

**National capacity building workshop on “Improved Local and National Government Capacities for Localizing SDGs and Agenda 2063 Through Voluntary Local Reviews in Ghana”**

14-16 November, Lancaster Kumasi City Hotel, Kumasi, Ghana

**Workshop Programme**

14 November 2023	
8:30 – 9:00	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 – 9:45	<p><b>Chair: Prof. Mrs. Esi Awuah</b>, Commissioner NDPC, Foundation Vice Chancellor and Interim Board Chair African Institute of Mathematical Sciences (AIMS -Ghana)</p> <p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Honourable Simon Osei-Mensah</b>, Ashanti Regional Minister</p> <p><b>Opening remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Nana Ato Arthur</b>, Head of Local Government Service</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Samuel Passah</b>, Director, Local Government and Decentralisation, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Charles Abani</b>, UN Resident Coordinator, Ghana</li> <li>- <b>Prof. Eddy Maloka</b>, APRM Continental Secretariat, African Union</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Kodjo Esseim Mensah-Abrampa (PhD)</b>, Director-General, National Development Planning Commission – <i>overview of the main purpose and objectives of the workshop</i></li> </ul>
09:45 – 11:00	<p><b>Session 1: Setting the national context: National Development Policy Framework (2022-2025), the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and the Agenda 2063</b></p> <p><i>This session will provide an overview of the national, regional and international frameworks that guide sustainable development in Ghana. It also presents the government efforts to align NDP with the 2030 and 2063 Agenda with a special focus on key development priorities i.e Education, Gender equality and Poverty alleviation.</i></p> <p>Chair: <b>Mr. Peter Aidoo</b>, Economist, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Ghana</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Kodjo Esseim Mensah-Abrampa (PhD)</b>, Director-General, NDPC, <i>Ghana’s SDG and AU Agenda 2063 Coordination and Implementation Architecture</i></li> <li>- <b>Mr. Amin Abdul-Rahaman</b>, Chief Director, Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (<b>MLGDRD</b>)</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Jürgen Gafke</b>, Senior Programme Management Officer, DSDG/DESA – <i>Introduction to the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and their key features and principles, DSDG/DESA</i></li> <li>- <b>Ms. Sara Hamouda</b>, Agenda 2063 Expert, APRM Continental Secretariat, <i>Agenda 2063 Aspirations, assessment of FTYIP and Ghana’s progress.</i> (virtual)</li> </ul> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Coffee break</b>

11:30 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 2: Using VLRs to drive localization of the SDGs and inform VNRs: Sharing of experiences and lessons learned</b></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 these.</i></p> <p>Chair: <b>Dr. Nana Ato Arthur</b>, Head of Local Government Service</p> <p>Panel: <i>Introduction and lessons learned from the Voluntary Local Reviews</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Miriam Nana Ama Amoah</b>, MLGDRD -Localizing SDGs and MTNDPF: Drawing lessons from the experiences in Ghana</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Richard Oduro</b>, Metropolitan Planning Officer Accra Metropolitan Assembly - <i>The AMA experience of VLR</i></li> <li>- <b>Mr. Modou Jonga</b>, CEO Brikama Area Council, The Gambia <i>The Gambia experience of VLR</i></li> <li>- <b>Mr. Robert Papa</b>, Busia County, Kenya – <i>The Kenya experience of VLR and stakeholder engagement</i></li> <li>- <b>Stefano MARTA, PhD</b>, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) - <i>A Territorial Approach to the SDGs (virtual)</i></li> <li>- <b>Mr. Huzaif Musah</b>, SDGs Financing Officer, UNDP – <i>Overview of the SDGs and the role of Local Authorities in the SDGs</i></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 are the benefits of conducting a VLR?</li> <li>3. What gaps in SDG implementation do the VLRs highlight?</li> <li>4. How has the VLR process contributed to changes in strategies, plans, coordination mechanisms or other areas of SDG implementation?</li> </ol> <p>Q&amp;A</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:30	<p><b>Session 3: The status of SDG and MTNDPF implementation in Ghana</b></p> <p><i>This session will explore Ghana’s journey towards implementing the 2030 Agenda and the MTNDPF 2022-2025, particularly in terms of how the country has integrated the SDGs into national and local policy processes, budgeting and the role of various stakeholders contributing to the transformation of key development sectors.</i></p> <p>Chair: <b>Beauty Narteh</b>, Executive Secretary, GACC; Co-convener CSO Platform on the SDGs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Jemima Lomotey</b>, Regional Economic Planning Officer, Greater Accra Region</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Charles Konglo</b>, Principal Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Nana Yaw Yankah</b>, Ministry of Finance</li> </ul> <p>Presentations by selected participating local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accra Metropolitan</li> <li>• Amansie West</li> <li>• North East Gonja</li> <li>• Bibiani-Anhwiaso-Bekwai Municipal Assembly</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sunyani Municipality</li> </ul> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What actions have been taken on SDG implementation? What are some of the key success stories and bottle necks?</li> <li>2. What are areas of priority action and how have they been identified? Have the priority areas been aligned with a local/regional budget?</li> <li>3. How have the SDGs been integrated into local and regional development plans and strategies?</li> <li>4. How have the SDGs been integrated into the budget of Government?</li> <li>5. Why the VLR can be a useful tool for enhancing SDG implementation in the local context?</li> <li>6. What will be the main benefits of the VLRs?</li> </ol> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
15:30 – 16:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b>Session 4: Strengthening local and national coordination for the SDGs</b>  <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 Ghana in ensuring coordination amongst various levels of government.</i></p> <p>Chair: <b>Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo</b>, Deputy Director &amp; Advisor, SDG Advisory Unit, Office of the President</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ms. Winnie Asare</b>, Principal Officer, African Peer Review Mechanism National Secretariat</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Miriam Nana Ama Amoah</b>, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development</li> <li>- <b>Mr. Charles Konglo</b>, Principal Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Saras Jagwanth</b> – DESA/DPIDG – CEPA Principles/African Toolkit (virtual)</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Hilde Opoku</b>, SDG Cities Ghana Programme Coordinator, PDB, UN-Habitat</li> </ul> <p>Q &amp; A</p>
<b>15 November 2023</b>	
09:00– 10:30	<p><b>Session 5: The VLR preparatory process: overview of approaches, milestones and deliverables</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Dr. Richard Osei Bofah</b>, SDGs National Coordinator, Chief Analyst, National Development Planning Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Mr. Jürgen Gafke</b>, Senior Programme Management Officer, DSDG/DESA - Presentation of the Global Guiding Elements for VLRs</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Lusungu Kayani</b>, Social Affairs Officer, UN Economic Commission for Africa – <i>Africa Regional Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews – Linking AU Agenda 2063 with the 2030 Agenda</i> (virtual)</li> <li>- <b>SDG localization and Local Governments Team</b>, UPB, UN-Habitat</li> <li>- <b>Ms. Vera Baffoe</b>, Senior Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission - Government efforts to raise awareness of MTNDPF, Agenda 2063 and the 2030 Agenda</li> <li>-</li> </ul> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>

	<p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What are the global and regional recommendations to approach a VLR</li> <li>2. How can the engagement of various stakeholders contribute to a robust sub-national review?</li> <li>3. What are some of the good practices for awareness-raising?</li> <li>4. What are the lessons learned from the process and how has it contributed to the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063?</li> </ol> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
10:30– 11:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:00 – 13:00	<p><b>Session 6: Preparation of VLR: Ghana’s Context using the VLR Guide</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Dr. Audrey Smock Amoah</b>, Director, Local Government Service</p> <p><b>Ms. Patience Ampomah</b>, Senior Planning Analyst, NDPC <i>Presentation on overview of Ghana’s VLR Guide; Methodology and processes for VLR preparation</i></p> <p><b>Charles Konglo</b>, Principal Planning Analyst, NDPC <i>Presentation on VLR Guide: Reporting on the SDGs; Financing the SDGs and Opportunities for Investment</i></p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How to begin a VLR process?</li> <li>2. What are the key elements and milestones in the process?</li> <li>3. Who leads the process and who is engaged? What works and why?</li> </ol>
	<p><b>Break-out Groups: Stakeholder mapping and Preparing the VLR road map</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitated working groups on stakeholder mapping</li> <li>- Facilitated working groups on key components and steps for VLRs</li> </ul> <p><b>Group Facilitators:</b> Mr. Nana Yaw Yankah, Mr. Charles Konglo, Patience Ampomah, Daniel Amofa, Mr. Stephen Ampem Darko, Mr. Eric Agyei</p>
13:00 – 14:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00 – 15:15	<p><b>Session 7. Data for enhanced SDGs and MTNDPF follow-up and review processes at the national and sub-national levels</b></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>Chair: <b>Dr. Felix Addo-Yobo</b>, Deputy Director &amp; Advisor, SDG Advisory Unit, Office of the President</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Mr. Daniel Amofa</b>, Principal Planning Analyst – <i>National Monitoring and Evaluation Policy</i></li> <li>2. <b>Mr. Vitus Bobrnuo</b>, Senior Statistician, Ghana Statistical Service– <i>Data for SDGs and MTNDPF monitoring and evaluation at national and sub-national levels: opportunities and challenges</i></li> </ol>

	<p>3. <b>Mr. Amson Sibanda</b>, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, DSDG/DESA – <i>Leveraging citizen generated data -opportunities and challenges</i> (virtual)</p> <p>4. <b>Mr. Nana Yamoah Asafu-Adjaye</b>, CSIR-Science and Technology Policy Research Institute (STEPRI), Ghana</p> <p>5. <b>Mr. Tinfissi-Joseph Ilboudo</b>, Chief, Statistical Development, Data Innovation and Outreach, UN ECA, African Centre for Statistics, Addis Ababa (virtual)</p> <p><i>Guiding questions:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What is monitoring and evaluation and why it is important?</li> <li>2. What are the challenges regarding data in monitoring and reviewing the sub-national implementation of the 2030 Agenda?</li> <li>3. How to align VLR reporting with Agenda 2063 reporting framework to overcome reporting fatigue?</li> <li>4. How should data comparability and suitability for the local context be balanced? What data is available?</li> <li>5. How to prepare the statistical annex for a VLR report?</li> <li>6. How best to analyse and communicate information on data so that it can be used as broadly as possible?</li> <li>7. How to leverage Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) for SDG reporting</li> </ol> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
15:15 – 15:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
15:30 – 17:00	<p><b>Break-out Groups: Indicator, data gathering and sources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Facilitated working groups on indicators, data gathering and sources</li> <li>- Game on SDG alignment with local indicators.</li> </ul> <p><b>Group Facilitators:</b> UN Habitat/DESA</p>
<b>16 November 2023</b>	
9:00-10:00	<p><b>Report back from Day 2 break-out groups</b></p> <p>Chair: <b>Ms. Patience Ampomah (Senior Planning Analyst)</b>, NDPC</p> <p>Report back on road map preparations, stakeholder engagement planning, data gathering</p> <p><b>Q &amp; A</b></p>
10:00-10:30	<b>Coffee break</b>
10:30 –11:00	<p><b>Next steps for VLR process</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Dr. Richard Osei Bofah</b>, SDGs National Coordinator, Chief Analyst, National Development Planning Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jürgen Gafke</b>, Senior Programme Management Officer, DSDG/DESA</li> <li>• <b>Wilfred Sam-Awortwi</b>, Planning Analyst, National Development Planning Commission</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Peter Aidoo</b>, Economist, UN Resident Coordinator Office, Ghana</li> </ul> <p>Discussion and reflections</p>

11:00-11:30	<b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Dr. Nana Ato Arthur</b>, Head of Local Government Service</li> <li>- <b>Dr. Kodjo Esseim Mensah-Abrampa (PhD)</b>, Director-General, National Development Planning Commission –</li> <li>- <b>Mr. David Asante-Apeatu</b>, African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) – Governing Council</li> </ul>
12:00 – 13:00	<b>Lunch</b>