



ECLAC Community of Practice of Caribbean countries presenting their Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020

Date: 10 March 2020

Participants: Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and ECLAC.

Goal: This community of practice is an informal space for exchange among peers and sharing of good practices with regards to SDG reporting in general and the VNR in particular; and aims to provide a space to communicate regularly with peers in preparation for VNRs.

Timeline of activities in support for VNR preparation:

1. Monthly community of practice calls (see attachment)
2. Regional workshop organized by ECLAC (3-4 February 2020 in Santiago, Chile).
3. HLPF 2020 in New York (7-16 July 2020)

Key Messages

- ECLAC: The results of the regional VNR workshop which took place on 3-4 February in Santiago, Chile were shared. Very positive feedback, countries appreciate and value peer-learning space. Session on civil society engagement with suggestion to consider them as a source of expertise and contribution in different stages of the VNR process. The need to be strategic with stakeholder engagement, such as doing a stakeholder mapping to identify actors, champions, incentives and challenges, and identifying various phases of engagement for a more in-depth and meaningful engagement. The discussion of what entails a "second generation" VNRs, not only a snapshot of the current state of implementation, but as part of a national implementation strategy, over time.
- Trinidad and Tobago: with regards to stakeholder engagement, 30 private interviews to different groups from private sector and civil society; 4 large workshops with 40-60 participants, good information sharing exercise; this week will share a SDG survey on various aspects, such as engagement of multiple stakeholders; different focus groups with youth, women, trade unions and local authorities; in terms of selecting the stakeholders, as inclusive as possible; the Government has a lot of public policies in place, see how those are perceived on the ground; identify areas of good practices, sometimes by civil society, sometimes in collaboration with the private sector; both quantitative and qualitative data during engagement when possible.
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines: will start stakeholder engagement at the end of the month; looking at existing government strategies and their stakeholder engagement practices to review how to engage stakeholders in VNR process.
- Trinidad and Tobago: asked stakeholders on their level of awareness on the VNR process and being engaged by the Government. Could not get all the information on the first round of consultations, so got back to different people to get more insights or extra data. Difficulty engaging youth groups, so working group in place to collect their inputs, which might coincide with school.
- ECLAC: It is very important to create partnerships and tapping into the momentum that the VNR process generates to build alliances beyond the VNR, for 2030 Agenda implementation.
- Trinidad and Tobago: engaging external consultants, such as a statistical consultant and one specialized in civil society



- Jamaica: under the theme “The Jamaica we want”, dialogues to engage various groups, invited very broadly and also conducted a school competition. Actions published on social media and broad mix of channels.
- ECLAC: some stakeholders complain if not included in the process, so a strategy is needed to pacify stakeholders and explain rationale for engagement of some groups over others. It is essential to not lose sight of the political message of the 2030 Agenda, leaving no one behind, engaging the right people.
- ECLAC: During the fourth Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, the SDG Gateway – a regional online platform developed by ECLAC in partnership with all entities of the United Nations Development System in Latin America and the Caribbean which contains information on SDGs, data, information resources and more, will be presented. Further, ECLAC will present its latest report on regional progress and scenarios in achieving the SDGs (see presentation attached).

Follow-Up Action

- All members of the community of practice are encouraged to share follow-up information and questions
- All members of the community of practice are encouraged to introduced themselves during the call, to ensure ECLAC captures their participation and inputs accurately
- Proposed topic for next call could be the link of the VNR process with the Samoa Pathway and the challenges of multi-island states.
- ECLAC will share through official channels any update with regards to Forum of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the Coronavirus pandemic.