

**2021 HLPF Thematic Session 8: Going local**

**Thursday, 8 July, 12:15 pm - 1:15 pm**

**Delivered by: Viridiana Murillo on behalf of the Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY)**

Thank you, Mr. Moderator,

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen:

One of the main challenges for subnational governments to take part in the implementation of the SDGs at the local level is the lack of understanding of international agendas, lack of capacity and funds, and challenges while cooperating with national authorities. Allow me to explain further.

While Voluntary Local Reviews are an excellent way to localize the 2030 Agenda, this kind of exercise is widely unused. In Mexico, I have witnessed there is political will of smaller municipalities to implement a VLR, bigger cities with more resources have recently taken interest, however, we are still far from generalized participation.

Another challenge to address in multilevel governance is when different political parties are involved in different jurisdictions. For example, again in my country VLRs do not feed directly to the VNR as there is no mechanism in place for this. Mistrust in coordination between jurisdictions is sometimes normalized and it is impeding to create synergies in favor of SDGs, and this is no particular issue from a specific country.

Therefore, the UN country teams need to step up their work to keep track the work of local governments, mediate with the national government for specific funds, and create capacity building or exchange of knowledge. On the other hand, the UN at the global level should have a repository of VLRs to gather good practices, and the Regional Commissions should promote spaces to share solutions.

Limited resources are always one of the main issues when governments respond why they have not accomplished their international commitments, although local resources are not used nor coordinated to its full potential. I will finish saying now more than ever we need to take advantage of all resources. More actors in the implementation of the SDGs the merrier, but then again, we really need to focus on the global benefits and look beyond our personal egos.

Thank you.