



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

How the HLPF and the VNRs Support Inclusive Sustainable Development



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High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

The HLPF has a “central role in overseeing a network of follow-up and review processes at the global level”

(2030 Agenda paragraph 82)

The HLPF also aims to:

- ✓ enhance the integration of the Three dimensions of sustainable development
- ✓ provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on implementation and follow-up
- ✓ address new and emerging issues



2024 HLPF

2024 HLPF: 8-17 July 2024

Theme:

"Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions"

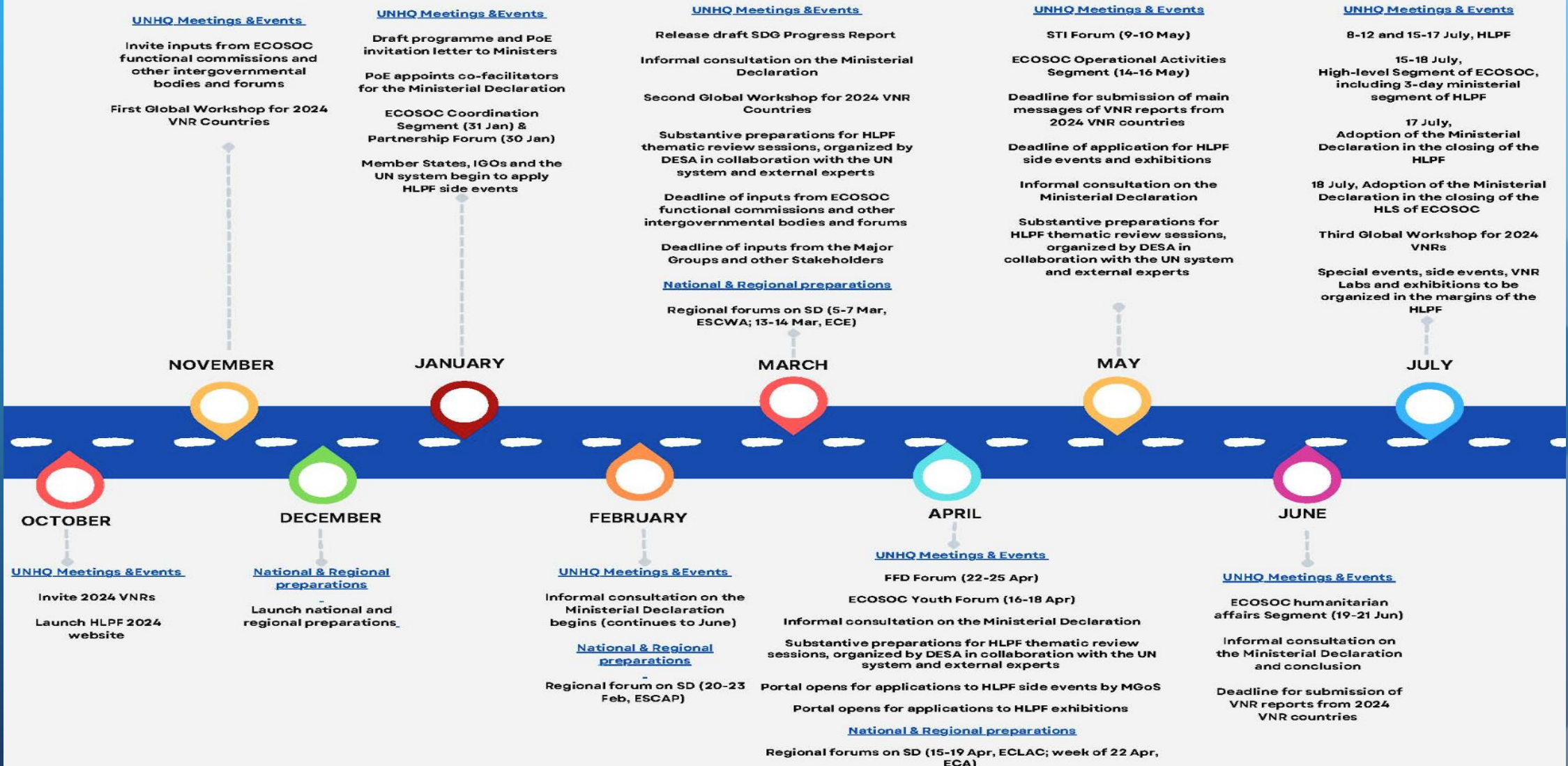
Review in-depth:

- **Goal 1** Poverty
- **Goal 2** Agriculture, food security and nutrition
- **Goal 13** Climate change
- **Goal 16** Peaceful and inclusive societies, justice for all
- **Goal 17** Means of implementation



An inclusive preparatory process

2024 HLPF TIMELINE



An overview of system-wide reporting to the HLPF

Annual Secretary-General's Progress Report



Available in
all 6
languages

The SDG Report 2023 and Progress Chart



Available in
all 6
languages

Global Sustainable Development Report 2023



<https://hlpf.un.org/2024/documentation>

Annual Synthesis Report



Available in
all 6
languages

Major Groups and other Stakeholders

Major Groups (9)

Business and Industry Major Group

Major Group for Children and Youth

Farmers Major Group

Indigenous Peoples Major Group

Local Authorities Major Group

Non-Governmental Organization Major Group

Scientific and Technological Community Major Group

Women's Major Group

Workers and Trade Unions Major Group

Stakeholder Groups (12)

Person with Disabilities Stakeholder Group

Volunteers Stakeholders Group

Stakeholder Group on Ageing

Education and Academia Stakeholder Group

Civil Society Financing for Development Group

Sendai Group (Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism)

Together 2030

LGBTI Stakeholder Group

Stakeholder Group for Communities
Discriminated on Work and Descent

Asia Pacific Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

Africa Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

ECE Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism

From the SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future

The General Assembly convened the **SDG Summit** on **18 and 19 September 2023**, where heads of State reconfirmed their commitment to the 2030 Agenda with the adoption of the **Political Declaration** and announced new initiatives to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

On **22 September 2024**, at the opening of the Summit of the Future, the **Pact for the Future** was adopted by consensus by UN Member States, along with its annexes, the **Declaration on Future Generations** and the **Global Digital Compact**.



Six transitions to deliver the SDGs

Transformative entry points - or key transitions - that can have **catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs** and an outsized determinant impact for achieving the Goals:

- (1) Food systems**
- (2) Energy access and affordability**
- (3) Digital connectivity**
- (4) Education**
- (5) Jobs and social protection**
- (6) Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution**

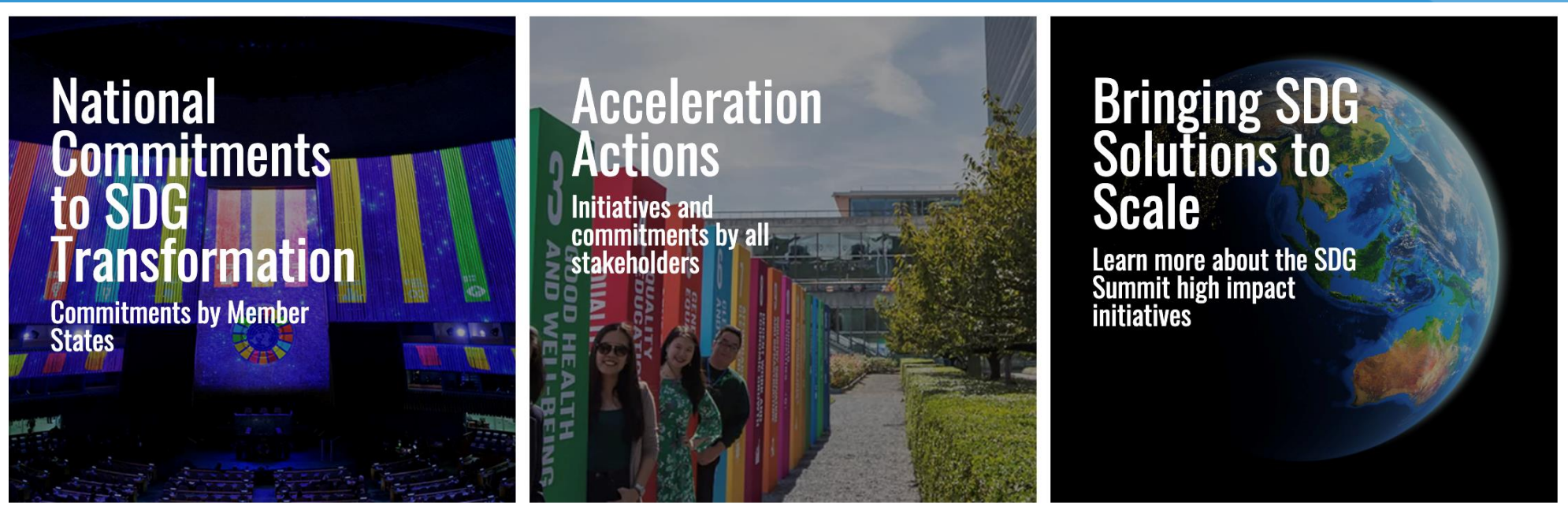




How can we get the SDGs back on track using the six transitions?

- **Conceptualization**: identifying interlinkages and pathways
- **Contextualization**: localizing and integrating interlinkages in a holistic way
- **Operationalization**: formalizing interlinkages and putting synergies into practice
- **Valuation**: utilizing and harmonizing systems of measurement and prioritization

SDG Summit: Acceleration and Accountability Platform



<https://www.un.org/en/sdg-summit-2023/page/transformation-action>

Pact for the Future

1. Sustainable development and financing for development
2. International Peace and Security
3. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation
4. Youth and Future Generations
5. Transforming global governance

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Global Digital Compact

A comprehensive framework for global governance of digital technology and artificial intelligence

**“Networked
multilateralism”
to leave no one
behind**

Join the Compact

Turning the Global Digital Compact into action requires a global effort. Thousands of people and organizations contributed to the elaboration of the Compact.

<https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/en>

Voluntary National Reviews: What can we learn from them?



VNRs: by the 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

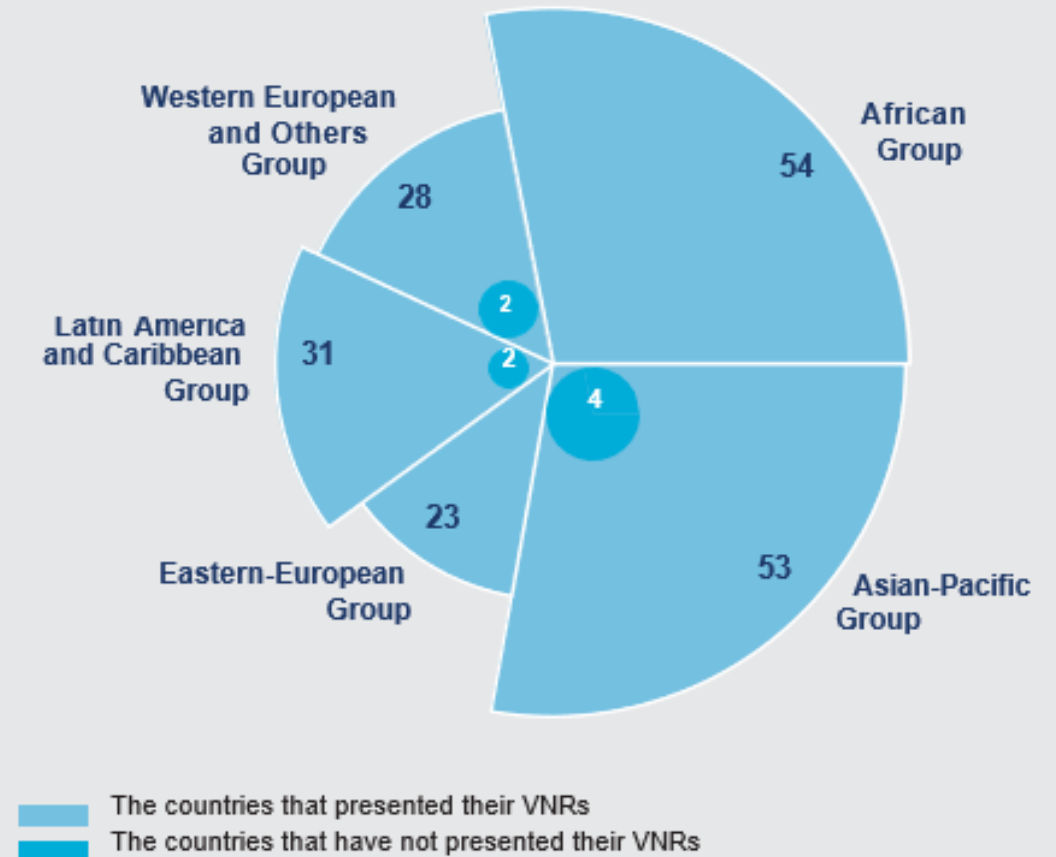
191 countries have presented VNRs with **138** countries having conducted more than one VNR. The ¹⁴European Union conducted a voluntary review in 2023.

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.

**STATUS OF VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW
PRESENTED BY REGION** [As of 2024 High-Level Political Forum]



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

What can the 2024 VNRs tell us about progress towards the SDGs?

Advancements focused on:

- Economic development and resilience
- Social inclusion and human rights
- Governance and institutional reforms
- Innovating financing and partnerships to achieve the SDGs

Prioritized themes included:

- Decent Jobs and Social Protection
- Food System Transformation
- Transformation of Health and Education
- Sustainable and Resilient Urbanization
- Gender Equality
- Climate Action
- Digital Transformation and Data Management

Parliamentary input over time



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Repeat VNRs show
growing inclusion of
parliament

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2023	2024
Austria					No			Yes
Azerbaijan		No		No			Yes	Yes
Chad				Yes		Yes		Yes
Costa Rica		Yes			No			Yes
Ecuador			No		No			Yes
Georgia	No				No			Yes
Kenya		n/a			Yes			Yes
Libya					No			Yes
Sierra Leone	Yes			No		Yes		Yes
South Sudan								Yes
Uganda	Yes				Yes			Yes
Zimbabwe		No				Yes		Yes

Secretary-General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for VNRs

- 1. Opening Statement**
- 2. Highlights**
- 3. Introduction**
- 4. Methodology and process for preparation of the review**
- 5. Policy and enabling environment**
 - a) Ensuring ownership of the SDGs**
 - b) Integrating the SDGs in national frameworks**
 - c) Integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development**
 - d) Leaving no one behind**
 - e) Institutional mechanisms**
 - f) Systemic issues and transformative actions**
- 6. Progress on Goals and targets and evaluation of policies and measures**
- 7. New and emerging challenges**
- 8. Means of implementation**
- 9. Conclusions and next steps**
- 10. Annexes**



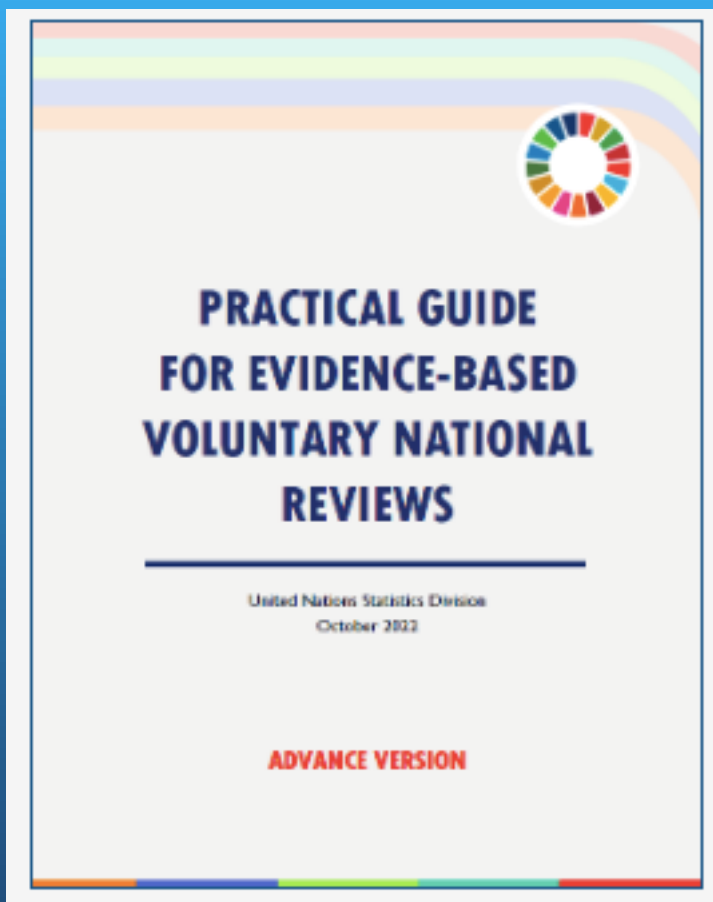
Updates in 2024: a new generation of VNRs

- Shift from assessment of current situations to understanding and analyzing the root causes of challenges
- Foster a culture of evaluation and learning that informs broader policy actions
- Initiate processes to identify obstacles and derive lessons from past VNRs
- Promote the collection and analysis of disaggregated data to inform VNR processes and track progress, especially for marginalized populations
- Enhance engagement from academic institutions and a broader range of stakeholders in the VNR process

Updates in 2024: a new generation of VNRs

- Integrate Voluntary Local Reviews and regional frameworks and contexts, to better position local and regional governments in evaluating and promoting SDG implementation
- Align the Means of Implementation with the 7 action areas of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- Reference previous VNRs to assess progress and identify areas for improvement
- Create feedback loops at national and subnational levels to ensure follow-up and implementation once the VNR has been presented

Data and valuation systems



Welcome to the Open SDG Data Hub

<https://unstats.un.org/SDGs/data4vnrs>

<https://unstats-undesa.opendata.arcgis.com>

Database of tools and the repository of VNRs



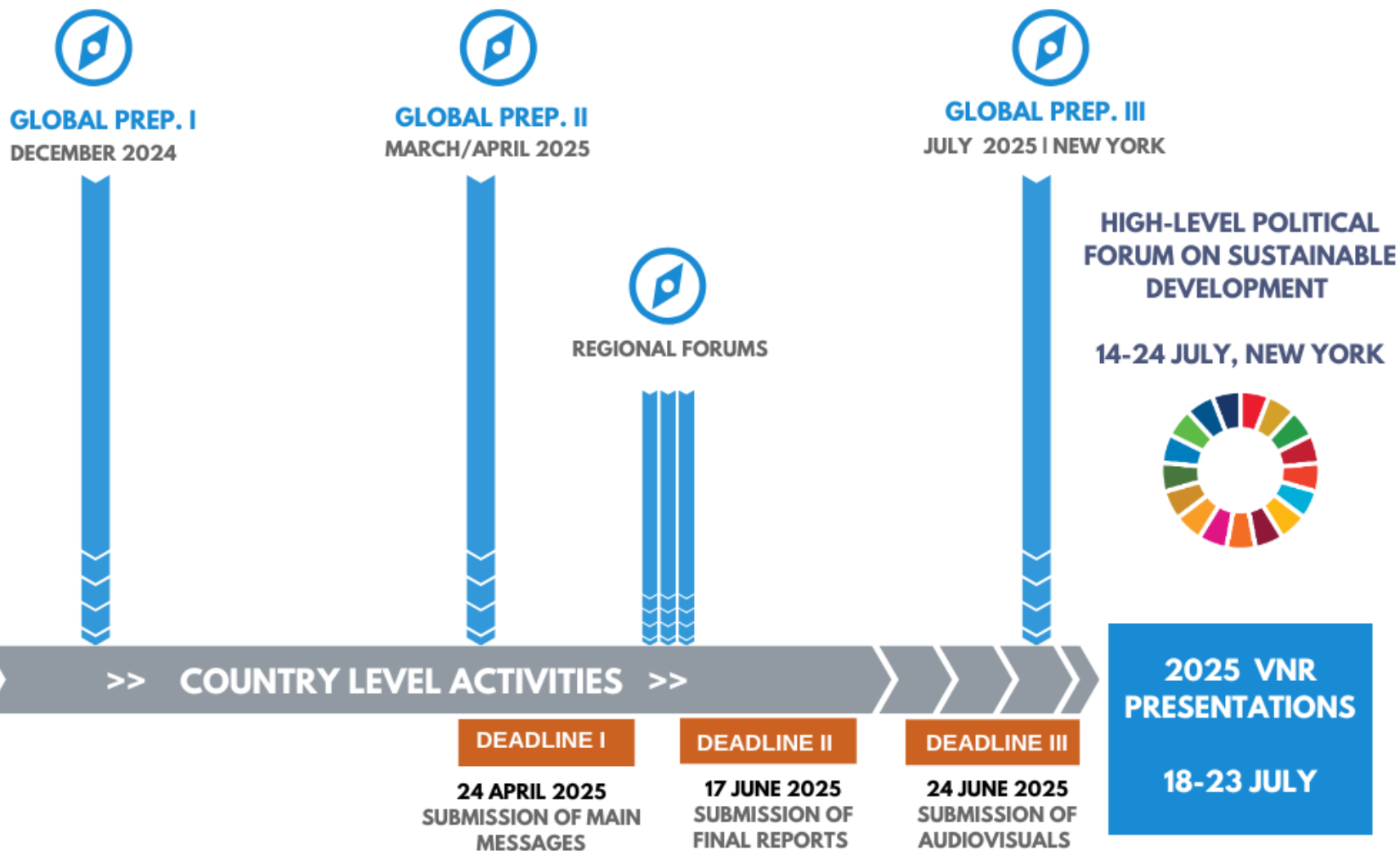
Database of all VNR reports
(366 entries):
<https://hlpf.un.org/countries>

Tools, lessons, best practices
(260 entries):
<https://hlpf.un.org/tools>

39 VNR presenters at the 2025 HLPF

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

TIMELINE FOR 2025 VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS



THANK YOU

