IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA
IN THE PACIFIC

puf5

PRESENTATIONS
SPECIAL SESSION 2

SPECIAL SESSION 2:

Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals - Strategies and Tools for Policymaking

Host

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REVITALISING INFORMAL
SETTLEMENTS AND
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SPECIAL SESSION 2:
Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals - Strategies and Tools for Policymaking

Day 1 (1 July, 2019. Nadi, Republic of Fiji).

Organized by: Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP)

Moderator: Ms Rebecca McNaught, Griffith University
Speakers:
- Mr. Iosefa Maiava, Head of ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
- Mr. Omar Siddique, Economics Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development, ESCAP
- Ms. Renata Netaf, Deputy Mayor, Luganville Municipal Council
- Mr. Mia Teaurima, Director, Island Governance, Cook Islands
- Mr. Josaia Jirauni, Policy and Research Officer, PIANGO

We are almost five years into the fifteen year timeframe for achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. Some headway has been made but it is time to pick up the pace of progress as the pace of vulnerabilities facing the Pacific is also increasing. Opportunities remain to accelerate development through applying what is available, socially and economically, in Pacific countries and using Pacific 'know-how', the ability to adapt to changing situations, the available biodiversity and resources and our capacity to work together regionally.

However, as agreed at the 2015 PUF, implementation of the SDGs at local level requires strong national commitment towards decentralization and provisions of adequate governance and legal frameworks, institutional and financial capacity to local governments and other key institutions and stakeholders. Sub-national contexts, setting of goals and targets, determining means of implementation and indicators is also required.

Pacific Island Countries also sit within a rich global and regional policy setting – Rio +20, the SAMOA Pathway, New Urban Agenda, Pacific Urban Agenda, Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific plus a range of national and local policy initiatives. These can all potentially help localise and accelerate progress for implementation of the SDGs. This session will focus primarily on the role of adequate and relevant disaggregated urban data to inform policy making around localisation and to help accelerate achievement of the SDGs. It will also take into account the above factors and also how practical local actions, especially in urban centres, can help achieve the SDGs using available country specific data to guide relevant policies – a 'local to global' approach.

The fact that there is a significant leap from data to policy making will also be recognised in the session. Issues such as the format, presentation and analysis of that data; the context in which data is applied; co-design so that varying needs are considered; at what points data is used; how people use data in ways that can be digested; the direction of data flow; and, why is data useful for localising SDGs will likely be deliberated upon.

The session acknowledged that an integrated multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach is needed to promote and implement transformative agendas at the local level. In this regard the session also gave attention to how relevant commitments made by the signatories to the New Urban Agenda can be operationalised, particularly:
9. The implementation of the New Urban Agenda contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in an integrated manner, and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

LOCALIZING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Iosefa Maiava, Head of ESCAP Pacific Operations Centre
Mr. Omar Siddique, Economics Affairs Officer, Sustainable Urban Development, ESCAP

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Localizing the
2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**Iosefa Maiava, Director, ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific
Omar Siddique, ESCAP Environment and Development Division**

5th Pacific Urban Forum, 1-3 July 2019, Nadi, Fiji,

Who is UNESCAP?

UNITED NATIONS
ESCAP
Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

- Regional development arm of the UN for the Asia-Pacific region, founded in 1947
- 53 Member States and 9 Associate Members, home to 4.1 billion people
- Largest United Nations body serving the Asia-Pacific region with over 600 staff
- Interdisciplinary expertise from urban development to environmental issues, to energy, science and technology, trade and transport

Normative support and regional dialogue (intergovernmental convening role)

Policy advocacy, research and analysis (think tank role)

Technical support, advisory services and capacity building (operational role)

Monitoring SDGs Implementation in the Pacific

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Tools and Processes

- **V**oluntary **N**ational **R**eviews (VNRs):
  - Regular, inclusive reviews of progress at national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven
  - Part of follow-up and review mechanisms for the 2030 Agenda
  - 2019: Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Tonga, Vanuatu
- SDG Gateway: data.unescap.org
  - Interactive charts: SDG Snapshot, Dashboard and progress gap by goals, targets, indicators
  - Available for ESCAP region, sub-regions, and other country groupings (e.g. LDCs)
- EPIC (Every Policy Is Connected):
  - Data-Policy integration tool

Voluntary National Reviews

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- 2019: Fiji, Nauru, Palau Tonga, Vanuatu
- ESCAP, through its Rapid Response Facility, with UNDP, and other development partners, provided support to countries through:
  - Sub-regional workshops: focus on processes and timelines for VNRs
  - Technical Assistance:
    - Assistance with undertaking stakeholder engagement
    - Documentation and guidance on developing a national indicator framework, and aligning SDG implementation with existing planning/budgetary processes
    - Technical inputs and reviews

SDG Gateway: data.unescap.org
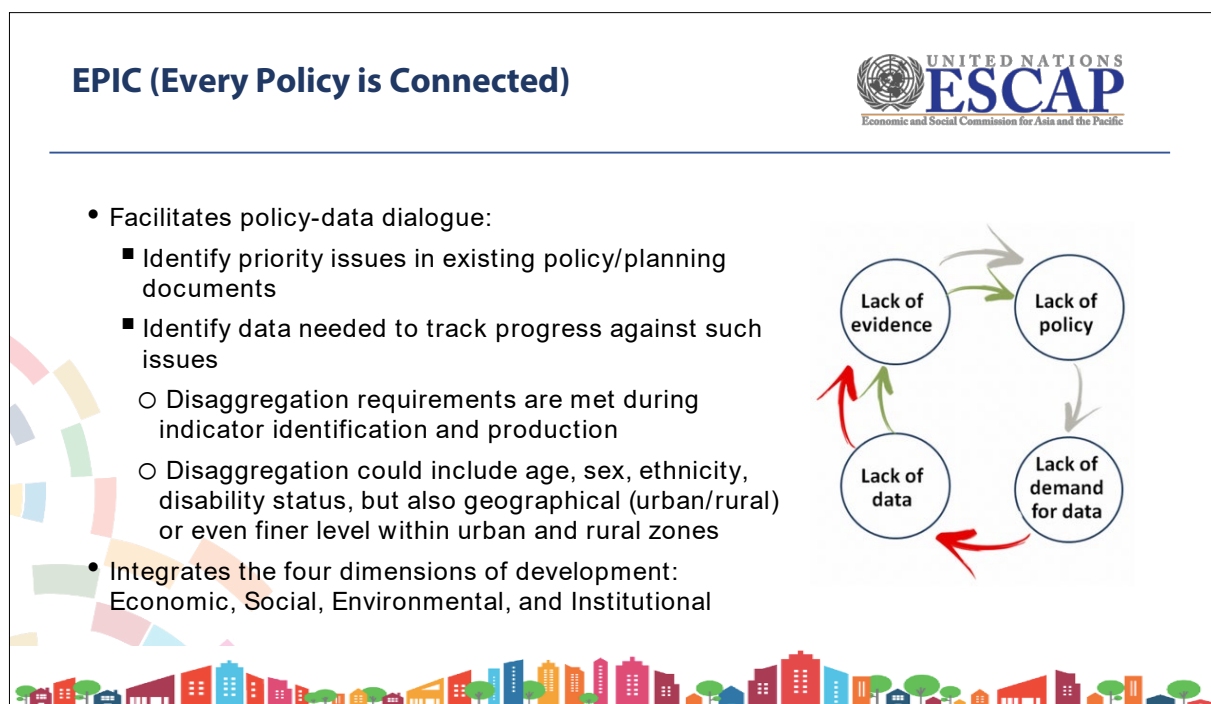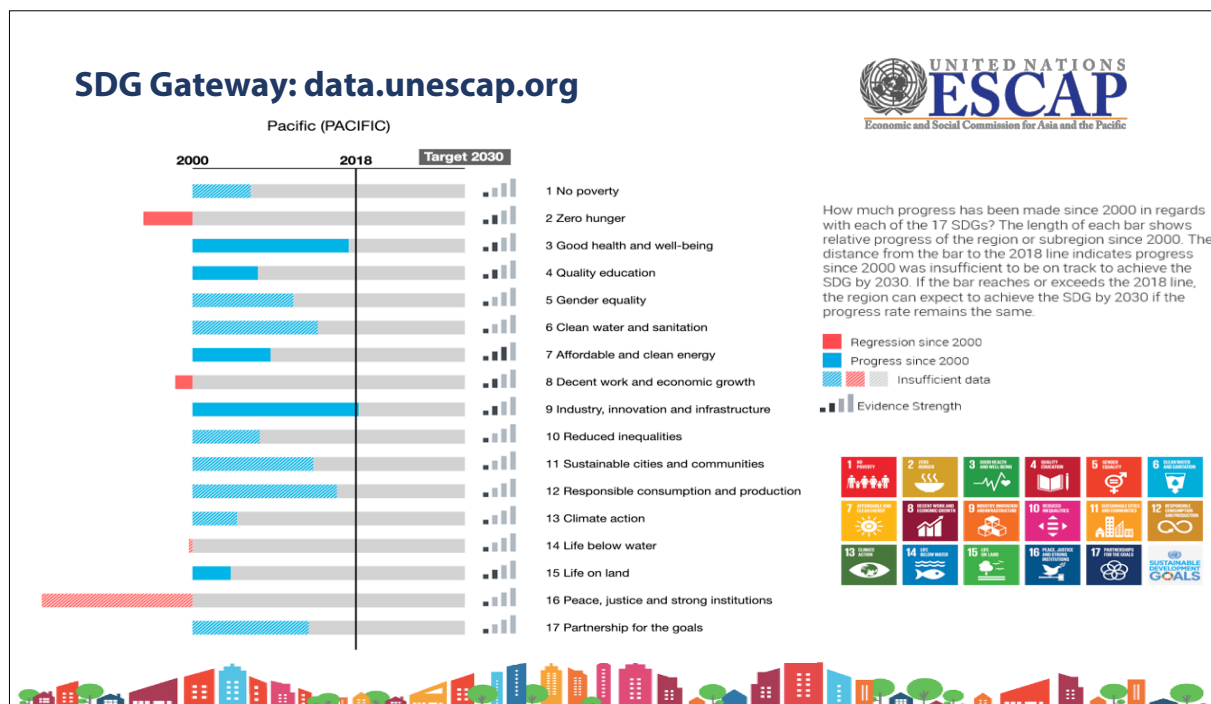
EPIC (Every Policy is Connected)

- Facilitates policy-data dialogue:
  - Identify priority issues in existing policy/planning documents
  - Identify data needed to track progress against such issues
    - Disaggregation requirements are met during indicator identification and production
    - Disaggregation could include age, sex, ethnicity, disability status, but also geographical (urban/rural) or even finer level within urban and rural zones
- Integrates the four dimensions of development: Economic, Social, Environmental, and Institutional

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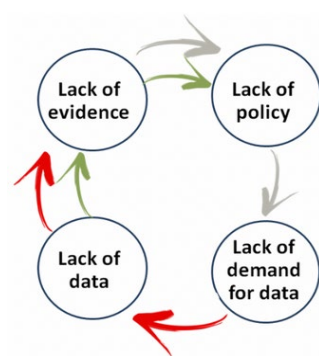
Which SDGs do you see in this picture?

2030 Agenda and Cities

Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

2030 Agenda and Cities

Localizing …

- Transition to the SDGs build on previous or ongoing commitments :

    - 674 Local Agenda 21 plans were developed and implemented in 17 countries, following the Earth Summit 1992.

    - Asia-Pacific Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy includes over 147 cities committed with climate action plans under implementation.

- Urgent need for meaningful data and adapted indicators; policy support and renewed financing schemes; territorial and participatory approaches.

"Localizing": What is it? Why is it important?

- Means taking **into account sub-national context, challenges & opportunities**
- **Is a process** – calls for co-creating solutions, for meaningful partnership resulting in more inclusive, needs-driven outcomes
- Is a way of **achieving the SDGs through bottom-up action**
- Provides a **framework for local development policy**
- Makes local governments and communities **catalysts of change to achieve global goals**
- Means planning & implementing local action guided by **normative principles** of 2030 Agenda
- Includes **aligning local goals, targets & indicators** to national & global **SDGs frameworks** (identifying baselines & targets) & integrating them into local planning & action
- Determining the **means of implementation** for action *(including finance, capacity development, inclusive & participatory processes, strengthening the evidence base and thinking in more integrated ways)*

Global Vision
Urban Action

New York's Voluntary Local Review Logo & slogan

Means of implementation:
Financial capacities of local & regional government in Asia-Pacific

- Public finance is expected to support implementation of the SDGs, both for direct financing but also to support the responsible access to external sources of financing.

- Large cities are securing crucial resources for development. Intermediary cities lack equitable share of national resources and taxes and do not sufficient foster knowledge/human capital.

- Reforms in public finance to improve: local tax mapping and revenue collection systems; accrual accounting and city credit ratings.

Urbanization Challenges
(Financing)

From a financing perspective, urban infrastructure investments can be divided into three categories

- **first, investments that are more in the nature of public goods** – parks, city roads etc., and hence would need recourse to taxes to service debt,
- **second, investments that are more privatized in nature** (in the sense the consumption is not necessarily joint) but still need capital subsidies - for example, water and waste water, solid waste – where user charges and taxes can be used to service debt, and
- **third, pure revenue projects** like toll roads where the recourse is directly to user charges to service debt and equity.

The financing challenge would appear to be higher in the second category, named as the "missing middle" where private capital needs to be supported by public funds.

Means of implementation: VNR process and local government ownership

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE DEPTH OF NATIONAL–LOCAL DIALOGUE
FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

VERY LIMITED DIALOGUE
Few mechanisms or inappropriately used, and no intention to change

COMMITMENT TO MAKE DIALOGUE EFFECTIVE
Sub-national level conceptually included in SDG mechanism but not yet operational

AD HOC INVITATION
National awareness-raising events, some coordination meeting, but sub-national level not 'listened' to

AD HOC CONSULTATION
Asking for local data once in a while, sub-national level present in some sectoral coordination bodies

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS MAIN ACTORS OF SDGs
With a national enabling support system (technical, financial, legal)

CO-PRODUCTION
Constant, fluid and permanent inclusion of sub-national level in strategic and sectoral policies, VNRs

EFFECTIVE COORDINATION
Systematic integration of local perspective in SDG strategies and policies

SYSTEMATIC CONSULTATION
Presence of local government representatives or associations in national bodies for SDG implementation, reporting

Source: GTF; UCLG; UN Habitat (May 2018) Sustainable Cities Dialogue – Urban Governance at the Core of the Implementation of the SDG 11.

VLR = Voluntary Local Review

・・・aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, **among local and regional governments** with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Review is expected to show what steps **a local (regional) government** has taken to implement the 2030 Agenda, including the SDGs, and provide an assessment of the results on the ground.

Trends in local government reporting…

"Voluntary Local (Regional) Reviews" are gaining popularity, many cities are planning to do the VLRs in 2019. NYC, who was also the one of first cities to present VLRs, is planning the 2nd round of VLRs too. Moreover, EU is currently working on the development of the guideline. The field of VLRs is getting more and more actors involved and shows that VLRs might be a bigger momentum globally to demonstrate LRGs capacity and commitments.

## Positive impacts from local reporting…

As all SDGs have targets that are directly or indirectly linked to the daily work of local administrations.

Conducting VLRs can provide a space for self-assessment, policy integration, accountability and peer-learning.

Useful for cities to grasp where they are located in the big picture, by providing opportunities to discuss these issues internally and externally.

The format asks for details of stakeholder engagement, which encourages LRGs to involve citizens in a positive way. In order to monitor, assess, and compare LRGs' efforts towards sustainability, experiences should be shared with other LRGs outlining what they have done, achieved, and what they have struggled to overcome in a coherent manner.

1 Online VLR Lab
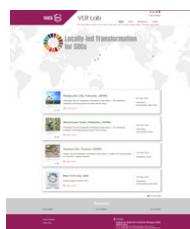
The launch of "**Online VLR Lab**"

@ the **Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development (28 March 2019)**

- To list cities who conducted VLRs with links to their reports;
- To provide background information of the Agenda 2030 (SDGs) and potentially a guidance to initiate the VLR process;
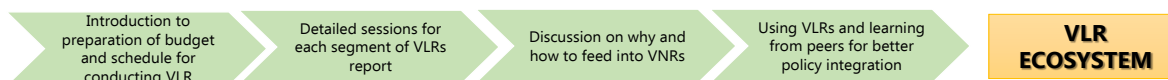- To list all cities planning to conduct VLRs.

2 VLR Guideline

1. Present Three VLRs and three 2nd VLRs at HLPF and SDGs summit in 2019 (Kanagawa Prefecture, Nagano Prefecture, and Hamamatsu City)

2. Host the Offline VLR Lab at the HLPF-ECOSOC in July

3. Establish or Be part of a Working Group for VLR Guideline

3 VLR Workshops

Assistance	VLR Workshop Package
What is our Support?	- Consultation - Facilitation of the stakeholder consultation process - Technical assistance for localizing SDGs. - Promotion Activities at various fora.

Ideas of Modules

Introduction to preparation of budget and schedule for conducting VLR → Detailed sessions for each segment of VLRs report → Discussion on why and how to feed into VNRs → Using VLRs and learning from peers for better policy integration → **VLR ECOSYSTEM**

Voluntary Local Review (VLR), led by local and regional governments (LRGs) and authorities, can;

1. **Enhance the inclusiveness of stakeholder engagement of the VNR process** by getting inputs from VLRs, creating a multi-level stakeholder engagement. This supports local government efforts to integrate national priorities into local planning, establish a long-term vision, and identify areas needing partnerships to fill gaps where local governments alone cannot bring about all of the necessary transformation.

2. **Provide a reporting framework** that ensures integration of the three dimensions, in addition to making certain that no one is left behind, identifying priorities, and planning ways forward. VLR Lab will assist in facilitating this process, and in the dissemination of VLR reports. Since they follow the standardised format of VNRs, it becomes much more manageable for national governments to integrate feedback from the local level. It also means that **the VLR reports are comparable** with each other, thereby **promoting effective and practical peer-learning**.

3. **Accurately capture local progress, especially through collection of standardised and/or proxy data.** This helps national governments **avoid under-reporting** their total national achievements.

Where to get inspired?

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) acts as the Secretariat for the SDGs, plays a key role in the evaluation of UN system-wide implementation of the 2030 Agenda and on advocacy and outreach activities relating to the SDGs. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/

One-stop online service of ESCAP providing access to tools, knowledge products, expertise, advice and opportunities for peer-learning. https://sdghelpdesk.unescap.org

Initiative of UN Habitat, UNDP and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments. http://localizingthesdgs.org/about-us.php

Co-developed and managed by CityNet, Seoul Metropolitan Government and UN ESCAP. http://www.urbansdgplatform.org/

Thank you for your attention!

Contact us and participate in the localization process:

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Pacific Urban Platform

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http://www.fukuoka.unhabitat.org/info/news/puf.html