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National Capacity Building Workshop on SDG Localization and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) for Central and Local Government Officials in Namibia

15-17 June 2026

C'est Si Bon Hotel, Otjiwarongo

Draft Workshop Programme

15 June - DAY 1	
8:30 – 9:00	Coffee and registration
9:00 – 9:45	MC: Ms. Taleni Mabakeng, NPC Rapporteur: Ms. Ester Nanus and Mr. Oscar Naanda, NPC Opening remarks • Mr. Ned Sibeya, Deputy Chief National Development, National Planning Commission • Dr. Richard Banda, Chair, Programme Oversight Group, UN Namibia • Association of Local Authorities of Namibia (tbc) Overview of the main purpose of the workshop • Mr. Elvis Lingeza, National Development Advisor, National Planning Commission • Ms. Carol Pollack, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA
9:45 – 10:00	Introductions All
10:00 – 10:30	Session 1: The 2030 Agenda and the AU Agenda 2063 <i>This session will provide a brief introduction to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and the AU Agenda 2063, as well as global and regional perspectives on their implementation.</i> Moderator: Ms. Eunice Ajambo, Office of the Resident Coordinator in Namibia Presenters: • Ms. Carol Pollack, Senior Sustainable Development Officer, UN DESA – <i>Overview of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and global perspective on its implementation</i>



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	Ms. Lusungu Kayani, Social Affairs Officer, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – <i>Progress on the 2030 Agenda and SDGs in the Africa Region</i> <i>Guiding questions:</i> 1. What are the global frameworks that guide sustainable development, including key features and principles? What global progress has been made in implementing Agenda 2030 and what challenges remain in achieving the goals? 2. How does localization impact SDG achievement? 3. How is the UN contributing to SDGs in Namibia, specifically through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework? 4. Highlight on the understanding of the 17 goals and indicators of SDGs and African Union
10:30 - 11:00	Coffee break
11:00 – 11:30	Session 2: National implementation and report of the 2030 Agenda and AU Agenda 2063 Mr. Ned Sibeya, Deputy Chief National Development Advice/Director of Development Partners Coordination, National Planning Commission – <i>the VNR experience of Namibia and lessons learned (VNR Video and Presentation)</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Session 3: Setting the national context: NDP6, Local Development Planning and the SDGs <i>This session will provide an overview of the national frameworks guiding sustainable development in Namibia. It will explore the country's journey in implementing both the 2030 Agenda and its National Development Plan, including how Namibia has integrated the SDGs into national policy processes and the role of various stakeholders contributing to the transformation of key development sectors.</i> Moderator: Mr. Astro Kabuku, NPC Presenters: Ms. Habani Munyungano, Director, National Planning Commission– <i>Overview of NDP6</i> Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (tbc) ALAN - <i>Role of local government in implementing, monitoring, and reporting on NDP6 and the SDGs</i> (tbc) Mr. Carlos Fernandez Garcia, Strategic Planning and Team Leader, UN RCO UNCT – <i>the work of the United Nations system in Namibia in supporting NDP6 and SDG implementation, through the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</i>



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	• Ms. Thebinu Kabanda, Consultant, Lessons from Zambia- Key successes and bottlenecks experienced during the formation of Lusaka's VLR and Zambian VNR (virtual). <i>Guiding questions:</i> 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?
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch break
13:30 – 14:30	Collection of entitlements by sponsored participants
14:30 – 15:30	Session 4. Interactive session: Status of SDG and NDS6 implementation at local level in Namibia Moderator: Mr. Samuel Thimende, NPC Presenters: • Otjiwarongo Municipality • Okahandja Municipality • Swakopmund Municipality • City of Windhoek <i>Guiding questions:</i> 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?
15:30 – 15:45	Break
15:45 – 17:00	Session 5: Multilevel approaches to sustainable development, SDG localization and the benefits of Voluntary Local Reports <i>This session will deepen participants' understanding of how multi-level governance can be harnessed to accelerate localization of the SDGs and Agenda 2063. It will feature the sharing of experience and lessons learned by the national and local governments in terms of SDG reporting, including regarding how different levels of government are working together in this regard, and how reporting can enhance delivery on the SDGs.</i> Moderator: Mr. Malakia Malakia, NPC Presenters:



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	• Ms. Anna Clavete Moreno, United Cities and Local Governments - VNR/VLR linkages (<i>prerecorded/virtual</i>) • Mr. Abraham Moobola, Director Corporate Services, Local Governments Association Zambia, VLR and VSR experience in Zambia (<i>virtual</i>) • Mr. Tebogo Matlou, Senior Manager: International and Stakeholder Relations, South African Local Government Association – <i>How the SDGs have been prioritized in South Africa (virtual)</i> Q&A <i>Guiding questions:</i> 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?
16 June - DAY 2	
9:00 – 9:15	Recap of day 1 – Ms. Ester Nanus and Mr. Oscar Naanda, NPC MC. Dr. Witbeen Rapporteur: Mr. Elvis Lngeza and Ms. Albertina ligonda, NPC
9:15 – 9:45	Session 6: The VLR preparatory process: overview of approaches, milestones and deliverables <i>This session will provide practical guidance on the preparation of VLRs from UNDESA and UNECA.</i> Moderator: Mr. Nikita Mbarandongo, NPC Presenter: • Ms. Carol Pollack, DSDG/DESA – <i>DESA Global Guiding Elements for VLRs</i> • Ms. Lusungu Kayani, UNECA – <i>Guidelines for VLRs in Africa</i> Q & A <i>Guiding questions:</i> 1. What are the global and regional recommendations to approach a VLR?



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	2. How to begin a VLR process and what are the key elements and milestones in the process, including who leads the process and who is engaged? 3. What are the key lessons and best practices from the region, including lessons learned in local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063?
9:45 – 11:00	Break-out Group 1: Preparing the road map and next steps • Briefing on work in breakout groups on a VLR road map • Facilitated work groups on key components and steps for VLRs
11:00 – 11:15	Break
11:15 – 12:30	Session 7: Use of data for enhanced SDGs follow-up and review processes at the national and sub-national levels <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> Moderator: Ms. Ester Nanus, NPC Presenters: • Mr. Daniel Eshetie, Statistician, SDGs Monitoring Section, United Nations Statistics Division, UN DESA– <i>international perspective on local data for the SDGs (pre-recorded/virtual)</i> • Dr. Isak Neema, Executive: Data Quality Assurance & NSS Coordination, Namibia Statistics Agency - <i>Data collection experience of Namibia and innovative practices</i> • Ms. Saima Heita, National Programme Analyst: M&E/Data for Development, UNFPA – <i>local data for development</i> • Ms. Brenda Strachan, City of uMhlathuze, South Africa – <i>the experience of uMhlathuze in data for SDG localization</i> Q & A <i>Guiding questions:</i> 1. What are the challenges regarding data in monitoring and reviewing the sub-national implementation of the 2030 Agenda? How should sound policymaking deficits be addressed? 2. What are some examples of the key data that are available to monitor and review the municipal implementation of the 2030 Agenda?
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch



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13:30 – 14:30	Session 8. Advancing SDG Acceleration through Awareness Raising, Stakeholder Engagement, and Partnerships Moderator: Ms. Eunice Ajambo, Office of the Resident Coordinator in Namibia Presenters: • Ms. Carol Pollack, DSDG/DESA – <i>Stakeholder Engagement and VNRs/VLRs: Good practices and approaches</i> • Ms. Melinda Mogotsi, youth representative, Omaheke Region • Mr. Joshua Amukwaya, youth representative, Khomas region Q&A <i>Guiding questions:</i> 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?
14:30 – 15:00	Break
15:00 – 17:00	Break-out Group 2: Exercises on: 1) Identifying data sources for VLRs and 2) Stakeholder mapping exercise Briefing on work in breakout groups • Participants are divided into working groups to 1) map stakeholders for engagement in their municipality's report and 2) consideration of local indicators and sources of data
17 June - DAY 3	
9:00 – 9:15	MC: Ms. Habani Munyungano, NPC Recap Day 2. Mr. Elvis Lingzea and Ms. Albertina ligonda, NPC Rapporteur: Ms. Namanda Ndeleki NPC
9:15 – 10:00	Report back from Day 2 Break-out Groups
10:00 – 11:00	Session 9. Post-VLR SDG Planning This session will facilitate peer exchange and sharing of lessons from Cities and Municipalities on how outcomes and recommendations from their VLRs have contributed to planning and accelerated implementation of the SDGs Moderator: Ms. Lusungu Kayani, UNECA



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	Presenters: • Ms. Taleni Mabakeng, NPC – presentation on the national approach to post-VNR planning • Mr. Christian Shingiro, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP - <i>Turning VLRs into Action: Key Takeaways (virtual)</i> • Mr. Mumba Mwape, Accountant, Lusaka City Council - <i>Zambia's and Lusaka's experience on multilevel approaches to sustainable development (virtual)</i> • Mr. Julian Nkoana, Rustenburg Local Municipality, South Africa – <i>Post-VLR Action for SDG Acceleration in Rustenburg</i> Q & A <i>Guiding Questions</i> 1. How have the findings and recommendations from your VLR directly influenced local planning priorities, budgets, and implementation strategies? 2. What practical mechanisms have you put in place to track progress and sustain momentum after completing the VLR? 3. What challenges have you faced in translating VLR commitments into action, and what lessons can other cities learn from your experience?
11:15 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 12:30	Closing of Workshop • Ms. Carol Pollack, DSDG/DESA • Mr. Ned Sibeya, Deputy Chief National Development, National Planning Commission
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch