ECOSOC

Statement by H.E. Bob Rae (Canada)

President of the Economic and Social Council

First Global Workshop for 2025 VNR Countries

3 December 2024

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to join you virtually for this first Global Workshop for countries presenting their Voluntary National Reviews at the 2025 session of the HLPF.

I know that the conversations you will have will help shape and improve the preparation of your countries' voluntary national reviews.

The VNRs are critical tools to monitor progress achieved, but they also serve to share lessons learned, good practices, as well as gaps and challenges encountered.

I am pleased that the VNRs have achieved nearly universal participation. To date, 190 countries and the European Union have carried out reviews. Of those, 157 countries have prepared more than one review. That includes all the participants in this workshop.

As we look ahead to 2030, we need to ensure that the reviews are inclusive, and evidence based. Solid, up-to-date, and disaggregated

data is critical in this regard. Data can help us move from mere description to the identification of trends

It is important to ensure that the reviews follow a whole-of-society approach as meaningful stakeholder engagement processes bring about more substantive, credible, and actionable outcomes.

With progress on the SDGs off-track, we need to use all available means to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

I am pleased that this workshop brings together both national VNR focal points and representatives of national statistical offices.

High-level political commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs is critical. I therefore expect that all VNRs be presented at the HLPF at the highest possible level. I will be inviting your countries to be represented at the ministerial level or higher.

Thank you for your commitment to SDG implementation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

I wish you fruitful discussions and I look forward to seeing you in New York in July next year.

Thank you.