# Africa Regional Guideline for Voluntary Local Reviews

# Guideline Methodology

1. Desk Review
   - existing guidelines
   - handbooks
   - Published and draft VLRs
2. Inputs from ECA, UCLG-Africa and UN-HABITAT
3. Locality review
4. Expert Group Meeting

# Why an African VLR Guideline?

1. Member State request at ARFSD

2. Contextual specificity

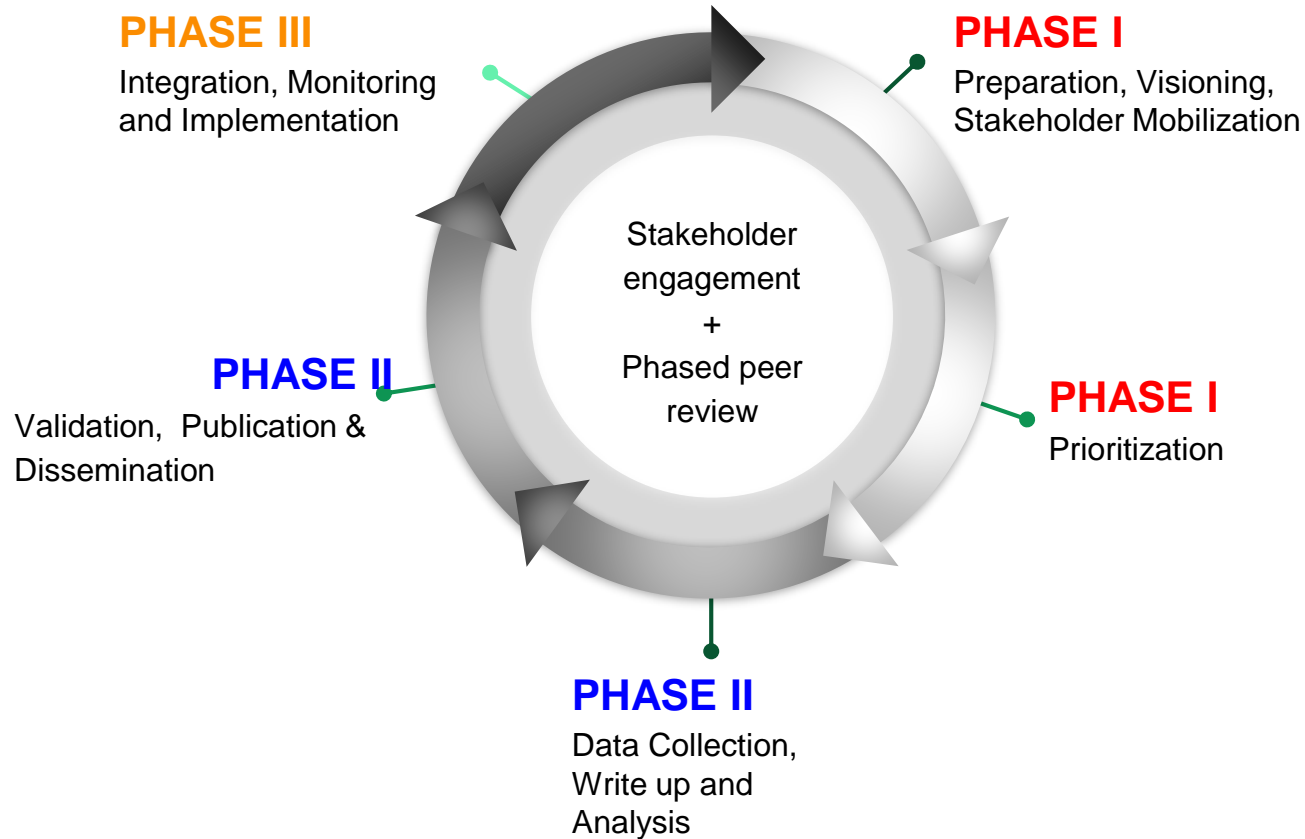3. Regional priorities Agenda 2063

4. Need to scale up VLR production

5. Accelerate SDG and A2063 implementation

6. Peer Review Mechanism

# Africa VLR: The Process



**PHASE III**
Integration, Monitoring and Implementation

**PHASE I**
Preparation, Visioning, Stakeholder Mobilization

Stakeholder engagement
+
Phased peer review

**PHASE I**
Prioritization

**PHASE II**
Validation, Publication & Dissemination

**PHASE II**
Data Collection, Write up and Analysis

# Africa VLR Template *at a Glance*

**Preliminaries:**
- Foreword, Acronyms, List of Tables and Figures and Table of Contents

1. **Executive Summary**
   - Highlights from review

**Phase I**

1. **VLR Methodology - *Getting started***
   - Literature review
   - Institutional mechanism
   - Stakeholder mobilization
   - Peer Review
   - Vision

1. **SDG and Agenda 2063 Prioritization**
   - Linking priorities
   - Policy and enabling environment
   - Integration of 3 Dimensions and *LNOB*

**Phase II**

1. **Data Collection**
   - Data methodology and processing
   - SDG ownership

1. **Write up, Analysis and Validation**
   - Progress on goals and targets

**Phase III**

1. **Publication and Dissemination**
2. **Integration, Monitoring and Implementation**
   - Outcomes and follow-up
   - Means of Implementation
   - Conclusion and next steps

1. **Annexes**

✔ Practical

✔ Easy to follow

✔ Best practices

✔ Lessons learned

✔ Guiding Questions

# Guideline annex - **Stakeholder mapping**

### Stakeholder Mapping Tool

NOTES:

**"Major Groups"** include women, children and youths, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations, local authorities, workers and trade unions,
business and industry, the scientifc and technological community, and farmers.

**"Other stakeholders"** include local communities, educational and academic entities, faith groups, foundations and private philanthropic organizations, migrants and their families, older persons, parliamentary networks and associations, persons with disabilities and volunteer groups.

| MAJOR GROUPS | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| STAKEHOLDER CONSTITUENCY (refer to "Major Groups" in Notes) | Organization/ Group Name *N/A if does not apply* | SDG Focus Area | Agenda 2063 Focus Area | IMPACT: *How much does Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 implementation review impact them* (Low, Medium, High) | Level of Awareness Agenda 2030 (Low, Medium, High) | Level of Awareness Agenda 2063 (Low, Medium, High) | Contact Person | EMAIL/ WEBSITE | PHONE |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| OTHER STAKEHOLDERS | | | | | | | | | |
| STAKEHOLDER CONSTITUENCY (refer to "Other Stakeholders" in Notes) | Organization/ Group Name *N/A if does not apply* | SDG Focus Area | Agenda 2063 Focus Area | IMPACT: *How much does Agenda 2030 and Agenda 2063 implementation review impact them* (Low, Medium, High) | Level of Awareness Agenda 2030 (Low, Medium, High) | Level of Awareness Agenda 2063 (Low, Medium, High) | Contact Person | EMAIL/ WEBSITE | PHONE |
| | | | | | | | | | |

## — Guideline annex - **Stakeholder Engagement**

| | | | | | STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | | EMAIL/ WEBSITE | PHONE |
| STAGE | Which Stakeholders will be engaged at this stage? *(i.e. Women, Children, NGOs)* | Purpose of Engagement at this stage *Inform, Consult, Involve or Collaborate* | Desired outcome from engagement | Strategy/ Tool for engagement | Evaluation: What methods will be used at this stage? *(Survey, feedback form)* | What resources are required *(human/ financial)* | When will this take place? | | |
| PHASE I | | | | | | | | | |
| PHASE II | | | | | | | | | |
| PHASE III | | | | | | | | | |

Table1: SDG Alignment Table

| Sustainable Development Goals | Local Sustainability Policy | Other relevant local policies? | Local initiatives and projects |
|---|---|---|---|
| **GOAL 1: NO POVERTY End Poverty in all its forms everywhere** | | | |
| 1.1 By 2030, eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, currently measured as people living on less than $1.25 a day | | | |
| 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 | | | |

Table 2: Mapping Agenda 2063 to Local Policies and Strategies

| 2063 Aspirations | Aspiration 1: A prosperous Africa, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development | | | | | | | Aspiration 2: An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance | | | Aspiration 3: An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law | | Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa | | | Aspiration 5: Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics | Aspiration 6: An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children | | Aspiration 7: An Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **2063 Goals** | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| Health Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Youth Livelihood Strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Table 3: Linking 2063 and SDGs[1]

| UN SDGs | Agenda 2063 Goals | Local Policy Area/ Strategic Pillar |
|---|---|---|
| 1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere in the world | 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all<br>5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production<br>7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities<br>17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life | |
| 2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. | 1. A high standard of living, quality of life and well-being for all<br>3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens<br>4. Transformed economies and job creation<br>5. Modern agriculture for increased productivity and production<br>7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities<br>8. United Africa (Federal or Confederate) | |
| 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. | 3. Healthy and well-nourished citizens<br>7. Environmentally sustainable climate resilient economies and communities<br>17. Full gender equality in all spheres of life | |

*Option 1: All SDGs*

*Option 2: HLPF SDGs*

*Option 3: SNG Priority SDGs*

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**Suggested Structure**

    *SDG Goal: state goal*

    *Target x.x: state target reviewed*

    *Localized Indicator x.x: state indicator or indicators measured*

    *Local Context: Highlight local policy or program addressing target*
    *Progress:*
        *Successes: What were the successes*
        *Challenges: What are the challenges*
    *Next Steps:*

- **Simple and voluntary process**

- **Mirror the VLR Guidelines**

- **Incremental and phased**



Image: theconversation.com

| Pre-VLR | Initiated | In-progress | Satisfactory/ Fulfilled | Not Started | Opportunities | Challenges | Comments | Peer Reviewer Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SDG and Agenda 2063 awareness raising with local stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Localization of SDGs through the production of a localization report or some sort of SDGs report for local context | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Organization of survey or questionnaire to be distributed locality-wide that captures inputs to the SDGs and A2063 | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Determine resources needed to conduct local review | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |

| Phase I | Initiated | In-progress | Fulfilled | Not Started | Opportunities | Challenges | Comments | Peer Reviewer Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Conduct a literature review of local policies, strategies, plans and programmes responding the SDGs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Organization of survey or questionnaire to be distributed locality-wide that captures inputs to the SDGs and A2063 | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| SDG Awareness raising and public outreach with local stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Identify organizations collecting data for the indicators and determine whether established local targets exist | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Determine institutional mechanism to lead the production of VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Map stakeholders contributing to the SDGs and A63 in the locality | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Prepare a stakeholder engagement plan for each phase of the VLR outlining the purpose of consultations and ensure no one is left behind | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Set vision for local implementation on what the locality wants to see happen by 2030 and prepare a roadmap with deliverables | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Simple mapping of SDGs to local plans and strategies | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Simple mapping of Agenda 2063 goals and indicators to local plans and strategies | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Alignment of local global through extensive research and review of existing policies and projects implementing SDGs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Comprehensive review of the global SDGs, their targets and indicators, and available subnational data. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Develop a comprehensive table, outlining all the metrics currently being measured by the City that lend to alignment with the SDGs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Identify gaps in SDG related indicators | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Discuss interlinkages between the three dimensions of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Reflection on SDG principles on human rights, leaving no one behind, gender equality and women's empowerment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |

PEER REVIEW

| Phase II | Initiated | In-progress | Fulfilled | Not Started | Opportunities | Challenges | Comments | Peer Reviewer Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prioritize goals,targets and indicators for review. Define the number of goals locality wants to measure and monitor | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Continue identifying organizations collecting data for the indicators and determine whether established local targets/ indicators exist | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Develop proxy indicators where needed | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Finalize the definition of local targets and indicators | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Where possible,data has been presented in terms of in time-series, percentages, proportions, ratios | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Develop data collection methodology and approach identifying list of instruments for data collection, sources of data, rationale for selection,  and limitations encountered | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Review progress against each identified priority SDGs and localised targets and indicators highlighting successes and challenges | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Carry out review of draft VLR internally | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Establish validation period and how to conduct | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Carry out review of draft VLR with key stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Incorporate comments and feedback from key stakeholders to VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Validate VLR from relevant parties through identified mechanism | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |

PEER REVIEW

# Phase III and post-VLR

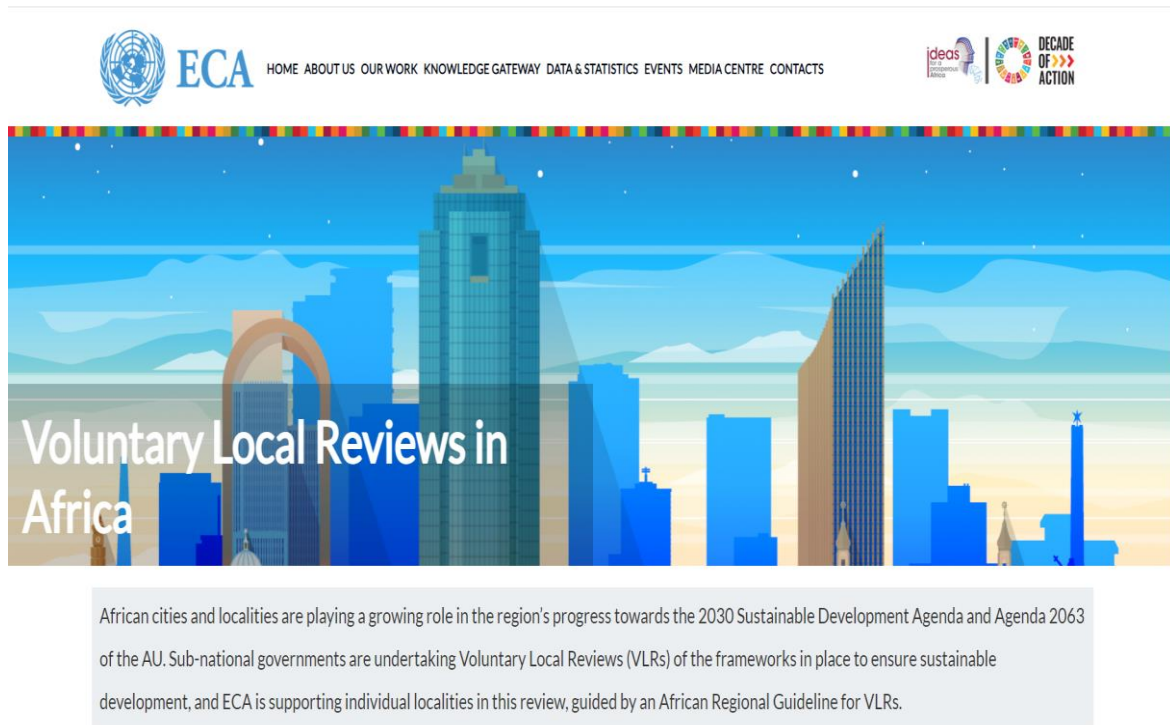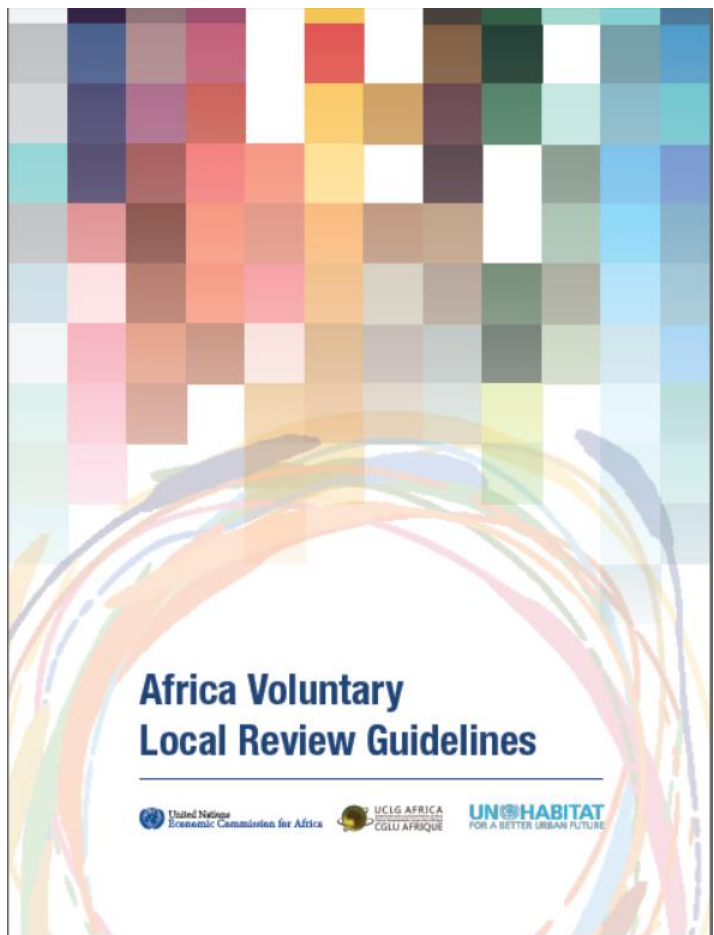| | Initiated | In-progress | Fulfilled | Not Started | Opportunities | Challenges | Comments | Peer Reviewer Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Phase III and post VLR** | | | | | | | | |
| Publish VLR | | | | | | | | |
| Consider translation into local languages, if applicable | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Wide dissemination of VLRs to stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Presentation of VLR with relevant national Government authorities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Integration with VNR processes | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Develop a communications strategy around the main messages and lessons learnt of the VLR to share and engage with local media | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Develop roadmap to follow up plan on key accelerator goals and action items as identified in VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Identify impact of VLR process and report (using ECA template on VLR impact and lessons learned) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Contribute to national SDG/ A2063 monitoring mechanisms including VNR processes that assist national government in the comprehensive reporting of goals, targets and indicators | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Collection, maintenance and use of local data to inform service delivery | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Collaboration with local stakeholder in local decision making and planning | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Continued involvement of stakeholders, especially vulnerable groups in the follow up actions | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Follow-up meetings with regional and global stakeholders | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Address lessons learned from first VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Participate in peer review exercises with other regional SNGs | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Participate in the Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development, national urban forums and other related forums and events to share the VLR experience and lessons learnt from the process | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |
| Planning for a future VLR | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | | | | |

# Africa VLR Peer Review Platform

Connecting local reviews of the SDGs and Agenda 2063 in Africa.



# *Functions*

❑ *Peer exchange and review*

❑ *Stories*

❑ *Regional dialogues & discussion*

❑ *Tools and resources*

❑ *Repository*

# Africa VLR resources



**Africa Voluntary Local Review Guidelines**

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa — UCLG AFRICA / CGLU AFRIQUE — UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Voluntary Local Reviews in Africa

African cities and localities are playing a growing role in the region's progress towards the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and Agenda 2063 of the AU. Sub-national governments are undertaking Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of the frameworks in place to ensure sustainable development, and ECA is supporting individual localities in this review, guided by an African Regional Guideline for VLRs.

https://www.uneca.org/voluntary-local-reviews-africa

# Thank you
*yemeru @un.org*