VNR LABS
HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Localizing the SDGs and VNRs: reporting on progress, challenges and opportunities

Wednesday, 17 July, 18:30 – 20:00

United Nations Secretariat Building (S-2726)

CONCEPT NOTE AND PROGRAMME

Organized by: UNDESA (Division for the Sustainable Development Goals/DSDG and Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government/DPIDG)

In collaboration with: Local 2030, United Nations Development Programme, UN-Habitat and Global Taskforce of local and regional governments

Description: The Agenda 2030, and the 17 SDGs that are at its core, cannot be achieved without successful implementation at the local level, which makes them a reality for communities, households and individuals, particularly the most vulnerable and those at risk of being left behind. Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) should thus be able to capture not only what central governments are doing, but also what local and regional governments as well as other local stakeholders are doing in support of SDG implementation.

In this connection, many Member States are engaging local stakeholders on SDG localization, including in the process of elaborating VNRs. Additionally, a number of local and regional governments have been engaging in preparing voluntary local reviews, bringing along local data and their specific perspectives on local implementation of the SDGs.

Local data is critical for tracking progress on the SDGs. Since many of the SDG targets fall under the responsibility of local and regional governments (e.g., waste collection, health and education services), it is essential that national statistical systems can obtain and incorporate local data produced by local governments, local communities, universities and research centers.

Against this background, the Lab will discuss how countries are responding to the need to reflect the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda in VNR reports; how local and regional governments have been integrated in the VNR process; and challenges and opportunities as related to the localization of the SDGs. Furthermore, it will discuss experiences with integration of timely and disaggregated data from local and regional governments into national follow-up and review of the SDGs; and how VNRs present an opportunity to strengthen coordination between national statistical systems and local data providers.

Objectives: The objective of this VNR Lab is to examine how VNRs can support the localization of SDGs by engaging local governments and local stakeholders in the process, while also

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discussing how national governments are capturing sub-national perspectives in their VNRs, including through integration of local data.

Additionally, the Lab aims to:

- ✓ Provide an opportunity to Member States that have presented VNRs to share challenges and recommendations as related to the localization of the SDGs.
- ✓ Identify how different Member States are capturing the implementation of the SDGs at the local level in their own VNRs.
- ✓ Encourage other Member States to include the local implementation of Agenda 2030 in their future VNRs.
- ✓ Discuss the role of local stakeholders, in particular, local and regional governments, in providing timely and disaggregated data in support to national SDG follow-up.
- ✓ Discuss how local data can be better collected and integrated into VNRs.

Methodology: The VNR Lab on localization will take place under the Chatham House rule to allow for candid discussions. This applies to the use of Twitter and social media during the event.

Languages: The VNR Lab event will take place in English only.

PROGRAMME
18:30 – 18:35   **Welcome Remark** Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief, Outreach and Partnership Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), UN DESA. *Moderator:* Ms. Diana Lopez Caramazana, Head, Local Government and Decentralization Unit, UN-Habitat
18:35 – 19:25   **Localizing the SDGs and VNRs – Reporting on progress, challenges and opportunities.** *Speakers will examine how VNRs can support the localization of SDGs by engaging local governments and local stakeholders in the process. Participants will also discuss how national governments are capturing sub-national perspectives in their VNRs, including through integration of local data.* *Guiding questions:* • *How have local and regional governments and stakeholders been engaged in the VNR process in your country? What are the main outcomes of this engagement?* • *What are the recommendations to strengthen the engagement of local and regional governments in the VNR process?*

	- *How was the localization of SDGs reflected in the VNR report of your country? What are the main challenges and recommendations?* - *How can local stakeholders, in particular, local and regional governments, support the provision of timely and disaggregated data for national SDG follow-up and VNR reports?* - *How can local data be better collected and integrated into VNRs?* *Format: The Moderator will invite three speakers who will each speak for 5 minutes, and then open the floor for a 10-minute interactive discussion. The moderator will invite the remaining speakers who will likewise have 5 minutes each, followed by another 10-minute discussion.* *Speakers are invited to address the questions in short and focused interventions. Power point presentations are <u>discouraged</u>.* *Speakers:* - H.E. Mr. Arifin Rudiyanto, Deputy Minister for Maritime and Natural Resource Affairs, Ministry of National Development Planning, **Indonesia** - Ms. Sanyukta Samaddar, Advisor, NITI Aayog, **India** - Mr. Ullrich Sierau, Mayor, Dortmund, **Germany** - Mr. Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio, Director General for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, **Spain** - Ms. Girlie Grace J. Casimiro-Igtiben, Chief Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority, **Philippines** - Ms. Adriana Castro Gonzalez, SDG Team Coordinator, National Planning Department, **Colombia** - Mr. Anders Knape, Councilor, Municipality of Karlstadt, President of the Swedish Association of Local Authorities (SALAR), **Sweden** - Mr. Ranjit Chavan, President of the All-India Institute for Local Self-Government (AIISG), Co-President of UCLG ASPAC - Mr. Junichi Fujino, Programme Director of the City Taskforce, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
19:25–19:50	**Interactive discussion**
19:50 – 20:00	**Wrap up and closing** - Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG