

**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

---



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

## 2024 Sustainable Development Transformation Forum

**Session 1: 2024 VNRs – Reviewing progress for accelerating the  
SDGs**

Friedrich Soltau

Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

# High-level political forum on sustainable development (HLPF)

HLPF oversees a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level (2030 Agenda, para 82)

- Convenes annually in July under the auspices of ECOSOC & every 4 years under auspices of the GA (SDG Summit)
- Follow-up and review at the HLPF informed by an annual SDG Progress Report
- Carries out thematic reviews of progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, including cross-cutting issues.
- Reviews of national progress (VNRs)
- Adopts ministerial declaration (July) & political declaration under GA every 4 years (2027)



# Principles guiding voluntary national reviews (VNRs)

## Voluntary

- encourage reporting and include developed and developing countries

## State-led

- country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels

## Platform for partnerships

- including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders

## Learning experience

- facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, part of a process

## National circumstances

- reviews in accordance with national circumstances, policies and priorities, together with relevant partners

# The VNRs: Some Numbers

**366** VNRs have been conducted to date

- 22 in 2016, 43 in 2017, 46 in 2018, 47 in 2019, 47 in 2020, 42 in 2022, 44 in 2022, 39 in 2023 and 36 in 2024

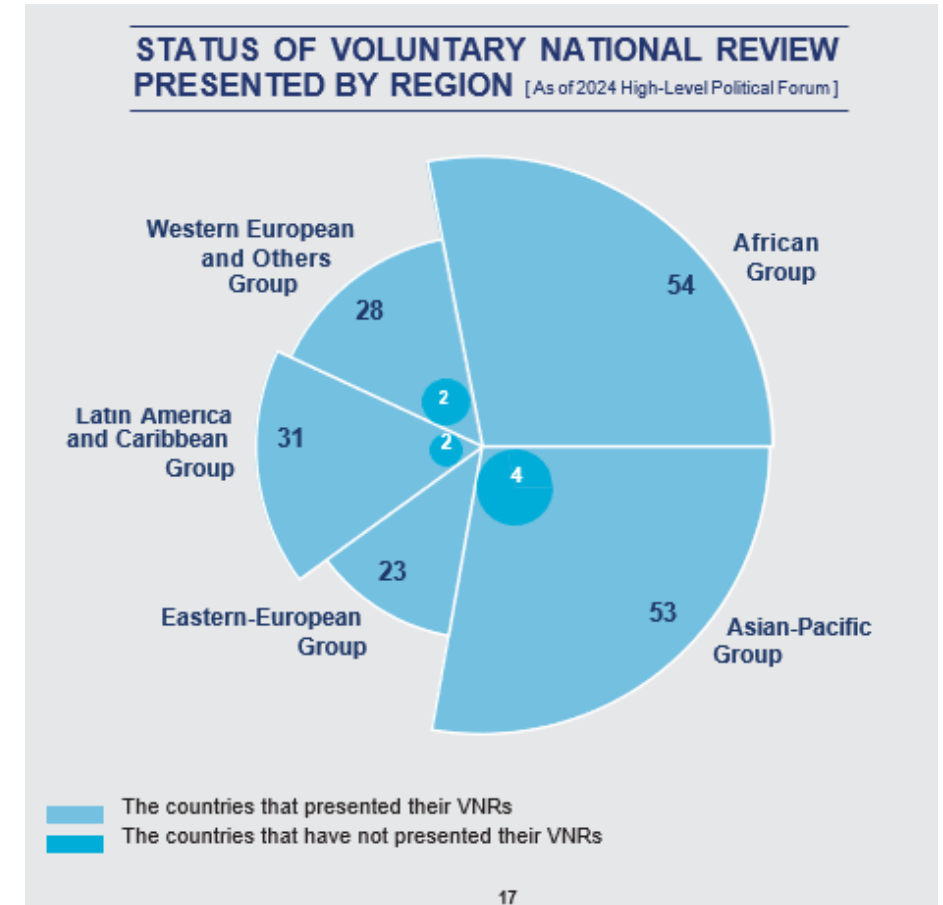
4

**190** countries have presented VNRs with **138** countries having conducted more than one VNR. The European Union conducted a voluntary review in 2023.

**7** countries have not yet presented a VNR

**53** countries have presented 1 VNR, **107** countries have presented 2 VNRs, **25** countries have 3 VNRs and **6** country have 4 VNRs.

**39** countries will present their VNRs in 2025.



Link to VNR Database: <https://hlpf.un.org/countries>

# 39 VNR presenters at the 2025 HLPF

5

Number of Times Presenting/Region	2 <sup>nd</sup> time (11)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Time (24)	4 <sup>th</sup> Time (4)
<b>Africa (10)</b>	Angola, Seychelles, South Africa	Eswatini, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Ghana, Lesotho, Nigeria, Sudan	
<b>Asia Pacific (16)</b>	Kyrgyzstan, Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, State of Palestine	Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iraq, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand	Indonesia, Philippines, Qatar
<b>Eastern Europe (3)</b>	Bulgaria	Belarus, Czech Republic,	
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean (6)</b>	Suriname	Bahamas, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Saint Lucia	Guatemala
<b>Western Europe and Other Groups (4)</b>	Israel, Malta	Finland, Germany,	

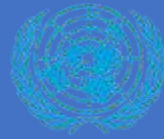
# VNRs - accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- Countries have embraced the VNRs – all regions, all levels of development
- Integration of SDGs into national & local policy frameworks
- Renewed interest in institutional arrangements for sustainable development – multi-stakeholder, science-policy interface, parliaments
- Helped engage broader set of stakeholders – towards whole-of-society approach
- Benefited from investment in data & SDG indicators



# Next steps for inclusive, evidence-based & transformative VNRs

- Strengthen analytical depth & policy focus for peer learning & policy insight
- Greater focus on transformative aspects of the 2030 Agenda including the means of implementation and policy coherence
- More fully consider the integrated and interdependent nature of the 2030 Agenda (synergies/tradeoffs)
- Strengthen the potential for learning, referring to previous reviews, with feedback loops to policy debates
- Strengthen participatory process at the country level, creating spaces for identifying priorities



**United  
Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# Thank you

**Mr. Friedrich Soltau**

**Chief, Intergovernmental Policy & Review Branch**

Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations

Email: [soltau\[at\]\[@un.org\]\(mailto:soltau@un.org\)](mailto:soltau@un.org)

---

22 October 2024