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# VNR LABS

## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

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Multi-level governance and subnational reporting on VNRs and VLRs

*Wednesday 8 July 2020, 8:00-9:00 New York time*

### CONCEPT NOTE

The aim of this Lab is to advance understanding how productive interaction of national and subnational levels of governance enables attaining the SDGs, including through assessing the linkages between the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and the subnational reviews, also known as Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). The event will also assist a broad range of stakeholders in making informed decisions on assuming the most effective roles of different levels of governance in SDG delivery and reviewing the progress.

The contributions of local and regional governments to SDG implementation have been highlighted in numerous VNRs with countries reporting on local and regional level plans and programming efforts, subnational coordination structures, partnerships, contributions to data collection and other activities. Several countries have also reported that representatives of local and regional governments or their associations are included in the national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation, and have been part of their delegations attending the HLPF.

Local and regional governments are increasingly engaging in Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR), which have proved useful for cities and regions to foster SDG localization and demonstrate local governments' capacity and commitments. While the VLRs are not mandated by the United Nations and hold no official status, the process of undertaking these sub-national reviews are providing multiple benefits to the entities engaging in them and to SDG implementation at large. VLRs can also help to reinforce vertical coherence and complement the VNR process.

The Lab will also investigate effective modalities of engaging the cities in implementing Agenda 2030 by comparing [diversity of subnational roles in different types of national urban and territorial policy and governance frameworks](#). In this context, it is important to look at the transnational cooperation between the cities in different continents. Mannheim in Germany has worked with Chongqing in China on SDG 8 "Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all" and SDG 9 "Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation", and New York City and Barcelona – on innovation to make housing in their cities more affordable for the local population, target 11.1 "By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums" of SDG 11 "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".

The Lab will include contributions from national Governments, cities, regional intergovernmental organizations and other relevant actors. It will benefit a wide audience of stakeholders at various levels and roles of the urban and territorial governance of sustainable development.