

Intibucá and Its Contribution to SDG 16

With the technical and financial support of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the Office of the Resident Coordinator for Honduras, the first two Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) on food system transition were developed. These were integrated into the 3rd National Report presented at the High-Level Political Forum held in July. The VLRs from Intibucá and San Nicolás will remain part of the country's history.

I firmly believe in the importance of localizing the SDGs to accelerate their implementation.

As a municipality, we have mainstreamed SDG 16 into our territorial management dynamics, starting with the alignment of supply and demand, the latter being the needs of the population, which are reflected in the development plans created using the FOCAL methodology. These plans were developed at the community, sectoral, and municipal levels with active citizen participation, represented by 89 community boards, 78 water committees, 115 women's groups, 13 youth groups, and 113 producers' organizations. We are also promoting women's participation in decision-making positions within these organizations.

Special plans have been established, such as the Land Use Planning Plan, the Prevention and Human Rights Plan in the Río Blanco area—a zone that has experienced conflict and where environmentalist Berta Cáceres was active—the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, and Watershed and Micro-watershed Management Plans, all of which have been citizen-led.

We also have public policies developed by civil society interest groups, such as the Women's Policy, the Policy for Children, Adolescents, and Youth, the Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and the Housing Policy. Each policy includes its own implementation and investment plan to ensure they are not just documents, but actions. These policies are implemented through interinstitutional working groups composed of NGOs, civil society, government institutions, the local government, and international cooperation agencies, with the goal of optimizing resources and efforts while fostering transparency and accountability.

Among the established working groups are the Gender-Sensitive Budget Committee, the Local Economic Development Committee, and the Committee for the Rights Guarantee System for Children, Adolescents, and Youth. The latter monitors all forms of rights violations against children, using the Citizen Security and Coexistence Observatory.

We have strengthened public management through modernization efforts, improving public procurement processes in four dimensions: transparency, quality, efficiency, and effectiveness. As a result, tax collection indicators have increased by 58%, enabling us to better respond to the needs of the population.

In summary, as a local government, one of our core principles is the integration of all community representatives' perspectives—not merely as observers but as active drivers of programs and projects within their communities. This approach fosters an empowered citizenry and builds awareness of individual responsibilities, leaving no one behind.

Key aspects to consider:

- Continue supporting the localization of the SDGs.
- Strengthen justice operators to provide effective legal protection that builds public trust and promotes a culture of reporting.
- Promote decentralization—not only of responsibilities, but also of resources.
- Advance anti-corruption public policies at all levels of participation, from community involvement to decision-making bodies.
- Systematize successful experiences and share them with cities in similar contexts.
- Promote non-formal education mechanisms for youth and women to reduce violence rates.
- Include the SDGs in governmental transition and handover processes.

Intibucá is an example of community participation and cross-sector coordination. We have proven that when actions are driven from the grassroots level, sustainability is achieved, and processes transcend political changes.

