



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



## 10<sup>th</sup> Workshop on Voluntary National Reviews in the Arab Region

UN House - Beirut, 4 March 2024

### Draft Information Note

*The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development established principles for a follow-up and review process that is robust, voluntary, effective, participatory, and transparent. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) lie at the heart of this follow-up and review process. Through VNRs, member states report on their progress, highlight matters of priority, and share their experiences including successes, challenges, and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. VNRs can also help mobilize multi-stakeholder partnerships. By 2023, 330 VNRs have been submitted to the HLPF globally including 35 VNRs from 21 Arab countries. When this note was prepared, seven Arab countries had expressed interest in submitting a VNR in 2024.<sup>1</sup>*

*To support Arab States, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in partnership with the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the League of Arab States, has been organizing regional VNR workshops. The workshops provide a space for knowledge exchange and peer learning on VNRs in the Arab region. Since October 2019, nine workshops have been organized. Moreover, ESCWA established the Arab VNR Community of Practice (CoP) as an informal peer-learning mechanism that brings together government officials from Arab countries involved in the preparation of VNRs at a working level. For more information on ESCWA VNR support, please visit the [dedicated page](#).*

#### I. Objectives and thematic focus

As in previous editions, the 10<sup>th</sup> regional VNR workshop will provide a **platform for dialogue and peer learning** on VNR issues among Arab countries. As the second workshop to be held in the 2024 VNR cycle, it will give an opportunity to the Arab countries presenting their VNR at the 2024 HLPF to inform about their preparations so far, the challenges, and the way forward.

The workshop will focus on the theme of **financing sustainable development** as a key global and regional priority and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A dedicated regional workshop is scheduled to be held during April 2024.

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<sup>1</sup> As of 1 December 2024: Egypt, Libya, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Syria and Yemen. The updated list of 2024 VNR countries is available here: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries?%5B0%5D=year%3A2024>

## II. Topics of discussion

### a) Preparations for the 2024 Arab country VNRs: Progress and challenges

2024 VNR countries will discuss with their peers their ongoing VNR preparations, the approach they are taking and the challenges they are facing. They will share key messages coming out of their VNR and illustrate how the VNR was used as a tool to accelerate SDG implementation and mobilize partnerships. Updates concerning preparations for the 2024 HLPF will also be provided.

### b) Financing sustainable development

The workshop will address the challenge of mobilizing adequate financial resources for implementing the SDGs in light of on-going crises.<sup>2</sup>

Experiences will be shared on (1) assessing financial needs for achieving the SDGs; (2) mobilizing resources by leveraging the full range of public and private financing sources; (3) using the VNR to present the approaches, frameworks and tools that provide support to policymakers in linking available resources to desired outcomes, boosting the impact of public resources and enhancing public spending efficiency and providing insights to ensure budget credibility and the sequencing of financing decisions for SDG implementation; and (4) reflecting issues of financing in VNR reports and HLPF presentations.

The workshop will also offer an opportunity for a regional consultation on reforms to the international financial architecture and other related topics on the agenda of the [Summit of the Future](#) (22-23 September 2024).

## III. Organizational and Logistical Details

### a) Date and venue

The workshop will be organized at the UN House **in Beirut on 4 March 2024**, 1-day before the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development (UN House – Beirut, 5-7 March 2024), with possibility for online participation.

### b) Participants and registration

The workshop targets government officials in Arab countries involved in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, particularly those engaged in the preparation of VNRs and members of the VNR Community of Practice (CoP). Participants will also include experts from regional, international and United Nations organizations. Representatives from government authorities concerned with financing sustainable development are also welcome.

Confirmation of **in-person sponsored delegates** should be transmitted to ESCWA **before 20 January 2024**.

Other participants are welcome to join virtually or at their own cost, and are kindly invited to register before **29 February 2024** through the appropriate link:

- Registration link for **self-sponsored in-person participation**:  
<https://indico.un.org/event/1008778/registrations/13819/>

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<sup>2</sup> The 2030 Agenda dedicates a section to the means of implementation which are further detailed in SDG 17 covering financing, technology, capacity building, partnerships and data. Financing-related targets can be found in most SDGs.

- Registration link for **online participation**:  
<https://indico.un.org/event/1008778/registrations/13820/>

**c) Working languages**

Arabic and English are the working languages of the workshop. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in Arabic, English, and French.

**d) Correspondence**

Correspondence regarding logistical arrangements of the regional workshop should be addressed to:

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