



## Concept note on a workshop on the EU Voluntary Review

22 November 2022  
13:00h - 15:00h CET

### Background

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) guides the work of the European Union both internally and in its international partnerships. It is enshrined in the Consensus on Development, our recent financial instrument Global Europe and our programming, and various leading EU policy initiatives, notably the roll-out of Global Gateway and Team Europe initiatives.

As a part of its commitment to accelerating and implementing the 2030 Agenda, the Commission has announced in its [Work Programme for 2023](#) that it will put forward next year its first voluntary review in the framework of the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

The EU Voluntary Review (EUVR) will provide the opportunity to reaffirm the EU's commitment to the 2030 Agenda, increase the visibility and consistency of the work undertaken on SDG implementation, and support the importance of this shared global agenda at global level, at a time when multilateralism is under pressure.

The EUVR will reflect the Commission's commitment to implement the SDGs at EU level through its headline ambitions and its comprehensive 'whole of government' approach, to ensure a more coherent delivery on the SDGs both internally and externally. It will compile the most important commitments and measures, and summarise progress made on key initiatives implementing the 2030 Agenda, having regard to trends and indicators. It will convey how we work together with Member States as Team Europe, notably externally in the context of Global Gateway which will be a main vehicle to support SDGs globally. In addition to presenting main actions at EU level, it aims to include examples of how Member States support the implementation of SDGs internally and externally.

The EUVR will be overarching, addressing internal and external EU actions that help implement the SDGs at home and abroad, while addressing policy coherence. It will integrate the main findings of the annual Eurostat monitoring reports on SDGs. For comprehensiveness and consistency, the EUVR will integrate for its external part:

- the joint synthesis report on the implementation of the European Consensus on Development on EU and Member States' external actions in support of 2030 Agenda implementation;
- the regular reporting on actions taken by the EU and the Member States on policy coherence for development.

Members of the Policy Forum on Development (PFD) are active participants in the implementation and achievement of the SDGs, as actors in their own right and in many cases in partnership with the EU. A first exchange with PFD members on the concept of launching the EUVR was held at the PFD meeting on 8 June 2022 on SDG implementation. On 21 October 2022, the Commission launched a call for evidence in Have Your Say (see link below), inviting stakeholders to provide feedback on the EUVR initiative and their views on SDG implementation, which provides a useful channel for PFD members to contribute. A process to bring together the views of stakeholders on this matter has been undertaken by the European Economic and Social Committee, in close cooperation with the Commission, and several PFD members are already active in this process. Building on this spirit of engagement and consultation, representatives in the Directorate General for International Partnerships of the European Commission are convening a workshop on the external aspects of SDG implementation and the preparation of the external part of the EUVR within the PFD.

### Objective

The meeting has two key objectives:

1. Communicate the preparatory work towards the EU Voluntary Review on SDGs in 2023, with a focus on its external part.
2. Consult PFD members, providing an opportunity to discuss on the external aspects of SDG implementation and the preparation of the EUVR.

Consistent with the call for evidence on the EUVR published in [Have Your Say](#) platform, the workshop aims to let PFD members to share in an interactive manner their feedback on (i) the initiative to prepare an EUVR; (ii) how the EU is implementing externally the SDGs, including achievements, challenges and opportunities, distinguishing where appropriate general messages from views on individual SDGs; and (iii) good practices from their own experience of implementing SDGs at all levels.

### Methodology and draft agenda

The event will be a moderated online workshop for PFD members and targeted representatives from civil society. Simultaneous translation in English, French and Spanish will be available. The workshop should start with a presentation by an UN representative on the importance of National Voluntary Reviews to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. A representative from INTPA will share the updates on the preparatory process towards the EUVR, which will be followed by a Q&A session.

Draft Agenda:

13:00 - 13:05: Welcome and introductions

13:05 - 13:20: Opening Words: Implementing the 2030 Agenda through Voluntary National Reviews

13:20 - 13:40: Plans towards the EU Voluntary Review on SDGs in 2023

13:40 - 14:45: Questions and answers

14:45 - 15:00: Wrap up and Next Steps