

National Capacity Building Workshop on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in South Africa

27-29 March 2023

Birchwood Hotel and OR Tambo Conf Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa
Workshop Programme

27 March - DAY 1	
8:00 – 8:30	Coffee and registration
8:30 – 9:30	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Nelson Muffuh, UN Resident Coordinator, South Africa • Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, DSDG/DESA • H.E. Ms. Silvia Marrara, First Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Italy, South Africa • Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng, Secretary, National Planning Commission, RSA
	Overview of the main purpose of the workshop
9:30 – 10:00	Introductions
10:00 – 11:00	Session 1: Setting the national context: NDP Vision 2030, the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs <p><i>This session will provide an overview of the national, regional and international frameworks that guide sustainable development in South Africa.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Kefiloe Masiteng, Secretary, National Planning Commission, RSA</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Lusanda Batale, National Planning Commission, RSA – <i>Overview of NDP Vision 2030</i> • Mr. Rogers Dhlwayo, UNDP South Africa – <i>Localizing the 2030 Agenda, AU Agenda 2063 in South Africa: progress and challenges</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Hamouda, African Peer Review Mechanism – <i>Synergies of the development agendas</i> • Mr. Tebogo Matlou, International Project Manager, South African Local Government Association - <i>Role of local government in implementing, monitoring, and reporting on the SDGs</i> <p>Q&A</p>
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 – 13:00	<p>Session 2: Using VLRs to drive localization of the SDGs and inform VNRs: Sharing of experiences and lessons learned</p> <p><i>This session aims to gather experience, develop, and share best practices on various challenges surrounding VLRs, such as linking VLRs to the development process of VNRs, achieving governmental recognition of VLRs, empowering local stakeholders for developing VLRs, creating local fora for VLRs, and how the national Government can support that.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Natasha Primo, Head Organisational Research and City of Cape Town SDG and VLR lead</p> <p>Panel: <i>Introduction and lessons learned from the Voluntary Local Reviews</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Amson Sibanda, DSDG/DESA – <i>Linkages between VNRs and VLRs</i> • Ms Jameyah Armien, Research, Policy and Strategy Department Corporate Services Directorate, City of Cape Town <i>VLR Experiences, successes challenges and opportunities: the case of Cape Town</i> • Mr. Robert Papa, Chief of Staff and Head of Service Delivery, Busia, Kenya - <i>Local and regional implementation of the SDGs and VLRs: Experience of Busia, Kenya</i> • Mr. Andrea Ferrannini, Action Research for co-development (ARCO), - <i>Local and regional implementation of the SDGs and VLRs: Experience of Italian local and regional governments</i> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the role of local and regional governments in SDG implementation? 2. What are the benefits of conducting a VLR? 3. What gaps in SDG implementation did the VLRs highlight? 4. Did the VLR process lead to changes in strategies, plans, coordination mechanisms or other areas of SDG implementation? <p>Q&A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch break
14:00 – 15:30	Session 3: Interactive session: Status of SDG and NDP implementation in South Africa

	<p><i>This session will explore South Africa's journey towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and the National Development Plan, particularly in terms of how the country has integrated the SDGs into national policy processes and the role of various stakeholders contributing to the transformation of key development sectors.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Pali Lehohla, Economic Modelling Academy/OPH</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Yared Tsegay, African Monitor - <i>Role of National SDG Advisory Bodies</i> • Ms. Sixolile Ngcobo, Provincial Manager for the Western Cape Province, Commission for Gender Equality/South Africa - <i>Using VLRs to drive localization of the SDG and inform VNRs – the importance of mainstreaming gender</i> • Joseph Eliabson Maniragena, South African CSOs Working Group on SDGs Steering Group - <i>Exploring how the SAWG can play its strategic role to ensure maximum and meaningful engagement as well as to bring the voices of people living in poverty and groups in vulnerable situations into the 2030 Agenda</i> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What actions have been taken on SDG implementation? What are some of the key success stories and bottle necks? 2. What are areas of priority action and how have they been identified? Have the priority areas been aligned with a local/regional budget? 3. How have the SDGs been integrated into local and regional development plans and strategies? 4. Why the VLR can be a useful tool for enhancing SDG implementation in the local context? 5. What will be the main benefits of the VLRs? <p>Q & A</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Session 4: Strengthening local and national coordination for the SDGs</p> <p><i>Multilevel governance is critical to the implementation of sustainable development. This session will explore guidance from the international level on effective governance, as well as good practices from the region and within South Africa in ensuring coordination amongst various levels of government.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Rogers Dhlwayo, UNDP South Africa</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mohanuoa Mabidilala: Gender and Stakeholder Coordinator, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs - the coordination of the cities through the District Development Model

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Saras Jagwanth – DESA/DPIDG – CEPA Principles/African Toolkit (virtual) • Ms. Oyebanke Abejirin – UNECA - Regional Perspective (virtual) • Ms. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, UN-Habitat - multilevel governance for SDG localization (virtual) <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? <p>Q & A</p>
28 March - DAY 2	
9:00 – 9:45	<p>Session 5: The VLR preparatory process: overview of approaches, milestones and deliverables</p> <p><i>This session will provide practical guidance on the preparation of VLRs from UNDESA</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Ricardo Gottschalk, UN Resident Coordinator Office, SA</p> <p>Presenter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carol Pollack, DSDG/DESA – <i>DESA Global Guiding Elements for VLRs</i> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to begin a VLR process? 2. What are the key elements and milestones in the process? 3. Who leads the process and who is engaged? What works and why? 4. What are the lessons learned from the process and how has it contributed to the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda? 5. How to prepare a roadmap? <p>Q & A</p>
9:45 – 10:45	<p>Break-out Group 1: Preparing the road map and next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on work in breakout groups on a VLR road map • Facilitated work groups on key components and steps for VLRs
10:45 – 11:00	Break

11:00 – 12:00	<p>Session 6: Data for enhanced SDGs follow-up and review processes at the national and sub-national levels</p> <p><i>This session will focus on the use of quantitative and qualitative data in monitoring progress towards global goals at the national and sub-national levels. It will provide an opportunity for discussion regarding how cities and regions can access data for VLRs and for development planning, as well as existing challenges and innovative approaches.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Section, DSDG/DESA</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Faizel Mohammed, Statistics South Africa - Data collection experience of South Africa • Mr. Pali Lehohla, Economic Modelling Academy/OPHI - <i>Addressing sound policy making deficits: leveraging data and statistics in national and local development plans</i> <p><i>This session aims at improving the availability and use of data to inform SDGs follow-up and review processes, including leveraging data from non-traditional sources to bridge data gaps and defining the data quality standards for non-official data.</i></p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are the challenges regarding data in monitoring and reviewing the sub-national implementation of the 2030 Agenda? 2. How should sound policymaking deficits be addressed? 3. How should data comparability and suitability for the local context be balanced? What data is available? 4. How to prepare the statistical annex for a VLR report? 5. How best to analyse and communicate information on data so that it can be used as broadly as possible? <p>Q & A</p>
12:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 7. SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation Tools at national and local levels</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Sixolile Ngcobo, Provincial Manager for the Western Cape Province, Commission for Gender Equality/South Africa</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Ndriakita Solonionjanirina, UNICEF Research and Evaluation Specialist in Madagascar Country Office - key lessons, technical and organization aspects of the evaluation synthesis conducted in the context of the VNR (<i>virtual</i>) • Mr. Rogers Dhlwayo, UNDP South Africa - Evaluation of the SDGs <p>Q & A</p>

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:30	<p>Session 8. Inclusive approaches to awareness-raising and engaging stakeholders</p> <p><i>South Africa has established a national SDG coordination mechanism, including the National Development Stakeholders Forum. In 2020, the Cabinet approved a national policy development framework to ensure stakeholder participation in national policymaking. This is a robust framework to ensure stakeholder engagement in key policy processes for sustainable development. Given the complexity of transformation, this session will discuss the role of various stakeholders in guiding this transformation roadmap in South Africa.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Andrea Ferrannini, Action Research for co-development (ARCO)</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Carol Pollack, DSDG/DESA – <i>Stakeholder Engagement and VNRs/VLRs: Good practices and approaches</i> • Dr. Dineo Seabe, University of Cape Town – <i>Inclusive approaches to awareness-raising and engaging stakeholders</i> • Mr. Jan. Magoro, Policy Manager: Emerging Markets, Access Partnership - <i>Gauteng's experience with stakeholder engagement and awareness-raising</i> • Mr. Zama Moyo, SDG Hub: university of Pretoria - <i>Youth involvement in the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda</i> • Dr. Thina Nzo, Public Affairs Research Institute (PARI) - <i>Achieving SDG's by advancing inclusive community engagement.</i> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can the engagement of various stakeholders contribute to a robust sub-national review? 2. How can the VLRs help to ensure that no one is left behind? 3. What are some of the good practices for awareness-raising? 4. What are key steps in identifying stakeholders and preparing a stakeholder engagement plan? <p>Q&A</p>
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:00	<p>Break-out Group 2: Stakeholder mapping exercise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefing on work in breakout groups on mapping • Facilitated working groups
17:00	Brief recap of day and close
29 March - DAY 3	

9:00-10:30	Session 9. Report back from Day 2 break-out groups Moderator: Ms. Xoliswa Dilata , National Planning Commission Report back on road map preparations and stakeholder engagement planning Q & A
10:30 – 11:00	Break
11:00– 12:00	Next steps for VLR process Moderator: Mr. Ricardo Gottschalk , UN Resident Coordinator Office, SA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Silondile Mpotshane, National Planning Commission • Tbc, Statistics South Africa • Mr. Rogers Dhliwayo, UNDP • Ms. Carol Pollack, DSDG/DESA Discussion and reflections
12:00 – 12:30	Closing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DESA - RCO - Government representative
12:30	Lunch