



National Capacity Building Workshop on Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through SDG Localization in Namibia
Otjiwarongo, Namibia
15-17 June 2026
Concept Note

I. Background

A national **“Capacity Building Workshop on Advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through SDG Localization in Namibia”** is being organized by the Division for Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DSDG/UNDESA), the National Planning Commission of Namibia and the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Namibia. The workshop will be held from 15-17 June 2026 in Otjiwarongo, Namibia.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that SDGs realization depends upon the strategic engagement of all stakeholders, from the national to the local level. The experience gained since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 has shown that cooperation and coordinated action across all levels of government yield the most positive outcomes. With an estimated 65% of SDG targets linked to the work of local and regional governments, the role of local action has been increasingly understood as a pre-condition for SDG achievement.

This vital role has been acknowledged in major UN reports and declarations, including the Secretary-General's "Our Common Agenda," the 2023 SDG Summit Declaration, and the Pact for the Future. In 2025, pursuant to paragraph 55 of the Pact for the Future, the Secretary-General issued a report providing recommendations, for consideration by Member States, on how to further engage with local and regional authorities to advance the 2030 Agenda. In the face of multiple global crises that have slowed progress, localization has become more important than ever, and local governments are increasingly embracing the 2030 Agenda to drive change in their communities.

Namibia, guided by the Namibia Vision 2030, the country's long-term framework for national development, is actively engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The country's Vision 2030 has been implemented through a series of medium-term development plans, the final of which is the 6th National Development (NDP 6), to be in place from 2025 to 2031, which aligns the national vision with the UN 2030 Agenda and serves as the foundation for implementing the AU Agenda 2063, the SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP 2020-2030) and SADC Vision 2050.

In Namibia's most recent VNR (2024), a key “lesson learned” relates to local ownership and leadership, with Namibia recognizing the significance of fostering local ownership and leadership in SDG implementation, including by engaging communities, civil society, and the private sector, to

empower stakeholders at all levels to take ownership of the SDGs, driving bottom-up initiatives and innovative solutions. In its VNR, Namibia further emphasized the need for coherent and aligned policies across not only sectors but also levels of government that balance social, economic, and environmental objectives, fostering synergistic outcomes and minimizing trade-offs.¹

The work of the United Nations system in Namibia is guided by the 2025-2029 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, which aims, inter alia, for effective governance and public service delivery, emphasizing partnerships across all government levels—including sub-national—to implement SDGs aligned with Vision 2030 and NDP6. The Cooperation Framework identifies, as a strategic approach in the theory of change, a focus on strengthening policy implementation and capacity development for regional and local authorities.

Though Namibia has produced and presented three VNRs to date and reports progress in integrating the SDGs into its national and local frameworks, it has not yet integrated any Voluntary Local Reviews into its previous VNRs. In planning for its 2027 VNR, Namibia's National Planning Commission has identified the need for technical support and capacity building to: 1) enable local authorities in Namibia to effectively conduct VLRs; and 2) to capacitate NPC in its role as the national coordinating agency for the implementation and reporting of development frameworks like the SDGs.

II. Objectives and Methodology

This capacity building workshop aims to support the acceleration and scaling up of SDGs and NDP6 implementation and localization in Namibia through the coordinated preparations of voluntary local reviews (VLRs) and the 2027 Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and, through this process, to build the capacities of government officials at the national and subregional levels for effective and coordinated SDGs implementation at all levels, including the subnational level and reviewing and monitoring of progress. Specifically, the inception workshop will:

- Strengthen capacity of local, regional and national government officials to conduct inclusive sub-national reviews of SDGs implementation, including reporting, and identifying main messages, challenges and opportunities that complement and feed into national reporting, particularly Namibia's 2027 Voluntary National Review;
- Strengthen awareness regarding how the VLR process can be utilized to enhance data gathering and analysis for tackling urban-rural differences within Namibia.
- Strengthen multi-stakeholder cooperation and experience sharing on the SDGs monitoring and review at local level;
- Enhance capacity of local and regional government officials to integrate the SDGs and NDP6 into inclusive local plans and strategies, and enhance policy coherence of these plans with national development plans and national to local financing gaps.

To accomplish these objectives, national and sub-national policymakers, experts and relevant stakeholders will be drawn from various line ministries, local and regional governments departments

¹ Namibia 3rd SDG VNR Report 2024, p. 82

and agencies, the United Nations Country Team, civil society organizations, traditional authorities and development partners.

III. Expected outcome of the Capacity Building Workshop

Through a mix of presentations, group work, peer learning and discussion, the workshop will support participants to:

- Deepen their understanding of inclusive and data-driven approaches to advance SDG localization, including through planning, review and reporting, in alignment with existing national, subnational, and municipal systems.
- Have acquired enhanced capability and a better understanding of the requirements for successfully undertaking a voluntary local review, and how to link and align these to and coordinate them with national and local planning priorities and processes.
- Be prepared to participate in a community of similar practitioners and experts to support one another in localizing the SDGs.

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