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 - 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, eThekwini 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

Edgardo Bilsky
Head of Research department
UCLG GOLD
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
- "Decade for Action"

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.

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.’

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

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

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

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
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 smalls) 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
Strengthening the localization efforts and creating synergies between the agendas

I. Create a National Enabling Institutional Environment

II. Improved Multilevel Governance

SDG localization strategies & plans fed with local plans and data
Mainstreaming SDGs into local and national budgeting

National commission or unit for VNR drafting with LRGs involved
National SDG coordination mechanisms with LRGs involved

Local govt associations to catalyse local engagement
Incentivize the mainstreaming of the SDGs as a reference framework
Promote the use of different reporting modalities

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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