

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

The Dominican Republic is a unitary country with only one level of elected subnational government, composed of municipal governments. The country is divided into 3 macro-regions, which are in turn divided into 10 regions. Regions are further divided into 31 provinces and the National District, which has a special administrative status. Provinces are themselves divided into 158 municipalities (and, in addition, the capital city) and 234 municipal districts.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The process of preparing the **National Multiannual Plan of the Public Sector (PNPSP)** has prioritized policies aimed at achieving the objectives and goals of the **National Development Strategy 2012-2030 (Estrategia Nacional de Desarrollo, or END)**, the Government Program and the SDGs. The level of alignment of the SDGs with national planning is high (91%) and their full integration is being sought through medium-term planning, such as the **Government Plan 2020-2024**.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

By means of the Presidential Decree in 2016, the **High Level Inter-Institutional Commission for Sustainable Development (CDS)** was created, composed of the heads of the main public institutions with direct responsibilities in each of the SDGs, as well as with representation from the private sector and civil society. It is coordinated by the **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development** and currently has 56 participating entities (39 governmental and 17 non-governmental). It includes four sub-committees aligned with the 5 Ps (People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace and Partnerships).

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

For the 2018 VNR, face-to-face consultations were held with stakeholders from government, civil society, the private sector, academia, local governments, the Legislative Branch, and UN System agencies regarding the main findings on the status and possibilities of integrating the SDGs into the public agenda, perceived obstacles, and good practices and lessons learned. Representatives of nongovernmental organizations participated in the preparation of the 2021 VNR through the CDS subcommittees, as well as in a consultation process focused on the identification of challenges and recommendations to strengthen the participation of nongovernmental actors in the implementation of development agendas.

1.3 MONITORING

The CDS has an **Inter-institutional Committee on Indicators**.

1. The Dominican Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU) is the organization that promotes inter-municipal cooperation. Together with the Dominican Municipal League (LMD) and under the supervision of the Public Administration Ministry, FEDOMU promotes the implementation of the Public Administration Monitoring System (SISMAP), with the aim of helping to improve municipal governance systems. According to the National District and Municipalities Act, the role of LMD is to make recommendations to local governments. The LMD must not overlook or interfere with the activities of municipal councils (Art. 107).

See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19710INV_RD_2018_V2.pdf (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/285032021_VNR_Report_Dominican_Republic.pdf (2021)

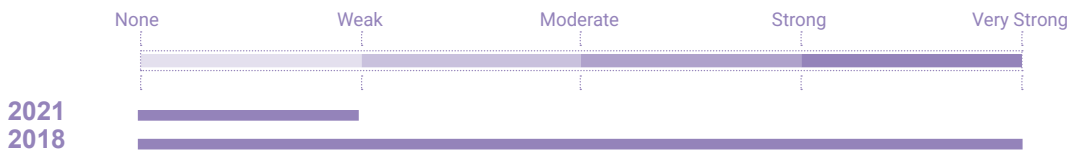
2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **LGA Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU)**, participates in the CDS, and in one of the four sub-committees: the fourth, on “Institutionality”.

LRGs participated in the consultations organized as part of the 2018 VNR process. There is no explicit detail on LRG participation in the 2021 VNR, although they might have been represented by the FEDOMU, as it participates in the sub-committees, which took part in the reporting process.

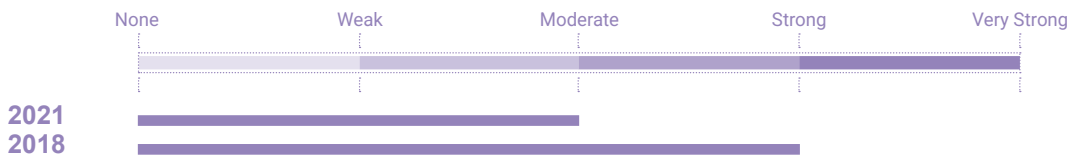
2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: There is no explicit detail on LRG participation in the 2021 VNR, although they might have been represented by FEDOMU, as it participates in the subcommissions who took part in the reporting process.

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: FEDOMU participates through ad hoc consultations (GTF Survey 2021). According to the 2021 VNR, FEDOMU participates in the CDS (which would rather be a regular participation).

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNRs and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

In the 2021 VNR, there are only a very few mentions of the municipalities, without details on local initiatives for SDG implementation.

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► In 2017, the **Federation of Municipalities (FEDOMU)** approved a resolution on ‘FEDOMU’s Commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals’. FEDOMU collaborated with the national government to elaborate a ‘Roadmap to Implement SDG 11’ and define the ‘SDG 2 Zero Hunger Roadmap’. The Federation also developed a methodological guide to integrate the SDGs into local plans, helped apply the MAP methodology promoted by UNDP, and adapted the SISMAP Municipal tool for monitoring.³

► Other associations (Asociación Dominicana de Regidores and the Union of Local Elected Women ‘Un Mundo’) also made policy commitments and developed awareness raising activities and training.⁴

► Efforts are being made by various municipalities to combat climate change (**Neyba**), integrate waste management (**Santo Domingo, Terrena, Monte Plata, San Pedro de Macoris, Bayaguana and Punta Cana**) and promote reforestation (**Sabana Grande**).⁵

► With funds provided by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), a project focused on SDG 11 “Support for Territorial Governance for the development of sustainable cities and communities in the Dominican Republic” is being implemented. The general objective of this project is to “promote local, provincial and regional development by strengthening the planning and management capacities of municipalities, the participation of social actors and coordination with other government agencies, in order to leverage local resources and take advantage of global market opportunities”.⁶

3. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

5. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

6. Answer of FEDOMU to the GTF Survey in 2021.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

Not applicable.

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is a whole chapter, in the 2021 VNR, on means of implementation. The CDS has a Committee on Financing for Development. Transfers in the Dominican Republic represent almost the entire municipal budget (between 80% and 94%). There is no information about local public finances.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The Dominican Republic began a process of strengthening its municipalities in the 1990s, then revising its legal framework in 2007. It is now currently debating a law on 'local administration and territorial system'.⁷

The municipalities of the Dominican Republic are among the 10 most affected local governments when it comes to extreme climate events world-wide. This means that the municipalities of the island are frequently threatened by hurricanes, thunderstorms, flooding, wild-fires, and droughts. At the same time, local governments are responsible for a range of competences that are directly related to the reduction of disaster risk in their territory such as spatial and urban planning, building regulations, and land use, which provide them with a certain scope of action. Apart from these sole responsibilities, local governments also share the competence for civil defense and general disaster risk reduction with the national level.

A national integrated disaster risk reduction plan has been established to reduce the vulnerability of the island's municipalities to disasters. At the local level, **municipal disaster risk management plans (CMPMR)** are a powerful tool to make cities and territories more resilient. The development of these plans includes stakeholders like civil society, NGOs, and the national level.⁸

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Law 1-12 of the National Development Strategy establishes the Gender Approach as a transversal policy which must be incorporated in all national plans, programs, projects and public policies.

3.2 COVID 19

A subsection of the 2021 VNR presents the main consequences of the pandemic in the country. There is no reference to locally-led initiatives to face them.

4. SDG INDICATORS⁹

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		29.2 (2020)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		14.8 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		89 (2007, Santo Domingo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		16 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

7. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, <https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf>

8. See: https://learning.uclg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/27_urban_resilience_and_sustainability.pdf

9. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage>.

More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: <https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/dom>