2013 National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) – Guidelines

Objectives

- The present guidelines give an overview of the preparations for the 2013 National Voluntary Presentations, including the preparation of National Reports, for the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) to be held during the 2013 High-level Segment of ECOSOC to be held in July in Geneva, Switzerland.

- The National Voluntary Presentation (NVP) mechanism serves as an instrument for the international community to assess and advance progress towards the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), at the national level.

- The NVPs, as part of the ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review, 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 the IADGs/MDGs. Since 2007, 44 developed and developing countries have shared their best practices and lessons learned through NVPs at the ECOSOC High-level Segment.

- 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. A 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 an NVP community of experts;*
  (iv) *Feedback on country performance;*
  (v) *Mobilization of support from international community; and*
  (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 areas of development in the work of the United Nations System.

Commitment from presenting countries

- Preparing for NVPs entails three key activities:

  (i) *drafting a National Report synthesizing analyses of national data and policies;*
  (ii) *holding a national consultative dialogue (or a workshop,[1] in the case of developing countries) to discuss the draft national report; and*
  (iii) *giving a National Presentation to the Annual High-level Substantive Session of ECOSOC during the AMR.*

- 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 to ECOSOC.

National Report

- The National Report, 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 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 2013 AMR: "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs." Furthermore, the report can expand on the Country's efforts to integrate the three pillars of sustainable development in its pulic development policies.

- It can also draw attention to other key issues that are relevant within national and regional contexts, such as the implications of conflicts or crises 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;*

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

(ii) *Key challenges and lessons learned; and*
(iii) *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 the implementation of national development strategies and policies and their focus on the 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? What are specific ideas for addressing them?*
- *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 2013 theme of the AMR: "Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the MDGs" or in the County's policies for integrating the three pillars of sustainable development in one of its development priorities.

Country Statistical Annex

A statistical annex and graphs could provide relevant sectoral data, particularly in the area of the thematic focus.

National presentation content

- National presentations, drawing from the National Report and consultative process, could focus on 2-3 key issues that 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 action by the country and regional and international partners.

- To maximize the value of the presentation time, it is recommended that the bulk of the presentation be focused on an analysis of 2-3 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.

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. – Feb.) and should serve as a background for them. In finalizing the report, the outcome of the consultation process should be incorporated. The final report should be ready and submitted to the President of ECOSOC ***by Monday, 1 April 2013***.

The presentation at ECOSOC

- A professional moderator will conduct the presentation and the ensuing inter-active discussion to ensure a vibrant and productive dialogue. The overall length of the NVP will be one hour if the country is presenting alone. Beginning in 2011, there were also jointly held NVP presentations by two countries, with a total length of two hours.

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

- Up to 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.

<table>
<tr><th></th><th>Speaker</th><th></th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Presentation</td><td>Cabinet Minister (15 minutes)</td><td rowspan="2">20 minutes</td></tr>
<tr><td>1-2 Representative of Civil Society/Private Sector/other stakeholder (optional – 2-3 minutes each)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Interactive discussion</td><td>Up to 3 NVP Reviewers (2-3 minutes each)</td><td></td></tr>
</table>

	Moderated inter-active discussion with the Members of ECOSOC (Interventions limited to 3 minutes each, followed by responses from delegations)	40 minutes

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, or interviews and discussions arranged. Live broadcast of the national presentation at ECOSOC to a local audience could be planned, where feasible.

Beyond the presentation

- UNDESA has developed a "*Development Strategies that work*" website (http://webapps01.un.org/nvp/) 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.

- NVP countries are encouraged to benefit from this site and contribute to its content. Information pertaining to policies that work can be sent to the ECOSOC Secretariat to be uploaded to the "*Development Strategies that work*" website. The national reports, statistical annexes and graphs could also 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 NDS and policies; and*
  (iii) *leverage the AMR Innovation Fair[2] 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.