



# INTEGRATED POLICY PRACTITIONERS' NETWORK

(IPPN)

*Connecting knowledge and practitioners to lead integrated approaches to the SDGs*

**IPPN Knowledge Café:  
UN Support to Rights-based Voluntary National Reviews**

Wednesday, 14 September 2022

Co-organized by UNDP, OHCHR, ILO, DCO, and UN Women, this IPPN Knowledge Café seeks to:

- ✓ further dissemination and use of the Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews: Operational Common Approach Guidance Note
- ✓ stimulate discussion around opportunities for UN support to Member States in developing rights-based VNRs

# Presenting the Guidance Note

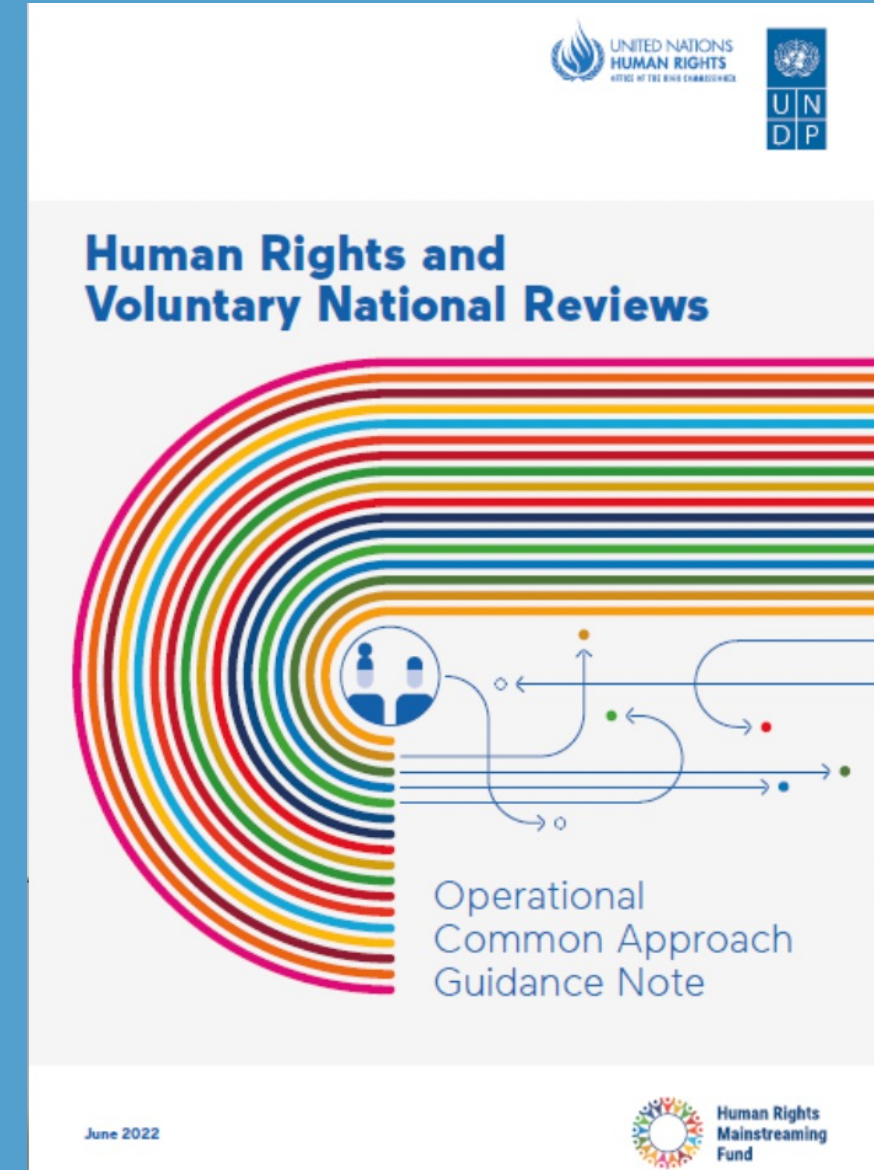
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# Human Rights and Voluntary National Reviews: Operational Common Approach Guidance Note

- ❖ New practical tool provides step-by-step guidance to support Member States in integrating human rights into the development of Voluntary National Reviews on the 2030 Agenda.



# Why was this guidance developed?

- Complementary resource to the regularly updated UN DESA Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews and the UN Secretary-General's Voluntary Common Reporting Guidelines for Member States.
- Developed to further articulate the entry points for integrating human rights into VNR processes
- Provide practical guidance for Member States to reap the benefits of complementarity between VNRs and the work of the global and regional human rights systems to deliver on the 2030 Agenda and advance human rights

# What is included in the guidance?

- Key guiding international policies and frameworks on human rights and sustainable development
- Benefits of leveraging the synergies across these complementarity agendas
- An overview of how the human rights system can contribute to VNR processes and vice-versa
- Country examples of how VNRs have benefitted from a human rights approach
- Step-by-step guidance with checklists, outlining when and how a human rights approach can be integrated in VNR processes
- Related resources and tools

## ① Preparation and planning

The **VNR Handbook** recommends developing a VNR plan or roadmap at an early stage in the process of developing the review.<sup>36</sup> It will be helpful at the outset to integrate human rights considerations, including a gender perspective, as part of the plan to develop the VNR. This will be the best way of ensuring the full benefits of a human rights-based approach, rather than adding references to human rights at a later stage. It will also be helpful to involve human rights actors, such as the national human rights institution and civil society, at an early stage to identify areas of common interest.

Below you will find a list of suggested actions that can help to ensure the inclusion of relevant human rights considerations in the VNR process and report.

- ☐ Identify key issues and priorities for discussion to inform the development of the VNR.
- ☐ Budget sufficient time and resources to complete the VNR. Successful VNRs generally take about a year and have the budget to conduct effective consultation.
- ☐ When developing the VNR roadmap, consider methods and timelines to engage key institutional partners working on human rights, such as the NHRI, equality bodies and similar.
- ☐ Make contact with the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up, or with the government body responsible for engagement with international and regional human rights bodies and inform them about the process and key entry points for engagement.
- ☐ Identify synergies with existing human rights frameworks, such as national human rights action plans, sectoral plans on human rights-related issues, anti-discrimination legislation and equality initiatives.
- ☐ Locate the most recent human rights reports and inputs submitted by the state to international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as the reports and recommendations issued by these mechanisms. This should include using the **UPR third cycle** tools and consider what data, guidance and analysis could be integrated in the VNR. [Click here](#) for all international reports and recommendations pertaining to each state. Often regional human rights mechanisms will be equally important, so it will be important to also identify recommendations or judgments from these.
- ☐ Identify **overlaps** between issues contained in human rights reports, recommendations from human rights bodies, and the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.
- ☐ Where there is supporting data not fully included in human rights reports (including qualitative data) identify the sources and obtain copies.
- ☐ Identify any key data gaps and prepare a plan of how to address them. Some of these gaps could be addressed using data and analysis generated by the human rights mechanisms.
- ☐ Engage with the UN country team (UNCT) and seek support from OHCHR through their country or regional presences, as relevant.
- ☐ Consider whether to align the VNR with the Universal Periodic Review process, to maximize efficiency in both.

### PREPARATION AND PLANNING: TOOLS AND RESOURCES

UN DESA, [Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum for sustainable development \(HLPF\)](#), 2022.

UN DESA, [Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews](#), 2022.

UN DESA, [Tools Supporting Voluntary National Review Processes](#), (webpage).

UN Committee for Development Policy, [The 2020 VNRs: points for reflection in preparation for the 2021 reviews](#), 2021.

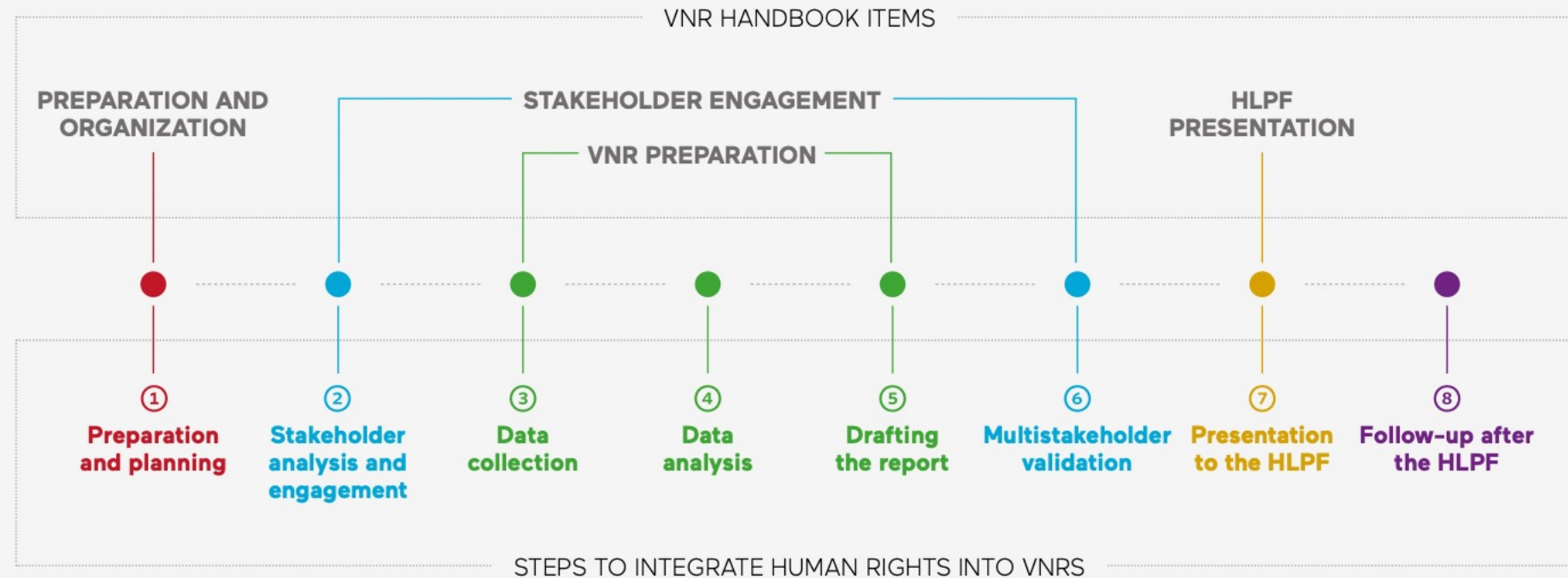
UN OHCHR, [Universal Human Rights Index](#), (webpage).

UN OHCHR, UNDP, UNDOC, [Repository of UN good practices on how the UPR supports sustainable development](#), 2022.

Danish Institute for Human Rights, [The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals](#), (webpage).

Christophe Golay, [#ESCR and #SDGs: Practical manual on the role of United Nations human rights mechanisms in monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals that seek to realize economy, social and cultural rights](#), Geneva Academy, 2020.

# Eight steps towards developing a VNR that integrates human rights



# Illustrative country examples

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Costa Rica – Integration of UPR recommendations into goals and targets for SDG implementation

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Dominican Republic – Linking human rights follow-up to the SDGs

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Mongolia – Identifying those most at risk of being left behind and including their views in the VNR

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& more!



# What's next?

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- The guidance is available online in English and forthcoming in Spanish and French – support us with dissemination and its use
- It will be included in the next VNR Handbook, the SDG Knowledge Hub, and the VNR Platform
- Let us know how it helps & where it can be improved
- Ensure further UN support through the Call to Action
- Continue this exchange of experiences and peer support



PALESTINIAN NATIONAL VOLUNTARY REVIEW  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA  
JUNE 2018

Integrated Policy  
Practitioners' Network  
(IPPN) Knowledge Café:

UN Common Operational  
Approach to Human Rights  
and Voluntary National  
Reviews

14 September 2022

Inas Margieh, Programme Coordinator  
UN Women, Palestine



UN Women's support to the State of Palestine's National Voluntary Review:  
A Practical Experience in Mainstreaming Gender Quality

# Mainstreaming Gender in the State of Palestine's VNR

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- Palestine submitted its first VNR to the HLPF in June 2018, the second VNR will be submitted in 2024.
- UN Women launched a strategic partnership with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as the government lead in the national SDG architecture. UN Women has provided support to the State of Palestine, which included the creation of a space for multi-stakeholder dialogue and engagement during the preparation of the initial VNR, with focus on Goal 5 on Gender Equality and gender targets across the other 16 goals.
- The stakeholder engagement space brought together government officials from ministries – including Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Prime Minister's Office, the Central Bureau of Statistics, among others, and CSO representatives, mainly those representing the furthest left behind groups of women and girls in the context of Palestine.
- A collective gender responsive review was conducted with focus on the rights, priorities and needs of the furthest left behind groups of women and girls in Palestine.
- Involving the academia and national statistical bureau in discussions with women's civil society on the VNR with the purpose to identify data gaps and address them.
- Supporting civil society in preparing its shadow report and utilizing it in advocacy and policy change opportunities.

# VNR development as a strategic opportunity for enhancing the implementation of national GEWE commitments

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## Best practices:

- The aim of the review was to identify data gaps in relation to SDG gender indicators, and to provide an analytical space on gender gaps, with the aim to support formulating recommendations for national action in line with international frameworks (CEDAW, Beijing DPfA, GEF ACs, etc.).
- Establishing an ongoing dialogue between the government and representatives of furthest behind groups of women and girls for accelerating progress and achieve national priorities, ensures that no one is left behind in national planning and sustainable development efforts.
- Adopting a 'people centered approach', where field-level dialogues were organized in remote and marginalized communities on gender and women empowerment priorities across the SDGs, with the aim to provide concrete observations and recommendations for the implementation of the gender equality in the SDG agenda in Palestine and present recommendations for inclusion in the VNR and subsequent policy dialogues with decision makers and duty bearers.
- Ensuring the voices of the furthest left behind groups in global best practices. UN Women developed a guidance note on the preparation of Gender Responsive VNRs, which took the field experience in Palestine and other country contexts as case studies and best practices, ensuring a bottom-up strategic approach to the development of VNRs.

## Not without some challenges and learning!

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- Gender data availability and analysis on furthest left behind groups is essential for ensuring the development of gender sensitive VNRs
- Strengthening linkages with women's rights and human rights frameworks, is important in developing a comprehensive VNR – example/ CEDAW reporting, Beijing, etc., where data could be cross-referenced and used.
- New and innovative ways of working, focusing on a people centered agenda and engaging communities, women, men, girls, boys of all ages.
- Creating spaces for dialogues among stakeholders in following up on the VNRs; looking at the VNR development as a strategic opportunity, not as standalone reporting, and to prioritize the follow-up on the VNR as a leverage for pushing the implementation of national GEWE commitments.



#### **TARGET 5.5** **ENSURE FULL PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING**

Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

*Government institutions need to focus on integrating the needs and priorities of women, which needs to be established on a strong political will and capable institutions, with the aim of achieving social change for women in Palestine. The process of connecting the two parties – people and the government in any project, program or even at the level of activity will contribute to the process of real change.*

*Women's needs and priorities in the Palestinian Society – report 2021*

*"Societal and cultural norms challenge women's ownership of agricultural land. While men own the land, women are responsible for its cultivation and care. My main challenge is the requirements of modern agriculture and their absence for women and families".*



#### **TARGET 5.1**

#### **END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**

End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.

*"There are demands for us as women, but unfortunately there is no channel through which officials can be addressed, and this is very important for government institutions to reconsider channels of communication with citizens and reflect their needs in the planning process."*



#### **TARGET 5.7**

#### **EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES, PROPERTY OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

*"The main obstacle to women's work in agriculture is the requirements of modern agriculture due to their need for funds that are difficult for women to save, as well as their reproductive role as well as their role in agriculture."*



#### **TARGET 5.8**

#### **PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN THROUGH TECHNOLOGY**

Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.

**Amplifying the voices of furthest left behind women at the local community level as a central approach to identify their needs and participate in implementing the 2030 Agenda and leaving no one behind.**





*“Our suffering is great, we have no water, no electricity, no transportation, and this is the duty of the government to provide us with it as citizens, and these are priorities and fundamentals, and we suffer from the harassment of the occupation and settlers. We must buy water at our expense from Hebron, and yet they fire at the tanks to empty the water”.*



هيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة

رويدة ربيعي - مسافر يطا - الخليل

تم إصدار هذه البطاقات ضمن جهود تعزيز إدماج أولويات النوع الاجتماعي في تطبيق أهداف التنمية المستدامة في فلسطين.

هيئة الأمم المتحدة للمرأة / أمجد جمل

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