

## **Interregional cooperation for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda**

### **Launch of the Local Voluntary Review for the city of Agadir**

**OCTOBER 25, 2023**

**Agadir, Morocco**

#### **Context :**

Since 2015, Morocco has been committed to meeting the challenges of sustainable development and monitoring progress towards achieving the SDGs, being one of the 193 countries that signed up to the global partnership to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the United Nations Summit on Sustainable Development in New York. At the heart of the Agenda are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that define the blueprint for this vision.

Using a mechanism to review the implementation of the Agenda and a set of global indicators, Morocco has developed two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), in 2016 and 2020, with the support of UN agencies and in close collaboration with public, private and third sector organisations, which were presented at high-level political forums. The VNRs aim to facilitate sharing experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the agenda.

In 2016, at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) was adopted by all member states, including Morocco. The NUA emphasises that it is essential to respond to the acceleration of urbanisation on a global scale by guaranteeing social, economic, environmental and spatial sustainability. It underlines the central role of SDG 11, which aims to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, as a framework for achieving sustainable urban development. With this in mind, Morocco has drawn up its first voluntary report on the New Urban Agenda in 2021.

Sustainable urban development cannot be achieved without the commitment of all relevant stakeholders, including local authorities. In fact, according to the 2030 Agenda SDGs and the NUA, 65% of the 169 SDG targets cannot be achieved without the involvement of local and regional authorities. Therefore, the implementation of the SDGs at national level is a direct reflection of countries' commitment to the 2030 Agenda. However, it is only by localising the SDGs and strengthening national-local policy dialogue that the goals of the 2030 Agenda can be achieved.

Since 2018, local authorities around the world have begun to develop Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) to highlight the importance of localising the SDGs and to monitor progress on implementation at a local level. The review is a way of highlighting local development priorities in relation to the SDGs. Using evidence, this local review analyses the city's strengths, challenges and opportunities for achieving the sustainable development agenda.

By 2022, more than 140 VLRs had been published on the status of localisation of the SDGs in cities in different regions of the world, with the exception of the Arab region.

In line with its commitment to advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the NUA, the Municipality of Agadir, with the support of the Haut-Commissariat au Plan (Regional entity of Souss-Massa), has made significant efforts to develop the VLR of the city of Agadir. These efforts have been made with the support and in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the United Cities and Local Governments of the Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA). This concerted effort was carried out under the aegis of the global development project "Interregional Cooperation for Implementing the New Urban Agenda", implemented in nine cities around the world, including two in the Arab region: Amman in Jordan and Agadir in Morocco.

The development of the Agadir VLR followed an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach. The consultative process involved several stakeholders from the public sector, academia, civil society, the private sector and international organizations, among others. It examined the city's progress in implementing some of the SDGs and addressing key local development priorities, with a focus on: SDG 5 on gender equality, SDG 6 on water, SDG 7 on energy, SDG 8 on work, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, SDG 13 on climate change and SDG 17 on partnership. This work also focused on analysing the impact of COVID-19 and ICTs on the municipality of Agadir. In fact, the VLR of the city of Agadir is a means of promoting international dialogue with other cities at national, regional and global levels and of effectively articulating a long-term strategy for localising and achieving the SDGs, while ensuring consistency with national policies and strategies.

**Goals :**

- Launch of Agadir Voluntary Local Review, highlighting the approach adopted, the achievements and challenges;
- Build partners' capacity in data collection mechanisms, resilience and inclusive sustainable development;
- Discuss the development challenges and opportunities facing the city of Agadir in relation to the PAC.

**Language :** Presentations and discussions will be in French and Arabic.

**Location :** Dominion Hotel (Avenue Abdelkrim El Khatib, Founty Agadir)

Programme :

<p><b>10am-11am</b></p>	<p><b>Opening session:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Opening remarks by the Municipality of Agadir :</li> <li>- Opening remarks by UN-ESCWA: <b>Ms Sukaina Al-Nasrawi</b> Director of the Sustainable Urban Development Portfolio</li> <li>- Opening remarks by UN-Habitat: <b>Mr Abdellatif Bouazza</b>, Head of the Morocco Office</li> <li>- Opening remarks by UCLG-MENA: <b>Ms Reem Abusamra</b> Senior Research Officer</li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms Nagwa Lachine</p>
<p><b>11am-12am</b></p>	<p><b>Session 1 :</b>  <b><i>SDG Localization Report: Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Process: Agadir Case Overview</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Localisation of the SDGs: National commitment to localize the SDGs at regional and local levels: <b>Mr Abdeslam NADAH - Director of Planning, Haut-Commissariat au Plan/HCP</b></li> <li>- Guiding principles and participatory process for the development of VLRs: <b>Ms Agata Krause, consultant</b></li> <li>- - Challenges and opportunities related to data collection and management at local level - The case of the Municipality of Agadir: <b>Mr Zakaria Oulad Member of the Council of the Municipality of Agadir</b></li> </ul> <p>Moderator: Ms Laila Oubali          Questions and discussions</p>
<p><b>12pm-12:30pm</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee break</b></p>
<p><b>12:30 pm – 1:30 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Session 2:</b>  <b><i>Evidence-based policies and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA)</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Global Urban Monitoring Framework: <b>Ms Yasmine Alawamleh, sub-regional coordinator, expert in urban data management-UN-Habitat</b></li> <li>- SDG Cities Flagship Programme: <b>Abdellatif Bouazza Head of Office Morocco - UN-Habitat</b></li> <li>- Resilience and smart cities: <b>Ms Sukaina Al-Nasrawi, Director of the Sustainable Urban Development Portfolio – UNESCWA</b></li> </ul> <p>-Moderator: Soukaina Ait El Qadi          Questions and discussions</p>
<p><b>2:30 pm - 3 pm</b></p>	<p><b>Closing session: Project results and future prospects</b>  <b>Lunch break</b></p>