

Voluntary National Reviews: Sharing Lessons Learned

Tuesday 24 April 2018 | 16:00 - 17:30 | MZ Meeting Room | UN House, Beirut

Background:

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are a key component of global follow-up and review processes of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs are also a means of sharing lessons learned and challenges encountered in the implementation of the SDGs. The VNRs enable countries to map out integration of the SDGs, identify key development priorities, set baselines and assess progress and challenges.

47 countries have volunteered to conduct VNRs at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF), including 8 Arab countries that are members of ESCWA. The AFSD provides an excellent opportunity to bring together government representatives and other stakeholders to enhance their understanding of VNRs and share lessons learned and good practices.

Session Objective:

This special AFSD-2018 session seeks to strengthen the capacity of representatives from target countries to conduct national follow-up and review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, through improved understanding of the Voluntary National Reviews. In the context of mutual learning, the session aims to facilitate the sharing of good practices concerning the VNRs, and provide an update on progress and the way ahead to the HLPF.

Themes of Discussion:

- VNRs as accelerator of implementation and enabler of institutional and policy coherence;
- VNRs as a whole-of-government and whole-of-society mechanism to set national targets, review progress, and mobilize means of implementation; and
- VNRs as an enabler of stakeholder engagement, strategic partnerships, leaving no one behind, and national ownership of the global agenda.

Facilitator:

- [Ms. Karima El Korri](#), Unit on the 2030 Agenda, UN-ESCWA

Panelists:

- [Mr. Friedrich Soltau](#), Senior Sustainable Development Officer, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA
- [Ms. Mouchera Karara](#), Senior Economic Researcher, Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform, Egypt
- [Ms. Ola Sidani](#), Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Lebanon
- [Ms. Wisal Hussein](#), Assistant Secretary-General of the National Population Council for Technical Affairs and Sustainable Development, Sudan
- [Ms. Yeran Kejjian](#), UN Volunteers, Lebanon



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