



# REGIONAL FORUM

ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE UNECE REGION

13 – 14 MARCH 2024 | HYBRID EVENT | GENEVA & ONLINE

## SIDE EVENT CONCEPT NOTE

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### Event title

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Inclusive VNRs 2024: How can the VNR process enable diverse civil society perspectives on progress of the SDGs?

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### Background and Rationale

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This year, six UNECE countries showcase their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), prompting a crucial reflection midway through the 2030 agenda. Stakeholders play a pivotal role in evaluating achievements, offering insights, and shaping the narrative ahead.

This session provides a platform for discourse between Member States and Civil Society stakeholders, exploring progress, inclusivity in engagement, the right to participation and future SDG prospects within the national context of VNR countries.

Participants will reflect on how to strengthen broad participation in the VNR process and how this in turn influences a collective assessment of SDG progress, enabling a common understanding of gaps and defining necessary actions to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda.

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### Session objectives and expected outcomes

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The session will provide key insights into ways to enhance stakeholder participation in the VNR process across the ECE region and will aim to provide joint learning to enable stronger engagement of civil society groups in coming years. The session will also include discussion of useful accountability tools, such as the People's Scorecards, which allow for an independent comparative view on progress.

The learning from this session will aim to provide input for a further event on inclusive VNRs at the High Level Political Forum in New York in July.

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### Organizers

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**Lead organizers:** Action for Sustainable Development

**Contributors:** SDG Lens, SDG Watch Austria, Futuro en Comun (Spain), Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (Georgia).



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**Focal points:** Oli Henman

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## Agenda and Structure

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12 March 13:30-15:00

- *Welcome & Opening from Moderator (5 mins)*
- *First panel: Government representatives from VNR countries in ECE region (30 mins)*
- *Q&A (10 mins)*
- *Presentation of People's Scorecard (10 mins)*
- *Second Panel: Inputs from Civil Society coalitions in VNR countries- key recommendations (20 mins)*
- *Q&A (10 mins)*
- *Closing & next steps to the HLPF (5 mins)*

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## List of Panellists

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Speaker from Prime Minister's Office, Austria

Speaker TBC, Government of Spain

Speaker from Government of Georgia

Moderator Oli Henman, Action for Sustainable Development

Respondent from SDG Watch Austria

Respondent from Futuro en Comun

Respondent from Melano Tkabladze, Projects Manager at the Caucasus Environmental NGO Network (CENN)

Closing remarks from SDG Lens speaker

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## Sign-up / Registration Link

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*Zoom webinar link:*

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_i1OuCkTXQmWpR0Ew8kXxRg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_i1OuCkTXQmWpR0Ew8kXxRg)