**Jose VNR Lab Talking Points**

VNR Lab: Engaging social groups in the VNR process and reaching the furthest behind - a case study of persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples

12:30-2:00pm, Wednesday 8 July, 2020

The link for the panelists to join is here: <https://undesa.webex.com/undesa/onstage/g.php?MTID=e38698cb5d1f78d2f627cec87714cd1ed>

**Talking Points**

**I will discuss some key reasons for the success of the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Voluntary National Reviews.**

Overwhelmingly, the disability movement has had a coordinated and broad response with shared messages, including the mobilization of the disability movement, capacity building, and collaboration with mainstream civil society stakeholder at all levels.

The disability movement and allies had started building the foundation for some of this momentum, with the consistent mobilization and advocacy during the post-2015 negotiations. There was an understanding and most importantly a desire to for persons with disabilities to be included in the next development agenda, thus participating in the HLPF, particularly the VNRs was just a natural next phase.

The disability movement carried out awareness raising within the movement to promote inclusive development for all, and that the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be used as mutually reinforcing tools.

In 2016, IDA received a DFID grant called the “catalyst report on SDG implementation.” The objective of this grant was to raise awareness on SDG implementation within the disability movement at the national level. Grants were given to countries undergoing a VNR that given year. DPOs wrote reports on their findings, and consequently, these reports helped DPOs to understand the VNR process and how to engage with their governments. At the same time the International Disability Alliance and the International Disability and Development Consortium rolled out the CRPD-SDG Bridge training with the objective to train the next DPO leaders and advocates.

In 2016, we worked directly with DPOs in 16 out of 22 VNR countries to engage them in the VNRs. This entailed constant outreach and communication between global and national disability advocates. As a result, in the 2016 HLPF, out of the 19 countries with full reports, 17 explicitly referenced persons with disabilities.

In 2017, the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities and the International Disability Alliance launched a study with DPOs in a few countries reporting national reviews. The findings stemmed from DPOs in Argentina, Bangladesh, Denmark, El Salvador, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Italy, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Sweden and Togo. This culminated in the Global VNR report on the Engagement of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in Voluntary National Reviews*.*

From this research, we learned that we had to have a more structured approach to be effective. As a result, in 2018 the International Disability Alliance and CBM developed a VNR Toolkit for DPOs and launched a series of webinars.

As a final point, it has been very helpful to be engaged in the VNR Task Group of Major Groups and Other Stakeholders.