



Libraries Engaged in VNRs

Part 1: Find out Who's in Charge

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) can be a great way for libraries to engage in discussions around the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and to be recognised for their contributions. This series offers ideas for key actions libraries and library associations can take to get involved.

The first step towards engagement in a Voluntary National Review is to find out who is responsible for leading it. Each government needs to identify a focal point, who can both coordinate within your country, and be in contact with the United Nations. Most of the time, the name or organisation with this role will be named on the webpage for the VNRs. You should therefore:

- 1) Visit: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>
- 2) Scroll down, find your country on the list and click on it
- 3) Click on the 'Focal Point' tab

In some cases, you will need to search more for contact information. If you have the name of a ministry, you go on the website and find a physical or e-mail address. Alternatively, you can call the switchboard, and ask for an e-mail address.

In other cases, there is not yet any information available for countries doing VNRs in 2021. In this case, look at who was responsible for previous VNRs, or simply use your own knowledge of how your government works in order to find out who is responsible.

It is also worth trying to get contact details for the local United Nations office, if this exists. They may be closely involved in the Voluntary National Review, and in situations where you cannot identify the national coordinator, they may be able to help. You can find these from this page: <https://www.un.org/en/sections/where-we-work/>.

Once you have identified the coordinator (and/or the United Nations office), you should make sure that they know that libraries are working on the Sustainable Development Goals, and that you should be included in the Voluntary National Review process. To do this, you could write a letter or e-mail making the following points:

- 1) Libraries are key actors in promoting development through access to information, as well as great places for raising awareness about the SDGs.
- 2) Libraries are ready to share ideas and experiences in the context of the VNR.
- 3) You would welcome information about how and when you can engage.

Next month, we will be looking at gathering stories you can use in your engagement efforts. See IFLA's [Briefing](#) for more information about the VNRs in general.