

Side event to the United Nations Fourth Forum of Mayors' meeting

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# ACTION-ORIENTED PLANS FOR IMPLEMENTING VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS (VLRS)

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Organized by United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), Global Cities Hub, and Switzerland



FORUM OF  
MAYORS  
2024

with the contribution of: UNDESA, UCLG, UN-Habitat

## PROGRAMME

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18:15 - 21:00 CET, Tuesday, 1 October 2024

Villa Rigot, Avenue de la Paix 9

English Only

In person only upon invitation



UNECE



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



UN-HABITAT



UNDESA



UCLG

United Cities  
and Local Governments

## Background

With the world's population becoming increasingly urbanized, cities and local governments play a pivotal role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The localization of the SDGs – translating, defining, implementing, and monitoring the goals and targets within local contexts – is essential for sustainable urban development. This recognition has given rise to the development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), which are a critical process for local and regional governments to align their development strategies with the 2030 Agenda.

VLRs are a process for local governments to assess and monitor progress towards the SDGs, demonstrate leadership in sustainability, enhance visibility and networks, promote policy coherence, mobilize stakeholders, and enhance the mechanism urban territorial planning. They provide evidence-based assessments, policy recommendation, highlight local commitments to sustainable practices, foster international relationships, align local policies with SDG targets, and engage various stakeholders in collective action, thereby strengthening sustainability efforts and data collection processes. In the wake of recovery efforts from the COVID-19 pandemic and ongoing global crisis and challenges, including conflicts and the long-term Triple Planetary Crisis (climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss), VLRs have emerged as an important channel for informing local transition efforts toward green, resilient, and circular economies. However, a crucial question arises: what happens after a VLR is finalized and published?

## Objectives of the Event

The primary objective of this event is to discuss actionable plans for local governments to utilize VLRs as more than a diagnostic tool, but as action-oriented process that can identify recommendations and projects to be undertaken per SDG and in line with local and national plans. Thus, VLRs can create more impactful, sustainable, and resilient urban environments that fully embrace the SDGs. The event will:

- Provide a platform for knowledge exchange and discussion on moving beyond diagnostic VLRs: actions local governments can take to implement comprehensive strategies that create impactful, sustainable, green and resilient urban environments.
- Connect with VNRs in respective states whenever possible
- Highlight and share best practices and successful examples of SDG implementation at the local level.
- Explore innovative financing mechanisms and approaches to support the goals outlined in the VLRs and enhance sustainable urban development.



## Moving beyond Diagnostic VLRs

- How can local governments integrate VLR recommendations into broader urban planning and development initiatives?
- What actions are necessary to move from assessment to implementation, ensuring that VLRs lead to tangible outcomes?
- What actions are necessary to ensure that VLRs are well-coordinated with national plans, including VNRs and concrete, actionable projects?



## Implementation examples

- What are some specific examples of successful implementation of recommendations derived from VLRs or environmental assessments in your cities?
- How have these examples effectively addressed local challenges, promoted urban resilience and contributed to achieving the SDGs?



## Innovative Finance and Mechanisms

- What innovative financing mechanisms are available to support the goals outlined in VLRs and enhance sustainable urban development?
- How can local governments leverage new financial tools and approaches to fund and implement their VLR action plans?
- Are there successful case studies of innovative financing strategies that have supported sustainability initiatives in urban environments?

18:00-18:15 **Welcome drink**

## Opening

### Moderator:

Ms. **Kamelia Kemileva**, *Co-Director, Global Cities Hub, Geneva, Switzerland*

### Welcome from Co-Organizers

18:15-18:30

- Mr. **Markus Reubi**, *Chair, the 2030 Agenda Steering Committee for Switzerland; and Delegate of the Federal Council of Switzerland for the 2030 Agenda, Switzerland*
- Ms. **Paola Deda**, *Director, Forests, Land and Housing, UNECE*
- Ms. **Kazumi Ogawa**, *Principal Coordination Officer, Geneva Office, UN-Habitat (TBC)*

## Panel Discussion

Ms. **Noraini Roslan**, *Mayor of Klang, Malaysia (TBC)*

Mr. **Nabil Al-Kofhi**, *Mayor of Irbid, Jordan (TBC)*

18:30-19:35

Ms. **María Clara Muzzio**, *Deputy Mayor of Buenos Aires, Argentina (TBC)*

Mr. **António Felgueiras**, *Deputy Mayor of Mafra, Portugal (TBC)*

Mr. **Abdurahmon Abdurahmonzoda**, *Deputy Mayor of Dushanbe, Tajikistan (TBC)*

# Detailed Programme

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## Closing

19:25-19:30 Ms. **Kamelia Kemileva**, Co-Director, Global Cities Hub,  
Geneva, Switzerland

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19:30-21:00 **Reception**

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