

## The Localization of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

### Survey on the role and involvement of Local and Regional Governments' Associations

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Name of the National LRG Association/Organization/Network

.....

Chairperson: .....

Executive Director: .....

Actual respondent to the questionnaire:

.....

Position: .....

E-mail Address: .....

Telephone or Skype: .....

Please send the filled-in questionnaire by **APRIL 30, 2018**, to: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org).

## INTRODUCTION

This questionnaire aims to help LRGS prepare a report to UN regional institutions and to the next UN High-Level Political Forum of July 2018.

The survey is likewise expected to help national associations develop their own report, and so contribute to national debates and assess their involvement in the implementation and reporting processes of the SDGs and other related agendas (e.g., the Paris climate agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction).

The following is a list of the countries that committed to report to the 2018 HLPF:

**The 48 countries volunteering to submit their VNRs in 2018:**

- **Africa** (11): Benin, Cabo Verde, Egypt, Guinea, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Republic of the Congo, Senegal, Sudan, Togo
- **Asia-Pacific** (7): Australia, Bhutan, Kiribati, Laos, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Viet Nam
- **Eurasia** (1): Armenia
- **Europe** (14): Albania, Andorra, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland
- **Latin America** (6): Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay
- **MEWA** (6): Bahrain, Lebanon, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, United Arab Emirates
- **North America** (3): Bahamas, Canada, Jamaica

Please visit the UN High Level Political Forum official webpage (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>) to check the list of countries for 2018 and the 65 countries that reported in the previous assessments of 2016 and 2017.

The following questionnaire includes **seven questions** divided in **three sections**:

1. National context for SDG implementation (2 questions)
2. Local and Regional Governments' (LRGs) involvement in the national SDG implementation process (3 questions)
3. Supporting LRGs in the localization of the SDGs, and impact on institutional context and resources (2 questions). What LRGs need to ensure localization?

For each question, you will find a group of sub-questions that may help provide the answers required.

**Section 4 is optional:** it asks for examples of LRG-driven initiatives to implement the SDGs at the subnational level. Any examples are strongly appreciated, as they can powerfully illustrate the substantial contents of the report and valuable initiatives undertaken at regional and local levels.

Finally, a short question at the end of the document collects information on the methods used to fill in this questionnaire. This information is required by UN institutions for the transparency of the consultation process.

If you need any support or clarifications in order to answer to this questionnaire, please contact our department at UCLG at this address: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org).

## Section 1. National context for SDG implementation

Briefly present the framework for SDG implementation in your country. Please consider the following two questions:

### 1.1 What is your national government doing for the implementation of the SDGs?

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 1.1:

- Has your central government taken any initiative to communicate or disseminate about its commitment to the implementation of the SDGs (or the other global agendas, e.g., the Paris Climate Agreement or the New Urban Agenda)?
- Has your country started a national conversation on a strategy for the achievement of the SDGs, or has it already defined one?
- Has your national government created any new institutional mechanisms or strengthened existing ones (e.g., high-level commissions at presidential or prime minister level, inter-ministerial/interagency committees, 'national councils' for sustainable development or national planning institutions) in order to improve strategic coordination for the achievement of the SDGs and with different stakeholders? Please see [Annex 1](#) for more information on mechanisms of this kind.

### 1.2. If your country is going to report to the UN HLPF in 2018, what do you know about the reporting process (called Voluntary National Review)? Is your institution being involved in the national reporting process?

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 1.2:

- Have a any information, methodology and calendar for the preparation of the VNR in 2018 been published by your central government?
- Has the national government defined clear mechanisms of consultation or involvement of different stakeholders (e.g., LRGs, parliamentarians, business sector, civil society, academia) in the reporting process? (e.g., interviews, surveys, web platforms, workshops, conferences, joint working committees)
- Has the consultation process been transparent and accountable enough (e.g., open access to documents, clear timeline, adequate time and frequency of dialogue and debates) as to facilitate the involvement and contribution of LRGs and other stakeholders?

## **Section 2. Local and Regional Governments' (LRGs) involvement in the national SDG implementation process**

**2.1. Has your institution promoted activities in support of the implementation of the SDGs at local level (i.e., the 'localization' of the SDGs)?**

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 2.1:

- Has your institution made any call or published any declaration to support the SDGs/2030 Agenda, or any of the other global agendas (e.g., the Paris Climate Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Prevention)?
- If yes, could you sum up and present your institution’s initiatives (e.g., regular or occasional publications, campaigns, workshops, conferences, trainings, identification of policy ‘champions’, regional tours) over the past year to inform about and involve your members in the process of SDG implementation? Please refer to any relevant web source or information whenever available.

**2.2. Do you know about other initiatives to inform LRGs in your country about the SDGs? Could you estimate if there are some (or many) local governments in your country taking any engagement or actions to be progressively involved in SDG implementation or the other global agendas? (give an estimate from “0” to “5”; “0” means that the SDGs are not known at all, “1” that the level of participation is low, “5” that the level is very high)**

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 2.2:

- Beyond the actions engaged by your local government association (described in question 2.1.), do you know about any other activities (e.g., media dissemination, campaigns, meetings, conferences, training, exhibitions) been organized to raise awareness on the SDGs among local and regional authorities in the last 12 months? Who was in charge of them?
- Have local and regional authorities in your country issued any statements, declaration or undertaken any initiatives (e.g., programmes, local plans) showing their interest in taking part in SDG implementation (including initiatives proposed by international networks, like for example UCLG, ICLEI, AIMF, CLGF, C40)? Please provide web sources or references to any LRG-driven declarations or commitments to the global agendas, whenever available. Refer to section 5 of this questionnaire if you know about concrete initiatives to support the SDGs developed by local and regional governments in your country.
- Could you assess the degree of awareness and involvement of LRGs in your country on a qualitative scale (e.g., ‘not at all informed’ on the SDGs, or ‘small’ or ‘representative’ percentage of LRGs being informed and involved).

**2.3. If your country is going to report to the UN HLPF in 2018 (or have presented the VNR in previous years), what is your institution doing- or have done- to participate in the reporting process?**

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 2.3:

- With regard to your country's Voluntary National Review, have your institution or any other LRGs been consulted or invited to participate in the national reporting process this year or in previous years? Have they been invited, e.g., to participate in national consultations, meetings or conferences for the preparation of the VNR; invited to fill in a survey or send information about LRG initiatives; comment or complete the draft VNR; among others?
- If there is a national consultation process this year (or in previous years), has your institution had the opportunity to submit suggestions or contribute to the VNR for the 'localization' of the SDGs?
- If a preliminary version has been circulated, do national reports or VNRs include LRGs' suggestions and initiatives? In some countries, sub-national governments' reports have been clearly included in national reports (e.g., in the Netherlands' report to the Parliament), and examples from sub-national governments' initiatives or activities have been included in the VNRs (e.g., Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, or Sweden). Has this happened in your country?
- Have consultations and, more generally, debate on the SDGs strengthened the partnership between LRGs, civil society and the private sector in support of SDG implementation at national level? Some countries, for instance, have created national platforms, alliances or charters co-signed by civil society and LRGs: could you provide any similar examples from your country?

### **Section 3. Supporting LRGs in the localization of the SDGs, and impact on institutional context and resources**

**3.1. Has the process of SDG implementation had any impact on on the relationship between national and sub-national governments and on the national policies toward local and regional governments?**

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 3.1. Three dimensions are worth emphasizing: **policy dialogue; sub-national policies; and financing.**

A. Quality of **policy dialogue** across different levels of government:

- Have the SDGs had any impact on dialogue between national and sub-national governments? Have they for instance improved existing spaces for collaboration? Have they urged the establishment of new spaces or exchanges between LRGs and any involved ministries or national agencies? Have LRGs been involved, for instance, in national mechanisms of coordination for the follow-up on the SDGs (see also question 1.1 above and Annex 1 below)?
- Have the SDGs contributed to better coordination among LRGs and national or sectoral policies propelled by national ministries or deconcentrated authorities (e.g., national agencies in the territory) to implement the SDGs? Certain countries are promoting dedicated covenants or 'contracts' to engage local or regional governments in the implementation of the SDGs (e.g., Argentina). Others are taking initiatives to integrate the SDGs in national and local strategic plans (e.g., Indonesia, the Philippines) or create new programmes for better coordination. Has this been the case in your country?
- In the framework of the New Urban Agenda, following a study of UN Habitat, OECD and Cities Alliance, 149 countries are developing or have developed National Urban Policies (NUPs) that will have a critical impact on urban policies and city governance. Have either your association or any LRGs in your country been consulted about the definition of National Urban Policies or similar arrangements?

B. Impact of the SDGs on **sub-national policies and reforms**

- if your country has made any progress in the definition of strategies or priorities linked to the implementation of the SDGs, which are the goals targeted for different sub-national governments and territories? (to get an idea of the local challenges versus the national challenges).
- If so, to what extent do these plans or strategies take into consideration the role or responsibilities of LRGs? Do these strategies consider any policy (or reform) to consolidate or strengthen the legal responsibilities of local and regional governments?
- Do this strategy consider any programme to strengthen local government's capacities for the localization of the SDGs (e.g., training programmes, support for local planning initiatives or local

development, strengthen the management of basic services)? Please provide concrete examples on initiatives or actions whenever available.

- What initiatives have been undertaken to improve process monitoring, data collection and indicators about implementation at the local level?

C. Issues of and questions on **local financing**

- Has the central government of your country provide dedicated funds, or does it plan to provide financial support, to support the implementation of the SDGs at local levels (and/or any other objectives related to the Paris agreement on Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda or the risk-prevention framework)?
- Has your country received or provided Public Development Aid (APD) in support of the “localization” of the SDGs or other global agendas to subnational levels?

**3.2. What do LRGs need to support the ‘localization’ of the SDGs?**

*Please use as much space as needed*

The following guidelines can help you answer Question 3.2.

- Do you believe that, for LRGs to take on bigger responsibilities for the implementation of the SDGs, legal reforms and further decentralization may be necessary?
- Do you believe that a reform of sub-national financing systems, as well as sub-national governments’ access to borrowing (national and international), may be necessary for the successful implementation of the SDGs at the local level?
- What would you define as the main challenges that LRGs have to face in order to achieve the localization of the SDGs and the other development agendas (e.g., decentralization, legal and institutional reforms, inadequate human resources or weak capacities, lack of adequate technologies or access to necessary local data, among others)?
- Is there any indication at national or subnational level about the amount of resources needed to implement the SDGs during the next decade?

## SECTION 4. Local and regional governments: progress in the implementation of the SDGs at the local level

Please use this section to report examples of actions promoted by LRGs in your country in support of SDG implementation at the local level. Reports should take into account the ways in which LRGs have integrated/aligned the SDGs in/with their own local or regional development plans. They should also tell whether LRGs are promoting the involvement of all other local stakeholders. When possible, please mention any relevant sources or web resource in which more information is available, as well as disaggregated indicators at local level.

Many of the SDGs are part of the daily activities of local and regional governments. These are often tasked, already, with improving access to education, health, water and sanitation, managing sustainable waste management, promoting accessibility of mobility and transport for all, providing adequate housing for all residents, in particular the most vulnerable groups, and guaranteeing slum upgrading, ensuring gender equality, strengthening participative urban planning, promoting disaster risk prevention, reducing the environment impact of urban areas, combating air pollution and contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation, among many others. While they may even be unaware of it, many local governments have in fact been taking action to implement the SDGs for a long time.

Accordingly, please **describe**, whenever possible:

- Whether and how sub-national governments have supported the alignment of their local development plans with the SDGs and their targets; whether and how they are adapting local plans to national plans or strategies that have already integrated the SDGs into their fabric so as to make them compatible; whether LRGs have used the SDGs as guiding frameworks to assess and support related local policies.
- Good practices through which LRGs are taking initiative to comply with the SDGs and their targets, as well as with other global goals related to climate change adaptation and mitigation, the New Urban Agenda, risk prevention, etc.
- Any experiences in which LRGs have enhanced their partnerships with local stakeholders (e.g., NGOs, the business sector, academia, grassroots organizations) to support the localization of the global goals: e.g., strengthening the participation of local stakeholders in the definition of local plans or priorities for SDG implementation; local participative planning; participatory budget; or the improvement of stakeholders' involvement in service provision and local policy-making.
- Any relevant indicators or statistical data about progress made in your country in the localization of the SDGs, and particularly SDG 11, provided by either national or local statistical agencies.

What follows is a simple table to collect this information, and systematize consistently the cases and data provided by yours LRGs. However, besides this basic information, please consider including an Annex to this questionnaire, with more extensive descriptions of such cases and practices, also providing any references to web resources that may contain additional detail.





## ANNEX 1 – National Institutional Frameworks for Coordination and Follow-up of the SDGs and Local and Regional Governments Participation

(Source: UCLG, *National and Sub-National Governments on the way towards the Localization of the SDGs, 2017*)

Reporting Country	Mechanism for Coordination	LRGs Participation	Reporting Country	Mechanism for Coordination	LRGs Participation
<b>Afghanistan</b>	High Council of Minister + National Coordination Commission (NCC) multi-stakeholder platform	No LRGs participation reported	<b>Kenya</b>	SDG Coordinating Department/Project Implementation Unit (led by Ministry of Devolution and Planning) + Inter-Agency Technical Working Group + Kenya National Bureau of Statistic	Interministerial Forum provide linkage with County of Governors (CoG) that created a SDG Liaison Office
<b>Argentina</b>	National Coordination Council for Social Policies	No LRGs direct participation, but through sectoral institutions	<b>Luxembourg</b>	Interdepartmental Commission for SD (ICSD) + High Council for SD (consultative)	No direct LGs participation reported
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	National Coordination Council for SD (NCCSD)	No LGs participation reported	<b>Madagascar</b>	Guidance and Follow-up Committee (COS) (headed by the Prime Minister) + Technical Committee (headed by the Ministry of Economy and Planning, include CSOs, private sector and academia)	No direct participation of LRGs reported
<b>Bangladesh</b>	SDGs Implementation and Monitoring Committee	No LGs participation reported	<b>Malaysia</b>	National SDG Council (chaired by PM) + National Steering Committee (chaired by the Director of EPU) + 5 Cluster Working Committees (include ministries, civil society, private sector, academia, UN agencies, youth)	No mention to LGs participation
<b>Belarus</b>	National Council for SD	Regional levels represented	<b>Maldives</b>	National Ministerial Coordination Committee + Technical Committee on SDGs (including CSOs)	No direct participation reported
<b>Belgium</b>	Interdepartmental Commission for SD (ICSD) - Federal Council for SD	Regions represented	<b>Mexico</b>	National Council for the Agenda 2030, chaired by the President Office + Specialized Technical Committee on the SDGs + Specialized cabinet in the Office of the President + 18 Inter-Secretariat Commissions	The associations of LRGs (CONAGO and CONAM) participate in the National Council
<b>Belize</b>	Economic and Sustainable Development Council	No LGs participation reported	<b>Monaco</b>	Coordinated by the Prince of Monaco	--
<b>Benin</b>	Policy Committee chaired by the Ministry of Development and Planning (including private sector and CSOS) + Technical Steering Committee chaired by the Director for the Coordination and Monitoring of the SDGs (including CSOs and private sector)	ANCB participate in both committees	<b>Montenegro</b>	Ministry of SD and Tourism + National Council for Sustainable Development (consultative)	LGs are represented in NCSD

<b>Botswana</b>	Nation Steering Committee SD (multistakeholder) + Technical Task Force + Secretariat in Ministry of Finance and Economic Development	No LGs participation reported	<b>Morocco</b>	Ministerial Working Group (led by the Ministry of Foreign affairs and Cooperation and the High Commissariat of Planning)	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>Brazil</b>	National Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals +Secretariat of the Government of the Presidency + Permanent Technical Advisory + Thematic Chambers + Joint Parliamentary Front to Support SDGs	The associations of States (ABEMA) and municipalities (CNM) participate in the National Commission (Thematic Chambers)	<b>Nepal</b>	Steering Committee chaired by the PM + Technical Committee (chaired by the Vice-chairman of the National Planning Commission) + 9 thematic committees (including CSOs, private sector and development partners)	Local authorities are being elected after 19 years.
<b>Chile</b>	National Council for the Implementation of the Agenda 2030	No participation of LGs	<b>Netherlands</b>	Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, supported by a National Coordinator for SDG + interministerial SDG focal point group	Regular dialogue with LRGs and invited irregularly to interministerial meetings
<b>China</b>	Inter-agency coordination mechanism (43 government departments)	No direct participation, but the report mention that "local governments will set-up corresponding working mechanisms to ensure smooth implementation"	<b>Nigeria</b>	Presidential Committee on the SDGs + Special Office on SDGs , headed by a Senior Special Assistant (located in the PO) + Inter-ministerial Committee on the SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) + Interministerial and Non-Governmental Core Working Group (CWG) +	A state and local government focal person are installed, linked to the OSSAP-SDG
<b>Colombia</b>	High Level Commission for the Alignment and Effective Implementation of the Agenda 2030 and its SDGs	LRGs participate in intersectoral working group	<b>Norway</b>	Ministry of Finance (coordination) + Interministerial contact group led by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Regular dialogue with LRGs
<b>Costa Rica</b>	High Level Commission for the SDGs + Consultative Committee +Technical Secretary leading a Technical Committee + National Forum	LGs participate in the Consultative Committee	<b>Panama</b>	Social Cabinet + Secretary of Presidential Goals + National Concertation Council for Development (multi-stakeholder)	No mention to LRGs participation
<b>Cyprus</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	No participation of LGs reported	<b>Peru</b>	National Center for Strategic Planning (CEPLAN) focal point + National Statistic Institut (INEI) + Concertation Table to Fight Against Poverty (MCLCP) (include CSO)	Regional Authorities participate in a high level mechanism for dialogue (GORE). A similar mechanism will be initiated with municipal authorities (Muni-Ejecutivo)
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Government Council on Sustainable Development	LRGs represented	<b>Philippines</b>	National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Board coordinate + Possible High Level Committee to be created + Philippines Statistics Authority	No direct participation reported

<b>Denmark</b>	Inter-ministerial group, led by Ministry of Finances in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Regular collaboration	<b>Portugal</b>	Two inter-ministerial commissions responsible for the follow-up of the SDGs: 1) for domestic implementation: under the political management of the Ministry of Planning and Infrastructure and 2) on development cooperation: under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>El Salvador</b>	National Council on SD	No LRGs participation reported	<b>Qatar</b>	Different Ministries	---
<b>Egypt</b>	Inter-ministerial national committee (supervised by the PM) + Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform (coordination)	No LRGs participation reported	<b>Republic of Korea</b>	Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) for domestic follow-up (include CSO & academia) + Committee for International Development Cooperation (CIDC) for international policies + Korea National Assembly UN SDG Forum	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>Estonia</b>	Inter-ministerial working group on SD, led by the Government Office Strategy Unit	Participate in the Estonian Sustainable Development Commission (non-governmental level)	<b>Samoa</b>	National SDG Task Force (interministerial), Chaired by Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade + Samoa Statistic Bureau + Inter Agency Experts Group	No reference to LRGs in the report
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Council of Ministers + House of Peoples Representatives + National Planning Commission (coordination)	Consultation at regional levels	<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Presidential Board on SGs (chaired by President) + Ministerial Committee on the SDGs (include CSOs & Private sector) + Pillar working groups	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>Finland</b>	Interministerial Coordination Network + National Commission on SD (chaired by PM) + Development Policy Committee (Parliament) + SD Expert Panel	LRGs represented in the NCSD (4)	<b>Slovenia</b>	not informed	No reference to LRGs in the main message
<b>France</b>	Inter-Ministerial Delegate for Sustainable Development and General Commissioner for Sustainable Development	LRGs are represented in consultative mechanisms, e.g. National Council for Ecological Transition and National Council for Development and International Solidarity	<b>Sweden</b>	Minister for Public Administration + Ministry International Development Cooperation and Climate + Committee tasked with supporting work on Sweden's implementation of the 2030 Agenda + inter-ministerial working group + Delegation for the 2030 Agenda (tasked for the dialogue with stakeholders)	Regular dialogue with LRGs
<b>Georgia</b>	'Interagency working group' to be created	No LRGs participation reported	<b>Switzerland</b>	Federal Council + Interdepartmental SD Committee + inter-ministerial Task force for the 2030 Agenda and Addis Ababa Action Agenda + Office for Spatial Development (ARE) + Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	Participation of cantons but not municipal level

<b>Germany</b>	State Secretarie's Committee + Parliamentary Advisory Council on SD + German Council for SD (15 personalities)	LRGs participate in the Interministerial Group on Urban Development - LRGs regularly consulted	<b>Tajikistan</b>	Council for National Development (under the President) + Secretariat of the National Development Strategy	No reference to L&R Units in the monitoring mechanism
<b>Guatemala</b>	--	--	<b>Thailand</b>	National Committee for Sustainable Development (CSD), chaired by the PM, with three subcommittees	'No reference to LGs in the main message
<b>Honduras</b>	High Level Commission for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda + Technical Committee + Government Secretary for General Coordination	LRG represented in the High Level Committee	<b>Togo</b>	Stakeholder commission of the National Development Plan	LRGs are represented (UCT)
<b>India</b>	National Institution for the Transformation of India (NITI Aayog), chaired by the PM	Only States Chief Minister are represented	<b>Turkey</b>	High Planning Council, at the level of the Prime Minister's office + Ministry of Development (contact point) + National Sustainable Development Commission	No direct participation of LRGs reported
<b>Indonesia</b>	Ministry of Planning (BAPPENAS) + SDGs National Coordination Team (including Steering Committee, Implementing Team, Working Groups, Expert Teams and Secretariat)	No LGs participation reported at national level, by at province and local levels	<b>Uganda</b>	SDG Policy Coordination Committee + SDG Implementation Steering Committee + SDG National Task Force + 5 SDG Technical Working Group	No direct participation of LRGs reported
<b>Iran</b>	National Committee for Sustainable Development (NCSD)(interministerial hub)	No LGs participation reported	<b>Uruguay</b>	Planning and Budget Office (OPP), with the support of the Statistical Office and the International Cooperation Agency	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>Italy</b>	Ministry of Environment (coordination)	RGs were involved at the State-Regions Conference (Conferenza Stato-Regioni).	<b>Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic)</b>	Council of Vice-Presidents + Interinstitutional Group for the Follow-up of the Implementation of the SDGs + Sectoral committees	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>Japan</b>	SDGs Promotion Headquarter	LRGs involved in SDG Promotion Roundtables (consultative level)	<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Steering Committee at Ministerial Level (chaired by the Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet) + Technical Committee with stakeholders participation	No LRGs direct participation reported
<b>Jordan</b>	Higher Steering Committee (PMO) + Higher National Committee for Sustainable Development + Coordination Committee + Working groups	Local council representatives participate in working groups			