

Session 3: Local-level SDG monitoring (SDG localization) – Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs)



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*Workshop on supporting evidence-based VNRs
and SDG reporting: data and statistics innovations*
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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.”(2030 Agenda, para. 79)

These reviews at the sub-national level are also known as **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**



Photo by [Sefa Köksal](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Role and importance of **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)**:

Encourages Member States to collaborate closely with the local and sub-regional governments

Encourages local authorities to share information on how they are helping achieve the SDGs

Enhances coordination between different levels of government and adds input to the national Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)

VLRs should be guided by key principles from 2030 Agenda (para. 74) applying to all reviews, i.e.:

Longer-term orientation, identifying achievements, challenges, gaps and will help mobilize necessary means of implementation and partnerships;

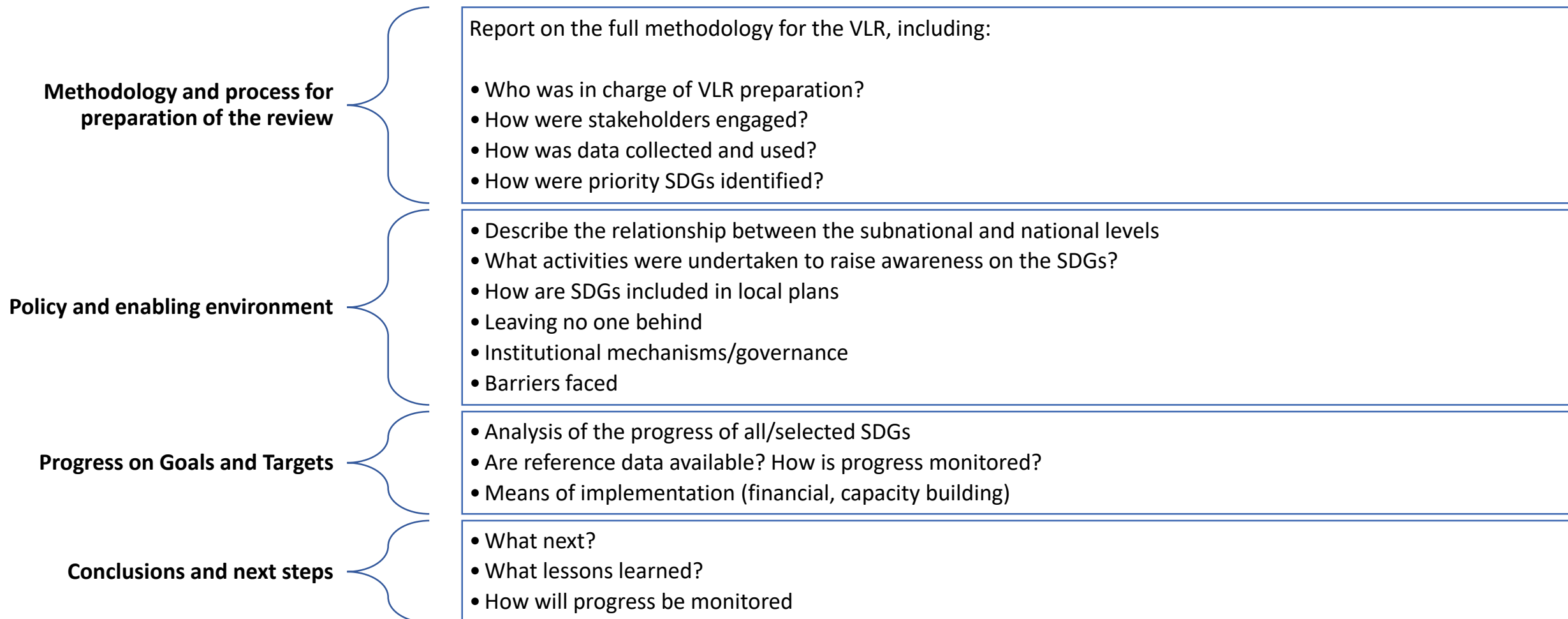
Open, inclusive, participatory and transparent;

People-centered, gender-sensitive, respect human rights and have a particular focus on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind;

Rigorous and based on evidence



Possible **VLR** structure



Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in the World



VLRs repository available at:

<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>

Good **VLR** examples

- **Melbourne, Australia** ([link](#)): Good examples on how to use VLR as a basis for continuing the M&E (monitoring and evaluation) of local policies
- **Amsterdam, Netherlands** ([link](#)): Great examples of sustainable urban development
- **Indonesia VNR** ([link](#)) & **West Java VLR**: good example of aligning national and local data to the SDGs
- **Pakistan VNR** ([link](#)): Voluntary sub-national review/sub-national profiles and district dashboards
- **Kenya VNR** ([link](#)): includes a section written by Kenya's Council of Governors, which has been very active in advancing local sustainability

Additional resources: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews#resources>

- DESA's Global Guiding Elements for VLRs: https://sdgs.un.org/sites/default/files/2020-10/GlobalGuidingElementsforVLRs_FINAL.pdf

The six Asia-Pacific VLRs have used a mixed approach to their use of indicators. Most have adapted the 'official' indicators as much as possible to match local data availability, while also introducing their own, either developed previously as part of other monitoring activities or developed new for the purpose of the VLR specifically. (pg. 33)

- ESCAP's Asia-Pacific Regional Guideline on VLRs: <https://www.unescap.org/resources/asia-pacific-regional-guidelines-voluntary-local-reviews>
- *(forthcoming, late-2023/early-2024)* DESA policy brief about the role of SDG localization in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda
- *(forthcoming, in advance of HLPF 2024)* DESA compilation of policy briefs examining specific topics under SDG localization

THANK YOU!

