



## **Fifth Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda**

*“Fostering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals from the local level towards the 2023 SDG Summit”*

Special High-Level Event on the occasion of the 2022 United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

*Day 1 - 7 July 8:00AM - 10:30AM EDT - virtual*  
*Day 2 - 12 July 3:00PM - 6:00PM EDT - UNHQ - CR2*

### ***Background Note***

#### **PANEL: VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS AND VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL REVIEWS: KEY POLICY TOOLS FOR THE SDGS**

##### **7<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022 – 8:30-9:15 A.M.**

Local and regional governments are engaging, in ever growing numbers, in carrying out subnational reviews, known as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs), of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at local level. Over the period of 2020 to 2021, the total number of VLRs available worldwide has doubled, from approximately 40 VLRs in June 2020 to more than 100 in June 2021. In the same period, 15 VSRs have been developed in 14 countries worldwide, representing a total of more than 16,000 LRGs<sup>1</sup>.

VLRs and VSRs have proven useful for cities and regions to foster SDG localization, including by providing opportunities to:

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<sup>1</sup>Advanced data from the GTF 2022 Towards the Localization of the SDGs report.

- Demonstrate the capacity and commitments of local and regional governments to sustainable development;
- Adapt existing or put in place new institutional mechanisms and structures to ensure coordination and participatory approaches to VLR/VSR preparation, and SDG localization beyond the review process;
- Identify local sustainable development priorities, as well as data sources and gaps to improve monitoring;
- Raise awareness on the SDGs at local level;
- Increase the potential for partnerships with the private sector, non-governmental actors and other stakeholders on accelerating SDGs implementation;
- Increase focus on leaving no one behind and to bring those who are marginalized to closer to decision making processes.

While subnational reviews of the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs contribute to assessing progress and addressing gaps and challenges in their own right, they can also reinforce vertical coherence within governments, and contribute to national level implementation and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

Speakers are invited to deliver a statement (3 minutes maximum) considering the proposed guiding questions below:

- How has the preparation of VLRs and VSRs contributed to inclusion of the SDGs in local development plans and budgeting, and to the implementation of the SDGs more broadly?
- What positive examples exist in terms of VLR and VSR processes:
  - fostering participatory approaches to SDG implementation and to leaving no one behind; or
  - gathering data relevant to the SDGs at local level?
  - contributing to the formation of new partnerships to support SDG achievement?
- How can institutional mechanisms put in place for the development of VLRs or VSRs be harnessed to contribute to SDG achievement following the conclusion of the review process?
- How are local and regional governments making use of UN system resources for VLR preparation, such as DESA's Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews of SDG Implementation, or guidelines prepared by the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe and UN Habitat, as well as by other entities?