



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs

The VLR preparatory process: overview of approaches, milestones and deliverables

Jürgen Gafke, Senior Programme Management Officer
National Strategies & Capacity Building Branch, DSDG/DESA

Towards sustainable development for all



THE AGENDA 2030 AND VOLUNTARY REVIEWS

The 2030 Agenda creates a system for regular monitoring and review of progress made



“We commit to fully engage in regular and inclusive reviews of progress at subnational, national, regional and global levels”(2030 Agenda, para. 77).



VLRS in the World



GLOBAL GUIDING ELEMENTS FOR VLRS

- Draw from the Secretary-General's common voluntary guidelines for the VNRs
- Provide a proposed shared structure for the reports, and at minimum, give a checklist of issues that could be reflected in the process
- Fully compatible with other, more detailed guidance documents
- Aim at fostering a dialogue between the Voluntary National Reviews and the VLRs, where applicable



Guiding Principles for a VLR

VLRs should be guided by key principles from 2030 Agenda (para. 74) applying to all reviews, i.e.:

- Longer-term orientation, identifying achievements, challenges, gaps and will help mobilize necessary means of implementation and partnerships;
- Open, inclusive, participatory and transparent;
- People-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind;
- Rigorous and based on evidence

Possible VLR structure

Methodology and process for preparation of the review

Report on the full methodology for the VLR, including:

- Who was in charge of VLR preparation?
- How were stakeholders engaged?
- How was data collected and used?
- How were priority SDGs identified?

Policy and enabling environment

- Describe the relationship between the subnational and national levels
- What activities were undertaken to raise awareness on the SDGs?
- How are SDGs included in local plans
- Leaving no one behind
- Institutional mechanisms/governance
- Barriers faced

Progress on goals and targets

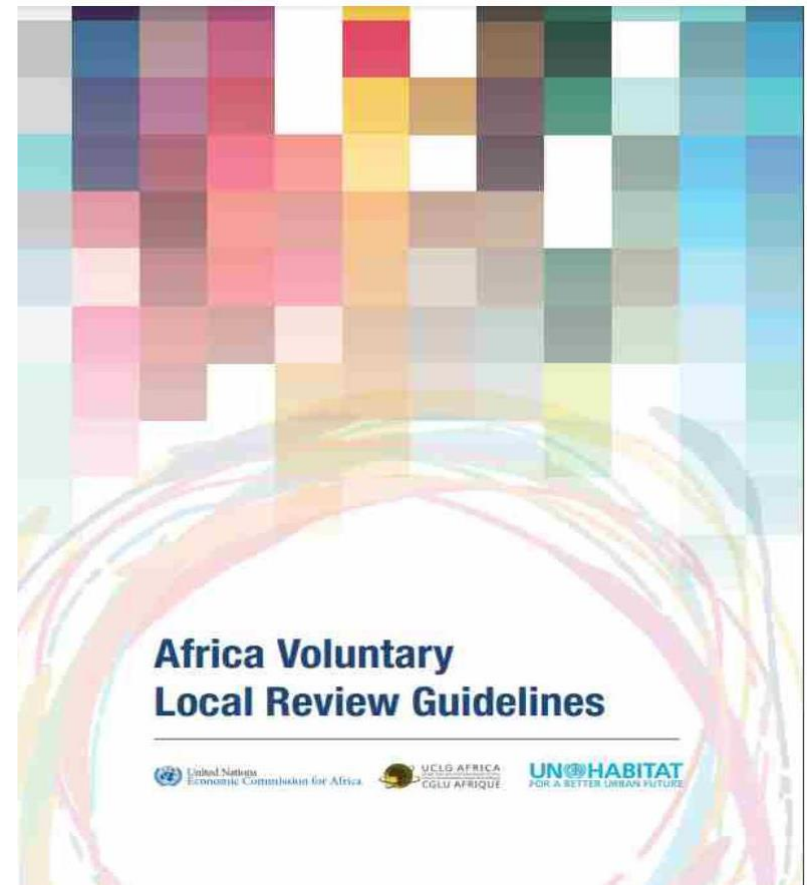
- Analysis of the progress of all/selected SDGs
- Are reference data available? How is progress monitored?
- Means of implementation (financial, capacity building)

Conclusions and next steps

- What next?
- What lessons learned?
- How will progress be monitored

AFRICA VLR GUIDELINES

- Build on DESA Guiding Principles
- Detailed guidance
- Simple and easy to follow
- Best practices
- Lessons learned



VLR process

Phase I

Methodological Processes:
preparatory work, literature review and visioning

SDGs and Agenda 2063 -Linking priorities

Stakeholder engagement planning

Roadmap and work plan

Phase II

- Data collection, analysis and write up
- Validation

Phase III

- Publication and dissemination
- Integration, monitoring and implementation?

Connecting VNRs with VLRs

- A valuable source of feedback, information and data for VNR processes
- Foster policy coherence and coordination among national and local efforts
- Enhance stakeholder engagement and awareness of the SDGs at the subnational level
- Help in assessing and addressing vertical and horizontal inequalities within a country and help in ensuring no one is left behind
- Can highlight innovative local initiatives

Next Steps

- 3 Webinars introducing the basic concepts of VLRs
- In-person workshop 15-17 October 2024:
 - Enhanced capability for localizing the SDGs by successfully undertaking a voluntary local review and link it to the national development strategy.
 - Participate in national development activities to advance the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs implementation at the national, local and regional levels.
 - Connect practitioners and experts to support one another in localizing the SDGs.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Visit UN DESA online at:

<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews> to find its:

- Online VLR repository;
- Global Guiding Elements for VLRs, as well as guidance materials prepared by other entities;
- Documentation and videos of capacity building workshops and events focused on VLRs and SDG Localization





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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern skyscraper with a glass facade, set against a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The building's lines converge towards the top of the frame, creating a sense of height and scale. The text 'Thank you.' is overlaid in white on the lower portion of the building.

Thank you.