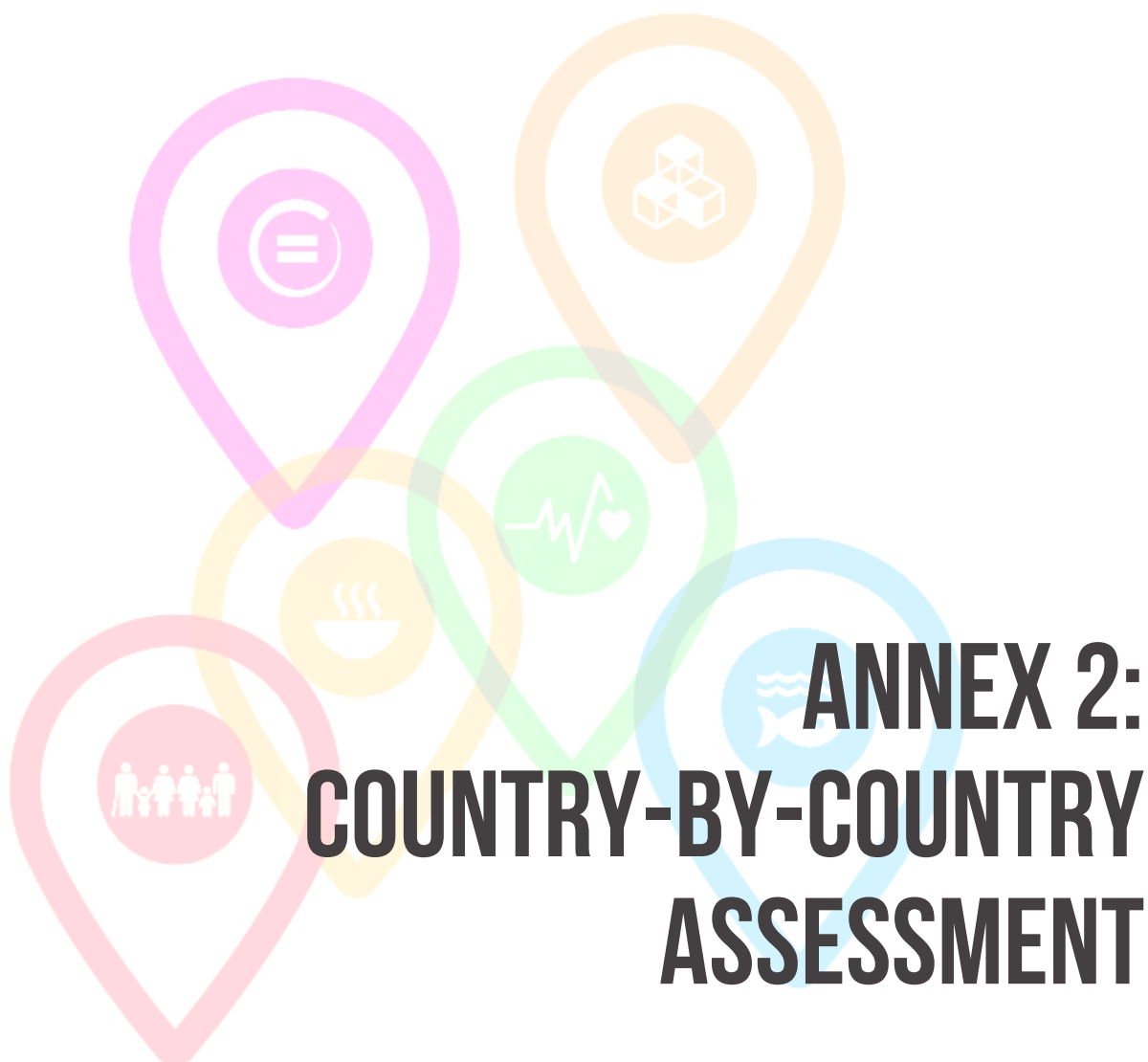


LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS'  
REPORT TO THE 2017 HLPF

**NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL  
GOVERNMENTS ON THE WAY  
TOWARDS THE LOCALIZATION  
OF THE SDGs**



**ANNEX 2:  
COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY  
ASSESSMENT**



# AFRICA



# BENIN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); reports from LRGs (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The national association of local governments, *Association nationale des Communes du Bénin* (ANCB), seated in the National Committee in charge of preparing the VNR for the 2017 HLPF.

In the main messages, the national government mentions this as a “first step” towards “education and awareness-raising”.

Alongside LRGs, consultations included civil society, universities, private sector and specific groups such as youth and women.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

ANCB organized a workshop on the SDGs within its *National Bureau and Executive Secretariat*. Each municipality has been assigned a focal point on the SDGs. The association created a special thematic commission on the SDGs. Its Executive Secretariat has supported local elected officials with technical assistance for the localization of the SDGs.

ANCB also organized a series of events on different dimensions of the global goals, including nutrition and renewable energies.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Benin adopted a nation-wide “ownership agenda for the SDGs”, which will be used to develop the new *National Development Plan 2018-2025* and its operationalization document (*Sustainable Development Growth Programme* or PC2D).

A steering committee headed by the Ministry for Planning and Development includes all members of the Government, as well as technical and financial partners and representatives of civil society organizations. Notably, LRGs are not included in a side technical committee which has been created in assistance to the steering body. LRGs do participate in thematic groups assisting in the preparation of the implementation strategies.

The outcome of these consultations will be included in the *National Development Plan* and organized in two quadrennial sub-plans.

The government has also created thematic working groups, dividing the SDGs in groups that engage relevant stakeholders.

### Policy initiatives

The Ministry of Finance, in collaboration with technical and financial partners, required all LRG to refer to the SDGs in local budgets and local development plans whenever possible. This was mandatory in order to gain access to dedicated public funds (*Fonds d'appui au Développement des Communes*). The funds do represent, according to ANCB, a significant part of the municipal budget. All local plans are being reviewed accordingly.

ANCB has several ongoing programmes on core themes addressed by the global goals. ANCB is a stakeholder in a multisector project focusing on hunger and health. The Flemish association of local governments, VVSG, has developed with ANCB, among others, strategic frameworks and training programmes for local actors to mainstream gender equality in local planning. Municipalities have also supported advocacy in the fields of health and well-being and water and climate-related issues. ANCB is collaborating with the Dutch embassy in the OMI-DELTA project. ANCB offers support to municipalities to engage in climate-related projects. It supported the creation of the National Committee on Climate, and took action to increase the attractiveness of Benin in green funds and finance. ANCB also participates in a partnership with Morocco's association of mayors on renewable energy. Data disaggregation and indicator methodology in the country are still severely hindered by the lack of resources. The government, however, has prioritized 49 targets.

# BOTSWANA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); UCLG questionnaire replies by BALA (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

According to the country's Main Message, local authorities have been fully involved in the preparation of the report.

In a questionnaire it submitted to UCLG, the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) confirms dialogue between the national government and LRGs. Consultations were generally led by the Ministry of Finance and Development. Local authorities presented district and urban development plans to align their priorities with the National Development Plan.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

LRGs appear to have participated in awareness-raising campaigns throughout the country, with civil society, academia and development partners. Likewise, BALA elaborated a study to review the achievement of the MDGs, identifying gaps and making recommendations for the Post-2015 Agenda.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

There is no mention of LRGs' involvement in national coordination mechanisms. The Nation Steering Committee (NSC) leads the policy agenda. It is co-chaired by the national government and the United Nations. It includes representatives of governmental agencies, youth associations, civil society organizations, members of parliament, members of the “house of chiefs”, trade unions and non-state actors. The NSC was in charge of the *National SDG Roadmap*.

The NSC receives technical assistance from the Technical Task Force (TTF). Both committees are serviced by the SDGs Secretariat in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MFED), supported by the UN.

### Policy initiatives

In order to elaborate indicators and foster data disaggregation, the national statistical office took on the task to map applicable SDG indicators country-wide, and align them with the goals set out in relevant agendas (e.g., *Botswana's Vision 2036*, the National Development Plan 11, and the African Union's Agenda 2063).

The National Framework for Local Economic Development was established in April 2017 to support the SDGs. First deployed in four districts, it is currently being rolled out to the entire country.

# EGYPT

Source: VNR (2016); TADAMUN (2016)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

LRGs did not participate in the consultation process. The Ministry of International Cooperation, in charge of the VNR, is reporting to the Inter-Ministerial National Committee, headed by the Ministry of Planning.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP), which overviews all Egyptian governorates, cities and villages, has devised an instrument for the creation of General Strategic Plans at the local level. These are consistent with an overarching vision for local development up to 2027.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs do not participate in the Inter-Ministerial National Committee. The Ministry of Planning was tasked to align the country's sustainable development strategy, *Egypt Vision 2030*, launched in March 2015, with the SDGs. According to the report, "the Sustainable Development Strategy serves as an umbrella of all development strategies in Egypt, and is strongly guided by the universal SDGs".

Governors, appointed by the central government, lead the Local Popular Councils, elected local government bodies in charge of the comprehensive development of local communities.

Since 2015, the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Development has been in charge of designing and implementing the National Urban Policy. National government reports that the NUP was designed involving "all urban stakeholders" including various ministerial departments, local authorities, private sector, civil society organizations and research institutions.

### Policy initiatives

Under the GOPP's strategic guidance, the Governorate of Qena agreed to pilot the localization of the SDGs as one of the outputs of the Governorate's strategic plan. The GOPP is also exploring the possibility of strategic plans at the governorate, city and villages. In the VNR, the national government highlighted implemented programmes, mostly with the support of governorates and UN agencies.

# ETHIOPIA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); reports from LRGs (2017); Beyene Gizaw, *National Level Implications of SDG Implementation in Ethiopia*. Occasional Paper Series 42, Southern Voice on Post-MDG International Development Goals (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

LRGs, and urban municipalities in particular ("city administrations"), participated in the consultations in preparation of the VNR. The Main Message confirms the Ethiopian government's will to achieve the SDGs while preserving the decentralized administrative system established by the Constitution. The VNR has been used as the basis for national consultations at the federal, regional and municipal levels.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The federal government of Ethiopia and the UNDP Country Office organized, in November 2016, workshops at regional and local level to raise awareness on the SDGs and the implementation of the Growth and Transformation Plan II (GTP II). The 2-day workshop was open to all regional government officials.

The national association of local authorities, Ethiopian Cities Association, participated initially in the *National Housing and Sustainable Urban Development Report at Habitat III*. The association was invited to join the steering committee of the National Habitat Committee (NHC) by the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Construction (MUDHC). ECA, however, was not able to participate in the follow-up of Habitat III afterwards.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Regional governments were consulted by the National Planning Commission – the body in charge with preparing the GTP II in alignment with the SDGs.

Regional governments' sectoral ministries coordinate with the federal level to implement the GTP II. LRGs, in this regard, are considered "implementing agencies" of the SDGs through the achievement of national goals and strategies.

Certain powers and tasks have been progressively devolved to Ethiopia's nine federated states and two chartered cities, Addis Ababa and Dire Dawa.

According to the 2017 Main Message, state governments have "full-fledged institutional and organizational arrangements to effectively implement the pro-poor policies, strategies, plans and programs within a decentralized administrative system", as conducive environments for the effective implementation of the SDGs".

### Policy initiatives

As regards policy competences for the achievement of national and global goals, constitutionally Ethiopia favours decentralization of power to local administrative levels.

The responsibility to measure impact and effect of policy actions, even at the local level, still falls entirely on the national government.

Significant initiatives have been undertaken with regard to gender equality policies and mainstreaming: at the level of both regions and *woreda*, women representation in houses and assemblies has reached 48 and 50 percent respectively – on average ten points higher than in the national parliament.

# KENYA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); reports from LRGs (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The national association of local authorities, the Council of County Governors (CoCG) participated in the preparation of the VNR in 2017. The CoCG also invited counties to

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The CoCG reports that mobilization initiatives aimed primarily at two kinds of public: CoCG staff involved in SDG implementation, focusing on awareness-

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Review of institutional coordination is performed by the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, whose mandate includes the coordination of SDG implementation and

### Policy initiatives

The CoCG is a member of a national task force that focuses on target 15.3 and is carrying out a project on land degradation neutrality.

produce reports on their progress. County governments sent their input on SDG implementation, underscoring challenges, progress (also providing statistic data, when available), planned initiatives, related best practices, and areas for enhanced cooperation (i.e., between the counties and the national government, as well as among counties).

raising and emphasizing the relevance of indicators to track progress locally; county officials, especially those involved in planning and economic matters, as well as county ministers and members of county executive committees, in order to raise awareness and mainstream SDG implementation within county-driven initiatives.

The CoCG is supporting the review of *County Integrated Development Plans* (CIDPs) in certain counties. All counties have been mobilized to align the next phases of local planning with the SDGs, considering as well that CIDPs are the basic instrument of local budgeting at county level.

To facilitate the activities related to the implementation of the SDGs, the CoCG has created a database of all relevant directors and staff responsible for initiatives at county level.

monitoring in Kenya. The SDG Coordination Department within the Ministry is the process' focal point. It is supported by an Inter-Agency Technical Committee, comprising officers from key government ministries, departments, agencies, civil society organizations and the private sector.

County governments have established, within the Secretariat of the CoCG, an *SDG Liaison Office* that works closely with the 47 county governments in the country, as well as with the SDG Coordination Department.

Kenya has also introduced the 17 SDGs in its *Vision 2030 - Second Medium Term Plan* as objectives. The government plans to do the same for the third Medium Term Plan for 2018-2022.

The CoCG has created a close working partnership with UNDP, which has supported SDG implementation through capacity-building for the CoCG and specific initiatives on the alignment of counties' integrated development plans with the SDGs.

*"Mother Waiting Home"* (KIROR) is an initiative of the West Pokot County's government that supports pregnant women accommodating them in waiting homes (KIROR) near health facilities able to provide medical assistance in the last days of pregnancy. The project has decongested health centres while letting women access qualified professional assistance.

Another policy initiative embedded in the SDG scheme, the *Commodity Exchange Programme*, facilitates the movement of surplus commodities from collecting sites to more underequipped areas.

In terms of data management, Kenya has prioritized research and collection on 128 SDG indicators out of 230, due to both the availability of data and relevance to the country's socio-political context. The CoCG has already adapted the data management capabilities of its 18 sub-committees to the requirements of SDG indicators.

## MADAGASCAR

Source: VNR (2016); 16<sup>th</sup> Summit, Francophone Declaration (2016); *Madagascar*, UNDAF document (2015-2019)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Consultations on the VNR that included local government representatives were held in Menabe, Itasy and Amoron'i Mania, three of Madagascar's 22 regions. The events took place during the first semester of 2016 and aimed to raise awareness on the challenges that many cities face in their accelerating development, as well as to provide room to discuss LRGs' expectations in the process of SDG implementation.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The government launched a large-scale communication and awareness campaign on the SDGs for all actors at all levels, including local authorities.

In November 2016, the Declaration of the 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State and Governments of the Francophone Speaking Countries, held in Madagascar, recognized and acknowledged the fundamental role of local governments in their strategies to achieve the SDGs, advocating for their inclusion in planning and the implementation of public policies.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs did not participate in and were not consulted by either the Steering and Follow-up Committee (COS) created and led by the Prime Minister or the Technical Committee guided by the Ministry of Economy and Planning.

These two institutions are in charge with the implementation of the national strategy designed to achieve the SDGs. The national strategy includes, however, "effective decentralization" as its first focus area.

#### Policy initiatives

The United Nations Development Assistance Framework's (UNDAF) document for 2015-2019 states that Madagascar has strategically determined to increase public expenditure under the responsibility of decentralized and deconcentrated territorial entities from 5% (2010) to 15% by 2019. This measure is expected to improve the capacity of LRGs to make a significant contribution to regional development.

## MOROCCO

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); reports from LRGs (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

According to the VNR, representatives of local and regional authorities participated in the national-wide consultation through a one-day event for LRGs and civil society. With technical support from UNDP and UNDESA, LRGs presented their position in support of SDG implementation at local and national levels. Moroccan associations of local governments, however, report that LRGs are still not adequately informed or involved in governmental initiatives.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The High Commissariat for Planning (HCP), established as Morocco's focal point for the SDGs, prepared a short outline informing on sectoral public strategies and programmes designed consistently with the SDGs. Among others, the document highlights the challenges related to the alignment of national priorities with the SDGs, as well as the operationalization of these commitments at the local level.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs do not participate – either directly or indirectly – in the Ministerial Working Group. The group is led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, in partnership with the United Nations' country-based team and the HCP.

According to the VNR, significant efforts have been made to ensure that the different levels of government are regularly consulted on the implementation of the SDGs. This follows the overall strategy designed for the regionalization of public policies.

Further involvement of LRGs in the monitoring and evaluation is acknowledged as an objective in the national government's strategy.

Around the time the VNR was being prepared, the HCP was exploring the possibility of an event involving the national level and Morocco's 12 regions.

None reported.

## NIGERIA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); Speech by Ms. Achakpa *Women for water* (2017) at *National Stakeholders consultations forum on the national voluntary reporting of the SDGs*

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no indication that LRGs have participated in the preparation of the VNR. During the national stakeholder consultations, the Women Major Group, on behalf of civil society organizations in Nigeria, stated the 'domestication' of the SDGs at State and local levels as a priority, and called for consultations to include LRGs across the country. Civil society members have long considered LRGs as drivers of change in the implementation of the SDGs: they can provide leadership at local level, help 'domesticate' the agenda, and align local development plans with national plans and global goals.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Inter-ministerial committees are being established at the State (regional) level. Many current State Development Plans (SDPs), including those of Benue, Taraba, Yobe, Kaduna, Ebonyi, Kano, Jigawa, Anambra, and Delta, do mention the SDGs, although only a few are actually aligned with their requirements.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs do not participate either directly or indirectly in the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs), who was appointed by the President for ensuring horizontal and vertical coherence between development policies, plans and strategies. The VNR mentions "similar structures... established at the sub-national levels", although no further information about them is available yet. Other initiatives include the creation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee on the SDGs and the development of guidelines for the OSSAP-SDGs, in order to lead integrated coordination mechanisms alongside relevant ministries, departments and agencies. In the wake of the pre-existing framework for the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), dedicated SDG Offices – with OSSAP-SDGs as a member – were established within state and local governments.

The government issued in 2015 its national SDG implementation plan, *Road to the SDGs*. It also launched the *2017-2020 Economic Recovery and Growth Plan*, capturing "the spirit that is consistent with the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda". The Plan provides a "framework for the harmonization and coordination of strategic" policy initiatives at the state level. It aims to promote economic recovery and the achievement of the SDGs. It also stresses the lack of financial resources and weak institutional capacity that affect local and regional governments and their ability to act.

#### Policy initiatives

Nigeria's 2015 *Road to the SDGs* lists several lessons learned from previous institutional arrangements for the MDGs. Transitioning from one agenda to the other, according to the document, must reposition local governments as the "SDG tier of government". Following these guidelines, the OSSAP-SDGs is developing, alongside the National Bureau of Statistics, an SDG-indicator map, using data sourced directly by national and sub-national levels.

The government also developed a Conditional Grants Scheme to encourage sub-national governments to mobilize resources and accelerate progress in core SDG related areas (such as SDG 5 on gender equality). This initiative has been acclaimed as a best practice in the implementation of global development agendas and is currently being up-scaled to different levels of government.

## SIERRA LEONE

Source: VNR (2016)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

According to the VNR, governmental institutions have led consultations that, at the regional level, also included non-governmental organizations. LRGs, as well as public servants, members of parliament, private sector, trade unions, civil society, NGOs and academia, have all sent input for the VNR.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development was established as the operational and technical focal point in the strategy of SDG 'domestication'. It collected inputs and worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Key recommendations from LRGs representatives, civil society and NGOs operating at the provincial and district level included the need to build on lessons learned in the process of implementation of the MDGs (e.g., the shortcomings of late disbursement of funds by the national government). Local actors have called for stronger domestic revenue mobilization to reduce dependency on donor funds when financing SDG implementation. This includes exploring innovative financing solutions and increase economic diversification.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Several workshops were organized across the country to undertake discussions and deliver the messages underpinning the SDGs. Such workshops included a "Data Revolution Roadmap for Sustainable Development Multi-Stakeholder National Workshop", organized by the *Right to Access Information Commission*, with the participation of several international partners.

Local councils were called upon to play a more central role in the coordination of localized SDG implementation of the SDGs at local level, as well as to make the SDGs formally a part of regional and district level strategies.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The "Data Revolution" workshop also called for the rationalization of the division of responsibilities across different ministries, departments and agencies in order to reduce task duplication and improve coordination.

#### Policy initiatives

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development have engaged the 19 local councils in Sierra Leone to integrate the SDGs into their district and municipal development plans.

## SOUTH AFRICA

Source: SALGA (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

South Africa has yet to present its VNR to the HLPF.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) has institutionalized the SDGs by embedding them into its governance structures and strategies. This has fostered members' awareness, as well as a kind of 'indirect' awareness raised in the municipalities they represent. These processes stimulated further alignment of SALGA's internal Working Groups with relevant SDGs. The Community Development and Social Cohesion working group, for instance, has aligned its agenda to SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 10. Specific groups such as Health and Emergency Services, the Women's Commission, Water and Sanitation, Electricity and Energy Provision, Economic Empowerment and Public Employment Programmes, Public Transport and Roads, Municipal Innovations and Information Technology, Urban Agenda and City Development Strategies, Human Settlements and Municipal Planning, Environmental Planning, Climate Resilience and Waste Management, and International Programmes and Partnerships, all have aligned their work with their respective SDGs of reference.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Local governments have adapted (e.g., via their municipal Integrated Development Plans) to the commitments of the National Development Plan (NDP), aligned in turn with the SDGs. The NDP works as a hub for all three spheres of governance.

#### Policy initiatives

SALGA is implementing policy initiatives in three areas. In the field of water and sanitation, the national Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) has been collaborating with the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) and municipalities. In order to mainstream gender policies, SALGA has worked in partnership with UN Women, which endorsed the creation of SALGA's Women's Commission to support women in local government. In order to mainstream youth policies, SALGA and its partners and stakeholders created the Local Government Youth Development Forum, aiming to intervene in the areas of SDGs 1, 4, and 10. The forum discusses and contributes to the policy schemes designed by the National Youth Policy - NYP 2020. In order to assist with 'localized' monitoring, SDG indicators require disaggregation at the local level, but currently available data remains aggregated at the national level. While local governments and their association have already agreed on data collection and alignment, issues of data quality will have to be addressed before the information is easily available for monitoring both SDG implementation and the NDP.

## TOGO

Source: VNR (2016, 2017); Main Message (2017); reports from LRGs and their associations (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Local and regional authorities participated to the consultations to the VNR in 2016. The Ministry of Planning organised consultations in all 5 regions and in 16 of the 30 functioning prefectures.

LRG associations, the Union des Communes Togolaise and the Association des Conseils et Prefectures du Togo have been associated to the preparation of both VNR in 2016 and 2017, mainly through questionnaires and a workshop to harmonise the collected data.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The majority of LRG are not aware of the SDGs, according to UCT. Hence, efforts are being implemented to mobilize LRG and integrate the SDGs in their own policies. Among other workshops, the sectoral regional offices and planning and development offices participated to a national workshop, held in December 2015, on mainstreaming SDG into regional planning. the SDGs will be at the heart of the next National Day of Local Governments and UCT's newsletter has a new special section on the SDGs.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LRG have been integrated into the **stakeholder commission** of the National Development Plan, together with the Ministries, Union Organization, Private sector and NGOs.

UCT highlights a strong participation of LRG in the on-going preparation of the National Development Plan (2018-2022).

LRG have been mainly integrated in the processes of establishing high-productivity economic infrastructures, disaster risk prevention policies, climate change, ecotourism, local economic development and creating public private partnerships.

Togo's Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Employment Promotion, its National Sustainable Development Strategy and its National Programme for Capacity-Building and Modernization of the State, were analyzed to integrate the SDGs.

#### Policy initiatives

The UCT pays particular attention to projects carried out in several municipalities, focused on: **Water and Sanitation**: such as the "Water and Sanitation Project in Togo" (PEAT I and II) projects implemented in the regional capitals (Atakpamé, Dapaong, Sokodé, Lomé, Kara). The project to support the management of household waste in the commune of Sokodé (PAGOM) realized in Sokodé, project of prevention of the flood of the Kpondjo river and the projects of access to drinking water carried out in the towns of Kpalimé, Dapaong, Atakpamé, Tchamba and Sotouboua. Lastly, the project Toilets for All in Sokodé (TTS) realized in town of Sokodé.

**Affordable and Clean Energy** such as the Emergency Project for the Rehabilitation of Infrastructure and Electrical Services (PURIS) project implemented in Lomé, or the Project for the Promotion of Energy for Development (PPED) in the commune of Tsévié,

**Sustainable Cities and Communities**, such as the rehabilitation of the EPP Barrier school space in Sokodé, related to risk reduction, and the reforestation project for public spaces carried out in the Commune of Tchamba.

UCT also mention **decentralized cooperation** projects such as the Project of Improvement of the Local Governance for Municipal Project Management (PAGLEMOG)



# UGANDA

Source: VNR (2016); UNDP, *Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals in Uganda* (2015); CLGF, *Kampala declaration on Developmental Local Government*; ; UNCT Uganda (2016); UN Uganda, *Uganda, our Constitution, our Vision, our the SDGs* (2016)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The VNR and UNDP reports assert that all districts participated in three 'validation workshops' conducted in the Mbarara, Mbale and Lira regions. These capacity-building workshops involved a total of 240 representatives from local governments, civil society organizations, religious and traditional leaders, volunteering organizations and several others.

UNDP reports that effective decentralization was one of the recommendations for the way forward: "among Local Government representatives, the issue of leadership was discussed widely, as local leaders sometimes lack the necessary skills and motivation to drive transformation processes".

The Uganda Local Government Association participated in the last validation meeting with representative from ministries, agencies and departments, civil society, private sector, academia, special interest groups, as well as development partners.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The VNR reports that, in order to create further awareness and ownership of the 2030 Agenda at the local level, national governments in partnership with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) convened two fora, one for planners and one for local governments, in line with requirements of the second National Development Plan (NDP II).

The SDGs have been integrated in a few Local Government Development Plans (p. 7). To further create awareness and ownership of the 2030 Agenda at the local level, the government, in partnership with the UNCT, convened the planners' forum and the local government forum for capacity building on their roles in implementation of sustainable development, in line with the NDP II.

In Uganda, awareness over the SDGs represents also a continuing effort since the MDGs. In 2013, over 630 representatives of local governments in the world signed the Kampala Declaration during a meeting organised by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum. In this declaration, "[local governments stressed] the critical relevance of developmental local government for successful implementation of the post-2015 Development Agenda and in particular for local governments and their associations to have responsibility for setting local/sub-national targets and indicators and overseeing their realization".

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs are not involved in the SDG coordination process. All developmental plans, however, from national to local, must be aligned within the *Uganda 2040 Vision*, accompanied by the long-term Comprehensive National Development Planning Framework (CNDPF), which provides the framework of six-year development plans and sectoral and local development plans. NDP II (from 2015-2016 to 2019-2020) is the framework for implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs during that period.

The VNR indicates that local governments "are service delivery points to implement national projects and programs, and mobilize local revenues to finance local government priorities, as well as mobilising the population to participate in development programs".

UNDP reports that "whereas Central Government transfers are by far the biggest financial resource for implementing LG development plans, they are often connected to delays and partial releases of funds. Therefore, participants argue it is crucial to tap into non-governmental resources to build resilience towards delays and incomplete transfers and to ensure full implementation of LG plans. The discussion showed the need to explore options for increased local revenue collection. More leverage for Local Governments to collect taxes for the implementation of locally defined development priorities would increase ownership and demand for accountability, facilitating hereby an engaged citizenry".

### Policy initiatives

The Ugandan government has developed and disseminated development planning guidelines for local governments, their implementing partner. The National Planning Authority is in charge of preparing Local Government Development plans and Ministries, Departments, and Agencies are in charge of supervision the alignment of local budgets for sectors and local governments which provide for integration of the SDGs into Sector and Local Government Development Plans.

UNDP in Uganda is supporting the national government to align 50 districts' Local development plan to the National Development Plan II and the SDGs. This support is twofold: 1) training of technical staff at the Local Government level on alignment, and 2) quality assurance of Local Government Development Plans.

The report concludes that, as delivery and implementation units for the SDGs, local governments need to be empowered to champion priority setting and given flexibility in mobilizing resources for financing local level development priorities that complement the 2030 Agenda. It is important to reinforce sufficient financial autonomy, which the report identifies as one of the lessons learned in 2016.

# ZIMBABWE

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

No indication that local and regional governments have participated in the preparation of the VNR.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The national government carried out consultations and meetings with relevant stakeholders – including government departments, private sector, civil society, academia, associations of people with disabilities, UN agencies and other development partners.

Zimbabwe has committed itself to implementing all the SDGs with an emphasis on the SDGs 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 13 and 17.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

A Steering Committee, chaired by the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet and with representatives from all line ministry Permanent Secretaries and the heads of relevant UN agencies was created to guide the process. It is supported by a technical committee that include members of ministries, UN agencies, development partners, private sector, civil society and the Office of the President.

The SDGs have already been mainstreamed and integrated into the national development plan. "Sub-national policies" are also identified as focal points for strategic alignment. The VNR mentions the importance of involving and coordinating departments as key stakeholders, while also recognizing challenges in aligning national budgets with the resources actually needed to pursue the new localization priorities.

### Policy initiatives

The government has emphasized that "plans are in place to strengthen the capacities of sub-national authorities to align strategies and policies at that level to achieve the SDGs".

Zimbabwe's United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2016-2020) works on inclusive growth and sustainable development in line with "national development priorities as informed by the *Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation* as well as advancing the achievement of the SDGs".

**Indicators:** available data are still ineffectively updated and disaggregated, making it generally hard to adequately track progress.





# ASIA PACIFIC

## BANGLADESH

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); local press

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no clear mention of LRGs in the definition of the VNR or national strategies on SDG implementation.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The Government adopted a “Whole of Society” approach to ensure the participation of NGOs, development partners, private sector, media and CSOs in the definition of the Action Plan and the implementation of the SDGs.

The Main Message also emphasizes the importance of localization of the SDGs and its indicators for aligning local development plans with the 2030 Agenda.

The Upazila Governance Project (UZGP) and the Union Parishad Governance Project (UPGP) under the Local Government Division (LGD) jointly organized awareness-raising workshops, aimed at key administrative roles in seven districts. UZGP committed to the organization of about 130 more events on SDG localization.

The association, which the LGD runs with aid from the EU, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), UNCDF and UNDP, is working to strengthen elected *upazila parishad* (sub-district councils) as a “more effective, democratic, transparent, service-oriented and accountable local government institution”.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The country has a remarkable track record in the implementation and achievement of at least eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As a result of applying the same political vision to the process of SDG implementation, the government has defined a Perspective Plan (2010-2021) and its 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plans, overtly inspired by the 2030 Agenda. The Prime Minister’s office has established an *SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee* to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs and the Plans.

#### Policy initiatives

The government was preparing an action plan for implementation of the SDGs, aligned with the 7<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, scheduled to be finalized by June 2017.

The Bangladesh Planning Commission conducted a review of various means of data generation in the country whose results show that Bangladesh has data for 70 indicators and partially available data for 108 indicators. Challenges in collection, analysis, disaggregation, and dissemination of data persist. The Main Message mentions the needs to foster collaboration at bilateral, regional and global level.

## CHINA

Source: VNR’s Executive Summary (2016); *National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2016)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

No reference to the involvement of local governments in the preparation of the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The National Plan mention that, “based on the outlines of the 13<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Plan, the 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central Government of China’s mainland have formulated their own five-year plans, and cities and counties have completed their road map and annual plans. In this way, the central and local governments have created synergy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda”.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

China launched in September 2016 its *National Plan on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for SD*. As stressed in the National Plan, the government aligned its mid- and long-term development strategies with the 2030 Agenda via dedicated coordination mechanisms. The Plan promotes synergies, “bringing the development objectives of local governments in line with the 2030 Agenda”.

An inter-agency coordination mechanism across 43 government departments was established to follow up on implementation. It will set up corresponding working mechanisms with local governments.

#### Policy initiatives

Local governments will be involved in the implementation of the different goals and targets in relation to their tasks and responsibilities, covering all dimensions of sustainable development – i.e., social, economic, environment and cultural.

## INDIA

Source: VNR (2017); State of Assam’s *Vision 2030* (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Sub-national governments have been involved in the elaboration of the Main Message and the overall national strategy for SDG implementation and localization. The governmental document recognizes, in particular, the work and contributions of three thematic working groups, whose membership included Chief Ministers from each of the 23 federated States.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

There is no mention in the Main Message of LRG-driven initiatives to raise awareness or mobilize resources for the implementation of the goals.

The roadmap of the State of Assam is currently the only state roadmap available on the website of the NITI. Besides a more ahead-looking statement of the mission underpinning the document, the Assam roadmap defines, analyses and adapts the SDGs and its indicators to the state’s

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The general coordination of this process is managed by the National Institution for the Transformation of India (NITI Aayog), a governmental policy think tank chaired directly by the Prime Minister of the country. NITI has a long-standing commitment to policy-making decentralization and has invited the federated states to take part in the process and develop their own roadmaps for localization. The Chief Ministers of all federated States are members

#### Policy initiatives

A joint document of the United Nations and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS, an institutional think tank under the scrutiny of the federal Ministry of Economy) heavily supports decentralization as the key tool for resource mobilization for the implementation process. It also calls for States to be more active and present in the global projection of India’s efforts to achieve the SDGs.

**Indicators and data disaggregation:**

context. The Assam's framework revolves around implementation as a "single synergized mega-initiative" able to engage all governmental resources and structures; on technological innovation and administrative renovation; and a comprehensive financial framework to address financial resources, land resources, human resources, capital infrastructure, biological resources, IT resources and institutional resources.

of the NITI Aayog. Regional Councils within the NITI are formed ad hoc whenever certain matters are affecting two or more geographically proximate States.

besides the efforts of each State to adapt the indicators locally, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation has developed adapted indicators accessible by the public domain.

## INDONESIA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); ASPAC-UCLG questionnaire replies by APEKSI (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Only national government's officers, CSOs, philanthropy, the business sector and academia participated in the preparation of the VNR. Local governments were not involved. The leaders of one of the national associations of municipalities – APEKSI – reported no formal invitation by the national government to take part in the debate on the VNR or national strategies.

The full report mentions "consultation about the SDGs with stakeholders at the sub-national level has been done in 31 of Indonesia's 34 provinces and around 50 districts/municipalities". These initiatives, however, addressed mostly civil society, academia and parliament members.

In this regard, APEKSI leaders stated that "the main challenges for local authorities are: a lack of information and understanding about the SDGs themselves, a lack of information to propose alternative funds from other institutions, and a lack of coordination among government institutions, vertically or horizontally".

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

As a testament of LRGs' commitment to the implementation of the SDGs, Regional Budgets (APBD) have been allocating regional resources for this aim since 2016: "Several districts and municipalities in Indonesia have already shown their commitment to implement the SDGs, among others, Pangkajene Islands District (Pangkep) in South Sulawesi Province, Bojonegoro District in East Java Province, Kubu Raya District in West Kalimantan Province, Gunung Kidul District in Yogyakarta Province, and East Lampung District in Lampung Province". They have done so via various initiatives, such as the SDGs Secretariat of Bojonegoro or the SDGs Regional Action Plan announced by the Pangkep District, focusing on poverty, inequality in education and health, and the preservation of marine ecosystems.

The city of Jakarta is preparing a roadmap for the localization of the SDGs, including the definition of indicators in its Medium Term Development Plan 2018-2023. The Province of Riau, with the support of the local office of the Ministry of National Development Planning, UNDP and the Tanoto, has kicked off a pilot project for SDG localization. Nevertheless, APEKSI mentions that "only some local governments are aware of and understand the SDGs' importance". On its part, APEKSI has made efforts to communicate on the SDGs with its members, through its internal magazine KOTA KITA.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Ministry of National Development Planning has been appointed by the President to coordinate all processes of planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluation and reporting on the SDGs, involving all stakeholders. The Ministry is in charge of the *SDGs Road Map and National Action Plan*.

The SDGs National Coordination Team, led by the President, gathers representatives from four platforms (government and parliament, civil society and media, philanthropy and business, and academia).

According to a Presidential Decree, the government is preparing a national action plan to integrate the Agenda 2030 in the Medium-Term Plan (RJPMN 2015-2019) and will also formulate a 15-year SDG Road Map.

The same Presidential Decree attributes to the governor, at the provincial level, the responsibility to develop a Regional Action Plan together with all Regents and Mayors within the region. The action plans are developed and reported annually from the regional level up to the national level.

#### Policy initiatives

The government is conducting training workshops on the SDGs, mainstreaming their objectives to government officers in provinces, districts and municipalities en route to define their mid-term development plans. It also created a technical guide for the 34 provinces and 514 districts/municipalities to formulate local actions plans.

The guide mentions the potential intervention of LRGs in a number of sectors: LRGs participate in the National Health Insurance management and take part in various poverty alleviations programmes (SDG 1); they assist in food, health and gender equality policies at the local level; they have developed city optic fibre networks and techno parks (SDG 9); and LRGs have played a role in ecosystem protection and the expansion of maritime protected areas (SDG 14).

**Indicators:** data disaggregation, decentralization, inadequate ICT integration and the unavailability of certain global indicators remain key challenges to be addressed. Indonesia has reviewed existing surveys to disaggregate data down to the district level, developing a one-stop data mechanism and creating a database of Indonesian SDG metadata.

## JAPAN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Local governments have been involved in the "SDG Promotion Roundtable" (September and November 2016), a consultative body that also includes NGOs, the private sector, civil society and academia. The Roundtable is involved in discussing, integrating and revising the output of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters, an initiative within the Prime Minister's Cabinet designed to provide a centralized platform and establish a National Implementation Framework for the SDGs.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The stakeholders involved in the Roundtable have also been invited to design actions and programmes to spread awareness on the SDGs at all levels. Lack of awareness among the general public is perceived as a key weakness of the process, and the government is committed to engage all stakeholders in awareness-raising activities and campaigns.

The Institute for Building Environment and Energy Conservation led discussions in local communities and as a final product wrote a guideline titled "*The SDGs in our Town - Guidelines to introduce the SDGs*" which suggests ways to interpret each goal of the SDGs in a local context.

In June 2017, the cabinet of the SDGs Promotion Headquarters approved the

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The government established the SDGs Promotion Headquarter in May 2016, headed by the Prime Minister, to foster close cooperation among relevant ministries and government agencies, and to lead the comprehensive and effective implementation of the SDGs related measures as a control tower. The cabinet worked on the *SDGs Implementation Guiding Principles* launched in December 2016, based on results of the consultation process.

The involvement of local governments at all stages of implementation is one of the core principles listed in this document. Accordingly, the government invites all LRGs to undertake specific local measures and initiatives to promote the localization of the SDGs. Relevant ministries will provide

#### Policy initiatives

Some of those local municipalities actively engaged in SDG-related work have already begun to introduce them in their policies. For instance, in Shiga and Nagano Prefectures, local governments are considering introducing the SDGs in their prefectural guidelines.

The Institute of Technology of Kanazawa established the *SDG Business Award*, which gives awards to business cases that have shown significant progress and showcasing them abroad. Also, in November 2015, the "Kanazawa Declaration" was adopted by the Junior Chamber International to work actively towards the achievement of the SDGs.

In December 2016, the Ministry of Environment and the United Nations

"Environmental White Paper", which articulates the relevance of each goal of the SDGs and introduces in detail recent undertakings by local municipalities and private companies to simultaneously solve environmental, economic, and social challenges.

technical support to such actions. The government is mainstreaming the SDGs into government's plans, strategies and policies as much as possible.

University Institute of Advanced Studies (UNU-IAS) held a symposium on "Creation of the sustainable local community and partnership between companies and local municipalities".

The town of Uchiko, in Ehime Prefecture hosted a meeting with town residents, local government staff, researchers and NGO staff to come up with ways to achieve the SDGs.

The city of Omihachiman in Shiga prefecture established a city-level the SDGs promotion headquarters in February 2017, which is taking initiatives in getting local communities and groups of young people involved.

The Japanese Cabinet Office is promoting the "Future City" Initiative, which designated eleven cities as of a sustainable economy and society. In Kita-Kyushu, which is one of the "Future Cities," a symposium entitled "Local efforts to achieve the SDGs in Japan" was convened on June 3, 2017, co-hosted by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Environment. In the context of preparation for the symposium, representatives of the cities of Kita-Kyushu, Yokohama, Kamaishi, Shimokawa, Higashi-Matsushima, Oguni, Minamata and Sapporo, participated in a workshop to present their regional the SDGs-related activities and to exchange views with government officials.

The city of Sapporo is currently reviewing its basic environment plan from the viewpoint of how to contribute to the SDGs. On June 16, 2017, the city of Sapporo, with the Ministry of Environment and Hokkaido University, co-hosted a symposium on sustainable community building under the theme of the SDGs.

## MALAYSIA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); LRG report to UCLG (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no mention that LRGs have been included in the drafting process of the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The Main Message recognizes the localization of the SDGs as a key future priority among the main challenges for the process in the short-term. In November 2016, the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department, in collaboration with UNDP, organized a multi-stakeholder meeting with a session dedicated to the localization of the SDGs. A presentation by UNDP identified three key issues (shared with the rest of Asia-Pacific) in the inadequacy of the process of institutional decentralization (lack of resources, incomplete transfer of competences); poor accountability and transparency at the local level; and the unavailability of reliable disaggregated data at the local level. Most competences are still limited to urban management (i.e., relate more to Goal 11 than any other).

In the full report, the process of localising, mainstreaming and promoting ownership and partnerships are relied in the replication of the multi-stakeholder governance structure at state levels "to enhance vertical and horizontal policy coherence towards building national consensus".

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Conventional tools (the SDGs are integrated in the 11<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan) are available, but there is no mention of alternative structures or mechanisms to be devised in order to enhance dialogue with sub-national governments or localize the SDGs.

Malaysia will establish a multi-stakeholder, participatory governance structure. The 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-2020) will be align with the SDGs principles.

#### Policy initiatives

Nation-wide actions under the umbrella programme of the Local Government Transformation Plan have promoted LRG coordination and initiatives on a number of thematic areas. The Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government is coordinating local action on wellbeing policies; the Rakan Taman programme to encourage the creation of a sense of belonging in local communities via enhanced public spaces; and local programmes in specific areas about biodiversity conservation (with support from civil society, NGOs and the private sector). On a lower tier of cooperation, the Residents' Representatives Committee (JPP) is working as ombudspersons mediating between local governments and citizens (the Committee is nonetheless under ministerial management). The government has also invited local authorities to hold townhall sessions on development-related policies.

An updated measurement of basic development indicators was already presented. The replication of multi-stakeholder governance structure also has as objective contribute to the adaptation of the SDGs indicators, data collection, accountability, monitoring, budget allocation and resource mobilisation at subnational levels.

## MALDIVES

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The VNR was drafted by the Sustainable Development Division and the Ministry of Environment and Energy as general coordination of the SDGs.

As mentioned in the 'main message', 'several actors were invited to share their experiences regarding the new Agenda'. However, there are no details about how this process was drafted.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Cross-sectoral and cross-level coordination is at the core of the country's full report, and local councils are regarded throughout the document as a necessary partner in the achievement of the objectives. To this regard, emphasis has been made to the difference between the MDGs and the SDGs: "the implementation of the SDGs requires strong coordination and cross-sectoral collaboration between the government agencies, development partners, local governments, the private sector and civil society." While local governments were included in the groups of stakeholders involved in awareness-raising initiatives leading to the VNR, further efforts targeting "parliamentarians, local councils, and members of the judiciary, NGOs, students and the general public" are expected to take place in the third quarter of 2017.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Long-term strategic direction will be still given by the central government. The strategic structure is divided between three national actors. First, the National Ministerial Coordination Committee provides overall policy guidance and political support towards the implementation. The Ministerial Committee is supported by a Technical Committee on the SDGs formed at the end of 2016, which brings together representatives from various government institutions and civil society. And the General coordination is managed by the SDGs Division within the Ministry of Environment and Energy. Nevertheless, the Main Message highlights already lack of technical expertise and human resources to address the dimensions of implementation, monitoring and reporting.

#### Policy initiatives

As a small island state, the general preoccupation lies with issues of resilience to the effects of climate change. There is also a strategic attention to issues of empowering women, strengthening mechanisms of governance and justice, minimizing economic disparity and sustainable consumption and production, and a commitment to achieve this through "collaborative decision-making process" where participation of all stakeholders is critical.

To elaborate the indicators and improve data disaggregation, the Maldivian government has vowed to collect opinions from all stakeholders (including local councils) in the process of refining available national indicators and align them to the international system's – coordinated by the National Bureau of Statistics. A first Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA) has been already scheduled for the third quarter of 2017 in order to create a nation-wide monitoring and evaluation system.

## NEPAL

Source: VNR (2017); UCLG questionnaire replies by ADDCN (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

No LRG participation in the consultation for the VNR. Both sources mention the importance of the first local government elections in 19 years which were carried out in all local government units during May and June 2017.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

According to the ADDCN, since the implementation of the SDGs in January 2016 there have been major changes to the structure of local and national governance in Nepal, with a move from a unitary to a federal form of governance and an agenda to increase the roles and responsibilities of local government units.

The National Planning Commission (NPC) has included the SDGs in the current 14th Five-year Plan for the country, which aims to enhance Nepal's Development and work toward achieving the SDGs by the 2030 deadline.

Organisations such as the ADDCN will be well placed to assist in technical capacity building of the new local units, however there will be an immediate challenge to provide the technical assistance to build capacity of the local units to be able to achieve the SDGs.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The overall responsibility for the delivery of the SDGs, including providing a framework for localization is with the central Government's 'National Planning Commission' (NPC).

Organisations such as the ADDCN will be preparing to offer to build technical capacity to both the newly elected officials and staff of these local units, in both the SDG's themselves and other processes related to the SDG's, as well as to acting as a key resource point to provide data for decision making, and assisting in monitoring, measuring and reporting of the implementation of the SDG localisation agenda.

#### Policy initiatives

Under the new structure of Nepal, funds from the Central level government are now allocated directly to local level governments, based on Minimum Conditions and Performance Management scores. Under this system, the Fiscal Commission of Nepal allocates Block Grants and Conditional Grants according to the needs of Municipalities. Now the provincial level government in Nepal will not take part in the allocation of funds; instead, they will oversee, monitor, and provide support to the Municipalities and Rural Municipalities in the implementation. Following the targets set out by the National Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance recently released the Government of Nepal's budget for 2017/18 FY, which highlights the percentage of total funds allocated toward each sustainable development goal.

Indicators: Ministries and other relevant national actors have fostered dialogue with, and defined strategies to achieve and monitor the SDGs. For example, the Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) consulted many stakeholders, including Local Government Associations, Government agencies, private sector, and local bodies when preparing the national Habitat III report 'Inclusive cities: resilient communities'. This report sets out a plan of action for achieving sustainable urban development and an Urban Agenda for the nation, which is in line with the SDGs. In addition, the National Planning Commission has prepared benchmark national indicators for the SDG. Every local government must localise the indicator as per their baseline indicators and status.

## PHILIPPINES

Source: VNR (2016); additional reports in 2017

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (ULAP), the umbrella organization of all the leagues of local government units and leagues and federations of local elective and appointive officials, was one of the organizations that were given early orientation on the SDGs as it has a critical role in mobilizing the LGUs to help the national government in mainstreaming the SDGs into the local development processes.

ULAP participated in the briefings given by the government to Civil Society Organizations (p.6).

The National government conducted a Multisector Workshop on the SDGs

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

To support the localization of the SDGs, LGUs need assistance in building their capacities on local governance along the areas of development planning, monitoring and evaluation, fiscal administration, accountability, and service delivery.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

In 2016, no institutional coordination mechanism was created. The National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board is spearheading the national implementation of the SDGs in the Philippines. In addition, the Philippines Statistics Authority has an internal SDG Team in charge of monitoring and assessing SDG implementation.

The Philippine priorities with respect to the 2030 Agenda are based on the new administration's ten-point socioeconomic agenda, the Philippine Development Framework, the Long-Term Vision and the results of national and local consultations for defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The horizontal and vertical coordination of the proposed oversight committee with other institutions/mechanisms has not been clarified. The Our Ambition 2040 is aligned with the SDG as well as the Philippine Development Plan.

#### Policy initiatives

At the subnational level, the NEDA Subnational Offices in Mindanao have passed a resolution requesting for the establishment of an operational and integrated mechanism within the NEDA in the localization of the SDGs. This mechanism will define the development actions and commitments at the subnational/local level to contribute to the attainment of the SDG targets. The resolution is also calling for the NEDA Central Office to ensure a highly participative and consultative process by involving the subnational level in SDG-related activities through the existing Regional/Subnational Development Councils. The resolution was the outcome of the 1st NEDA Mindanao Development Forum on mainstreaming Gender and Development in planning held in April 2016. The flow of SDG implementation from the subnational to the national and back will have to be considered in the discussion of the functions of proposed oversight committee for the SDGs. The Government will develop initiatives to "Empowering the local governments (capacitating, providing resources, and putting in place effective institutions) to fulfil their roles especially in incorporating the SDGs in the local plans and policies." (p. 11).

To support the localization of the SDGs, LGUs need assistance in building their capacities on local governance along the areas of development planning, monitoring and evaluation, fiscal administration, accountability, and service delivery. The government aims also to build information systems, monitoring and statistical capacity at subnational level.

## REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Source: VNR (2016); contacts with UCLG members (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

There are no clear indications that LRGs were involved in the drafting of the VNR. Other stakeholders (private sector, universities, NGOs) are mentioned. The VNR recognizes, nevertheless, that "the role of local governments remains crucial in ensuring coherent implementation of the SDGs across the country".

In its conclusions, the document stresses that "the central government needs to encourage and facilitate more meaningful participation of local governments and civil society organizations in the national implementation of the SDGs to ensure that no one is left behind."

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

In January 2016, the Third National Basic Plan for Sustainable Development, updated every five years, was established as a basic platform to implement the SDGs. The government mapped other plans, policies and regulations that contribute to the SDGs.

According to the VNR, a number of local governments, such as Seoul, Gwangju, Jeonju, Cheongju, Suwon, and the Bupyeong District (Incheon), "have voluntarily established implementation strategies for sustainable development at the local level and have drafted evaluation reports to measure their progress since 2010, which provides a strong basis for the implementation of the SDGs by local governments".

Local governments are also actively involved in knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising activities with the population.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

At present, the following ministries ensure the mainstreaming of the SDGs in national policies: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Environment, Statistics Korea and the Office for Government Policy Coordination.

Special committees related to implementing the SDGs: Commission on Sustainable Development for domestic follow-up and the Committee for International Development Cooperation for international policies. At Parliament level, the Korea National Assembly UN the SDGs Forum was founded collaboratively with the Korea Association for Supporting the SDGs for the UN, a NGO with special consultative status with the ECOSOC.

As well, since the 1992 Earth Summit many local governments have established local commissions on sustainable development (LCSD) (100 out of 243 LRGs). These commissions are coordinated nation-wide by the Local Sustainability Alliance of Korea (LSAK), that gather different stakeholders and ensures that local governments have a

#### Policy initiatives

The Seoul Metropolitan Government organized in 2016 the International Forum on Urban Policy for the SDGs, establishing a platform to support policy action at the municipal level for SDG implementation.

The Third Plan has expanded its scope to encompass economic and social development goals, particularly including: health and well-being (SDG 3), education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), good jobs and economic growth (SDG 8), inequality (SDG 10), and sustainable cities and communities (SDG 11).

The VNR mentions that the government has promoted a growing participation of Korean local governments in global fora and networks, promoting vertical alignment and the exchange of resources and knowledge. On topics of urban sustainability, the government developed in 2014 a Guideline for the Evaluation of Sustainability and Living Infrastructure of Cities. The Guideline provides a framework for the evaluation of the local governments' progress on



platform to share and integrate policy strategies in the implementation of the SDGs. The LCSDs have played the role of the main agencies for implementing the Agenda 2030 at local level, by analysing and aligning existent projects in the context of the SDGs.

sustainable development, in particular urban planning for the SDGs, which is broadly in line with the New Urban Agenda of Habitat III.

**Indicators:** Statistics of Korea is exploring how to ensure the availability of disaggregated data.

## SAMOA

Source: Main Message (2016)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

No LRG participation in the consultation for the VNR.

The implementation of global goals revolves around the National Sustainable Development Strategy, approved in 2011. The Strategy was reviewed at a later stage, via country-wide consultations involving focus groups, faith-based organizations, private sector, civil society, parliamentarians and the public.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No information of local governments' involvement in the SDGs implementation was available.

The localization of the SDGs, however, is addressed as one of the challenges. The localization of the MDGs is mentioned as a 'lesson learned' to be considered when planning for the implementation of the SDGs. These issue highlight also a systemic lack of alignment with global and regional actions, insufficient resources and capacities, a lack of baseline data and inadequate resources to collect and analyse data.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Mid-Term review of the National Sustainable Development Strategy began in 2014 for the preparation of a new Strategy for the 2016-2020 period. Samoa will continue to use its strategy also to implement the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the SAMOA Pathway, the Paris Agreement, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and all other global agendas of which Samoa is already a party.

#### Policy initiatives

## THAILAND

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); reports from LRGs (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

LRGs are not mentioned in the Main Message or the VNR. A working group of the National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD), chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, was in charge of the preparation of the VNR.

Several rounds of consultation with stakeholders were conducted to include the private sector, CSOs of various constituencies, youth associations as well as the members of the National Legislative Assembly.

CSOs have also produced their own VNRs to complement the Government's – although it is unclear whether LRGs were involved in this process either.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No information about LRGs' involvement in the implementation of the SDGs.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs do not sit in the National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD). The CSD is chaired by the Prime Minister and has 37 members from public and private sectors, academia and civil society. The Secretary-General of National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) serves as its secretariat.

The CSD has three Sub-Committees. The one in charge of Developing Information System to Support the SDGs is chaired by the NESDB and works to integrate the government's implementing guidelines and create a centralized database of information provided by all levels of government and the private sector. The Department of Local Administration sits in this Sub-Committee. Following a Government Resolution of 25 October 2016, the SDGs have been integrated in the 20-Year National Strategy Framework and the 12<sup>th</sup> National Economic and Social Development Plan (2017–2021). Accordingly, plans and budgeting of all government agencies will be in line with the SDGs and the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP) – now the guiding principles in both finalizing the MDG implementation process and set off the achievement of the SDGs.

The CSD formulated a roadmap for all 17 SDGs, identifying in particular 30 priority targets.

#### Policy initiatives

As regards SDG 11, Thailand is aligning new urban development plans with the New Urban Agenda. Land ownership and land distribution will be addressed with legal measures. The government is developing a 10-year housing development strategy, targeting 2.72 million households living in lesser housing condition or informal settlements. In addition, 22,434-million-bath (approximately USD 623 million) preferential housing loan has been made available to the low and middle income population. Already applied in 972 communities in 2016, the Community Based Disaster Risk Management programme based on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction will be further expanded to local communities nationwide.

Local governments are also mentioned with regard to SDG 13: 7 provinces and 32 municipalities have developed climate action plans, thus complementing their provincial disaster risk-reduction plans.





**EURASIA**

## AZERBAIJAN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); UN-ECE Regional Survey (2015)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The Main Message does not refer to Local and Regional Governments. While, the government considers the national SDG implementation process as an opportunity for the “empowerment” of societal stakeholders, stakeholders only include civil society, academia, business and professional associations, and mass media. In a questionnaire circulated by UN-ECE, there was no mention of local authorities. Likewise, responses about stakeholder mobilization and reporting processes do refer to the aforementioned societal actors.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No available information.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (NCCSD) is the responsible body. Established by Presidential decree, its headquarters are located within the Ministry of Economy. In the performance of its tasks, the NCCSD refers to partners such as Government agencies, but does not refer to any other tiers of government or local authorities. The national statistical office centralizes the identification and collection of all relevant data.

#### Policy initiatives

Indicators: The State Statistical Committee (SSC) is a key national agency responsible for processing and maintaining a database to measure progress on the SDGs, and all central government agencies and local governments have appointed focal points to support the SSC in collecting and processing data, and introducing new indicators for SDG monitoring and evaluation.

## BELARUS

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

No available information.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No available information.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Establishing the position National Coordinator for achieving the SDGs, at the President Office, forming under his leadership, the National Council for Sustainable Development is among institutional innovation in the country. The Council gathers 30 representatives from government and regions, to ensure vertical and horizontal coordination. It could include representatives from academia, NGOs and international organizations. The process of implementing and monitoring the achievement of the local and regional councils involves mechanisms of parliamentary hearings and national consultations with the participation of a wide range of partners, including civil society. The Government approved in 2015 the National Strategy for Sustainable Socio-Economic Development (NSSD), which defines the basic guidelines, the country must achieve by 2030. The government also approved, December 2016, the “Program of socio-economic development of Belarus for the period till 2020”.

#### Policy initiatives

An updated National Strategy for the Agenda 2030 should define the work of the national and local governments, as well as include specific goals and targets in national, sectoral and regional policies.

**Indicators:** the VNR mentions the need for disaggregated indicators: “monitoring achievement of the SDGs is planned to be carried out by the joint work of the central government and local authorities”.

## TAJKISTAN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

No reference to LRGs, although the VNR does mention the need for the ‘localization’ of the SDGs.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The national budget will be amongst the main sources to feed implementation of SDGs within the context of the NDS 2030 and MTDP 2020. The strategies expect that the existing institutional mechanism for coordination, facilitation and monitoring of SDGs, as part of Monitoring and evaluation, should improve the implementation of the SDGs. Establishment of the cross-sectorial coordination mechanism will play an important role in the field of monitoring activities. Such mechanism will ensure that relevant policies are developed and implemented in an agreed and comprehensive manner with participation of broad range of stakeholders, including parliament, civil society and private sector, as well as in cooperation with the development partners and UN agencies.

#### Policy initiatives

**Indicators:** the VNR does mention the need for data disaggregation.



# EUROPE



## BELGIUM

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017), reports by VVSG and UVCW

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Both Flemish and Walloon local government associations (VVSG and UVCW) have provided input to the regions and the Belgian government in order to assist in the drafting of the VNR.

Federated governments were involved in the drafting process. A draft version was submitted to the Parliament and to civil society networks.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The *Union des Villes et Communes de Wallonie*, *Brulocalis* and the *Vereniging voor Vlaamse Steden en Gemeenten* are supporting local governments to disseminate and integrate the SDGs in their daily actions.

Several municipalities have been active in promoting the SDGs. In Flanders, through learning sessions for clerks, aldermen etc. (ex. Sint-Niklaas, Balen, Bierbeek) and for the population: via posters, information gatherings, municipal newsletters, actions in schools/libraries/cultural centers, organizing information evening for their citizens (Bouchout, Mortsel, Hove, Kontich and Edegem). VVSG has also developed a publication to support local governments to localise the SDGs and an animation movie in different language for the 'Global Goals, Local Focus', an international conference organized last year.

In Wallonia, 68 municipalities have made commitments in the context of local Agenda 21 initiatives, 181 municipalities have developed social cohesion plans and 130 municipalities have established rural development plans.

The Flemish and the Wallon Regions have revised their development strategy to integrate the SDGs framework.

"SDG Voices" campaign gather eight organizations (inter alia civil society organizations, private sector, local authorities) to promote the SDGs as role models through various activities throughout 2017, as well as the SDG Charter for International Development. The Flemish Association of Local Governments (VVSG) promote the SDG charter which municipalities can sign and commit themselves to the Global Goals. So far already 73 municipalities have signed the charter.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Three institutions are key in the preparation and implementation of the SDGs: the Interdepartmental Commission for Sustainable Development (ICSD) composed of federal, regional and community ministers responsible for sustainable development and development cooperation, which is in charge of the planning, and monitoring part of the process, a task force within the Federal Planning Bureau which reports on the current situation and makes policy evaluations and forecasts, and the Federal Council for Sustainable Development, an advisory stakeholders' council. The Inter-Ministerial Conference for Sustainable Development is the central coordination mechanism between federal and federated authorities and is composed of federal, regional and community ministers responsible for sustainable development and development cooperation.

In 2017, the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) was approved after consultation with the stakeholders. However, the NSDS relies first and foremost on the different strategies in relation to sustainable development which were adopted by the respective levels of power (federal level, Flanders, Wallonia, Brussels Capital Region and German-speaking Community).

Local governments associations ask for further consultation and co-ordination between the various government agencies on the one hand and the different levels of government on the other hand to achieve the sustainable development objectives. This consultation, which should result in a more efficient and coordinated way of cooperation between the agencies and levels is currently being minimized.

#### Policy initiatives

Flanders mapped out an ambitious SDG implementation agenda in late 2016, including modalities for cooperation with cities, municipalities and provinces to achieve the targets.

The Flemish association launched in May 2017 a pilot project involving 20 municipalities to experiment and to test how to link these strategic financial plans with the SDGs, in partnership with and the Flemish regional administration. Indeed, local governments are obliged by law to make such a plan for the legislative municipal period of six years +1 year after the municipal elections (current period: 2014 – 2019). More than 50 municipalities have candidate to participate in the pilot project.

In meantime, several municipalities have checked their multi-annual plan against the SDGs (ex. Ternat, Heist-op-den-Berg, Bornem). The city of Gent has tried to link all their operational and strategic objectives to the 17 the SDGs and the 169 targets. The mayor of Vorselaar has done the same and came to the conclusion that 80% of their policy could be linked in some way to one of the SDGs. Some municipal advisory councils on development cooperation have organized learning networks among advisory councils concerning the SDGs and sustainable development.

The second Walloon sustainable development strategy was adopted in 2016. Transversal tools are also available at the local level, where municipalities can develop development plans aimed at improving the quality of life of their inhabitants.

The VNR presents 2 indicators for each goal with the value at national level, but mention that disaggregated data are available in the online database (by sex, age, income, education level, etc.). It states, "whenever possible, preference should be given to indicators that could be disaggregated by region at a later stage."

## CYPRUS

Source: VNR (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

No LRGs participation in the consultation for the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No information of local governments' involvement in the SDGs implementation until the moment.

Nevertheless, "more activity is expected to follow in all areas of cooperation, including towards engagement of the local authorities in the process of Agenda 2030 implementation".

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The coordinating body is the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The VNR mentions that the engagement of local authorities is a necessary step.

#### Policy initiatives

Within the framework of the Goal 1, NGOs and Local Authorities receive state aid based on certain criteria for the development and functioning of social care programmes.

The Digital Strategy for the period 2015-2017 is mentioned as an initiative to achieve the Goal 9, whose one of the objective is "computerization of local government".

## CZECH REPUBLIC

Source: VNR (2017); *Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030*; UN-ECE Regional Survey (2015)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Local and regional authorities participated in the consultation process for the VNR. The Government Council for Sustainable Development (GCSD) compiled the Main Message and the VNR.

Municipalities and regions are among the stakeholders (with NGOs, academia, private sector, and trade unions) being part of the GCSD. In the latest composition of the Council, the two members from LRGs were the governor of Southern Bohemia and the mayor of Brno.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The report highlights the rising number of Local Action Groups and municipalities involved in the Local Agenda 21.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Sustainable Development Agenda is coordinated by the Government Council on Sustainable Development, chaired by the Prime Minister. The overall Czech strategy on sustainable development revolves around a national document, the *Czech Republic 2030 Strategic Framework*, which was updated in April 2017. It was drafted under the responsibility of the prime minister's office and the Ministry of the Environment, and also with the involvement of stakeholders. The report includes a specific section for regions and municipalities, recognized as one of the six key priority areas of analysis to achieve people wellbeing and sustainability.

#### Policy initiatives

The Strategic Framework Czech Republic 2030 fosters enhanced cross-level and territorial cooperation, "for mainstreaming sustainable development to regional and local policies". It stresses the role of regions and municipalities for the implementation of the SDGs 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17. The country is facing arising challenges from regional disparities and seeks to make its territory polycentric and achieve the cohesive development of big cities and regions at all levels.

It proposes a reform of regional public administration with a stricter application of the principle of subsidiarity and also calls for enhanced technical and financial resources for local administrations. It welcomes vertical and horizontal integration of LRGs as well as more visibility and participation on the global stage.

Each chapter of the strategy identifies and develops key indicators for the measurement of progress in their respective areas, but data are not available for all the levels. The national statistical office will oversee a newly-established committee on sustainable development indicators.

## DENMARK

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); Report by KL; OECD (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The associations of Danish municipalities and regions contributed to the VNR but there is no information about how exactly was the process.

As recognized in the VNR, regions and municipalities are responsible for delivering the vast majority of all public services in Denmark. Spending around 70% of Denmark's public budget, regions and municipalities are essential partners to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. They hold key roles in the fields of social services, education, health, environment and technology, in the management of essential physical infrastructure and utilities as well as climate measures, as facilitators of partnerships and of development and growth, as developers and administrators of much of the data that can be used as indicators for achieving the SDGs. They ensure the link between local and global – from citizen involvement to international development collaboration.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The regional authorities are all implementing plans encompassing several of the SDGs. Danish Regions (DR), the national association for the five regions in Denmark, have recently published their vision for sustainable health care, focusing on health for all and health for life.

Local Government Denmark (KL) (the national association of Danish municipalities) has decided by the KL's Executive Committee that the association shall support municipal activities related to the SDGs and take a lead in implementing the SDGs. KL has a key role in getting municipalities started on the SDG agenda by creating awareness and information about the SDGs, mapping existing experiences and developing methods for implementation, ensuring knowledge sharing, and facilitating and financing cross-sectoral partnerships that can deliver innovative solutions. For this purpose, KL will establish an internal initiative across relevant KL departments to ensure proactive implementation of the SDGs as well as securing funding for KL and municipal activities, and also an SDG portal providing knowledge and resources to municipalities. KL establish a framework for monitoring municipalities' contribution to the SDGs, including development of indicators.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

An inter-ministerial group consisting of all the Danish ministries under the auspices of the Ministries of Finance, who coordinate, and of Foreign Affairs who is responsible of the UN and international fora. The policy expertise is placed in the line ministries who are responsible for designing policies with attention to the SDGs, when relevant. The Action Plan to realize the Agenda 2030 was launched in March 2017. The Action Plan is centred on the 5 P's of prosperity, people, planet, peace and partnerships. For each of these the government has formulated a number of targets (37 in total).

DR, KL and the Danish Government agreed on the need to establish partnerships across society to reach the SDGs.

#### Policy initiatives

Regions and municipalities that have integrated Agenda 21 in their planning strategies are now transitioning to use the SDG framework such as the Gladsaxe Municipality which involves citizens in developing environmentally sustainable solutions and has made a catalogue of ideas for reducing environmental impact available to citizens.

Moreover, the Municipality of Copenhagen decided to develop an action plan by August 2017, and Sønderborg Municipality also decided to implement the SDGs in its strategies.

Ten municipalities are involved in the Green Generation project, which involves public awareness initiatives, developing "green" curricula, and increased cooperation between different municipal departments, mainly the departments of environment and education.

The North Denmark Region is the first Climate Region in Denmark. The regional council has obliged itself to reduce CO2 emission by 2% each year until 2025, through constructing energy friendly buildings, using energy friendly vehicles and purchasing environmentally friendly products, the region is aiming at reducing its environmental footprint as far as possible.

KL has presented a guide for municipalities on the issues and both regions and municipalities are already working successfully to promote circular economy and sustainable procurement. E.g. the Rethink Business project in Central Denmark



Region, which focusses on enhancing efficient use and reuse throughout the entire value chain and on new business models based on take-back schemes, repair and service, e.g. for work clothing. And networks and platforms for implementing the SDGs are currently popping up all over Denmark.

## ESTONIA

Source: VNR (2016)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

A inter-ministerial working group on SD was in charge of collecting information and reporting to the HLPF. Local governments (Association of Estonian Cities and of Municipalities of Estonia) are associated to the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission that contributed to the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The engagement of municipalities is being facilitated by the previous processes related to the Agenda 21, Healthy Cities network, and by the participation of local authorities in international local government's networks. For example, Tartu, Kuressaare, Viljandi and Pärnu have adopted the Agenda 21 action plans

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

At the central government level, the coordination of the strategy is ensured by the Government Office Strategy Unit and by the inter-ministerial working group on sustainable development for monitoring. Local governments are associated to the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission (created in 1996), a non-governmental organization with an advisory role, covering different fields of sustainable development. The SDGs were integrated in the Estonian Sustainable Development Strategy 'Sustainable Estonia 21' (reviewed in 2016)

#### Policy initiatives

In the revised Estonian Strategy for SD: Estonia 21 and related documents (e.g. Government Action Plan, Agenda for Competitiveness: Estonia 2020), local governments are explicitly mentioned for the implementation of: Goal 3, education (establish, reorganise and close general education schools), goal 5 on gender equality, goal 6 (water infrastructures and water treatment), goal 7 (zero energy building and renewing of district heating systems, street lighting), goal 9 (road maintenance and safety use, facilities for walking and cycling), goal 11 (regional and local authorities administrative reforms for sustainable development of urban areas, strengthening of local governments capabilities, public transport system, spatial planning and new country planning schemes, waste management, climate change adaptation plans, heritage protection), Goal 13 (strengthening capacities for local climate plans), goal 15 (protection of natural areas), goal 16 (open government partnership, child protection, transparency, respect of rights and more efficient local governance, including an administrative reform)

## FINLAND

Source: VNR (2016); OECD (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

LRGs participate in the National Commission on Sustainable Development and contributed to the Finland's 2016 Voluntary National Review (written under the supervision of the Secretariat General of this commission and the Prime Minister).

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Many regions cities and Finland have developed sustainable development policies in the past. The Agenda 2030 Coordination Secretariat organized two regional road shows on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in two big cities in Finland during autumn 2016. More regional tours of Finnish territories to engage local communities and share responsibilities with LRGs will follow. Participants and actors involved in these activities are expected to include cities, smaller municipalities, regions, NGOs and other stakeholders.

More than 30 municipalities and regions have subscribed the Commitment to reduce their carbon emissions by 80% by 2030, or to promote equality and tolerance.

Local governments also participate in the "Civil Society Commitment: The Finland We Want 2050", established in 2013 and updated in 2016, is one of the key multi-stakeholder platforms for the 2030 Agenda.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

There are two representatives from the regions, (South Ostrobothnia and Central Finland) and two members from the Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities in the National Commission on Sustainable Development (NCS, 84 different bodies and entities from all sectors of society), chaired by the Prime Minister. The NCS participate in the Secretariat Coordination established in the Prime Minister's Office, (created in 2016) which ensure the planning and coordination of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The National Implementation Plan for the 2030 Agenda was published in February 2017. It built on the Finland National Strategy for SD and the Civil Society's Commitment to Sustainable Development. The gap analysis on the SDGs and Finland policies conducted by the government in the spring and summer of 2016, identified as major challenges climate change and the use of natural resources (Goal 13 in particular), and economic development and employment trends (Goal 8 in particular).

#### Policy initiatives

In the national implementation plan for the 2030 Agenda, LRGs are encouraged to update their development strategies to include the SDGs into their main policies. "Municipalities play a key role in Finland, e.g. as producers of social welfare and health care services, and providers of basic education. Further responsibilities include land-use planning and the construction and maintenance of infrastructure. Although some municipalities take broad account of sustainable development issues, more effort is required to activate the municipal sector" (VNR, p. 60).

The Finnish monitoring and evaluation plan builds on the active involvement of different levels of government. The VNR highlight that Finland was applying 39 national sustainable development indicators.

## FRANCE

Source: VNR (2016); OECD (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The participation of sub-national governments in the reporting process has been limited. The report was drafted by the Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development and presented by the Ministry for the Environment. During the public consultation on the report, local governments associations – ADF, AFCCRE, CUF- addressed to the National Council for Development and International Solidarity a call to integrate local governments actions for SD in the VNR. They have also participated in the Web consultation launched by the Ministry of the Environment in June 2016.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The dissemination of the SDGs is still limited. Subnational governments involved in the Local Agenda 21 have made progress toward the integration of the SDG in their actions (e.g. Gironde, or the cities of Ayen or Saint Fons) or organizing forums (Bourgogne-Franche-Comté), or in their communication (Var, Seine-Saint-Denis). Many French sub-national governments have been developing environmental sustainable actions on different domains (e.g. climate mitigation plans or territorial food systems to promote food security). The Association of French Regions (ARF), in partnership with the Committee 21 (a multi-stakeholder platform), with the support of the national government, are planning to launch training initiatives and a “Regional Tour for the SDGs” during 2017-2019 to involve sub-national governments, particularly the regions, which shall present in 2019 a Master Plan for Territorial Sustainable Development to promote the integration of the SDGs. Other initiatives (forums, training) are in course.

The State has developed tools as awareness-raising kit, posters, educational films aimed at elected representatives and territorial actors, and also the Agenda for Action on Climate Change.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Local governments are not represented directly in the coordination mechanisms. The coordination of the sustainable development policies is ensured Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development and General Commissioner for Sustainable Development, tasked by the Prime Minister, but integrated in the Ministry of Environment, Energy and the Sea. Other consulting mechanisms are the Economic, Social and Environmental Council, the National Council for Ecological Transition, the National Advisory Commission on Human Rights and the National Council for Development and International Cooperation and Solidarity (where LRGs are represented). The French position is based on the National Strategy of Ecological Transition towards Sustainable Development 2015-2020 and linked to the roadmap defined in the ‘Agenda France 2030’. A national action plan should follow, build through a consultative process. As mentioned in the VNR, the recognized main challenges are growing inequalities, the sustainable management of natural resource, reduction of unemployment, particularly for young people, ensure the engagement for the climate change agenda, increase the use of renewable energies

#### Policy initiatives

Among the priorities defined in the VNR related to local governments, one is to promote an energy transition and industrial modernization. To build “sustainable cities”, local authorities are encouraged to put in place solutions to develop energy-smart housing retrofits and efficient public transport networks, to promote a low-carbon footprint and green urban areas, and to tackle social-spatial segregation. Rural areas are requested to produce an adequate quantity of healthy food.

Local governments will also be involved in the development of social and economic inclusion policies in most disadvantaged areas and to identify the main factors of inequality and reduce them by means of education and training, access to culture.

The mentions about disaggregation of indicators its closed for the national level: “the French National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies (INSEE) is conducting a feasibility study with all the ministries’ statistical departments on their production at national level. The government statistics system should be able to produce just over half of the indicators (given or comparable definition) in the short to medium term. The indicators could be transposed nationally.”

## GEORGIA

Source: VNR (2016)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The consultation processes behind the VNR remain significantly national in terms of composition of dedicated bodies, namely Government Planning and Innovations Unit of the Policy Analysis, Strategic Planning and Coordination Department with the policy and programmatic support of UNDP Georgia.

The SDG review was conceived as largely a high-level intragovernmental process involving all ministries and agencies and consultations with experts from the line ministries whose some was generated through the various UN agencies in Georgia, led by UNDP)”

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

In 2016, 5 awareness-building activities were already held in several regions of the country at the local level.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The national framework for the implementation of the SDGs is centralized. The national process is coordinated directly by the government, which established a joint technical working group with experts from Ministries and the National Statistical Office. The VNR is explicit in the inclusion of non-governmental bodies (business, civil society, academia) was limited and will grow in the definition of “adjusted priorities and indicators”. Also local governments will be “gradually include” in the implementation process of “Georgia-adjusted the SDGs” (it not specify how this is to be done technically).

The VNR criticizes the creation of too many parallel frameworks as a detriment to transparency and effectiveness of the implementation process, and aims to increase vertical and horizontal integration of the mechanisms and tools of implementation.

#### Policy initiatives

An international project (<https://goo.gl/DCCB0l>), co-funded by the Swedish government and UNDP, is currently mobilizing resources to spread awareness and participation on the SDGs and their implementation in the country, highlighting a systematic lack of ownership in contexts other than the governmental one. The project identifies a significant lack of knowledge of and commitment to the implementation of the SDGs, especially in all levels of the public administration. Similarly, it identifies an inadequate level of awareness and involvement in civil society and other non-governmental entities.

For the indicators, the government planned the establishment of M&E mechanisms at the central and local levels to conduct yearly reporting activities.

The VNR mention as a significant the lack of sector-disaggregated data in many areas, which impedes development of the effective indicators and means of verification.

## GERMANY

Source: VNR (2016); national SD strategy (2017); report and documents from LRGs and their associations (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Local and regional authorities contributed actively to the VNR in 2016. Local authorities – jointly with NGOs, churches, the private sector and the scientific and academic communities – participated in dialogue forums held by the federal government (three-four times a year). The fora were dedicated to the discussion of the 2016 VNR so as to include these stakeholders in the drafting process.

**Five public conferences** were held with high-level representatives of all governance levels. At the end of May 2016 the 2nd phase of the dialogue started and representatives from more than 40 associations participated in a subsequent central consultation event in the Federal Chancellery, including local and regional governments.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

LRGs are integrating the SDGs in their own policies. 11 Länder (out of 16) have already developed their own regional strategies or are in the process to do so. Some Länder have identified the SDGs as programmatic priorities (e.g., Rhineland-Palatinate, North Rhine-Westphalia); others have been working on new strategies to include the Goals (e.g., Berlin, Saarland); and others are integrating the Goals in their existing plans and programmes. Cities like Bremen, Hannover and Ludwigsburg are also localising the SDGs.

Several workshops organized in partnership between Länder, local governments and the Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), and the support of the federal government, are taking place to develop the SDGs (e.g. in North Rhine Westphalia, in February 2017). More than **73** local governments have signed “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainability Development: Building Sustainability at the Local Level”, a document promoted by LRG associations – namely, the Association of German Cities (DST). The association regional Agenda 21 (LAG 21 NRW) is advising 15 -municipalities in the development of strategies for a global sustainable development.

At global level, The Municipal Partnership for Sustainability (launched by the [Engagement Global](https://skew.engagement-global.de/municipal-partnerships-for-sustainability.html)) is fostering decentralized cooperation between German cities and cities in the south-eastern European countries to support the SDGs implementation (<https://skew.engagement-global.de/municipal-partnerships-for-sustainability.html>).

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Federal Government involves the Länder and local governments in the definition and update of the **National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD)**, last updated in February 2017 to fully integrate the commitments and requirements of the 2030 Agenda.

Input from Länder and the umbrella organizations of municipalities are taken into consideration and integrated in the work of the **State Secretaries’ Committee on Sustainable Development**, the cross-level coordinator for implementing, monitoring and assessing the NSSD, which is chaired by the Head of the Federal Chancellery.

**Institutionally**, federal ministries have the responsibility of the NSSD implementation, in collaboration with federated and local authorities. Ministry coordinators are being appointed in every ministry so as to promote implementation consistency across different areas.

LRGs sit in the ‘**IMA-Stadt**’, one of the four inter-ministerial committees established by the federal government at the national level. These committees are dealing with SDG Localization, Implementing the New Urban Agenda, Smart Cities, International Urbanization.

#### Policy initiatives

The Federal Government is inviting local governments to initiate their own processes of alignment with the SDGs and the other agendas

The German VNR and the NSSD pay particular attention to the implementation and impact of Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities and identify three priority areas: social inclusion, environment and territorial planning.

An expected response is empowering and enhancing the National Urban Development Policy (NUDP), a platform that promotes projects, transfer of knowledge and information, and transmission of good practices and integrated programmes. The NDUP is a joint project of the Association of German Cities, the Association of Towns and Municipalities and the Conference of the Building Ministers of the States.

The State Secretaries’ Committee has established an Inter-Ministerial Working Group on Sustainable Urban Development (‘**IMA-Stadt**’) that foster a ‘whole-of-government’ approach to urban issues.

Cities, municipalities and territories take active part in the National Climate Initiative, a ministerial programme that aims at improving awareness and resource-availability at the local level.

**Indicators:** the associations of local and county governments, with federal and academic institutions and foundations, launched an initiative to develop ‘SDG Indicators for Municipalities’, designing adequate indicators for the SDGs and their assessment at the municipal level (i.e., in cities with more than 5,000 inhabitants, as well as in rural districts).

## ITALY

Source: VNR (2017); national strategy for sustainable development (latest draft, March 2017); *Urban Sustainable Development Agenda* by ASviS (working draft, June 2017); AICCCE (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Italy is one of just 6 countries (out of 44 commitments in total) not to have published either the VNR for the 2017 HLPF or the Main Message to sum its contents up by July 3, 2017. AICCCE reports that there was no consultation of local governments whatsoever throughout the process.

In the national sustainable development strategy (whose latest draft was updated in March 2017), regional governments and local authorities will be involved at all stages of implementation and monitoring and reporting. The contribution of LRGs to reports to HLPF, however, is referred to as “potential”.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Independently from the assessment process for the HLPF, the national association of municipalities (ANCI, *Associazione Nazionale dei Comuni d’Italia*) has participated in and supported a bottom-up process of evaluation and monitoring of SDG implementation at the national level. This nation-wide process was led by ASviS (*Alleanza Italiana per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile*), a consortium of over 160 partners – including ANCI, civil society organizations, foundations, academia and research institutions, trade unions and professional associations, LGTBI and minority representations, NGOs, governmental agencies, and international cooperation bodies. ANCI and other representatives of LRGs have been involved in the preparation of ASviS’ final national report on the implementation of the SDGs in Italy. The focus of the review, however, remains entirely national, and no specific analytical relevance is given to the local level as such.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The law that regulates the drafting of the national strategy for sustainable development explicitly includes wording for the implementation and adaptation of the global goals to the needs and specificities of local levels of governance, in order to build and enhance multi-level governance and “assess the contribution of local governments to the achievement of the SDGs”. For the future, the strategy aims at using local resources and institutional structures to collect “policy indicators” to assess the achievement of the goals.

Formally, LRGs were involved in the definition of the national strategy only at a very late stage and through a sole interlocutor, the State-Regions Conference (*Conferenza Stato-Regioni*). The Conference was granted access to only the strategy’s second draft (October-December 2016), and it will only be able to issue an opinion on the finalized draft.

#### Policy initiatives

The presidency of ANCI has circulated a note with some relevant data about Italy’s LRGs and their commitment and initiatives for the achievement of the SDGs. The note highlighted results on the topic of **social inclusion and the fight against poverty**, emphasizing the issue of international migration, asylum policy and reception. Over 1,000 Italian municipalities have participated in the Protection System for Migrants and Asylum Seekers (SPRAR), which in 2015 had 29,698 total beneficiaries.

The note also underscores strides in **energy efficiency**, building and infrastructure policy and, consequently, **sustainability** policies. Over 2,900 municipalities have established their own local energy sustainability plan, and sustainability is now a core criterion in local regulations of about 1,200 Italian municipalities.

On **resilience**, stressing the importance of local-global collaboration, in 2016 138

AICCRE has conducted a series of workshops and awareness-raising activities with local authorities, showing that about 20% of LRGs are aware of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The association re-calibrated their strategy in order to deploy a multi-tool strategy for awareness-raising and inclusion among LRGs. The strategy includes communication and dissemination activities, the inclusion of civil society, partnership agreements with public and private sectors, and potentially the definition of a Local Charter on the SDGs – defining planning and implementation goals to guide the initiatives of local governments.

Regionally, as a contribution to a report developed locally, the Region of Lombardy has conducted a survey with local governments, NGOs, enterprises and actors in the international cooperation community and a joint research effort with 14 universities.

Accordingly, local stakeholders are aware of the importance of multi-stakeholder, multi-level approaches to partnership and integration in order to guarantee more effective frameworks for the implementation of the Agenda.

The process of the elaboration of the National Strategy for SD (that includes the SDGs, AAAA and Cop 21 Agreement) is coordinated by the Ministry of Environment, Land and Sea, in close cooperation with other administrations and relevant stakeholders.

Even in the definition of the national strategy, the Ministry has only contacted national scientific institutions, universities and several environmental organizations as members of civil society. No contact whatsoever has been established with local governments or their associations. An intermediary body – the State-Cities Conference – was not involved either. In May 2016, AICCRE contacted the Ministry for Environment inquiring about the actual involvement of LRGs in the definition of the national strategy, and has not received a response yet.

Italian cities participated in the UNISDR world campaign on *Making Cities Resilient*, a theme which was particularly sensitive to local governments affected by the dramatic impact of the 2016 earthquake that shook Central Italy.

The note also reports that a government-driven call for funding for urban renovation and peripheral requalification elicited over 120 project proposals and requests for a total 2.06 billion euros in funds.

There are isolated cases of LRG-driven activities and initiatives. The Region of Lombardy has set up a long-standing strategy for locally-promoted projects of development support in third countries. Since 2001, the Region has mobilized 57 million euros for over 700 projects of decentralized international cooperation. In parallel with national efforts for the 2017 HLPF, the regional government will also publish, starting in July 2017, an annual 'Lombardy Report on Sustainable Development' to support the design and implementation of new regional policies in alignment with the 2030 Agenda.

**Indicators and data disaggregation:** in collaboration with ISTAT, the national statistical office, ANCI has also promoted the realization of yearly survey on "sustainable well-being" in Italian cities, collecting the data in the UrBES publications. The 2015 report collects information from 68 local indicators. While a testament to the ability of local administration to collect relevant data, there is no connection yet with the SDGs or other global monitoring frameworks.

## LUXEMBOURG

Source: VNR (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no mention that LRGs have been included in the drafting process of the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

104 of 105 municipalities signed a Climate Pact with the State. 71 municipalities have been certified in 3 years with a quality systems in terms of their energy and climate policy.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LRGs do not participate of the Higher Council for Sustainable Development (CSDD). The Government, based on the Interdepartmental Commission on Sustainable Development (interdepartmental), is responsible for coordination. The Chamber of Deputies gives its opinion on the Sustainable Development Plan (PNDD) and the Government approves it. The first one was implemented in October 2010 and is currently under revision to incorporate the SDGs.

#### Policy initiatives

In terms of local governance, the VNR mentions a partnership between the municipalities and the State within the framework of the Climate Pact.

The CSDD has initiated two main lines of work: the first is to initiate a communication campaign on Agenda 2030. The other one is to draw up an inventory of the actions contributing to the SDGs, intended to become a co-design knowledge platform for sustainable development initiatives implemented by both the private sector and The voluntary sector, but also by institutions, such as municipalities, or by private individuals.

PNDD foresees a strong involvement of municipalities in the SDGs 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 16.

## MONTENEGRO

Source: VNR (2016)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The three-month consultative process that led to the VNR includes inter-sectoral consultations and public hearing on nationalization of the SDGs. All relevant stakeholders: ministries, expert institutions, and institutions in the public sector, local self-governments, the parliament, the

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Of the 23 municipalities in Montenegro, only three municipalities – Podgorica, Bijelo Polje and Mojkovac have established organizational units in their institutional system – Secretariats for spatial and urban planning and sustainable development, with main responsibilities to implement

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Government of Montenegro adopted the first NSSD in 2007. To respond to requirements of UN 2030 Agenda, a new NSSD was prepared and adopted in June 2016. One month later, its Action Plan was established. It is the National Council for Sustainable Development, that was tasked to

#### Policy initiatives

The Platform for Development of the NSSD 2015-2020 was prepared to analyse the existing conditions, as well as directions for completion of the NSSD revision.

The VNR highlighted that the forthcoming period should see strengthening of capacity

academia, the civil society organizations and the business community took an active part in the development of National Strategy for Sustainable Development (NSSD) until 2030, which is focused on the SDGs and the relevant set of sustainable development tasks.

sustainable development policies. In April 2011, the Municipality of Danilovgrad has established its own local Council for Sustainable Development and adopted the Sustainable Development Strategy with Action Plan for the period until 2018.

develop the new NSSD to integrate the Agenda 2030, with the support of different committees and expert teams. The National Council is an advisory body, established in 2002, chaired by the President and composed of 23 members, among which are three representatives of local authorities.

The Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism is in charge to coordinate continuation of activities regarding the new NSSD.

at local level. Institutional framework and integrated planning should be improved, and the capacities (human, technical and financial) of public sector, especially in local government and institutions should be raised to a much higher level.

Nevertheless, "since no sector offers adequate institutional capacity for the implementation of umbrella and horizontal policy like sustainable development one, the NSSD elaborated optimal scenario and suggested the establishment of Sustainable Development Office or some other suitable for in the Prime Minister cabinet as an optimal form of institutional organization (with at least 10 highly professional employees). (...) In all ministries and local self-governments at least one full-time employee should be hired to work on sustainable development tasks in the context of the implementation of the duties from the NSSD 2030".

## NETHERLANDS

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); report and documents from LRGs and their associations (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The national associations of decentralized authorities – VNG for municipalities, IPO for provinces, and UvW for water boards – have contributed to the annual report sent by the government to the Parliament in May, which includes the contributions of all stakeholders (national and local governments, private companies including the financial sector, CSOs, knowledge institutions and youth organizations) and likewise contributed to the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The associations of decentralized authorities have been actively involved in the dissemination and mobilization of their members, through campaigns (e.g., the *Municipalities 4 Global Goals* campaign, launched by VNG International). Some municipalities have actively embraced the SDGs, while others are still less familiar with the framework. Utrecht, Oss, Maastricht, Langedijk, Tilburg, Terneuzen, Leerdam, Sittard-Geleen, Eindhoven, Helmond and Rijswijk, have all expressed an explicit commitment to these goals. They have set out concrete initiatives and have been mapping available information to improve local measurement of progress in SDG implementation. Many other municipalities are actively working on sustainability, although many are still processing the outcomes and expectations that the SDGs demand of their communities and territories. Aligning local or regional agendas with the global goals is being a lengthy process.

At the same time, over 80 Dutch companies, NGOs, knowledge-based institutions, and philanthropies have created an *SDG Charter*. The consortium behind this initiative is still growing.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

In terms of coordination and implementation mechanisms, the division of tasks across relevant ministries is coordinated by the Ministry for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation. An SDG working group, with representatives from each ministry, has been established and meets regularly. It is chaired by a specially appointed high-level coordinator for national SDG implementation, assisted by a small secretariat.

National and local institutions are currently integrating the SDGs into their development plans. Experiments with new administrative relationships are being carried out in a number of pilots and testing grounds. Greater efforts to promote policy coherence at all levels could have an important impact on the SDGs. The number of intergovernmental partnerships is also growing. The common investment agenda shared by VNG, IPO and UvW is an example of intensive administrative collaboration through area-specific, spatial-economic agendas. Together, the three levels spend 28 billion euros per year on investments, procurement, maintenance and tenders.

In late 2016, dozens of municipalities, provinces, water boards and ministries signed the *Socially Responsible Procurement Manifesto 2016 -2020*, according to which they voluntarily set higher standards for public procurement.

#### Policy initiatives

The new Dutch environmental law supports a process of comprehensive, area-specific envisioning and planning, with the active participation of interested parties. Under the Energy Agreement and Energy Agenda, sub-national and national governments work on energy transition; under the Delta Plan and the National Adaptations Strategy, they strive for climate adaptation; and under various *Green Deals* and the recently concluded *Raw Materials Agreement*, they set out to work towards the circular economy. By involving citizens and companies in the development of regional strategies for energy and raw-materials transition and stronger climate security, new jobs can be created, including on the lower end of the labour market. In the *National E-Government Implementation Programme the State*, municipalities, provinces and water boards all work together on providing optimal digital services to society.

In light of growing urgency and existing opportunities, the three decentralized authorities want to accelerate their approach. The recently published *Governance Monitor for Sustainable Municipalities* provides insight into municipal efforts and administrative capacity for sustainability. The monitor shows that anchoring sustainability in policy frameworks and in municipal organizations bears fruit. This is also true of the linking of sustainability monitoring and the budget cycle. VNG International and the Tilburg Centre for Sustainable Development (Telos) are investigating whether and how the *Monitor* could develop into a local SDG monitor. This should complement the report of the Dutch National Statistical Office (CBS) on improving data availability for SDG measuring (currently 37% of all SDG indicators). A large number of networks and programmes focus on urban sustainability and the neighbourhoods of the future, such as the Climate Alliance, Platform 31, Agenda City, the Manifesto 2040 of We Make the Netherlands, Municipalities for Sustainable Development and MAEX.

## NORWAY

Source: VNR (2016); documents from LRGs and their association (KS, 2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS) –that represent municipalities, counties and local enterprises under municipal or county ownership–, has provided input on behalf of local governments to the VNR in 2016.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Since 2000, there are regular consultative meetings between the central government and local authorities. KS consider that local governments are policy makers and should not be seen as mere implementers of the SDGs.

KS pay particular attention to the international cooperation between Norwegian local governments and local governments abroad – mainly Eastern Africa for localising, implementing and monitoring the SDGs. In 2015, Norwegian mayors addressed a letter to the Minister of Foreign, requesting a government initiative be launched to bring local governments into the SDG implementation process.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

Norway developed a Plan for National Follow-up of the SDGs, which is linked to the budget process. Responsibility for each of the 17 Goals is given to a coordinating ministry (Finance), which has to consult with the other ministries involved in the follow-up of various targets under the Goal concerned. Each ministry reports on the status of follow-up for its respective Goal(s) in its budget proposal, and the Ministry of Finance sums up the main points in the national budget white paper, which is then presented to the Parliament annually, along with the State budget.

#### Policy initiatives

The government vows to include LRGs through “existing mechanisms” of coordination and cooperation, and promotes as well the integration of civil society, non-governmental organizations, academia and private business sectors. Among the challenges that have been identified at national level, many priorities are related to local governments responsibilities (quality education and employment, health, gender equality, sustainable infrastructures and urban air quality, waste generation and management, climate change).

KS and the national government have regular discussions on the framework for distribution of revenues in relation to the tasks carried out by the local authorities, the financial situation of the local authorities, and efficiency measures. The consultations also include arrangements for involving KS in the ministries’ studies of the cost of reforms, and studies of how legislation proposals will affect the municipalities.

## PORTUGAL

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); report and documents from LRGs and their associations (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Due to short dead-lines, some local governments participated in the consultation process, but have not sent any contribution to the multi-stakeholder seminar that take place on March 29<sup>th</sup> 2017, to present the inter-ministerial work and inform about the methodology used for drafting the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The Inter-municipal network for Cooperation and Development (RICP), in agreement with the National Association of Municipalities in Portugal (ANMP) has been spearheading the initial work of awareness rising to the SDGs among the 20 cities of the network (out of 306 municipalities). First an itinerary exposition of the SDGs and their localization in Portugal has been launched since March 2016. As a result, the cities of Cascais and Funchal have embraced the SDGs and are building a platform in Portuguese to map all initiatives relating to SDGs. All expositions work in hand with training of local administration to the SDG to support mapping, mainstreaming in the municipal budget.

The RICD also organized an international seminar in November 2016 on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national and local levels with participation of the EU, the CNM (Brazil), city representatives from Lusophony countries.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

LGR do not participate to either of the two inter-ministerial commissions responsible for the follow-up of the SDGs

Under the political management of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and coordination of the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure a first commission serves as an overseeing coordination forum for domestic implementation and preparing the reports that will inform the monitoring processes at different levels. A second commissions on development cooperation coordinates the incorporation of the SDGs into the national Development Cooperation, with regards to the external dimension of the Agenda

#### Policy initiatives

In the VNR, it is recognized that “local authorities play a significant role in implementing the 2030 Agenda within their territory, through a set of initiatives that, in respect of their local autonomy, undoubtedly contributes to the implementation process at the national level, as a result of proximity and concrete action.”: Portugal embodies its strategic priorities for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in SDG 4, 5, 9, 10, 13 and 14  
Quality Education: In convergence with municipal initiatives, the National Programme to Promote Educational Achievement has been launched with the main objective to support the success of all students, through which all schools of basic education have to draw strategic plans of action, with a special focus on the work done in the classroom, identifying fields of permanent additional training for the development of actions tailored for the reality of each school community.

Within the Strategic Plan for Migration for 2015-2020, Municipal Plans for the Integration of Migrants (MPIM) can define and implement local policies for the integration of migrants in the territories, as a factor of development and strengthening of democracy and social dynamics. There are currently 19 MPIM under implementation, involving 21 municipalities, and it is expected to reach 50 MPIM, by 2020.

## SLOVENIA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The main message make reference to work toward a partnership among ministries, civil society, business sector, parliamentarians, and academia. No reference to LRGs.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No information available.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The government is embedding the SDGs in the National Development Strategy 2030, rather than designing a separate process in parallel.

Preparation of the Slovenian national review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was conducted under the Government Office for Development and European Cohesion Policy that functions as a focal point for agenda, among all the ministries and other state institutions.

#### Policy initiatives

No information available.

## SWEDEN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); report and documents from LRGs and their association (SKL, 2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions –SKL- has a continuous dialogue with the Swedish government on Agenda 2030. SKL and several municipalities are members of the Swedish Government's consultations and reference group that has been created for the VNR. Several Swedish municipalities are also members of this group.

In autumn 2016, begin 2017, SKL launched a survey on local and regional initiatives relating to the Agenda 2030 to contribute to the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The examples gathered by SKL show how Swedish municipalities contribute to sustainable development and how they have approached Agenda 2030 (see last column for more details). In his policy document *Responsibility for welfare 2016-2019*, SKL establish clear links between its activities and the SDGs (see last column for more details). For the "International Day", an annual member event organized in January 18<sup>th</sup> 2017, the overall theme was the Agenda 2030. The Agenda 2030 is used in many local governments as inspiration, frameworks and knowledge base and in a few cases as the basis of new or revised multi-annual plan and budgets, long-term visions and strategies, master plans and regional development plans, regional development strategies and sustainability programs. Many cities have developed important outreach actions: workshops with young people, business, civil society, municipal management and employees. At cultural level, municipalities promoted creative initiatives, UN days with concerts, Instagram competitions, exhibitions to illustrate the global targets, fact cards to involve citizens, a "durability party" where the public had coffee with experts around the target area, promote training of preschool children to "planetary attendants".

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

In Sweden the implementation of the SDGs has been a very bottom-up process. In 2016, the Government produce a communication on the Policy for Global Development linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and created a committee tasked with supporting work on Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda to develop an action plan and promote the implementation of the 2030 The Agenda propose specific assignment to focus on regional and local levels. As mentioned above. The Swedish Minister for Public Administration, who is responsible for the co-ordination of the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda, is in charge of municipalities and counties and ensures a regular dialogue. It collaborates with the Ministry International Development Cooperation and Climate

#### Policy initiatives

As mentioned above, in the framework of the VNR preparation, 40 examples were collected in a document (*in Swedish*) showing how local and regional governments are integrating the SDGs in their strategies, multiannual plans and daily activities in different municipal areas (health, education, accessibility, energy, social policies, environment, etc) and in the companies owned by them, mobilizing business community, academia and civil society, training their officers and managers, creating innovative visions for "life quality programmes".

Among the priorities defined by the SKL in its strategic document *-Responsibility for welfare 2016-2019-*, it should be mentioned: gender equality and women's empowerment, better plan sustainable and attractive cities and towns, to improve equality in school, promote health and prevention to strengthen social sustainability and promote a full and productive employment with decent working conditions.

SKL's message to the central government is that municipalities should themselves define what the sustainability challenges are and how to tackle them – and then later link them to the global framework. They explain their good relationship with the ministries as follows: "Our good relationship and understanding for our different roles is probably due to that we've been proactive and started lobbying early, but also due to the experiences the national government and municipalities had with the Agenda 21. Given how the Swedish system of local self-governance works, it would be difficult for the national government not to involve SKL and our members.

**Indicators:** SKL support the Council for the promotion of municipal analysis (RKA), that gather a data base on the local administration (<http://www.kolada.se/>) to integrate the SDG indicators

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The Swiss sustainable development strategy was the result of long consultation process including cantons and communes. The consultation processes were consolidated during the “2030 Dialogue on Sustainable Development” (Autumn 2015). Cantons and communes were part of the broad stakeholder dialogue.

All relevant stakeholder groups, including cantons and communes, are involved in ongoing processes linked to the Confederation’s sustainable development policy cycle of monitoring, planning, implementation, evaluation and reporting.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

In the past, many cantons and communes have already used the Federal Council’s Sustainable Development Strategy as a reference framework for their own activities. “For the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, however, the subnational level will have to be involved even closer” (VNR, p10).

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The coordination for domestic policies is ensured by the Federal Council and the Interdepartmental Sustainable Development Committee (ISDC), which comprises representatives from all federal offices and is chaired by the Office for Spatial Development (ARE) within the Federal Department of Environment, Transport, Energy and Communication (DETEC). An inter-ministerial Task force for the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda was also created. In January 2016 the Federal Council adopted the Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS) 2016–2019. A temporary inter-ministerial working group for a “transition phase” from 2016 to 2017 was set-up, to manage a comprehensive programme of work and present a report on initiatives undertaken and recommendations for the Swiss implementation of the 2030 Agenda to the Federal Council in early 2018.

### Policy initiatives

Sustainable development is enshrined in the Federal Constitution. In addition, the SDS 2016–2019 explain how the Federal Council intends to mainstream sustainable development in all of the Confederation’s sectoral policies. A key concern for the Swiss Confederation is to factor sustainable development principles into all levels of government in order to create and increase ownership and ensure vertical cooperation between the different levels of government, strengthening policy coherence for SD. Therefore, cantons and communes need to fulfil an important role and are asked to enhance their engagement and launch relevant initiatives. The summary also outlines that a new Swiss Foreign Policy Strategy 2016-2019 including sustainable development as one of its four key priorities, and that the Sustainable Development Strategy and its Action Plan list selected foreign policy activities.

**INDICATORS:** Switzerland uses its comprehensive sustainable development monitoring system (MONET) – which includes 75 regularly updated indicators – to measure and report on contributions to the SDGs. The “system’s reference framework” was amended in May 2016 to take into account the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. At the 2018 HLPF, Switzerland will present a first comprehensive country review, based on findings from the transition phase and on decisions taken by the Federal Council.







**LATIN AMERICA**

# ARGENTINA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); questionnaire filled by the *Federación Argentina de Municipios* (FAM)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

Although the full report mentions the efforts undertaken to involve civil society in the consultation process, the association of local government considers that the consultation was weak.

The national government recognizes that the consultation and participation of sub-national governments in the process are still limited (“partial progress and the challenge of generating areas of participation”).

However, the VNR highlights the territorial nature of the 2030 Agenda, focusing on issues that affect Argentinian provinces in accordance with their primary responsibilities and competences. It also states that the ‘localization of the initiatives of the different levels of government will require to build synergies between national and local actions’.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

At the municipal level, the FAM (Argentine Federation of Municipalities), through the CECAM (Center of Quality and Modernization of Municipal Management), is developing dissemination and training activities. The FAM 2016 Annual Assembly also reported on the SDGs. Also in 2016, ‘Special Days’ events took place in several municipalities of the Province of Buenos Aires. Other cities such as Rosario are developing their own initiatives.

The city of Buenos Aires committed to 50 initiatives related to the SDGs (for example, duplicate waste treatment resources) and align municipal planning with the SDGs.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The principal mechanism for national coordination is the National Council for Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS). The participation of sub-national governments, however, is indirect through federal ministries and agencies. According to the FAM, the process is still embryonic at the local level, and coordination between strategies and actual public policies is still insufficient: “Co-participation [transfers of resources] is a central element for the municipality to take on the SDGs, but is still very low”. LRGs access just 8% of national budget, a figure which is inadequate compared to the political decentralization process. The national government highlights that it is integrating the 2030 Agenda into the National Government Plan and budgetary activities for 2018. But according to the FAM, there is a need to reinforce the complementarity between the three levels of government.

### Policy initiatives

At the national level, the National Council for Coordination of Social Policies, in charge of coordinating the integration of the 2030 Agenda, has signed cooperation agreements with several provinces (Jujuy, La Rioja, Mendoza, Neuquén, Salta, San Juan, Tierra de Fuego, Tucumán) and some cities (e.g., Buenos Aires) for the implementation of the SDGs (still in process: Catamarca, Chaco, Córdoba, Corrientes, Entre Ríos and Río Negro). The Council, with the support of the Secretariat on Municipal Affairs, also published a “Guide for the adaptation process of the SDGs in the Provincial Government” and a “Manual for the Local Adaptation of the SDGs”. Likewise, it has initiated training days for municipalities (both on-site and online), e.g., in San Juan on local data for the monitoring of the SDGs. The priority is to generate diagnostic and planning tools to deepen the concepts within each municipality or region and to link each objective with the local reality and the possibility of developing concrete public policies.

# BELIZE

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

While the VNR mentions an effort to include several stakeholders – e.g., ‘extensive participation’ of Civil Society Organizations, Academia, and Statutory Agencies – there is no mention of LRGs at any level being involved in the consultation process leading to the drafting of the VNR.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

No information in the VNR about LRG-led activities to raise awareness about the 2030 Agenda or the SDGs.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The government integrated the SDGs in the “Horizon 2030: National Development Framework for Belize 2010-2030” and adopted “Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy (GSDS) 2016-2019”. The strategic priorities for Belize by the year 2030 include democratic governance for effective public administration and sustainable development; education; economic resilience and a healthy citizenry and environment. The Economic and Sustainable Development Council, a senior leadership advisory body appointed by the Prime Minister, provides input on priorities and implementation. It serves as a platform for public and private sector and civil society dialogue. A Sustainable Development Unit of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development was created to coordinate the SDGs implementation supported by Technical Committees and Working Tables. The Growth and Sustainable Development Strategy’s Monitoring and Evaluation Framework calls for the participation of civil society organizations in technical committees, working tables, and within the Economic and Sustainable Development Council.

### Policy initiatives

The document recognizes a few core challenges. Among them, the fact that the political integration of the 2030 Agenda has not been comprehensive at all levels and in all sectors. In particular, the process faces difficulties due to inadequate data collection, interpretation, standardization, management and dissemination, hindering monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs. The economic downturns of the past years require budget cuts which have further diminished the government’s ability to finance the implementation of programmes compatible with SDG commitments. Ineffective collaboration and coordination between and within institutions, agencies, and non-governmental stakeholders are also being partly responsible for implementation lags at all levels.

# BRAZIL

Source: VNR (2017); questionnaire filled by the *Confederação Nacional de Municípios* (CNM)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The full report does not provide sufficient information about the drafting process so as to assess the degree of involvement or participation of LRGs in the review. Reports from LRG associations confirm the involvement of local authorities at all stages of the process.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

After the municipal elections in October 2016, the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) has held training seminars for incumbent mayors and newly-elected mayors for the 2017-2020 term. During the *20<sup>th</sup> March to Brasília in Defense of Municipalities*, an event organized annually by the CNM in May 2017 and that brings together over 7,000 mayors and municipal managers, CNM also devoted several debate sessions to the SDGs.

The Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo Crivella, assumed the Vice-Presidency for the SDGs of the National Mayors' Front (FNP), whose tasks are also underscored in the VNR.

The biennial *Meeting of Municipalities with Sustainable Development* (EMDS) aims to mobilize public managers of the three levels of government so as to include sustainability in their governmental programmes and put forward proposals for local sustainable development.

The Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM) selected municipalities with a below-average (< 0.754) national Human Development Index (HDI), refocusing their capacity-building activities for managers to design sustainable development policies and implement the 2030 Agenda locally.

Local authorities that already do integrate the SDGs in their planning and actions include cities such as Barçena (Pará) or the states of Paraná, São Paulo, and Bahia. Among the actions already undertaken in support of the 2030 Agenda and its localization, the state of Paraíba includes a *Pact for Learning*. Rio de Janeiro, in turn, established an *Award for Partners of the Sustainable Development Goals*.

The VNR, moreover, mentions the *Sustainable Cities Programme*, which aims to raise awareness among, mobilize and provide tools for Brazilian cities. Between 2012 and 2016, 285 Brazilian municipalities, accounting to 33% of the country's population, joined the programme.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Local and regional governments participate in the National Commission for the SDGs, created by the federal government in October 2016 via the decree 8892, which established a coordination framework for national policies. The Commission is composed by 16 representatives from the federal, state, district and municipal governments and civil society. The Municipalities are represented by the CNM and the states by the Brazilian Association of State Environmental Entities (ABEMA).

The Federal government is currently attempting to align the 2016-2019 multi-year Plan of the Federal Government with the SDGs: 86% of the SDG targets and 78% of the indicators show consistency with the contents of current national development planning.

### Policy initiatives

Brazil put the localization of the SDG at the centre of its strategy to integrate the 2030 Agenda. The VNR states that "local governments play an essential role in the adaptation of national targets and indicators to the local reality, with actions that take into account the SDGs targets in their planning and budgeting, including civil society participation and engagement... [The government] intends to stimulate the creation of local governance structures, which will lead the process of localizing the 2030 Agenda in the territories."

The localization strategy proposed by the National Governments includes the integration and mobilization of different civil society actors, engagement of subnational governments, recognition and appreciation of good practices, and the follow-up of targets. The localization of the 2030 Agenda in Brazil's territories embodies the following proposals: engaging private sector, academia and CSOs; monitoring initiatives and reports; disseminating information on the 2030 Agenda; establishing institutional partnerships; preparing multi-year municipality planning for the 2018-2021 period, based on the 2030 Agenda; and creating sub-national commissions; establishing an SDG Brazil Award; carry out training activities.

Tools to support planning and dissemination for localization include digital platforms, and discussion forums open to different actors, including local governments, the national government support the following web tools: *Dialoga Brasil*; the *Participa.br* web portal; the *SDGs Strategy*; the *2030 Platform*; the *Map of civil society organizations*; and the *Municipal Vulnerability Atlas*.

In partnership with UNDP, the CNM is implementing a project to localize the SDGs, based on the *Guide for the Localization of the SDGs in Brazilian Municipalities - What municipal managers need to know*, and accompanied by a *Guide for the Integration of the SDGs into Brazilian municipalities - Management 2017-2020*. In the states of Ceará, Paraíba and Piauí, the dialogue between public and private sectors, civil society and social movements has been promoted in order to better align state strategies and plans with the 2030 Agenda.

The city of Rio de Janeiro is integrating the SDGs in its 2020 strategic plan while also developing a Sustainable Development Plan to include stronger resilience as a strategic priority. The CNM has also developed the *Mandala of Municipal Performance*. The tool includes 24 indicators that evaluate progress on the SDGs and their implementation. Rio de Janeiro, with the support of the *Pereira Passos Institute*, is also developing its own indicators. Finally, hundreds of Brazilian municipalities have been invited to participate in and contribute to the collection of city profiles on the localization of the 2030 Agenda. The initiative aims to attain the same success of a similar programme that, since 2009, has been reporting on municipal action on the MDGs.

# CHILE

Source: VNR (2017); questionnaire filled by the *Asociación Chilena de Municipalidades* (ACHM)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

According to the Chilean Association of Municipalities, the participation of local governments in the workshops at national and regional level - reported by the government - has been scarce. The VNR does not mention municipalities and other local authorities among the parties taking part in the elaboration of the document.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

In May 2017, the government convened several national and regional workshops to promote dialogue and dissemination of information about the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda.

In Chile there are more than 50 municipal associations at regional level, with different scope and purpose – such as the Association of Municipalities of the Antofagasta region. Their involvement in the coordination of public policies, especially in environmental matters, will be essential for the realization of the SDGs.

The government has developed a certain degree of coordination between the 2030 Agenda and the initiatives to be carried out at the national and sub-national level. These have mainly touched on the contents and commitments of the Montevideo Consensus and its agendas, the Montevideo Declaration, and the follow-up of other international commitments in several of the areas addressed by the SDGs.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

A *National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda* was established in August 2016. The council is composed of representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Economy, Promotion and Tourism, Social Development, and Environment.

The Council works through a governmental network and commissions which integrates representatives of civil society and the private sector. The Chilean Association of Municipalities, on the other hand, does not participate in the Council.

In order to disseminate information on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs at the subnational level, the Technical Secretariat of the Council has organized workshops with regional authorities, institutions from the United Nations system and academic institutions in each region of the country. Meetings have been organized so far in the regions of Biobío and Tarapacá, and addressed sustainable development from perspectives that are relevant to each territory. The meetings aim at generating autonomous coordination and actions to achieve these objectives. To broaden participation and involvement, all the workshops organized by the National Council were streamed online. The actual participation of municipalities remained, however, generally poor.

### Policy initiatives

The government considers the need to align the SDGs with the tools of local planning at the regional and municipal level and to have periodic informations at the local level.

The government promotes different plans that have a direct impact on the municipal level related to environmental protection, in particular: the recycling law and new atmospheric decontamination plans for cities, complemented by the environmental impact assessment system, promotion of local environmental management and the strategic environmental assessment of the territory that impel the sustainable management of the territory.

In 2016, the National Intersectoral Strategy for Sexuality, Affectivity and Gender is designed in high schools and other health centers in the communes with the greatest needs. To this will be added the “Buen Vivir de la Sexualidad y la Reproducción Program” developed by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equity.

The project “*Yo Opino es mi derecho*” is under development, and it will enable children and adolescents to get to know the SDGs, discuss their priorities and propose actions to advance towards their achievement.

# COLOMBIA

Source: VNR (2016); information provided by the Colombian National Planning Directorate (*Dirección Nacional de Planificación*, DNP)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

Local governments – alongside civil society and the private sector – have taken part in the regional and sector-based consultations organized by the national government in order to identify the priorities to be included in the VNR.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

32 *departamentos* (the second level of intermediate government) and 31 capital cities from each department have already integrated the SDGs within their strategic plans for the 2016-2019. Their plans include 33 and 34 objectives respectively, addressing 110 total localizable targets (see column on the right). For example, 67% of the objectives included in Bogotá's plan and 73% of Medellín's are already aligned with the SDGs (especially with the SDGs 11, 4, 9, 10, 13 and 16).

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The *Territorial Working Group* led by the National Planning Directorate (DNP) also involves sub-national governments. The working group is part of the *High-Level Commission on the Introduction and Effective Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its the SDGs*, established by presidential decree in February 2015.

The Colombian government has recognized 110 targets out of 169 that require joint action with sub-national governments (in particular to achieve the SDGs 1, 2, 4, 5 and 11), and that “truly transformative action must take place in the territory”. The national development plan for the 2014-2018 period, *Todos por un Nuevo País* (Everybody for a New Country), already integrates the vision shared by the 2030 Agenda. It also calls, for the first time, for an explicit acknowledgement of territorial differences, through a gap-bridging methodology and tailored indicators for each region on the achievement of the goals of the Peace Accords, the main social sectors and policies (education, health, housing and water management), and green growth, as well as through the institutional empowerment of local authorities.

### Policy initiatives

The national government has carried out initiatives to promote and integrate the SDGs in local development plans of the departmental and municipal governments that were elected in October 2015. It also created a ‘territorial kit’ to streamline capacity-building and technical assistance activities.

Indicators: in terms of monitoring activities at the sub-national level, territorial statistical capacities have been fostered strategically, in order to improve the quality, availability, integration and usage of data among both data producers and users, at national and territorial level. This initiative aims to create an improved, more transparent decision-making process in public policy.

## COSTA RICA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); UCLG/FLACMA questionnaire filled by the *Unión Nacional de Gobiernos Locales*

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

The UNGL (National Union of Local Governments) and the Association of Mayors and Intendants contributed to the VNR through the forms requested by the Ministry of Planning and UNDP. The proposals that have been made have been taken into account and the inputs produced have been incorporated into the voluntary national report.

During the consultation process, the VNR highlight the consults with minority groups of the population, more than the subnational governments.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Local governments are in a phase of appropriation of Agenda 2030, but the UNGL says that the challenge is Municipalities are not yet entirely informed about the SDGs.

During the inauguration of the XIII National Congress of Municipalities in February 2017, local authorities were informed about the SDGs. In the draft of the Institutional Strategic Plan for 2017-2022 of the UNGL, the SDGs are linked to the strategic objectives and a budget line was committed to sensitize local authorities and officials around the SDGs for 2018.

A technical process of appropriation of the SDGs is being developed through the Network of Municipal Planners, linking the project with the network projects of the SDGs.

UNGL will elaborate a study to determine which goals the local governments have the capacity to carry out. And with PNUD, a SDGs guide for local governments will be developed.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

In September 2016, the 'National Pact for Achieving the SDGs' was signed, signed by the three branches of the Republic, by Civil Society Organizations, public universities, the business sector and local governments (through the UNGL and the Association of Mayors and Intendants). The UNGL is part of the Consultative Committee of the High Level Committee for the SDGs accomplishment.

The National Development Plan for 2015-2018 integrates programs and projects for each one of the SDGs. There are three priority themes: combating poverty (SDG 1); resilient infrastructure and sustainable communities (the SDGs 9 and 11); and sustainable production and consumption (SDG 12).

On the one hand, the document mentions that the implementation process will require a close link between national and local government, and also the essential role of LRGs there. On the other hand, it touches on that LRGs do not have all the competencies or resources to carry out the implementation process.

#### Policy initiatives

As consequence of the pact, a the SDGs Technical Secretariat was formed by an interdisciplinary team (such as the Statistics and Census) under the leadership of MIDEPLAN (Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy). The Secretariat may invite public sector officials and representatives of various offices and sectors for consultation and collaboration with the SDGs. Specifically, a virtual platform has been created with the implementation process in Costa Rica.

Among the programs for the SDGs localization are: improvement of integrated management of solid urban waste, adoption of integrated plans for mitigation and adaptation to climate change and disaster resilience, community participation in water management and sanitation (the *Bandera Azul Ecológica* Programme).

With regard to the indicators, 154 indicators have been identified and the baseline has been published in March 2017, but their level of disaggregation is not mentioned.

Workshops were organized to promote the dialogue and diffusion of the SDGs among the local governments.

## ECUADOR

Source: UCLG/FLACMA questionnaire filled by the *Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas* (AME)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Ecuador has not yet applied to submit a review to the HLPF, and did not present one in 2016 or 2017.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

Local authorities in Ecuador show significant awareness of the SDGs. They have linked them to the New Urban Agenda (NUA) since its onset and adoption during the Habitat III summit in Quito, in October 2016. Habitat III mobilized a relevant part of the Ecuadorian society. The Association of Municipalities of Ecuador (*Asociación de Municipalidades Ecuatorianas*, AME) has established a close link between the achievement of the SDGs and their integration with the NUA and the Paris Climate Agreement. The city of Quito, as well as several provinces, are also promoting the alignment of the SDGs with their own local development plans.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

#### Policy initiatives

Among its activities in the country, UNDP is promoting the "Localizing the SDGs in local development plans" project in three Ecuadorian regions, Quito, Guayas, and Ibarra. The project will also support progress in this regard within the municipality of Quito.

**Indicators:** AME is working with the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC) on the creation of indicators to monitor the achievement of the SDGs at the local level. It has also established a National Municipal Information System, whose objective is to gather information on drinkable water and sewerage systems, solid waste management, transit and transportation from the 221 municipalities of Ecuador – relevant, in particular, to monitor the achievement of the SDGs 6 and 11.

## EL SALVADOR

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); UCLG/FLACMA questionnaire filled by the *Unión Nacional de Gobiernos Locales*

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

COMURES had limited participation in the preparation of the VNR, which

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

COMURES collaborated with UNDP on the integration of and achievement of the

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

COMURES does not participate in the National Council of Sustainable

#### Policy initiatives

COMURES has acknowledged the need to enhance coordination with the national

acknowledges that effective participation of all actors and other levels of government in the reviewing process is still a challenge.

MDGs. In 2015, COMURES participated in consultation workshops as the process that eventually led to the 2030 Agenda began. This initial commitment, however, was not deepened in the later stages of the process. Local governments' knowledge of and involvement in the implementation of the SDGs are both generally low.

Development. The process of implementation is coordinated by the Technical and Planning Secretariat of the Presidency and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which did initiate a process of dialogue with various actors. The Government intends to include the 2030 Agenda within its Five-Year Development Plan (2014-2019), emphasizing nine the SDGs in particular (the SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 13, 16 and 17) alongside 29 additional targets from other goals.

government, in order to foster the localization of public investment, promote territorial planning and development, consistent with a process of decentralization and local economic development that may strengthen the technical and financial resources available to LRGs. As COMURES highlights in its replies, however, "the implementation of the SDGs in El Salvador is not promoting reforms or new policies and programmes to strengthen local governments".

**Indicators:** while at the national level a framework for SDG monitoring is being implemented, COMURES highlights that LRGs are not currently aware of any institutional monitoring mechanisms or implementation plans that may involve or take place at the local level.

## GUATEMALA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no mention of LRGs at any level being involved in the consultation process leading to the drafting of the VNR.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

In 2016, the National Council for Urban and Rural Development (Conadur) approved a strategy to integrate the 2030 Agenda within Guatemala's national development plan. The strategy introduces development goals in strategic and operational planning processes at different levels: sectoral, national, regional, departmental and municipal.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Conadur is identified clearly, in national strategies, as the main institutional hub and interlocutor on the implementation of the SDGs.

#### Policy initiatives

Since 2017, the public sector, representatives of civil society within Conadur, departmental development councils and international cooperation actors were increasingly included in a first series of workshops to promote the 2030 Agenda. All eight regional development councils of Guatemala – corresponding to the metropolitan areas, North, North-east, South-east, Central, South-west, and North-west regions, and the Petén region – participated in the workshops.

## HONDURAS

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

Municipalities have been invited to participate in *ad hoc* high-level commissions for the 2030 Agenda.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The Governmental General Coordination Secretariat (SCGG) established itself as the key focal point for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In November and December 2015, several workshops were organized in seven regions: Comayagua, San Pedro Sula, La Ceiba, La Esperanza, Juticalpa, Choluteca, and Tegucigalpa. These workshops were attended by local representatives alongside officials from five more regions, members of the SCGG, representatives from UNDP and other guests. Besides these experiences and as a general remark, however, Honduras' VNR emphasizes that the localization of the 2030 Agenda and mobilization at the local level are still a challenge to be addressed for the future.

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

In order to create the necessary institutional mechanisms for the integration and implementation of the SDGs, Honduras has established two dedicated bodies: a high-level commission for strategic decisions on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and a more technical commission for concrete initiative in this direction. Both commissions host representatives of municipalities and civil society. A proposal for stronger involvement of the SCGG with coordination powers – in order to better link the Agenda and national plans and budgets, as well as to make monitoring and implementation more efficient – has been advanced.

#### Policy initiatives

A proposal for a series of Municipal Development Strategic Plans, consistent with the SDGs and based on result management, has been advanced. A dedicated Management Platform should be the main tool to put into practice an awareness-raising and communication strategy, as well as to perform monitoring and evaluation activities.

A mission of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (UNDESA) carried out an institutional assessment of the municipalities of Colinas, Santa Barbara, San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa: in accordance with the results, technical staff from planning, budget, monitoring and evaluation units, alongside the SCGG, have taken part in a pilot project in San Pedro Sula and Tegucigalpa. To date, only the municipality of Tegucigalpa has elaborated a Municipal Development Plan grounded in the SDGs.

# MEXICO

Source: VNR (2016), information provided by national associations

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

Information about sub-national governments and their initiatives for the implementation of the SDGs was collected through the Specialized Technical Committee for the SDGs, an institutional adaptation of the mechanism established for the MDGs. As the VNR acknowledges, however, actual space for participation of LRGs is still significantly limited and somewhat bound by the institutional arrangements of the MDGs. Local governments, moreover, do not participate in the Civil Society Consultation Forums.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The National Conference of Governors (CONAGO) and the National Conference of Municipalities of Mexico (CONAMM) have been acknowledged as representatives of local government in dialogue and mechanisms established to promote compliance with the SDGs. CONAMM brings together several associations of municipalities (FENAM, CNAL, ANAC, and AALMAC). CONAGO, on the other hand, created in June 2017 a commission dedicated to the integration of the SDGs. Some states have already established State Councils or Commissions for the 2030 Agenda (Chiapas, Sinaloa), while others are setting them up (Tabasco, Colima and Nuevo León). Several State Development Plans are now incorporating the SDGs (e.g., in Nuevo Leon, Colima, Hidalgo and Zacatecas). The city of Guadalajara integrated the SDGs in its Municipal Development Plan and is also taking into consideration the creation of an Evaluation and Monitoring System. Naucalpan, Calimaya, Querétaro and Ensenada are considering pursuing the same road.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Leadership of the 2030 Agenda implementation was assumed by the Federal Presidency, supported by a Specialized Technical Committee for the SDGs. On April 26, 2017, the government launched the National Council of the 2030 Agenda. In 2015, the 2013-2018 National Development Plan was aligned with the SDGs. Pre-existing inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral mechanisms – such as the Commissions on both housing and climate change) – were reformed too, alongside certain budget systems. Legislative reforms – including interventions on finance and fiscal discipline of States and municipalities – allowed for increased cross-level harmonization.

### Policy initiatives

In order to make municipalities an effective vehicle to bring the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs closer to the local level, the government has planned for stronger local financial capacities, in particular through a reform of local financing – the Reform of Financial Discipline for Federative Entities and Municipalities – that aims to increase transparency, creditworthiness and accountability. The reform should focus on more reliable indebtedness for public investments and the development of infrastructures.

**Indicators:** the national statistical office (INEGI) has developed a nation-wide SDG monitoring platform, accessible through the Internet. The tool, which replaces the pre-existing MDG counterpart, allows for data disaggregation by key variables such as age, gender, place of residence, etc. Such indicators are being adapted at national and regional levels to monitor regional inequalities. The state of Jalisco is already integrating the indicators related to the SDGs.

# PANAMA

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

A participatory process was originally promoted by the national government through a *Social Cabinet* in order to devise a shared, comprehensive strategy. Three consultation sessions were held, involving public institutions, members of parliament, women's groups, indigenous peoples, ethnic minorities, youth organizations, academics, the business sector and cooperation agencies. There is, however, no mention of local authorities in the process.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The National Strategic Plan, "Panama 2030", elaborated by the national government with a country-wide perspective, aligns the government's Strategic Plan 2015-2019 and the priorities of the National Coordination for Development with the SDGs. There is no information about the LRGs in this process.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Executive Decree No. 393 is a normative framework that establishes a coordination mechanism between the Social Cabinet, National Coordination for Development and Secretary of Presidential Goals and also determines the guidelines to assume the fundamental commitment to bridge the territorial and social development gaps to improve the quality of life of the population with inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

Decentralization is among the priorities set by the government, recognizing local government as a privileged actor in the direct action of social policies and local development.

### Policy initiatives

Decentralization is also among the transversal lines priorities which is mentioned as a transverse line between the citizen and the State. VNR highlighted the local government as a privileged actor in the direct action of social policies. In addition, the document takes the political, social and cultural responsibilities of the LRGs as an essential tool to thereby to the citizens access, gradually, to quality services, interventions and programs.

# PERU

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

In order to prepare the VNR, the government set up a preliminary arrangement to align sectoral policies and strengthen coordination with sub-national policies in October 2016.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The National Centre for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) is the focal point for the 2030 Agenda. With the occasion of the latest national election, all political forces signed the Governance Agreement 2016-2021, which is consistent with the SDGs. Sub-national governments and all the entities they comprise are already working on

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The National government has proposed an update of existing consultation mechanisms, such as the Forum for National Agreement (*Foro para el Acuerdo Nacional*), the redefinition of the strategy document, *Vision Peru 2030*, and the National Strategic Development Plan, in order to fully integrate the SDGs. These actions have been

### Policy initiatives

Preparation for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda began in November 2016 with multilevel alignment of sectoral policies to the SDGs. Since 2016, the INEI, with the support of the Statistical Division of the United Nations, has been developing an interactive web-based platform to monitor SDG



updating plans and policies to make them compatible with the guidelines of the Agreement and the strategic document, *Vision Peru 2030*. Local and regional governments were provided, in November 2016, a blueprint for sectoral policies in order to mobilize and assist them in the alignment process.

undertaken with the key goal of improving cross-level coordination. Follow-up of SDG implementation, meanwhile, has been organized in three complementary levels: 1) the National Institute of Statistics and Informatics (INEI) has developed a monitoring and follow-up system for SDG indicators; 2) CEPLAN has devised indicators associated with the five dimensions of the SDGs, in order to facilitate diffusion and dialogue; finally, 3) the *Negotiation Roundtables for the Fight against Poverty* has undertaken systematic coordination of the dialogue between national institutions and civil society. Since February 2017, the 2030 Agenda has been steadily integrated into the National Strategic Development Plan (designed until 2021) and its updates until 2030. About 2,500 local authorities and bodies have been involved in talks on these upgrades, alongside civil society (especially via the *Negotiation Roundtables for the Fight against Poverty*), political parties and the private sector. All three levels of government – national, regional and provincial – have ultimately begun to introduce the SDGs in their planning processes. To boost intergovernmental cooperation, a specific mechanism – *GORE-Ejecutivo* – was established, providing the Office of the President of the Republic, national ministries and the highest ranks of regional government with a common platform. A similar mechanism (*Muni-Ejecutivo*) is being devised for the national government to engage with municipal governments.

indicators. The tool includes a set of indicators, covering the territory at the departmental (provincial) level. In February 2017, CEPLAN presented a prospective analysis as a proposal for the country's strategic vision to 2030. The document is expected to guide the revision of the Strategic National Development Plan so as to make it consistent with long-term national policies and the SDGs. The proposal was presented to local representatives across 26 regions. Dissemination and consultation are expected to be carried out in a decentralized and inclusive way. The government has also vowed to use the forthcoming results of the 2017 census – which adopts, among others, categories on population, housing, indigenous communities, gender and minorities – to identify reliable and effective indicators at the local level. This process has highlighted two key needs: available administrative data must be improved via further decentralization and enhanced coverage of departmental and district-wide communities; special financial mechanisms must be set up in order to help those local authorities willing to improve their data collection and management capacities.

## URUGUAY

Source: VNR (2017); LRGs report (*Congreso de Intendentes*, 2017)

### CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

#### Voluntary National Reviews

LRGs were not involved in the preparation of the VNR. The Presidency launched a consultation in 2016, in the framework of the “Social dialogue: Uruguay toward the Future” programme. It involved representatives from the national government, a few local governments, and more than 600 organizations from civil society, trade unions, academia and the private sector.

The VNR highlighted the challenge of eliciting adequate participation among private sector, political parties and sub-national governments, even though these were not formally invited to partake in the process.

#### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

There is no reliable information about initiatives or activities undertaken by LRGs in order to mobilize around the implementation of the SDGs.

The municipality of Montevideo did participate, however, in the “Social dialogue” programme. It has been linking different local projects to the SDGs (SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 9 and 14 in particular), with special attention to social inclusion policies (e.g., for the LGBTI community and people with disabilities).

### POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

#### Coordination mechanisms

The Presidency charged the Planning and Budget Office (OPP) with assisting the Statistical Office and the International Cooperation Agency to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

#### Policy initiatives

In April 2017, the government, in partnership with the Congress of Mayors and with the support of EU and UNDP, launched a small fund to support 22 municipal projects for the implementation of the SDGs and the strengthening of local governments.

In the pilot project, UNDP, in collaboration with the Open Government Association, the Community of Democracies and with the financial support of the United States' Agency for International Development (USAID), has been working to define a monitoring system for SDG 16 indicators, integrating it in the larger national planning effort. The development of national frameworks of indicators contributes to the adaptation of the global agenda to the local reality of the country.

The VNR mentions LRGs as regards SDG 5, and target 5.5 in particular, to boost women's participation in local governments. With regard to SDG 16 and target 16.7, room for proactive participation has been created at the national, departmental and municipal level via input from local governments. Several of these improvements involve political, territorial and administrative decentralization of several ministerial portfolios.

The VNR also mentions “*Cabildos Abiertos*”, open assemblies created by decree and managed by municipalities, in order to improve citizen participation and political decentralization.

# VENEZUELA

Source: VNR (2016)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

Consultations on the VNR began in October 2016. These included national authorities and representatives of the Presidential Councils of the People's Government, alongside representatives from communities and civil society. NGOs, universities and different political sectors were included at a later stage. While another wide consultation process was carried out within public institutions, there are no references to the involvement of local authorities

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The SDGs were integrated into the Economic and Social Development Plan 2013-2019 developed at the national level.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

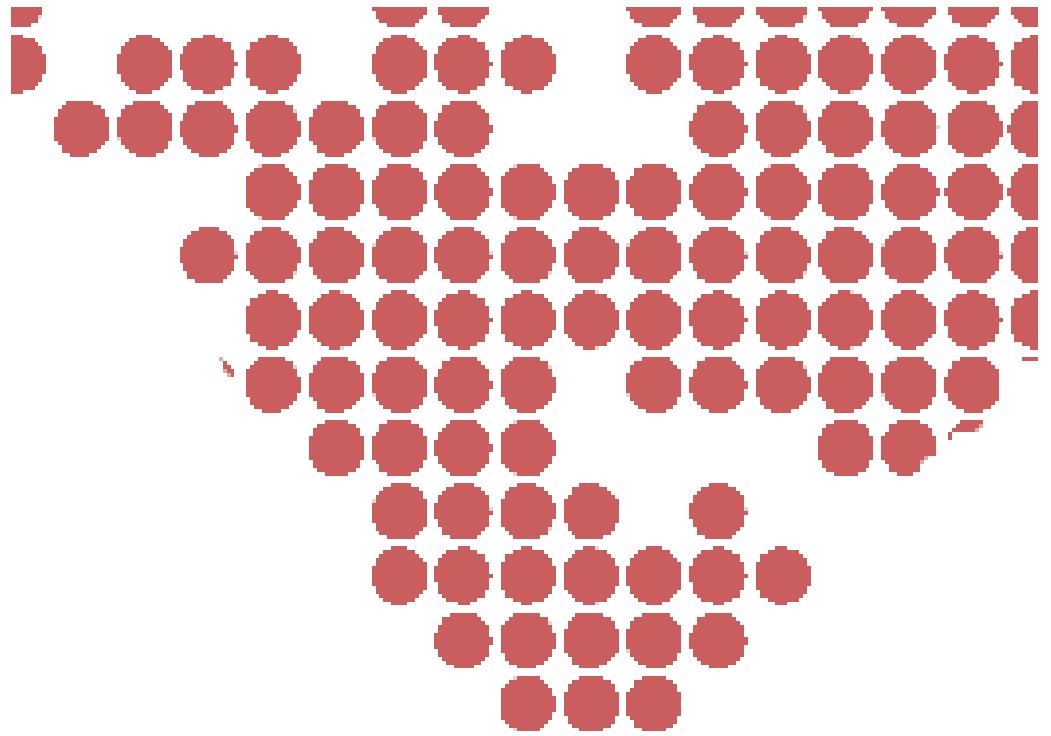
A Council of Vice-Presidents was established in the framework of the implementation process. It is headed by the Executive Vice-President of the Republic and includes six Vice-Presidents from relevant portfolios. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group for Follow-up on the Implementation of the SDGs was also strengthened. The agency is led by the Deputy Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These mechanisms are supported in turn by different sectoral councils (Human Rights, Statistics, Productive Economics) and the National Statistics Institute.

### Policy initiatives

The VNR mentions as a priority the achievement of the *Poverty Zero Plan* by 2019, as well as fostering city sustainability and productive momentum at micro, local, general and national levels. It stimulates adaptation to global goals across all entities of the public administration.

Current experiences in urban areas include: housing programmes (e.g., *Grandes misiones de vivienda; Barrio Nuevo Barrio Tricolor*), urban agriculture, and supply and production committees. As regards indicators, data disaggregation has already been planned in order to distinguish data for marginalized groups, children and youth, indigenous peoples, etc.





**MEWA**

# AFGHANISTAN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); LRG report to UCLG (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no mention of local governments in the VNR. The report describes an inter-ministerial process with some effort to include “community organizations” as non-governmental stakeholders together with civil society, private sector, academia, media, and youth organizations throughout the 50 seminars, workshops and symposia).

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

There is currently no active national association of local and regional governments at work in Afghanistan.

National dialogue on the SDGs exists, but donors and international organizations mostly drive it.

Donors and NGOs have mobilized awareness-raising resources at national level, without formalized involvement of the local level or bottom-up initiatives designed or initiated by provincial or municipal governments. Certain LRGs have shown interest in this opportunity, but lack fundamental technical and financial resources for any kind of follow-up.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The Minister of Economy is the focal point for the national process coordination, in close relation with the High Council of Ministers. There is no dedicated institutional channel to include LRG. In fact, the LRG report does not refer to any formal participation of LRGs in the process.

A National Coordination Commission (NCC) works on data collection, reporting and follow-up to a high-level platform for the consolidation of a multi-stakeholder approach to the SDGs – takes into consideration “various government stakeholders”, alongside societal actors in a number of areas, but has no explicit mention of LRGs.

The Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework 2017-2021, set by the National Unity Government, provides a framework for action on the goals. Thematic inter-ministerial working groups, horizontally integrated in terms of resources and budgets, compose the framework. The Frameworks supports geographically and ethnically balanced actions.

### Policy initiatives

In the report to UCLG, local governments have advocated the establishment of adequate capacities and frameworks for LRGs to act and have an opportunity to contribute to the localization process.

# JORDAN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The VNR reports the inclusion of local governments and communities in the consultation processes.

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, however, has led a centralized process. The Ministry consulted periodically the Local governments with reference to implementation, monitoring and evaluation as part of the Major Groups and Other Stakeholders (MGOs) category. There was a strong involvement of international organizations present in the country.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

There is no mention of LRG-driven initiatives. In parallel with the emergence of the post-2015 consensus on the agendas, however, Jordan municipalities had been particularly active in the field of resilience and environmental sustainability. In the face of growing vulnerabilities to climate change-induced disasters, many municipalities have introduced Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Units at the territorial level. Their connection with the SDGs, however, is not formal nor clear.

The government presented a roadmap to foster ownership of the SDGs. The roadmap centres on raising awareness on the SDGs at all levels while aligning national policy priorities with the global agendas. Mainstreaming these two initiatives at the sub-national level is one of the key priorities identified by the Roadmap.

The government is also coordinating the publication of local roadmaps for each governorate (available in Arabic only). The process is top-down and under the responsibility of competent ministries.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The National Higher Steering Committee centralises strategic planning at the prime minister office’s level. In light of the implementation of the SDG, the committee will enhance or revise existing mechanisms of coordination.

The Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation and the main stakeholders (which technically includes LRGs) gather in the Higher National committee for Sustainable Development and a Coordination Committee. Working groups on thematic areas are in charge of implementation.

A centralized National Monitoring System, headed by the national statistical office, is in charge on monitoring and evaluation. Objectives and targets for the near future of the implementation strategy in the Main Message clearly state that “the localization of the SDGs” is a priority, but does not expand on how to achieve this goal.

### Policy initiatives

The Main Message to the HLPF shows significant effort by the government to tackle core issues such as:

- **Sustainability of refugee reception.** References to the additional pressures the country is facing because of the Syrian refugee crisis permeates the whole document.
- **Economic development.** The Jordan 2025 strategic framework draws a 10-year blueprint for the achievement of national prosperity objectives.
- **Gender equality.** The Executive Development Programmes that translates Jordan 2025 into practice has specific requirements to improve equality in the social, cultural and economic life of the country, and UN Women is particularly active in Jordan.
- **Capacity building for the implementation process.** The government also developed a Governorate Development Programmes for the 12 governorates across Jordan.
- **Indicators.** the governmental Department of Statistics has the responsibility to verify the reliability and accessibility of data according to the UN indicators. Because of issues with quality of data, the government vows to improve systems of data collection and management, but there is no mention of LRG involvement in the localization of this process.

# IRAN

Source: VNR (2017); Main Message (2017); UNDP Iran working documents and reports

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

The Main Messages to the HLPF report on the inclusion of local governments and communities in the drafting of the VNR. UNDP reports, however, that since the government decided to present the VNR in 2017, it has not met with LRGs, but rather with civil society, academia and private sector representatives.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The United Nations' office in Teheran has promoted awareness-raising campaigns (e.g., "Together for the SDGs") at the local level, aiming in particular at "translating" the commitments into comprehensible and relatable language for the population. The campaigns have been coordinated with civil society organizations and local initiatives (e.g., the Fajr Film Festival and advocacy efforts by cinema and theatre celebrities), but have no clear connection with any involvement of local governments.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

Following the adoption of the post-2015 agendas, the central government has revisited the mandate and structure of Iran's National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD), established in 1994. It became an inter-ministerial hub for horizontal policy coordination on SDGs. The Main Message advocates for developing new mechanism in order to include more stakeholders, dedicating a special network to actors from civil society. Yet, officially, no other form of policy coordination mechanism exists to either facilitate the implementation of the goals or include other actors in the process, such as LRGs. The 6<sup>th</sup> National 5-year Development Plan now includes requirements and institutional innovation prompted by the post-2015 agendas, in particular climate change, resilience and environmental sustainability issues. The plan also makes a precise reference to SDGs 1, 5, 8 and 10, identifying issues of women's and youth's participation in decision-making, equal opportunity in employment and access to education and services as priorities for the government's actions in this regard. There is no mention of specific ways to localize these initiatives.

### Policy initiatives

Official documents do not refer to policy initiatives rooted in the territory or local communities. Most actions stem from the central government, in collaboration with international organizations. Indicators: the national statistical office remains in control of the measurement and reporting process. The Main Message highlights that the difficulty to provide reliable data compatible with UN indicators is one of the country's main difficulties when approaching the implementation process. There is no mention, however, about localizing data collection or disaggregation in order to make the process easier.

# QATAR

Source: VNR (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

LRGs did not participate of the consultation process.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

The Second National Development Strategy 2017-2022 incorporates the 2030 Agenda. There are no specific reference to the local level.

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The Ministry of Development Planning and Statistics is the focal point of the 2030 Agenda.

### Policy initiatives

The Qatar's government in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division and regional and Arab organizations carried out a statistical system to generate the necessary statistics and indicators to measure the progress of the First National Development Strategy (NDS-1) prepare for the NDS-2 and monitor its progress in the future including the 2030 Agenda goals and targets.

# TURKEY

Source: VNR (2016); LRG reports to UCLG-MEWA (2017)

## CO-OWNERSHIP OF THE SDGs

### Voluntary National Reviews

There is no clear mention to the authorship of the VNR. LRGs did not take part in the drafting, yet the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) confirms that the VNR mentions them – in particular with regard to future implementation actions. The document, however, makes a strong connection between the adaptation of the Turkish development system to the SDGs via the renovation of the National Development Plan. The preparation process for the latest plan, the 10th NDP, involved LRGs significantly. They participated in several of the 66 working commissions that contributed to the draft. In 2016, the Ministry for Development initiated the process for the drafting of the 11th NDP.

### Mobilization and awareness-raising initiatives by LRGs

LRGs in Turkey are generally aware of the SDGs and the need to engage the local level and enhance cross-level dialogue in order to achieve the goals. Turkish LRGs underscore the lack of proper recognition of the global agendas and their relevance for the local level across public administration and public service. Municipal staff, in particular, lacks awareness about the opportunities provided by international cooperation and exchange on development and the implementation of the agendas. The UMT has initiated a conversation with UCLG-MEWA and the local organization of Citizen Assemblies (which includes NGOs, private sector and professional associations), as part of the Local Action 21 results and

## POLICY AND ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

### Coordination mechanisms

The central government supports the adaptation of existing institutional frameworks to foster the implementation of the global agendas. The Turkish VNR clearly states that the government also intends to coordinate the process of implementation at the highest national level (e.g., the High Planning Committee at the level of the Prime Minister's office). Nevertheless, it also commits to including stakeholders such as local authorities in the elaboration of those structures and plans necessary to translate this national coordination effort at the different levels of governance, and create those required councils and bodies to undertake these tasks and ensure vertical and horizontal coordination and policy

### Policy initiatives

In the time span since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, Turkish local governments report no significant action undertaken under the aegis of the Agenda and for the implementation of the goals. There is an expectation that the successful approval of a national roadmap or framework may then catalyse action and organization at the local level. Aiming at enhanced localization of the Goal, Turkish LRGs report that fiscal decentralization – due to the characteristics of the Turkish political system – may not be useful in terms of increased autonomy or capacities for local governments. In fact, it may hinder transparency in the way municipalities use their resources and loosen the connection between their initiatives and the SDGs.

The VNR states: "The participation of different stakeholders such as local administrations, academia, NGOs, and private sector in the policy formulation and implementation regarding sustainable development will be accelerated with regard to principles concerning the inclusiveness, accountability and transparency." (p.30)

within a framework of institutionalized dialogue with the government. The Ministry of Environment and Urbanization organized a series of workshops on the SDGs for stakeholders, and local governments were among the participants.

coherence. This goal would be under the responsibility of the Ministry for Development.

A National Sustainable Development Commission, established in 2004, include representation from private sector, academia and NGOs, and will evolve to ensure a more high-level political ownership, particularly for the reporting process. A Roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs was in preparation.

UCLG-MEWA has initiated a dialogue with relevant ministries in order to promote programmes and actions for the localization of the SDGs.



LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS'  
REPORT TO THE 2017 HLPF

NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
ON THE WAY TOWARDS THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGs

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