


Launch event for the new policy brief:

*“Localising NDCs with inspiration from
the 2030 Agenda – A closer look at
Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and
Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)”*

Wednesday 5 May 2021



Localising NDCs with inspiration from the 2030 Agenda

Localising NDCs - Agenda

- Opening remarks: **Eleni Dellas**, German Ministry for the Environment
- Presentation of the policy brief: **Petter Lydén**, GIZ
- The national perspective: **John Melo**, Colombian Ministry of the Environment
- ~~The local perspective: **Nongcebo Hlongwa**, eThekweni Municipality~~
- The 2030 Agenda experiences: **Edgardo Bilsky**, UCLG
- Questions and Answers: **Everyone** can post questions in the chat

LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGs and NDCs

LESSONS LEARNED



The Importance of Local Government's Role on the Implementation of the global regional agendas

Global frameworks

- Agenda 2030 for SD
- Climate Paris Agreement
- New Urban Agenda
- Sendai Framework
- AAAA

“Decade for Action”

Localising the global agendas

Localization is described as ‘the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and sub-national sustainable development goals and targets.’

Local Governments are an Essential Actor

- ☐ Local governments are policy makers and catalysts of change at the local level, and are best placed to link the global goals with local communities.
- ☐ Localizing SDGs is then a process to empower all local stakeholders, aimed at making sustainable development more responsive, and therefore, relevant to local needs & aspirations
- ☐ SDGs can be achieved only if local actors fully participate, not only in the implementation, but also in the agenda-setting, assessing and monitoring.

Need an Enabling Environment at the Local Level

- ☐ Legal framework and strategic policies to support subnational implementation
- ☐ Strengthened local governance and a multilevel collaborative approach
- ☐ LGs Resources (including financing)
- ☐ Capacity building and networking at the local level
- ☐ Integrated information system

A

B

C

D

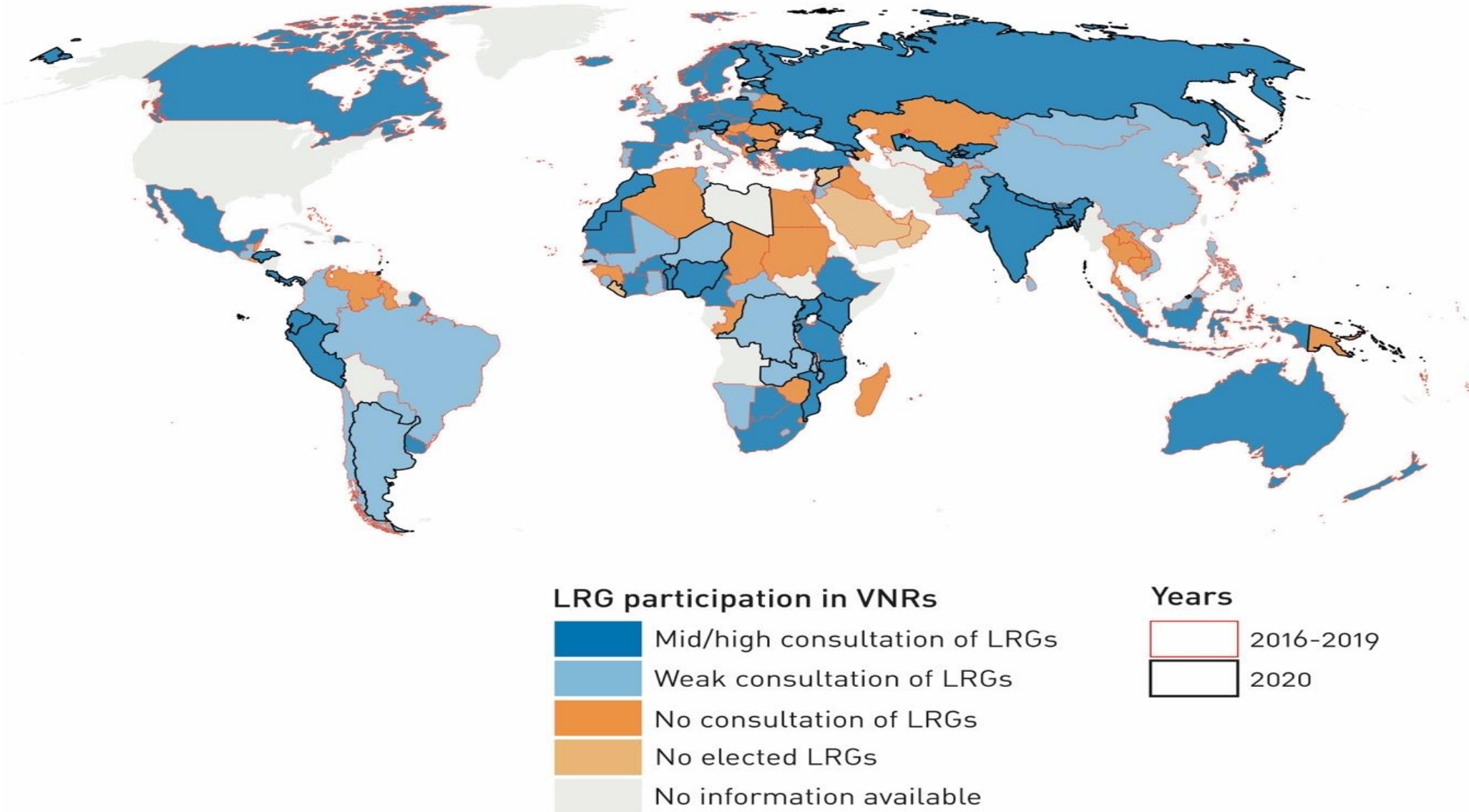
Report to the UN-HLPF: VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS (VNR)

- Between 2016 and 2020, 168 countries have reported to the UN-HLPF through the Voluntary National Review. 44 more countries will report in 2021.
- Only 53 countries have submitted new or updated NDCs, as at 31 December 2020. 104 countries have not updated targets
- UCLG presented on behalf of local and regional governments an annual report **Towards the localization of the SDGs**, every year since 2017
- Global LG's networks have created different mechanisms to collect and systematize progress of cities. More than 10,000 cities having adopted climate plans or commitments (GCoM)



LRGs involvement in VNRs & the HLPF

Map of local governments' participation in VNRs (2016-2020)



Local govts'
2020 report
to the HLPF

In 2020, for the 1st time, 55% of countries the presented their VNRs consulted their LRGs, but their participation is still limited to 33% of countries

Voluntary Local Reviews (per year)

65 VLRs /58 countries -1st Guidelines Serie (2020) with a comparative analysis

Key findings



1 Who is involved in the VLR?

- **Specialized offices and departments:** IR, sustainable development, mayors' offices
- **The role of academia and research institutions:** enriching a cross-sectoral, multi-stakeholder approach
- **Community ownership of the monitoring process:** the local SDG Forum in Canterbury, the 4-step reviewing process in Los Angeles

2 Where is the VLR located?

- Almost **no examples of VLRs being directly linked to national reviewing processes**
- **Great opportunity for de-siloing the approach to SDGs** and sustainability policies, making dialogue across departments easier
- Opportunity for **LRGs to begin thinking globally**

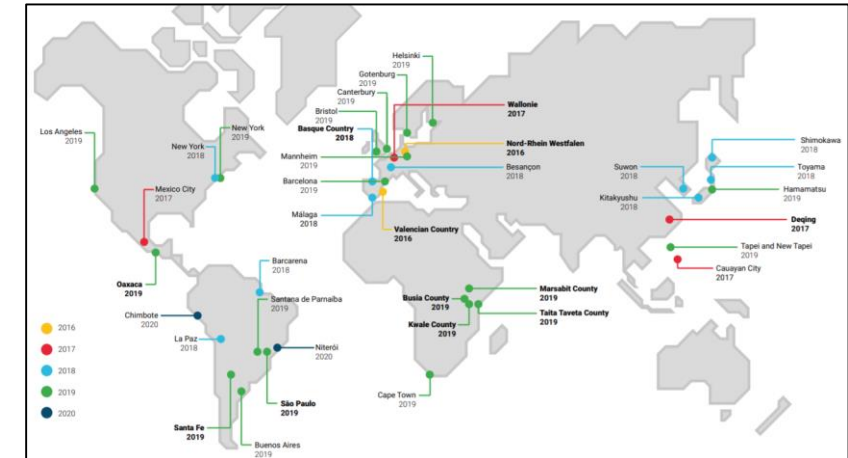
3 What is the content of the VLR?

- Focus on **policy responses** & concrete SDG implementation, or on **strategy and commitments**
- There is no “recommended” template: **no local government should back down**
- Length differs considerably, some have reviewed **all 17 SDGs**, or the **HLPF topics**, or the SDGs for which they had **information available**

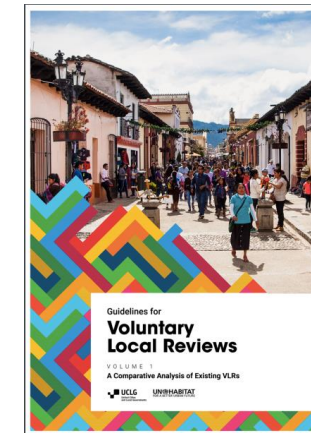
4 How is the VLR made?

- **UN ‘official’ indicators have been out of reach** due to LRGs’ lack of disaggregated data or capacity to fulfil them
- Several VLRs have tried to **adapt official indicators to local sources** and data, only a few have attempted to cover them fully
- Many VLRs built on **pre-existing sets of sustainable development indicators**

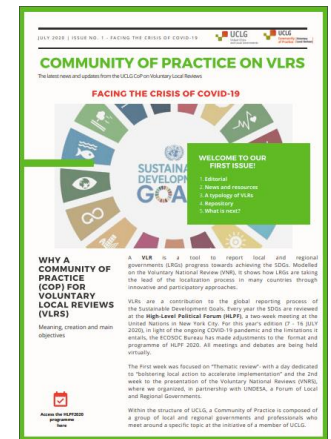
Map of 65+ VLRS produced in 2019-2020



Guidelines for VLR



CoP Newsletter 1



Voluntary Subnational Reviews 2020

Main outcomes of the first 6 pilot VSRs:

- A subnational approach of SDGs: develop a mapping and a summary of what local governments are doing to localize the SDGs at country level, with direct interaction with VNR.
- Strengthen the voice of local governments (big and small) and their national associations in the national reporting process
- Reports were included, or referenced, in their countries' respective national VNRs (Benin, Costa Rica, Kenya and Ecuador)
- in Nepal, better coordination with national authorities has been ensured as a result



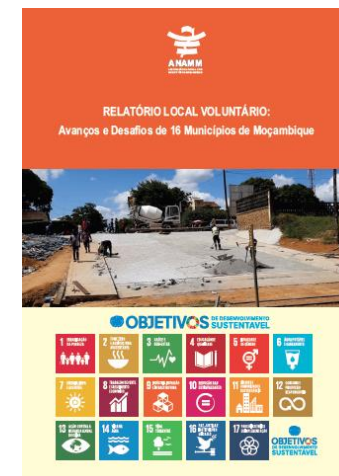
Benin (2020)



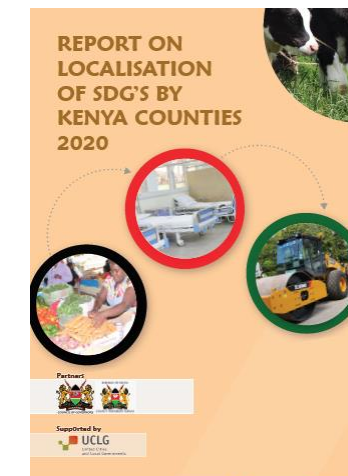
Costa Rica (2020)



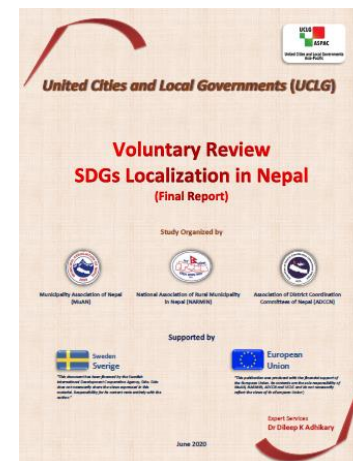
Ecuador (2020)



Mozambique (2020)



Kenya (2020)



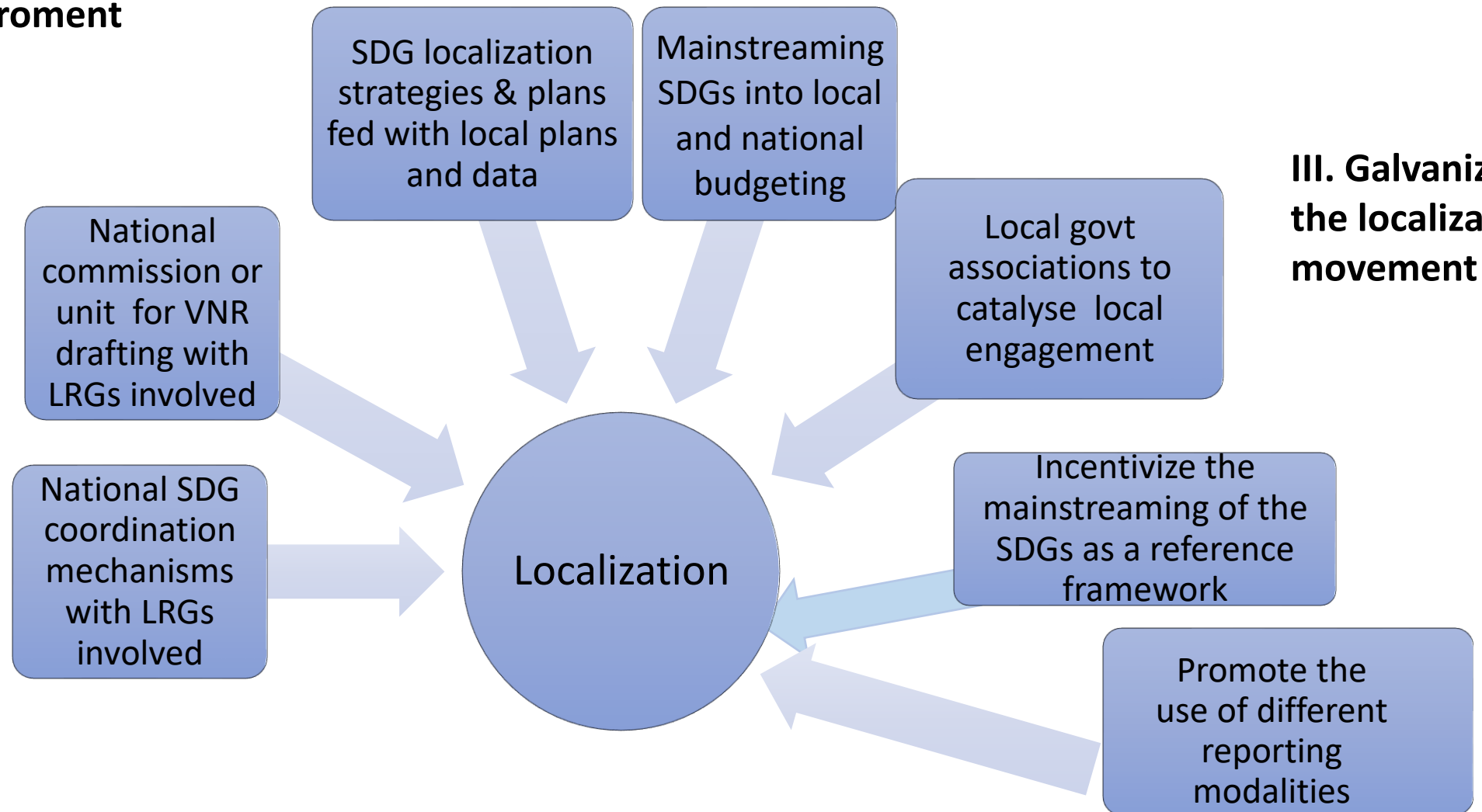
Nepal (2020)

Strengthening the localization efforts and creating synergies between the agendas

I. Create a National Enabling Institutional Environment

II. Improved Multilevel Governance

III. Galvanize the localization movement





Thank you!

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Thank you for participating!

- The policy brief “*Localising NDCs with inspiration from the 2030 Agenda – A closer look at Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)*” is available for download at:

<https://collaborative-climate-action.org/localising-ndcs/>

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