

# Agenda item 2

## High-Level Political Forum and Voluntary National Review Labs

14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the IAEG-SDGs  
Plenary Session  
24 October 2023  
Copenhagen, Denmark



# Recap of HLPF in July 2023

- Fully in-person, with high level of engagement
  - Over 110 Heads of State or Government, Ministers, Vice-Ministers and Ministerial-level officials
  - 134 speakers – keynote speakers, panelists, lead discussants, moderators and youth speakers
  - 181 statements during general debate on theme  
*“Building momentum towards the 2023 SDG Summit”*
- Outcome: Summary by President of ECOSOC, which included key messages to the SDG Summit

# Recap of HLPF in July 2023 (cont.)

- 38 VNRs (1 - 1st time, 36 - 2<sup>nd</sup> time, 1 - 3rd time) + 1 EU
- Follow-up messages on VNRs:
  - Data-driven reviews – greater evidence of this in 2023
  - Greater connected reporting between a country's VNRs – e.g., a country's 3rd VNR referencing prior 1st and 2nd reports and discussing progress or challenges

# Recap of HLPF in July 2023 (cont.)

- For consideration: Invitation by the UN Secretary-General to rethink the VNRs
  - E.g., suggestions from SG's 2023 SDG Progress Report 2023:
    - Boosting independent evaluations of implementation
    - Strengthening engagement with parliament and civil society
    - Centering VNRs on national commitments for transformation
    - Registration systems of voluntary local reviews
    - Further develop indicators with disaggregated data

# VNR Lab 7 | Deepening data analysis in the VNRs: Showcasing country experiences

**Webpage:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/vnr-lab-14jul2023/>

**VNR Labs webpage:** <https://hlpf.un.org/2023/vnr-labs>

## Objectives:

1. Enable countries to share experiences and best practices on various data-related topics such as cross-sectoral analyses, SDG progress assessments, and the use of qualitative data in the VNR.
2. Serve as a platform for peer learning, networking, and support among countries preparing VNRs.

**Speakers:** Chile, Mongolia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, UN ESCAP

**Topics:** Stakeholder consultation, qualitative data, cross-sectoral analysis, leaving no one behind (LNOB), SDG progress assessments, statistical annexes

## Discussions:

1. The importance of engaging various stakeholders in VNR development, including civil society, academia, private sector, and different segments of society.
2. Experience in using both national and global data sources, with a focus on qualitative data to complement quantitative indicators.
3. The usefulness of tools such as ESCAP's SDG Tracker and LNOB platform.



# VNR Lab 16 | Citizen-generated data to leave no one behind: Experiences from Asia-Pacific and beyond

**Webpage:** <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/meetings/vnr-lab-19jul2023/>

## **Objectives:**

1. Discuss and share experiences on how non-traditional data, particularly citizen-generated data (CGD) is utilized to support SDG monitoring and the VNRs for evidence-based reporting.
2. Explore initiatives to improve reporting frameworks and harness the power of citizens to capture and share more data on the SDGs for the VNRs.

**Speakers:** NSO, government, and civil society representatives from Ghana, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines

## **Discussions:**

1. The significance of CGD in filling data gaps, promoting LNOB, and to gather timely, qualitative, open, and disaggregated data.
2. The use of CGD to encourage citizens to actively participate in data collection and reporting, making them co-creators and agents of change.
3. The need to build trust among different actors for successful integration of CGD into the SDG monitoring process.



**THANK YOU!**

