

# Making Voluntary National Reviews meaningful: the civil society perspective

Side-event at the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development in the UNECE Region.

**On Thursday 19 March 2020 – 13h15-14h45**

**In room 17, International Conference Centre of Geneva (CICG)**

**A light lunch will be served from 13h00**

The event will be held in English.

**Register [here](#).**




The involvement of civil society in helping to set up and monitor voluntary national reviews can boost the accountability, accuracy and usefulness of these periodic reports. This event will focus on sharing best practices and on discussing the challenges involved with

civil society participation in VNRs. The objective is to contribute to this year's theme and overall review of the HLPF with recommendations and showcase the added value of civil society participation in VNRs.

Supporting governments:

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## Agenda

This event will be moderated by **Oli Henman**, Global Coordinator, Action for Sustainable Development.

**Opening remarks** by **Nadège Lharaig**, Project Coordinator, European Environmental Bureau

### Presentation of 2 latest publications assessing civil-society engagement in VNRs

- Advancing national SDG implementation: A global summary of trends in civil society engagement in VNRs – **Kit Dorey**, Policy and Advocacy Adviser on SDGs, Bond, UK
- Review of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) as an opportunity to strengthen multi-stakeholder participation and improve SDG implementation – **Adriana Aralica**, Policy and Information Officer, SLOGA Platform/ Forus

### Best-practices and challenges in civil society-government collaboration on VNRs

In this session CSOs from Austria, Denmark, Slovenia, Spain, Russia and Kyrgyzstan will present collectively their role in previous or current VNRs as assigned by the government but also their own advocacy work. They will highlight best-practices and challenges in order to come up with recommendations. Then, they will engage in a discussion with the government representatives.

### Speakers will include:

From the CSOs:

- **Bernhard Zlanabitzig**, MA MAS MSc, Mr, Director EU-Umweltbuero/Vice-President European Environmental Bureau, Steering Committee Member SDG Watch Austria, Austria
- **Julie Rosenkilde**, Head of Secretariat at Nyt Europa, Denmark
- **Robert Krizanic**, Director, Institute Povod, Slovenia
- **Macarena Céspedes**, Futuro en Común, Spain
- **Nelya Rakhimova**, CEO at Open School of Sustainable Development, Russia and **Vitaliy Kartamyshev**, GCAP Russia chair
- **Nurgul Djanaeva**, President of the Forum of women's NGOs of Kyrgyzstan and Global coordinator of the Feminist Group of CPDE, Kyrgyzstan

From governments:

- **Jacques Ducrest**, Delegate of the Federal Council for the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland
- **Min.pl. Erika Bernhard**, Deputy Head of Department, Development Cooperation of the EU and the UN, Austria
- **Kaja Primorac**, Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy, Development and International Cooperation Division, Slovenia

### Questions and answers

**Closing remarks:** Recommendations on how to make VNRs more meaningful

**Eva Schmassmann**, Director Swiss CSO Platform Agenda 2030

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