



## Volunteer Groups Alliance 2022

A global network of 75+ volunteer-involving organizations working in over 150 countries, the **Volunteer Groups Alliance** (VGA) works together to promote and amplify the role that volunteers play in achieving the United Nations' 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For more information, visit <https://forum-ids.org/about/vga/>. To share your volunteer stories, visit <https://volunteergroupsalliance.org/>. Formed in 2015, VGA seeks to:

- Promote and highlight the contribution of volunteers in delivering the SDGs
- Connect organizations working with Volunteer Groups across the world to help amplify the collective impact of volunteers in national, regional, and global SDG follow up and review processes
- Gain recognition for the crucial role of volunteers in successfully monitoring and ultimately achieving the SDGs

### VNR National and Regional Engagement

The SDGs, global in nature and in scope, will only be achieved at the local and national level. Each year, a subset of national governments self-selects to produce reports detailing their progress towards achieving the SDGs. These Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are publicly presented at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN in July. Governments are instructed to consult and collaborate with civil society, including VGA members, in the production of these reports. VNRs are tangible ways to interact with member states and align VGA work with the overall *UN Plan of Action: Integrating volunteers in the next decade*, which calls for governments to establish “regular and long term dialogue with volunteer-involving organizations during domestication of the sustainable development goals and throughout the planning, implementation and monitoring stages, to ensure continuous engagement with people.”

In the coming year, VGA members will view reports as the beginning of longer term conversations to advocate for the recognition and support of volunteers within member states. VGA members will choose processes to contribute to and analyze how accurately and effectively they reflect the contribution of volunteers towards achieving the SDGs. Analysis will result in a position paper to be shared with governments and that can be used by members in national level work. Up to 46 countries will be scheduled to present reports in July 2022. The following countries have expressed an interest:

Andorra\*, Argentina\*\*, Belarus\*, Botswana\*, Cameroon\*, Comoros\*, Côte d'Ivoire\*, Djibouti, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, El Salvador\*, Eritrea, Eswatini\*, Ethiopia\*, Gabon, Gambia\*, Ghana\*, Greece\*, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Italy\*, Jamaica\*, Jordan\*, Kazakhstan\*, Latvia\*, Lesotho\*, Liberia\*, Luxembourg\*, Malawi\*, Mali\*, Montenegro\*, the Netherlands\*, Pakistan\*, the Philippines\*\*, Saint Kitts and Nevis, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal\*, Somalia, Sri Lanka\*, Sudan\*, Suriname, Switzerland\*\*, Togo\*\*\*, Tuvalu, United Arab Emirates\*, Uruguay\*\*\* (Note: Countries with one asterisk \* are second timers, those with two asterisks \*\* are third timers, those with three asterisks \*\*\* are presenting for the fourth time, while those without asterisks are presenting for the first time).

For 2022, VGA members will:

- Build capacity and knowledge of our networks and members to engage in the SDG review processes through sharing materials, hosting informational webinars, collaborating with each other, and inviting to global events
- Identify good examples of volunteer contributions in existing Voluntary National Reviews
- Determine in which of the VNR countries they are working
- Contribute to and analyze VNRs, including:
  - Highlighting gaps where volunteering could have been included
  - Sharing positive examples from peer VNR reports
  - Providing example language for future reports
  - Identifying country-level examples of volunteer contributions to SDGs
  - Commenting on the enabling environment for volunteers and provide improvement recommendations
  - Critiquing the report drafting process with a focus on how effectively volunteer contributions were solicited
  - Building a collective narrative about the importance of including volunteering in the reviews as a result of an inclusive and participatory national process
  - Highlighting data on the value of volunteering reported from the VNRs

In 2022, VNR analysis will provide a way for the sector to productively educate member states on the specific contributions of volunteers to the SDGs and will build off VGAs work in [2018](#), [2019](#), [2020](#), and [2021](#). The goal of the analysis is to have volunteering recognized by member states in every VNR and increased recognition and support of volunteering at the local level.

### **HLPF Global Engagement**

As an official Stakeholder Group outlined in UN General Assembly Resolution A/res/67/290, VGA will continue to take advantage of the space and the rights afforded Major Groups and other Stakeholders (MGoS) at the HLPF, acknowledging member resource constraints will dictate the level of participation. For the HLPF in July 2022, VGA will be active in the following ways:

- Members will author and submit to the UN for publication a statement on how volunteers contribute to sustainable development under the HLPF's theme
- Members will draft two-minute statements to be delivered in-person at the HLPF, in accordance with MGoS processes, on the SDGs
- VGA Coordinator will ensure members are able to attend the HLPF and have access to official meetings in accordance with UN guidelines
- VGA Coordinator will help members to ensure the participation of volunteers in the HLPF per processes established by the MGoS and UN DESA
- VGA will organize a Side Event during the HLPF, featuring UNV's latest State of the World's Volunteerism Report (SWVR), including liaising with DESA and other stakeholder groups and overall event management (around March-July)

## World Conference Engagement

In consultation with organizers, VGA will determine its appropriate presence at the two major world volunteering conferences happening in 2022:

- 26th International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) World Conference in Abu Dhabi, 6-9 October, 2022
- International Volunteering Cooperation Organisations (IVCO) in Senegal, 16-19 October, 2022

Activities expected include moderating panels, convening members meetings, and presenting a new exhibit.

## Communications – Telling the Story

At the 2021 HLPF, VGA launched [volunteergroupsalliance.org](http://volunteergroupsalliance.org) as a website to share and collect stories from countries around the world on how volunteers are delivering on the SDGs as our virtual exhibit. VGA will continue to add to and enhance the website over the next year.

VGA also maintains a presence on social media through:

- Twitter at [www.twitter.com/volunteergroups](https://www.twitter.com/volunteergroups)
- Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/voluntergroups/?modal=admin\\_todo\\_tour](https://www.facebook.com/voluntergroups/?modal=admin_todo_tour)
- LinkedIn at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/volunteer-groups-alliance/?viewAsMember=true>

The VGA Coordinator maintains these accounts and amplifies the messages of members in the following ways:

- Following all existing member twitter accounts
- Retweeting and posting of volunteer stories, especially those collected at [volunteergroupsalliance.org](http://volunteergroupsalliance.org)
- Tweeting during select events, such as HLPF and International Volunteer Day
- Adding followers and connections as appropriate
- Retweeting and reposting select UN and SDGs messages

The VGA will continue to focus on collecting and telling stories from its members, highlighting data and research, and sharing and communicating the contributions of volunteers to increase the recognition and support of volunteering.

Also, through advocacy and engagement, VGA will ensure that SWVR related messages, products, and engagement activities reach VGA members, wider SDG networks, and other ECOSOC stakeholder groups, prompting their participation in relevant activities (January to ongoing).