



Voluntary Sub-national Review on the localization and implementation of the SDGs in Botswana

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United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
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The Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA) is undertaking a review of the localization on of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Botswana. The aim of this report is to contribute to the Voluntary National Review that the Government of Botswana has committed to present to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in June 2022 and to strengthen BALA's advocacy work for the implementation of the SDGs at local level.

Botswana was part of the 193 Member States of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the associated Sustainable Development Goals in September 2015.

The country was also one of the first 43 countries which undertook the Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on SDGs in 2017 (Botswana VNR 2017). During the first five years of Botswana's reporting, the country had prioritized the following six Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 5, 9, and 17. In between reporting cycles, the country has been generating follow-up Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

In Botswana, at local authority level, the SDGs are supposed to be coordinated by the Botswana Association of Local Authorities (BALA). The latter came into being in 1984, but only established a fully-fledged secretariat in 2008 with funding from the European Union. In 2012 the association became fully recognized by section (90) of the Local Government Act No. 18 of 2012. The purpose of the Association is to help create an enabling environment for the Local Authorities (LAs) to become a recognized partner of Central Government, the Civil Society and the Private Sector in the country's development process.

As reflected above, the Botswana Government has since 2017, been generating the country's VNR for submission to the UN HLPF on SDGs. LAs have only participated at the level of the VNR as part of the consultative process. The Botswana LAs will be generating a Voluntary Sub-National Report (VSR) for the

first time in 2022.