

2023 High-Level Political Forum - VNR Lab

CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND *Experiences from Asia-Pacific and beyond*

WEDNESDAY, 19 JULY 2023, 8:00 – 9:00 AM (EDT)
UNHQ/NY, Conference Room 11

Background

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are most meaningful when based on an inclusive, participatory, transparent, and thorough review process at the national and subnational levels, and when they are based on evidence. Data and statistics are at the cornerstone of the VNRs, but gaps persist, and getting relevant, timely and disaggregated data remains a struggle for many countries.

Data generation outside of government is expanding quickly. National Statistical Offices (NSOs) have begun to also explore the use of non-traditional data sources such as citizen-generated data (CGD) for the VNRs, as they can help fill data gaps particularly in fulfilling the leaving no one behind commitment.

CGD has huge potential to fulfil the 2030 Agenda's promise to Leave No One Behind (LNBO). By reaching the most marginalised populations, it helps to ensure that the voice of marginalised population groups is reflected in the data, to inform policy. CDG is also a great channel for NSOs to engage and connect directly with citizens and further improve transparency, inclusion, and accountability.

There are also challenges in fully leveraging the power of CGD for public policy. Data quality, data ethics for engaging citizens and sustainability of CGD projects for longer-term SDG monitoring have all been raised during a recent discussion at the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on Harnessing Data by Citizens for Public Policy and SDG Monitoring. The lack of trust between citizens (civil society organizations) and government entities can sometimes act as a hurdle, preventing the full utilization of CGD.

Objectives and Guiding Questions

This lab will discuss and share experiences on how non-traditional data, particularly CGD is utilized to support SDG monitoring and the VNRs for evidence-based reporting and will present country experiences from Asia and the Pacific and beyond. It will explore initiatives to improve reporting frameworks and harness the power of citizens to capture and share more data on the SDGs for the VNRs.

Hosted by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), this lab will include interventions by civil society, government,

and national statistical office representatives of Ghana, the Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, and the Philippines.

Key questions for discussion will include:

- What is your experience in bringing CGD into development of the VNR and SDG monitoring?
- What are the challenges and how do you overcome those?
- What are the ingredients for establishing trustful relationships with CSOs and other stakeholders to harness their abilities to contribute to SDG monitoring for the VNRs?
- What is your advice for other countries who are interested in working with CGD?
- What is the role of UN agencies and other development partners, in contributing to better data collection, harmonisation and use of CGD for the VNRs?

Tentative Agenda

07:45 – 08:00	Registration
08:00 – 08:10	<p>Welcome remarks and setting the scene: how does CGD supports LNOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Heather Page, Statistician, United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD)
<p>08:10 – 08:55</p> <p><i>5 speakers max, representing NSO, Gov, CSO</i></p>	<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Liliana Suchodolska, Policy Analyst, Paris 21 <p>NSO's perspective on CGD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ram Hari Gaihre, Director (Senior Statistician), Statistical Analysis and Publication Section, Women Empowerment Division, Ministry of Women, Children & Senior Citizens, Nepal remote connection • Mr. Samuel Annim, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service <p>CSO's perspective on CGD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Elizabeth Lockwood, CBM Global Disability Inclusion • Dr. Indra Tumurbaatar, Director, Environment, Social Governance - Mindset (ESG-Mindset), Mongolia • Mr. Ariel D. Odtojan, Regional Advocacy and Campaigns Manager, External Engagement, World Vision East Asia <p>Governments perspective on CGD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Aman Khaleel, Senior Planning Analyst, National Planning Division, National Planning Department, Maldives
08:55 – 09:00	Wrap-up and vote of thanks

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Juliet Nicole Braslow, Sustainable Development Officer, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) |
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Modalities and registration

Interest participants are invited to register at: <https://forms.microsoft.com/e/mDHwbeGSK4> .

The event will take place in a **hybrid mode in conference room 11** at the United Nations Head Quarters in New York. Kindly note that in-person participants need to be registered / accredited for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) (for more details on registration at the HLPF, see: <https://hlpf.un.org/2023/registration-participation>).

Contact

For further information, please contact ESCAP at: escap-vnr@un.org