Summary

VNR Lab "Analyzing VNRs- What did we learn so far?"
Tuesday 7 July 2020, 12:30 to 2:00 PM
Virtual event

The Lab was organized by DESA EAPD/Development Policy Branch and included speakers from the Committee for Development Policy, the UN system, civil society and from selected countries.

Building on the work that the United Nations Committee for Development Policy (CDP) has done on VNRs since 2017, the Lab reflected on what we have learnt so far about analyzing the VNRs. The concept of "Leaving no one behind (LNOB)" was noted as the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).. Among other findings, the Lab noted that very few VNRs describe adequate strategies for implementing LNOB. While most countries acknowledge it, VNRs often remain vague on how to implement it in practice. Most address children and youth, disabled, women and the elderly. Over a half of countries mention refugeed and migrants but fewer countries address ethnic/religious/racial groups, and indigenous groups. Furthermore, regarding inequalities, it was noted that several countries succeeded the increasing the income of the bottom 40% more than the national average.

Participants also noted that there has been increased national ownership and coverage of all SDGs and more alignment with National Development Plans. On the other side, participants noted that VNRs need to be more interactive for mutual learning and exchange. Other lessons leant include that the majority of countries now provide space for formal stakeholder engagement, and most countries have provided a baseline of data. More countries refer to 'leaving no one behind' but actual targeted support is still insufficient.

The discussion also stressed the need to use the expertise from the evaluation community and engage with gender machineries to provide evidence for advocacy. Furthermore, more evaluation of national gender policies plans and strategies need to feed into VNRs processes .

The Lab heard concrete examples of emerging good practice from selected Member States, including the importance of data disaggregation and of going beyond data presentation, to monitoring systems that ensure accountability for implementing LNOB, as well as the development of a welfare state with a Marshall Plan against poverty to ensure LNOB. The Lab also discussed how these practices can be used for mutual learning for implementing the 2030 Agenda.