



National Workshop for the Technical Validation of the Voluntary Local Review Reports in the Context of the SDGs

Matola, Mozambique (Platinum Lodge)

26-27 February 2026

Concept Note

1. Context

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, adopted unanimously in September 2015 by the Member States of the United Nations, guides global efforts toward inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development. In Mozambique, several initiatives have been undertaken to operationalize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including the integration of the SDGs into national plans and public budgets, as well as the approval of the National SDG Indicator Framework (QNISDG 2020), aligned with national development priorities and the country's decentralization efforts.-SDG 2020), aligned with national development priorities.

To enhance coordination and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda, the National SDG Reference Group (GRN-SDGs) was established in 2017. This advisory body is chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Development (DNPO/DNMA), in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (MINEC-DOIC) and the National Institute of Statistics (INE-DICRE). The group includes a wide range of national development actors: government institutions, the National Assembly, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, development partners, the United Nations system, and the National Association of Mozambican Municipalities (ANAMM).

At the territorial level, Provincial SDG Reference Groups were created with similar representation to ensure follow-up of SDG implementation at the subnational level.-up of SDG implementation at the subnational level.

Mozambique presented its First Voluntary National Review (VNR) in 2020 and is currently preparing its Second VNR, to be presented in 2026.

Concurrently, six territories (Districts and Municipalities of Boane (including the Municipality of Matola Rio) and Manhiça – Maputo Province; Gondola and Manica – Manica Province; Nampula and Monapo – Nampula Province) are preparing their Voluntary Local Review Reports (VLRs). This process is supported technically and financially by UNDESA under the project “Strengthening Local and National Government Capacities for SDG Localization in Africa,” funded by the Government of Italy, and further supported at the provincial level by UNDP under the “SDG Localization Project.” The VLRs will be launched in 2026, serving as key inputs to the 2026 VNR.

In this context, the **National Workshop for the Technical Validation of the Voluntary Local Review Reports** aims to present, validate, and harmonize the six VLRs; promote exchange of experiences; and strengthen the connection between the VLR and VNR processes in Mozambique.

2. Objectives

The general objective of the Workshop is to promote peer learning and validate the VLRs from the six territories at the national level, ensuring their technical quality, institutional coherence, alignment with the SDGs, and ownership by key national and subnational stakeholders.

Specific objectives include the following:

- a) Present and validate the main findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the six VLRs;
- b) Ensure methodological coherence and harmonization of the format and content of the VLRs;
- c) Promote exchange of experiences and strengthen the articulation between VLRs and the VNR, identifying key messages and local contributions;
- d) Identify progress, challenges, and gaps in SDG implementation at the local level;
- e) Promote multisectoral and multilevel dialogue on SDG implementation and acceleration;
- f) Identify lessons learned, institutional challenges, and practical recommendations to improve coordination and strengthen SDG localization and continuous monitoring; and
- g) Propose measures to accelerate SDG achievement by 2030 at the local level and define next steps for the institutionalization of VLRs and strengthening of multilevel governance.

3. Key Discussion Questions

- How do the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 relate to local development in Mozambique?
- What approaches and steps are most effective for developing VLRs?
- What progress has been made, and what key challenges or gaps remain in local SDG implementation?
- How can SDGs be better integrated into subnational planning, budgeting, and monitoring systems?
- What data and indicators are needed, and how can local monitoring systems be strengthened?
- How can VLRs ensure inclusion of vulnerable groups, including women and marginalized populations
- How can VLRs effectively inform the VNR and how can both VNR and VLR processes strengthen coordination across levels of government?

Discussions will generate practical recommendations and post-VLR action plans.

4. Proposed Methodology

The Workshop will be conducted in a participatory and intersectoral manner, involving public institutions, the private sector, development partners, academia, and civil society.

Each of the six territories will deliver presentations and share their VLR reports to facilitate detailed review and exchange of experiences.

The process will include:

- Plenary sessions for SDG framing and presentation of VLRs;
- Thematic panels featuring institutional and technical inputs;
- Working groups for analysis and technical validation of the VLRs;
- Plenary discussions to consolidate feedback and recommendations.

The workshop will gather 85–90 participants, including:

- Representatives from MPD and MF;
- Relevant Ministries and central institutions;
- Provincial Governments (Provincial Directors, SPEF, DPEF, and VLR focal points);
- District administrators and planning and budgeting officers;
- Mayors and municipal planning and budgeting officers;
- National Institute of Statistics (INE);
- The Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, UNDP, UN Habitat and other members of the United Nations Country Team in Mozambique;
- Development partners, civil society, academia, private sector, and other relevant actors.

5. Expected Results

- Consensus based VLR reports of high quality; -based VLR reports;
- Enhanced exchange of experiences in VLR preparation and SDG indicator assessment at the territorial level;
- A consolidated set of comments and recommendations for the final versions of the VLRs;
- Key messages from the VLRs synthesized for contribution to the VNR 2026;
- Strengthened coordination and alignment among national, provincial, district, and municipal stakeholders;
- A workshop summary report including conclusions, recommendations, and next steps.

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