



# ECOSOC

United Nations Economic and Social Council

TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE LIVES

## **Third Global VNR Workshop**

**14 July, Pakistan House**

### **Opening remarks by the President of ECOSOC**

Your Excellency, Ambassador Lohdi  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Dear Colleagues,

At the outset, allow me to thank Ambassador Lohdi for her warm welcome here at the Pakistan House.

I am very pleased to see some familiar faces from the Bonn workshop. A few months ago, many of you were finalizing the first draft of your country's VNR report.

The main messages that you submitted in May already gave a glimpse of the breadth of experiences, lessons learned, best practices and challenges that you are showcasing in your reports.

I am truly looking forward to the presentation of your Voluntary National Reviews and would like to commend all of you for your hard work and efforts to prepare them.

Dear Colleagues,

I like to think of the VNRs as a treasure trove: taken together the VNR reports over the past four years showcase the state of implementation of the 2030 Agenda across the globe. There are many lessons on SDG implementation that we can draw from these reports - let's use this opportunity.

I strongly encourage you to ask questions during each other's VNR presentations, to engage in discussions in the hallways of the UN and to participate in the many peer learning opportunities that the HLPF provides, including the VNR Labs.

As you know, I have launched a Group of Friends on VNRs to ensure that the interactive discussions following your presentations are well informed. The Group is chaired by the Deputy Permanent Representative of Mexico and I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to our colleague Diego from the Permanent Mission of Mexico who has kindly accepted to moderate today's workshop.

I also encourage you to see the VNR presentation not as the finish line but rather as a critical milestone in a longer-term implementation process that needs to go beyond this year's High-level Political Forum. To this end, I invite you to think about follow-up actions to your VNRs and to use the Forum to reach out to potential partners to implement such actions.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that my country, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, will present a Voluntary National Review next year. The lessons that you shared in Bonn and that you will share here in New York over the next couple of days will certainly inspire the VNR process in my country.

I wish you best of luck for your presentations and look forward to fruitful deliberations.

Thank you.