Virtual VNR lab: Looking forward:
Recent innovations in institutional arrangements for SDG implementation

15 July 2022, 8:00-9:00 am (Eastern Daylight Time, New York)

<u>Concept note</u>

<u>Organized by</u>: Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

<u>Description</u>: This VNR lab will take stock of recent innovations in institutional arrangements for SDG implementation put in place by countries. The lab invites countries to share information on changes made to their institutional arrangements since their last VNRs, and share experiences and lessons about the effectiveness of those changes. Given the challenges facing national institutions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the lab will also be an occasion to share experiences on the adjustments made during the past two years to allow institutions to continue to function, for instance in relation to policy coordination and integration, SDG planning, SDG implementation, and monitoring and implementation. Given the differences in country contexts, institutional structures and challenges, institutional approaches vary significantly across countries. Nonetheless, there are common elements to consider and good practices that countries can share, such as for example the need to avoid working in silos. Comparing experiences across countries can also be helpful to assess the strengths and weaknesses of specific institutional arrangements and identify opportunities for their enhancement in specific contexts.

<u>Guiding questions</u>:

- What changes were made by countries to their institutional arrangements since their last VNRs and how effective are those changes?

- What are strategies to make institutional arrangements more resilient and agile, not only against COVID-19 but also against potential future shocks?

- What are successful examples of effective policy coordination and integration that have been put in place in countries?

<u>Format</u>: The Lab will last for 1 hour and will be held virtually on Zoom. It will be an interactive dialogue with five speakers who will make short initial interventions (approximately 5 minutes). A moderated open discussion will follow, based on the questions presented above. Speakers are invited to address questions and comments in short and focused responses. Use of PowerPoint presentations is discouraged. The VNR lab will take place under the Chatham House Rule to allow for candid discussions. This also applies to the use of social media during the event.

<u>Language</u>: The VNR lab will take place in English only.