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HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
2018 High-Level Political Forum

• The 2018 session will take place 9-18 July at UN Headquarters in New York
• The theme is “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”
• 47 countries will present their voluntary national reviews
• Set of goals for the in-depth review of progress:
  - Draft programme: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018
HLPF Voluntary National Reviews

• **VNRs are state-led:**
  
  country driven reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels,

• **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
BENEFITS OF THE VNRS

• **CATALYZER** – the preparatory process provides a great chance for including all relevant stakeholders in the SDG implementation

• **STOCKTAKING** – for many countries the VNR has been a kick-starter for mapping existing policies and their compatibility with the SDGs, implementation gaps and data availability

• **COORDINATION** – VNR preparation requires a coordinated effort and for many countries the institutional arrangements made have proved useful also for SDG implementation

• **“WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT” APPROACH** – VNR provides a chance for obtaining buy-in in from civil servants and creating incentives for integrated policy-making and service delivery

• **AREAS FOR SUPPORT** – tool for identifying and communicating the areas in which the country requires additional support for implementation

• **COMMUNICATION TOOL** of the agenda to citizens, civil society, academia, sub-national and local governments etc.
UN Secretary-General’s voluntary common reporting guidelines

- **Help** countries structure VNR reports HLPF
- **Promote** comparability and consistency
- **Voluntary** nature of process - each country free to decide on scope of its review and format for presentation of findings
- **Updated** for 2018: analysis/explanation of policies, addressing “leaving no one behind” (LNOB), cover all SDGs
LESSONS LEARNED

• Designate coordinator(s) and the “penholder(s)”
• Engage a broad range of stakeholders early on
• Focus on quality, not quantity
• Include analysis, explanations, lessons learned & examples (minimize listing of strategies, etc.)
• Cover strengths and weaknesses
• Include a statistical annex, if suitable
• Identify areas where additional support is needed
• Spell out the next steps in implementation
Thank you!

We look forward to your participation!
For the latest information, visit
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018