

## Advancing implementation of the SDGs: Workshop on Voluntary Local Reviews

3-4 October, Helsinki  
Tapahtumatori (1<sup>st</sup> floor)  
Helsinki City Hall  
Pohjoisesplandadi 11-13, 00170 Helsinki

### Programme

3 October - Day 1	
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Coffee and registration</b>
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Welcome and opening</b>  <b>Master of Ceremony for the Workshop</b> – Ms. Laura Uttu-Deschryvere, Head of International Affairs, City of Helsinki <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Amson Sibanda</b>, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Eeva Fruman</b>, Secretary General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Finland</li> <li>• <b>Min. Plen. Marco Ricci</b>, Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (tbc)</li> </ul>
9:15 – 9:30	<b>Overview of the main purpose of the workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Carol Pollack</b>, Inter-Regional Adviser, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Mia Malin</b>, Senior Advisor, Sustainability, City of Helsinki</li> </ul>
9:30 – 10:45	<b>Session 1 – SDG localization: Trends and emerging issues</b> This session will provide a variety of perspectives on trends and emerging practices in relation to SDG localization, as well as indicating possible future areas for development. <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Amson Sibanda</b>, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Lauchlan Munro</b>, Professor, International Development and Global Studies, University of Ottawa -Translating global</li> </ul>

	<p>development goals to local and regional contexts: challenges and opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Bedoshruti Sadhukhan</b>, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) South Asia - Localizing the SDGs: the role of institutions and citizen engagement</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Max Bouchet</b>, Senior Policy Analyst &amp; Senior Project Manager, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings - Localizing the SDGs: engaging budgetary and financing processes</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Edgar Bilsky</b>, Director of Research, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) - Mainstreaming SDGs into local and regional development planning: what we have learnt so far</li> </ul> <p><b>Discussant:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Eeva Fruman</b>, Secretary General of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development, Prime Minister's Office, Government of Finland</li> </ul> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10:45 – 11:15	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:15 – 12:30	<p><b>Session 2 - Lessons learned: Local and regional implementation of the SDGs and VLRs</b></p> <p>The purpose of this session is to share practical lessons learned from recent VLRs. Presenters from different regions will provide concrete examples of how preparation of a VLR contributed to accelerating the implementation of SDGs, as well as how gaps and challenges were overcome.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Fernando Ortiz-Moya</b>, Policy Researcher, Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Tomonori Hiroike</b>, Director for Planning and Coordination, Planning and Coordination Division, Office of the Governor for Policy Planning, Tokyo, Japan</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Cindy Chinchilla</b>, Goicoechea local government, Costa Rica</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Mia Malin</b>, Senior Advisor, Sustainability, City of Helsinki, Finland</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Notombi Ncube</b>, Victoria Falls Municipality, Zimbabwe</li> </ul> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is the role of local and regional governments in SDG implementation?</li> <li>2. What have been the benefits of conducting a VLR?</li> <li>3. What gaps in SDG implementation did the VLRs highlight?</li> <li>4. Did the VLR process lead to changes in strategies, plans, coordination mechanisms or other areas of SDG implementation?</li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>

13:00-14:00	<b>Lunch break</b>
14:00-14:10	Remarks of <b>Deputy Mayor Madam Nasima Razmyar</b> , City of Helsinki
14:10–15:15	<p><b>Session 3 – Partnerships for SDG Localization and VLRs</b></p> <p>Sustainable Development Goal 17 recognizes the importance of multistakeholder partnerships and cooperation as part of the means of implementation of achieve the 2030 Agenda. This session will focus on how partnerships support SDG localization and how the preparation of VLRs can also foster the creation of new partnerships for sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Martino Miraglia</b>, Human Settlements Officer, SDG Localization and Local Governments, UN Habitat</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mwanza, Tanzania and UNA Finland</b> (speakers tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Juan Valle Robles</b>, Housing and Land Management Unit, UN Economic Commission for Europe (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Aissata Camara</b>, Deputy Commissioner for Policy &amp; Strategic Initiatives, New York City (tbc remote)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Carla Rey</b>, Secretary-General, Associazione Italiana del Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa–(tbc remote)</li> </ul> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How are partnerships accelerating implementation of the SDGs at local level?</li> <li>2. How can the preparation of VLRs support the development of partnerships?</li> <li>3. What good practices and experiences can be shared in terms of partnerships, including between local governments and international organizations, civil society, the private sector; and/or academia?</li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 4 - Strengthening local and national coordination for the SDGs</b></p> <p>This session aims to address multi-level governance, linkages with national processes such as VNRs, as well as coordination among local governments.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng</b>, Deputy Secretary, National Planning Commission, South Africa (tbc)</li> </ul> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Eveliina Kiema-Majanen</b>, Senior Advisor Strategic Unit, The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities</li> </ul>

- **Ms. Constanza Figueroa**, Secretary of Institutional and International Relations, Government of Salta, Argentina
- **Mr. Kalanidhi Devkota**, Executive Director, Municipal Association of Nepal
- **Ms. Line Vind**, Chief Consultant at Gladsaxe Kommune, Denmark
- **Mr. Allan MacLeod**, Bristol City Council, UK (tbc remote)
- **Ms. Nilvia Mamudo**, Head of Planning and budgeting for Local and Municipal Entities, Mozambique (tbc)

*Guiding questions:*

1. How can a VLR process support changes in strategies, plans, coordination mechanisms and other areas of SDG implementation at local and national levels?
2. How can the VLRs contribute to the coherent implementation of the SDGs at the national level?
3. How can local and regional governments contribute to the national follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda?
4. What approaches to coordination and cooperation can strengthen the participation of local and regional governments in national SDG coordination bodies and mechanisms?

*Discussion*

\*\* 3 October\*\*

**\*\*Evening Reception hosted by the Mayor of Helsinki\*\***

19:00 -20:30 (arrival 18:30-19:00):

Address: Aleksanterikatu 20 (yellow building opposite to the white church near city hall).

Reception Room: Empiresali.

Dress Code: smart casual/business casual

**4 October - Day 2**

9:00 – 10:00

**Session 5 – The role of stakeholders in achieving the SDGs**

The objective of this session is to draw together key themes and issues around the stakeholder implementation of the SDGs at the local level. It will feature representing national and local governments from different regions.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Ville Taajamaa**, Project Manager - VLR protocol & SDG work, The City of Espoo, Finland

**Panellists:**

- **Ms. Yohaira Vargas**, Mayor, Zacapa, Guatemala

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Krista Kampus</b>, Head, European Union and International Cooperation Executive, and Director European Green Capital, Tallinn, Estonia</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Jorge Luis Aviles Lizama</b>, Director of Planning and Monitoring of the Technical Secretariat of Planning of the Government of the State of Yucatan, Mexico (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Marlet Wellington</b>, Director of Planning, Trelawny Municipal Corporation, Trelawny, Jamaica (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Lamin Kujabi</b>, focal person for the preparation of VLRs, Kuntaur Area Council, Gambia (tbc)</li> </ul> <p><i>Guiding Questions</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How can the engagement of various stakeholders contribute to a robust sub-national review?</li> <li>2. How can the VLRs help to ensure that no one is left behind?</li> <li>3. What are some of the good practices for awareness-raising?</li> <li>4. What are key steps in identifying stakeholders and preparing a stakeholder engagement plan?</li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
10:00 – 10:45	<p><b>Session 5</b></p> <p><b>Break-out Groups: In-depth discussion on Stakeholder Engagement</b></p> <p>Briefing on work in breakout groups [5 min]</p> <p>Facilitated work in groups</p>
10:45– 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 12:00	<p><b>Session 6: The role of data and knowledge gathering in the development of VLRs</b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Shipra Narang Suri</b>, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, Global Solutions Division, UN Habitat</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mayor David Anzaldo</b>, Camiri, Bolivia</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Alice Siragusa</b>, Project Leader Joint Research Centre, European Commission, Seville, Spain</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Jamila Bio Ibrahim</b>, Senior Special Assistant on SDGs to the Governor of Kwara State Government, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Gabriel Werner</b>, Stockholm, Sweden (tbc)</li> </ul> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the challenges regarding data in monitoring and reviewing the sub-national implementation of the 2030 Agenda?</li> <li>2. How should data comparability and suitability for the local context be balanced? What data is available?</li> <li>3. How to prepare the statistical annex for a VLR report?</li> <li>4. How best to analyse and communicate information on data so that it can be used as broadly as possible?</li> </ol> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12:15 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 6 - Break-out Groups: In-depth discussion on Data</b></p> <p>Briefing on work in breakout groups [5 min]</p> <p>Facilitated work in groups on key topic</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:00	<p><b>Session 7: Feedback from the Break-out Groups</b></p> <p>Sharing key points and discussion</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
15:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 8: VLRs going forward: Key takeaways</b></p> <p>This session will consist of an interactive panel discussion designed to capture key points and recommendations emerging from the workshop.</p> <p>Moderator: tbc</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>City of Helsinki</b></li> <li>• <b>Ms. Carol Pollack</b>, Inter-Regional Adviser, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Juan Valle Robles</b>, Housing and Land Management Unit, UN Economic Commission for Europe (tbc)</li> </ul>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 – 16:30	<p><b>Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Amson Sibanda</b>, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA</li> <li>- <b>City of Helsinki</b></li> </ul>