

Voluntary Local Review

- Review of SDGs at local level -

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International Forum on SDGs for Regional Revitalization 2021
14th January 2021



What is SDGs?

Sep 2015

- ◆ SDGs is the core part of **”Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”** adopted at the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit on 25 September 2015.
- ◆ This UN agenda starts as **“Preamble”** and follows as **“Declaration”**, **“Sustainable Development Goals and targets”** (writes down all 17 goals and 169 targets), **“Means of implementation and the Global Partnership”**, and **“Follow-up and review”**.
- ◆ It is highlighted **“Voluntary”** and **“Nationally-led”** in the chapter of **“Follow-up and review”**. It also stipulates that the follow-up and review at global level will be done at **“High Level Political Forum (HLPF)”**.
- ◆ Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are set as plenary session of HLPF since 2016 and Government of Japan reported her VNR report in the year of 2017.

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

Voluntary National Reviews Database

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven" (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the high-level political forum (HLPF), meeting under the auspices of ECOSOC. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

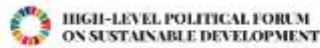
The voluntary national reviews (VNRs) aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The VNRs also seek to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This online review platform is dedicated to compiling information from countries participating in the voluntary national reviews of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

The documents and reports submitted by States that are available on this website have been placed on the platform as received from those States. The designations employed do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory or area, or of its authorities, or concerning its frontiers or boundaries ([scroll down](#)).

FEATURED

- **New:** Letter of the President of ECOSOC on the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at HLPF 2021 (30 July)
- 2019 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report
- UPDATED Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum for sustainable development (HLPF)
- Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of VNR Reports (2016-2019)



HANDBOOK

FOR THE PREPARATION OF

VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS

The 2021 Edition



Handbook for the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

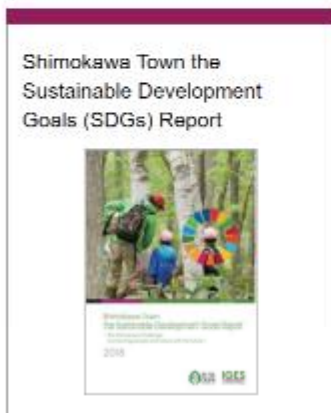
- ◆ UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) summarizes review process and way of writing VNRs report including table of contents into a handbook annually.
- ◆ This handbook includes not only reviewing Goals, but also “integration of SDGs into policies”, “no one will be left behind”, “integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions”.
- ◆ Participation of multi-stakeholders is highly recommended.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27024Handbook_2021_EN.pdf

What is VLR?

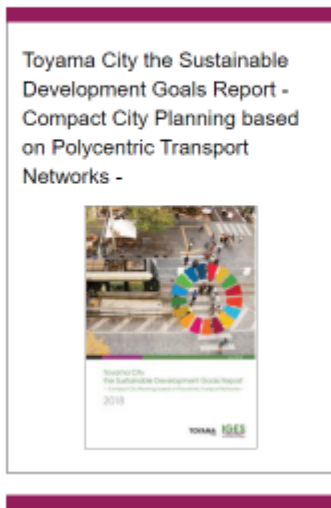
- ◆ **Voluntary Local Review of SDGs**
- ◆ **VLR was firstly recognized at HLPF2018 in July 2018, New York when Mr. Kitahashi (Mayor of Kitakyushu City) launched VLR reports for City of Kitakyushu, City of Toyama, Town of Shimokawa besides City of New York.**
- ◆ **Mr. Suzuki (Mayor of Hamamatsu City) also launched her VLR report for City of Hamamatsu at SDGs summit (once a four years) in Sep 2019 in New York.**
- ◆ **Major Urban Forums start to includes VLR sessions.**
- ◆ **UN DESA organized an online VLR workshop in June 2020.**
- ◆ **VLR is now globally recognized as the way to report the progress of SDGs at local level.**

July 2018



<https://archive.iges.or.jp/en/sdgs/report.html>

Sustainable Development Goals Reports on Cities - Launch of the World-First Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) on Shimokawa, Toyama, and Kitakyushu



16 July—IGES is pleased to announce the launch of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) / Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Reports today on the sidelines of the 2018 UN High Level Political Forum held in New York. The VLR reports document the efforts of three local authorities in Japan working to advance the SDGs—namely, Shimokawa Town (Hokkaido), Toyama City (Toyama Prefecture), and Kitakyushu City (Fukuoka Prefecture), which led to their selection as "SDGs Future Cities" by the Japanese government in June 2018.

The reports, jointly written with IGES, comprise some of the first SDG reporting carried out by local governments anywhere in the world. All reports are structured around the "Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews: 2018 Edition", taking into account specific characteristics and the level of progress on SDG initiatives in each respective city. While all cities recognise the importance of engaging in the SDG agenda, many are still working to find ways to adapt the Goals into their local context with regard to implementation and monitoring. These reports seek to contribute to the sharing of good practices on the SDGs between local authorities, illustrating how three Japanese cities are driving action on the SDGs both in terms of policy and planning.

VLR Lab

Since March 2019

This online platform provides all you need to know about cities and regions taking a lead on "Voluntary Local Reviews."

VLR Lab Home

News

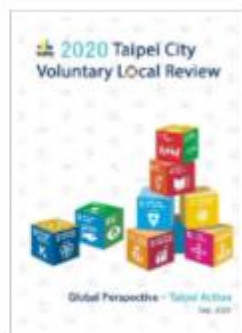
Events

About VLR

Background

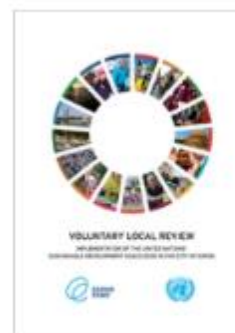
Form

VLR-YEAR:2020



Taipei City

Learn more



Espoo

Learn more



City of Turku

Learn more

<https://www.iges.or.jp/en/projects/vlr>

by Government of Japan

December 22, 2016

SDGs Promotion Headquarters

December 20, 2019

Partial Revision

1 Introduction

(1) Significance of the 2030 Agenda

In today's global economy where people, goods and capital move world-wide, global issues such as climate change, natural disasters and infectious diseases often occur across the border one after another, hampering economic growth and causing severe impacts on social (ellipsis)

The Government of Japan will proactively participate in and contribute to the global follow-up and review process of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through participation in the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF). For the HLPF's Voluntary National Review (VNR), periodic reviews will be conducted at the appropriate timing. The active implementation of Voluntary Local Review (VLR), in coordination with local governments, will also be encouraged. In addition, Japan will cooperate with the STI Forum and contribute to the formulation of the STI for SDGs roadmap implemented by the United Nations.

Review of the Implementation Guiding Principles will be carried out continuously at least every four years in accordance with the UN SDG summit cycle. At that time, the review will be conducted with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders, just as revision of this Implementation Guiding Principle was.

July 2020

Summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council at its 2020 session

Introduction

The high-level political forum on sustainable development under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council convened from 7 to 16 July 2020, in a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It included a three-day ministerial segment, from 14 to 16 July 2020.

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/269252020_HLPF_Presidents_summary.pdf

and promote the renewable energy industry and to quickly extend access to renewable energy technologies in underserved areas, including through public and private finance, are critical in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, and called for the deployment of modern renewables to be scaled up in all end-use sectors, with private sector investment and appropriate governance, institutional and regulatory structures. Innovation is critical in all aspects of the energy system to arrive at zero emissions by 2050, requiring concurrent deployment of various technological options. Digitalization in managing modern energy systems and reducing energy demand growth was highlighted. The High-level Dialogue on Energy to be convened in 2021 provides an important opportunity to forge new transformational partnerships.

Bolstering local action to control the pandemic and accelerate implementation

The Forum stressed the critical role that local and regional governments are playing in

Subnational reviews of SDG implementation, also called the Voluntary Local Reviews, were highlighted as useful for increasing local commitment to the SDGs and for integrating the Goals into strategies, budgeting, procurement procedures and other key areas. Inclusion of local and regional governments in the Voluntary National Reviews was also stressed.

Transformative pathways to realize the 2030 Agenda: a whole of society approach taking into account the impact of COVID19 (Stakeholder perspective)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating and highly disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable communities, notably women, children, persons with disabilities, youth, indigenous peoples, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups identified in the 2030 Agenda in communities all over the world, exacerbating pre-existing economic, social, and

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/269252020_HLPF_Presidents_summary.pdf

Subnational reviews of SDG implementation, also called the **Voluntary Local Reviews**, were highlighted as useful for increasing local commitment to the SDGs and for integrating the Goals into strategies, budgeting, procurement procedures and other key areas. Inclusion of local and regional governments in the **Voluntary National Reviews** was also stressed.

SDGs実施の地域での進捗レビュー、またはいわゆる「Voluntary Local Reviews（地域における自発的なSDGs進捗レビュー）」が、地域でのSDGsへのコミットメントを増していくこと、および、SDGsのゴールを（自治体の）戦略、予算、調達手段、その他の主要な分野と統合するために有益であることが強調された。自治体政府を「Voluntary National Reviews」に含めていくことも強調された。（藤野仮訳）

HLPF2020 経済社会理事会 会長サマリーより抜粋

https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/269252020_HLPF_Presidents_summary.pdf



Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews

Reviewing local progress to accelerate action for the
Sustainable Development Goals



Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines
On Voluntary Local Reviews

Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines On Voluntary Local Reviews

MANUALS AND TRAINING MATERIALS

30 October 2020

As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member States to 'conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels, which are country-led and country-driven'. As part of this review, starting in 2016, countries have presented their Voluntary National Reviews to the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. Inspired by the VNRs, local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in their own subnational reviews – the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), which have proven useful for cities and regions to foster SDG localization and demonstrate local governments' capacity and commitments.

Although gaining in momentum, the VLR process does not have any official status as part of the formal follow-up and review processes hosted by the UN. There exists no specific template or official format that cities can follow if they choose to undertake a VLR. Developed in partnership with the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization, the Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews builds on existing resources and provides practical tools, checklists, and templates that local governments and other stakeholders can use when reviewing local progress against the SDGs. The content is designed to provide cities with context regarding the 2030 Agenda as well as guidance specific to the region to help them decide where to start, how to start and what to keep in mind when conducting a VLR.

Share this article



<https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-voluntary-local-reviews>



Topics

Voluntary Local Reviews

Reports from Local Authorities

You can see below a few examples from local local authorities on their contribution to SDG implementation

If you would like to submit a Voluntary Local Review report developed by your city/region/province, please, send a pdf version to dsdg@un.org with the Subject: Voluntary Local Review from [Add the name of the city/region/province and country]. Submissions are reviewed on a regular basis.

Report Name	Year	Language	Link	Place of Implementation	Government	Level	Country
Agenda 2030 on the local level: implementation of the un sustainable development goals in bonn	2020	English	link	Bonn	City of Bonn	City	Germany
Voluntary Local Review - Buenos Aires Adaptation of the 2030 Agenda (2020)	2020	English	link	Buenos Aires	Buenos Aires City	City	Argentina
Ghent Sustainability Report 2020 - Voluntary Local Review	2020	English	link	Ghent	City of Ghent	City	Belgium
Vibrancy, Inclusion, and Openness; a Mega-City's Road Towards Green Development - UN SDGs Guanzhou	2020	English	link	Guangzhou	City of Guanzhou	City	China

Recommended Structure of Reporting in VNR Handbook 2021

1. Opening Statement／市長等からのメッセージ
 2. Highlights／ハイライト
 3. Introduction／はじめに
 4. Methodology and process for preparation of the review／レビューの方法とプロセス
 5. Policy and enabling environment／政策&実現を可能にする環境
 - a. Creating ownership of the Sustainable Development / 主体性の創出
 - b. Incorporation of the SDGs in national frameworks／既存枠組への統合
 - c. Integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions／経済・社会・環境の調和
 - d. Leaving no one behind／誰一人取り残されない
 - e. Institutional mechanisms／組織・制度
 - f. Structural issues／構造的課題
 6. Progress on Goals and targets／ゴール&ターゲットの達成状況
 7. Means of implementation／実施の方法
 8. Conclusion and next steps／結論と次のステップ
- Annexes／別添

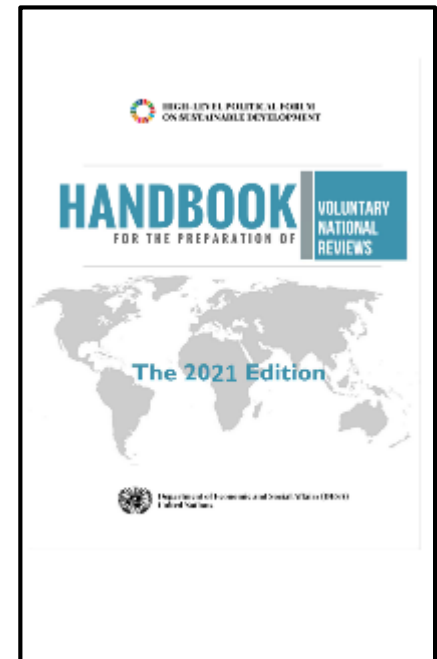


Table 2 – Main Components of each VLR. Source: Authors

City	Statement by the Mayor	Methodology and process	Policy and enabling environment						Progress on Goals and targets	Means of implementation	Conclusion
			Creating ownership of the SDGs	SDG alignment	Integration of the three dimensions	Leaving no one behind	Institutional mechanisms	Structural issues			
2018											
Kitakyushu	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	●	★	★	★
New York	●	★	★	△	●	★	●	●	★	◆	★
Toyama	★	★	★	★	★	★	●	●	★	★	★
Shimokawa	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
2019											
Bristol	★	★	★	◆	△	★	★	★	★	●	★
Buenos Aires	●	●	◆	★	◆	◆	★	●	★	◆	★
Hamamatsu	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★	★
Helsinki	★	★	●	★	●	●	★	●	★	●	★
La Paz	★	★	●	★	★	★	★	★	★	△	★
Los Angeles	★	★	◆	★	●	◆	★	●	★	●	★
New Taipei	★	★	★	★	●	●	★	●	★	●	★
New York	★	★	★	★	●	★	★	●	★	◆	★
Santana	★	★	△	★	●	●	★	●	★	★	★
Taipei	★	★	★	★	●	●	★	●	★	●	★
2020											
Manheim	★	●	★	★	●	★	★	●	★	★	★
Oaxaca	●	★	★	★	★	●	★	●	●	★	★

LEGEND	
★ VLR refers to this element	● VLR does not refer to this element
△ VLR refers partially to this element	◆ VLR refers to other documents, policies, or mechanisms

IGES(2020) State of the Voluntary Local Reviews 2020:Local Action for Global Impact in Achieving the SDGs

Sustainable
Development
starts from
your ground.

VLR is a now
common tool
to show your
SDGs progress
at local level.

