

Check against delivery

2021 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)
VNR Lab on migration, 12 July 2021, 13.00-14.30 EDT

Key take-away messages

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Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

There is no way I can do justice to the richness of the presentations we have just heard in the few minutes that I have. Rather, let me focus on the work that lies ahead of us.

But first, allow me to stress the timeliness of this event.

This year's HLPF is reviewing SDGs that are at heart of the migration and development nexus. The VNRs this year are an excellent opportunity to demonstrate those linkages.

Also, we are about to start our preparations for the first International Migration Review Forum. Given that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration does not have a detailed accountability framework, we must look to existing tools, in particular the SDG monitoring framework, to evaluate progress.

Further, just as migrant workers played a critical role during the pandemic, they will be key to the sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19. For this to happen, migrants, regardless of their status, must be included in national vaccination campaigns. Opportunities for migrant workers, including their ability to send remittances back home, must be restored.

I was pleased that during the informal consultations on the HLPF declaration, this reality was increasingly recognized. With these negotiations, delegations have laid the groundwork for the Progress Declaration to be adopted during the first IMRF.

Dear colleagues,

In reviewing the VNRs and in listening to the presentations today, I am struck not only by the great variety of national experiences, but also by the various approaches being used to analyze those experiences.

The UN Network on Migration can play an active role in encouraging governments not only to include migration narratives in their VNRs, but also in this context to analyze quantitative indicators of progress.

In presenting their VNRs, countries often refer to a lack of data. Yet, at the same time, countries are reporting a rich tapestry of data to the Global SDG Indicators Database. Are we sufficiently exploiting the existing data? I think that the Network can help to bring quantitative and qualitative reporting together. Perhaps, in preparing for the first IMRF, the Network could analyze the migration-related indicators available from the global database, either as part of the Secretary-General's report or separately.

Then, it would be useful to identify which migration-related indicators are not reported to the global database and to assist countries in filling those gaps.

Lastly, let me draw your attention to the latest round of population censuses, many of which were scheduled for 2020 or 2021 and therefore had to be postponed due to the pandemic. As these census operations resume on a delayed schedule, countries may have an opportunity to strengthen their gathering of migration data in line with the first objective of the Global Compact on migration. DESA's Statistics and Population Divisions, together with our Network partners, stand ready to support you.

In closing, let me recognize the support of our Network partners ILO, IOM and UNDP in organizing this event.

Thank you.