



# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

## **VNR Lab on peacebuilding and sustaining peace through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

**Friday, 12 July 2019, 1:15-2:45 pm, United Nations Headquarters**

### **Draft Concept Note**

#### **Background**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers a framework to strengthen and transform preventive action to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Through the SDGs, countries are envisaging “a world of universal respect for equality and non-discrimination,” underscore the importance of equality and non-discrimination with the overarching commitment to “leaving no one behind” and promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

#### **Expected outcomes**

This Lab will offer participating countries the opportunity to share good practices on peacebuilding and sustaining peace, including through creating economic opportunities, strengthening institutions, reducing inequalities, as well as promoting just and inclusive societies. Participants – including Governments and civil society groups – will share their experiences on how the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is making a difference to people’s lives, especially those living in conditions of violent conflict and insecurity.

This discussion will focus on national-level measures to improve the condition of the poorest and most vulnerable sectors of the population in selected countries as a means to “leave no one behind” and build peaceful, inclusive and just societies.

Participants will benefit from hearing other countries’ experiences and lessons learned and will be able to reflect on common challenges in policy making, data collection, mobilizing resources, building partnerships and accelerating implementation.

The Lab will be held under Chatham House Rule to allow for frank discussions. A short summary of the Lab will be prepared by the organizers for posting online.

#### **Proposed countries of focus and suggested speakers**

Looking at the list of countries that will be present at the 2019 HLPF and through a preliminary analysis of potential common themes across their VNRs, UNDESA and PBSO identified the following potential countries of focus: Côte d’Ivoire; Guatemala; Rwanda; Sierra Leone; and Timor Leste.



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UNDESA and PBSO will also look at the possibility of inviting representatives of civil society to share good practices and lessons learned. The international NGO World Vision and think tanks Center for International Cooperation (CIC) at New York University and the International Peace Institute (IPI) will be invited to join the event.

Mr. Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, ASG for Peacebuilding Support in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, will be invited as moderator for this event.

### **Format of the event:**

The moderator will give brief introductory remarks, introduce the speakers and guide a conversation among them. Each speaker will give a short presentation. The presentations will be followed by Q&A in order to encourage interaction and exchange of ideas among the speakers and between the speakers and the audience. Presentations should be kept short and informal and should clearly highlight the main 2 to 3 challenges and key lessons learned for each country.

### **Date and venue:**

The VNR Lab will take place on 12 July 2019, from 1:15 to 2:45 pm in Conference Room 11, United Nations Headquarters, New York

### **Expected number of participants:**

The Lab is expected to be attended by approximately 130 participants.