

2024 High-Level Political Forum - VNR Lab

Strengthening Coherence between the 2030 Agenda and Nationally Determined Contributions through the Voluntary National Reviews

10 July 2024 13:00-15:00

Room 1522-1523, UN Secretariat Building 15th Floor and online

Background

Many countries have aligned their national development plans with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);¹ however, national plans are not necessarily aligned with climate action and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments.² As this year's HLPF reviews SDG 13, and as member states prepare for the next round of NDCs (NDC 3.0) due in 2025, this is a critical moment for synergistic action between the SDGs and the Paris Agreement.

Aligning SDG and climate action can have multiplier effects – leading to an estimated US\$26 trillion in economic gains by 2030, producing over 65 million new green jobs, and preventing around 700,000 premature deaths compared to business as usual.³

As noted by the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023, attention to the systemic nature of the SDGs and climate action is necessary to avoid siloed approaches where progress in one area may lead to regression in another. Assessing the co-benefits and potential trade-offs between climate action and SDG progress is crucial for enhancing the efficiency of measures taken and to promote a just transition. While currently only 23 of the 173 NDCs explicitly refer to the SDGs, multiple countries have already made progress, analyzing and integrating SDGs and climate action into national planning and budgeting such as through SDG and NDC budget tagging. As the UN system engages in strengthened capacity building, an increasing number of countries are improving coordination between the SDGs and NDCs at national level. The 2024 edition of the [Executive Training Course for Policymakers](#) strongly advanced this among all 20 participating countries with proven results already during the training and with action plans submitted.

Through peer-to-peer learning and this VNR lab, countries can expand their knowledge on practical areas to realize synergies such as through SDG and climate finance, data, and stakeholder engagement among others.

The VNR Lab is organized by the five UN Regional Commissions (ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP, ESCWA, UNECE) in partnership with the UN Office for Sustainable Development, DESA.

¹ <https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/2022-10/VNR%202022%20Synthesis%20Report.pdf>

² <https://cdn.sida.se/publications/files/sida62090en-integrating-climate-action-into-national-development-planning.pdf>

³ https://newclimateeconomy.report/2018/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/09/NCE_2018_FULL-REPORT.pdf



Objectives and Guiding Questions

Building on the 2024 edition of the Executive Training Course for Policymakers on systems-thinking approach to SDG planning and review and NDC 3.0 planning and implementation, this VNR lab will share examples and enhance peer learning for strengthening coordination and policy coherence between the 2030 Agenda and NDCs through VNRs. It will explore initiatives to improve reporting frameworks and harness the power of harmonization to capture and share more data and progress on the NDC 3.0 and SDGs for the VNRs. In particular, the VNR Lab will:

- Strengthen practical knowledge and skills for aligning and integrating SDG planning and climate action through NDCs
- Facilitate networking and the exchange of practices and case studies

Guiding questions:

- How have synergies between SDGs and NDCs been identified?
- How have you aligned SDGs and NDCs in national planning including through mitigation and adaptation?
- Which means, strategies and mechanisms have helped you realize synergies with SDGs and VNRs?
- How have you leveraged finance, data and stakeholder engagement in this alignment and coordination?

Tentative Agenda

	Registration
10 minutes	Welcome remarks and setting the scene on VNR and NDC alignment and policy coherence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Yera Ortiz de Urbina, Deputy Director Regional Commissions New York Office • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of UN Office for Sustainable Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs
75 minutes	2 round of sharing country and regional experiences with connecting NDCs and SDGs and open discussions facilitated by the moderator First round of interventions by Member States and Regional Commissions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Callist Tindimugaya, Commissioner, Ministry of Water and Environment, Uganda • Mr. Charles Akol, Environmental Affairs Officer, ECA



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Sariha Belén Moya Angulo, Secretary of Planning, Ecuador (virtual) • Ms. Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ECLAC • Mr. Ahmed Magdy, Counselor, Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations • Ms. Maisaa Youssef, Chief of Section, Social Affairs, ESCWA <p><i>Open questions and discussion</i></p> <p>Second round of interventions by Member States and Regional Commissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Manukyan, Head, UN and Sustainable Development Division Department of Multilateral Policy and Development Cooperation Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia (virtual) • Mr. Michael Kunz, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE • Mr. Phongsavath, Mahathilath, Desk Officer of UN Economic and Social Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao People's Democratic Republic (TBC) • Ms. Juliet Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, Office of the Executive Secretary, ESCAP • Ms. Bahareh Seyedi, Senior Sustainable Development Officer Integrated Policy Analysis Branch (IPAB), Division for Sustainable Development Goals, Department of Economic and Social Affairs <p><i>Open questions and discussion</i></p>
5 minutes	Wrap-up and closing

Modalities and registration

Hybrid with a registration link for all participants [VNR Lab 3: Strengthening Policy Coherence between the 2030 Agenda... | Regional Commissions New York Office \(un.org\)](#)

[Registration \(google.com\)](#)

[Zoom link](#)