



Shared Prosperity Dignified Life



# SDG measuring and monitoring at the national and local levels

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# Structure

- What are SDGs?
- Why do we measure progress towards SDGs?
- How do we measure progress towards SDGs?
  - Measuring and monitoring at the national and local levels
- Conclusions

## What the Sustainable Development Goals?

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon:

“The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals are our shared vision of humanity and a social contract between the world's leaders and the people,”

“They are a to-do list for people and planet, and a blueprint for success.”



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





To keep the global spotlight focused on climate change and build on the strong political momentum from Paris, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon invited representatives of all countries to sign **the Paris Agreement on climate change** at a special Ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters on 22 April. The Signing Ceremony took place on the first day that the Agreement opened for signatures, and marked the first step toward ensuring that the Agreement enters into legal force as quickly as possible.

175 countries signed the Agreement. [See the full list.](#)

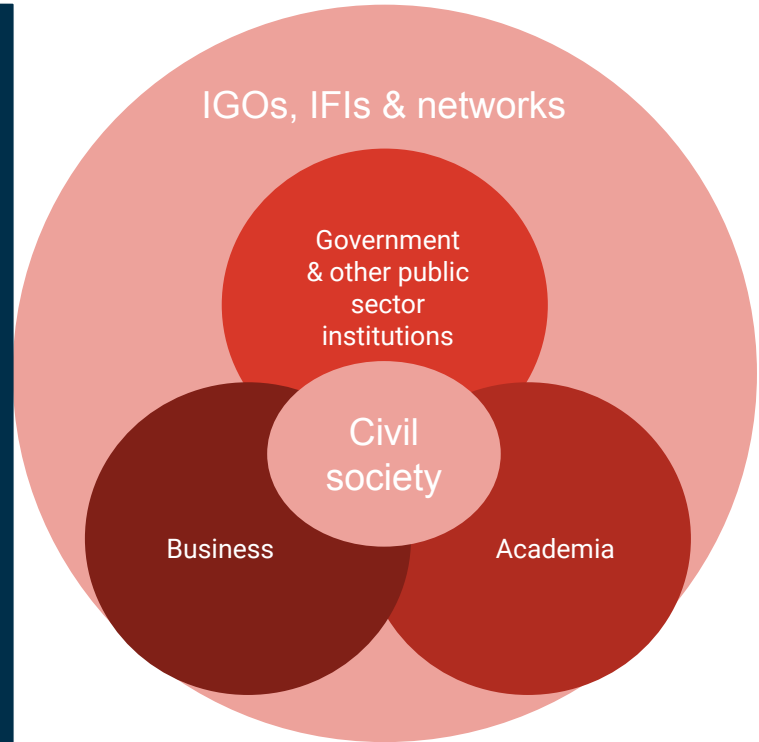
# Why the Sustainable Development Goals?

- The Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future. Millennium Development
- Introduction of Millennium Development Goals in 2010 to tackle North-South divide and humanitarian crisis in developing contexts
- A critical review led to the introduction of the 2030 Agenda, with its 17 SDGs and 169 targets, and its endorsement by 192 member Countries in 2015.



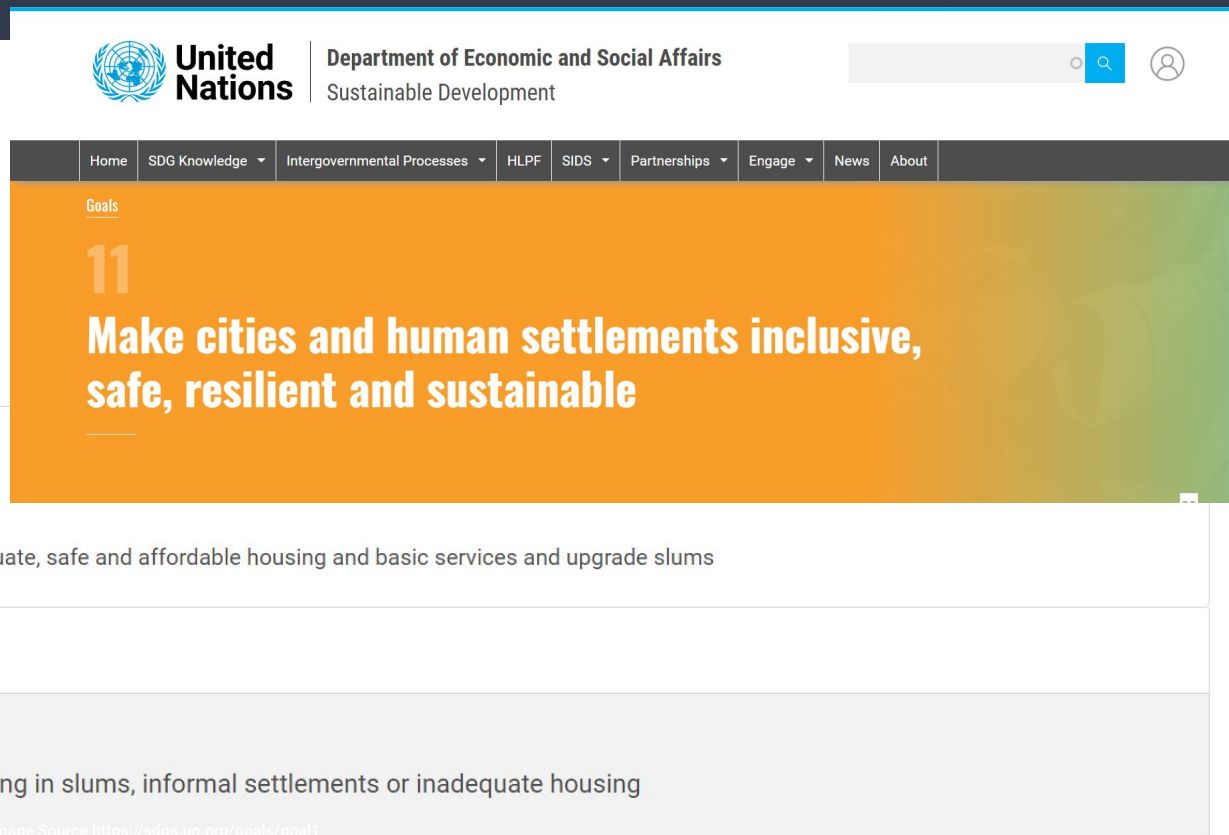
## Who is responsible for implementing SDGs?

- Global governance for sustainable development
- The Quadruple + helix model:
  - government(s)
  - businesses
  - academia
  - civils society
  - ++ (IGOs; IFIs, networks)
- A collective responsibility for leaving no-one (and no-where !) behind.



# Zooming in: SDG goals, targets, indicators

## TARGETS AND INDICATORS



The screenshot shows the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development website. The main header includes the UN logo, the text 'United Nations', and 'Department of Economic and Social Affairs Sustainable Development'. A navigation menu contains links for Home, SDG Knowledge, Intergovernmental Processes, HLPF, SIDS, Partnerships, Engage, News, and About. The main content area features a large orange banner for Goal 11: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'. Below this, a detailed view of Target 11.1 is shown: 'By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums'. Underneath, the Indicators section lists indicator 11.1.1: 'Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing'. A small icon for Goal 11 is visible on the left side of the page.

United Nations  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs  
Sustainable Development

Home SDG Knowledge Intergovernmental Processes HLPF SIDS Partnerships Engage News About

Goals

11  
Make cities and human settlements inclusive,  
safe, resilient and sustainable

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Target  
**11.1**  
By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Indicators ▲

**11.1.1**  
Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing

Image Source <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>



# Quantitative and Qualitative SDG targets



Target

**1.1**

By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than \$1.25 a day

Indicators ▾



Target

**1.2**

By 2030, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions

Indicators ▾



Target

**1.3**

Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable

# **Measuring progress towards SDGs**

## SDG reporting at the national level

- Official UN reporting mechanism is at the national level
- It is centred around developing the Voluntary National Review (VNNR)
- Primary role in data collection is played by the National Statistics Offices,
- VNRs highlight the importance of disaggregation of data by various categories: gender, income, race etc.

## What are Voluntary National Reviews?

- Official part of the UN reporting: Para 79 of the 2030 Agenda states: "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven".
- Presented at the High-level political forum (HLPF) meeting of the UN under the auspices of ECOSOC.
- Objectives: to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned + to strengthen policies and institutions of governments and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM



HOME

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

STATES

SIDS

SDGS

TOPICS

UN SYSTEM

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

PARTNERSHIPS

RESOURCES

ABOUT



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

**VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS**

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

## What are Voluntary Local Reviews?

- Reports in which cities discuss the performance and the progress towards achieving SDGs; mirroring VNRs
- Are not part of the official UN reporting
- Yet.. are discussed by the UN organizations and agencies and governments at the High Level Political Forum!
- UN portal on VLRs: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>

## What is the value-added of VLRs?

- Allow assessing progress towards SDGs
- Reinforce mainstreaming of SDGs into policy process and decision-making
- Highlight the role of urban data in evidence-based policy-making
- Enhance participatory processes and partnership-building across levels of governance and sectors
- Enable development of local data eco-systems
- Provide opportunity to showcase good practices in accelerating progress towards SDGs
- Provide platform to participate in international processes and to discuss development challenges with international community vis a vis national governments and other groups of stakeholders
- .. and many others.

Year	Local / regional government	Country	Report(s)	Language	Member State VNR
2022	City of Tampere	Finland	 <a href="#">City of Sustainable Action</a>	English	<a href="#">2020 VNR</a> , <a href="#">2016 VNR</a>
2021	City of Subang Jaya	Malaysia	 <a href="#">Subang Jaya Voluntary Local Review 2021, Implementing the 2030 Agenda in the City of Subang Jaya</a>	English	<a href="#">2020 VNR</a>
2021	Pará State Government	Brazil	 <a href="#">2nd VLR_State of Pará_Brazil</a>	English	<a href="#">2017 VNR</a>
2021	Asker municipality	Norway	 <a href="#">Agenda 2030 in Asker, Voluntary local review 2021</a>	English	<a href="#">2021 VNR</a>
2021	City of Helsinki	Finland	 <a href="#">From Agenda to Action: Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Helsinki 2021</a>	English	<a href="#">2020 VNR</a>
2021	City of Ghent	Belgium	 <a href="#">Ghent Sustainability Report 2021 - Focus on People - Voluntary Local Review</a>	English	<a href="#">VNR 2017</a>
2021	Government of the State of Tabasco	Mexico	 <a href="#">Informe Local Voluntario 2021- Gobierno Del Estado De Tabasco -Consejo Estatal de la Agenda 2030 para el Desarrollo Sostenible</a>	Spanish	<a href="#">2021 VNR</a>
2021	Municipalidad de Lima	Peru	 <a href="#">INFORME LOCAL VOLUNTARIO-LIMA-2021</a>	Spanish	<a href="#">2020 VNR Report</a>

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





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

# Conclusions

- The UN SDG monitoring system was designed for the national-level reporting
- It requires transposing the national-level indicators to the local level (it is not a copy-paste process)
- It can be carried out with support of international standards for measuring SDGs at the local level: ISO standards, the UN standards: the Key Performance Indicators for Smart Sustainable Cities, the Urban Monitoring Framework
- The SDG measuring and reporting only partially focus on statistics, in fact it includes an elaborate “qualitative” component
- VLRs become a driving force for localization of SDGs across contexts.