

# **Strengthening the linkages between Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR)**

**A perspective from UCLG**



**ISAP 2020**

# CONTENT

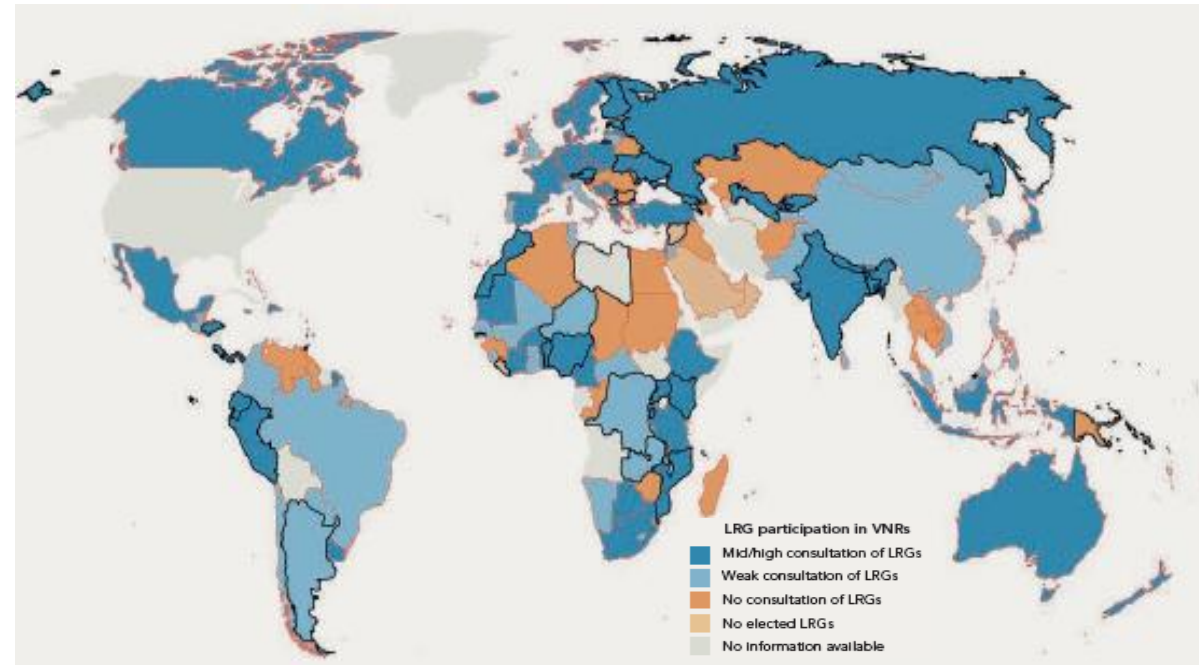
- Annual Local and Regional Governments Report to the UN-HLPF
- Voluntary Local Reviews: building a CoP
- Voluntary Subnational Reviews
- Strengthening the links between VLRs and VNRS



# Report to the UN-HLPF: “Towards the localization of the SDGs”

## Monitoring LRGs involvement in VNRs

- Since 2017, UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments are developing an annual report **Towards the localization of the SDGs**, presented every year at the **HLPF**



While in 2016 only 23% of the countries that reported to the HLPF mention local governments involvement, in 2020 55% of the VNRs reported LRGs participation in the reporting process



# Brief on VLRs – A comparative Analysis

## Key findings



### 1 Who is involved in the VLR?

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

### 3 What is the content of the VLR?

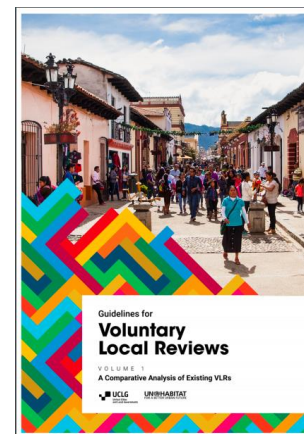
- There is no “recommended” template: **no local government should back down**
- Length differs considerably, some have reviewed **all 17 SDGs**, or the **HLPF topics**, or the SDGs for which they had **information available**
- Focus on **policy responses** & concrete SDG implementation, or on **strategy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

### 2 Where is the VLR located?

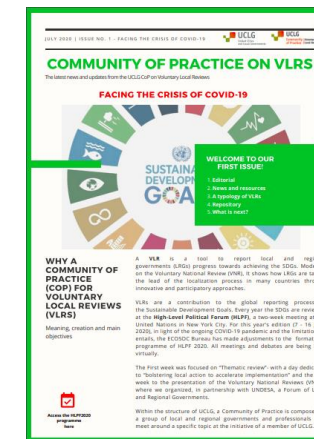
- Almost **no examples of VLRs being directly linked to national reviewing processes**
- **Great opportunity for de-siloing the approach to SDGs** and sustainability policies, making dialogue across departments easier
- Opportunity for **LRGs to begin thinking globally**

### 4 How is the VLR made?

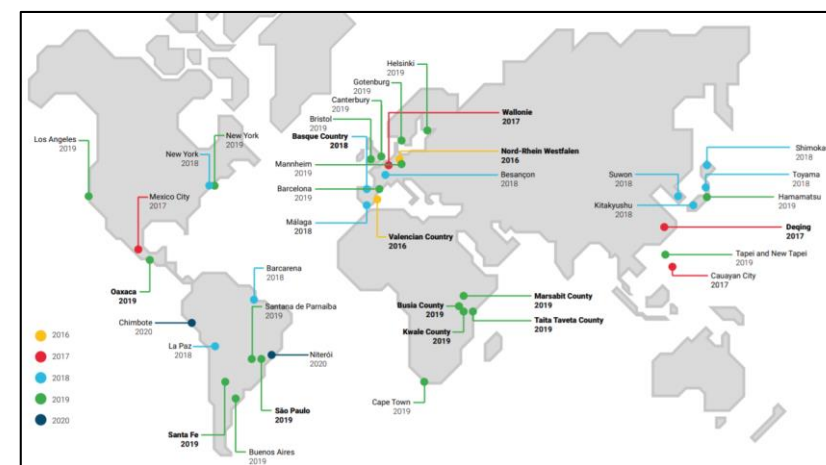
- **UN ‘official’ indicators have been out of reach** due to LRGs’ lack of disaggregated data or capacity to fulfil them
- Several VLRs have tried to **adapt official indicators to local sources** and data, only a few have attempted to cover them fully
- Many VLRs built on **pre-existing sets of sustainable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



Guidelines for VLR



CoP Newsletter 1

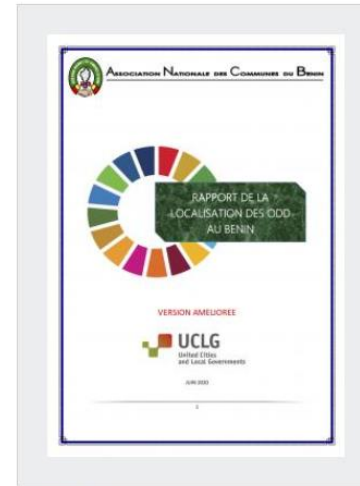


Map of VLRS produced in 2019 -2020



# Voluntary Subnational Reviews 2020

- Main outcomes of the 6 pilot VSRs:
  - A subnational approach of SDGs: develop a mapping and a summary of what local governments are doing to localize the SDGs at country level, with direct interaction with VNR.
  - Strengthen the voice of local governments (big and small) and their national associations in the national reporting process
  - Reports were included, or referenced, in their countries' respective national VNRs (Benin, Costa Rica, Kenya and Ecuador)
  - in Nepal, better coordination with national authorities has been ensured as a result



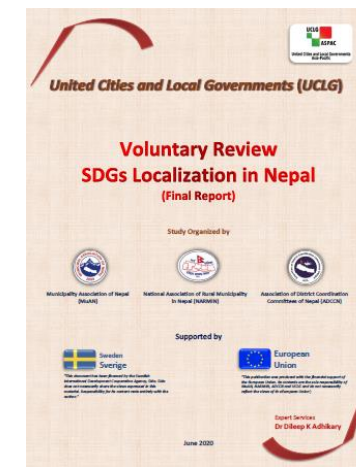
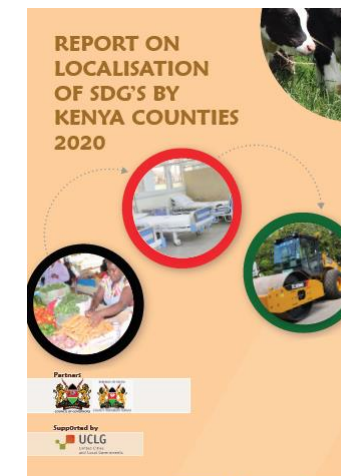
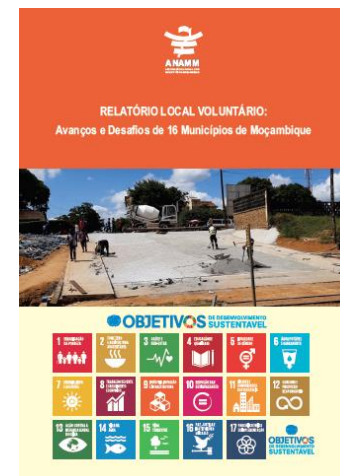
Benin (2020)



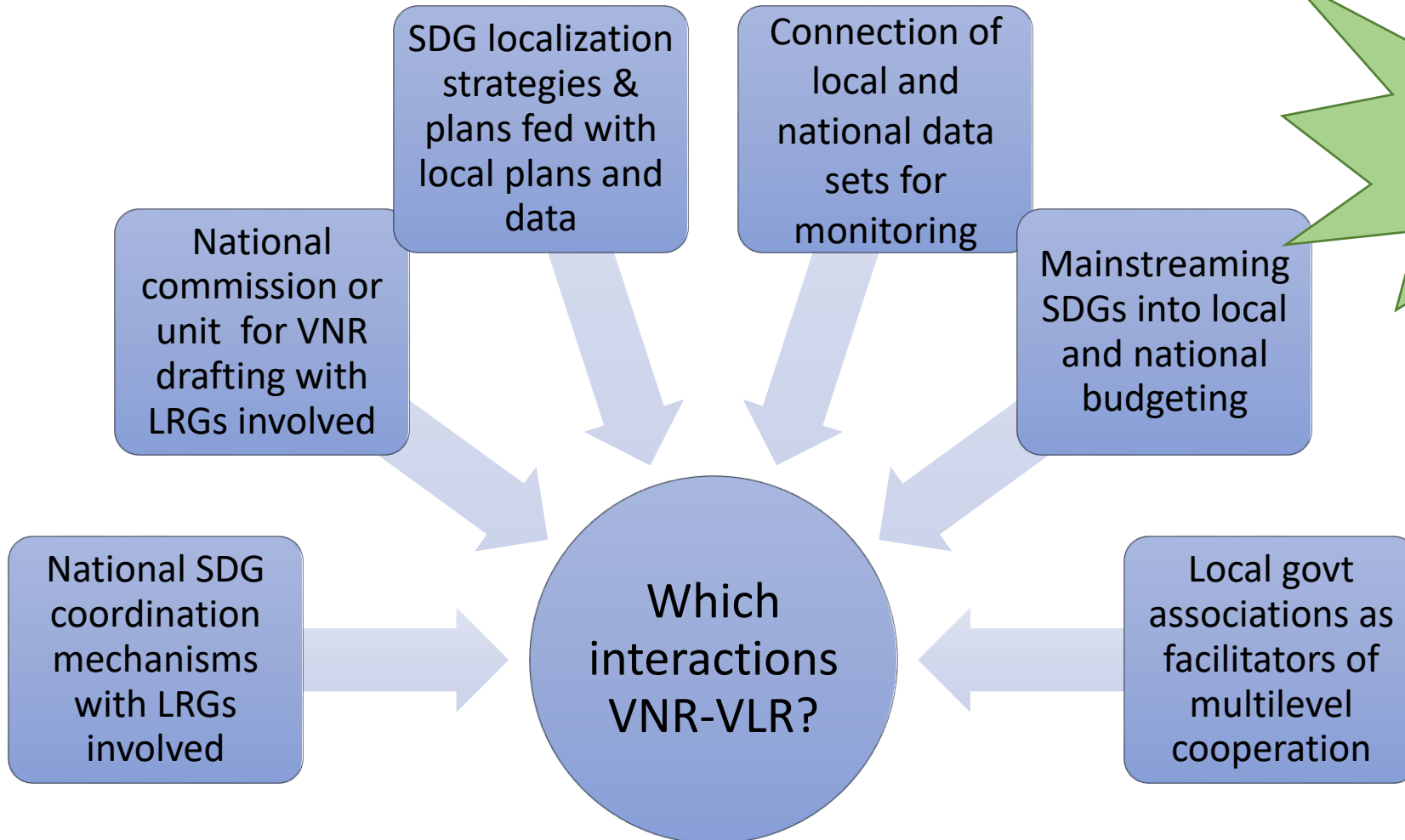
Costa Rica (2020)



Ecuador (2020)



# The 'complicated relationship' between VNRs & VLRs: some ideas for joint work



Stay tuned for our Guidelines for VLRs v.2!



**Thank you!**

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