



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



VNR LABS
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Virtual VNR Lab: “Engaging social groups in the VNR process and reaching the furthest behind – A case study of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples”

Wednesday, 8 July 2020 from 12:30 - 2 pm (EDT)

Background

This Voluntary National Review (VNR) lab will explore experiences in engaging persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in the VNR reporting processes, identify obstacles, good practices and what lessons can be learned to reach those furthest behind.

The principles in the 2030 Agenda to guide the follow-up and review processes state that “they will be open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders.” An analysis of the 2017 VNR reports by the Committee for Development Planning noted that “among the groups that receive special focus so that they are not left behind, women receive the most attention (addressed by 41 out of the 43 countries reviewed), followed by persons with disabilities (40 countries)” and that indigenous peoples were severely underrepresented.

Despite progress and considerable efforts, the challenges that persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples face around the world persist due to stigmatization and discriminations as well as cultural and historical exclusion. This year’s discussion is very pertinent since the world is facing global challenges - from the pandemic crisis, such as COVID-19 as well as climate change, extreme poverty and the spread of conflict-, that have exacerbated the situation and pre-existing inequalities of both persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples, challenging them even more to achieve their inclusion as both beneficiaries and agents of change in society and development in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Above all, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples will share their experiences in engaging in the VNR reporting processes, identify obstacles, good practices and the lessons learned in this process.

Objectives

- Explore experiences in engaging persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in the VNR reporting processes;
- Identify obstacles, good practices; and
- Exchange of lessons learned to influence in the VNRs reporting processes
- Explore options for policy/dialogue space for continuing discussion on inclusion and accessibility of the VNR processes.

Expected output

- Promote knowledge and understanding about the situation of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples and the need to be included in the VNR processes under all Sustainable Development Goals;
- Identify strategies to improve the contributions of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples to reflect their issues and concerns into the VNRs and the high-level political forum;
- Increase the meaningful participation of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in the preparation of VNRs as well as in HLPF related regional and global meetings/events.
- Discuss options as to how the information collected in the VNRs can provide a knowledge base for improving other HLPF mechanisms to be inclusive of disability and indigenous perspectives

Webinar setup

- The event will be interactive with a short opening and closing remarks
- Presentation by panelists followed by questions and answers.
- Discussions will be facilitated by a moderator.
- The webinar will be conducted in English only.

Registration

Please note that attendance is limited to ECOSOC accredited NGOs and members of a United Nations Major Group. Please consult the lists for both categories in the following:

- ECOSOC accredited NGOs: <http://csonet.org/content/documents/E.2018.inf.5.pdf>
- United Nations Major Groups: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos>

United Nations staff and Member States are also welcome to attend the event.

To register to the event please provide your information using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=2zWeD09UYE-9zF6kFubccA84icXNyJJHtIMOXEMDL-9UREE2SEM0VFROVkfFURzYySlpOOUM2VjNKSi4u>

Deadline to register for the event is **1 July 2020** and you will receive a link for the virtual VNR Lab once your registration has been confirmed.