

Opening Message
by **H.E. Ms. Paula Narváez, President of ECOSOC,**
Permanent Representative of Chile to the UN

First Global VNR Workshop for 2024 VNRs
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Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the First Global Workshop for the Voluntary National Reviews to be presented at the 2024 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

On behalf of ECOSOC, I thank your governments for stepping up to present a Voluntary National Review next year. I am pleased with the high level of interest shown by member States.

No fewer than 17 countries from Africa are reporting this year. In football terms, this workshop is a home game!

Dear participants,

Your presence at today's Workshop is a testament of each country's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

We are now at the midway point towards the attainment of the SDGs. This time in history calls for us to take urgent, deliberate, and dedicated action towards the future.

That is why reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises, and the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions, is the core theme of next year's HLPF.

The VNRs provide a unique opportunity for countries to take stock of progress on the SDGs and to connect with this theme. This has been demonstrated since its inception, with myriad examples of policies and measures that can build a more inclusive and sustainable future for all.

But this moment also requires a sense of urgency and for countries to commit to bold, ambitious actions to accelerate SDG implementation. Such actions must be anchored in international solidarity and effective cooperation at all levels.

These commitments were reaffirmed by Heads of State and Government at the 2023 SDG Summit, when they adopted the Political Declaration to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and to uphold the principles enshrined in it.

Dear participants,

The VNRs should be inclusive. We have seen that more and more countries are putting in place measures for meaningful engagement of stakeholders. We applaud these efforts and must seek to continue this trend.

Several countries are conducting a second, third and even fourth VNR. This is particularly important to measure progress towards the 2030 Agenda and deepen the analysis of the impact of policy measures.

We welcome the big step taken by those of you that are presenting for the first time.

We are also keen to see evidence based and analytical reports, informed by data and statistics. And you may wish to highlight the efforts that your country has made to localize the 2030 Agenda.

All of you will enter a demanding and important process this year. My own country, Chile, has undertaken three VNRs so far, and each year, we are learning. I understand when you say that sometimes it can be challenging to get it right.

I assure you of my high esteem as you start your work. I am sorry for not being present with you. But not to worry, we will get to know each other next year in New York!

Before closing, allow me to extend thanks to UN DESA for organizing the programme and to UNECA for hosting this workshop. My sincere gratitude to the European Union for its generous financial support to make this Workshop possible.

I wish you good luck in our deliberation.

Thank you.