

Draft Programme
ESCAP REGIONAL PREPARATORY WORKSHOP FOR VNR COUNTRIES from ASIA PACIFIC and
ESCWA REGIONS
28 March 2017

Time	Topic
9:00 - 9:15	Welcome and opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative of DSD/DESA - Representative of UNESCAP
9:15 - 10:00	Aims and objectives of the meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations for the meeting • Tour de table of participants
10:00 - 10:15	Coffee break
10:15 - 12:30	Roundtable: Status of Preparations of the VNRs <i>Issues for discussion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress achieved in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs • Strategies and tools for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs – lessons learned from 2016 volunteering countries • Institutions and stakeholders involved in the preparations • Sharing of successes, challenges, gaps, lessons learned using also Synthesis report from 2016 VNR countries as resource • Regional commonalities and regional peer learning
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break
13:00 - 15:00	Preparation of the VNR report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary-General voluntary guidelines for VNRs and how to best utilize them • Main messages and reflecting national priorities • Stakeholder consultations and outreach • Identifying capacity-development needs and priorities
15:00 – 15:15	Coffee break
15:15 - 16:30	Format and organization of reviews at HLPF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience and lessons learned from 2016 VNRs • What type of presentations can be envisaged • What kind of interaction format can be useful
16:30 - 17:00	Next steps and follow-up to the workshop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expectations from volunteering countries • Support needed

The outcome of the workshop will be presented at the ESCAP regional HLPF.

Concept note
Regional workshops for the preparation of voluntary national reviews
at the 2017 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
March – May 2017

The importance of national voluntary presentation at the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

The outcome document of the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, “*Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*” attaches great importance to follow-up and review as a way to guide and accelerate implementation. It outlines a framework for reviewing implementation at national, regional and global levels. The critical level for implementation and review is the national level, where governments are accountable to their citizens. Country-level reviews will support regional and global reviews. At the global level, the UN high-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF) is the central follow-up and review platform.

In July 2017, the HLPF will hold its second session after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. It will need to continue to deliver on its central role in follow-up and review.

The 2030 Agenda stipulates that national reviews at HLPF will be voluntary, while encouraging reporting, and include developed and developing countries. They will be State-led, involving ministerial and other relevant high-level participants. They will provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

Forty-three countries have volunteered to present national reviews at the HLPF this year showing policies, strategies and measures they are undertaking for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

Objective of the workshops:

To meet with government officials from the volunteering countries to prepare their countries for the national review at the HLPF especially by looking at regional level commonalities in challenges and lessons learned and identifying the support that could be provided for voluntary national reviews at the HLPF.

Focus of the expert group meeting:

The main focus will be:

- Discussing necessary steps to present national voluntary reviews at the HLPF 2017 including the possible template
- On-going or planned national-level preparations
- What regional commonalities can be identified and lessons learned from preparations undertaken so far
- What scope and format of the voluntary national review at HLPF 2017 be most conducive to best present national priorities and foster exchange of experiences

Program of the expert group meeting:

The expert group meeting will last one day and will be conducted under Chatham House rules.

Participants:

Participants will be government officials from capitals engaged in preparing national voluntary reviews at the 2017 HLPF. One participant from each volunteering country will be funded.

Outcome:

The outcome of the expert group meeting will be a summary of the discussions, as well as concrete measures that will be identified by volunteering countries for their voluntary national reviews.