

Follow-up and review of the Sustainable Development Goals 2019 Briefing for GCE Members

This is a reminder on the processes of follow up and review for the SDGs that happen at the High-Level Political Forum every year in New-York. Reviews are done nationally, regionally and globally. The full programme is already available [here](#).

National Reviews

The mechanism to track the progress on SDG implementation across all goals happens through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), including Goal 4.

GCE's 2016 briefing provides a broad guide to the VNR process and is available to download here in [English](#), [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Arabic](#) and [Portuguese](#).

This year, the GCE members' countries listed below are undergoing [Voluntary National Reviews](#). Member states in these countries are preparing official reports looking at the progress and efforts made to streamline implementation nationally. Civil society input is expected to be taken as part of the process of reviewing these documents, making it important for education civil society to engage. Governments are expected to finalise the main messages as part of the reviews by 17th May and submit their final official reports by 14th June ahead of the final sharing of the report at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July.

Africa	Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DR Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Erswatini (Swaziland), Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Tanzania
Asia Pacific	Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Pakistan, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu
Europe	United Kingdom
Latin America	Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala
MENA	Iraq

If you are already engaging with the VNR processes at the national level, please let us know through this [survey](#) in order for GCE to better coordinate our response and action in the run-up to the HLPF.

More information on the modalities of VNRs this year can be accessed in the official [Q&A for Voluntary National Reviews](#) at the 2019 HLPF. A [Synthesis of Voluntary National Reviews undertaken in 2018](#) is also available which provides both a record of the processes last year and an indication of what happens during such a process.

Regional Reviews

The national reviews are accompanied by a process of regional reviews. These cover all the countries in the particular region, not only VNR countries, and are anchored by the UN Regional Commissions. These are accompanied by CSO pre-forums in several regions. Please [let us know](#) if you attended these events.

- [Europe/ ECE](#): 21-22 March, Geneva
- [Asia Pacific/ ESCAP](#): 27-29 March, Bangkok
- [Western Asia-Middle East/ ESCWA](#): 09-11 April, Beirut
- [Africa/ ECA](#): 16-18 April, Morocco
- [Latin America/ ECLAC](#): 22-26 April, Santiago

Global Reviews

The High-Level Political Forum is the apex body for follow up, review and accountability globally where the results of the reviews taking place nationally, globally and thematically are shared. Education is at the centre of this year's theme, which is "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality".

The HLPF will be held from 09-18 July 2019, including a three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 16-18 July 2019. The meeting will include a process of sharing the voluntary national reviews and regional reviews, and discussing overall progress made. A call for proposals to host side events at the HLPF is also out. All information regarding the meeting itself can be found here: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

If you are planning to travel to New York for the HLPF, please let us know [here](#).

A cluster of six goals will be reviewed this year plus Goal 17 which are reviewed this year:

- Goal 4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.
- Goal 10. Reduce inequality within and among countries.
- Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
- Goal 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MgoS) have a participative space in the HLPF mechanisms. Members can attend meetings; have access to official information and documents; intervene in official meetings; submit documents; present written and oral contributions to the HLPF; and make recommendations on declarations that the HLPF adopts. They can also organise side events alongside the HLPF. Major Groups and Other Stakeholders have been asked to make official submissions into the process in the form of position papers on the theme of the HLPF. The [Education and Academia Stakeholder Group \(EASG\)](#) has submitted his position paper which you can download [here](#). The Education 2030 Steering Committee also submitted [its paper](#).

How can you participate?

At the national level

If you are based in one of the VNR countries and you are not already part of the process nationally, you are strongly advised to contact the national VNR Focal Point for the process to ensure that the education voice is included in the process of review. The contact details for the Focal Points (when available) are [listed here](#).

For any support in the process, please contact [Vernor](#).

At the regional and global levels

In many countries, the official process is not as transparent as it should be, and civil society works at producing its own alternate report. You can read more about VNR reporting [here](#), it will give you some guidelines into how to produce your civil society report. In addition, GCE and its regional members are working SDG4 reports - please [liaise with us](#) to know more and participate. We also encourage you strongly to fill in our [survey](#) to inform our global report.

If your organisation wishes to get more closely involved in the HLPF mechanisms, we encourage you to [join the EASG](#). Kindly read the applicants' criteria before applying.