

## **HLPF: Transformation from the Ground Up: Acting at Local Level**

### **Speaking Notes of Mr. Tebogo Matlou, Panelist**

1. SALGA collaborated with UN-DESA, UNDP and Department of Monitoring and Evaluation. In 2024–2025, SALGA hosted a 7-month SDG localisation training series with the financial support from UN-DESA, UNDP, and coordination with DPME.

**Outcome: Local officials co-created draft SDG-aligned development priorities now integrated into their 2025–2026 IDPs.**

2. SALGA supported municipalities to integrate the SDGs into their Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) and District Development Model (DDM) One Plans.

**Example: The City of Cape Town included SDG-based service delivery metrics in its One Plan, particularly for water access (SDG 6) and inclusive urban transport (SDG 11). Buffalo City engagement with Mercedes (SDG 17)**

3. SALGA collaborated with Stats SA and development partners to create localised indicator frameworks that correspond with the SDGs. For example, in eThekweni and the City of Johannesburg, SDG-linked indicators are included in municipal dashboards and used as guides.

Examples: In eThekweni Metro, the municipal dashboard now includes SDG-aligned metrics such as:

- % of households with access to basic sanitation (SDG 6)
  - Youth employment rates disaggregated by gender (SDG 8 and 5).
  - City of Johannesburg integrated Stats SA-aligned indicators into spatial planning tools to track informal settlement upgrades (SDG 11).
4. SALGA's VLR and VSR processes enabled non-state actors, including youth, women, and civil society, to participate in local governance. Municipal youth consultations were held to inform SDG planning in cities such as Johannesburg, Mogale City (Youth Council), Koukama, and Rustenburg in collaboration with African Monitor, Trust, Sonke Gender Justice Save the Children, and Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF) as we celebrate Mandela Day on July 18, 2025. LG produced 10 reports at once through the support of SALGAs program. It became one of only a handful of

VSRs and VLR globally that directly shaped its country's Voluntary National Review (VNR).

5. VLR and VSR processes supported by SALGA have opened space for non-state actors, especially youth, women, and civil society, to participate meaningfully in local governance. In collaboration with African Monitor, Trust, Sonke Gender Justice Save the Children, Nelson Mandela Foundation (NMF) as we celebrate Mandela Day on the 18 July 2025, municipal youth consultations were held to inform SDG planning in cities like Johannesburg and Mogale City (Youth Council), Koukama, Rustenburg?
6. In 2024, SALGA led the coordination of its first Voluntary Subnational Review (VSR), with the support from UCLG and UCLGA, compiling inputs from municipalities across all nine provinces (We are part of the 45 Regional Associations Globally).

## **Challenges**

1. Limited local capacity
2. Lack of reliable, disaggregated local data
3. Misalignment between local, provincial, and national plans
4. Lack of resources for VLR development and SDG programs