



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



**UNITED NATIONS  
MOZAMBIQUE**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

## **National Workshop on “Localizing SDGs and National Development Strategy Progress Through Voluntary Local Reviews in Mozambique”**

**29 November – 1 December**

**Macaneta Beach Hotel, Mozambique**

**Draft Concept Note**

### **I. Purpose of the workshop**

The Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSDG/UNDESA), in collaboration with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Mozambique (MEF) and the United Nations Resident Coordinator (RCO) and UNDP Mozambique, is organizing a national capacity building workshop on “Localizing SDGs and National Development Strategy Progress Through Voluntary Local Reviews in Mozambique,” to take place from 29 November – 1 December 2023 in Macaneta, Mozambique.

The capacity building workshop is convened in the context of UNDESA’s mission to advise interested Governments on the ways and means of translating policy frameworks developed in UN conferences and summits into programmes at the country level and, through technical assistance that helps build national capacities, to integrate the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs into national development plans and strategies. Capacity building activities are also aimed at strengthening and maintaining the capabilities of states and societies to design and implement strategies that minimize the negative impacts of unprecedented and overlapping challenges, including the enduring impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, cost-of-living and debt crises that have been triggered by rising inflationary pressures and conflicts, and the triple planetary crisis, namely climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. As a cross-cutting entry point, capacity building activities promote the integration of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and regional development frameworks such as AU Agenda 2063 and the Southern African Development Community’s Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan into national sustainable development planning frameworks, sharing lessons learned and good practices through workshops and related events.

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that capacity-building forms part of the means of implementation for the SDGs (paragraph 41). Each SDG contains targets relating to means of implementation, including capacity building. Moreover, SDG 17, which covers means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development, contains target 17.9 which aims to: “Enhance international support for implementing effective and targeted capacity-building in developing countries to support national plans to implement all the sustainable development goals, including through North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation”.

In this regard, UN DESA’s Division for Sustainable Development Goals’ (DSDG) supports localization of the SDGs through sub-national Voluntary Local Review (VLR) processes and their linkages to Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) through the provision of advisory and policy

guidance, including through its [Global Guiding Elements](#)<sup>1</sup> for the VLRs, and through capacity development, including hybrid workshops at international, regional, national and sub-national levels.

The present national capacity building inception workshop is carried out through the DESA-led project “*Improved local and national government capacities for localizing SDGs progress through Voluntary Local Reviews*”, supported by the Government of Italy and with support from the United Nations Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation. The workshop will launch support for the development of VLRs in Mozambique in collaboration with MEF, participating local governments and the United Nations Resident Coordinator’s Office and UNDP in Mozambique.

## II. Background

Mozambique works to advance sustainable development at national level through its Five-Year Government Programme (2020 – 2024) and its National Development Strategy. The United Nation’s system supports Mozambique’s achievement, in an integrated manner, of its national strategy, the Africa Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for Mozambique (2022-2026), which was jointly developed by the Government and the UN.

Mozambique has adopted a decentralisation model as part of the country’s agenda to consolidate peace and deepen citizen participation. In its 2020 VNR, the Government of Mozambique emphasized the importance of operationalizing the decentralization framework and of the greater participation of local level actors for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>2</sup> It further underscored the importance of involvement of local governments at provincial, municipal and district levels to promote dialogue and consolidate the principle of leaving no one behind.<sup>3</sup>

Hence, there is recognition that localizing the national and internationally agreed development goals is essential for ensuring that these goals reflect local needs, norms, and values, thus ensuring that local actors find them relevant and meaningful. With regard to the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals, local and sub-national governments are increasingly playing a pivotal role in implementation, addressing core issues including poverty, food security, access to quality education, health care and water and sanitation services, and in advancing gender equality, youth empowerment and reducing inequalities, among others. It is estimated that at least 100 of the 169 SDG targets will not be reached without proper engagement and co-ordination with local and regional governments.

The 2030 Agenda (A/RES/70/1: *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*) recognizes this important role, pledging that “Governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities”. In paragraph 27 (e) of the Political Declaration of the 2019 SDG Summit (A/RES/74/4), Member States commit to empowering and supporting cities, local authorities and communities in pursuing the 2030 Agenda, and recognized their critical role in implementing and realizing the SDGs.

Further, the 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven"

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<sup>1</sup> [https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/GlobalGuidingElementsforVLRs\\_FINAL.pdf](https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/GlobalGuidingElementsforVLRs_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26314VNR\\_2020\\_Mozambique\\_Report.pdf](https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26314VNR_2020_Mozambique_Report.pdf), p. 72 and p. 96.

<sup>3</sup> [https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26314VNR\\_2020\\_Mozambique\\_Report.pdf](https://hlpf.un.org/sites/default/files/vnrs/2021/26314VNR_2020_Mozambique_Report.pdf), p. 90

(paragraph 79). This further underscores the critical importance of implementing the SDGs at local level, while empowering local authorities and actors as stewards of monitoring and review for the Goals. The Ministerial Declaration of the high-level segment of the 2022 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2022 high-level political forum on sustainable development (E/HLS/2022/1) encourages "... the full, equal and meaningful participation of all relevant stakeholders, including local governments...in the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national sustainable development strategies and in the preparation of voluntary national reviews..." as well as "...the involvement and empowerment of local authorities, to ensure ownership and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals..". In this regard, Member States welcome "voluntary subnational and local reviews as an essential tool to show progress and foster exchange on local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in coordination and synergy with national actors."

For their part, local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in sub-national reviews of their SDG implementation to reinforce vertical and horizontal policy coherence and complement Voluntary National Reviews. VLRs prepared in developed and developing countries alike have demonstrated that they can be a powerful accelerator of SDG implementation; contribute to the collection and analysis of timely, accurate and disaggregated data on SDG implementation and on the furthest behind at the local level; bring stakeholders, including those in vulnerable situations, closer to decision-making processes; strengthen multilevel governance and inform the elaboration of Voluntary National Reviews; and foster integration of the SDGs into national and local planning. VLRs can also help to better respond to the specific needs of local communities and geographical areas.

The value of VLRs in advancing SDG implementation has been increasingly recognized at national and international level. In his 2023 report on *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals*, the Secretary-General notes that, since 2018, the voluntary local review global movement has provided "an unprecedented push towards localization," contributing "to advances in all dimensions of localization of the Goals – from data innovation to planning and policy coherence to project development and financing."<sup>4</sup> SDG localization has further been identified as one of 12 high impact initiatives, to be showcased at the SDG Summit at UN Headquarters in September 2023.

In 2020, the National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM) prepared Mozambique's first Voluntary Local Review, with contributions from 16 out of the country's 53 municipalities. The Ministry of Economy and Finance now seeks to extend this practice to include additional local governments.

### **III. Objectives and Methodology**

This capacity building workshop aims to support the acceleration and scaling up of SDGs and NDS implementation and localization in Mozambique through the preparations of VLRs and, through this process, to build the capacities of government officials at the national and subregional levels for effective SDGs implementation at all levels, including the subnational level and reviewing and monitoring of progress. Specifically, the inception workshop will:

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<sup>4</sup>A/78/80-E/2023/64, Para. 52

- Strengthen capacity of local, regional and national government officials to conduct inclusive sub-national reviews of SDGs and NDS implementation, including reporting, and identifying main messages, challenges and opportunities;
- Enhance capacity of local and regional government officials to integrate the SDGs into local plans and strategies, including NDS;
- Strengthen awareness and multi-stakeholder partnerships for sub-national implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs through the Global Guiding Elements for voluntary local reviews (VLRs);
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and experience sharing on the SDGs monitoring and review at local level; and
- Strengthen awareness regarding how the VLR process can be utilized to enhance data gathering and analysis for tackling urban-rural differences within Mozambique.

Further promoting VLRs will also stimulate and drive local action to implement the SDGs at regional and local levels. In addition, the process will strengthen coordination, cooperation and institutional interaction between levels of government. The national government and the local authorities will be encouraged to work together, exchange data, practices, and techniques on the implementation of SDGs and NDS. In addition, the VLRs will contribute to creating awareness of the goals, and significantly contribute to the capacity of local governments to solve urgent local issues, create partnerships and advance priorities related to equity and sustainability. They will be empowered to support local ownership of the SDGs and advance local priorities.

To accomplish these objectives, national and sub-national policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders will be drawn from various line ministries, local and regional governments, academia, research centers, the United Nations Country Team, and civil society organizations. UNDESA and the RCO/UNCT will build the capacities of participants through the provision of a combination of substantive presentations and hands-on practical exercises.

#### **IV. Expected outcome of the Capacity Building Workshop**

At the conclusion of the capacity building workshop, it is anticipated that the participants will:

- Have acquired enhanced capability and a better understanding of the requirements for localizing the SDGs and NDS by successfully undertaking a voluntary local review and how to link it to the national VNR process.
- Be able to participate in ongoing and planned national development activities to advance the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs implementation at the national, local and regional levels.
- Be able to remain in a community of similar practitioners and experts to support one another in localizing the SDGs.

#### **V. Contacts**

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