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Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063 at sub-National Level

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What does integrating VNRs-VLRs Mean?

- Integrating the SDGs in the design, implementation and monitoring of local and regional development plans and putting local and regional gvts at the center of SDGs implementation
- Strengthening multilevel governance to achieve the 2030 Agenda
- Promoting horizontal policy coherence (breaking silos) across sectoral departments of local and regional governments and countries to manage trade-offs across policy domains in the implementation of SDGs and NDPs
- Promoting vertical policy coherence and co-ordination of priorities across local, regional and national governments – SDGs localization agenda

What does integrating VNRs-VLRs mean?, cont'd

- A way to engage citizens into local action to:
  - promote shared understanding of complex national and local problems
  - devise integrated solutions that benefit from broader societal consensus
  - ensure ownership and commitment to possible solutions
  - ensure no one is left behind
- Local and regional gvts and other actors (development partners, CSOs, private sector, academia) are crucial to ensure the process is inclusive and accountable

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LGAs' participation in the preparation of VNRs

- 159 Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) between 2017 and 2022, from 40 countries, representing 450 million inhabitants
- 26 Voluntary Sub-national Reviews (VSRs) in 2020-2022, representing more than 100,000 LRGs and 1 billion inhabitants
- LRG participation in the preparation of VNRs : gradual increase, from 21 countries in 2016 to 44 countries in 2022
- LRG participation in national coordination mechanisms: no important progress. The participation was 28% on average between 2016-2021, and 34% in 2022.

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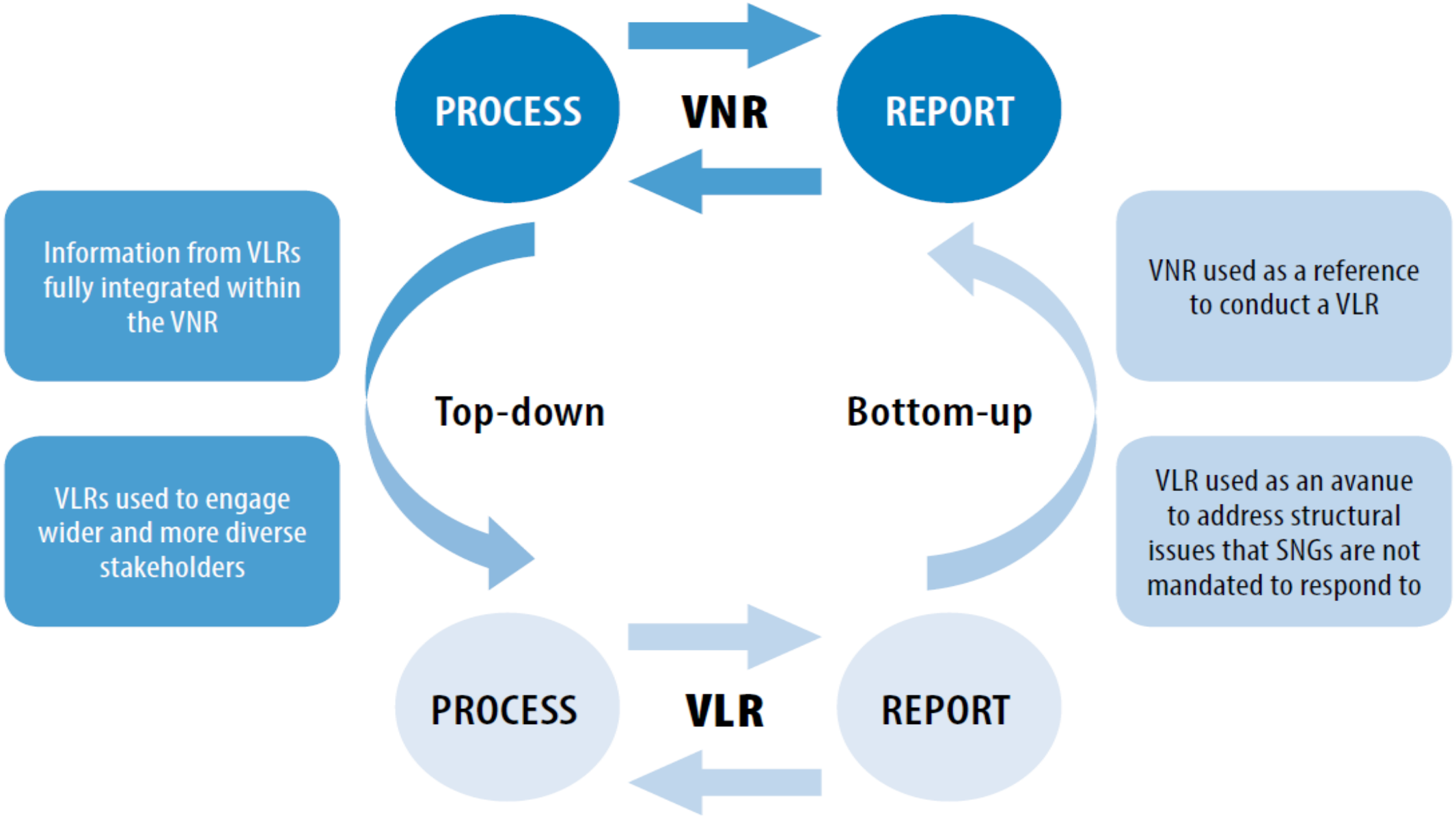
Connecting VLRs with VNRs

- VLRs help monitor and evaluate progress on SDG implementation, facilitate social inclusion, multi-level coordination, and prioritization in planning and budgeting.
- Foster policy coherence and coordination among national and local efforts
- Enhance stakeholder engagement and awareness of the SDGs at the subnational level
- Amplify the voices of the poor and people living in vulnerable situations and help in ensuring no one is left behind
- Can highlight innovative local resource mobilizing solutions

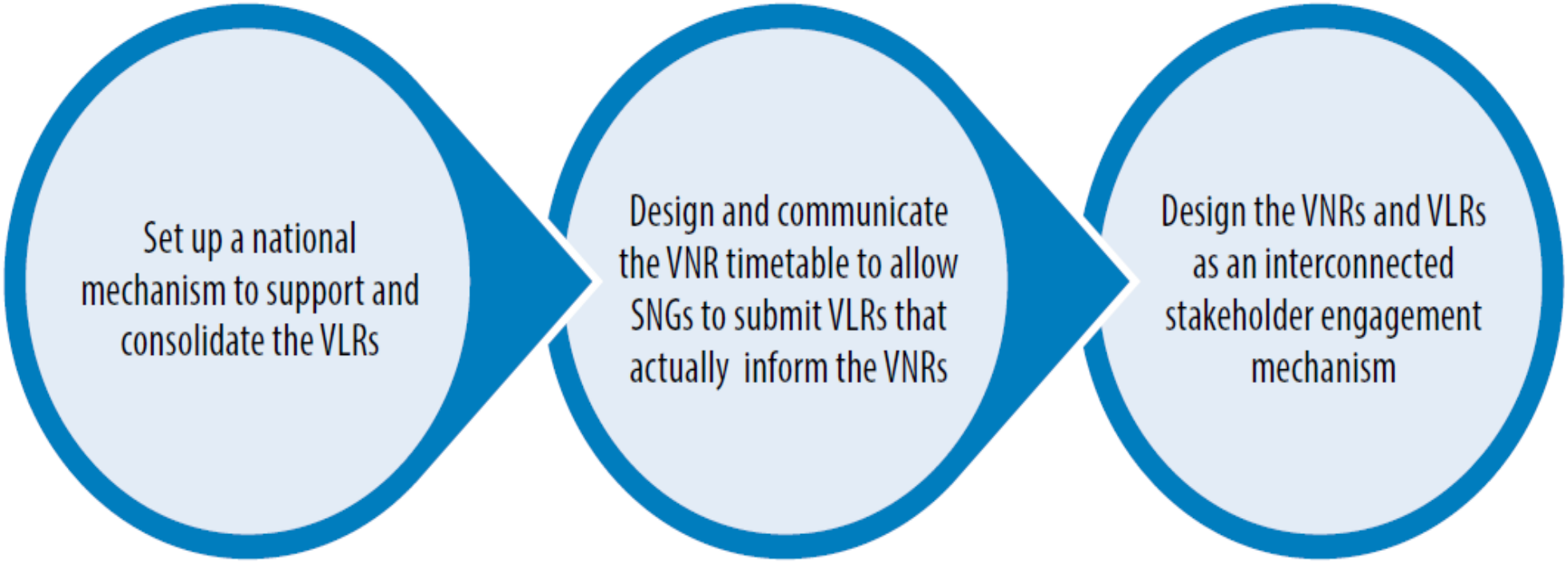
Connecting VNRs with VLRs, cont'd

- Many of the 2030 Agenda's 169 targets rely on the contributions and responsibilities of local and subnational governments.
- Cities and local governments are providers of basic public goods and services–housing, health, education, food systems, water & sanitation
- Hence, they play an important role in delivering on the SDGs and VLRs provide a fuller picture of SDG implementation and challenges
- Sub-national governments also have an important role in local resource mobilization, e.g. mobilizing property tax.
- Showcase and bring forward unique but scalable local solutions to development challenges

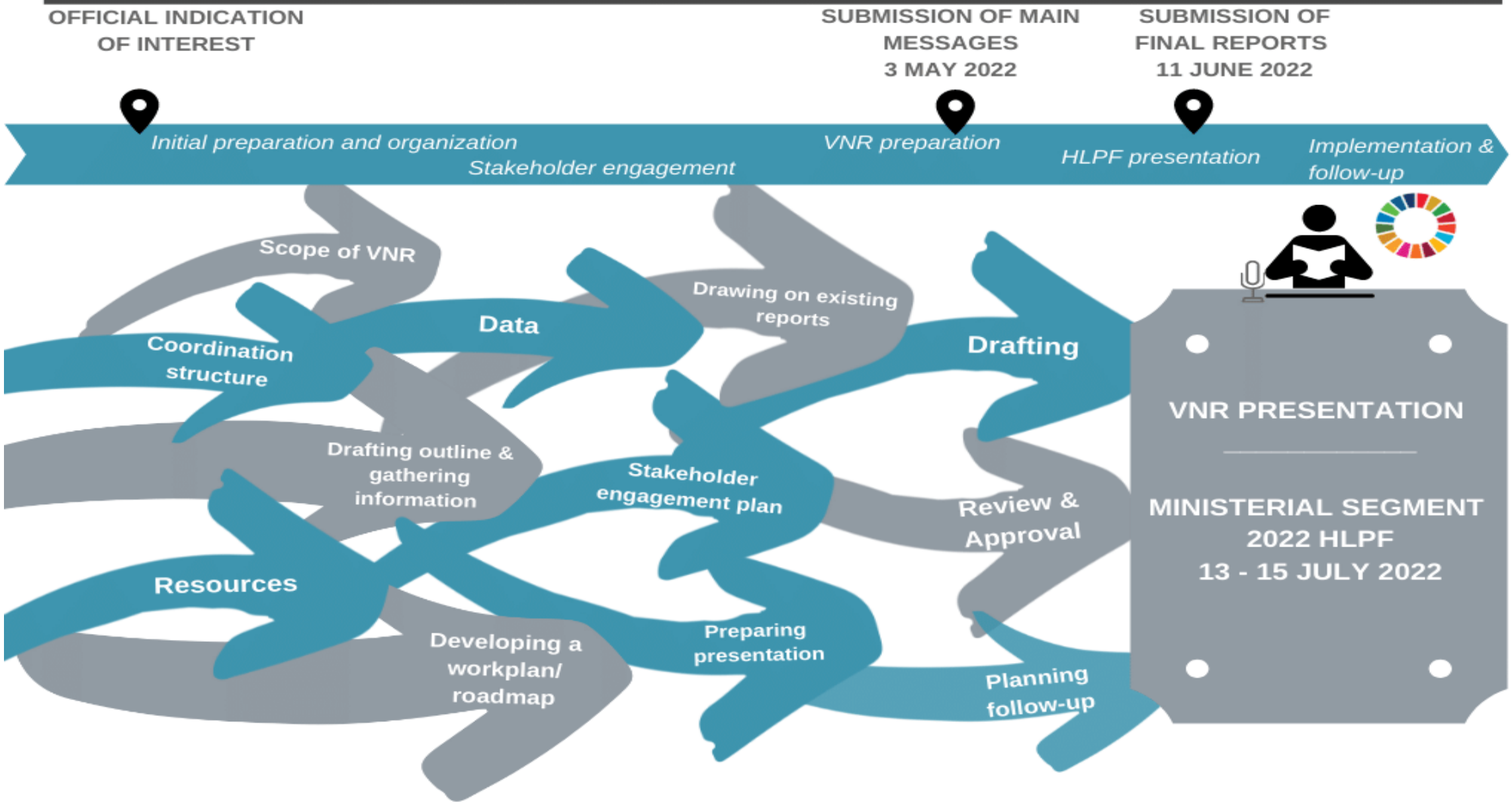
Operationalizing VLR-VNR integration



Actions to consider when integrating VLRs and VNRs



KEY ELEMENTS TO CONSIDER FOR VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEWS



The Kenya VLR Process

VI. Roadmap is to roll-out VLRs to all 47 counties (to have a bottom up VNR process –where VLRs contribute to the national VNR)

V. Private sector (Kenya Private Sector Alliance/KEPSA) and CSOs (Kenya SDGs Forum) produced complementarity VNRs which were annexes to the Kenya VNR 2020 (this was also the case in 2017)

IV. Five VLRs were an input in the 2020 Kenya VNR – best practices at SDGs reporting at sub-national levels

III. Five Counties (Busia, Kisumu, Kwale, Marsabit and Taita Taveta) piloted VLRs in 2019 (supported by the UN)

II. Training of SDGs Champions from all 47 counties in 2019 (supported by the UN)

I. SDGs were mainstreamed in County Intergated Development Plans (CIDPs) in 2018 (supported by the UN)

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The VNR and VLR preparatory processes: Issues to consider

- What is the role of local and regional governments in SDG implementation?
- How are VLR processes linked to VNR processes?
- What are the key elements and milestones in the process?
- Who leads the process and who is engaged? What works and why?
- What are the lessons learned from the process and how has it contributed to the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063?
- Sharing of data needs to be prioritized, to aid consistency on data collection

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Some lessons-learned to be considered

- Well-functioning national and local planning systems are imperative for coordinating national and local efforts to achieve the SDGs and leave no one and no place behind.
- Strengthened planning systems require adequate interactions and bidirectionality between national and regional / local planning mechanisms.
- An enabling institutional environment that recognizes and supports local governments is critical to promote effective subnational planning systems (based on the CEPA principle of subsidiarity).
- Further support, assistance and adequate financing incentives are essentials to ensure that local plans are effectively implemented.

Some lessons-learned to be considered, cont'd

- Holistic and integrated approach at all levels are critical to a comprehensive SDG implementation, overcoming siloed approaches
- Participatory approaches are key to boost citizen participation in local planning, supported by adequate localized systems of indicators.
- Effective LRG involvement in national coordination mechanisms and reporting processes is essential, but still a challenge.
- Strong and clear national localization strategies in consultation with LRGs should be based on effective multilevel governance.
- The design and implementation of recovery strategies should be aligned with the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and global sustainability commitments.

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Challenges to Integrating VNRs and VLRs

- Lack of political will – issues of devolution, provision of technical and financial support to local gvts to implement local SDGs strategies
- Local capacity constraints for addressing the SDGs and inadequate financial resources
- Lack of policy coherence and coordination among national and local efforts (VNRs & VLRs)
- Lack of disaggregated data and capacities to perform subnational monitoring
- Limited awareness of the SDGs and stakeholder consultations at the subnational levels

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Thank you.