



VNR Data Lab:

Beyond Numbers: Strengthening VNRs with citizen engagement and qualitative insights *Country spotlight*

Thursday, 11 July 2024 | 9:00-10:00 am (virtual) | [Registration](#)

The UN Statistics Division (UNSD) and PARIS21 will co-host a VNR data lab at the HLPF 2024, providing a platform to showcase country experiences in utilizing qualitative data and engaging citizens in the VNR data process. Recognizing the critical role of reliable data in evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), alternative data sources, such as citizen-generated data or qualitative data can address challenges such as data gaps, timeliness, and disaggregation, which often constrain comprehensive SDG monitoring and the breadth of analysis for VNRs. By integrating perspectives and narratives of citizens and communities into VNRs, governments can enhance inclusivity and capture the nuanced experiences of stakeholders, contributing to a more holistic assessment of SDG progress. This approach not only upholds methodological rigor but also facilitates the exploration of areas where progress may have stagnated or regressed, particularly among marginalized groups. The VNR data lab aims to showcase good practices in integrating qualitative data and citizen data engagement processes, highlight the utility of qualitative narratives for SDG monitoring, and foster peer learning among countries preparing VNRs.

Agenda

- **Welcome remarks:** Ms. Yongyi Min, Chief, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division
- **Country experience presentations (2024 VNR presenters): Qualitative data and citizen data engagement**

Moderator: Ms. Heather Page, Statistician, SDG Monitoring Section, UN Statistics Division

a) Kenya: Dr. Macdonald George Obudho, Director General, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and Florence Syevuo, Director, SDGs Kenya Forum

b) Mexico: Ana Montaña Medina, General Director- Sustainable Development Actions Oversight, Secretary of Economy

- **Panel discussion and Q&A**
- **Closing summary and remarks:** Ms. Liliana Suchodolska, Policy Analyst, Inclusive Data Ecosystems, PARIS21



Discussion questions for panelists

1. *How have your respective countries integrated citizen-generated data or qualitative data into the VNR process, and what challenges or successes have you encountered?*
2. *Could you share examples of how citizens' narratives have enriched the understanding of SDG progress in your VNRs and influenced (or will influence) policymaking decisions?*
3. *What strategies have you employed to ensure the credibility and reliability of alternative and qualitative data, particularly in contexts where traditional statistical methods may be limited? How has the National Statistical Office been involved and how do you see the incorporation of this type of data and citizen engagement in overall SDG monitoring going forward?*
4. *In what ways has the inclusion of citizen-generated data (both qualitative and quantitative) enhanced inclusivity and captured the perspectives of marginalized groups in your VNRs?*
5. *How do you navigate the balance between qualitative insights and quantitative indicators in your VNRs (or complementary reporting) to provide a comprehensive assessment of SDG implementation?*
6. *Looking ahead, what recommendations would you offer to other countries seeking to integrate qualitative data and narratives effectively into their VNRs and enhance citizen engagement for more robust SDG monitoring and policymaking?*