



VLR/VSR
DAYS JULY 13-17-18
2023
2ND EDITION - HLPF

Voluntary Subnational Reviews: Innovative modalities to accelerate local and regional governments involvement

17 July 2023, 15h15 - 16h45 CEST

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Background:

Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) have strongly arisen in the international arena as bottom-up SDG reporting processes led by local and regional government associations (LGAs). VSRs are capable of offering a broad, evidence-based perspective of the progress made in terms of SDG localization in a given country. Since 2020, 37 VSRs have been produced in 35 countries around the world: 14 in Africa, 9 in Latin America, 8 in Europe, and 6 in Asia-Pacific. Some LGAs are even committed to regularly producing VSRs (e.g. Kenya every three years, Ecuador every year), an extremely valuable exercise even when their country is not reporting to the HLPF. VSRs show the efforts of local and regional governments in a country to align the SDGs with local development plans, present an assessment of the extent to which institutional environments enable SDG localization and show examples of LRGs initiatives for each of the SDGs assessed. Beyond diagnosing the state of the art of SDG localization in the respective countries, these 37 VSRs, which cover more than 170,000 local governments and 1.4 billion inhabitants, have demonstrated to be policy processes in themselves. VSRs have been critical tools to raise awareness on the SDGs around LGAs' members and local stakeholders, and to strengthen their collaborations. These processes have contributed to fostering LRGs' involvement in national reporting processes (in particular, the VNRs) and in the coordination of national strategies, as well as in the global debates around sustainable development. Most importantly, together with VLRs they have catalyzed policy-making for SDG localization at the local level.

Objective of the session:

The objective of this session is to exchange around the main findings of the VSR developed in 2023 (Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Ecuador, Flanders in Belgium, Iceland, Kenya, Romania, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia) as well as to leverage the momentum around the production of VSRs and foster knowledge co-production, peer-to-peer exchange and new partnerships aiming for broader and official recognition of VSRs towards the SDG Summit and for the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. The session will allow for multilevel conversations between local governments, LGAs and representatives from regional institutions and UN commissions.

Agenda:

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(15h15 - 15h25) Introductory words

- Anna Calvete Moreno (Research Officer, UCLG)

(15h25 - 15h55) Block 1: The African and Asian VSRs

- Moderator and respondent: Omar Siddique (Head of Unit, Sustainable Urban Development, UNESCAP)
- Ladislas Ngendahimana (Secretary General, Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities)
- Ken Oluoch (Tourism, Wildlife and Natural Resource Management Officer, Council of Governors of Kenya)
- Pok Sokundara (Secretary General, National League of Local Councils - Cambodia)

(15h55 - 16h35) Block 2: The European and Latin American VSRs

- Moderator and respondent: Fiona Littlejohn-Carrillo (Associate Economic Affairs Officer, UNECLAC)
- Wim Dries (President, VVSG)
- Axel Guanoluisa (Director for Continuous Improvement, Innovation and Technology, Manabí province on behalf of CONGOPE)
- Rodrigo Arias (International Relations Advisor, Association of Chilean Municipalities)

(16h35 - 16h45) Concluding remarks

- Rahmatouca Sow (UCLG Africa)
- Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi (UCLG ASPAC)

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