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# United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2022

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Post HLPF 2022 Debrief





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HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# How did HLPF 2022 go?



# HLPF 2022 by the Numbers\*



**8** Days meeting (5 - 7, 11-15 July 2022)

**5** SDGs under review

**190 +** Speakers in townhall meeting, panels, fire side chats



**273** Side Events, with **43** in person

**11** Exhibitions

**9** Special Events

**1** Pop-up concert accompanied by the SDG Piano



**130+** Prime Ministers, Ministers and Vice Ministers

**1** Heads of State and Government

**6** Former Head of State

**1** Royal Family Member



**19** VNR Labs

**44** Countries presented VNRs

# HLPF Overview

- ❖ Multiple Crises
- ❖ SDGs in Focus – education, gender, ocean, biodiversity/forests, partnerships
- ❖ VNRs
- ❖ SDG Summit
- ❖ Ministerial Declaration





## Javier Surasky

Program Officer Governance and Financing for Sustainable Development, CEPEI



# What the 2022 HLPF tells us about the VNRs process evolution?

Only six countries have not presented at least one VNR yet

The persistent “first VNR logic”

VNRs information “black holes”

Stakeholder engagement as a “checked” sign

The “reporting gap”

17 SDGs vs. goals under thematic review



# Climate change as a reference point

SDGs interlinkages

The need of going further in connecting the dots

# The HLPF 2022 Ministerial Declaration

A tricked consensus

A 142 paragraphs document!

The HLPF Ministerial Declaration became a difficult jigsaw puzzle





*If countries do not find a way to increase the VNRs' quality and agree on concrete and ambitious final declarations that provide concrete policy guidance, I'm afraid the HLPF will contribute to leaving the entire 2030 Agenda behind.*

# Thank you

For additional information, please  
contact



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Fernando Ortiz Moya

Policy Researcher, IGES

**IGES** Institute for Global  
Environmental Strategies

# Reflections on the 2022 HLPF

## THE ROLE OF VLRs IN ACCELERATING SDG LOCALISATION

**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**Fernando Ortiz-Moya, PhD**  
Policy Researcher  
City Taskforce, IGES

**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



# Map of Contents of Today's Talk:

1. Background: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)
2. Why Voluntary Local Reviews?
3. Frontier issues and steps ahead.

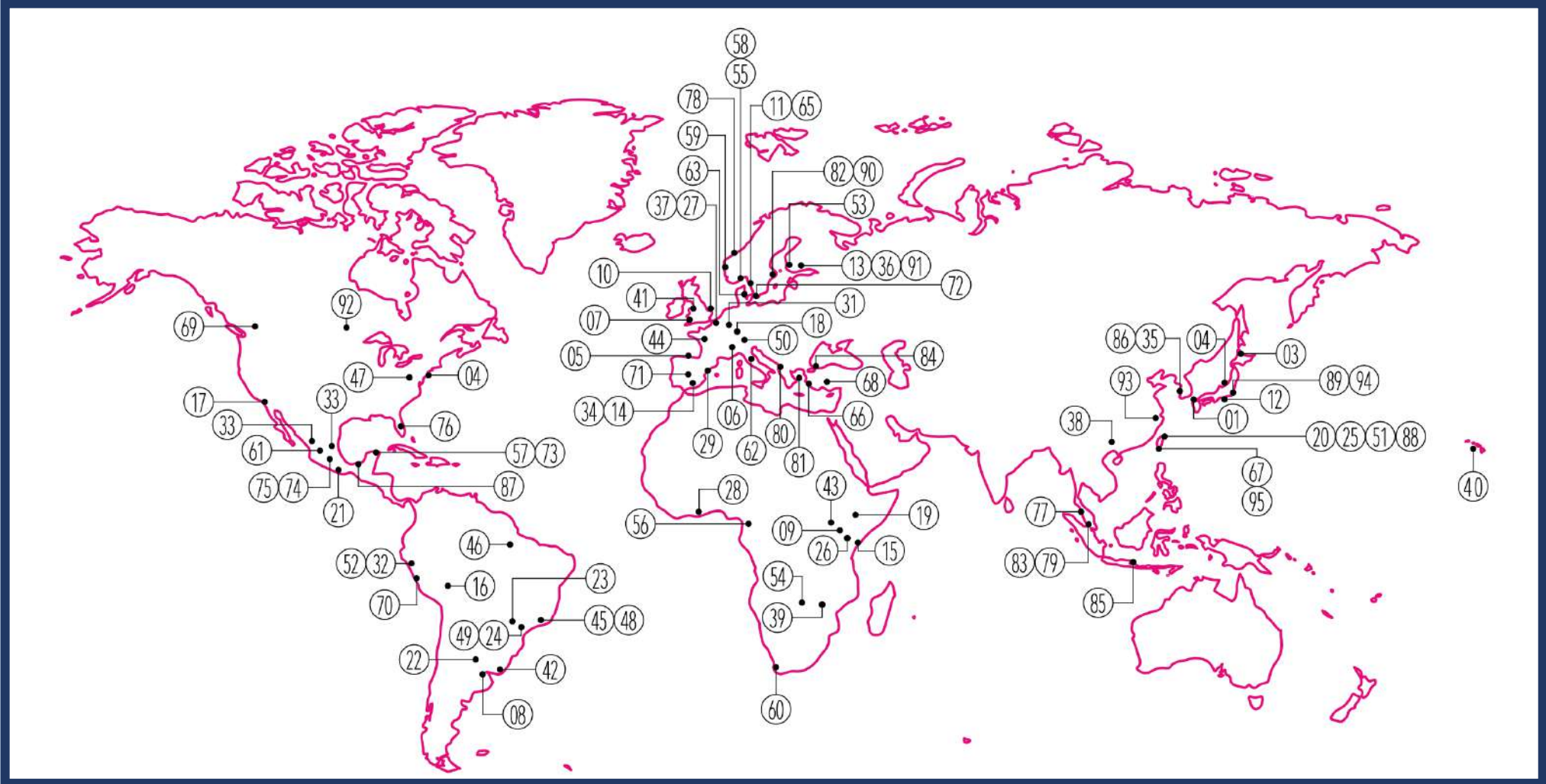


# 1) Background: Voluntary Local Reviews

“A Voluntary Local Review (VLR) is a process in which local and regional governments (LRGs) initiate voluntarily and assessment of their progress of implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs. This makes it possible for LRGs to share experiences, challenges, and lessons learnt as well as to open their door for new partnerships, filling the gap of means of implementation for their local vision.”  
(Ortiz-Moya et al. 2020).



# 1) Background: Voluntary Local Reviews



Identified Local and Regional Governments that have presented at least one VLR between 2018 and 2021

# 1) Background: Voluntary Local Reviews



Identified VLRs presented in 2021 by LRGs by region.



## 2) Why Voluntary Local Reviews?

At first, VLRs focused on reporting progress toward fulfilling the SDGs.

But soon enough, VLRs became policy instruments to aid the work of Local and Regional Governments in localising and operationalising global agendas at the local level.

At such, VLRs work across fundamental steps to translate the SDGs to the local level, including but not limited to:

- Engaging with citizens and other stakeholders.
- Aligning local policies with the SDGs.
- Facilitating multi-level governance.
- Facilitation cross-departmental work.
- Creating a monitoring and evaluation framework.



## 2) Why Voluntary Local Reviews?

Main benefits of conducting a VLR.



Source: Ortiz-Moya and Kataoka, 2022.

## 2) Why Voluntary Local Reviews?

VLRs are growing as a policy instrument that goes **beyond reporting** progress. It is possible to discern different approaches to the VLR process tailored to the needs of local communities.



Source: Ortiz-Moya and Kataoka, 2022.

## 2) Why Voluntary Local Reviews?

The small town of Shimokawa, Hokkaido, used its 2018 VLR to launch a town-wide consultation process to shape its vision to 2030.



Source: Shimokawa Town & IGES, 2018.

### 3) Frontiers Issues and Steps Ahead

1. Strengthening multi-level governances via the integration of different levels of reviews: Voluntary National Reviews – Voluntary Subnational Reviews – Voluntary Local Reviews.
2. Identify ways to translate the soft legacy of the VLR process into clear tangible outcomes. VLRs are multiplying in number, and many governments have already presented more than one VLR. But what happens after the VLR is launched?
3. Peer-learning and partnerships between cities to accelerate work on SDG localisation to meet the 2030 deadline.



For more information visit:



<https://www.iges.or.jp/en/projects/vlr>

# VLR Lab

This online platform provides all you need to know about cities and regions taking a lead on "Voluntary Local Reviews."

VLR Lab Home

News

Events

About VLR

Background

Form



# Thank you!

Fernando Ortiz-Moya, PhD  
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# Upcoming SDG Events



77th Session of the UN  
General Assembly (UNGA 77)  
New York City, USA,  
13-27 September 2022



G20 Leaders' Summit 2022  
Bali, Indonesia,  
15-16 November 2022



UN Climate Change Conference  
2022 (UNFCCC COP 27)  
Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt  
7-18 November 2022



UN Biodiversity Conference  
(CBD COP 15)  
Montreal, Canada,  
5 - 17 December 2022




UN 2023 Water Conference  
New York City, USA,  
22-24 March 2023



SDG Summit 2023,  
UN HLPF  
New York City, USA,  
September 2023



The image features a background of vertical stripes in various colors including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple. In the center, there is a light blue circle containing the text "Q&A" in a dark blue, bold, sans-serif font.

**Q&A**

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# THANK YOU!

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