



United Nations
DESA

SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF ECOSOC 2013

Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review

2013 National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs)

The Role and Responsibilities of the NVP Reviewers

Background

The 2013 National Voluntary Presentations (NVPs) will be held during ECOSOC's High-Level Segment, which will take place from 1 to 4 July 2013 at the United Nations Palais des Nations in Geneva. Countries who have volunteered will offer lessons-learned, success stories and initiatives on achieving the MDGs.

In 2013, the Annual Ministerial Review (AMR) will be devoted to the theme of “*Science, technology and innovation, and the potential of culture, for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Millennium Development Goals.*” An effort is also being made to link the 2013 NVPs with the outcome of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)—The Future We Want. This will offer participating NVP countries the chance to bring fresh ideas on ways to connect the MDG framework with the sustainable development agenda.

Format

- ❖ **Friends:** Approximately three NVP reviewers (any Member State) will be selected by each presenting country. To prepare for such an inter-action, NVP countries will share the national reports with the friends in advance of the presentation and could organize a meeting with the friends on the overall approach to the session.
- ❖ **Presentation:** The reviewers will identify the key bottlenecks and, during the NVP session, pose questions to the presenting country arising from its review process, immediately following the national presentation (made by the Cabinet Minister of the presenting country and one or two other representatives, if any).

- ❖ **Discussion:** The discussion will then be opened to all the participants to make brief observations or put additional questions, after which the representatives of the presenting country will be given an opportunity to respond. At the end of the session, the moderator will draw main conclusions.

Guidelines for NVP Reviewers

The comments by the reviewers should provide feedback to the presenting country and guide the discussion in ECOSOC towards the most important issues or specific questions. The objective of the reviewers is to initiate and stimulate the discussion based on the national report, setting the stage for further in-depth deliberations held in an interactive manner.

The NVP reviewers are expected to critically review and analyze the national report of the presenting country. The NVP friends could specifically address the following aspects:

- ❖ Provide a critical and objective assessment of the strategies and policies presented in the national report, along with the means to achieve them;
- ❖ Point towards ways to accelerate and achieve better performance;
- ❖ Examine how strategies, policies and initiatives presented enrich policies or be replicated regionally and internationally;
- ❖ Identify relevant new initiatives, experiences and international or regional comparisons wherever applicable;
- ❖ Bring forward any programmes, initiatives or bottlenecks in the MDG achievement that they share with the presenting country.

The interventions should aim to be *concise* and *sharp* and focused on *key issues* and *challenges*.