



Statement by H.E. Bob Rae (Canada)

President of the Economic and Social Council

Second Global Workshop for 2025 VNR countries (video message)

7 April 2025

Excellencies,
Dr. Jan-Niclas Gesenhues,
Dr. Bärbel Kofler,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

My warmest greetings to all of you.

I am very honoured to address you at the second Global Workshop for the 2025 VNR countries.

I want to extend my very real thanks to the Government of Germany for hosting this workshop in Berlin.

Your commitment to present a voluntary national review report at the High-Level Political Forum in July is commendable. It reflects your government's continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as well as the SDGs, despite the geopolitical uncertainties of today.

In these times when multilateralism and international cooperation are being questioned, and when conflict and climate change are destroying lives, it's important that we stay focused and even more important that we commit to doing more.

We have to follow-up and review our progress on the SDGs. As national VNR focal points, you hold significant responsibility.



The whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that are encouraged in the VNR process can benefit all citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

Civil society dialogue can offer new and important perspectives, even when it has been difficult to achieve as much progress on the Goals as we would all like.

As you finalize your reviews and headline messages, remember the 2030 Agenda's guiding principle: to deliver prosperity and peace for people, while protecting our planet, in full partnership.

I look forward to greeting you in New York in July, to hearing your VNR presentations at HLPF, and to discussing ways to strengthen our global partnership for a better future for everyone.

I hope to welcome many Minister-level representatives at the HLPF and showcasing our continued commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and beyond.

Wishing you all the very best in the completion of your reviews.

Thank you so much.