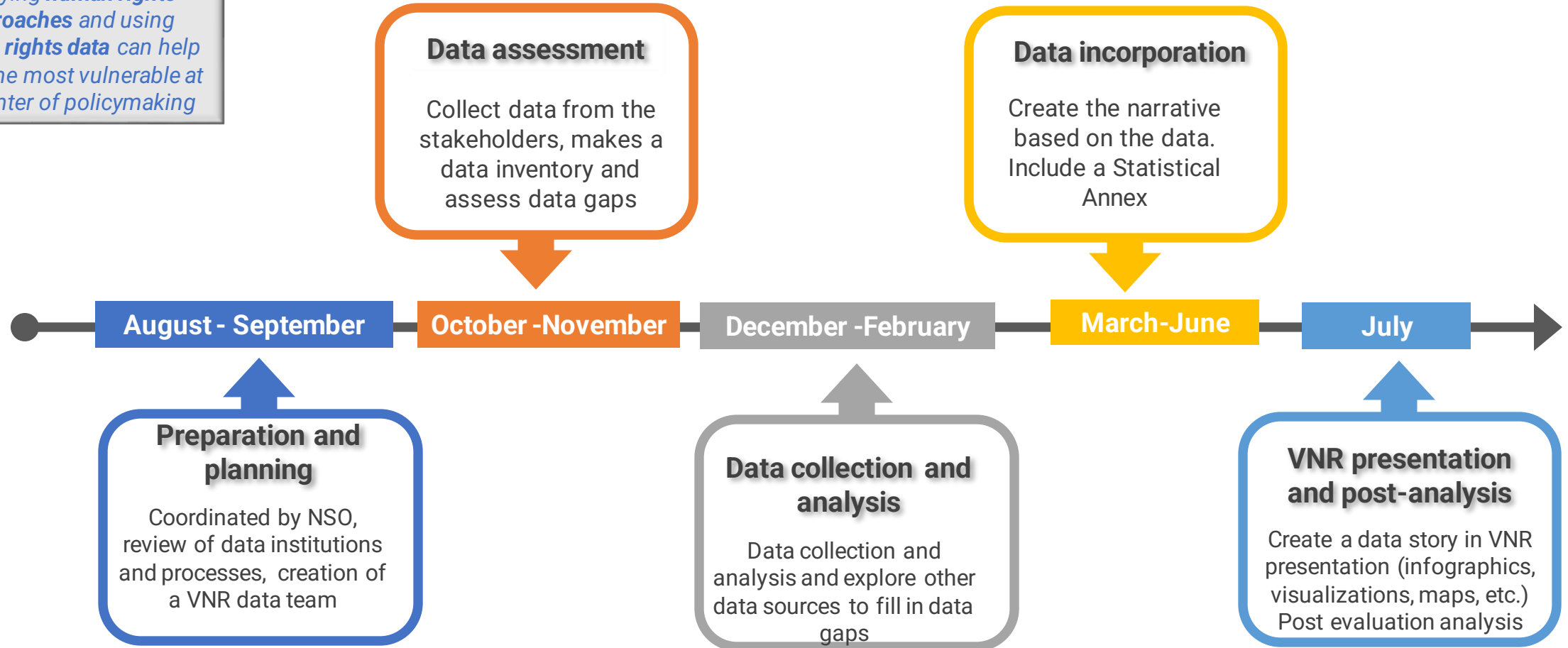




A Simplified DATA Roadmap for VNR

Reliable data and statistics are crucial for **evidence-based VNRs**.

Applying **human rights approaches** and using **human rights data** can help place the most vulnerable at the center of policymaking





HOW VNRs SUPPORT SDG ACCELERATION

INCORPORATION of SDGs into NATIONAL FRAMEWORKS

Identify gaps, assess challenges and recommend strategies to overcome barriers

INTEGRATED SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Assess interlinkages and synergies, improve institutional arrangements and coordination

MOBILISE MEANS of IMPLEMENTATION

Assess financing gaps and identify new opportunities, beyond business as usual

TRACK PROGRESS

Improve data collection and analysis, filling data gaps, set-up national monitoring coordination mechanisms
Stronger policy-data integration
Enhanced evidence-based policy making

PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance communication, coordination and collaboration among sectors and stakeholders domestically and internationally



THANK YOU

VNRs/ESCAP

escap-vnr@un.org





Voluntary National Reviews

Juliet BRASLOW

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)

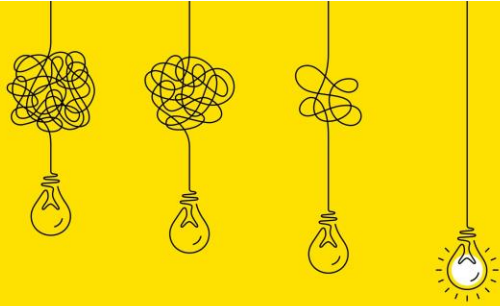
**North and Central Asia
2024 Voluntary National Reviews Clinic**

Friday 3 November 2023, Almaty, Kazakhstan





To what extent have you been involved in VNR processes in your country?



Substantive content, analytical depth and policy focus

Create a strong **narrative**

Use the data – utilize data analysis to develop a national indicator framework (SDG Progress Assessment)

Create platforms for safe and open dialogue with stakeholders that continues beyond the VNR

Identify **the means of implementation**
Leverage **transformative change**

Outline **practical next steps** & follow up actions

Plan the post-VNR period – how the review will be presented to parliament and integrated into monitoring and review processes



“Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific”



**11TH APFSD
THEME**

***20-23 February
2024***



OPPORTUNITIES for ENGAGEMENT at the APFSD

Side Events (in-person and virtual)
deadline 07.11.2023

SDG Acceleration Pavilion Exhibition
deadline 07.11.2023

Call for Major Groups and other Stakeholders
deadline 10.11.2023

Virtual Exhibition
deadline 07.11.2023



Visit the 11 APFSD event page / GET ENGAGED



ESCAP VNR TWINNING PROGRAMME

Connects two or more countries in the region that are preparing their VNRs in the same year

ESCAP provides **financial, facilitation and coordination support** to link the countries during their VNR process

The programme involves **study tours, online workshops** and joint **knowledge sharing** events



TO STRENGTHEN THE VNR
PROCESS THROUGH PEER
LEARNING



LEARN FROM EACH
OTHER'S REFORMS AND
GOOD PRACTICE



TO PROMOTE
PARTNERSHIPS AND
SOUTH-SOUTH
COOPERATION ON THE
SDGS



WHAT DOES IT INVOLVE?



Online meetings and workshops on different topics



Connecting via online platform



Study tour



Online peer-review workshop of 1st Drafts of VNR



Joint side events at APFSD / HLPF & presenting side-by-side at HLPF



VNR Twinning Brochure



Putting the VNR into action: Developing practical next steps and planning the post-VNR period

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/putting-national-voluntary-review-action-developing-practical-next-steps-and-planning-post>

Stakeholder engagement in Voluntary National Reviews: Feedback and follow-up

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2021/stakeholder-engagement-voluntary-national-reviews-feedback-and-follow>

Guide to VNR Storyline and Planning

https://repository.unescap.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12870/6415/ESCAP-2023-MN-Guide-VNR-Storyline-Planning.pdf?_gl=1*_odoksp*_ga*OTAzNTA5NzQuMTY5NjQ3NTcwOQ..*_ga_SB1ZX36Y86*MTY5NjUwMjE1MC4zLjAuMTY5NjUwMjE1NC41Ni4wLjA

2nd VNR Guidance tool: A practical guidance tool for 2nd VNRs

<https://www.unescap.org/resources/practical-guidance-tool-2nd-vnrs>

Increasing the Impact Of Voluntary National Reviews: the role of South-South and Triangular Cooperation

<https://www.unescap.org/kp/2023/increasing-impact-voluntary-national-reviews-role-south-south-and-triangular-cooperation>



ESCAP's VNR page



THANK YOU

VNRs/ESCAP

escap-vnr@un.org



North and Central Asia 2024 Voluntary National Reviews Clinic Evaluation



