



Libraries Engaged in VNRs

Part 4: Present your Materials

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 fourth step towards engagement in a Voluntary National Review (VNR) is to present the information you have gathered – data, stories, background information – in a way that will be most effective in encouraging your government to include libraries.

In order to get them interested, it will be important to organise your arguments and evidence around the key areas of focus of your government in the review. For example, you may want to consider whether the team leading the VNR process has a particular focus.

An environment ministry may react best to stories or data about how libraries are promoting sustainable consumption or educating people about climate change. An economy ministry will care more about the support you offer to research and employment. A social affairs ministry could be most susceptible to examples focusing on helping marginalised groups and reducing inequality.

You should also look at any official calls for submissions, if they exist. These may offer instructions for submissions, including specific themes or questions. While VNRs are supposed to look at all of the SDGs, governments will often focus on just a selection of them. If this is the case, you should try to talk mainly about these if you can.

If there is no official call for submissions, you could contact the agency in charge and ask if one is planned. If nothing is planned, you can speak in more general terms, bearing in mind the guidance provided in the [VNR Handbook](#).

In your presentation, make sure you keep things positive, or at least constructive. Share good news stories if you can. If you see problems, don't just criticise, but talk rather about how things can be improved in order to achieve the SDGs more effectively.

Finally, think about how you present things in terms of the 'look' and 'feel' of your submission. Make sure to keep your submission relatively short and direct. Think about how easy it will be for a busy official to read. Use a mixture of numbers and facts, and include pictures if you can in order to make it more lively – governments often include images in their official reports, and it would be great to see one of a library in there!

Good luck, and let us know how you get on!