



Training Toolkit on Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation





Regional and Global Trends of Localization

Module 3.1







Learning Outcomes



Understanding the global trends of SDG localization trends



Learn the different approaches to coordinate and align between national and subnational-level for SDG localization



Understanding how LRGs can be involved in SDG localization



Finding the gap of SDG localization process between the World region



I. LRGs Action in SDG Localization

Variety of decentralizing reforms and different regulatory contexts in which subnational governments operate varies widely

Countries are highly diverse in terms of their institutional frameworks

Localization and proximity at the heart of the accelerating response

- Participate in VNRs
- Develop their own VLR

Most countries have institutionalized their commitment to the SDGs and established coordination mechanisms to ensure their implementation at the highest level of government

Countries are giving to establishing national localization strategies is evolving

LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation is increasing



I. LRGs Action in SDG Localization (Cont.)

01

LRGs are putting the 'Right to the City' approach and participation at the heart of their localization strategies:

02

LRGs play a key role in developing integrated urban and territorial plans to localize all the SDGs

03

LRGs are leading innovative actions to achieve Goals and Targets that are instrumental to the 'transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies

04

LRGs are promoting rights-based and place-based initiatives towards 'Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

05

Voluntary Local Review mechanisms are an innovative and participatory response to the global quest for localized and timely information on the SDGs

06

COVID-19 has placed LRGs on the frontline of a crisis in which they must care for their communities, ensure the provision of basic services, and reinforce local solidarity networks to protect the most vulnerable:

07

Localization and proximity at the heart of the accelerating response: LRGs' voices speak louder





I. LRGs Action in SDG Localization (Cont.)

Lesson Learned

LRGs' participation both in the VNR process and the national institutional mechanisms for coordination and follow-up need to be scaled up

Effective whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches are key to strengthen cooperation and overcome the current crisis

LRGs' mobilization and involvement at global scale is progressing but it is still not sufficient to support the localization process

From the pandemic to a world of solidarity: accelerating transformative actions in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis

To accelerate the localization process, it is necessary to join forces to generate a leap in LRG mobilization in all regions

The pressing need to invest in essential public services and infrastructure and to empower LRGs in order to ensure more inclusive policies to deliver the recovery

Adequate financing streams should follow alignment efforts between national and local plans



III. Regional Comparison Between World Regions on SDG Localization

Region	National institutional frameworks
Africa	Significant progress in incorporating the SDGs in their national plans and strategies, raising awareness and involving stakeholders to create ownership of the SDGs, as well creating and establishing institutional mechanisms and means of implementation
Asia-Pacific	Significant steps towards mainstreaming the SDGs into their national planning processes, and governments have put in place different institutional mechanisms to ensure coordination and follow up of the commitments.
Eurasia	Three categories emerge the region according to their level of commitment and the quality of their strategies to reach the SDGs. The process remains predominantly top-down. Institutionalized mechanisms at the highest level of government
Europe	National SDG coordinating mechanisms have been established or designated in European countries
Latin America & the Caribbean	Most countries have sought to integrate their pre-existing development plans with the SDGs. In several countries, LRGs were directly consulted and included in the VNR process. Consultation was more partial in others. In some cases, the consultation did not include LGAs.
Middle East and West Asia	Tradition of centralized systems of governance that inevitably influences the SDG implementation process
North America	No formal national framework for the implementation of the SDGs

Source: Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy, 2019



II. Regional Comparison Between World Regions on SDG Localization

Region	Local and regional governments' institutional frameworks
Africa	Mixed participation of LRGs in SDG implementation frameworks and highly diverse sub-national government (SNG) arrangements
Asia-Pacific	Different dimensions of an 'enabling environment' for LRGs
Eurasia	Apart from Georgia, all Eurasia region countries are divided into a three-tiered system of sub-national government (decentralized) and administration (deconcentrated).
Europe	Decentralized system
Latin America & the Caribbean	Decentralization and the reform of territorial governance have continued to remain on the regional agenda, but progress has been uneven and in many cases slow and contradictory.
Middle East and West Asia	High degree of centralization, with only very few exceptions
North America	Complex sets of regional and local government laws

Source: Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy, 2019



II. Regional Comparison Between World Regions on SDG Localization

Region	Multilevel governance mechanisms for implementing the SDGs
Africa	A number of countries have started making headway in creating a ‘whole-of-society’ approach to the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda
Asia-Pacific	Implementing different public administration arrangements to realize the SDGs
Eurasia	The common feature of SDG implementation in Eurasian countries has been the persistence of a largely top-down approach
Europe	A European multi-stakeholder platform on the SDGs has been established, with a sub-group on delivering the SDGs at local and regional level including Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), Eurocities and other stakeholders.
Latin America & the Caribbean	Different routes taken in constructing a multi-level governance framework
Middle East and West Asia	Centralized administration influences city management and the mechanisms of urban and territorial governance
North America	The essence of multilevel governance and power sharing is embedded in the constitutional structure

Source: Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy, 2019



II. Regional Comparison Between World Regions on SDG Localization

Region	Local and regional government efforts to align the 2030 Agenda with local policies
Africa	Mix of national leadership and international support across countries has been essential to steer the alignment of county and local plans to the SDGs
Asia-Pacific	Joint national-local efforts to align SDGs with sub-national development plans; A bottom-up led model of sub-national engagement in the localization process; Taking advantage of local sustainable initiatives in countries that are still defining national localization strategies; Top-down SDG strategies and the widening gap between intermediary and local levels
Eurasia	LGA initiatives aimed at promoting sustainable development and creating SDG local ownership are increasingly significant.
Europe	Alignment of the SDGs with local strategies and local actions; Involvement of crucial stakeholders (public and private) and 'leaving no one behind'; Strengthening pre-existing and new alliances with territorial stakeholders; Making LRGs accountable and measuring their achievements
Latin America & the Caribbean	Gradual progress on the part of LRGs in aligning their development plans with the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda
Middle East and West Asia	Local governments have only rarely — and only in a few countries of the region — actively participated in the process of implementing the SDGs, as well as in the preparation of the VNRs
North America	Policies, initiatives and innovative solutions most frequently found in the comprehensive plans and sustainability agendas of local municipal governments

Source: Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy, 2019



II. Regional Comparison Between World Regions on SDG Localization

Region	Local and regional government-driven initiatives to localize the SDGs
Africa	Dealing with multidimensional poverty and widespread informality for improved access to basic services; Making communities more sustainable and resilient to mitigate the effects of climate change; Building inclusive and peaceful cities and territories; Ensuring responsive and participatory decision-making
Asia-Pacific	Operationalization of the SDGs through integrated territorialized policies
Eurasia	LRGs are making efforts to respond to the challenges faced in the region, particularly in terms of improving public services, promoting sustainable economic development, addressing increasing territorial inequalities & facing pressing environmental challenges.
Europe	Inclusive economic growth: back to economic convergence; Strong commitment to fight climate change and strengthen resilience in cities and territories; Towards more inclusive cities and regions that 'leave no one behind'; Enhancing good urban and territorial governance to 'leave no territory behind'
Latin America & the Caribbean	LRGs in Latin America are making progress in the territorialization of the 2030 Agenda.
Middle East and West Asia	Evidence of innovative or 'game-changing' progress in the region's countries is scarce
North America	Data is not reported in a systematic fashion and there is still much progress to be made to monitor the progress of the SDGs in Canada and the United States

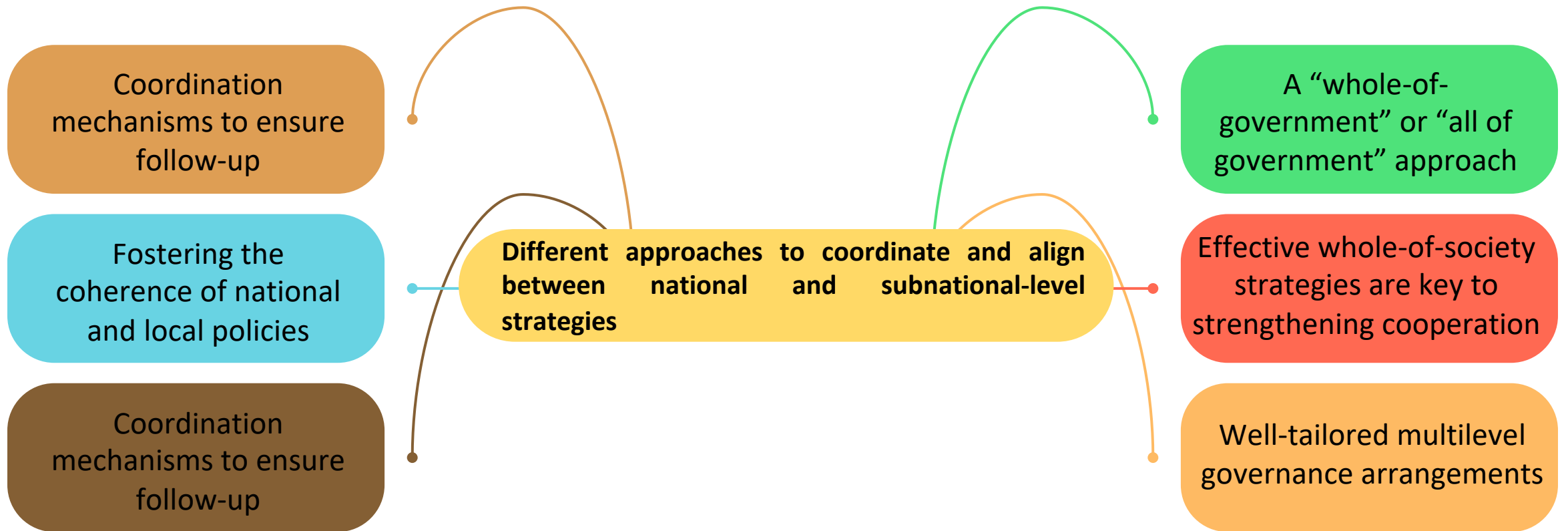
Source: Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy, 2019



III. Involvement of LRGs in SDG Localization (Cont.)

LRGs Involvement in National Coordination Mechanisms and Strategies

“Achieving the SDGs means strengthening collaboration and developing joint efforts within governments to a level that has not been seen before” (UN DESA, 2018)



Source: UCLG 2020



III. Involvement of LRGs in SDG Localization (Cont.)

Participation of LRGs in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs in 2016-2019

2016-19	Total Countries	Mid/high participation		Weak participation		No participation		No elected LRGs / No information	
		Region	Countries per region	No. countries	%	No. countries	%	No. countries	%
World	143	47	33%	23	16%	62	43%	11	8%
Africa	36	11	31%	7	19%	18	50%		0%
ASPAC	28	7	25%	3	11%	15	54%	3	11%
Eurasia	7	1	14%	1	14%	4	57%	1	14%
Europe	40	20	50%	6	15%	13	33%	1	3%
LATAM	17	6	35%	6	35%	5	29%	0	0%
MEWA	12	1	8%	0	0%	5	42%	6	50%
NORAM	3	1	33%	0	0%	2	67%	0	0%

Source: [UCLG 2020](#)



III. Involvement of LRGs in SDG Localization (Cont.)

Participation of LRGs in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation of the SDGs in 2020

2020	Total Countries	Mid/high participation		Weak participation		No participation		No elected LRGs / No information	
		Region	Countries per region	No. countries	%	No. countries	%	No. countries	%
World	47	12	26%	19	40%	4	9%	12	26%
Africa	16	4	25%	9	56%	0	0%	3	19%
ASPAC	8	3	38%	0	0%	1	13%	4	50%
Eurasia	6	1	17%	1	17%	2	33%	2	33%
Europe	7	2	29%	4	57%	1	14%	0	0%
LATAM	6	2	33%	4	67%	0	0%	0	0%
MEWA	1	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	100%
NORAM	3	0	0	1	33%	0	0%	2	67%

Source: UCLG 2020



III. Involvement of LRGs in SDG Localization

Participation of LRGs in the preparation of the VNRs

	2016		2017		2018		2019		2020		TOTAL	
Total countries reporting (per year)	22	100%	43	100%	46	100%	47	100%	47	100%	205	100%
Mid/high consultation of LRGs	10	45%	17	40%	21	46%	18	38%	26	55%	92	45%
Weak consultation of LRGs	6	27%	10	23%	7	15%	11	23%	5	11%	39	19%
No consultation of LRGs	6	27%	14	33%	13	28%	10	21%	5	11%	48	23%
No elected LRGs (2)			2	5%	4	9%	5	11%	8	17%	19	9%
No information available (3)					1	2%	3	6%	3	6%	7	3%

2. No local self-government (“No elected LRGs”) in the countries reporting in 2020: Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, Liberia, Micronesia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Seychelles, and the Syrian Arab Republic

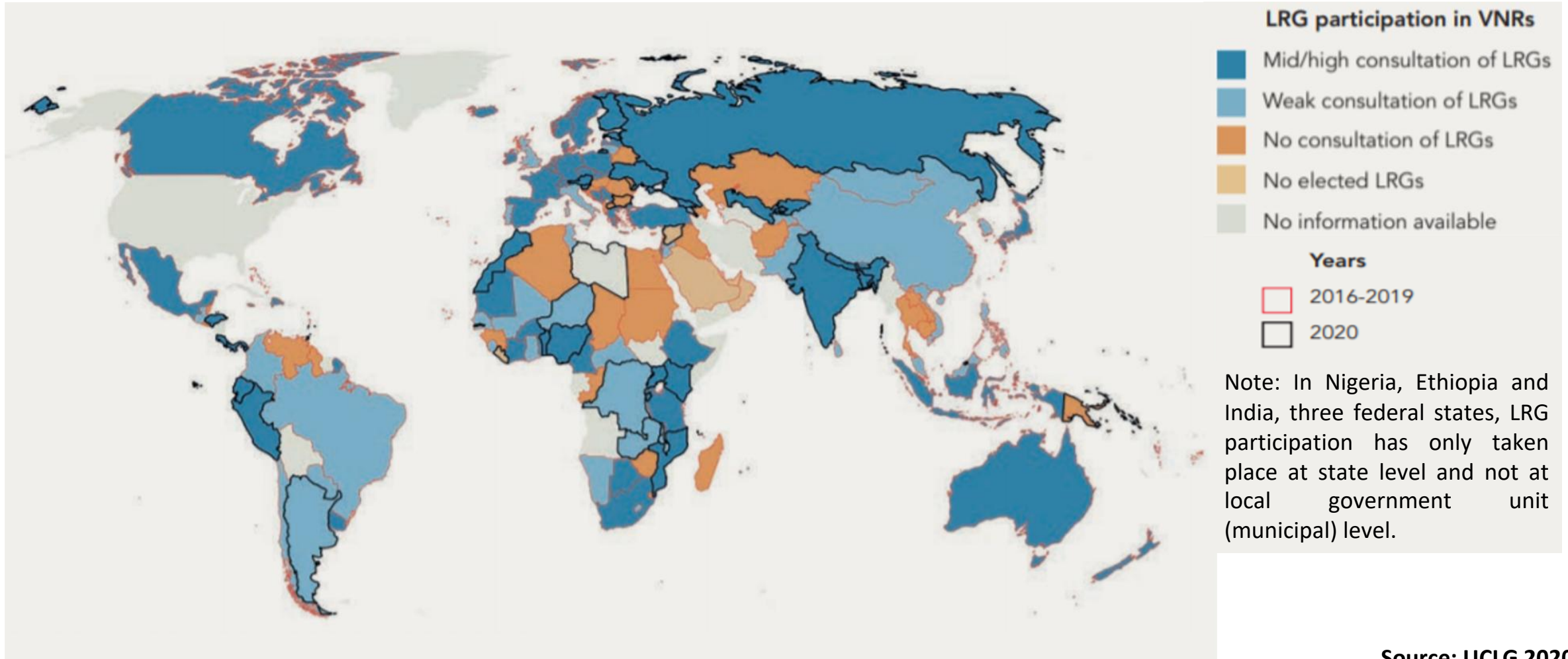
3. The VNRs that were not published before 28 June 2020 are: Austria, Libya, Micronesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, and Trinidad and Tobago

Source: UCLG 2020



III. Involvement of LRGs in SDG Localization (Cont.)

LRG participation in the preparation of the VNRs 2016-2020



Source: UCLG 2020





III. Involvement of LRGs in SDG Localization (Cont.)

Activities to support SDG localization

Awareness raising

1

Declarations, fora,
national
conference

2

Publication
(Newsletter,
brochures)

3

Campaigning,
social media

4

Training,
knowledge sharing
programmes

5

Promote local
plans' alignment
with SDGs

6

Special initiatives
or projects

7

Monitoring and
reporting activities

8

Involvement in
VNRs

9

Develop their own
VLR

10



IV. Addressing the Growing Demand for Effective & Transparent Institutions

Increasing transparency and accountability

Developing new participatory mechanisms

Increasing trust in, and satisfaction

Promoting local accountability



Participatory Budgeting

Open Government

Promote greater transparency, accountability and efficiency

Embracing the principles of human rights in their local plans and policies

Building local alliances



IV. Addressing the Growing Demand for Effective and Transparent Institutions

Elements that Facilitate and Accelerate the Results Of SDG16 at the Local Level





V. Policy Recommendations

At the global and national levels

Foster a global-local movement to localize the SDGs. Localization should be a pillar of national sustainable strategies to implement the SDGs

Create an ‘enabling institutional environment’ for localization – empowered local and regional governments and adequate financing flows to support localization are an imperative

Effective involvement of all spheres of government, civil society and key stakeholders is imperative to strengthen the governance of the SDGs and the localization process

Support the production and dissemination of disaggregated data for monitoring, evaluation and impact measurement of the localization of the global agendas, including the SDGs:

A global governance system that brings together local and regional governments and civil society will boost the implementation of the global agendas



V. Policy Recommendations

Actions at local and regional levels

Galvanize forces for the localization of the 2030 Agenda in our cities and territories

Protect the commons, human rights and culture as foundations of peace

Put human rights and the ‘Right to the City’ at the core of the local agendas – strengthen inclusive local policies to ‘leave no one behind’

Harness the co-creation of cities and territories through sustainable participative urban and land planning

Improve access to sustainable and inclusive public services in cities and territories

Focus on the future of jobs and local economic development (LED)



VI. Key Takeaways

- 1 Involve local and regional governments in SDG localization
- 2 Apply different approaches to coordinate and align between national and subnational-level strategies
- 3 The challenges of achieving sustainable development are complex, and success requires a change in approach.
- 4 Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) are an emerging process by which sub-national governments can report on their progress on Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- 5 As the level of government closest to its constituents, cities are well-positioned to experiment and demonstrate how to do this successfully.
- 6 “Localization” generally takes shape along five lines of effort sequenced in the Cycle of Local SDG Adaptation: (1) awareness; (2) alignment; (3) analysis; (4) action; and (5) accountability
- 7 VLR is for a tool for better policy and organizing and a tool to communicate vision, progress, and accountability



Activity

Group Discussion

Does your government have coordination mechanisms to coordinate and align between national and subnational-level strategies?

What actions your government undertake to localize the SDGs, particularly in the coordination mechanisms?





References

- Tony Pipa and Max Bouchet (2020). Next generation urban planning Enabling sustainable development at the local level through voluntary local reviews (VLRs). https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Next-generation-urban-planning_final.pdf
- UCLG (2019). Towards the localization of the SDGs. https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/towards_the_localization_of_the_sdgs_0.pdf
- UCLG (2020). Local and regional governments' report to the 2020 hlpf 4th report. Towards the localization of the SDGs. <https://www.global-taskforce.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/Towards%20the%20Localization%20of%20the%20SDGs.pdf>
- Waterloo Global Science Initiative. Voluntary Local Review Pilot Project. <http://www.wgsi.org/blog/voluntary-local-review-pilot-project>
- Fifth Global Report on Decentralization and Local Democracy (2019). The Localization of the Global Agendas How local action is transforming territories and communities. https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/goldv_en.pdf



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Thank you



DESA | Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government