



15 July 2008

2009 Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC

National Voluntary Presentations

Proposed Guidelines

Introduction

The 2005 World Summit mandated the Economic and Social Council to perform an Annual Ministerial Review of progress in the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In the ensuing resolution 61/16, the General Assembly recommended that such reviews provide an opportunity for countries to make National Voluntary Presentations (NVP).

The present note gives an overview of how a national presentation could be prepared, including the preparation of a National Report, for the 2009 AMR to be held during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in July in Geneva.

Objective

NVP is a forum for a dialogue based on countries' actual experiences in implementing strategies and policies towards meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. In their presentations, countries highlight strategies and policies that have worked and those that haven't and identify practical measures to respond. The presentations are based on an analytical National Report and national consultative dialogues.

NVP aims to speed-up implementation by strengthening accountability for commitments, providing a vehicle for a national review and renewal of commitments and mobilizing actions and stakeholders.

NVP should assist Member States in improving individual and collective performance through mutual learning and to identify good practices, share experience and foster co-ordination. Efforts are made to develop an integrated perspective of the country undertaking the review and its region. The key to the effectiveness of NVPs is the feedback provided throughout the review process, in particular by the Friends of the NVP.

More specifically, NVPs offer participating countries the following added value:

- Assessment of progress
- Sharing of experience and best practice for improved policy-making
- Access to NVP community of experts
- Feedback on country performance
- Mobilization of support from international community
- Building of partnerships

More broadly, NVPs provide a platform where national level implementation can connect with international policy making. This provides an opportunity to build linkages with the normative and operational work in the area of development within the United Nations.

Commitment from presenting countries

Preparing for NVPs entails three key activities:

- Analyzing data and policies and drafting of a National Report capturing this analysis
- Holding of national consultative dialogues (or workshops¹ in the case of developing countries) to discuss the draft national report
- National Presentation to ECOSOC during the AMR in July in Geneva

The national consultative dialogues or workshops involving participants from government, civil society and the private sector would be an essential element in the preparatory process. The outcome of these meetings would provide inputs to the National Report, which will eventually become the major background information for the national presentation.

National Report

The National Report, 16 pages, could highlight the main accomplishments and challenges in the implementation of national development strategies and policies and the initiatives the country has undertaken. It could identify obstacles to implementation that require regional and global cooperation, and make proposals in this regard. The Executive summary, 1 page, could highlight the key findings.

The report could also include analyses at the national level on the thematic focus of the 2009 AMR: *“Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health”*. It could also pick-up other key issues wherever relevant within national and regional contexts, such as how conflict is affecting the implementation of the goals or how development strategies can help mitigate natural disaster.

Outline

The Executive Summary

The Executive Summary could provide a brief overview of the implementation of national development strategies and policies. It could include the following:

- Highlights of progress made in implementation of national development strategies and policies
- Key lessons learned and challenges
- Assessment of international development cooperation and the support of the international community, including the UN system, for scaling up efforts

Part A. Implementation of national development strategies and policies

Part A could analyze progress made in implementation of national development strategies and policies and their focus on internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. It could draw out the major interventions, the challenges faced and how the international community can assist in overcoming these challenges. In the case of donor countries, efforts to improve development cooperation for better results could be highlighted.

This section could cover issues pertaining to, but not restricted to: 1) Financing for Development; 2) Employment; 3) Health; 4) Education; 5) Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women; 6) Social Integration and Vulnerable Groups; 7) Democracy, Human Rights and Good Governance; 8) Sustainable Development; 9) Science and Technology for Development; 10) Countries with Special Needs; and 11) Migration and Development.

The following are a few suggested questions Part A could aim to answer:

¹ Additional information about NVP workshops for developing countries will be provided separately

- What are the major policy interventions that have helped advance progress on the development goals? How were these devised?
- What role did various stakeholders play in developing these policies? What are the lessons learned?
- In which sector did the country face challenges? How can these challenges be overcome? Specific ideas?
- How can international development cooperation assist in addressing these challenges?
- (For donor) How can donors collaborate to overcome the challenges of enhancing aid effectiveness?
- (For developing countries) How can policy coherence be promoted among various sectors that directly or indirectly impact development?

Part B. Thematic focus

Part B could be anchored on the 2009 theme of the AMR: *"Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health"*.

Country Statistical Annex

Statistical annex and graphs could provide data for as many sectors as possible, particularly in the area of thematic focus.

National presentation content

National presentations, drawing from the National Report and consultative process, could focus on 2-3 key issues which the country would like to analyze in-depth and have the Council's response.

A suggested structure for the presentations includes: 1. Key policy successes and lessons-learned, 2. Key policy challenges and constraints, 3. Emerging challenges and new opportunities, and 4. Recommendations for actions by the country and regional and international responses.

To maximize the value of the presentation time, it is recommended that the bulk of the presentation be focused on 2-3 analysis of policies and interventions the presenting country wishes to share with Council members. The content of the presentation need not cover the full breadth of the National Report, which is meant to be far more comprehensive. Speakers could focus on selected issues that are the highest priority of the county and present specific examples or case studies when possible.

Scenario

The presentations will be made sequentially. Approximately 1 hour will be allocated for each presentation and discussion. A professional moderator will conduct the presentation and the following inter-active discussion to ensure a vibrant and productive dialogue.

Cabinet Ministers will deliver the presentations. Governments are encouraged to involve in the presentation representatives of other stakeholder groups that had participated in the national consultation process.

Three Friends of the NVP will be designated by each presenting country. While selecting Friends, the country may like to consider countries that are familiar with the development challenges of the NVP country. The Friends of the NVP will be invited to review the report and launch the inter-active discussion. To prepare for such an inter-action, NVP countries may share reports with Friends at least three weeks in advance of the presentation and also have a meeting with the Friends for a better understanding of the overall approach.

Speaker	Suggested speaking time
Cabinet Minister	15 minutes
1-2 Representative of Civil Society/Private Sector/other stakeholder (optional)	Five minutes each
3 Friends of the NVP	Five minutes each to three Friends of the NVP country
Moderated inter-active discussion with the Members of ECOSOC	Interventions limited to no more than three minutes each, followed by responses from delegations

There is a possibility for engaging key donors or a donor along with a developing country to make the panel presentation jointly. This would be a way of presenting case studies where partnership between a donor country and a developing country has been forged for the implementation of the national development strategy, or more broadly, the UNDA.

Beyond the presentation

The NVP alumni countries are encouraged to:

- Communicate any developments after the NVP to the ECOSOC President, the UN Secretariat, or to the coordination segment or the operational activities segment during the Substantive Session of ECOSOC
- Make use of the network of global partners/experts supporting NVPs in assessing the implementation of the NDSs and policies
- Leverage the AMR Innovation Fair² to seek solutions to the problems identified in the implementation of the IADGs

UNDESA is developing a "*Development Strategies that work*" website for NVPs to capture the findings of the national reviews and to facilitate learning and mutual understanding among Member States, international organizations, practitioners and others. The website will also facilitate access to a network of global partners/experts to support Governments in the implementation of their national development strategies and policies.

Media

A media series leading up to the presentation could be planned with leading media partners. Newspaper/Magazine articles could be written relating to the NVP, to be published in major local and international newspapers and magazines.

Timeline

The first draft of the National Report should be ready by the time the national consultative dialogues (or workshops in the case of the developing countries) are held (the last quarter of 2008) and it should serve as a background for them. In finalizing the report, the outcome of the preparatory process should be incorporated. The final report should be ready and submitted to the President of ECOSOC by the first week of May 2009.

² The **Innovation Fair** provides a conduit for action-oriented input for achieving the implementation of the UNDA from a variety of stakeholders, including governments, the UN system, private sector and NGOs.