



Concept Note

VNR Data Lab: Country's experience in Integrating Innovative Data Sources into VNRs

Tuesday 22 July, 1:00 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Secretariat Building 15th floor, Rooms 1522 and 1523

The UN Statistics Division (UNSD), in collaboration with OISC, will host a VNR Data Lab during the HLPF 2025 to spotlight country experiences in integrating innovative data sources into Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Building on insights from recent global workshops on expanding SDG data sources, the session responds to the growing need to share best practices in using non-traditional data for SDG monitoring and reporting. Traditional data collection faces persistent challenges such as time lags, high costs, and limited disaggregation—especially for marginalized populations. Innovative sources like satellite imagery, mobile phone data, social media analytics, and citizen-generated data offer opportunities to bridge these gaps, improving the timeliness, granularity, and inclusiveness of VNRs.

The Data Lab aims to facilitate peer learning among countries presenting VNRs at the 2025 HLPF. Through practical examples, discussion of methodologies, and exchange implementation challenges, the session will support efforts to improve the quality, coverage, and effectiveness of data used in SDG reporting.

Agenda

- **Welcome remarks:** Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division
- **Country experiences presentations:** Integrating innovative data sources into VNRs

Moderator: Mr. Daniel Eshetie, Statistician, SDG Monitoring Section, UNSD

- Ghana: *Innovations for SDGs Monitoring and Ghana 2025 VNR*, Dr. Alhassan Iddrisu, Government Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service
- Ethiopia: *Towards an Integrated SDG Data Ecosystem in Ethiopia: Leveraging the Goal Tracker*, Habtamu Takele, VNR coordinator, Ministry of Planning and Development



VNR LABS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

- Switzerland: Samira Keller, Scientific Officer, Team 2030 Agenda, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
 - UAE: *The Road to 2026: UAE's Collaborative Framework for SDG Reporting*, Ruaa Al Shehhi, Senior Research Analyst, UAE SDGs Secretariat
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- **Panel discussion and Q&A**
 - **Closing summary and remarks: UNSD**