

National experience of the VNR process of Switzerland

Digital innovation and the VNR process – Creating sustainable momentum for the SDGs

Tuesday 12 July 2022, 2-3pm, UN Headquarters Conference Room 11

Concept note

Innovation and digital transformation in the VNR process

For the second time, Switzerland has used the process of presenting a Voluntary National Review (VNR) as a catalyst for a comprehensive stocktaking exercise involving all levels of government as well as stakeholders from academia, the business sector and civil society.

This time around, Switzerland has digitized its VNR and stocktaking process through the development of the new digital tool «SDGital2030». It streamlines the VNR process into one workflow, structures the information gathered in the stocktaking exercise and democratises the VNR process by allowing a broad array of stakeholders to share their assessment of and contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Switzerland's VNR – a report and a website

Switzerland used the information collected through this innovative tool as a basis to draft its VNR, which is accompanied by a statistical annex. Additionally, the entirety of information gathered in the stocktaking exercise is published on the new platform www.SDGital2030.ch.

In its VNR, Switzerland evaluates all 17 SDGs, while highlighting those areas that have been identified in Switzerland's 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy as priority topics, namely 1) sustainable consumption and production; 2) climate, energy and biodiversity; and 3) equal opportunities and social cohesion. Moreover, it shows the interactions between different targets in an attempt to facilitate a coherent and evidence-based way towards achieving the SDGs.

Impacts of the VNR process: Using digital transformation to create lasting momentum for the SDGs

The way the process was digitized creates momentum for the SDGs, while the more detailed digital online platform has the potential to create sustainable, long-lasting impacts on the broad implementation of the SDGs. The online platform forms a resource for sustainable development in Switzerland by gathering relevant information in one place. The transparency provides the opportunity for more exchange between stakeholders spanning different sectors, therefore creating new paths to facilitate policy coherence.

Draft Programme

This VNR Lab will focus on an in-depth exploration of digital transformation and innovation in Switzerland's VNR process and its potential for furthering the SDGs. It will provide the opportunity to present the most important findings from the Swiss VNR process, including a short presentation of the innovative platform «SDGital2030». This will be followed by a moderated discussion to shed light on different perspectives related to the VNR, involving different levels of government, data and statistics, as well as different stakeholders. Besides voices from the Swiss context, this will also include reflections from the peer dialogue conducted with Austria and Mexico.

Time	Programme
02:00 pm	Opening and welcome remarks
02:05 pm	Innovation and digital transformation in the VNR process Presentation of «SDGital2030» by Switzerland
02:15 pm	<p>The Swiss VNR and its impact: Using digital transformation to create lasting momentum for the SDGs</p> <p>Moderated discussion to highlight different perspectives of Switzerland's SDG implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Jacques Ducrest, State Secretary and Delegate of the Swiss Government for the 2030 Agenda - Ms. Medea Savary, Federal Statistical Office - Ms. Manon Röthlisberger, Swiss Association of Communes - Ms. Eva Schober, Platform Agenda 2030 - Mr. Antonio Hautle, UN Global Compact Network Switzerland/Liechtenstein <p>Moderator: Mr. Christian Frutiger, Ambassador, Assistant Director General and Head of Global Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation</p>
02:40 pm	Reflections from the peer dialogue Speakers from Austria and Mexico (tbc)
02:50 pm	Open discussion with questions from the floor
03:00 pm	Wrap up and concluding remarks