



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review:

2011 National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs)

Guidelines

Objectives:

- The present guidelines give an overview of how to prepare and conduct a national presentation, including the preparation of a National Report, for the 2011 AMR to be held during the High-level Segment of ECOSOC in July in Geneva.
- The National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) mechanism serves as instrument for the international community to assess and advance progress towards the internationally agreed development goals (IADG), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at the national level.
- The NVPs, part of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Reviews, have demonstrated the value of ECOSOC as a platform for engaging the global community in an exchange of critical lessons learned in the implementation of IADG/MDG. Since 2007, 34 developed and developing countries have shared their best practices and lessons learned through NVPs at the ECOSOC High-level Segment, and 13 countries have volunteered to make national presentations during the 2011 deliberations.
- The NVP aims to speed-up the implementation of development goals by (i) strengthening accountability for commitments, (ii) providing a vehicle for a national review and renewal of commitments, and (iii) mobilizing actions and stakeholders to support implementation.
- The NVP should assist Member States to improve individual and collective performance through sharing of experiences and good practices, and by fostering mutual learning, co-ordination and partnership. The NVPs aim at developing 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 Reviewers of the NVP.
- For the participating countries, the NVP offers the following value added:
 - (i) *Assessment of progress*
 - (ii) *Sharing of experience and best practice for improved policy-making*
 - (iii) *Access to NVP community of experts*

- (iv) *Feedback on country performance*
 - (v) *Mobilization of support from international community*
 - (vi) *Building of partnerships*
- 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 System.

Commitment from presenting countries:

- Preparing for NVPs entails three key activities:
 - (i) *drafting of a National Report synthesizing analyses of national data and policies*
 - (ii) *holding of a national consultative dialogue (or a workshop¹ in the case of developing countries) to discuss the draft national report*
 - (iii) *National Presentation to ECOSOC during the AMR in July 2011 in Geneva*
- The national consultative dialogues or workshops, involving participants from government, civil society and the private sector, are an essential element in the preparatory process. The outcomes of these meetings provide crucial inputs to the National Report, which is used as the main background document for the national presentation.

National Report:

- The National Report, 16 pages (8,500 words, including executive summary and statistical annex), highlights the main accomplishments and challenges in the implementation of national development strategies and policies, and the initiatives the country has undertaken. It can identify obstacles to implementation that require regional and global cooperation, and can make proposals in this regard. The Executive Summary, 1 page, should highlight the key findings.
- The report can also include analyses at the national level on the thematic focus of the 2011 AMR: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". It can also draw attention to other key issues that are relevant within national and regional contexts, such as the implications of conflicts or crisis on the implementation of the development goals, or development strategies that have been successful in mitigating natural disasters.

Outline:

The Executive Summary

- The Executive Summary provides a brief overview of the implementation of national development strategies and policies. It could include the following:
 - (i) *Highlights of progress made in implementation of national development strategies and policies*
 - (ii) *Key challenges and lessons learned*
 - (iii) *Assessment of international development cooperation and the support of the international community, including the UN system, for scaling up efforts*

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

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.

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

- *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 donors) 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 2011 theme of the AMR: "*Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education*".

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 does not need to cover the full breadth of the National Report, which is meant to be far more comprehensive. Speakers should focus on selected issues that are the highest priority for the country and present specific examples or case studies when possible.

Scenario

- The presentations will be made sequentially. Approximately one hour will be allocated for each presentation and discussion. A professional moderator will conduct the presentation and the

ensuing 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 NVP Reviewers will be designated by each presenting country. The NVP Reviewers will be invited to review the report and launch the inter-active discussion.

	Speaker	Suggested speaking time	
Presentation	Cabinet Minister	15 minutes	20 minutes
	1-2 Representative of Civil Society/Private Sector/other stakeholder (optional)	2-3 minutes each	
Interactive discussion	3 NVP Reviewers	2-3- minutes each to three NVP Reviewers of the NVP country	40 minutes
	Moderated inter-active discussion with the Members of ECOSOC	Interventions limited to no more than 3 minutes each, followed by responses from delegations	

Beyond the presentation

- UNDESA has developed 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 also facilitates access to a network of global partners/experts to support Governments in the implementation of their national development strategies and policies.
- We encourage NVP countries to benefit from this site and contribute to its content. This information related to policies that work can be e-mailed to the ECOSOC Secretariat separately and it will be uploaded by the administrator of the "*Development Strategies that work*". The national reports statistical annex and graphs could be added to the database.
- The NVP alumni countries are encouraged to:
 - (i) *communicate any developments after the NVP to the ECOSOC President or to the UN Secretariat*
 - (ii) *make use of the network of global partners/experts supporting NVPs in assessing the implementation of the NDSs and policies*
 - (iii) *leverage the AMR Innovation Fair² to seek solutions to the problems identified in the implementation of the IADGs*

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.

Development Strategies That Work

Country experiences presented at the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review



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Welcome to the "Development Strategies That Work" Database

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DEVELOPED ECONOMIES

Australia, Belgium, Finland, France, Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, the United States of America

Announcements

Expert Group Meeting on "Accelerating Implementation through National Voluntary Presentations: Next Steps" will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York from 28 to 29 January 2010, organized by the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination. [read more](#)

Policy Matters

How did Tanzania reduce infant and child mortality?

The Government developed strategies to reduce infant mortality and child mortality through improved vaccination coverage and availability of services including drugs at the time of need. Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses (IMCI) has also rolled-over to all districts. These policies achieved the result of decreasing child mortality from 191 per a thousand live births in 1990 to 133 in 2005. Infant mortality declined from 115 (1990) to 68 (2005). [read more](#)

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 (Dec. 2010 – Feb. 2011) 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 2011*.