Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

National SDG Localization Frameworks Handbook



01

Strategic Summary

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

UN-HABITAT

National SDG Localization Frameworks **Handbook**

Published by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

First published in Nairobi in November 2026 by UN-Habitat Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2026.

All rights reserved.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO, Kenya
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office) www.unhabitat.org

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its member states.

UN-HABITAT

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

About the authors and Acknowledgements

The *National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) Handbook* has been developed by the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, a joint operational initiative led by UN-Habitat and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE).

From UN-Habitat side, the Handbook has been developed by UN-Habitat's SDG Cities and Multilevel Governance Team, under the mandate and supervision of the SDG Localization and Governance Section, the Global Solutions Division and the Local2030 Coalition.

The development of the Handbook was supervised by **Sébastien Vauzelle** and coordinated by **Martino Miraglia**. **Achraf Ghrib**, urban development expert, led the development of the handbook with core contributions from **Pietro Ceppi, Sophie Lena Heuser, Antoine Saurat, Pytrik Oosterhof and Nanor Karageozian**.

Additional contributions were provided by **Camilla Almeida, Nikita Sehmi, Marina Akl** and **Doreen Muinamia**.

Editorial development and editing were led by **Achraf Ghrib**, with editorial support from **Antoine Saurat** and **Moses Wanyonyi**.

From the **Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE)**, the Handbook was coordinated by the Unit for Sustainable Development of the Directorate General for European and International Affairs and for Sustainable Finance led by **Director Alessandro Guerri** which jointly with UN-Habitat developed the structure and contents. Substantive contributions were provided by **Mara Cossu** - coordinator of the Sustainable Development Unit - and by **Isabelle Ronvaux** and **Francesca De Crescenzo**, technical assistance Sogesid at MASE.

The Handbook builds on experiences and lessons emerging from **Italy**, **Senegal** and **Tunisia**. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of **national and subnational government representatives, institutions and partners** engaged in the design and implementation of National SDG Localization Frameworks, whose experiences have helped ground the methodology in concrete country realities.

We also thank colleagues from **UN-Habitat's headquarters, Regional and Country Offices**, members and partners of the **Local2030 Coalition**, and the wider network of experts and practitioners who contributed through technical exchanges, consultations, peer learning and review processes.

The development of the National SDG Localization Framework Handbook benefited from a dedicated co-creation process with UN-Habitat Regional and Country Offices, including regional and country-level working sessions, with **36 countries consulted and 160 participants recorded**. Their contributions helped inform the identification, review and adaptation of tools to diverse institutional and territorial contexts.

Foreword



Anacláudia Rossbach,

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director,

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (UN-Habitat)

With four years remaining until 2030, the world is not short of policies, plans, strategies or commitments. What falls short are the systems that turn them into results. Only 36 per cent of assessable targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track or showing moderate progress, and 15 per cent have regressed. As many as 3.4 billion people live without secure, safe and adequate housing, more than one billion of them in informal settlements and slums. These gaps converge in cities and territories, where at least 105 of the 169 SDG targets cannot be met without local and regional governments.

Nowhere is this clearer than in housing, the roof of the Sustainable Development Goals and one of the most demanding tests of governance. National governments set legal, fiscal and policy frameworks; local and regional governments plan land, deliver basic services and lead the transformation of informal settlements; communities, including women's and grassroots organizations, shape neighbourhoods every day. When they act in isolation, the crisis deepens. When they act together, with resources reaching territories, progress follows. This is why UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 places adequate housing, land and basic services at the center of our mandate, with participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization as essential means of implementation. They are not a parallel agenda; they are how the Strategic Plan is delivered.

Member States have reached the same conclusion. UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/6 requested UN-Habitat to support governments in enhancing multilevel governance for SDG localization. In July 2026, the Political Declaration on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda recognized the need for inclusive multilevel governance systems and for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development approaches and tools that empower local and regional authorities. The Secretary-General's report on Action 55(e) of the Pact for the Future highlights the Local2030 Coalition as an UN-system mechanism to advance localization and multilevel governance. The question is no longer whether to localize, but how to do so systematically, at national scale and in ways that last.

UN-Habitat is answering that question with its partners. As permanent co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition, the United Nations system-wide platform for SDG localization, we work across the UN system to deliver as

one through shared instruments such as the Localization Blueprint, the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 and the Bilbao Bootcamp – a pioneering effort with the Joint SDG Fund to advance local financing solutions for territorial transformation.

The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs transforms these guidance and processes into operational support at country level. Launched in 2024 under Italy's G7 Presidency by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat, it builds on our Strategic Plan and on Italy's experience in Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development with the aim of helping countries and territories delivering on their sustainable development priorities by supporting the design of National

SDG Localization Frameworks. Above all, the Partnership Platform responds to what governments ask for: not another plan, but the means to coordinate across levels, connect policies, multiply action and turn priorities into transformative projects for territories and communities that can be financed.

Countries are already showing what this approach can achieve. In Senegal, the National SDG Localization Framework builds on Vision 2050 and the revision of the National Plan for Territorial Development, bringing Voluntary Local Reviews from three territorial poles into the 2026 Voluntary National Review. Connected to the Bilbao Bootcamp, it helped secure a US$3 million programme expected to leverage around US$24 million for the development of Casamance Region's Agropole. In Tunisia, it aligns the National Development Plan 2026–2030 with the National Territorial Master Plan 2050 across 14 plans, policies and strategies.

The support of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs does not stop at country level. Anchored in the Local2030 Coalition's global engagement, it scales up country experiences and connects partners to exchange practices and solutions. The 2026 VNR peer-learning series, for example, connected 17 countries which co-created a Joint Message on SDG Localization integrated into 2026 Voluntary National Reviews. These technical processes culminate in the Partnership Platform Annual Meeting, traditionally hosted during the High-Level Political Forum.

This Handbook distils this experience into a practical and action-oriented methodology any country can use. A National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) is the connective governance architecture that starts from what each country already has, linking institutions, strategies, budgets, partnerships and data systems into one coherent framework for implementation, with Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as its backbone. Five transformative streams, from political ownership to learning and adaptation, strengthen four enablers: participatory multilevel governance, coherent policies, partnerships and investment, and data systems. Within each framework, UN-Habitat's SDG Cities approach provides the territorial interface from data to strategies to investable projects.

This is why the Handbook is a milestone for UN-Habitat. It takes our work on multilevel governance to the next stage of support, giving governments a tested, nationally owned way to move from fragmented projects to systemic territorial transformation. It offers the United Nations system a common operating framework at country level, recognized by the Local2030 Coalition as an operational architecture for localizing the six SDG transitions and aligned with Cooperation Frameworks. In the years ahead, it will be UN-Habitat's reference methodology for multilevel governance.

The Handbook is a living resource that will grow with every country that applies it, through the NLF Learning Programme and new evidence from the Global Stock take on SDG Localization, co-led with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Local2030 Coalition, towards the 2027 SDG Summit. Towards 2030 and into the second decade of the New Urban Agenda, the ability of governments to act as one system across all levels will decide whether global ambitions become better lives.

I invite governments, local and regional authorities, United Nations Country Teams, development partners and financial institutions to use this Handbook, adapt it and help improve it. I thank the Government of Italy and its Ministry of Environment and Energy Security for their vision and steadfast partnership, as well as Senegal, Tunisia and all partner countries and institutions of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. The true measure of this Handbook will not be how widely it is read, but how many countries use it to change the way they deliver: for every person, in every community, in every territory.

Foreword



Claudio Barbaro

Under Secretary of State to the Environment and Energy Security, Italy

The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals is not simply about bringing a global agenda closer to territories. It is about rethinking how sustainable development is governed and delivered. As we move towards 2030, our ambitions will only translate into lasting, transformational change if Institutions are able to work across sectors and levels of government, connect national priorities with territorial realities, and ensure that policies are mutually reinforcing rather than working in isolation or restraining one another.

Local and regional governments are essential to this endeavour, as territories are where many of the transformations envisioned by the 2030 Agenda ultimately take shape, where Institutions get nearer to people and can gain trust. Effective localization therefore requires national governments to create the conditions for territories to become full partners in sustainable development, strengthening multilevel governance, policy integration and coherence against sustainable development goals, institutional capacities and the connections between planning, financing, implementation and monitoring.

This understanding lies at the heart of this National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) Handbook, developed within the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat.

At the global level, the Partnership Platform contributes to the implementation of UN-Habitat Resolution 2/6 on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and co-sponsored by Italy, as well as to the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide initiative for SDG localization. It also aligns with Italy’s broader engagement with Africa, including through the Mattei Plan, and provides an enabling environment for the development and implementation of projects under MASE’s bilateral and multilateral environmental cooperation. In this context, it also responds to the renewed commitment set out in the Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, which recognizes the importance of supporting countries in localizing the 2030 Agenda, including through the establishment of national Sustainable Development Goals localization frameworks.

At the country level, the Partnership Platform promotes the NLFs as multilevel governance architecture aiming at enabling territories and local communities in designing and implementing high social and environmental impact projects.

The Handbook therefore reflects a shared ambition: to move from valuable but often fragmented localization experiences towards more systematic, nationally anchored and territorially responsive approaches. Rather than adding a new layer of planning or governance, it seeks to connect and strengthen what already exists, building an enabling architecture through which Institutions, policies, resources, partnerships and data can work together more coherently. This reflects the Handbook's definition of National Localization Frameworks as an integrated and adaptive architecture rather than an additional planning instrument.

For Italy, this Handbook is both the achievement of a continuous collaboration and the expression of a broader commitment. Over the past decade, our country has progressively built a sustainable development governance system connecting national strategic vision with territorial ownership and implementation, and that work is still ongoing. Through the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), with Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as its backbone, Italy has sought to strengthen cooperation across levels of government while promoting greater integration across policies and sectors around shared sustainable development objectives. This approach is grounded in a simple conviction: territories are not merely where national policies are implemented, but essential partners in defining priorities, identifying solutions and shaping the country's sustainable development pathway. The Italian experience described in the Handbook similarly places multilevel governance and PCSD at the heart of a system linking governance, policy, finance, participation, monitoring and assessment.

Italy's 2026 Voluntary National Review marked a further step in this journey, connecting national, territorial and intergenerational perspectives through Voluntary Local Reviews and, for the first time, a dedicated Youth Voluntary Review. These experiences remind us that localization is not an end in itself. Its value lies in making public action more coherent, inclusive and responsive, and ultimately in strengthening the capacity of Institutions to deliver tangible results for people and territories. This perspective is increasingly shared across countries, as reflected in the Joint Message on SDG Localization, annexed to Italy's and six other VNR in 2026, which reaffirmed a common commitment to strengthening localization as a key pathway for accelerating sustainable development.

Italy has chosen to bring this experience grown over the years into the international arena not as a model to be replicated, but as a contribution to a shared learning process. This is the rationale behind the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. The initiative has progressively gained international support and today brings together ten countries and four international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the OECD who joined in 2025, providing a common environment for cooperation and for supporting projects developed at the local level in participating countries. This growing engagement confirms the relevance of the Italian initiative and reinforces the recognition of localization as a key dimension of SDG implementation.

Combining political dialogue, peer learning and operational country support, the Platform allows national experiences to inform international cooperation and countries to learn from one another. The Handbook is an important outcome of this cooperation, drawing initially on the experiences of Italy, Senegal and Tunisia and on the broader knowledge generated through UN-Habitat, the Local2030 Coalition and the Partnership Platform.

But this Handbook should not be seen as a finished product. Its value will grow through its use. Conceived as a living resource, it is intended to be progressively enriched by a growing number of national experiences. As new countries engage with the National SDG Localization Framework approach, their practices, challenges and solutions will contribute to expanding the shared body of knowledge and strengthening the methodology itself. The next phase of the Partnership Platform will therefore be as much about learning from implementation as about applying the Handbook, building on new country experiences and progressively broadening the Country Solutions it brings together. This reflects the Handbook's own experience-driven and adaptive approach.

This perspective is particularly important as we look towards the next phase of the global sustainable development agenda. The years ahead must be used not only to accelerate delivery on the 2030 Agenda, but also to safeguard and carry forward its fundamental principles: integration, universality, participation, territorial cohesion and leaving no one behind. Looking also beyond 2030, we believe that the capacity of Institutions to work coherently across sectors and levels of government and connect global ambition with territorial transformation will remain essential.

For Italy, this is also a vision for the future. We believe in the value of the Partnership Platform and of our cooperation with UN-Habitat to support countries in developing their own localization pathways, broadening opportunities for peer learning and strengthening the connections between sustainable development priorities, territorial action and investment. At the same time, we will continue advancing our own national localization process, recognizing that governance frameworks must evolve with new challenges, evidence and the changing needs of territories and generations.

The ambition of this Handbook therefore extends beyond the creation of a methodology. It is to help build a community of countries and partners that can learn from one another and collectively strengthen the systems through which sustainable development is delivered. In doing so, the Handbook and the Partnership Platform can contribute to making multilevel governance and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development not exceptional practices, but ways to make sustainable development a business-as-usual policy making.

We warmly thank UN-Habitat for its vision and partnership throughout this journey, as well as the governments and Institutions of Senegal and Tunisia, whose engagement has helped translate the National SDG Localization Framework approach into concrete country processes. We are equally grateful to the countries and international organizations that adhered to Platform and to all countries, local and regional authorities, organizations, experts and partners that have contributed with their knowledge and experience to this initiative and to this Handbook. We hope that an ever-growing number of countries will feel comfortable in making this resource their own, contribute to its evolution and join us in transforming localization from a shared ambition into a lasting change for people and territories.



National SDG Localization Framework Handbook

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Contents

01
Introduction
Why SDG localization matters
p. I. 04

02
Housing at the Centre of SDG Localization
Why adequate housing is a strategic entry point for an NLF
p.I.12

03
Challenges and Shifts
The transformations enabled by an NLF
p.I.20

04
Foundations
What the NLF is and what it builds on
p.I.28

05
Partnership Platform
The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs
p.I.40

06
Practice
NLF in Italy, Senegal and Tunisia
p.I.44

07
Getting started
How governments can begin
p.I.52

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ARFSD — Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
CEPA — Committee of Experts on Public Administration
ECOSOC — United Nations Economic and Social Council
FIADT — Territorial Planning and Development Impulse Fund (Senegal)
HLPF — High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
MASE — Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy
MLG — Multilevel Governance
MUCTAT — Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Development (Senegal)
NDP — National Development Plan (Tunisia)
NHS — National Housing Strategy (Tunisia)
NLF — National SDG Localization Framework
NSDS — National Sustainable Development Strategy (Italy)
NUA — New Urban Agenda
NUP — National Urban Policy
OECD — Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OEWG-H — Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All
ONT — National Territorial Observatory (Senegal)
PCSD — Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
PNADT — National Plan for Territorial Development (Senegal)
SDADT — Sustainable Development and Territorial Development Plan (Senegal)
SDATN — National Territorial Master Plan (Tunisia)
SDG — Sustainable Development Goal
UN — United Nations
UN DESA — United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP — United Nations Development Programme
UNECE — United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP — United Nations Environment Programme
UN-Habitat — United Nations Human Settlements Programme
VLR — Voluntary Local Review
VNR — Voluntary National Review
VSR — Voluntary Subnational Review
WUF — World Urban Forum

01

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Introduction

Why SDG localization matters

INTRODUCTION

Why SDG localization matters

Across the world, governments face growing pressure to deliver on the development priorities that matter most to people: reducing poverty and inequality, creating jobs and economic opportunities, improving housing and basic services, responding to climate change, managing demographic and migration pressures, and ensuring that development reaches all territories. They must do so in an increasingly complex environment shaped by economic uncertainty, biodiversity loss, conflict and displacement, fiscal constraints, and rising expectations for effective and inclusive public action. More than a decade after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, progress remains insufficient: **only 36 per cent of the 139 SDG targets with available trend data are on track or showing moderate progress, while 49 per cent are advancing too slowly and 15 per cent have regressed below their 2015 baselines.**[1] Progress towards SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities reflects these broader challenges, with persistent gaps in adequate housing, basic services, sustainable mobility and inclusive urban development (see Box 4). Yet even where political priorities are clear and strong policies already exist, results can be held back by the way public institutions, plans, resources and information systems work together. **The challenge is therefore not only to define development ambitions, but to strengthen the systems through which these priorities are translated into tangible results for people and territories.**

At the same time, **territories are increasingly becoming drivers and living laboratories of sustainable development**. Cities, regions and communities are where global challenges intersect with people's everyday lives, but also where public institutions, communities, businesses and other stakeholders develop practical responses, test innovations and translate national commitments into tangible change. The 2030 Agenda itself recognizes **the importance of regional and subregional dimension**s and calls for implementation in close cooperation with regional and local authorities, building on existing national planning instruments.[2] OECD analysis similarly shows that **a majority of SDG targets depend on meaningful engagement by subnational governments.**[3]

SDG localization is the process that enables the collective delivery of sustainable development, transforming territories and communities. It means adapting the SDGs to shape national and local priorities, policies and action around the needs and realities of territories, in line with national frameworks. It is a **two-way process**: national policies shape territorial vision, while local realities, priorities and evidence inform national planning, implementation and resources.[4] Local and regional governments are therefore co-owners of an NLF, not only its implementers. They bring their own mandates, responsibilities and territorial knowledge, and they take part in the decisions that shape it.

Anchored in participatory multilevel governance and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) (see Box 2), SDG localization is more than a technical approach — it represents a paradigm shift toward governance systems built on trust, dialogue, coordination and collective action for territorial transformation.

In many countries, however, the principal obstacle is not the absence of strategies, plans or political commitment, but the fragmentation of the systems through which they are implemented. Policies may be developed sector by sector; national priorities may not be sufficiently connected to territorial realities; and local and regional governments may be expected to deliver results without being fully integrated into national planning, budgeting, monitoring and decision-making processes. Institutions, data systems, programmes, funding and investment pathways, and implementation mechanisms can therefore operate in parallel rather than as mutually reinforcing parts of a coherent system. **Fragmentation can result in overlapping initiatives, contradictory policy directions, inefficient use of limited resources, and missed opportunities to generate greater development impact.** PCSD responds precisely to this challenge by strengthening governments' capacity to identify synergies and trade-offs and build coherence across sectors, institutions, levels of government and time horizons.[5]
As a result, governments face a common question:

How can development systems better coordinate across levels, connect resources to territorial needs, and accelerate implementation?

The **National SDG Localization Framework (NLF)** has been developed in response to this challenge. An NLF provides an integrated and adaptive architecture through which governments can connect national priorities with territorial implementation; strengthen participatory multilevel governance; improve coherence across policies, plans and investments; mobilize stakeholders around shared outcomes; and connect evidence, implementation and learning. Importantly, **it is not a new planning instrument or an additional layer of bureaucracy**. It is designed to strengthen and connect existing institutions, strategies, mechanisms and processes, enabling countries to build progressively on what already exists.

Developed through the **Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs**, promoted by the **Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE)** and **UN-Habitat**, the NLF is anchored in the **Local2030 Coalition** (see Box 3), the United Nations system-wide platform for SDG localization. It operationalizes **PCSD** alongside Local2030 Coalition guidance and tools, including the **Localization Blueprint** and the **SDG Localization Marker 2.0,** and draws on country experience and UN-Habitat's work on multilevel governance and SDG localization. The approach is anchored to **UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029,**

(see Box 1) which identifies **SDG localization and participatory multilevel governance among the key means of implementation for advancing adequate housing, land management and basic services.**

BOX 1. Supporting delivery of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029



UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 introduces a strategic focus on access to adequate housing, land and basic services for all, as a central pathway to sustainable urbanization and to improving people's lives. This focus is pursued across three interconnected impact areas: equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication; environment and climate action; and preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction. Delivery is enabled through five means of implementation, including participatory multilevel governance and localization of the SDGs.

Through the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, the National SDG Localization Framework provides a practical architecture for operationalizing the Strategic Plan's means of implementation, particularly participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization, within country systems. By connecting national priorities with territorial planning and delivery, strengthening multilevel coordination, and aligning policy, investment and data systems, the NLF helps create the enabling conditions through which adequate housing and other Strategic Plan priorities can be delivered coherently and at scale.

→ See Annex 6 for more information on UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

This approach responds to a clear and reinforced institutional mandate. **UN-Habitat Assembly Resolution 2/6 on Localizing the SDGs** calls for **normative guidance and practical tools, stronger multilevel governance, and improved policy coherence across sectors and levels of government. The Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1)**, particularly **Action 55(e)**, reinforces the importance of **engaging local and regional authorities in advancing the 2030 Agenda**. Furthermore, the **Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda (A/RES/80/291), adopted in 2026**, reinforces multilevel governance and policy coherence for sustainable development and **explicitly recognizes national SDG localization frameworks as instruments supporting countries in implementing the New Urban Agenda and localizing the 2030 Agenda (paragraph 50)**. Together, these commitments provide a strong institutional foundation for the NLF.

Equally, the NLF responds to **concrete needs identified through sustained engagement with partner countries and institutions**. Over the past three years, technical workshops, peer-learning exchanges and consultations, particularly through the **Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs,** the **SDG Cities Global Initiative**, the design and early implementation of NLFs in Senegal and Tunisia, have revealed recurring challenges and priorities. These include:

- improving coordination across ministries and levels of government;
- reducing overlaps, contradictions and duplication across policies and plans;
- mobilizing funding and investment around territorial priorities;
- strengthening the use of data for decision-making and monitoring;
- and accelerating tangible development results.

These experiences have directly shaped the National SDG Localization Framework Handbook as a practical, demand-driven and adaptable approach that builds on existing country systems, capacities and priorities.

BOX 2. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development



Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is an operational approach for integrating the economic, social, environmental and governance dimensions of sustainable development across policy design, implementation and review. It enables governments to identify synergies and trade-offs, strengthen coordination across sectors and levels of government, and anticipate the domestic, transboundary and long-term effects of policies.

PCSD is embedded in the 2030 Agenda through SDG Target 17.14 — "Enhance policy coherence for sustainable development". Progress is monitored through Indicator 17.14.1: "Number of countries with mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development." The OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development provides institutional mechanisms and practical tools for governments to anticipate, assess and address policy interactions and their impacts. Within the NLF, **PCSD constitutes the methodological backbone**, guiding coherent decision-making and action across governance, policies and planning, partnerships and investment, and data systems. Its principles are operationalized across the NLF's five transformative streams and four enablers, informing coordination, assessment, implementation, monitoring and adaptation.

→ See Annex 1 for more information on PCSD and Annex 7 on participatory multilevel governance.

BOX 3. The Local2030 Coalition

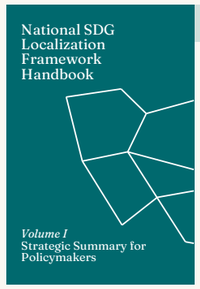
The Local2030 Coalition is the United Nations system-wide platform to accelerate SDG localization, co-chaired by UN-Habitat and UNECE (on behalf of all Regional Economic Commissions) and driven by 14 UN entities. It brings together UN entities, Member States, local and regional governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth to deliver as one — enhancing coherence, efficiency, and impact of UN action, avoiding fragmentation, and connecting global goals with local realities.

The **Local2030 Hubs** are centers of excellence established to build capacities for innovative action and nurture the development of and access to methodologies and tools for SDG localization. Hubs are also expected to promote collaboration and co-creation across local subnational and national governments, community-based, academic, international, and regional organizations, private sector partners, national and subnational networks, development experts, and/or other local stakeholders.

Central to the Coalition's efforts are the **Localization Blueprint** and the **SDG Localization Marker 2.0**. The Blueprint provides a strategic framework for territorial transformation, placing local priorities and realities at the centre of development and financing, while the Marker offers a common reference for designing, assessing and strengthening SDG localization initiatives through multilevel governance, policy coherence and place-based approaches.

→ See Annexes 3 and 4 for more information on the Localization Blueprint and the SDG Localization Marker 2.0.

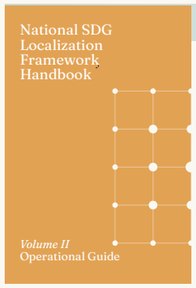
This publication presents the NLF approach through three complementary volumes:



Volume I — Strategic Summary : *Why and what*

Volume I explains why National SDG Localization Frameworks matter, the challenges they address and the transformations they can enable. It introduces the conceptual and institutional foundations of the NLF approach, presents its added value through the experiences of Italy, Senegal and Tunisia, and outlines how governments can initiate an NLF process by identifying suitable political, institutional and policy entry points.

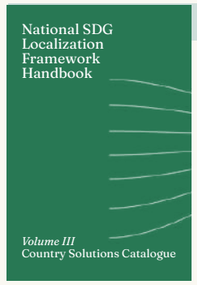
Intended for: Policymakers, national and local government leaders, and development partners.



Volume II — Operational Guide : *How to design and implement*

Volume II provides practitioners with the methodology required to design, apply and strengthen an NLF. It explains how the NLF functions as an integrated and adaptive system, details its foundations, characteristics, enablers and five transformative streams, and offers practical guidance for moving from political ownership and shared visioning to action planning, collective delivery, monitoring, learning and adaptation.

Intended for: Government technical teams, UN practitioners and implementing partners.



Volume III — Country Solutions Catalogue : *What countries are doing in practice*

Volume III presents practical solutions and country roadmaps showing how different elements of the NLF approach can be applied in diverse institutional, territorial and development contexts. Organized by country and coded against the five transformative streams and the four NLF enablers, it provides examples of approaches, mechanisms and practices that countries can draw on and adapt when addressing specific localization challenges.

Intended for: Policymakers and practitioners seeking practical, adaptable country experiences and solutions.



Annexes — Reference Frameworks and Complementary Tools provide additional information on the key institutional, conceptual and methodological frameworks underpinning the NLF, alongside complementary tools that can support its context-specific application.

Intended for: Policymakers and practitioners seeking additional references, technical guidance and specialized tools.

The three volumes can be used independently or together, depending on the reader's needs. **Volume I** provides strategic orientation; **Volumes I and II** can be used together to initiate, design and implement an NLF; and **Volume III** can be consulted at any stage for country experiences and practical solutions that inform adaptation and implementation. The Annexes complement all three volumes with additional references, technical resources and tools that can be consulted as needed.

One of the clearest ways to understand why SDG localization matters in practice is through **housing**: delivering adequate housing and addressing informal settlements require connected action across national policy, urban planning, local delivery, finance and multilevel governance. The following chapter uses housing as an applied lens to illustrate this logic.



02

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Housing at the Centre of SDG Localization

Why adequate housing is a strategic entry point for an NLF

Why housing requires Participatory Multilevel Governance and SDG Localization?

Adequate housing is more than shelter. It is a fundamental human right and a foundation for health, dignity, social inclusion, economic opportunity and climate resilience. Yet delivering adequate housing, land and basic services for all requires more than housing policies or individual projects. **It requires effective participatory multilevel governance to connect national policies and priorities with territorial planning and local implementation, alongside coherent land and urban development policies, accessible financing, capable institutions and meaningful engagement of communities and stakeholders.** This is particularly evident in **informal settlements**, where housing inadequacy, insecure tenure, limited access to services and environmental vulnerabilities often intersect, requiring integrated and territorially responsive solutions.

Recognizing these interdependencies, **UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029** places **access to adequate housing, land and basic services for all** at the centre of its strategic focus, including the urgent transformation of informal settlements and slums. This focus contributes to three interconnected impact areas: **equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication; environment and climate action; and preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction.** To translate this ambition into results, the Strategic Plan identifies **five mutually reinforcing means of implementation**. Two are substantive: **integrated urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance**; and **participatory multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals**. These are supported by three additional means covering knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development; partnerships, coalitions, advocacy and communication; and effective resource mobilization.

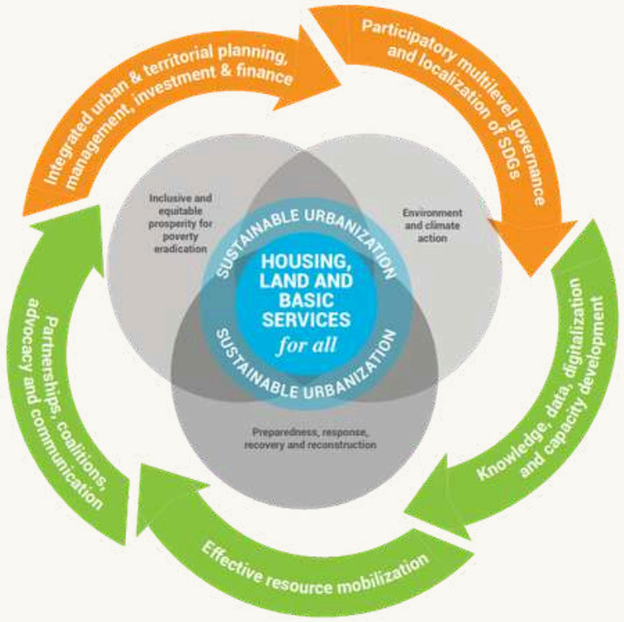


Figure 1. *Three impact areas and five means of implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-29*
Source: UN-Habitat (2025). Strategic Plan 2026–2029.

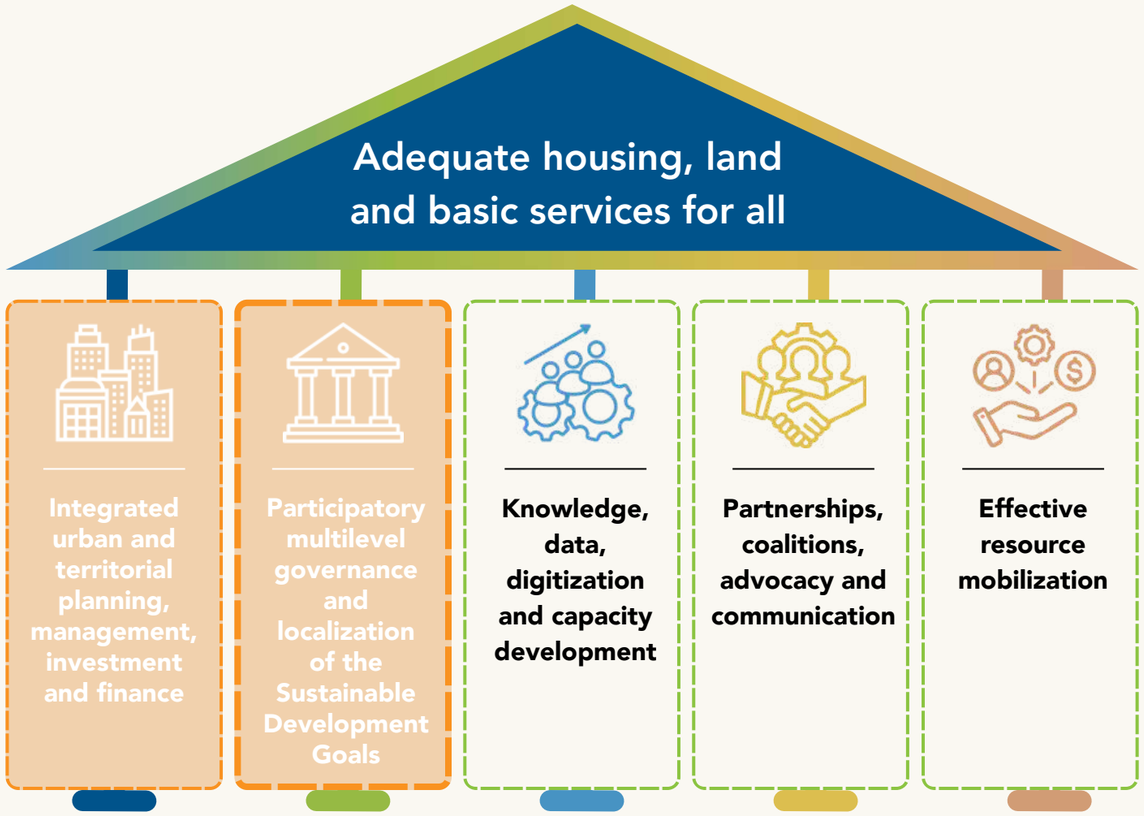


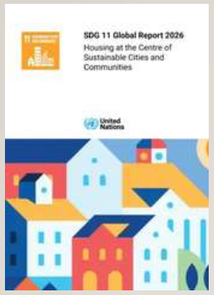
Figure 2. *Five means of implementation supporting adequate housing, land and basic services for all*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026).National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

The **National SDG Localization Framework (NLF)** provides an **operational architecture for advancing these means of implementation through existing country systems**. With a particular focus on participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization, it supports governments in connecting **national housing and urban development priorities with territorial planning, institutional coordination, funding and investment pathways, and data systems**. Rather than introducing parallel policies or structures, the NLF strengthens coherence between existing mechanisms and enables national and subnational governments, communities and partners to **translate shared priorities into coordinated territorial action**. In doing so, **it supports the enabling conditions for delivering adequate housing and other sustainable development priorities more coherently and at scale.**

From the global housing crisis to integrated housing policy

The scale and interconnected nature of today's housing challenges underline the urgency of **more integrated approaches to sustainable urban development**. Housing inadequacy, the persistence of informal settlements, growing affordability pressures and unequal access to basic services are closely linked to broader challenges of urban planning, land management, infrastructure, environmental sustainability and social inclusion. Addressing these challenges requires **moving beyond fragmented interventions towards coherent policies and coordinated action across sectors, territories and levels of government.**

BOX 4. Progress towards SDG 11: Housing at the Centre of Sustainable Cities and Communities



The UN-Habitat SDG 11 Global Report 2026 finds that SDG 11 remains off track, despite progress in several areas. Placing adequate housing at the centre of its assessment, the report highlights persistent challenges across interconnected dimensions of sustainable urban development:

- Housing and informal settlements: More than 3 billion people lack adequate housing, including over 1.1 billion living in slums and informal settlements. Housing affordability pressures are also increasing worldwide.
- Sustainable mobility: Access to public transport improved from 53.2 per cent in 2020 to 61.5 per cent in 2025 across surveyed cities, yet significant inequalities persist.
- Public spaces and urban planning: Public and green spaces remain under pressure, while urban expansion and unequal access to services continue to challenge inclusive and sustainable urban development.
- Urban resilience and data: Disasters continue to affect millions of people annually, while gaps in disaggregated urban data constrain evidence-based planning and targeted investment.

The report underscores the need for integrated housing and urban development policies, stronger multilevel governance, coordinated investment and improved territorial data systems to accelerate progress towards SDG 11.[14]

Responding to these challenges requires strengthening **the integration of housing policies within broader national and territorial development systems.** This direction is reflected in the ongoing work of the **Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H)** (see Box 5), whose proposed recommendations on **Integrated National Housing Policies** emphasize the need to **move beyond individual policy instruments towards systemic and context-responsive approaches.**

The emerging approach identifies four interconnected dimensions of housing policy integration:

- **Horizontal integration:** Connecting housing policies with national development strategies, urban policies, land management, economic and social policies, and environmental frameworks.
- **Vertical integration:** Strengthening participatory multilevel governance, with national, regional and local governments sharing responsibilities for housing policy formulation, implementation and monitoring, alongside communities and other stakeholders.
- **Spatial integration:** Connecting housing with urban planning, infrastructure, basic services and economic opportunities, while responding to inequalities across metropolitan, urban, peri-urban and rural territories.
- **Temporal integration:** Linking immediate housing needs with long-term planning, investment, monitoring and adaptation across policy and development cycles.

BOX 5. Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All

Established pursuant to UN-Habitat Assembly Resolution 2/7 (2023), the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All supports the development of policy recommendations to accelerate progress towards safe, sustainable, adequate and affordable housing for all. Its work addresses key dimensions of the housing crisis, including homelessness, environmentally sustainable and resilient housing, and integrated national housing policies.

The proposed recommendations emerging in 2026 emphasize **systemic approaches to housing, participatory multilevel governance, policy coherence, spatial and urban planning, and inclusive responses to informality and housing deprivation.** They recognize the importance of **context-specific pathways that build on existing institutions, policies and capacities**.[15]

These emerging recommendations provide **a relevant policy foundation for the NLF**, which can support their operationalization by **connecting housing priorities with national and territorial governance, planning, financing and monitoring processes.**

These dimensions of integration are closely aligned with the **NLF's approach to strengthening policy coherence and participatory multilevel governance for sustainable development**. They also underscore the importance of **National Urban Policies** and **urban planning** as instruments for **translating integrated housing priorities into territorial action, connecting national frameworks with local needs, responsibilities and implementation capacities.**

From integrated policies to localized housing action

National Urban Policies (NUPs) and **urban planning** provide complementary entry points for translating housing priorities into action (see Box 6). While NUPs can establish national directions for sustainable urban development, urban and territorial planning instruments help determine where and how housing development, infrastructure provision, land management and settlement upgrading take place. **Informal settlements** are a critical test of this connection: integrating their upgrading and prevention into mainstream planning requires addressing tenure security, access to basic services, spatial inequalities and community participation, rather than relying on isolated interventions.

BOX 6. National Urban Policies, Urban Planning and the New Urban Agenda

The **New Urban Agenda (NUA)**, adopted in 2016, provides a global framework for sustainable urbanization, emphasizing integrated urban planning, adequate housing, inclusive territorial development and effective multilevel governance.[16]

Its **2026 midterm review**, culminating in the Political Declaration adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, reaffirmed adequate housing as a catalyst for sustainable development. Notably, the Declaration explicitly recognizes the need for **inclusive multilevel governance systems** and **Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) approaches and tools that empower local and regional authorities** (paragraph 36), and calls for **strengthening multilevel governance and PCSD to connect national priorities and global frameworks with local action** (paragraph 40(i)).[17]

National Urban Policies provide an important means of translating these commitments into country-specific frameworks, connecting national development priorities with **urban and territorial planning and implementation**. Through the NLF, countries can **strengthen the coherence between NUPs, housing policies, spatial planning instruments and local development processes**, while **supporting the institutional coordination and partnerships needed for their implementation.**

The National SDG Localization Framework offers a practical architecture for strengthening these connections within existing country systems. Through **participatory multilevel governance** and **PCSD**, it helps connect and integrate national housing strategies, national urban policies, urban and territorial planning frameworks, institutional responsibilities, financing arrangements and monitoring systems around shared sustainable development priorities. In metropolitan contexts, these connections can be further supported by UN-Habitat's Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance (see Box 9), which provides specialized guidance on coordinating housing policy, planning, land management and financing across metropolitan jurisdictions.

Importantly, this is a **two-way process**: national frameworks guide territorial action, while **local governments, communities and territorial evidence contribute to shaping national priorities, policies and implementation mechanisms**. The ongoing NLF process in Tunisia illustrates how such an approach can be applied to housing (see Box 7).

BOX 7. Tunisia: Using the NLF to Localize the National Housing Strategy in 5 different municipalities

In Tunisia, the National SDG Localization Framework builds on existing national policy and planning processes, including the **National Development Plan 2026–2030**, **National Territorial Master Plan 2050**, **National Urban Policy** and **National Housing Strategy (NHS)**. A central component of the process is the development of a **contextualized PCSD mechanism** to strengthen coherence across these frameworks and their territorial implementation.

Within this approach, UN-Habitat and national partners are exploring the development of **localized Housing Action Plans in the Partnership Platform's pilot municipalities, connecting the National Housing Strategy with local housing needs, urban development priorities and implementation capacities.**

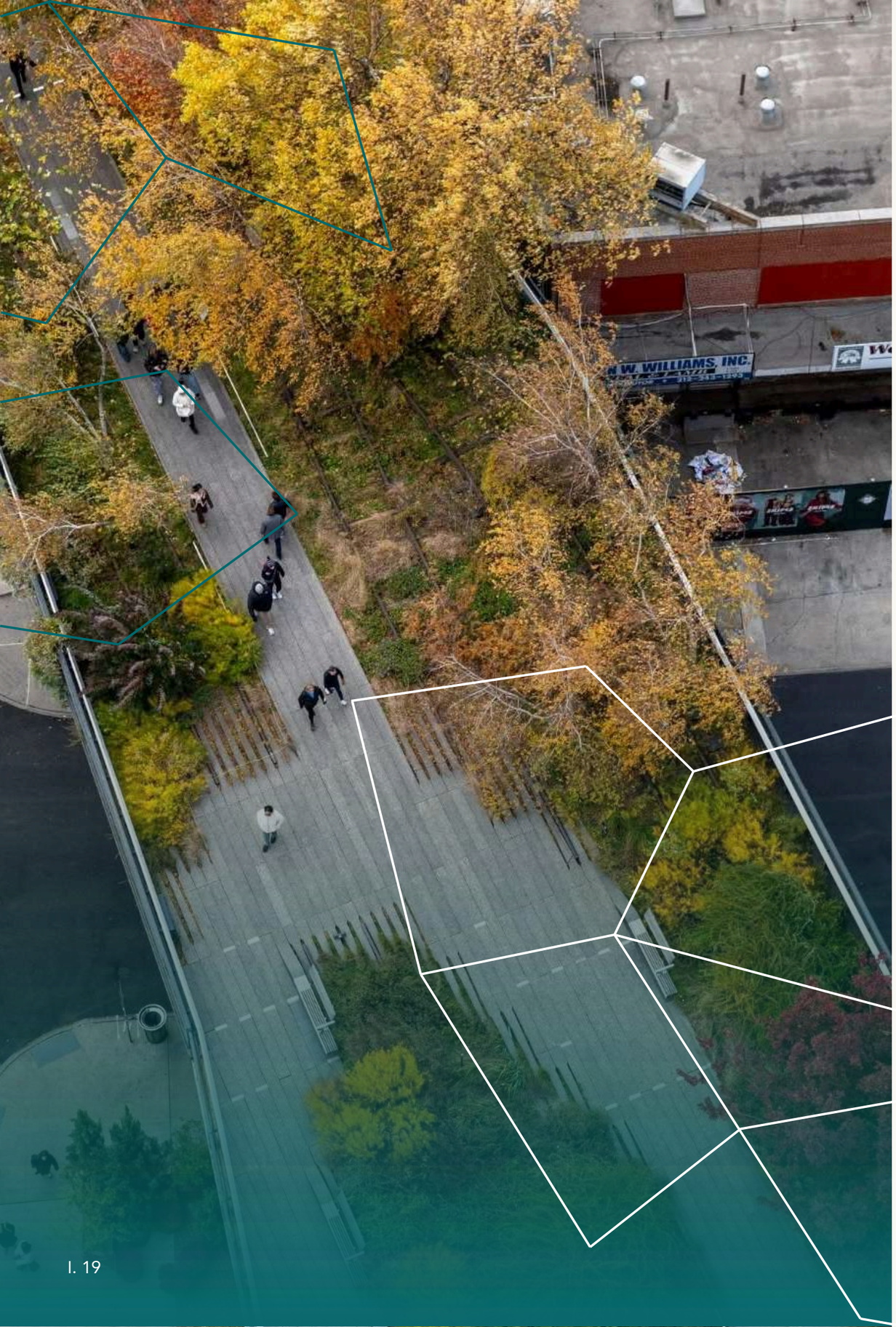
The proposed approach seeks to build on the municipalities' **Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs),** prepared under the Partnership Platform, **the existing local development plans and project pipelines**, and relevant **UN-Habitat tools** to identify territorial housing priorities, inform localized action planning and strengthen connections with existing planning and financing mechanisms. At the same time, the emerging PCSD mechanism provides an opportunity to **reinforce horizontal coherence across national strategies and vertical coherence between national housing objectives and territorial action.**

→ *See Chapter 6 of Volume I and Chapter 3 of Volume III for more on Tunisia's experience.*

Housing as an Applied Lens of the NLF

Housing illustrates how the NLF can be applied to a specific development priority, connecting governance, policies, funding and partnerships and data systems through a common methodology. The same approach can be adapted to other priorities, including climate action, inclusion, recovery and reconstruction, prosperity, and urban–rural development.

As the housing focus shows, achieving tangible territorial outcomes requires overcoming systemic challenges of fragmentation, policy misalignment, underfunding and data gaps. The following chapter examines these challenges and the transformations enabled by an NLF.



03

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Challenges and Shifts

The transformations enabled by an NLF

THE FOUR SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES

Governments are under growing pressure to deliver on the issues that matter most to people: **reducing poverty and inequality, creating jobs and economic opportunities, improving housing and basic services, responding to climate change, managing demographic and migration pressures, and ensuring that development reaches all territories.** Yet even where political priorities are clear and strong policies already exist, results can be held back by the way public institutions, plans, resources and information systems work together.

Across countries, **four recurring systemic challenges** can make it harder for governments to turn national and territorial ambitions into visible improvements in people's lives and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.[3] [4] The 36 Voluntary National Reviews presented in 2026 confirm this picture, while showing that localization and multilevel governance are increasingly what connect global commitments to delivery.

Fragmentation

National priorities are delivered through multiple institutions and levels of government, but these systems do not always work in sync. Responsibilities, timelines, planning processes, reporting arrangements and decision-making mechanisms may be disconnected across levels of government. This makes coordination more difficult, weakens the national–local interface and can slow implementation where it matters most. OECD analysis underlines the importance of stronger multilevel coordination, noting that a substantial share of the SDG targets cannot be achieved without the meaningful engagement of subnational governments.[3]

→ *See Annex 7 for more information on Multilevel Governance.*

Misalignment

Governments often have no shortage of plans, strategies and commitments. The challenge is that these frameworks may be developed and implemented separately by different institutions, sectors and levels of government, with limited alignment between them. As a result, priorities may compete rather than reinforce one another, resources may be spread too thinly, and opportunities for greater collective impact may be missed. PCSD responds to precisely these types of challenges by helping governments understand policy interactions, identify synergies and trade-offs, and strengthen coherence across institutions, sectors and levels of government. [5]

→ *See Annex 1 for more information on PCSD.*

> *If local governments do not have the management capacity, the technical capacity, the financial framework and the human resources, they cannot structure projects, present them, or secure financing.*
>
> Hon. Moussa Bala Fofana, Minister of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Development, Senegal, Annual Meeting of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, HLPF 2026, New York

Underfunding

Many development priorities are known and broadly agreed, but the resources required for implementation may be insufficient, fragmented or poorly connected to territorial needs. Projects and initiatives can struggle to move from planning to implementation, while available funding, investment opportunities and partnerships may remain disconnected from local priorities, institutional responsibilities and existing delivery processes. The gap is not only one of investment. Most local delivery depends on routine public finance: intergovernmental transfers, local revenue powers, recurrent budgets to operate and maintain services, and procurement systems. Where responsibilities are decentralized without matching resources or revenue powers, local governments are left with unfunded mandates, and even well-prepared projects may never be built, operated or maintained. Wider evidence on sustainable development financing continues to highlight the need to better connect development priorities with investment and financing systems capable of supporting implementation at scale.[6] The 2026 VNRs identify financing as the most significant constraint on SDG implementation, as official development assistance declines and debt service rises.

Data Gaps

Sustainable development is delivered in territories, but the information required to understand territorial realities is often incomplete, fragmented or disconnected from decision-making. Without reliable and sufficiently localized data, governments face difficulties identifying disparities, setting priorities, directing available resources, measuring progress and responding to the diverse needs of communities and territories. Strengthening localized data, monitoring and reporting systems is therefore increasingly recognized as a core condition for effective SDG localization.[4]

These systemic challenges require a **shift away from fragmented approaches towards more integrated, coordinated and territorially responsive systems**. NLF supports this transition through four mutually reinforcing shifts: towards participatory multilevel governance, policy integration, effective collective delivery, and evidence-driven territorial action, all underpinned by Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

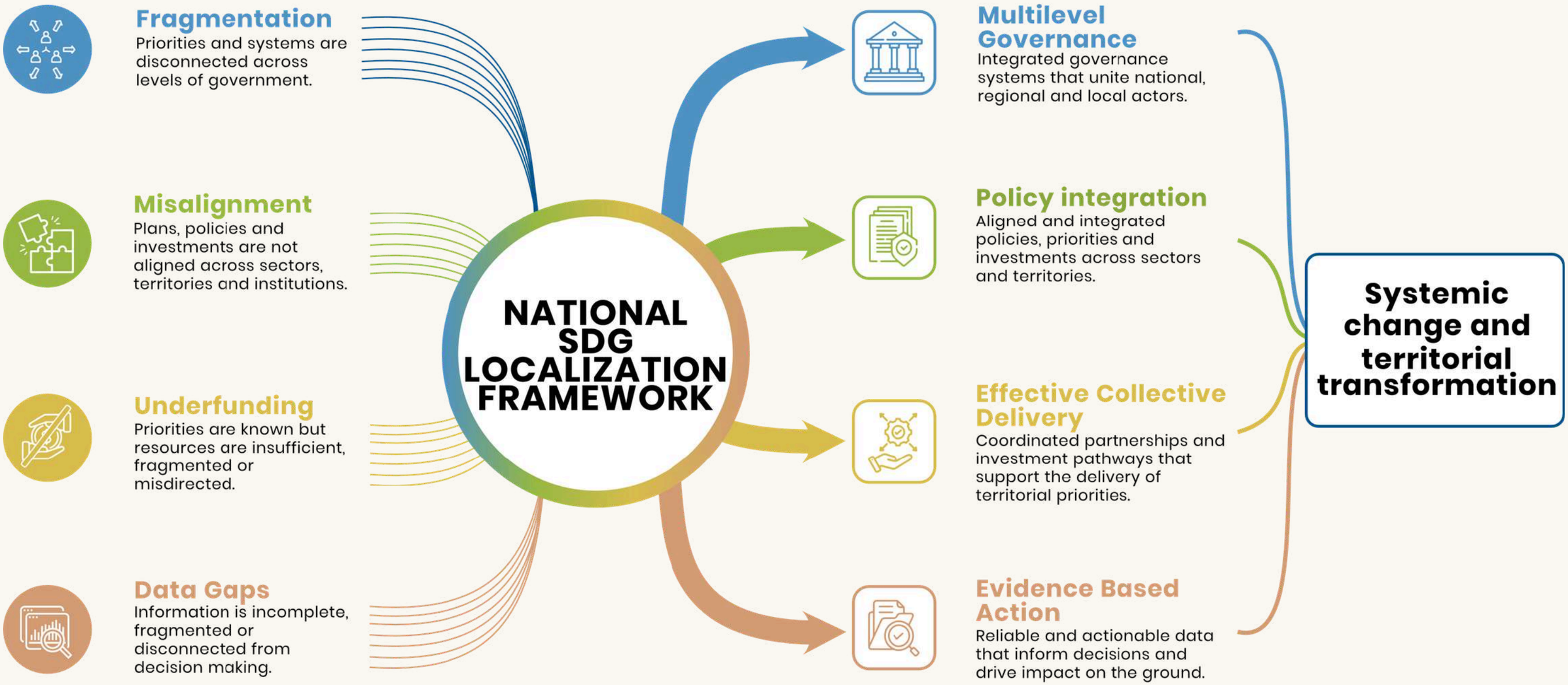


Figure 3. *The four systemic challenges to four shifts through the NLF*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

SHIFTS FROM SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES TO SOLUTIONS



→ From Fragmentation to Multilevel Governance

The shift is from fragmented institutional action towards participatory multilevel governance systems that enable national, regional and local actors to plan, implement, monitor and learn together. NLF provides structures and processes for clarifying responsibilities, establishing coordination mechanisms and aligning actors across levels of government around shared priorities and collective action. This responds to a wider body of evidence showing that effective SDG implementation requires institutional arrangements capable of connecting national frameworks with territorial priorities and implementation capacities. [3] [4]

→ From Misalignment to Policy Integration

The shift is from disconnected strategies and competing priorities towards greater coherence across national, sectoral and territorial frameworks. NLF applies PCSD as an operational approach to connect policies, institutions, plans, implementation processes and reporting arrangements around shared sustainable development outcomes. This involves not only promoting integration of policies as an objective, but also using coordination mechanisms, assessment tools, evidence and monitoring processes to identify synergies, anticipate and manage trade-offs, reduce duplication and strengthen alignment between national objectives and territorial realities. [5] [7]

> ***The Partnership Platform supports countries in designing National SDG Localization Frameworks: the governance architecture that connects national priorities to local delivery, and moves countries from fragmented projects to systemic territorial transformation.***
>
> Anaclaudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat, Annual Meeting of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, HLPF 2026, New York

→ From Underfunding to Collective Delivery

The shift is from priorities being disconnected from resources towards stronger partnerships and clearer funding and investment pathways. NLF helps governments assess gaps, identify relevant existing mechanisms and partners, and connect territorial priorities and project pipelines with public, development and private financing frameworks. This starts with the routine public finance systems through which local governments deliver (intergovernmental transfers, local revenues, recurrent and maintenance budgets, procurement), on which project pipelines build. The role of the NLF is therefore to strengthen the enabling conditions, institutional connections and evidence needed for resources to support territorial delivery, rather than to create or manage financing mechanisms itself.

→ From Data Gaps to Evidence-driven Territorial Action

The shift is from decisions based on fragmented or insufficient information towards territorial action grounded in reliable evidence and local realities. NLF supports this transition by strengthening territorial data systems and connecting data, planning, monitoring, reporting and stakeholder engagement. This enables governments to identify disparities, prioritize action, direct resources more effectively, assess results and adapt implementation over time, while strengthening the feedback between territorial evidence and national policy processes.[4]



04

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Foundations

What the NLF is and what it builds on

WHAT IS AN NLF?

An NLF is an **integrated** and **adaptive** architecture for SDG localization. Rather than creating a new national plan, programme or institutional layer, it connects and strengthens the **governance arrangements**, **policies** and **planning processes**, **partnerships** and **resource pathways**, and **data and monitoring systems** through which sustainable development is already implemented. Its purpose is to make these systems work more **coherently** across sectors, institutions and levels of government, while strengthening the connection between **national priorities** and **local action**.

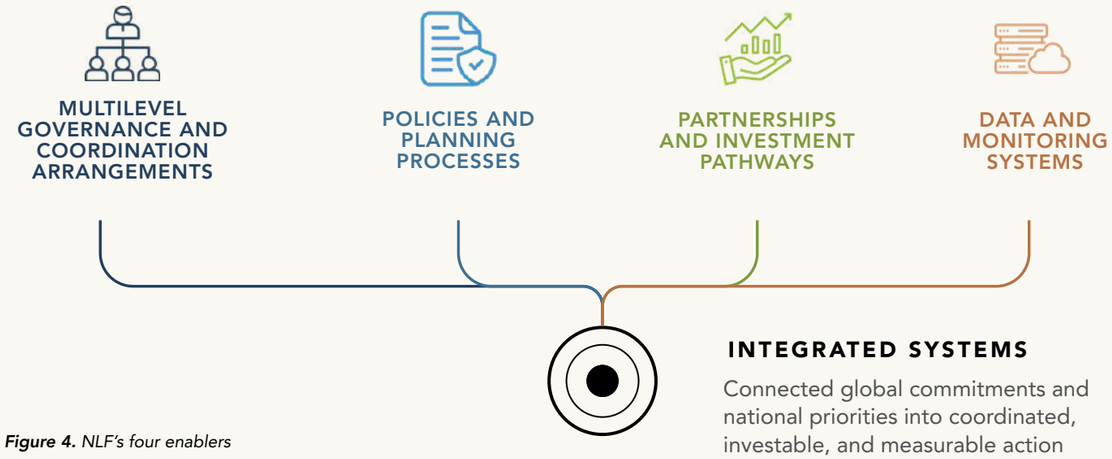


Figure 4. *NLF's four enablers*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026).National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

An NLF therefore provides a **common operating framework for localization**. It helps governments organize political leadership and institutional coordination; build shared territorial visions; integrate policies and priorities; translate them into actionable roadmaps; connect implementation with relevant partners, funding and investment opportunities; and use evidence and learning to continuously improve delivery. The aim is tangible territorial results: adequate housing, basic services, reduced spatial inequalities, investment in underserved areas and climate resilience, including across functional territories that span administrative boundaries. The NLF is designed to **build on existing national and subnational institutions, strategies and reform processes** rather than replace them.

The methodology is deliberately **modular** and **adaptive**. Countries do not need to activate every element at once or follow a rigid sequence. Different streams, processes and tools can be selected, sequenced or implemented in parallel according to existing governance arrangements, institutional and technical capacities, national planning cycles, territorial needs and political or reform opportunities. This reflects growing evidence that SDG localization is shaped by existing governance contexts and therefore requires context-responsive rather than uniform approaches. [8]

> ***The value proposition of the National SDG Localization Framework is that it is not a planning document; it is about the institutional architecture.***
>
> Amita Gill, Global Lead, Local Action, UNDP, Annual Meeting of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, HLPF 2026, New York

THE ADDED VALUE OF AN NLF

Most countries already have many of the elements needed to localize the SDGs: a national strategy, territorial plans, VNRs and a growing number of VLRs, coordination bodies and monitoring systems. What is usually missing is the connection between them. National priorities do not always reach territorial plans, local evidence rarely informs national decisions, and territorial priorities seldom become projects that can be financed.

Existing instruments each address one part of this cycle: VNRs and VLRs report on progress, national SDG strategies set objectives, and city-level methodologies support individual local governments. An NLF works on the connections between them. It does not add another document. It organizes the full cycle around the national–local interface, from political anchoring to delivery and learning, and it strengthens governance, policy, finance and data together rather than separately.

For governments, this brings four gains:

- Coherence: national, territorial and sectoral plans pull in the same direction, with clear roles across levels of government.
- Return on existing investments: VNRs, VLRs, observatories and coordination bodies feed into each other instead of running in parallel.
- A pathway to finance: territorial priorities are turned into investment pipelines that can attract domestic and external resources.
- Continuity: localization is built into national reform and planning cycles, so it lasts beyond individual projects or funding windows.

PRINCIPLES THAT APPLY TO EVERY NLF

An NLF is grounded in the 2030 Agenda's commitment to leave no one behind. Human rights, equality and non-discrimination, and gender equality are not an optional lens. They apply to every part of an NLF, whatever entry point a country chooses. In practice, every NLF process asks three questions:

- Who is included? Women, youth (see Box 11 for youth participation), persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and other groups at risk of exclusion take part in decisions, not just in consultations.
- Who benefits? Priorities, plans and investments are assessed for their effects on different groups and territories, starting with those furthest behind.
- Who is counted? Data are disaggregated by sex, age, disability and location wherever possible, so that inequalities become visible and can be acted on.

CO-OWNERSHIP ACROSS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

An NLF is led nationally but owned jointly. Local and regional governments do not simply implement national priorities. They hold their own mandates and responsibilities, are accountable to their own constituents, and bring territorial knowledge that national institutions do not have. Whatever the system of government, every NLF therefore ensures, as a minimum, that:

- Local and regional governments are represented in NLF governance from the start, through representatives they designate themselves, such as their national associations;
- They take part in decisions, not only in consultations, on matters that concern their mandates and territories;
- No responsibility is assigned to them without their agreement and the resources to carry it out;
- Territorial plans and local reviews (VLRs, VSRs) are formal inputs to national planning, reporting and investment.

These expectations put the CEPA principles of subsidiarity and participation into practice. Like the principles above, they are not subject to selective activation: only the way they are met is adapted to each context (see Volume II, Part II).

ADAPTING TO EACH COUNTRY'S GOVERNANCE SYSTEM

The methodology is deliberately modular. Countries do not need to activate every element at once or follow a rigid sequence. Streams, processes and tools can be selected, sequenced or implemented in parallel according to existing governance arrangements, institutional and technical capacities, national planning cycles, territorial needs and reform opportunities.[8] Selective activation applies to processes, actions and tools, never to the principles above.

The same flexibility applies to systems of government (see Box 8). In unitary, federal and devolved systems alike, an NLF builds coherence across levels of government while respecting each level's mandate. Where legislative, fiscal and implementation powers are constitutionally distributed, coherence may rely on intergovernmental agreements, joint decision-making arrangements and commitments embedded in each government's planning and budget processes. Entry points can then differ across states or provinces, connected through shared objectives and agreed coordination mechanisms.

BOX 8. NLF in federal and devolved systems

The NLF is inherently **collaborative**, **participatory** and **grounded in multilevel and multistakeholder governance**, making it **adaptable to different systems of government**, including federal, devolved and unitary arrangements. Its purpose is not to impose national priorities on territories, but to **build coherence between development priorities, institutions and actions across levels of government**, while respecting their respective mandates and responsibilities.

In federal and constitutionally devolved systems, NLF design must account for the distribution of legislative, policy, fiscal and implementation responsibilities across jurisdictions. Where powers are constitutionally allocated between levels of government, establishing coherence may require **formal intergovernmental agreements**, **joint decision-making arrangements** and **commitments embedded in the respective planning and budgetary processes of constituent governments.**

The NLF may therefore involve **differentiated institutional entry points and transformative processes across states or provinces**, connected through **shared sustainable development objectives** and **agreed coordination mechanisms**. Particular attention is required where responsibilities for financing, service delivery and data management are distributed across jurisdictions, ensuring that **commitments are supported by appropriate resources, institutional arrangements and accountability mechanisms**.

Beyond constitutional and administrative arrangements, an NLF can also adapt to functional territorial configurations, including **metropolitan areas**, where housing, land use, mobility, infrastructure and basic services often extend across administrative boundaries. Depending on the country context, **metropolitan governance** may involve dedicated authorities, intermunicipal cooperation or other coordination mechanisms. An NLF can help connect these arrangements with national sustainable development priorities, policies, planning processes and investment frameworks, **strengthening coherence and integration across institutions and territorial scales.** This is particularly relevant to adequate housing, where integrated metropolitan approaches can support more coordinated and territorially responsive implementation (see Box 9).

BOX 9. Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance

UN-Habitat's Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance (2026) provides conceptual foundations and operational guidance for advancing adequate housing at the metropolitan scale. Recognizing that housing and land markets, infrastructure and service systems often transcend municipal boundaries, the Guide promotes an integrated approach structured around three interconnected pillars: **metropolitan governance**, strengthening institutional coordination and stakeholder participation; **metropolitan planning and land regulation**, aligning housing policies with territorial planning and land management; and **financing** metropolitan housing policy, connecting housing priorities with financing instruments and investment mechanisms. These pillars are supported by cross-cutting attention to data, monitoring, transparency and social inclusion.

The Guide complements the NLF Handbook by providing **specialized guidance for metropolitan housing contexts**. Where relevant, an NLF can help connect these metropolitan arrangements and interventions with broader national sustainable development priorities, policies and implementation systems.

A METHODOLOGY BUILT ON ESTABLISHED FOUNDATIONS

The NLF does not start from a blank page. Its architecture brings together established UN frameworks and partner approaches, contemporary knowledge on sustainable development and territorial transformation, and lessons generated through years of SDG localization practice. These foundations are combined into one operational methodology designed specifically around the national–local interface.

Participatory multilevel governance and effective governance for sustainable development

SDG localization depends on institutions that work across sectors and levels of government. Participatory multilevel governance provides this architecture. The 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development, developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) and endorsed by ECOSOC in 2018, define its quality around the three core elements of SDG 16:

- Effectiveness: competence, sound policymaking, collaboration.
- Accountability: integrity, transparency, independent oversight.
- Inclusiveness: leaving no one behind, non-discrimination, participation, subsidiarity, intergenerational equity.

Each process in Volume II shows how it puts these principles into practice. Subsidiarity is central: each task is carried out at the level of government best placed to perform it, with the mandate and resources it requires.

Grounded in human rights and the 2030 Agenda's pledge to leave no one behind, non-discrimination and gender equality apply across every stream, process and action of an NLF, whatever entry point a country selects.

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is a commitment of the 2030 Agenda itself. SDG target 17.14 calls on all countries to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development, tracked through indicator 17.14.1.

The OECD Recommendation on PCSD (2019) translates this commitment into eight principles grouped in three pillars: a strategic vision, effective and inclusive institutional mechanisms, and responsive and adaptive tools. These principles structure the PCSD boxes of Volume II.

UN-Habitat adds the territorial dimension. Through Assembly Resolution 2/6, the New Urban Agenda and its support to national urban policies, it promotes vertical coherence, so that national sectoral choices match what territories need and can deliver.

The NLF brings these perspectives together as an operational approach for identifying synergies and trade-offs and strengthening coherence across policies, institutions, levels of government, implementation and monitoring.

Localization Blueprint and SDG Localization Marker 2.0

The NLF is **institutionally anchored in the Local2030 Coalition** and operationalizes its core localization tools at country level. The **Localization Blueprint** provides a framework for **translating political commitments into transformation pathways on the ground**. It ensures development and finance are driven from the bottom up by placing territorial priorities, needs, and realities at the center.

The **SDG Localization Marker 2.0** complements the Blueprint by fostering multilevel governance and policy coherence, strengthening whole-of-society collaboration, and **helping channel catalytic finance toward locally led, people-centred sustainable development outcomes**.

Together, the two tools connect the Local2030 Coalition's global vision with measurable territorial action, which the Partnership Platform translates into country-level support through National SDG Localization Frameworks.

SDG Cities and local implementation

SDG Cities brings the territorial operational dimension of the NLF process. SDG Cities, UN-Habitat's corporate approach for integrated local development, provides tools and processes across data, strategic planning, institutional capacity and implementation that can support the local application of an NLF. This creates a practical connection between national localization architecture and locally led development processes, including Action-Oriented VLRs, territorial assessments and project identification.

Systems thinking and adaptive transformation

The SDGs form an interconnected system rather than a collection of independent objectives. The NLF applies systems thinking to connect governance, policy, resources, data and implementation; recognizes interdependencies and feedback loops; and identifies interventions capable of generating effects across multiple development objectives. Its cyclical structure reflects the understanding that transformation is not linear: implementation generates evidence and learning, which in turn informs subsequent decisions and adaptation.

UN DESA's 2024 synthesis of the Global Sustainable Development Report explicitly argues that SDG progress requires integrated approaches operating at a systemic level, rather than narrow sectoral approaches, and that transformation follows non-linear trajectories. Contemporary sustainability-transition research similarly stresses the systemic, multi-actor and place-sensitive character of transformation.[10] [11]

Experience-driven

The NLF methodology is experience-driven. It has evolved through research, policy dialogue, country implementation and iterative learning, drawing particularly on Italy's experience with multilevel sustainable development governance and PCSD; the formulation and implementation of NLF processes in Senegal and Tunisia; and the wider knowledge generated through UN-Habitat, the Local2030 Coalition and the Partnership Platform.

Its development has also been informed by sustained exchange with governments, local and regional authorities, UN entities, development partners, academia and practitioners through consultations, technical workshops, peer-learning processes and global policy forums. The methodology is therefore intended to remain adaptive: country application generates new evidence and solutions that can progressively inform its further development and application elsewhere.

ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR LOCALIZING THE SDGs BY ADVANCING THE SIX TRANSITIONS

The **six transitions** – food systems; energy access and affordability; digital connectivity; education; jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution – provide **interconnected strategic investment pathways to deliver the SDGs**. For SDG localization to translate from political commitment into coordinated, multilevel action and system-wide transformation through the six transitions, **enabling conditions** – identified by the Local2030 Coalition in a 2026 policy brief (see Box 10) – must be in place; they include **political buy-in and leadership; dialogue and trust; effective, coherent and inclusive multilevel governance; integrated territorial planning; subnational finance; and integrated data systems.**

→ *See Annex 9: The Six Transitions*

These enabling conditions **inform the NLF approach**. An NLF strengthens the governance, policy, planning, resource and data capacities needed to advance transition priorities in each country context.

The Local2030 Coalition policy brief identifies **NLFs as an operational architecture for institutionalizing localization across governance levels and sectors**, providing an **overarching framework and practical entry point for translating these enabling conditions into nationally anchored and territorially responsive transformative action.**[13]

BOX 10. Working Group 1 on Localizing the Six SDG Transitions



The Local2030 Coalition's Working Group 1 examined practical approaches for advancing the localization of the six transitions for greater impact in accelerating the SDGs, drawing on global analysis, including research on more than 60 projects and initiatives led by the United Nations, and an Expert Group Meeting held in Nairobi in January 2026. The resulting Local2030 Coalition 2026 policy brief identifies the enabling conditions required and provides practical guidance for the localization of the six transitions to translate the enabling conditions into territorial action and transformative impact. The policy brief explicitly recognizes NLFs as an overarching framework and operational architecture for supporting this process.

FROM FOUNDATIONS TO AN OPERATIONAL ARCHITECTURE

These foundations come together in a single operational architecture. The NLF is structured around five interconnected transformative streams: Political Ownership and Anchoring; Visioning and Strategy; Action Planning; Collective Delivery; and Learning and Adaptation. Together, they organize the progression from political and institutional anchoring to implementation, evidence and continuous learning.

Each **transformative stream** translates a strategic function of localization into a limited number of **transformative processes** and **concrete outputs**.

The architecture should not be read as a rigid project cycle. Processes can overlap, feed into one another and be **selectively activated according to country context**.

Learning and evidence create **feedback loops** across the system, allowing priorities, institutional arrangements and implementation approaches to be **adjusted** over time.

Across all five transformative streams, the NLF **progressively strengthens four enablers of SDG localization**: participatory multilevel governance and coordination; coherent policy and regulatory frameworks; partnerships, investment and funding pathways; and data and digital systems.
The application of the streams supports the **transition from isolated interventions towards systemic change and territorial transformation.**

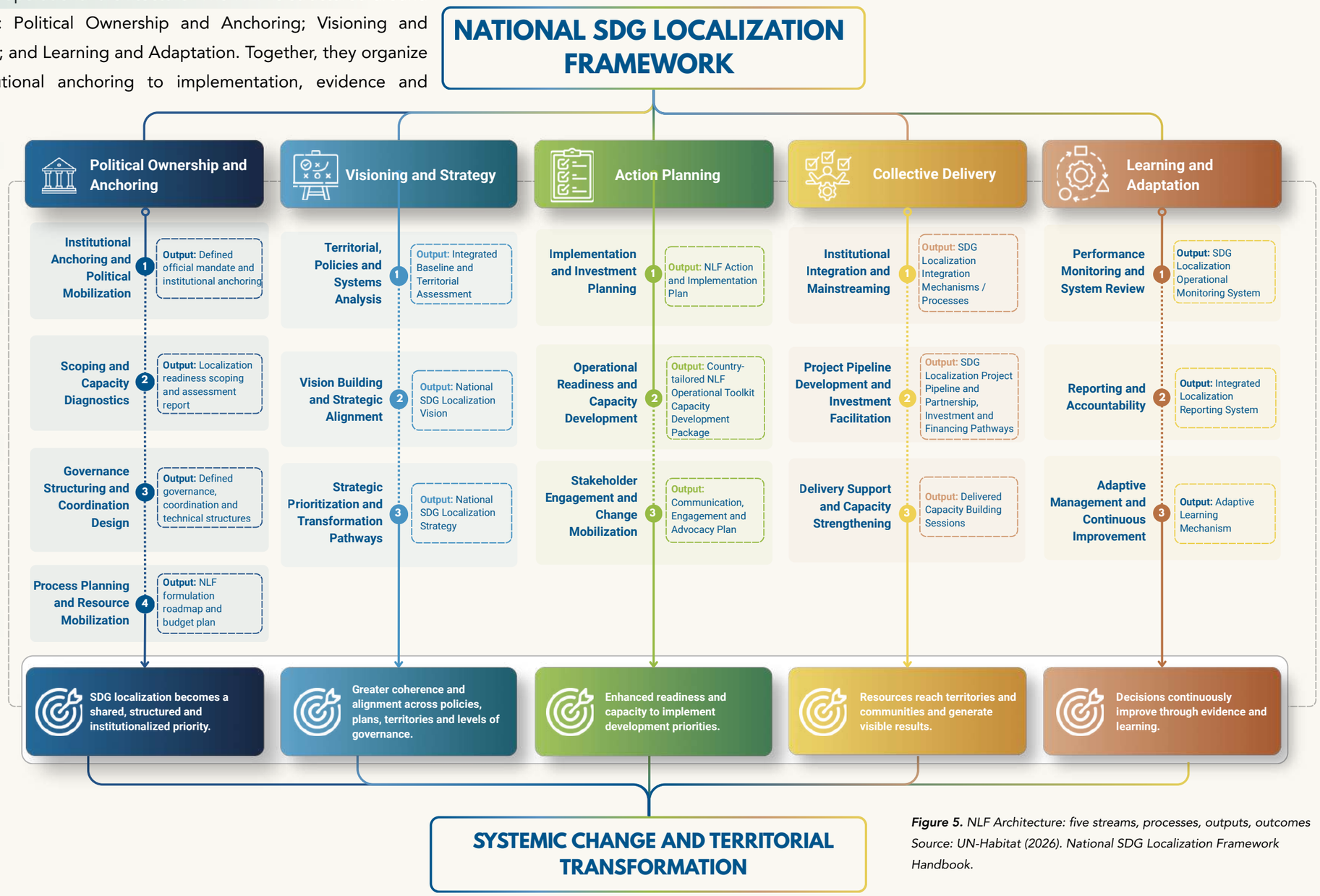


Figure 5. *NLF Architecture: five streams, processes, outputs, outcomes*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

BOX 11. Youth as Partners in SDG Localization

Meaningful youth engagement is essential to ensuring that SDG localization responds to the priorities, aspirations and long-term needs of younger generations. Beyond consultation, young people can contribute to shaping territorial priorities, co-designing solutions, mobilizing community action and strengthening accountability. National SDG Localization Frameworks provide opportunities to embed youth participation within existing governance, planning, implementation and reporting processes, rather than treating it as a parallel activity.

Across the five NLF transformative streams, youth-oriented approaches can support:

- **Political Ownership and Anchoring:** Engaging youth institutions, organizations and networks in governance and multistakeholder coordination mechanisms.
- **Visioning and Strategy:** Integrating youth priorities, age-disaggregated evidence and intergenerational considerations into national and territorial development strategies.
- **Action Planning:** Involving young people in participatory priority-setting, action planning and the co-design of locally relevant solutions.
- **Collective Delivery:** Connecting youth-led initiatives, institutional partnerships and capacity-development opportunities to implementation processes.
- **Learning and Adaptation:** Incorporating youth perspectives and outcomes into monitoring, voluntary reviews, accountability and policy learning.

In practice — Italy's Youth Voluntary Review is an integral part of Italy's 2026 VNR, titled "**Voluntary National Local Youth Review**", and illustrates how youth participation is included into national sustainable development processes. Its approach combines **age-differentiated engagement**, including: workshops and call for ideas dedicated to children and young people aged 6–18, with the dual objective of raising awareness and gathering priorities and proposals for action on sustainable development issues; and **structured participation by students**, **researchers** and **experts** under 35, to incorporate intergenerational considerations into policy coherence for sustainable development assessment tools, **extending youth engagement beyond consultation towards the assessment of policy impacts on young and future generations**. The Youth Voluntary Review is designed as a self-standing but integral component of the broader national review, alongside **14 territorial voluntary reviews** that similarly include the description of the engagement and participation of youth at territorial level. The priorities emerging from the Youth Voluntary Review are being incorporated into the ongoing revision of the NSDS.

→ For operational guidance: See the Inclusion Lens (Volume II, Part III, Section 4.4, pp. II.119–120); the Youth SDG Dashboard and Demographic Dividend Atlas (Annex 16, pp. A.45–46 and A.37–38); and Italy's youth engagement and voluntary review actions (Volume III, pp. III.25–26).

05

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Partnership Platform

on Localizing the SDGs

A strategic partnership space for countries advancing SDG localization. Anchored in the Local2030 Coalition and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029, and building on Italy's experience in Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development and the Mattei Plan, the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs is a joint operational initiative of the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat. It brings together **governments**, **international institutions** and **development partners** around a shared objective: **strengthening the national conditions needed to translate sustainable development priorities into coordinated territorial action.**

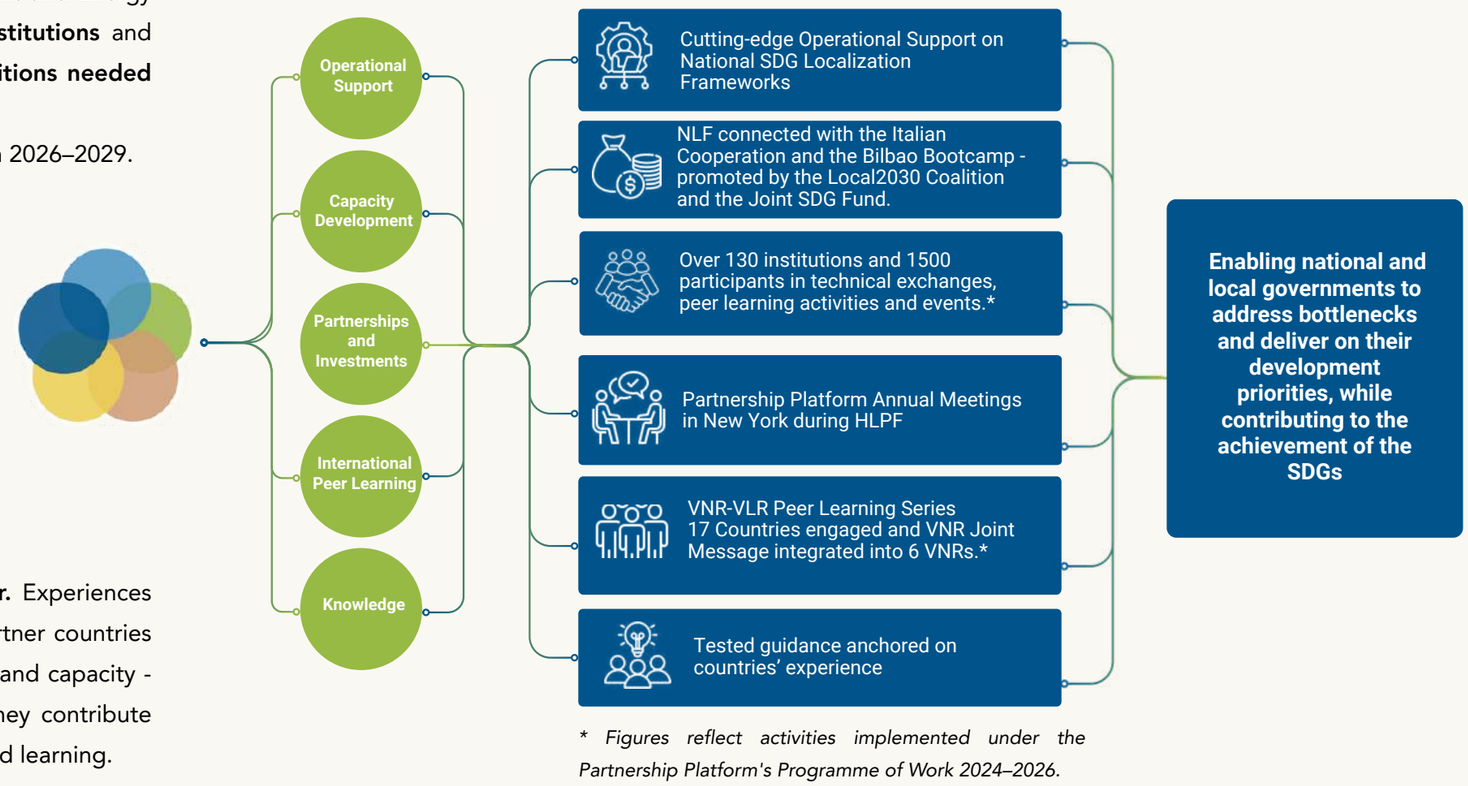
→ See Annex 2 on the Local2030 Coalition and Annex 6 on UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029.

For partner countries, the Platform offers more than technical support. It provides access to peer governments, international expertise, practical methodologies and tools, and a growing network of institutions working on multilevel governance, policy coherence, localization, investment and implementation. Through this space, countries can exchange directly with peers, learn from tested approaches, identify relevant partners, and strengthen pathways to technical cooperation, funding and investment opportunities aligned with their own national and territorial priorities.

Participation also gives countries a role in shaping the evolving global NLF offer. Experiences from Italy, Senegal and Tunisia, together with contributions from a wider group of partner countries and institutions, feed directly into the development of the NLF methodology, toolset and capacity - development offer. Partner countries are therefore not only recipients of support: they contribute their own experience, priorities and solutions to a collective process of co-creation and learning.

Scan to access the Partnership Platform website

The Platform connects national action with wider international processes through the Local2030 Coalition. Building on and contributing to the Coalition's work, the Platform promotes peer learning, global policy dialogues, and through its annual convening, creates opportunities for governments to share their localization experience, build partnerships and connect national and territorial



** Figures reflect activities implemented under the Partnership Platform's Programme of Work 2024–2026.*

Figure 6. *The Partnership Platform: Five areas of support for National and Local SDG Implementation*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

priorities with relevant UN, development and financing actors. Through its anchoring within the Coalition, the Platform functions both as an operational support mechanism and as a strategic space for countries seeking to accelerate SDG localization.



06

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Practice

NLF in Italy, Senegal and Tunisia

Italy

Italy's **National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS)** provides one of the most advanced examples of how sustainable development can be institutionalized through policy coherence for sustainable development, multilevel governance and territorial implementation. Established as the national reference framework for planning, programming, and evaluation processes, the NSDS has progressively evolved from a national strategy into a **comprehensive system connecting governance, policy, finance, participation, and monitoring across multiple levels of government.**

A central feature of the Italian approach is the creation of a **structured multilevel governance architecture** supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda. This architecture brings together central administrations, regions, autonomous provinces, metropolitan cities, municipalities, research institutions, civil society organizations, and international partners through **permanent coordination mechanisms, thematic working groups, sustainable development forums, territorial agreements, and institutional cooperation platforms**. Rather than operating through isolated projects, sustainable development is embedded within **regular government processes** and collaborative arrangements across actors and levels of governance.

The localization of the SDGs has been a core pillar of this approach. MASE has supported the development of **Regional Sustainable Development Strategies** and **Metropolitan Sustainable Development Agendas** that are coherent with and contribute to the NSDS. While operating within a common sustainable development strategic framework, **territories retain the flexibility to define their own priorities, challenges, and implementation pathways**, creating a balance between national coherence and territorial ownership. **Bilateral Collaboration Agreements** have allowed for joint work between MASE and each single Region, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities, including the strengthening of an integrated monitoring system.

Policy coherence for sustainable development has also been institutionalized through dedicated mechanisms, including the **National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development**, coherence assessment tools, integrated planning processes, and cross-sector coordination structures. These mechanisms support the identification of synergies and trade-offs across policies and sectors while helping align national priorities with territorial implementation. The emphasis on policy coherence has enabled sustainable development to move beyond sectoral approaches towards more integrated and systemic responses.

Another defining element of the Italian experience is the **integration of monitoring, reporting, and learning**. The NSDS is supported by an integrated monitoring system built around national indicators and reporting cycles that inform policy discussions and strategic adjustments. Monitoring is not treated as a standalone reporting exercise but as a mechanism to strengthen decision-making, accountability, and continuous improvement. The integration of monitoring systems with territorial processes and reporting frameworks also contributes to stronger alignment between national and local implementation efforts.

The Italian experience demonstrates that SDG localization is most effective when it is institutionalized as a **long-term governance process** rather than implemented through temporary projects or standalone initiatives. The National SDG Localization Framework methodology builds on these lessons by promoting multilevel governance, territorial ownership, policy coherence for sustainable development, integrated monitoring, stakeholder participation, and stronger connections between planning, financing, implementation, and learning.

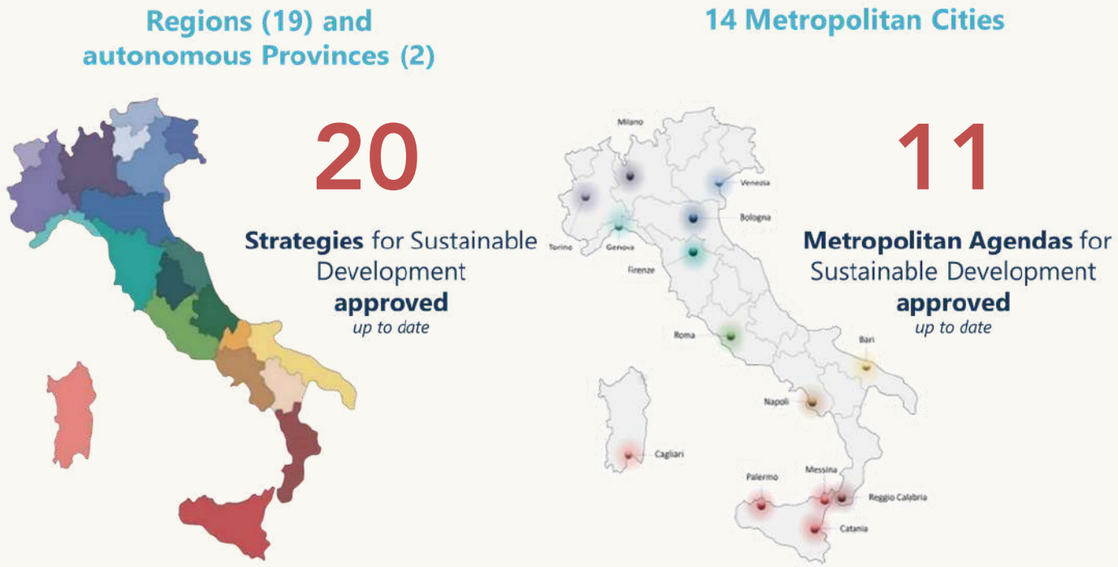


Figure 7. *Italy's experience in SDG Localization: Regional strategies and Metropolitan Agendas*
Source: MASE (2026). National Sustainable Development Strategy.

Senegal

In Senegal, the NLF is being developed building directly on the country's new development architecture rather than adding a parallel layer. Anchored in **Senegal Vision 2050**, and the revision of the **National Plan for Territorial Development (PNADT)**, the pathway positions SDG localization as a means to operationalize national priorities while responding to **strong territorial dynamics** and **ongoing reforms in decentralization and regional development**.

It builds on existing coordination structures such as the **Steering Committee** created for the **National Urban Policy**, while addressing fragmentation and work in silos across institutions and levels of government, with a particular focus on reducing Dakar's macro-concentration and empowering the newly identified eight territorial poles and their epicentre cities.

The National Localization Framework is grounded in **Senegal's existing strengths and previous experience**. It leverages the integration of the SDGs into earlier national strategies, the experience of two **Voluntary National Reviews**, and ongoing work on a **National Urban Policy** and the activation of a **National Territorial Observatory**, while tackling challenges in multilevel coordination, local capacities, and access to reliable, disaggregated data. A central emphasis is placed on strengthening the national–local interface by aligning the PNADT with **territorial masterplans** (Sustainable Development and Territorial Development Plans, SDADTs), and integrating key findings from **Voluntary Local Reviews** into Senegal's **2026 Voluntary National Review**. This approach ensures that local priorities inform national SDG reporting and planning as well as investment processes.

Voluntary Local Reviews play a central role in this configuration: they generate data, identify territorial priorities and project opportunities, and feed evidence back into national decision-making and financing frameworks. Early implementation has therefore focused on establishing coordination mechanisms, clarifying institutional roles, assessing capacities across levels of government, and collecting data for action-oriented **Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) in Pikine (Grand Dakar), the North Pole, and Ziguinchor (South Pole)**. This phased approach allows Senegal to build on existing strengths while progressively addressing capacity gaps and strengthening system coherence across governance, policy, finance and data systems. This is a two-way relationship. Through the pole SDADTs and the VLRs, territories set priorities that are then taken up by national planning (the PNADT revision), national reporting (the 2026 VNR) and investment processes (the FIADT and the Bilbao Bootcamp pipeline). Local governments do not only apply national priorities: they help define them.

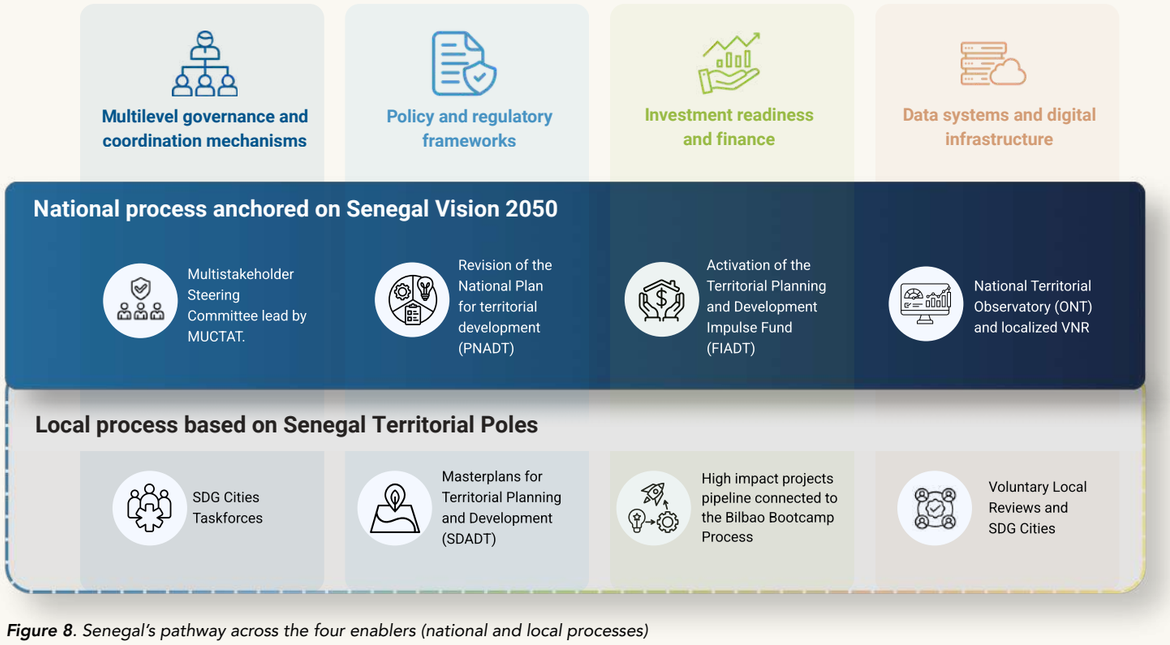


***Figure 8**. Senegal's pathway across the four enablers (national and local processes)*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

A key aspect of the Senegal's National SDG Localization Framework is the use of its architecture and process to integrate a finance mechanism in the region of Casamance (South Territorial Pole) that connects territorial priorities, emerging from VLR and the SDADT, to investments and fundings thanks to the participation in the **Bilbao Bootcamp** process organized by the **Local2030 Coalition** and the **Joint SDG Fund**. Through this process, a USD 3 million contribution from the Joint SDG Fund has been secured to seed a guarantee fund for the South pole. Preliminary estimates suggest it could leverage around USD 24 million (about 1:8), with a higher potential leverage of up to 1:70 projected for the wider project pipeline. These figures are estimates, not results achieved to date: they depend on project preparation and on the commitment of financing partners.

Overall, Senegal's pathway reflects a systemic and adaptive approach: it leverages territorial dynamics, aligns with national reform cycles, and progressively strengthens the national–local system, so that SDG localization becomes integral to delivering **Vision 2050 and territorial transformation**.

Tunisia

In Tunisia, the NLF is not introduced as a new layer, but deliberately designed as a framework that builds on a dense and evolving institutional, planning and governance landscape. The country is currently undergoing **major transitions**, including the preparation of a new **National Development Plan (2026–2030)**, a **National Territorial Master Plan (2050)**, and a **reconfiguration of its decentralization architecture**. This creates both complexity and a unique opportunity to embed SDG localization directly into systems that are already being reshaped.

The framework is therefore grounded in a detailed understanding of Tunisia's existing assets and gaps. It builds on strong **national foundations for SDG governance and monitoring**, including institutional leadership, **multiple Voluntary National Reviews**, an **emerging ecosystem of Voluntary Local Reviews**, and a national digital platform supporting data, participation, and localization processes. At the same time, it responds to key systemic needs – particularly the fragmentation between planning instruments, the need for clearer multilevel coordination, and the lack of structured methodologies to translate **bottom-up territorial priorities** into strategic, **SDG-aligned investment pipelines**.

A central feature of Tunisia's pathway is the articulation between ongoing reforms and targeted interventions. Rather than activating all components of the framework at once, the process selectively engages specific levers where they can generate systemic effects. For example, national-level activities focus on **strengthening coherence between strategic and territorial planning** – such as through **interministerial dialogues** aligning the National Development Plan and the Territorial Master Plan – while local-level actions are designed to **test and structure coordination mechanisms within a newly evolving governance architecture**. This includes exploring how municipalities interact with newly established local, regional and district councils, and how these interfaces connect back to national institutions.

The pathway also builds on Tunisia's recent shift towards a **bottom-up approach to development planning**, where local and regional inputs increasingly inform national priorities. The NLF strengthens this dynamic by introducing structured approaches to prioritization, alignment with SDGs, and the development of coherent project pipelines capable of delivering systemic transformation and attracting financing.

Overall, Tunisia's pathway reflects a **pragmatic** and **adaptive** approach to SDG localization: one that leverages existing momentum, aligns with national reform cycles, and progressively strengthens coherence across governance, planning, finance and data systems. It is inherently **iterative**, designed to **learn from implementation**, remain **flexible** in a changing institutional context, and **scale progressively** as capacities and coordination mechanisms mature.

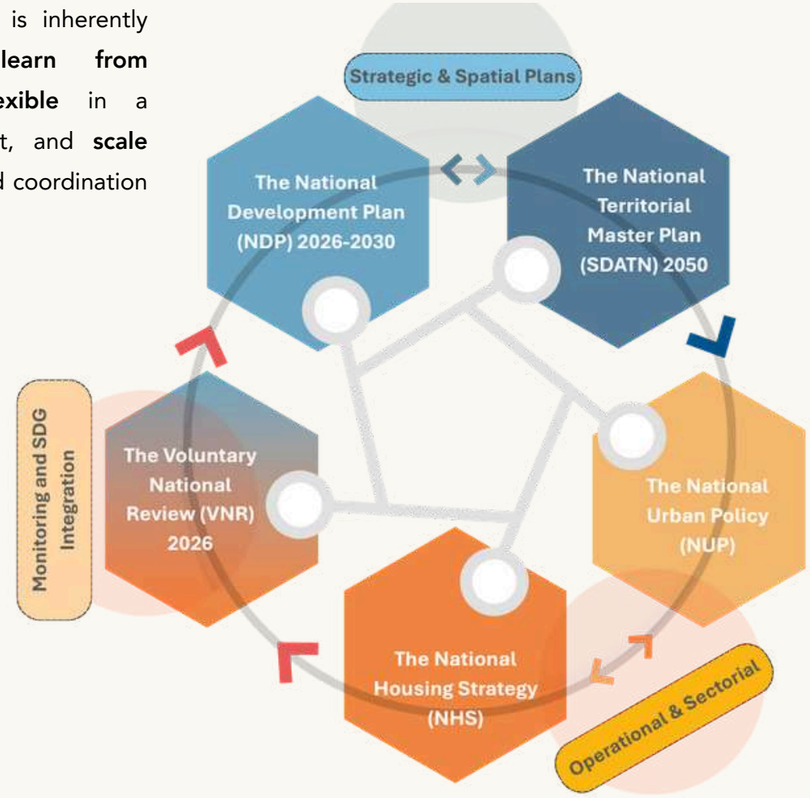


Figure 9. *Tunisia's Integrated National and Territorial Planning Framework for SDG Localization*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

> ***Tunisia is currently at a strategic moment for advancing SDG localization, with major national planning and governance efforts underway, including the National Development Plan 2026–2030 and the National Territorial Development Plan 2050. This context is fully aligned with the Partnership Platform's focus on policy coherence, multilevel governance and territorial action.***
>
> Kawther Chelbi, Deputy Director for United Nations Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tunisia, Annual Meeting of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, HLPF 2026, New York



07

Volume I
Strategic Summary

Getting Started
How governments can begin

An NLF does not start with a blank page. It begins by **identifying the political, institutional and policy entry points** that already exist, **bringing the right actors together**, and developing **a shared understanding** of where stronger national–local alignment is needed.

1 Start from what already exists

Identify the entry point

An NLF should build on existing national priorities, institutions and processes rather than create a parallel structure. The starting point can differ from country to country: a national development strategy, a territorial reform, a VNR process, a sectoral policy, or an existing coordination mechanism can all provide a useful anchor.

The first step is to identify:

- national development strategies and SDG frameworks;
- territorial and sectoral policies;
- VNR, VSR or VLR processes;
- existing multilevel coordination mechanisms;
- relevant funding and investment frameworks;
- current reforms or political windows that can provide an institutional anchor.

This initial mapping helps determine where an NLF can add the greatest value by connecting and strengthening processes already underway.

Key question:
Where can the NLF add coherence and value to processes that are already underway?

2 Build Political Ownership

Secure leadership and early engagement

Early participation from the institutions that will ultimately need to lead, coordinate and implement the NLF is essential.
Governments can convene a small core group including:

- the lead ministry or central coordinating institution;
- ministries responsible for planning, territorial development and key sectoral priorities;
- representatives of local and regional governments, designated by local and regional governments themselves, including metropolitan authorities where they exist and autonomous subnational governments in federal and devolved systems;
- national statistics/ monitoring institutions;
- relevant technical departments;
- development and financing partners where appropriate.

At this stage, the objective is not to establish the full governance architecture, but to create enough political and technical ownership to explore the NLF collectively.

Key question:
Who needs to be at the table from the beginning for the process to be nationally owned and operationally viable?

Governments can begin with a **focused collaborative process** to assess existing conditions, identify opportunities and define an initial pathway before moving into the more technical formulation of the NLF.

3 Co-design the Initial NLF Roadmap

Use the NLF Collaborative Design Tool

With UN-Habitat support, governments can convene a 2–3 hour collaborative design session to assess the country context and key NLF enabling conditions.

The session helps identify:

- institutional and policy entry points;
- existing coordination mechanisms and potential anchors;
- national and territorial priorities;
- relevant institutions and partners;
- key gaps, opportunities and links to funding and investment frameworks.

The result is a preliminary NLF design and initiation roadmap to guide the next phase.

Key question:
What kind of NLF makes sense for this country, given its existing systems, priorities and capacities?

Check the Core Tool Fiche N1 on the **NLF Collaborative Design Tool**

4 Set Up the Technical Process

Establish the pathway to implementation

Once an initial direction has been agreed, the process can move into a more structured technical phase. Political ownership is translated into an organized formulation process, with clear responsibilities, technical participation and an agreed sequence of work.

This includes:

- confirming leadership and institutional responsibilities;
- engaging the relevant technical departments;
- undertaking more detailed assessments;
- validating priorities and sequencing;
- defining the governance and implementation arrangements;
- identifying the tools and capacity-development support required;
- preparing a roadmap for formulation and implementation.

This creates a bridge between the initial NLF concept and the detailed operational work presented in Volume II.

Key question:
What structures, capacities and next steps are needed to move from initial design to implementation?

START WITH A MINIMUM VIABLE NLF

An NLF does not need every stream, tool and lens in place to make a difference. Countries with limited capacity can start with a minimum viable NLF: the few components that make the framework credible and that can grow over time.

A minimum viable NLF has six components:

- **Institutional anchoring** — a formal mandate, a lead institution and a coordination mechanism that includes local and regional governments.
- **Territorial and political engagement and ownership** — meaningful participation of local, regional and national governments in identifying priorities, shaping decisions and defining actions, building on their existing mandates, plans and capacities
- **A basic assessment** — an initial assessment of existing policies, institutions, capacities, data and financing mechanisms, identifying strengths, gaps and opportunities.
- **A localization strategy** — a focused set of agreed national and territorial priorities, aligned with existing development strategies and planning processes.
- **An NLF roadmap and initial project pipeline —** a practical roadmap defining priority actions, institutional responsibilities, sequencing, timelines and resource requirements, while identifying and initially prioritizing territorial projects and opportunities for implementation and investment.
- **A monitoring mechanism** — a limited set of indicators drawn from existing data and connected to established national and local monitoring and reporting processes, including VNRs and VLRs.

The **Collaborative Design Tool** in Step 3 helps identify which components already exist, which require strengthening and where to begin. Specialized tools, thematic lenses, project pipelines and more comprehensive reporting systems can then be progressively introduced as institutions, capacities and resources develop. Volume II, Part I, Chapter 3 provides guidance on this adaptive and progressive approach.

List of References

1. UN DESA (2026), The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2026.
2. United Nations. 2015. Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. New York, paras. 21 and 45.
3. OECD. 2020. A Territorial Approach to the Sustainable Development Goals. Paris.
4. United Nations. 2024. Inter-Agency Policy Briefs on Accelerating Progress on the 2030 Agenda from Local to Global Levels: The Critical Importance of SDG Localization. New York.
5. OECD. 2018. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development 2018;
6. Sachs, J.D., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G. & Iablonovski, G. 2025. Financing Sustainable Development to 2030 and Mid-Century: Sustainable Development Report 2025. SDSN/Dublin University Press.
7. UNEP. 2024. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: Handbook on Indicator 17.14.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. Nairobi.
8. Xu, J., Malekpour, S., Allen, C. & Mintrom, M. 2026. "How SDG localization interacts with existing governance contexts." Global Sustainability.
9. OECD. 2021. Implementing the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.
10. UN DESA. 2024. Policy Brief No. 158: How can we Accelerate Transformations to Achieve the SDGs? Insights from the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report.
11. Köhler, J. et al. 2019. "An agenda for sustainability transitions research: State of the art and future directions." Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions, 31, 1–32.
12. UN-Habitat. 2025. Strategic Plan 2026–2029.
13. United Nations Local2030 Coalition. 2026. Inter-Agency Policy Brief: Localizing the SDGs by Advancing the Six Transitions at the Local Level.
14. UN-Habitat (2026), SDG 11 Global Report 2026.
15. UN-Habitat (2026), HSP/OEWG-H.2026/2/Add.1 — Summary of Proposed Recommendations.
16. United Nations (2016), New Urban Agenda.
17. United Nations General Assembly (2026), Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, A/RES/80/291.
18. UN DESA. 2026. *2026 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report*. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with coordination by the Office of Intergovernmental Support and Coordination for Sustainable Development (OISC).
19. UN-Habitat. 2026. Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance. Nairobi: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.

20. United Nations Habitat Assembly. 2023. Resolution 2/6: Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. HSP/HA.2/Res.6.
21. United Nations General Assembly. 2024. The Pact for the Future. A/RES/79/1.
22. OECD. 2019. Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. OECD/LEGAL/0381. Paris: OECD.
23. United Nations Economic and Social Council. 2018. Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development.

List of Figures

Figure 1. Three impact areas and five means of implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029 — p. I.13
Figure 2. Five means of implementation supporting adequate housing, land and basic services for all — p. I.14
Figure 3. The four systemic challenges to four shifts through the NLF — pp. I.23–24
Figure 4. NLF's four enablers — p. I.29
Figure 5. NLF Architecture: five streams, processes, outputs, outcomes — pp. I.37–38
Figure 6. The Partnership Platform: Five areas of support for National and Local SDG Implementation — p. I.42
Figure 7. Italy's experience in SDG Localization: Regional strategies and Metropolitan Agendas — p. I.46
Figure 8. Senegal's pathway across the four enablers (national and local processes) — p. I.48
Figure 9. Tunisia's Integrated National and Territorial Planning Framework for SDG Localization — p. I.50

List of Boxes

Box 1. Supporting Delivery of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 — p. I.7
Box 2. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development — p. I.8
Box 3. The Local2030 Coalition — pp. I.8–9
Box 4. Progress towards SDG 11: Housing at the Centre of Sustainable Cities and Communities — p. I.15
Box 5. Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All — p. I.16
Box 6. National Urban Policies, Urban Planning and the New Urban Agenda — p. I.17
Box 7. Tunisia: Using the NLF to Localize the National Housing Strategy in Five Municipalities — p. I.18
Box 8. NLF in Federal and Devolved Systems — p. I.32
Box 9. Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance — p. I.33
Box 10. Working Group 1 on Localizing the Six SDG Transitions — p. I.36
Box 11. Youth as Partners in SDG Localization — p. I.39





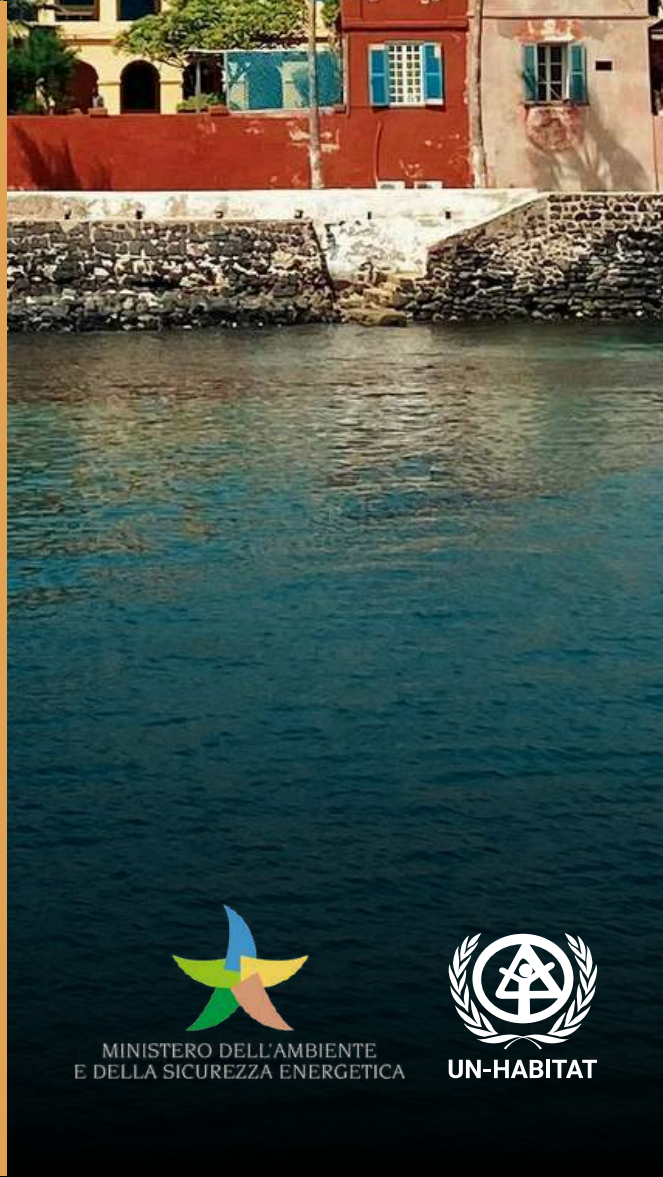
Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

National SDG Localization Frameworks **Handbook**



02

Operational Guide



MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

UN-HABITAT

National SDG Localization Frameworks **Handbook**

Published by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

First published in Nairobi in November 2026 by UN-Habitat Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2026.

All rights reserved.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO, Kenya
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office) www.unhabitat.org

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its member states.

UN-HABITAT

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

About the authors and Acknowledgements

The *National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) Handbook* has been developed by the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, a joint operational initiative led by UN-Habitat and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE).

From UN-Habitat side, the Handbook has been developed by UN-Habitat's SDG Cities and Multilevel Governance Team, under the mandate and supervision of the SDG Localization and Governance Section, the Global Solutions Division and the Local2030 Coalition.

The development of the Handbook was supervised by **Sébastien Vauzelle** and coordinated by **Martino Miraglia**. **Achraf Ghrib**, urban development expert, led the development of the handbook with core contributions from **Pietro Ceppi, Sophie Lena Heuser, Antoine Saurat, Pytrik Oosterhof and Nanor Karageozian**.

Additional contributions were provided by **Camilla Almeida, Nikita Sehmi, Marina Akl** and **Doreen Muinamia**.

Editorial development and editing were led by **Achraf Ghrib**, with editorial support from **Antoine Saurat** and **Moses Wanyonyi**.

From the **Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE)**, the Handbook was coordinated by the Unit for Sustainable Development of the Directorate General for European and International Affairs and for Sustainable Finance led by **Director Alessandro Guerri** which jointly with UN-Habitat developed the structure and contents. Substantive contributions were provided by **Mara Cossu** - coordinator of the Sustainable Development Unit - and by **Isabelle Ronvaux** and **Francesca De Crescenzo**, technical assistance Sogesid at MASE.

The Handbook builds on experiences and lessons emerging from **Italy**, **Senegal** and **Tunisia**. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of **national and subnational government representatives, institutions and partners** engaged in the design and implementation of National SDG Localization Frameworks, whose experiences have helped ground the methodology in concrete country realities.

We also thank colleagues from **UN-Habitat's headquarters, Regional and Country Offices**, members and partners of the **Local2030 Coalition**, and the wider network of experts and practitioners who contributed through technical exchanges, consultations, peer learning and review processes.

The development of the National SDG Localization Framework Handbook benefited from a dedicated co-creation process with UN-Habitat Regional and Country Offices, including regional and country-level working sessions, with **36 countries consulted and 160 participants recorded**. Their contributions helped inform the identification, review and adaptation of tools to diverse institutional and territorial contexts.

Foreword



Anacláudia Rossbach,

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director,

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (UN-Habitat)

With four years remaining until 2030, the world is not short of policies, plans, strategies or commitments. What falls short are the systems that turn them into results. Only 36 per cent of assessable targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track or showing moderate progress, and 15 per cent have regressed. As many as 3.4 billion people live without secure, safe and adequate housing, more than one billion of them in informal settlements and slums. These gaps converge in cities and territories, where at least 105 of the 169 SDG targets cannot be met without local and regional governments.

Nowhere is this clearer than in housing, the roof of the Sustainable Development Goals and one of the most demanding tests of governance. National governments set legal, fiscal and policy frameworks; local and regional governments plan land, deliver basic services and lead the transformation of informal settlements; communities, including women's and grassroots organizations, shape neighbourhoods every day. When they act in isolation, the crisis deepens. When they act together, with resources reaching territories, progress follows. This is why UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 places adequate housing, land and basic services at the center of our mandate, with participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization as essential means of implementation. They are not a parallel agenda; they are how the Strategic Plan is delivered.

Member States have reached the same conclusion. UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/6 requested UN-Habitat to support governments in enhancing multilevel governance for SDG localization. In July 2026, the Political Declaration on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda recognized the need for inclusive multilevel governance systems and for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development approaches and tools that empower local and regional authorities. The Secretary-General's report on Action 55(e) of the Pact for the Future highlights the Local2030 Coalition as an UN-system mechanism to advance localization and multilevel governance. The question is no longer whether to localize, but how to do so systematically, at national scale and in ways that last.

UN-Habitat is answering that question with its partners. As permanent co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition, the United Nations system-wide platform for SDG localization, we work across the UN system to deliver as

one through shared instruments such as the Localization Blueprint, the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 and the Bilbao Bootcamp – a pioneering effort with the Joint SDG Fund to advance local financing solutions for territorial transformation.

The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs transforms these guidance and processes into operational support at country level. Launched in 2024 under Italy's G7 Presidency by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat, it builds on our Strategic Plan and on Italy's experience in Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development with the aim of helping countries and territories delivering on their sustainable development priorities by supporting the design of National

SDG Localization Frameworks. Above all, the Partnership Platform responds to what governments ask for: not another plan, but the means to coordinate across levels, connect policies, multiply action and turn priorities into transformative projects for territories and communities that can be financed.

Countries are already showing what this approach can achieve. In Senegal, the National SDG Localization Framework builds on Vision 2050 and the revision of the National Plan for Territorial Development, bringing Voluntary Local Reviews from three territorial poles into the 2026 Voluntary National Review. Connected to the Bilbao Bootcamp, it helped secure a US$3 million programme expected to leverage around US$24 million for the development of Casamance Region's Agropole. In Tunisia, it aligns the National Development Plan 2026–2030 with the National Territorial Master Plan 2050 across 14 plans, policies and strategies.

The support of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs does not stop at country level. Anchored in the Local2030 Coalition's global engagement, it scales up country experiences and connects partners to exchange practices and solutions. The 2026 VNR peer-learning series, for example, connected 17 countries which co-created a Joint Message on SDG Localization integrated into 2026 Voluntary National Reviews. These technical processes culminate in the Partnership Platform Annual Meeting, traditionally hosted during the High-Level Political Forum.

This Handbook distils this experience into a practical and action-oriented methodology any country can use. A National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) is the connective governance architecture that starts from what each country already has, linking institutions, strategies, budgets, partnerships and data systems into one coherent framework for implementation, with Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as its backbone. Five transformative streams, from political ownership to learning and adaptation, strengthen four enablers: participatory multilevel governance, coherent policies, partnerships and investment, and data systems. Within each framework, UN-Habitat's SDG Cities approach provides the territorial interface from data to strategies to investable projects.

This is why the Handbook is a milestone for UN-Habitat. It takes our work on multilevel governance to the next stage of support, giving governments a tested, nationally owned way to move from fragmented projects to systemic territorial transformation. It offers the United Nations system a common operating framework at country level, recognized by the Local2030 Coalition as an operational architecture for localizing the six SDG transitions and aligned with Cooperation Frameworks. In the years ahead, it will be UN-Habitat's reference methodology for multilevel governance.

The Handbook is a living resource that will grow with every country that applies it, through the NLF Learning Programme and new evidence from the Global Stock take on SDG Localization, co-led with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Local2030 Coalition, towards the 2027 SDG Summit. Towards 2030 and into the second decade of the New Urban Agenda, the ability of governments to act as one system across all levels will decide whether global ambitions become better lives.

I invite governments, local and regional authorities, United Nations Country Teams, development partners and financial institutions to use this Handbook, adapt it and help improve it. I thank the Government of Italy and its Ministry of Environment and Energy Security for their vision and steadfast partnership, as well as Senegal, Tunisia and all partner countries and institutions of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. The true measure of this Handbook will not be how widely it is read, but how many countries use it to change the way they deliver: for every person, in every community, in every territory.



Foreword



Claudio Barbaro

Under Secretary of State to the Environment and Energy Security, Italy

The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals is not simply about bringing a global agenda closer to territories. It is about rethinking how sustainable development is governed and delivered. As we move towards 2030, our ambitions will only translate into lasting, transformational change if Institutions are able to work across sectors and levels of government, connect national priorities with territorial realities, and ensure that policies are mutually reinforcing rather than working in isolation or restraining one another.

Local and regional governments are essential to this endeavour, as territories are where many of the transformations envisioned by the 2030 Agenda ultimately take shape, where Institutions get nearer to people and can gain trust. Effective localization therefore requires national governments to create the conditions for territories to become full partners in sustainable development, strengthening multilevel governance, policy integration and coherence against sustainable development goals, institutional capacities and the connections between planning, financing, implementation and monitoring.

This understanding lies at the heart of this National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) Handbook, developed within the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat.

At the global level, the Partnership Platform contributes to the implementation of UN-Habitat Resolution 2/6 on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and co-sponsored by Italy, as well as to the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide initiative for SDG localization. It also aligns with Italy’s broader engagement with Africa, including through the Mattei Plan, and provides an enabling environment for the development and implementation of projects under MASE’s bilateral and multilateral environmental cooperation. In this context, it also responds to the renewed commitment set out in the Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, which recognizes the importance of supporting countries in localizing the 2030 Agenda, including through the establishment of national Sustainable Development Goals localization frameworks.

At the country level, the Partnership Platform promotes the NLFs as multilevel governance architecture aiming at enabling territories and local communities in designing and implementing high social and environmental impact projects.

The Handbook therefore reflects a shared ambition: to move from valuable but often fragmented localization experiences towards more systematic, nationally anchored and territorially responsive approaches. Rather than adding a new layer of planning or governance, it seeks to connect and strengthen what already exists, building an enabling architecture through which Institutions, policies, resources, partnerships and data can work together more coherently. This reflects the Handbook's definition of National Localization Frameworks as an integrated and adaptive architecture rather than an additional planning instrument.

For Italy, this Handbook is both the achievement of a continuous collaboration and the expression of a broader commitment. Over the past decade, our country has progressively built a sustainable development governance system connecting national strategic vision with territorial ownership and implementation, and that work is still ongoing. Through the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), with Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as its backbone, Italy has sought to strengthen cooperation across levels of government while promoting greater integration across policies and sectors around shared sustainable development objectives. This approach is grounded in a simple conviction: territories are not merely where national policies are implemented, but essential partners in defining priorities, identifying solutions and shaping the country's sustainable development pathway. The Italian experience described in the Handbook similarly places multilevel governance and PCSD at the heart of a system linking governance, policy, finance, participation, monitoring and assessment.

Italy's 2026 Voluntary National Review marked a further step in this journey, connecting national, territorial and intergenerational perspectives through Voluntary Local Reviews and, for the first time, a dedicated Youth Voluntary Review. These experiences remind us that localization is not an end in itself. Its value lies in making public action more coherent, inclusive and responsive, and ultimately in strengthening the capacity of Institutions to deliver tangible results for people and territories. This perspective is increasingly shared across countries, as reflected in the Joint Message on SDG Localization, annexed to Italy's and six other VNR in 2026, which reaffirmed a common commitment to strengthening localization as a key pathway for accelerating sustainable development.

Italy has chosen to bring this experience grown over the years into the international arena not as a model to be replicated, but as a contribution to a shared learning process. This is the rationale behind the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. The initiative has progressively gained international support and today brings together ten countries and four international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the OECD who joined in 2025, providing a common environment for cooperation and for supporting projects developed at the local level in participating countries. This growing engagement confirms the relevance of the Italian initiative and reinforces the recognition of localization as a key dimension of SDG implementation.

Combining political dialogue, peer learning and operational country support, the Platform allows national experiences to inform international cooperation and countries to learn from one another. The Handbook is an important outcome of this cooperation, drawing initially on the experiences of Italy, Senegal and Tunisia and on the broader knowledge generated through UN-Habitat, the Local2030 Coalition and the Partnership Platform.

But this Handbook should not be seen as a finished product. Its value will grow through its use. Conceived as a living resource, it is intended to be progressively enriched by a growing number of national experiences. As new countries engage with the National SDG Localization Framework approach, their practices, challenges and solutions will contribute to expanding the shared body of knowledge and strengthening the methodology itself. The next phase of the Partnership Platform will therefore be as much about learning from implementation as about applying the Handbook, building on new country experiences and progressively broadening the Country Solutions it brings together. This reflects the Handbook's own experience-driven and adaptive approach.

This perspective is particularly important as we look towards the next phase of the global sustainable development agenda. The years ahead must be used not only to accelerate delivery on the 2030 Agenda, but also to safeguard and carry forward its fundamental principles: integration, universality, participation, territorial cohesion and leaving no one behind. Looking also beyond 2030, we believe that the capacity of Institutions to work coherently across sectors and levels of government and connect global ambition with territorial transformation will remain essential.

For Italy, this is also a vision for the future. We believe in the value of the Partnership Platform and of our cooperation with UN-Habitat to support countries in developing their own localization pathways, broadening opportunities for peer learning and strengthening the connections between sustainable development priorities, territorial action and investment. At the same time, we will continue advancing our own national localization process, recognizing that governance frameworks must evolve with new challenges, evidence and the changing needs of territories and generations.

The ambition of this Handbook therefore extends beyond the creation of a methodology. It is to help build a community of countries and partners that can learn from one another and collectively strengthen the systems through which sustainable development is delivered. In doing so, the Handbook and the Partnership Platform can contribute to making multilevel governance and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development not exceptional practices, but ways to make sustainable development a business-as-usual policy making.

We warmly thank UN-Habitat for its vision and partnership throughout this journey, as well as the governments and Institutions of Senegal and Tunisia, whose engagement has helped translate the National SDG Localization Framework approach into concrete country processes. We are equally grateful to the countries and international organizations that adhered to Platform and to all countries, local and regional authorities, organizations, experts and partners that have contributed with their knowledge and experience to this initiative and to this Handbook. We hope that an ever-growing number of countries will feel comfortable in making this resource their own, contribute to its evolution and join us in transforming localization from a shared ambition into a lasting change for people and territories.



National SDG Localization Framework Handbook

Volume II Operational Guide

Contents

Introduction
How to use the Operational Guide
p.II-4

Part I
Understanding
How the NLF works as a system ?
p.II-8

Part II
Application
How to apply the methodology in different contexts ?
p.II-26

Part III
Toolset
Tools for applying and supporting the NLF process
p.II-92



Introduction

How to use the Operational Guide?

From the NLF concept to practical application

Volume II is the operational guide to the NLF methodology. It translates the strategic orientation introduced in Volume I into **practical guidance for practitioners responsible for initiating, designing, supporting and implementing an NLF process**.

The Guide provides a common methodological architecture while recognizing that **countries start from different institutional arrangements, capacities, priorities and ongoing processes.** It should therefore not be read as a rigid sequence or checklist. Practitioners are expected to build on what already exists, identify where the NLF can add value, and use the relevant processes, actions and tools according to their country context.

Throughout the Guide, the NLF is organized around **five transformative streams**, **their transformative processes, the four NLF enablers, operational actions, expected outputs and outcomes**. Together, these elements connect strategic direction with the institutional, technical and operational work required for territorial delivery.

Volume II is structured in three connected parts:

- **Part I — Understanding**
  Introduces the operational logic of the methodology. It starts with the **NLF Collaborative Design Tool** as the entry point for developing an initial NLF country roadmap, then explains **how the different layers of the NLF architecture work together** and how the methodology can be **applied selectively and sequenced according to context.**

- **Part II — Application**
  Provides the detailed guidance for applying the five transformative streams. **Each stream is introduced as a whole** and then **unpacked process by process**, moving from the transformation objective to the concrete actions, actors, inputs, outputs and readiness conditions required for implementation.

- **Part III — Toolset**
  Provides the **practical tools that support implementation**. It maps the **Core Toolkits** against the NLF processes and outputs, explains **when and how they can be used**, and introduces **thematic lenses** and **complementary tools** for deeper or more context-specific support.

Navigating the Operational Guide

The Guide is designed to support **different points of entry.**

Practitioners beginning an NLF process can start with **Part I**, using the **NLF Collaborative Design Tool** to **understand the existing enabling environment, identify initial priorities and organize the technical process before moving into detailed application.**

Those already working on a specific transformative stream or process can move directly to the relevant section in **Part II**. Each process page follows a consistent structure, allowing the reader to quickly locate:

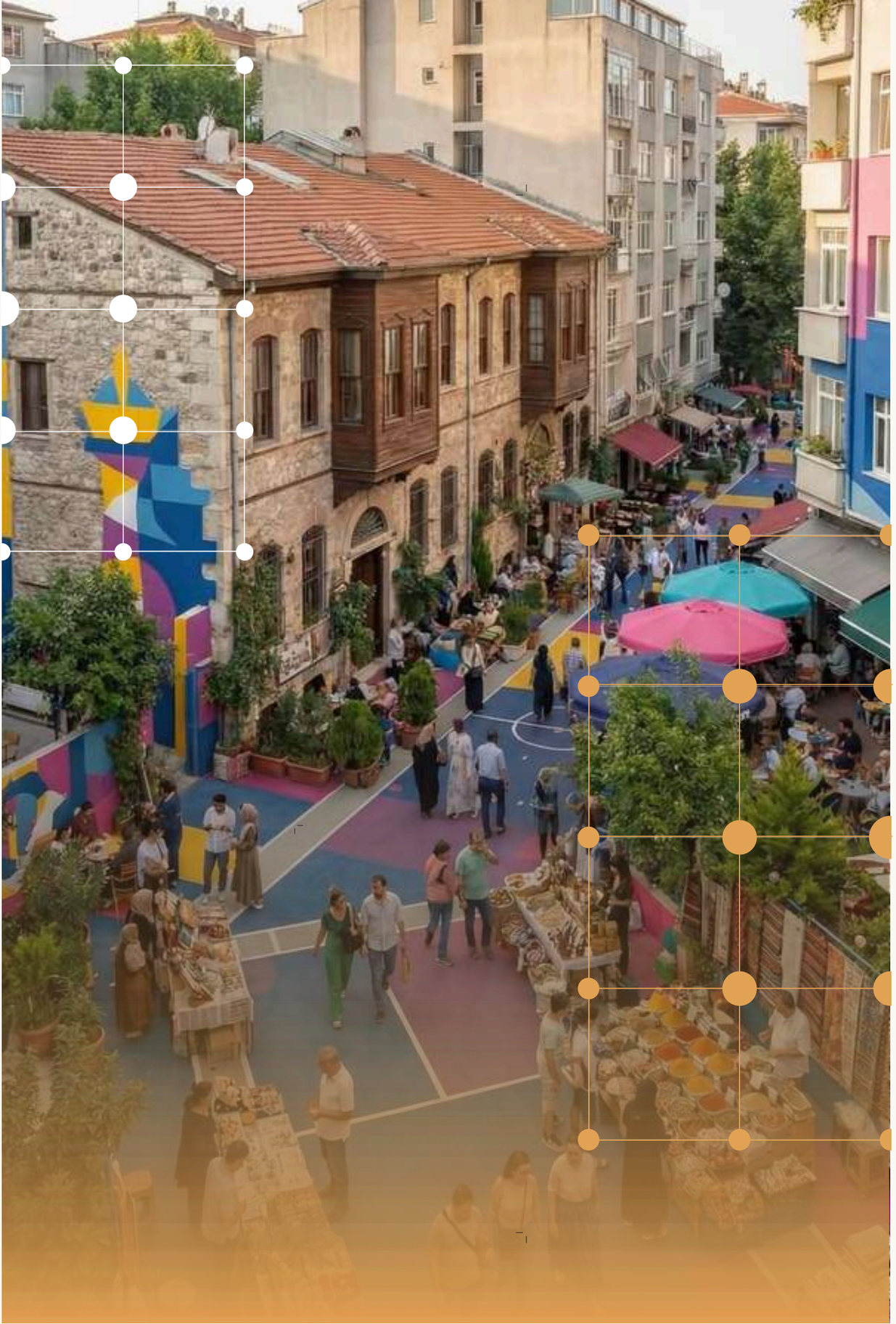
- the **purpose and key question**;
- the **process logic and practical working steps**;
- required **inputs and participation**;
- relevant **actions** across the four enablers;
- the expected **output** and **readiness check**;
- relevant **tool support**; and
- an **In Practice country example**.

Practitioners looking for **methodological or technical support** can use **Part III** to **identify the relevant Core Toolkit, lens or complementary tool** and trace it back to the process it supports.

The links between the parts are intentional. **Part I helps determine where attention is needed; Part II provides the operational guidance for acting on those needs; and Part III provides the tools to support implementation.** References to **Volume III** allow practitioners to **explore country solutions that illustrate how comparable mechanisms have been applied in different contexts.**

The **indicative sequencing** included throughout Part II should be read as a **planning reference** rather than a fixed timetable. Transformative streams and processes can overlap, begin at different moments and progress at different speeds depending on existing systems, national planning and budgeting cycles, institutional readiness and emerging opportunities.

The objective is to provide practitioners with **one coherent operational reference** that can be navigated according to need, while maintaining the connections across the full NLF architecture.



Part I

Volume II
Operational Guide

Understanding
How does the NLF work as a system?

1
Getting Started in Practice
From initial entry points to a structured technical process
p.II-09

2
Understanding the NLF Architecture
How streams, processes, enablers, actions, outputs and outcomes work together
p.II-15

3
Contextualizing NLF Design
Selective activation, adaptation, prioritization and sequencing
p.II-22

1

Getting Started in Practice

From initial entry points to a structured technical process

Volume I introduced four initial steps through which governments can begin an NLF process. In practice, these four steps are brought together through the **NLF Collaborative Design Tool** — a facilitated process that helps governments and key stakeholders collectively explore where an NLF can add value and **define an initial roadmap for its development.**

The tool guides participants through **four connected stages: starting from what already exists; building political ownership; co-designing the initial NLF pathway; and setting up the technical process.** Together, these stages help map existing systems and entry points, bring the relevant institutions around the table, assess the four NLF enablers, identify priority gaps and opportunities, and agree the initial direction for subsequent technical work.

The purpose is not to formulate the NLF in full. Rather, **the NLF Collaborative Design Tool creates a shared starting point and a preliminary NLF roadmap**, identifying where deeper assessment, institutional strengthening or specific transformative processes may be required.

This chapter explains **how to work through the four stages of the NLF Collaborative Design Tool** and establishes the bridge between the strategic orientation provided in Volume I and the detailed NLF architecture introduced in the following chapters.

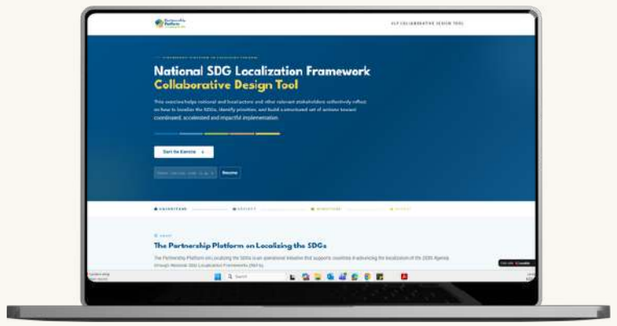


Figure 1. *The NLF Collaborative Design Tool*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

1 START FROM WHAT ALREADY EXISTS

2 BUILD POLITICAL OWNERSHIP

3 CO-DESIGN THE INITIAL NLF ROADMAP

4 SET UP THE TECHNICAL PROCESS

1 START FROM WHAT ALREADY EXISTS

Identify where the NLF can add value

An NLF should be **anchored in existing national and territorial systems** rather than create a parallel structure. The starting point can therefore differ considerably from one country to another.

A national development strategy, territorial development framework, sustainable development strategy, VNR process, sectoral reform, investment mechanism or existing coordination platform can all provide an **entry point**.

The objective is not to identify a single institution or policy around which the entire NLF must be built. It is to understand the existing system of institutions, policies and processes through which sustainable development is already being planned and delivered, and where **stronger connections** may be required.

Key question

Where can the NLF add coherence and value to processes that are already underway?

What to examine

Map the principal existing elements across the four NLF enablers:

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS
institutions with relevant national and territorial mandates	national development and sustainable development strategies	existing public financing mechanisms	VNR, VSR and VLR processes
existing coordination mechanisms	territorial and sectoral policies and plans	domestic resource mobilization systems	national and territorial monitoring systems
roles of local and regional governments	planning and budgeting cycles	development cooperation and investment programmes	statistical and observatory systems
current governance or decentralization reforms	relevant legal and regulatory frameworks	territorial financing mechanisms and project pipelines	existing data and digital platforms

Link with the NLF

This first step provides an **initial view across all four enablers**. It can also reveal where **particular transformative streams** may become especially relevant.

For example, **fragmented institutional responsibilities** may point towards processes under **Political Ownership and Anchoring**, while **misalignment between national and territorial strategies** may indicate a need for stronger work under **Visioning and Strategy**.

These are **initial indications** rather than final activation decisions.

Result

Initial map of relevant institutions, policies, mechanisms and potential NLF entry points.

2 BUILD POLITICAL OWNERSHIP

Bring together the actors required to move forward

An NLF depends on institutions being **willing and able to work together across sectors and levels of government**. Early political and institutional engagement is therefore essential.

At this stage, the objective is not yet to establish the complete governance architecture of the NLF. It is to **secure sufficient leadership and participation** to explore the framework **collectively** and ensure that its design is **grounded in the institutions that will ultimately need to implement it.**

Key question

Who needs to be involved for the NLF to be owned, territorially informed and operationally viable at all levels of government?

Who should be involved

The composition will depend on the country context, but the initial group should normally connect actors across the four enablers, including:

- **the lead ministry or central coordinating institution**
- **national planning and territorial development institutions**
- **relevant sector ministries**
- **representatives of local and regional governments, metropolitan authorities**
- **national statistics and monitoring institutions**
- **finance and budgeting institutions**
- **relevant technical agencies**

Other stakeholders can be involved according to the priorities and processes being considered.

The objective is to bring together the institutions needed to **understand the system as a whole**, rather than approach localization through one sector or level of government alone.

Link with the NLF

Formal anchoring is addressed in process 1.1

Result

A core group with sufficient political and technical participation to collectively explore and shape the NLF.

3 CO-DESIGN THE INITIAL NLF PATHWAY

Develop a shared understanding of what the NLF should address

Once initial entry points and actors have been identified, the next step is to develop **a shared preliminary understanding of the country's NLF needs and opportunities**.
The **NLF Collaborative Design Tool** supports this process through a **facilitated multi-stakeholder session**. It allows participants to jointly **examine the country context**, **assess the enabling environment** and begin identifying where different parts of the NLF architecture may add value.
The purpose is not to produce a complete NLF or undertake every technical assessment. It is to **generate an initial design hypothesis that can guide subsequent work**.

Key question

Given the country's existing systems, priorities and capacities, where can the NLF generate the greatest value?

Assess the enabling environment

Participants examine the country context across the four enablers:

- MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS
- POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES
- PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS
- DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS

The assessment should identify:

- **mechanisms that already function and can be built upon**
- **capacities that require strengthening**
- **gaps or bottlenecks affecting localization**
- **relevant reforms or opportunities**
- **national and territorial priorities**
- **areas requiring more detailed assessment**

Result

Preliminary NLF design identifying priority issues, potential processes for activation and areas requiring further technical work.

4 SET UP THE TECHNICAL PROCESS

Organize the process for applying the NLF

The initial NLF roadmap provides a shared starting point. The next step is to establish **the technical working arrangements** needed to move into the more structured application of the NLF methodology through the transformative streams.
At this stage, the objective is not yet to undertake the detailed assessments, define final actions or establish the full governance architecture of the NLF. These are addressed through the relevant transformative streams and processes.
Instead, this step ensures that the institutions involved are ready to work through the methodology in a coordinated and structured way.

Key question

Who needs to participate in the technical process, and how should the work be organized to move effectively into the transformative streams?

Establish the technical coordination arrangements

Identify the institutions and technical representatives that will take part in the NLF process, and agree on simple working arrangements for moving through the methodology.
Depending on the country context, participants may include:

- a technical focal point within the lead institution;
- focal points from relevant national ministries and technical agencies;
- representatives or focal points from local and regional governments;
- planning, finance, data and monitoring institutions;
- other technical partners needed for specific areas of work.

Working arrangements should cover:

- roles, points of contact and regular working sessions;
- an initial agenda and sequence of work, informed by the preliminary roadmap generated through the NLF Collaborative Design Tool;
- how additional institutions and stakeholders will be brought in when needed;
- the information and evidence to be brought into the process, and how it will be documented and followed up;
- an indicative calendar aligned, where possible, with national planning, budgeting, reporting or reform cycles.

These arrangements stay light at this stage. More formal governance and coordination structures are developed later, where needed, through Transformative Stream 1 - Political Ownership and Anchoring.

Result

A structured technical process with identified focal points, working arrangements, an initial agenda and a calendar for applying the NLF methodology.

2

Understanding the NLF Architecture

How streams, processes, enablers, actions, outputs and outcomes work together

The NLF translates SDG localization into an **integrated operational architecture**. It connects the functions that need to be performed over time, the capacities required to perform them, the actions through which change takes place, and the results these actions are expected to generate.

The architecture is organized around six interconnected elements:

Transformative Streams → Transformative Processes → Enablers → Actions → Outputs → Outcomes

Together, these elements provide a **common structure for designing and implementing an NLF** while allowing countries to **adapt** its application to their own institutional arrangements, capacities and priorities.

The architecture should not be read as a rigid project cycle. Its different elements interact continuously: **processes can overlap, actions may support several dimensions of the system, and evidence generated through implementation feeds back into subsequent decisions.**

The five transformative streams

NLF structures SDG localization as a **continuous**, **cyclical** and **iterative transformation**, reflecting the reality that sustainable development cannot be achieved through isolated or one-time interventions but requires sustained and adaptive effort over time. This **cyclical logic** ensures that **governance**, **visioning**, **planning**, **implementation**, and **learning** are continuously **connected** and **mutually reinforcing**.

This process is organized around five transformative streams: **Political Ownership and Anchoring, Visioning and Strategy, Action Planning, Collective Delivery, and Learning and Adaptation**. These five transformative streams are informed by the different phases of a **policy cycle**. Rather than introducing a new sequence, the NLF builds on how policies are typically developed and implemented, structuring these phases into an integrated, continuous and transformative process that strengthens **coherence**, **coordination**, and **long-term impact**.

The four enablers

While the streams organize what the NLF seeks to advance, the enablers describe the system capacities through which this transformation takes place. The four enablers are progressively strengthened across all five streams.



Multilevel Governance and Coordination Arrangements

The institutional arrangements, mandates, capacities and coordination mechanisms that enable national, regional and local actors — together with relevant stakeholders — to work towards shared objectives.

This includes vertical and horizontal coordination, institutional responsibilities, participation, stakeholder engagement and the mechanisms through which territorial priorities can influence national decision-making.



Policies and Planning Processes

The policies, strategies, planning instruments, regulations and coherence mechanisms that connect national sustainable development priorities with sectoral and territorial action.

This enabler includes the application of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development to strengthen alignment, identify synergies and trade-offs, and improve consistency across institutions, sectors and levels of government.



Partnerships and Investment Pathways

The partnerships, public resources, financing mechanisms and investment pathways required to translate development priorities into implementation.

This includes connecting territorial priorities and project pipelines with existing public financing, development cooperation, investment mechanisms and other relevant resource pathways, as well as the intergovernmental fiscal arrangements on which local delivery routinely depends — the predictability of transfers, the assignment of revenue powers, and local capacity to budget, procure and cover recurrent and maintenance costs. The NLF primarily strengthens the conditions, connections and readiness required for financing and investment rather than creating parallel financing mechanisms.



Data and Monitoring Systems

The data, indicators, monitoring arrangements, reporting systems and digital infrastructure required to understand territorial realities, guide decisions, assess performance and support accountability.

This includes stronger connections between national and territorial data, monitoring and reporting processes, including VNRs, VSRs and VLRs where relevant.

Beyond data infrastructure, this enabler encompasses digital governance, digital inclusion and equitable access to digital services, responsible data use, and digital transformation and innovation that strengthen local decision-making, service delivery and SDG implementation. This may include open data, digital public infrastructure and smart-city approaches, adapted to local capacities and contexts.

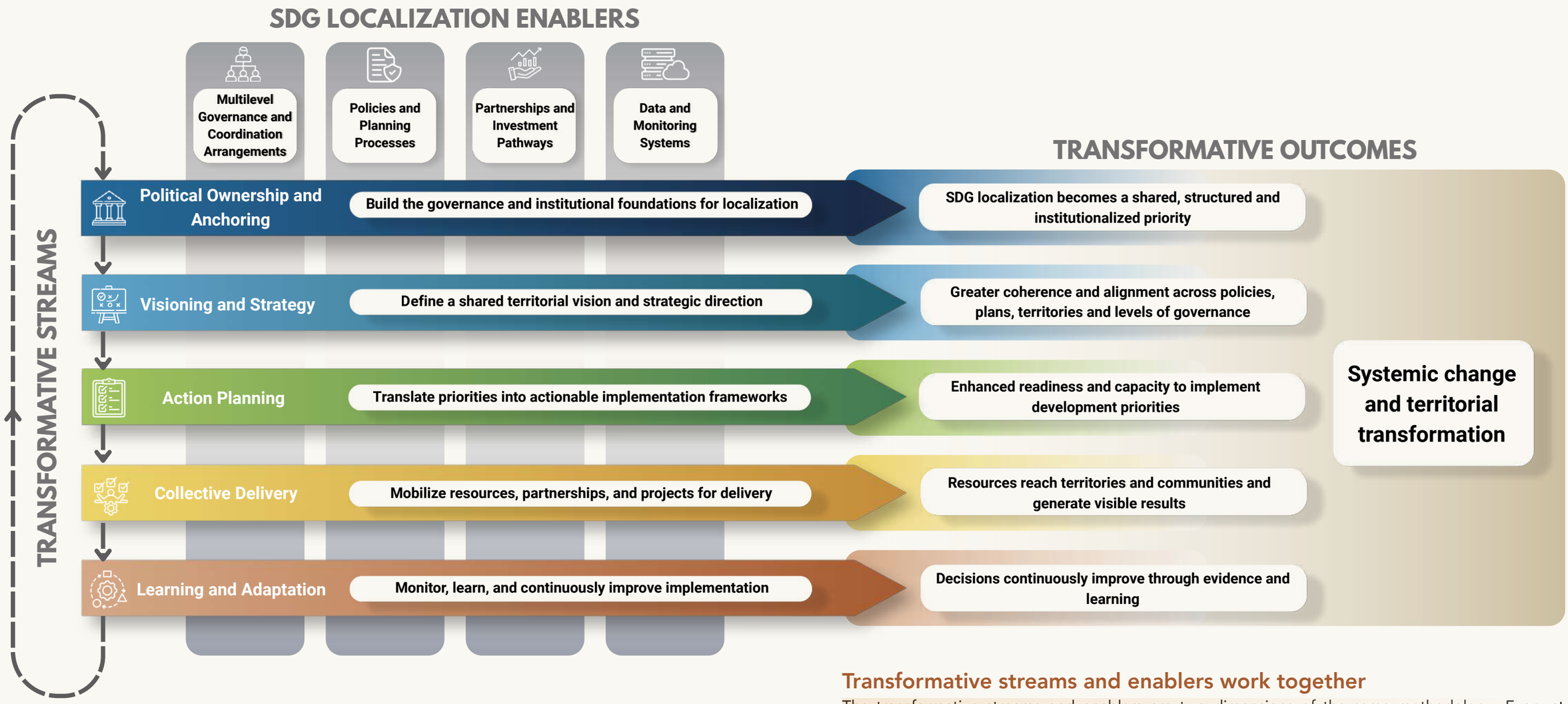


Figure 2. *The NLF Architecture: Five transformative streams, Four enablers and Expected outcomes*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

Transformative streams and enablers work together

The transformative streams and enablers are two dimensions of the same methodology. Every stream operates through the four enablers, combining governance, policy, resources and evidence as required. For example, developing an SDG Localization Strategy may require national–local dialogue, policy-coherence analysis, consideration of resource implications and territorial evidence. Similarly, strengthening project pipelines may depend on coordinated governance, appropriate policy conditions, financing pathways and reliable data.

The NLF therefore works as a matrix: streams organize the progression of localization horizontally, while enablers strengthen the capacities required to deliver it vertically.

From transformative streams to transformative processes

Each stream is organized into a limited number of transformative processes that translate its overall function into manageable areas of work. For example, Political Ownership and Anchoring covers institutional anchoring, diagnostics, governance design and process planning. Processes provide the operational bridge between the broader transformation objective and the actions required to achieve it.

→ *Detailed guidance is provided in Part II.*

From transformative processes to activated actions

Each transformative process is translated into operational actions through which change is implemented across one or more enablers.

Actions may strengthen governance arrangements, policies and regulations, partnerships and resource pathways, or data and digital systems.

This allows the NLF to maintain a common architecture while supporting selective and context-specific application.

Using the Localization Blueprint and the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 across the NLF

The **Localization Blueprint** and **SDG Localization Marker 2.0** provide **transformative, cross-cutting support across the NLF**. The Blueprint helps shape multilevel and multi-stakeholder localization pathways, from shared visioning and strategic alignment to implementation and partnerships. The Marker provides an assessment and quality-assurance lens to examine how effectively strategies, actions, programmes and investments advance SDG localization.

Their application evolves across the five streams: supporting shared localization principles during anchoring; informing strategy and action prioritization; strengthening the localization quality of projects and investment pipelines; and assessing results to inform learning and adaptation.

→ *See Annexes 3 and 4 for detailed guidance on Localization Blueprint and SDG Localization Marker 2.0.*

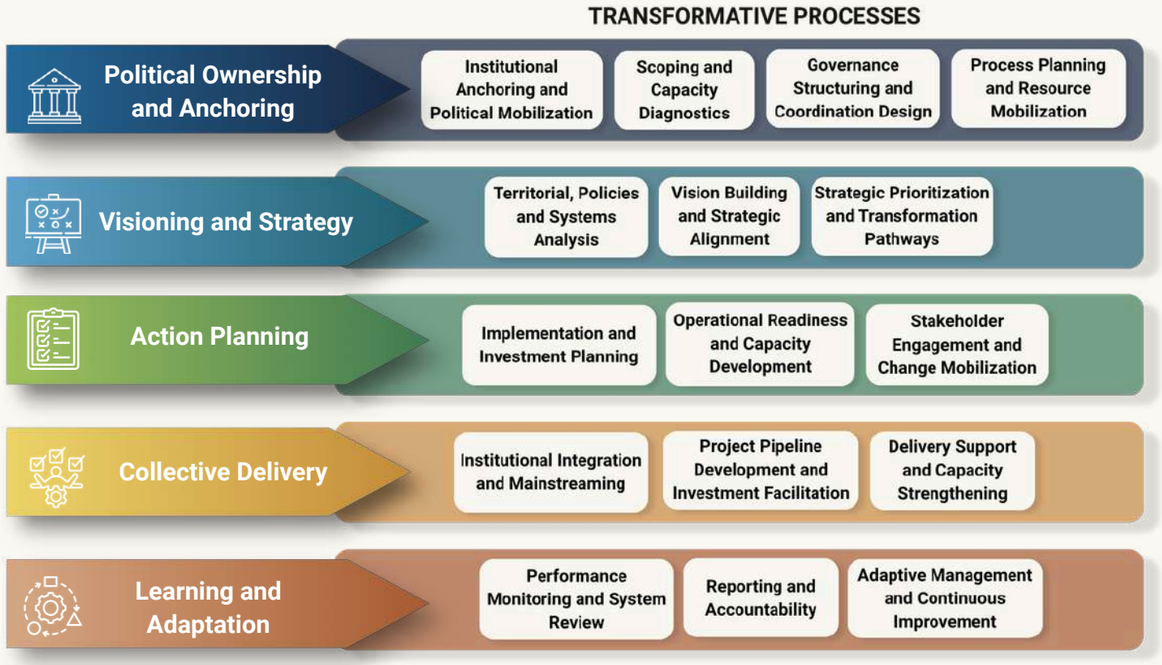


***Figure 3**. NLF's transformative streams to transformative processes*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

Applying cross-cutting principles across the NLF

Human rights, leave no one behind, equality and non-discrimination, and gender equality guide the entire architecture. They are not a separate stream or enabler: they shape how every process is conducted and what every output must achieve. In practice, each process should ask who participates, who benefits and who is counted, and use disaggregated evidence to answer. These principles correspond to the inclusiveness dimension of the CEPA Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development.

→ *See Annex 13 on the CEPA Principles.*

Local and regional governments as co-owners

Co-ownership with local and regional governments is also a cross-cutting requirement. They bring their own mandates, responsibilities and territorial knowledge, and every stream should give them a defined role in decisions, not only in consultations. The minimum expectations for each stream are set out at the start of Part II. Like the principles above, they are not subject to selective activation; what is adapted to context is how they are met.

From actions to outputs and outcomes

The NLF distinguishes between outputs and outcomes.

Outputs
Outputs are the concrete products, mechanisms or arrangements generated through the transformative processes.

They can include, for example:
- an institutional mandate;
- a governance structure;
- an integrated territorial assessment;
- an SDG localization strategy;
- an implementation plan;
- an operational project pipeline;
- a monitoring system; or
- an adaptive learning mechanism.

Outputs provide tangible markers of progress and help practitioners understand what each process is expected to produce.

Outcomes
Outcomes describe the broader change that results as the NLF progressively strengthens the localization system.

Across the five streams, these include:
- stronger political and institutional anchoring of SDG localization;
- greater coherence across policies, plans, territories and levels of government;
- improved readiness and capacity for implementation;
- stronger territorial delivery through partnerships, resources and investment pathways; and
- more adaptive and evidence-informed decision-making.

Across the NLF as a whole, these changes contribute to stronger multilevel governance, policy coherence, localized delivery and evidence-based implementation — supporting systemic change and territorial transformation.

These changes in the system are a means, not an end: they should lead to better delivery and visible results in territories. Countries are encouraged to link their NLF to a few territorial outcome dimensions, such as housing, access to basic services, spatial inequalities, investment in underserved areas and climate resilience, and to follow them at the scale where they occur, including functional territories that cross administrative boundaries (see Performance Monitoring and System Review, Stream 5).

The architecture provides a common reference for NLF design and implementation, but it does not imply that every country should apply every element in the same way.

Countries may enter the architecture from different starting points, already have strong capacities in some areas and significant gaps in others, or face immediate opportunities that make particular processes more relevant at a given moment.

The NLF therefore combines a common systemic architecture with flexible application.

Understanding the architecture is the first step. The next question is how countries decide which processes and actions require attention, how they should be adapted, and in what sequence they should be activated.

Chapter 3 introduces this logic of selective activation, adaptation, prioritization and sequencing.

3
Contextualizing NLF Design
Selective activation, adaptation and sequencing

The NLF provides a common architecture, but its application will differ across countries. Existing institutions, capacities, policy cycles, territorial priorities and reform opportunities determine **which processes require attention, which actions are most relevant and how they should be sequenced.**

The methodology therefore applies a principle of **selective activation**. All five transformative streams and four enablers are considered as part of an interconnected system, but not every process or action needs to be activated at the same time or to the same degree.

Selective activation allows countries to **build on what already works, concentrate effort where stronger intervention is needed, and progressively expand or adjust the NLF as capacities and opportunities evolve.**

1 — Select what needs to be strengthened

Selective activation begins with an understanding of the country's existing system.
Evidence generated through the initial **NLF Collaborative Design process**, **existing national and territorial assessments**, and subsequent diagnostics undertaken through the transformative streams can help identify:
- mechanisms that already function and can be strengthened or connected;
- gaps or bottlenecks requiring additional action;
- capacities that need to be developed before further action is possible; and
- areas that do not currently require additional intervention.

Activation takes place primarily at the **process and action level**. Countries should therefore not simply select or exclude entire transformative streams. Nor are the cross-cutting principles subject to selection. Whatever the entry point, scope or sequence chosen, every NLF pathway applies human rights, leave no one behind, non-discrimination and gender equality.

Each action is embedded within a wider transformative process and contributes, through one or more enablers, to a defined output and outcome. **Activating or strengthening an action therefore contributes to the wider transformation process in which it is embedded.**

Actions can be considered through four simple responses:

BUILD ON	A relevant mechanism already exists and can be improved, connected or scaled.
PREPARE	The action is relevant, but additional capacities, evidence or institutional conditions are required first.
INTEGRATE	An important gap requires additional action.
REVISIT	The action is not an immediate priority but may become relevant as the NLF evolves.

2 — Adapt and prioritize according to context

The actions contained in the NLF methodology provide a common operational reference, but they should **not be applied as standardized prescriptions.**

Selected actions should be adapted to existing institutional mandates, governance arrangements, territorial structures, policy frameworks, capacities and implementation mechanisms.

Prioritization should consider:

- the relevance of the identified gap or opportunity;
- the potential of the action to strengthen wider parts of the system;
- existing institutional and technical readiness;
- dependencies between actions;
- current policy, planning or reform opportunities;
- available resources and implementation capacities; and
- the mandate, capacity, territorial characteristics and fiscal space of local governments, whether the governance system has two or three tiers, whether metropolitan or regional governance arrangements span several municipalities.

These decisions should be developed collectively with the institutions and stakeholders responsible for the systems concerned.

Learning from Country Solutions

Where available, actions are connected to examples contained in Volume III — Country Solutions Catalogue.

Country Solutions show how comparable mechanisms and approaches have been implemented in different institutional and territorial contexts. They provide practical references for adapting NLF actions rather than models to be replicated directly.

3 — Sequence, implement and adapt over time

The five transformative streams provide an overall progression from political and institutional anchoring to strategy, action planning, delivery, learning and adaptation. They do not, however, constitute a rigid implementation sequence.

Processes from different streams **may overlap or advance in parallel** when country conditions require it.

Sequencing can respond to:

- national planning and budgeting cycles;
- VNR, VSR and VLR processes;
- institutional or territorial reforms;
- financing and investment opportunities;
- dependencies between processes; and
- institutional readiness and available capacities.

For example, an upcoming VNR may create an opportunity to advance national–local reporting processes while other parts of the NLF are still being developed. Similarly, an existing territorial investment opportunity may justify early action under Collective Delivery.

The resulting NLF pathway should therefore identify **what will be strengthened, what should happen first, what can advance in parallel and what should be developed progressively over time.**

This pathway is not fixed. Implementation generates new evidence, capacities and opportunities, allowing processes and actions to be adjusted, expanded or newly activated.

The NLF therefore operates through a continuous adaptive logic:

ASSESS → SELECT → ADAPT → SEQUENCE → IMPLEMENT → LEARN → REASSESS



Part II

Volume II
Operational Guide

Application
How to apply the methodology in different contexts ?

1
Political Ownership and Anchoring
p.II-31

2
Visioning and Strategy
p.II-45

3
Action Planning
p.II-57

4
Collective Delivery
p.II-69

5
Learning and Adaptation
p.II-79

From architecture to application

Part I introduced the NLF as an integrated and adaptive system. Part II now moves from understanding the architecture to **applying it in practice**. The following sections unpack each of the five transformative streams and their processes, showing how they contribute to defined outputs and outcomes and how action across the four NLF enablers supports this transformation.

Each transformative stream is first presented as a whole before its individual transformative processes are explored in greater detail, allowing practitioners to **move from the overall transformation intent to the concrete actions, actors, tools and outputs required for implementation.**

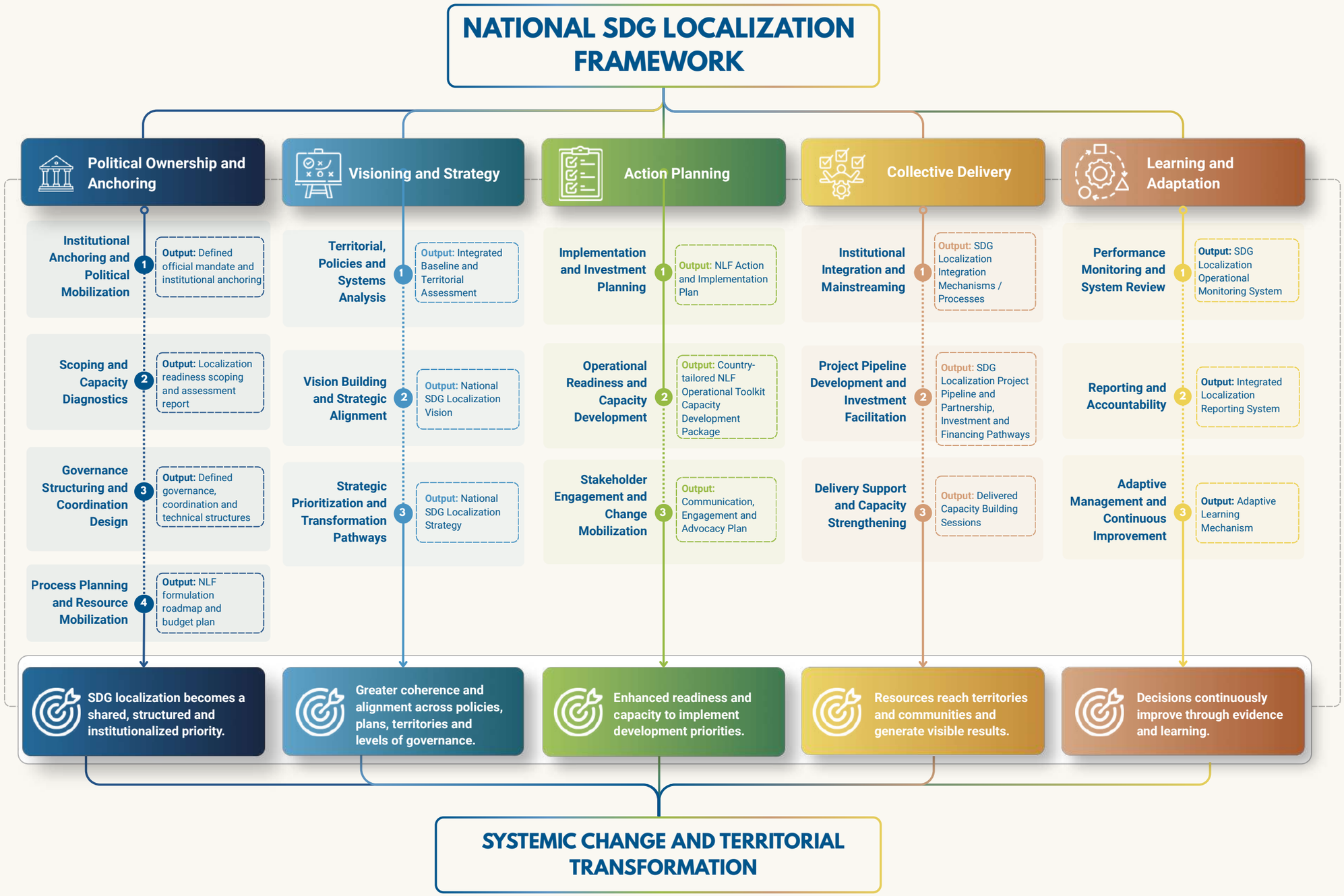


***Figure 4**. Part II overview: NLF streams, processes, outputs and outcomes.*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

How to navigate Part II

The five transformative streams provide an overall progression from **political and institutional anchoring to visioning, action planning, collective delivery, learning and adaptation**. The sequencing shown here is indicative: streams may overlap, begin at different moments or progress at different speeds depending on existing institutions, planning cycles, capacities and country priorities. Learning and Adaptation operates alongside implementation, ensuring that evidence and experience continuously inform the NLF as it evolves.

The sections that follow provide two levels of practical guidance.

Each transformative stream begins with an overview page that explains its transformation intent, the processes and outputs through which it operates, how it strengthens the four NLF enablers, the institutions and stakeholders that should be involved, its indicative sequencing, the conditions for progressing further, and its connection with the following stream.

Each transformative process is then unpacked in greater detail, providing:

- its purpose and key question;
- the logic through which it moves from the starting situation to the expected result;
- the main inputs and prerequisites;
- suggested leadership and participation;
- relevant actions across the four NLF enablers;
- practical steps for working through the process;
- the expected output and a readiness check;
- supporting NLF tools and connections with other processes; and
- an In Practice example showing how a comparable solution has been applied in a country context.

These pages should be used as **operational guidance** rather than a fixed checklist. As explained in Part I, countries can build on existing mechanisms, adapt actions to their context and selectively activate or sequence processes according to identified needs and opportunities. The objective is to retain a common NLF architecture while allowing each country to develop a roadmap that is institutionally grounded, feasible and responsive to its own development context.

The overall sequencing presented below provides **a common reference for how the five transformative streams may evolve over time.** It reflects a broad progression from anchoring and strategy to planning, delivery, monitoring and adaptation, while allowing for overlap between streams where conditions permit. **More detailed sequencing is provided in the following pages for each transformative stream and its individual transformative processes**, showing indicative timing, dependencies and points at which subsequent processes or streams may begin.

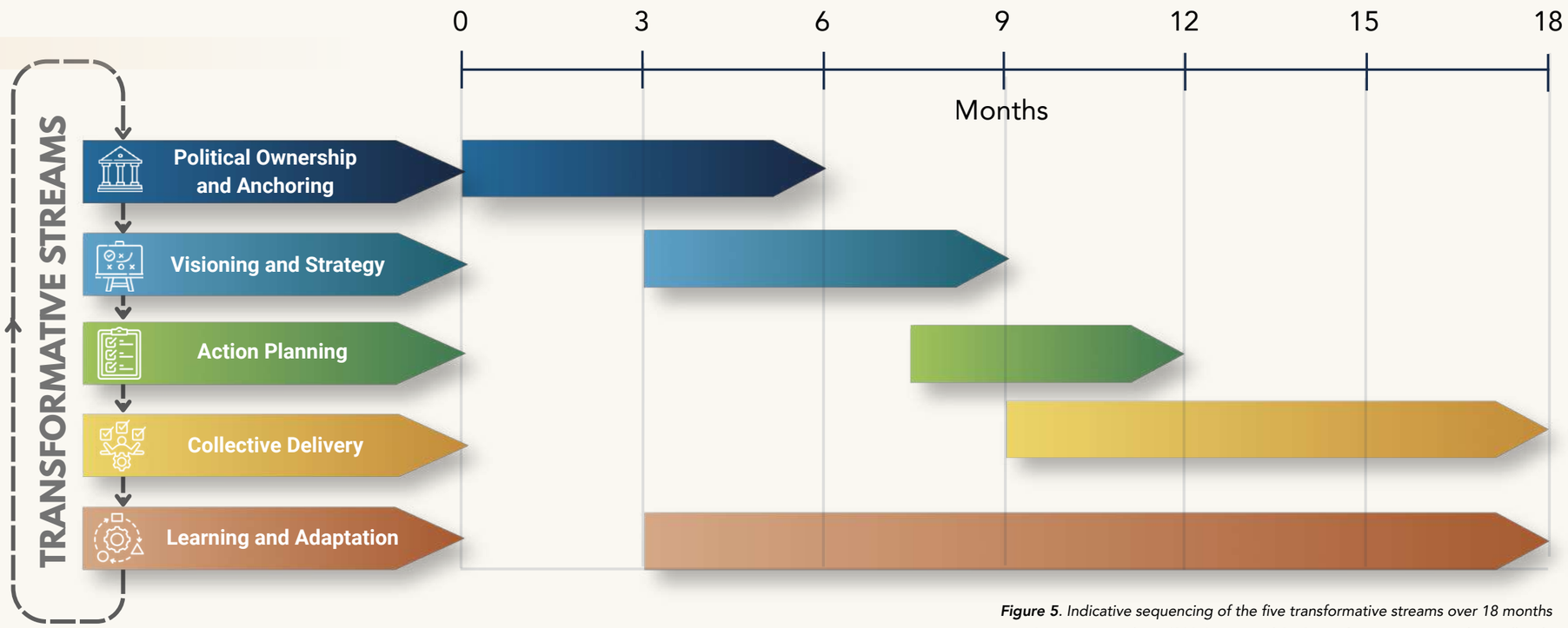


***Figure 5**. Indicative sequencing of the five transformative streams over 18 months*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 01

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

1. TRANSFORMATION INTENT

Establish the political, institutional and operational foundations required to anchor SDG localization within national systems and enable a coordinated NLF process across levels of government.

Several 2026 VNRs show coordination bodies being restructured around a small core of institutions with direct SDG responsibilities, while other entities contribute through thematic working groups (UN DESA, 2026).

2. STREAM LOGIC

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOME
Institutional Anchoring and Political Mobilization	Defined official mandate and institutional anchoring	SDG localization becomes a shared, structured and institutionalized priority
Scoping and Capacity Diagnostics	Localization readiness scoping and assessment report	
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	Defined governance, coordination and technical structures	
Process Planning and Resource Mobilization	NLF formulation roadmap and budget plan	

3. TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE FOUR NLF ENABLERS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS
Establish clear **leadership, mandates, roles and coordination arrangements** linking national and subnational institutions.	Identify and strengthen the **policy, legal and planning basis** through which the NLF can be formally anchored and implemented.	Bring development actors into the process and connect NLF formulation with **budgeting, investments and resource-mobilization arrangements.**	Engage statistical, monitoring and digital-system institutions early and establish the **data and evidence arrangements** required to support the NLF process.

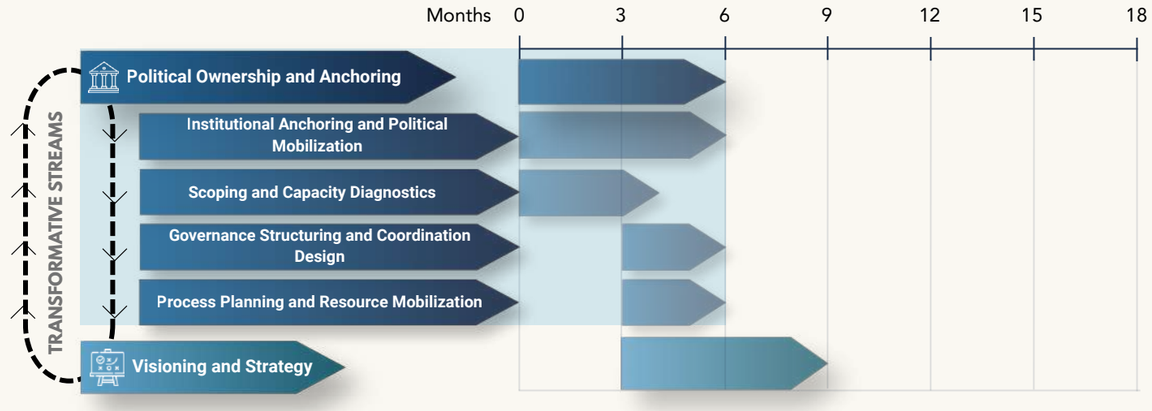
4. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THIS STREAM?

The NLF has a **recognized institutional home and sufficient political ownership**, participating institutions understand their respective roles, governance and technical coordination arrangements are defined, key readiness and capacity gaps are understood, and an agreed roadmap provides the basis for structured NLF formulation.

5. WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

LEAD INSTITUTIONS	CORE INSTITUTIONS	OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
SDG coordination; national planning; territorial/local government; Presidency/PM Office where relevant	Finance; sector ministries; statistics; decentralization/local-government institutions; regional/local governments; technical agencies	Civil society; private sector and finance; academia; development partners; thematic stakeholders

6. INDICATIVE SEQUENCING OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM



Indicatively, Political Ownership and Anchoring can be completed within the first **6 months** of the NLF process. Its four processes can overlap and progress in parallel, with Visioning and Strategy beginning once sufficient institutional anchoring, readiness and coordination are in place. Where strong existing arrangements can be built on, the stream may progress considerably faster.

7. YOU ARE READY TO PROGRESS WHEN...

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHOR	READINESS UNDERSTOOD	COORDINATION ESTABLISHED	PROCESS ORGANIZED
A recognized lead institution and sufficient political mandate are in place.	Key institutional, capacity and enabling-condition gaps have been identified.	Governance and technical coordination arrangements are sufficiently defined to support formulation.	An agreed roadmap, responsibilities, indicative resources and working calendar are in place.

8. FEEDS INTO

Visioning and Strategy

Provides the institutional mandate, coordination arrangements, readiness evidence and formulation structure needed to develop the integrated baseline, SDG Localization Vision and Strategy.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 01

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

1 Institutional Anchoring and Political Mobilization

PURPOSE

Establish a durable institutional and political basis for the NLF by identifying the most appropriate existing institutional anchor, clarifying its mandate and securing the political endorsement required to convene actors across sectors and levels of government.

The process creates the formal basis from which the NLF can move into deeper diagnostics, governance design and formulation.

KEY QUESTION

Where should the NLF be institutionally anchored, and what mandate and political commitment are required to sustain it across levels of government?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Localization mandates and coordination may already exist, but **ownership and institutional anchoring remain unclear or fragmented.**

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Reviews mandates and entry points, identifies viable anchoring options and builds political ownership.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

A r**ecognized institutional home, mandate and political basis** for the NLF.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Creates the basis for **readiness assessment, governance design and structured NLF formulation**.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- Preliminary NLF pathway;
- Institutional and stakeholder mapping;
- Existing mandates and legal basis;
- National and territorial planning frameworks;
- Existing coordination mechanisms;
- Relevant ongoing reforms.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: institution responsible for SDG coordination, national planning or territorial development.

Key participants: Presidency/PM Office where relevant; local and regional governments or their associations; finance; relevant ministries.

As needed: legal/parliamentary actors where formal statutory anchoring is pursued.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-1.01	Include a sustainable development strategic framework in primary legislation, with a mandatory periodic revision cycle.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-1.02	Anchor, within the primary legislation, the SDGs localization framework to the sustainable development strategic framework, obliging subnational authorities to adopt aligned territorial sustainable development strategies within a fixed period of each national update and to further engage municipalities.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-1.03	Secure formal adoption of the sustainable development strategic framework, its revision and its funding by the highest interministerial decision-making body.	GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP
ITALY · IT-1.04	Use the existing statutory national-subnational conference as the formal endorsement channel for the sustainable development strategic framework and its localization.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-1.05	Secure, at the highest possible level, the establishment of a multilevel governance mechanism allowing integrated programming, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development objectives	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-1.06	Secure, at highest possible level, the establishment of a multistakeholder platform as reference for the participation of civil society and non-state actors to the implementation, revision and monitoring of sustainable development strategic framework	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-1.07	Institutionalize PCSD as implementation enabler and accelerator for the sustainable development strategic framework at national and territorial level with dedicated expected results, actions and targets.	PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-1.01 **TUNISIA · TN-1.01**	Formalize national political commitment to the NLF through an official mandate from the responsible authorities.	GOVERNANCE
SENEGAL · SN-1.02	Embed the NLF in ongoing national development, territorial and urban planning, SDG reporting and UN cooperation processes to align implementation rather than create parallel structures.	PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
TUNISIA · TN-1.02	Anchor the NLF in ongoing socioeconomic development planning, territorial and spatial planning, urban and housing policies, and SDG reporting, aligning implementation with their respective cycles.	PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-1.03 **TUNISIA · TN-1.03**	Maintain political and technical leadership across relevant ministries through structured interministerial coordination.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-1.04	Engage development and financing partners early in NLF design to align technical support and funding interests with territorial priorities.	PARTNERSHIP
SENEGAL · SN-1.04 **TUNISIA · TN-1.05**	Engage national statistical institutions and stakeholders responsible for SDG monitoring and reporting from the outset to integrate existing data systems and reporting processes within the NLF.	DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: Strategic vision: P1 Political commitment & leadership; P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: Institutional & governance mechanisms: P4 Whole-of- government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement; P6 Stakeholder engagement.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Empower citizens & communities/ conducive environments.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships & co-created systemic change.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Anchor the NLF in existing **national housing or urban policy processes**, such as a **National Housing Strategy or National Urban Policy**. Identify the **institutions responsible for housing, land and urban planning and development**, and secure political commitment to coordinated national and local action on **adequate housing and informal settlement** transformation.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

DEFINED OFFICIAL MANDATE AND INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORING

- Institutional home and lead institution;
- scope of the NLF mandate;
- links with existing SDG, planning and governance structures;
- national–subnational roles;
- form of political, administrative or legal endorsement.

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 1 — Institutional Anchoring, Governance, Engagement & Advocacy
- **Complementary**: Participation Plan Guide

IN PRACTICE

BOX 1. Brazil — Reforming the National Commission for the SDGs

Brazil offers a relevant example of **institutional anchoring and political mobilization** through the reform of its **National Commission for the SDGs**. The Commission broadened participation across national institutions, local governments, civil society and the private sector, creating a more inclusive and visible institutional space for SDG implementation and strengthening ownership beyond a single ministry.

For the NLF, Brazil shows that anchoring is not only about identifying a lead institution, but also about creating the **political and institutional conditions** for sustained coordination, legitimacy and shared ownership across sectors and levels of government.

Source: 2026 Voluntary National Review; Presidency of Brazil (2023). Decree No. 11,704 of 14 September 2023,establishing the National Commission for the SDGs (CNODS); Government of Brazil (2024). Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda (2024).

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how a formal coordination structure can reinforce both institutional anchoring and broader political ownership.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ A clear institutional home and mandate are established.
- ☑ The lead institution can convene relevant actors.
- ☑ National–subnational roles are clear and agreed with local and regional governments.
- ☑ Political ownership is sufficiently broad.
- ☑ Anchoring connects to existing governance and planning systems.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 01

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

2 Scoping and Capacity Diagnostics

PURPOSE

Assess whether institutions have the mandates, capacities and systems required to formulate and implement the NLF, identifying strengths, gaps and readiness conditions across the four enablers.

The process provides the evidence needed to determine what can be built on, what requires strengthening and what may need to be prepared first.

KEY QUESTION

What capacities, mechanisms and gaps already exist across the four enablers, and where should the NLF concentrate its efforts?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Initial NLF needs are identified, but institutional readiness and capacity gaps require deeper assessment.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Assesses capacities, systems and readiness across the four NLF enablers, classifies local governments by capacity and identifies which processes to activate first

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

A clear picture of strengths, gaps, dependencies and priority capacity needs.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Guides action selection, sequencing, governance design and capacity strengthening.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- Preliminary NLF pathway;
- institutional and stakeholder mapping (government tiers and local government mandates);
- mandates, structures and staffing;
- planning and coordination systems;
- financing and delivery functions;
- data and monitoring arrangements.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead institution and assessment team.

Key participants: institutions representing the four enablers; regional/local governments.

As needed: capacity-development and specialized technical actors.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-1.08	Commission an independent governance diagnostic of PCSD capacity as the evidence base for the restructuring/operationalization of governance mechanisms and policy integration.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-1.09	Support sub-national levels in a self-diagnostic of PCSD capacity as the evidence base for the operationalization of governance mechanisms and policy integration at territorial level.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-1.10	Baseline the national statistical system's SDG coverage against the global indicator framework.	DATA
SENEGAL · SN-1.05 **TUNISIA · TN-1.06**	Conduct national and local scoping to map institutional stakeholders, policy entry points and implementation gaps for NLF design.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-1.07	Partner with universities and research institutions to strengthen territorial diagnostics, data analysis and applied learning throughout the NLF.	DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement; P6 Stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III – Responsive & adaptive tools: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Conducive environments and local ownership.
- D2 – Capacities innovation & collaboration.
- D4 – Localized finance & systemic investment pipelines

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Assess institutional and operational readiness to **deliver housing priorities across levels of government**, including mandates, technical capacities, coordination arrangements, financing mechanisms and housing data systems. Identify **capacity gaps that could constrain the localization of national housing policies** and informal settlement upgrading programmes.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

LOCALIZATION READINESS SCOPING AND ASSESSMENT REPORT

- institutional readiness profile; (government tier and local capacity);
- assessment across the four enablers;
- key strengths and capacity gaps, by government tier and local capacity;
- readiness conditions and dependencies;
- priority strengthening needs.
- capacity typology and initial activation priorities

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 2 — Institutional Capacity Assessment
- **Secondary:** Toolkit 1, and Toolkit 4
- **Complementary:** Institutional Scorecards; Governance Assessment Framework

IN PRACTICE

BOX 2. Georgia— Linking Local Needs Assessments to Capacity Support

Georgia's SDG localization experience demonstrates how national coordination, local evidence and targeted capacity support can reinforce one another. Its 2024 VNR highlights municipal engagement in participatory action planning and local SDG data collection.

In Tbilisi, the SDG Cities process and VLR, supported by UN-Habitat, UNECE and UCLG in coordination with the Administration of the Government of Georgia, helped connect national SDG commitments with municipal planning and implementation. Action-oriented VLRs, stakeholder engagement and technical assistance have also helped municipalities identify needs and strengthen their capacities.

Source: Tbilisi City (2025). Voluntary Local Review of the City of Tbilisi, Georgia; UNDP, UNICEF and FAO (2025). Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia — Joint SDG Fund Final Narrative Report; UNDP Georgia (2024–2026). Strengthening SDG Localisation in Georgia.

Why it matters for this process: Georgia illustrates the importance of connecting readiness diagnostics with national coordination and tailored capacity support, ensuring that identified gaps are translated into practical institutional strengthening and improved local delivery.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Readiness across the four enablers has been assessed.
- ☑ Key strengths and gaps are clearly identified.
- ☑ Critical dependencies are understood.
- ☑ Readiness is understood by government tier and local capacity
- ☑ Findings can guide selection and sequencing of actions.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 01

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

3 Governance Structuring and Coordination Design

PURPOSE

Define the governance, coordination and technical arrangements through which the NLF will be steered, formulated and connected across institutions and levels of government.

Build on and strengthen existing structures wherever possible, creating additional arrangements only where clear coordination gaps remain.

KEY QUESTION

What governance and coordination arrangements are needed to connect institutions, levels of government and stakeholders around the NLF?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION	WHAT THE PROCESS DOES	WHAT IT ESTABLISHES	WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
An institutional anchor exists, but roles, coordination and participation may remain fragmented.	Maps existing structures and defines political, technical and multilevel coordination arrangements.	An agreed governance architecture, roles and coordination mechanisms.	Enables coordinated NLF formulation and sustained multilevel decision-making.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- institutional mandate and anchor;
- readiness and capacity findings;
- institutional/stakeholder mapping;
- existing coordination structures;
- multilevel governance arrangements;
- participation mechanisms.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead institution.

Key participants: central institutions; regional/local governments; existing coordination bodies.

As needed: civil society, private sector and other stakeholders.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-1.11	Establish an interministerial coordination body on the implementation and revision of the sustainable development strategic framework structured in two tiers, separating political steering from technical delivery.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-1.12	Establish an interministerial coordination body on the monitoring of the national sustainable development strategic framework.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-1.13	Establish permanent territorial working groups giving subnational authorities a standing role in design, implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development strategic framework.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-1.14	Institutionalize a permanent multistakeholder forum for the implementation, monitoring and revision of the sustainable development strategic framework and link it to territorial equivalents.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-1.15	Connect the sustainable development strategic framework and its localization processes to development cooperation governance and policies as to allow 2030 Agenda internal and external dimensions converge.	PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-1.06 **TUNISIA · TN-1.08**	Establish multilevel political steering and technical coordination arrangements with national and subnational representation.	GOVERNANCE
SENEGAL · SN-1.07 **TUNISIA · TN-1.10**	Establish local SDG localization task forces to coordinate data collection, stakeholder engagement, VLR preparation and local priorities.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING DATA
SENEGAL · SN-1.08	Use existing regional coordination bodies and local development agencies as the NLF delivery interface between national and local governments.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-1.09	Design a PCSD mechanism that builds on existing coordination bodies, with flexible institutional arrangements that can accommodate changes in mandates and responsibilities as decentralization reforms unfold.	PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-1.11	Give civil society organizations, including groups representing underserved communities, a defined role in NLF coordination and decisions.	GOVERNANCE

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P1 Political commitment & leadership.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement; P6 Stakeholder engagement.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Conducive institutional environment.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships & clear multilevel roles.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Establish or strengthen **multilevel coordination arrangements connecting housing, planning, land and finance institutions** with **local governments and community representatives**. Define responsibilities, decision-making processes and technical coordination mechanisms for housing policy localization and territorial implementation.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

DEFINED GOVERNANCE, COORDINATION AND TECHNICAL STRUCTURES

- overall governance architecture;
- political and technical structures;
- roles and responsibilities;
- national–subnational coordination;
- stakeholder participation arrangements;
- ToRs and decision-making procedures.

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 1 — Institutional Anchoring, Governance, Engagement and Advocacy
- **Complementary:** Metropolitan Institutions Guide; Effective National-to-Local Public Governance. More in Annex 15.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Political and technical structures are defined
- ☑ Roles and responsibilities are clear
- ☑ National-subnational coordination is agreed with the subnational governments
- ☑ Stakeholder participation is built in
- ☑ Operating arrangements are agreed

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 01

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

4 Process Planning and Resource Mobilization

PURPOSE

Translate the institutional and governance foundations of the NLF into a feasible formulation process, defining activities, responsibilities, sequencing, resources and budget requirements.

The process ensures that NLF formulation is organized, adequately resourced and connected to existing planning and budgeting cycles.

KEY QUESTION

How will the NLF be formulated, by whom, when and with what resources?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

The NLF is institutionally anchored, but formulation still needs to be organized and resourced.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Defines activities, responsibilities, timelines, dependencies and resource needs.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

An agreed formulation roadmap, budget and resource-mobilization basis.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Enables coordinated and adequately resourced NLF formulation.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- institutional mandate and governance arrangements;
- readiness and capacity findings;
- preliminary NLF pathway;
- planning and budgeting cycles;
- available resources and partners;
- key dependencies and risks.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead institution / coordination team.

Key participants: finance, planning, participating ministries and subnational representatives.

As needed: development and financing partners; technical support institutions.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE ENABLERS

SENEGAL · SN-1.09 **TUNISIA · TN-1.12**	Align the NLF roadmap with governance reforms, planning and reporting cycles, and key implementation milestones.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING DATA
TUNISIA · TN-1.13	Plan the NLF endorsement and scale-up pathway early, defining institutional responsibilities, capacity needs and resources for replication.	GOVERNANCE

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P1 Political commitment & leadership; P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4–P6 Whole-of-government, subnational and stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Conducive environments.
- D2 – Capacities & collaboration.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Develop an **NLF formulation roadmap aligned with existing national housing policy cycles, municipal planning processes and budget calendars**. Identify the technical expertise, institutional participation and resources required to integrate housing priorities into the NLF process.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

NLF FORMULATION ROADMAP AND BUDGET PLAN

- activities and key milestones;
- roles and responsibilities;
- sequencing and dependencies;
- budget and resource requirements;
- financing and resource-mobilization needs;
- key risks and assumptions.

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 3— Workplanning, Roadmapping & Budget
- **Secondary:** Toolkit 1 and Toolkit 8

IN PRACTICE

BOX 3. Nepal — Connecting SDG Implementation Roadmaps with Local Planning and Financing

Nepal has translated its commitment to the SDGs into a structured implementation approach, combining its national SDGs Status and Roadmap 2016–2030 with SDG localization guidelines, costing and financing strategies, and planning instruments across three tiers of government. Led by the National Planning Commission, these efforts support the integration of SDG priorities into national, provincial and local development plans and budgets, including through Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks. Nepal's 2024 Voluntary National Review further identifies financing requirements and gaps for 2024–2030, providing an evidence base for resource mobilization and emphasis on SDG Localization. Nepal illustrates how national commitments can be translated into implementation planning, supported by institutional coordination, financing assessments and budgeting mechanisms.

Source: Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission (2024). Voluntary National Review 2024; Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission (2017). Sustainable Development Goals: Status and Roadmap 2016–2030.

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how implementation roadmaps, institutional coordination and early consideration of financing needs can establish the foundations for a coordinated SDG localization process.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Activities and milestones are clear.
- ☑ Responsibilities are assigned.
- ☑ Resource needs and costs are identified.
- ☑ Financing gaps and sources are understood.
- ☑ The roadmap aligns with existing government cycles.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 02

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

1. TRANSFORMATION INTENT

Build a shared, evidence-based understanding of territorial conditions and translate it into a coherent SDG Localization Vision and Strategy aligned across policies, sectors and levels of government.

2. STREAM LOGIC

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOME
Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	Integrated Baseline, Policies and Territorial Assessment	Greater coherence and alignment across policies, plans, territories and levels of governance.
Vision Building and Strategic Alignment	National SDG Localization Vision	
Strategic Prioritization and Transformation Pathways	National SDG Localization Strategy	

3. TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE FOUR NLF ENABLERS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS
Create structured national–local dialogue so territorial priorities, institutional perspectives and stakeholder knowledge inform analysis, visioning and strategic choices.	Assess alignment across national, sectoral and territorial policies; identify synergies, trade-offs and reform needs; and connect strategic priorities across planning frameworks.	Map financing and investment conditions and consider how strategic priorities can connect to existing public resources, development cooperation and investment opportunities.	Build an integrated evidence base using national and subnational indicators, spatial and territorial data, systems analysis and foresight to support strategic choices.

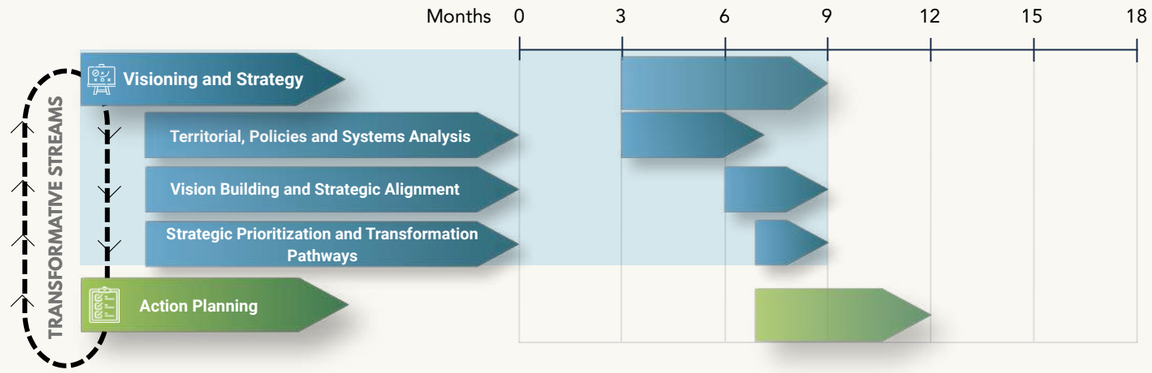
4. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THIS STREAM?

The NLF has an **integrated and territorially grounded evidence base**, a shared SDG Localization Vision and an agreed Strategy that identifies coherent strategic priorities and transformation pathways across national and subnational levels.

5. WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

LEAD INSTITUTIONS	CORE INSTITUTIONS	OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
National planning; SDG coordination; territorial development / local government.	Sector ministries; finance; statistics; spatial/territorial planning; regional/local governments; relevant technical agencies.	Civil society; communities; academia/research; private sector; development partners; thematic stakeholders linked to activated NLF lenses.

6. INDICATIVE SEQUENCING OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM



Indicatively, Visioning and Strategy can be completed over approximately **6 months**, typically between months 3 and 9. The Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis should be **substantially completed first**, as it provides the evidence base for the Vision. Strategic prioritization follows as the shared direction is defined, while Action Planning may begin once priorities are sufficiently clear.

7. YOU ARE READY TO PROGRESS WHEN...

INTEGRATED BASELINE	SHARED VISION	STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	STRATEGY AGREED
Territorial, policy, systems and coherence evidence has been consolidated and validated.	A nationally owned and territorially informed SDG Localization Vision is agreed.	Priority transformations and strategic directions have been identified and aligned.	The SDG Localization Strategy provides a clear basis for implementation planning.

8. FEEDS INTO

Action Planning

Provides the integrated baseline, shared vision, strategic priorities and transformation pathways required to translate the NLF into sequenced, costed and assigned implementation actions.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 02

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

1 Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis

PURPOSE

Build an integrated understanding of territorial conditions, policy coherence and systemic dynamics shaping SDG localization.

The process connects spatial, socioeconomic, environmental, institutional and policy evidence to identify inequalities, interdependencies, gaps and opportunities that should inform the NLF Vision and Strategy. The analysis considers not only conditions within territories but also the flows and relationships that connect them, including mobility, services, food and water security, ecosystem health and livelihoods. It also considers how urban and territorial planning frameworks can address these interdependences by guiding land use, settlement patterns, infrastructure provision and the spatial distribution of services.

KEY QUESTION

What territorial realities, policy interactions and systemic dynamics should shape the NLF Vision and Strategy?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Relevant evidence exists, but is often fragmented across sectors, institutions and territorial levels.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Connects territorial, policy, systems and SDG evidence into one integrated analysis.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

A shared picture of conditions, inequalities, interdependencies, gaps and opportunities.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Provides the evidence base for vision building and strategic prioritization and the baseline against which *in-itinere* and *ex-post* assessment will be conducted (Stream 5)

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- national and territorial policies and plans;
- SDG and sector indicators;
- socioeconomic and environmental data;
- spatial and GIS evidence;
- VNRs, VLRs and existing assessments;
- relevant laws and ongoing reforms.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

- **Lead:** national planning / NLF technical team.
- **Key participants:** sector ministries; statistics; territorial planning; regional/local governments.
- **As needed:** academia, civil society and specialized technical actors.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

SENEGAL · SN-2.01	Update spatial development evidence using a functional territorial analysis to inform national territorial planning reforms.	DATA, PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-2.02 **TUNISIA · TN-2.02**	Develop localized SDG indicator frameworks aligned with national indicators and the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, addressing local data gaps.	DATA
SENEGAL · SN-2.03	Combine the VLR with CityRAP participatory risk mapping tool at city and neighbourhood level.	DATA, PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-2.01	Assess and prioritize existing project proposals against territorial needs, SDG impact and catalytic potential before generating new pipelines.	DATA, PARTNERSHIP, PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-2.03	Assess policy coherence for sustainable development across national development, spatial and sectoral strategies using a common SDG-based matrix of synergies, trade-offs and governance gaps	PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-2.04	Use municipal housing profiles and local evidence to identify gaps in national housing priorities and territorial delivery.	DATA, PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-2.05	Work with community organizations and inclusion-focused NGOs to identify underserved groups and barriers to accessing services and opportunities.	GOVERNANCE, DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Territorial needs, local ownership & inclusion.
- D2 – Territorial knowledge and capacities.
- D4 – Local finance and investment readiness diagnostics.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Assess **housing needs, affordability, informal settlements, tenure security, access to basic services and spatial inequalities across territories**. Examine coherence between **national housing strategies, NUPs,** territorial plans and relevant sectoral policies, identifying institutional gaps, policy interactions and territorial disparities.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

INTEGRATED BASELINE, POLICIES AND TERRITORIAL ASSESSMENT

- territorial conditions and key trends;
- policy and regulatory landscape;
- spatial inequalities and disparities;
- policy synergies, trade-offs and gaps;
- systems interdependencies and leverage points;
- data gaps;
- priority challenges and opportunities;
- indicators reusable as monitoring baseline.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 4 — NLF Policy Assessment & Integration and Toolkit 5 — Territorial & Systems Analysis
- Complementary: Housing Profile; City Resilience Profiling Tool. More in Annex 15.

IN PRACTICE

BOX 4. Jordan — Connecting Territorial Evidence with National Planning through VLR–VNR Linkages

Jordan's 2026 Voluntary National Review (VNR) and Amman's second Voluntary Local Review (VLR) demonstrate how locally generated evidence can strengthen national development planning and SDG monitoring. Urban observatories, spatial profiles and local SDG assessments provide disaggregated territorial evidence, helping identify spatial inequalities, service gaps and development priorities that complement national reporting. The process connects local findings and recommendations with the Economic Modernization Vision 2023–2033, the Jordan National Urban Policy and national SDG priorities, strengthening coherence between national strategies and territorial realities. Jordan illustrates how VLR–VNR linkages can go beyond reporting to establish a shared, territorially grounded evidence base for more coherent planning and strategic decision-making.

Source: Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (2026). Third Voluntary review; Greater Amman Municipality-Habitat and ESCWA (2026). Second Voluntary Local Review of the City of Amman: Smart Pathways to a Resilient and Livable Future; UN-Habitat (2024), Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts.

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how local data, spatial analysis and national reporting can be connected to inform integrated territorial assessments and evidence-based strategic choices.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Territorial differences are visible.
- ☑ Key policies and plans have been assessed.
- ☑ Synergies and trade-offs are understood.
- ☑ Systemic drivers and interdependencies are identified.
- ☑ Priority challenges and opportunities are agreed.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 02

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

2 Vision Building and Strategic Alignment

PURPOSE

Develop a shared long-term direction for SDG localization, grounded in territorial evidence and aligned with existing national and subnational development frameworks.

The process brings national and territorial perspectives together around a common future ambition that can guide subsequent strategic choices.

KEY QUESTION

What shared long-term direction should guide SDG localization across national and territorial levels?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION	WHAT THE PROCESS DOES	WHAT IT ESTABLISHES	WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
The evidence base is established, but a shared long-term direction still needs to be agreed.	Co-creates and aligns a future-oriented national–territorial vision.	A shared SDG Localization Vision grounded in evidence and existing priorities.	Provides the direction for strategic prioritization and transformation pathways.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- Integrated baseline and territorial assessment;
- existing national and territorial visions;
- policy coherence and foresight findings;
- SDG commitments;
- territorial priorities and inequalities;
- stakeholder aspirations.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: national planning / NLF lead institution.

Key participants: SDG coordination, sector ministries and regional/local governments.

As needed: civil society, private sector, academia and thematic stakeholders.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-2.01	Structure the national sustainable development strategic framework building on the principles of transversality and integration of the SDGs.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-2.02	Include in the national sustainable development strategic framework a specific section dedicated to the governance and enabling conditions for the achievement of the framework and its localization.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-2.03	Build a shared multilevel context indicator base for the national sustainable development framework allowing also for territorial disaggregation.	DATA
SENEGAL · SN-2.04	Co-produce SDG-aligned territorial development plans through successive diagnosis, participatory visioning and joint drafting with technical and financing partners.	PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
SENEGAL · SN-2.05	Integrate SDG progress review directly into territorial spatial planning so one process informs both the development plan and the territorial VLR.	PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-2.06 TUNISIA · TN-2.06	Convene local stakeholders and authorities to develop shared territorial visions and agree on priority actions.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-2.07	Organize expert meetings and interministerial seminar on PCSD between socioeconomic and spatial development planning, with ministries, regions, districts and local authorities.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-2.08	Test the PCSD mechanism against local financing challenges and priority initiatives, using findings to refine national coordination arrangements.	PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
TUNISIA · TN-2.09	Review local development plans against SDG evidence and community priorities to identify changes needed for coherent territorial action.	PLANNING

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P2 Strategic long-term vision; P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement; P6 Stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Shared territorial vision, citizen/community ownership and inclusion.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships around shared priorities.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Develop a **shared, territorially informed vision for adequate housing** through **dialogue** among national and subnational governments, communities and housing stakeholders. Align priorities for affordable housing, informal settlement upgrading, inclusive urban development and equitable access to land and basic services with existing national development frameworks.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

NATIONAL SDG LOCALIZATION VISION

- shared long-term ambition
- desired territorial transformation
- national-territorial alignment;
- links to existing development frameworks;
- SDG and sustainability orientation;
- relevant future trends and assumptions.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ The vision is grounded in the evidence base.
- ☑ National and territorial perspectives are reflected.
- ☑ Existing development frameworks are aligned.
- ☑ The vision is sufficiently future-oriented.
- ☑ Key institutions share ownership of it.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 6— Vision & Strategy Integrated Toolkit
- Secondary: Toolkit 4
- Complementary: Spatial Development Framework; Synergetic Multiplier Network Mapping. More in Annex 15.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 02

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

3 Strategic Prioritization and Transformation Pathways

PURPOSE

Translate the shared Vision and integrated evidence into a focused set of strategic priorities and transformation pathways for SDG localization.

The process identifies where systemic change is most needed, what shifts can generate the greatest impact, and how national and territorial priorities connect over time.

KEY QUESTION

Which strategic priorities and transformations can best advance the shared SDG Localization Vision?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

A shared Vision exists, but priorities and pathways for achieving it need to be defined.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Prioritizes strategic shifts and develops coherent transformation pathways.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

An agreed SDG Localization Strategy and strategic direction.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Provides the basis for implementation and investment planning.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- National SDG Localization Vision;
- integrated baseline and territorial assessment;
- policy coherence and foresight findings;
- identified territorial priorities;
- existing strategic frameworks;
- future trends, risks and opportunities.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: national planning / NLF lead institution.

Key participants: SDG coordination, sector ministries and regional/local governments.

As needed: civil society, private sector, academia and thematic stakeholders.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-2.04	Structure a PCSD National Action Plan (PCSD NAP), including and linking to multilevel governance, according to a diagnostic on PCSD, so findings map directly onto commitments.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-2.05	Use the UNEP-OECD Monitoring Framework on PCSD included in the IAEG-SDGs indicator framework as a national self- assessment to design and monitor the PCSD NAP.	DATA
ITALY · IT-2.06	Localize the PCSD framework and its monitoring through process indicators, reflecting implementation at territorial level.	DATA
ITALY · IT-2.07	Introduce strategic foresight in the policy cycle of the national sustainable development strategic framework, including into its revision cycle.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-2.08	Integrate the intergenerational dimension into the coherence instruments themselves, not only into consultation.	PARTNERSHIP
ITALY · IT-2.09	Run the international reporting exercise on the 2030 Agenda (VNR) and the revision of the national sustainable development strategic framework as one time-aligned process, ensuring the integration of territorial processes and stakeholders' perspectives.	GOVERNANCE
SENEGAL · SN-2.07	Screen territorial action-plan projects for technical readiness, financial feasibility, implementation risks and consistency with national investment portfolios.	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP
SENEGAL · SN-2.08	Phase priority local actions by time horizon, assigning implementation responsibilities and potential financing sources.	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP
TUNISIA · TN-2.10	Select an existing national sustainable-development or territorial strategy as the PCSD anchor by assessing mandates, governance reach and implementation potential.	PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-2.11	Develop an SDG-aligned, locally grounded multicriteria method to prioritize catalytic projects for territorial transformation.	PLANNING, DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P2 Strategic long-term vision; P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D2 – Capacities, innovation & collaboration.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships and aligned action.
- D4 – Localized finance & systemic investment pipelines.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Identify **priority transformations** needed to improve housing outcomes, such as **regulatory reforms, tenure security, settlement upgrading, serviced-land provision and climate-resilient housing.** Assess **synergies** and **trade-offs** between policy options and define **coherent pathways connecting housing priorities with broader sustainable development objectives.**

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

NATIONAL SDG LOCALIZATION STRATEGY

- strategic priorities;
- transformation pathways;
- priority policy and institutional shifts;
- national–territorial alignment;
- strategic results and intended outcomes;
- key future assumptions and risks.

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 6 — Vision & Strategy Integrated Toolkit
- **Secondary:** Toolkit 4

IN PRACTICE

BOX 5. Japan — Japan's SDG Future City Initiative links national policy support with local experimentation

Under the national SDG Action Plan, since its launch in 2018, 219 cities have been selected as SDG Future Cities by 2026, of which 70 have been selected for Municipal SDGs Model Projects, receiving financial support to implement their strategies. The initiative also encourages local governance structures aligned with the national SDGs Promotion Headquarters and promotes collaboration among cities, businesses, universities and citizens. For the NLF, Japan illustrates how strategic priorities can be translated into concrete territorial transformation pathways by identifying places with catalytic potential and pairing local implementation with national support. (Source: Cabinet Office, Government of Japan)

Source: Government of Japan (2025), Voluntary National Review 2025, section on regional revitalization SDGs and SDGs Future Cities; Cabinet Office, Government of Japan (2026), SDGs Future Cities — 2026 Selection Results; Government of Japan. Future City Initiative — background and programme concept.

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how strategic priorities become actionable transformation pathways when territorial ambition is linked to governance and implementation support.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Priorities respond to the evidence and Vision.
- ☑ Synergies and trade-offs have been considered.
- ☑ Transformation pathways are clear.
- ☑ National and territorial priorities are aligned.
- ☑ Priorities are sufficiently focused for action planning.

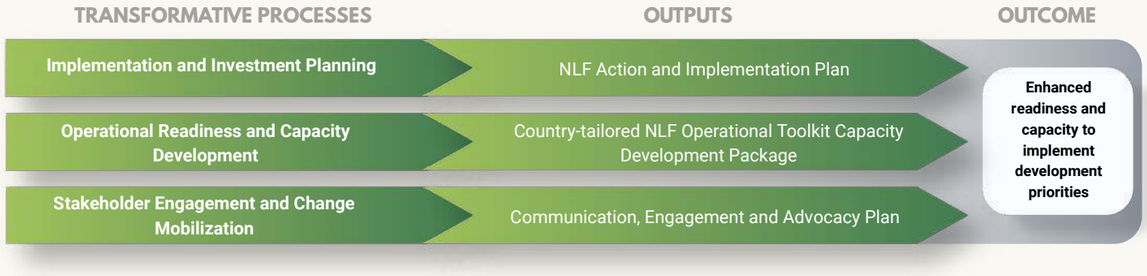
TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 03

ACTION PLANNING

1. TRANSFORMATION INTENT

Translate the SDG Localization Strategy into a realistic and implementable framework of prioritized actions, responsibilities, resources, capacities and stakeholder engagement arrangements.

2. STREAM LOGIC



3. TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE FOUR NLF ENABLERS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS
Clarify implementation responsibilities across institutions and levels of government and establish the coordination arrangements needed to deliver prioritized actions.	Translate strategic priorities into sequenced policy, regulatory and planning actions and align implementation with relevant government planning cycles.	Cost priority actions, identify resource and investment requirements, assess financing gaps and connect implementation planning with available funding pathways.	Define results, indicators, baselines, targets, monitoring responsibilities and data requirements alongside the implementation plan.

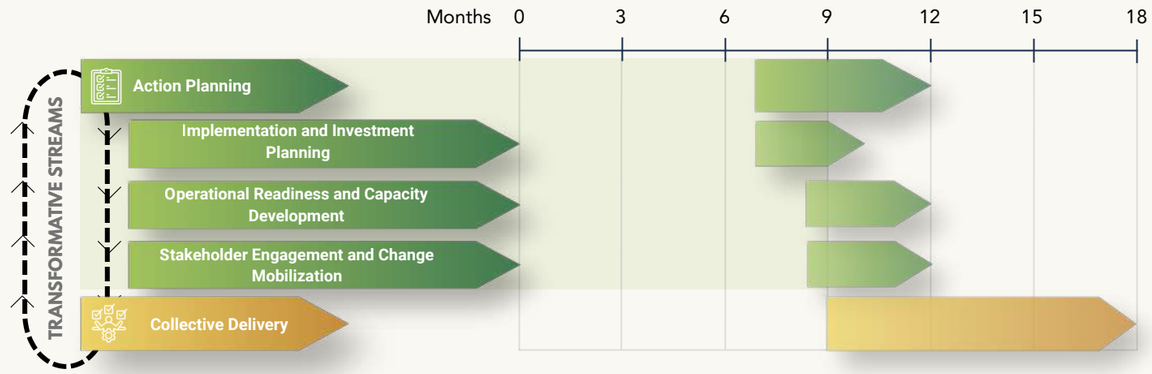
4. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THIS STREAM?

Strategic priorities have been translated into a sequenced and resourced Action and Implementation Plan; responsibilities are clear, priority readiness and capacity gaps have corresponding support measures, and stakeholders are mobilized around implementation.

5. WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

LEAD INSTITUTIONS	CORE INSTITUTIONS	OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
National planning / SDG coordination; finance and budgeting; territorial/local government.	Sector ministries; regional/local governments; investment and public-finance institutions; technical agencies; capacity-development institutions; statistics/monitoring.	Private sector and finance; development partners; civil society; academia; implementation partners; thematic stakeholders.

6. INDICATIVE SEQUENCING OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM



Indicatively, Action Planning can be completed over approximately **5 months**, typically between months 7 and 12. Implementation and Investment Planning should begin first, as it translates strategic priorities into actionable and resourced pathways. Operational Readiness and Capacity Development, together with Stakeholder Engagement and Change Mobilization, can then advance in parallel. Collective Delivery may begin once priority actions and implementation arrangements are sufficiently defined.

7. YOU ARE READY TO PROGRESS WHEN...

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN	READINESS ADDRESSED	RESOURCES IDENTIFIED	STAKEHOLDERS MOBILIZED
Priority actions are sequenced, assigned, costed and linked to clear implementation arrangements.	Critical readiness gaps and capacity-development priorities have defined responses.	Budget, financing and investment requirements are sufficiently understood to begin delivery.	Communication, engagement and change-mobilization arrangements are in place.

8. FEEDS INTO

Collective Delivery

Provides the prioritized actions, responsibilities, resource requirements, capacity-development package and engagement arrangements needed to move from strategy into coordinated implementation and investment.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 03

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

1 Implementation and Investment Planning

PURPOSE

Translate the NLF Strategy into a prioritized, sequenced and resourced implementation pathway, connecting strategic priorities with responsibilities, budgets and investment needs.

The process turns strategic direction into concrete actions that can move into delivery.

KEY QUESTION

How should the NLF Strategy be translated into prioritized, sequenced, assigned and resourced implementation actions?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Strategic priorities are agreed, but their implementation still needs to be organized and resourced.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Translates priorities into actions, responsibilities, sequencing, costs and resource needs.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

A realistic NLF Action and Implementation Plan.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Provides the basis for capacity development, mobilization and coordinated delivery.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- NLF Vision and Strategy;
- strategic priorities and pathways;
- governance responsibilities;
- planning and budgeting cycles;
- available resources and financing assumptions;
- implementation constraints.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: national planning / NLF lead institution.

Key participants: finance, sector institutions and regional/local governments.

As needed: investment, financing and delivery partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-3.01	The implementation of the NSDS is anchored in the enabling conditions, the Sustainability Vectors, that are operationalized through the Fund for sustainable development.	PARTNERSHIP
ITALY · IT-3.02	Assess the main national investment programming instrument against strategy objectives, then link the assessment to actual financial allocations.	PARTNERSHIP
ITALY · IT-3.03	Pilot the mapping of the Annual Economic and Financial Document (DEF) and of the State budgeting against the NSDS, connecting SD objectives to budget missions and programmes.	PARTNERSHIP
ITALY · IT-3.04	Support subnational governments in reflecting sustainable development strategies at their level in subnational economic and financial planning documents.	PARTNERSHIP
SENEGAL · SN-3.01 **TUNISIA · TN-3.02**	Prepare Action-Oriented VLRs to translate local SDG evidence into priority actions, projects and implementation decisions.	PLANNING DATA
SENEGAL · SN-3.02	Feed evidence and priorities from subnational territorial plans into revisions of national spatial planning frameworks and regulations.	PLANNING DATA
TUNISIA · TN-3.01	Translate national urban and housing policies into costed implementation plans aligned with socioeconomic and spatial development strategies.	PLANNING DATA
TUNISIA · TN-3.03	Translate the national housing strategy into localized action plans that define territorial priorities, responsibilities and implementation measures.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-3.03 **TUNISIA · TN-3.04**	Align territorial SDG action plans and priority project pipelines with public budgets, national financing instruments and development partner programmes to identify funding opportunities and resource gaps.	PARTNERSHIP

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P1 Political commitment & leadership; P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4–P6 Whole-of-government, subnational and stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D3 – Transformative partnerships and coordinated action.
- D4 – Localized financing mechanisms & systemic investment pipelines.
- D5 – Amplification & follow-up.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Apply full Marker 2.0 to priority actions/programmes during design; translate local roles, financing and monitoring criteria into the implementation budget and results framework.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Translate housing priorities into **coordinated national and localized action plans**, defining interventions, institutional responsibilities, timelines, indicative costs and financing requirements. Integrate affordable housing, informal settlement upgrading and basic-service provision into existing planning, budgeting and investment frameworks.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

NLF ACTION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

- priority actions and expected results;
- responsibilities and delivery roles;
- sequencing and milestones;
- investment, recurrent and maintenance costs, and resource requirements
- financing and investment needs;
- risks and dependencies.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 3 — Workplanning, Roadmapping & Budget
- Secondary: Toolkit 4, Toolkit 7 and Toolkit 8
- Complementary: Local Finance Framework; Dynamic National Financing Simulator. More in Annex 15.

IN PRACTICE

BOX 6. Kenya — Linking SDG Priorities to County Planning and Budgets

Kenya mainstreams the SDGs through its two-tier planning system and 47 counties. Counties integrate SDG indicators into their five-year County Integrated Development Plans (CIDPs), linking local planning and budgeting with national priorities under Kenya Vision and the Medium-Term Plans. A Multistakeholder Inter-Agency Technical Committee coordinates SDG implementation, while the Council of Governors established an SDGs Unit to support county governments. For the NLF, Kenya illustrates how strategic priorities can be translated into implementable actions, responsibilities and budget-linked planning by embedding them in existing government planning cycles rather than creating a parallel implementation plan.

Source: Government of Kenya (2024), Voluntary National Review; Council of Governors (2023), Voluntary Sub-National Review on SDG Localisation; Parliament of Kenya (2024), Report on Progress in Fulfilling International Obligations.

Why it matters for this process:
It shows that action planning is strongest when priorities, responsibilities and resources are embedded in existing planning and budgeting systems.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Strategic priorities are translated into actions.
- ☑ Responsibilities and sequencing are clear and assigned to each level of government are matched by transfers, own revenues or other identified resources.
- ☑ Costs and resource needs are identified.
- ☑ Actions align with planning and budgeting cycles.
- ☑ The plan is realistic enough to move into delivery.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 03

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

2 Operational Readiness and Capacity Development

PURPOSE

Translate identified readiness and capacity gaps into a tailored package of tools, technical support and capacity-development measures required to implement the NLF.

The process ensures that institutions have the practical capabilities and support needed to move from planning into delivery.

KEY QUESTION

What tools, capacities and support are needed to operationalize the NLF effectively?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION
Implementation priorities are defined, but critical capacities or operational tools may still be missing.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES
Matches identified gaps with targeted tools and capacity-development responses,

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES
A tailored Operational Toolkit and Capacity Development Package.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
Strengthens institutional readiness for implementation and delivery

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- NLF Action and Implementation Plan;
- readiness and capacity assessment, by government tier and local capacity;
- identified capacity gaps;
- institutional responsibilities;
- existing tools and support initiatives;
- available resources.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead / implementation team.

Key participants: implementing institutions and regional/local governments, including state or provincial institutions where they exist.

As needed: training, technical-assistance and development partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-3.05	Develop coherence tools anchored to the national and sub-national sustainable development strategic frameworks and use them for integrated multilevel policy-making and monitoring along the policy-cycle.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-3.06	Equip the coordination mechanisms dedicated to the implementation of the national and territorial sustainable development strategic framework with coherence tools.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-3.07	Map existing sectoral plans and programmes against the objectives of the sustainable development frameworks to reveal cumulative effects and intersectoral overlaps. (External coherence matrix for Policy integration)	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-3.08	Complement formal coordination mechanisms meetings with operational multilevel laboratories as spaces for capacity-development, co-creation and trial.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-3.09	Deliver training on the coherence instruments to subnational steering bodies and extend it to local authorities.	DATA
SENEGAL · SN-3.04	Assess institutional capacity gaps and deliver modular training-of-trainers on territorial analysis and spatial planning tools.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-3.05	Assess national and municipal capacity needs and tailor modular SDG localization training to local implementation gaps.	GOVERNANCE

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P6 Stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D2 – Capacities, innovation & collaboration.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Use Marker assessment gaps to select tools and capacity support, targeting weak dimensions across Programme Design, Actions, Financing and Accountability & Sustainability.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Adapt the **NLF operational toolkits and capacity-development package to housing priorities**, drawing on complementary tools such as **Housing Profiles, Slum Situation Analysis** and **participatory settlement mapping**. Strengthen institutional capacities for **housing diagnostics, policy integration, local action planning and implementation.**

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

COUNTRY-TAILORED NLF OPERATIONAL TOOLKIT / CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE

- priority capacity needs;
- selected tools and operational support;
- training / TA / mentoring modalities;
- responsible institutions and partners;
- sequencing, resources and timeline.

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 3 — NLF Workplanning, Roadmapping and Budget

IN PRACTICE

BOX 7. India — Building Institutional Capacity for SDG Localization

India's SDG localization approach is built around four pillars: institutional ownership, collaborative competition, capacity building and a whole-of-society approach. NITI Aayog coordinates monitoring, reporting and implementation, while states and local governments receive training, institutional strengthening, and technical support. The SDG India Index also provides a common performance framework that helps make differences in progress visible across states. For the NLF, India illustrates how operational readiness depends on more than assigning responsibilities: institutions also need the technical capacities, support mechanisms and shared performance tools required to translate localization commitments into implementation.

Source: UNDP (2024). Institutionalizing SDG Localization in Multi-Level Governance Settings: Lessons from India, Development Futures Series.

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how readiness combines clear institutional roles with practical capacity strengthening and technical support.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT…

- ☑ Priority capacity gaps have defined responses.
- ☑ Tools and support match implementation needs.
- ☑ Responsibilities and modalities are clear.
- ☑ Resources and sequencing are realistic.
- ☑ The package is ready to support delivery.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 03

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

3 Stakeholder Engagement and Change Mobilization

PURPOSE

Build the participation, communication and advocacy arrangements needed to mobilize stakeholders around NLF implementation.

The process strengthens ownership, clarifies how different actors contribute and creates channels for continued engagement, feedback and support for change.

KEY QUESTION

How will stakeholders be engaged and mobilized to support NLF implementation and sustain change?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Implementation priorities are defined, but stakeholder ownership and mobilization may remain uneven.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Defines participation, communication and advocacy arrangements around implementation.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

A coordinated approach to engagement, communication and change mobilization.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Builds the ownership and partnerships needed for collective delivery.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- NLF Action and Implementation Plan;
- stakeholder and institutional mapping;
- governance arrangements;
- existing participation mechanisms;
- communication channels;
- identified implementation actors.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead / engagement focal point.

Key participants: implementing institutions, regional/local governments and stakeholder representatives.

As needed: civil society, private sector, youth, media and thematic actors.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-3.10	Establish an age-differentiated youth engagement architecture whose outputs feed the national sustainable development strategic framework.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-3.11	Ensure the engagement of stakeholders and right holders to the implementation, update and monitoring of the sustainable development frameworks at local, national and international level.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-3.12	Facilitate the implementation of initiatives and projects aiming at fostering the networking among stakeholders and to enhance the role of the Forum for Sustainable Development.	GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP
SENEGAL · SN-3.05	Consult communities and economic actors on draft local SDG reviews and territorial plans before validation and wider dissemination.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-3.06	Strengthen municipal knowledge-sharing mechanisms to mobilize local expertise and inform SDG planning and implementation.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-3.07	Involve community groups and inclusion-focused NGOs in validating local action priorities and shaping accessible implementation measures.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-3.08	Develop a public communication approach that works with local media to explain SDG localization and invite citizen engagement.	GOVERNANCE

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar II: P5 Subnational engagement; P6 Stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III: P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Citizen/community ownership and inclusive engagement.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships.
- D5 – Amplification & follow-up.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Develop **targeted engagement and communication approaches** involving residents, informal settlement communities, local governments, housing cooperatives, civil society and private-sector actors. Support **meaningful participation in housing priority-setting, action planning and implementation**, while strengthening ownership, transparency and accountability.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

COMMUNICATION, ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY PLAN

- priority stakeholders and audiences;
- engagement objectives and modalities;
- communication and advocacy priorities;
- key messages and channels;
- roles, timeline and responsibilities;
- feedback and follow-up arrangements.

TOOL SUPPORT

- **Primary:** Toolkit 1 — Institutional Anchoring, Governance, Engagement and Advocacy
- **Secondary:** Toolkit 2 — Institutional Capacity Assessment

IN PRACTICE

BOX 8. Thailand — Mobilizing Provincial and Community Participation

Thailand formally integrates SDG localization through cooperation between the Ministry of Interior and the National Economic and Social Development Council, while provincial governments and local administrative organizations (LAO) adapt national priorities to their own conditions. Pilot provinces and LAOs test localization approaches, and government and development partners support provincial capacities, data systems, Voluntary Local Reviews and greater participation by citizens and civil-society organizations. For the NLF, Thailand illustrates that change mobilization is not only a communications exercise: it can bring institutions, communities and partners around practical localization processes so that participation contributes directly to implementation and local ownership.

Source: UN-Habitat . Localizing SDG - VLR and VLR Framework for Thailand Voluntary Local Review Repository | Localizing the SDGs by UN-Habitat

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how city-level experiences and stakeholder mobilization can be connected to pilots, local evidence and capacity building, so participation supports implementation.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Priority stakeholders are identified.
- ☑ Engagement approaches are inclusive and appropriate.
- ☑ Messages and communication channels are clear.
- ☑ Responsibilities and timing are defined.
- ☑ Feedback mechanisms are in place.
- ☑ Support is matched to local government capacity

LOCAL2030 HUB IN PRACTICE

BOX 9. Paraná Local2030 Hub — POLIS municipal action planning

POLIS is implemented through three sequential phases. First, municipalities conduct an evidence-based diagnosis using official SDG indicators available through the BI ODS platform. Second, participatory workshops and prioritization techniques are used to define strategic actions and prepare the Local Action Plan. Finally, municipalities receive support to implement the plan through partnerships, resource mobilization, technical cooperation, and project monitoring.

As a result 360 revised Letters of Commitment were signed; 397 designated municipal focal points were appointed; 84 complete Local Action Plans were submitted and 7 fully Quadruple Helix SDG Committees were established.

Transferability and lessons learned: Paraná's experience highlights the importance of moving beyond political declarations towards concrete institutional commitments, including designated municipal focal points, participatory planning mechanisms and access to technical support. The approach can be adapted to other contexts by combining formal political commitment, evidence-based diagnosis, participatory action planning, multi-stakeholder governance structures and connections to capacity-building, financing and monitoring tools. Designating municipal focal points has proved particularly valuable for facilitating coordination between levels of government, especially in smaller municipalities with limited institutional capacities.

Source: Local2030 Coalition, 2026.

BOX 10. Hawai'i Local2030 Hub — SDG Youth Council

The Hawai'i SDG Youth Council was established by Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) through a formal partnership with Kamehameha Schools, a Native Hawaiian educational institution. Drawing students from public, private and charter schools across the state, the programme combines place-based learning and Hawaiian cultural values with civic engagement, SDG literacy and leadership training.

Youth members hold seats alongside adult decision-makers in Aloha+ Goal Action Groups and policy roundtables. They have also drafted youth opening statements for Hawai'i's Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and participated in community action and advocacy initiatives. This approach integrates young people into ongoing governance, decision-making and SDG monitoring processes rather than limiting their engagement to occasional consultations.

Transferability and lessons learned: The model can be replicated through partnerships between convening institutions, universities and educational organizations, supported by sustained learning programmes. Specific components, including youth representation in working groups, contributions to official reports and participation in policy processes, can also be adopted independently. Hawai'i's experience highlights the importance of long-term institutional partnerships, mentorship and meaningful representation in decision-making to sustain youth engagement.

Source: Local2030 Coalition, 2026.

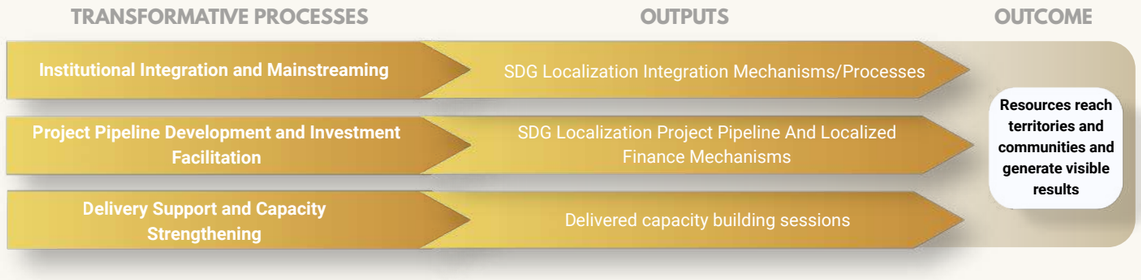
TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 04

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

1. TRANSFORMATION INTENT

Move the NLF from planning into coordinated territorial delivery by embedding localization into existing systems, mobilizing partnerships and finance, advancing priority projects and strengthening implementation capacity.

2. STREAM LOGIC



3. TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE FOUR NLF ENABLERS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS
Embed delivery responsibilities into routine institutional arrangements and strengthen coordination across national, regional and local actors responsible for implementation.	Mainstream localization priorities into policies, plans, regulations and budgeting processes and address policy or regulatory barriers affecting implementation.	Develop and prioritize project pipelines, strengthen project readiness, match projects with financing instruments and mobilize public, private and development partnerships.	Operationalize delivery data, project and pipeline tracking, monitoring arrangements and shared information systems that support implementation decisions.

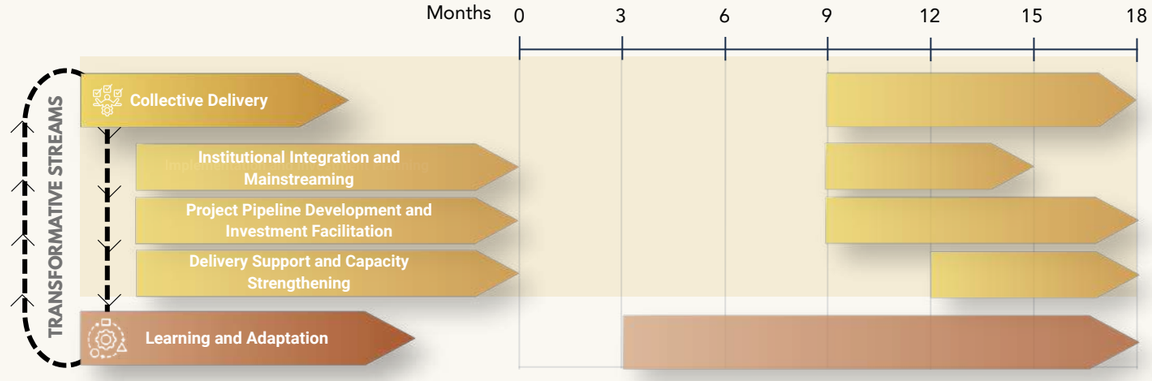
4. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THIS STREAM?

SDG localization is embedded in existing delivery systems; priority projects and actions are progressing through viable partnership and financing pathways; and institutions have the technical support and capacities required to translate priorities into visible territorial results.

5. WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

LEAD INSTITUTIONS	CORE INSTITUTIONS	OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
Planning / SDG coordination; sector implementing institutions; finance and investment authorities; regional/local governments.	Project-preparation and investment agencies; development banks; utilities; technical agencies; sector delivery units; regional/local governments.	Private sector; investors and financial institutions; development partners; civil society and communities; service providers; academia/technical partners.

6. INDICATIVE SEQUENCING OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM



Indicatively, Collective Delivery can extend over approximately **9 months**, typically between months 9 and 18. Institutional Integration and Mainstreaming begins first to embed localization within existing delivery systems, while Project Pipeline Development and Investment Facilitation can advance in parallel. **Delivery Support and Capacity Strengthening intensifies as implementation progresses**. Learning and Adaptation should **operate alongside delivery** so that evidence and implementation experience can inform adjustments over time.

7. YOU ARE READY TO PROGRESS WHEN...

INTEGRATION OPERATIONAL	PIPELINE ACTIVE	DELIVERY CAPACITY	IMPLEMENTATION UNDERWAY
Localization priorities are embedded in relevant governance, planning, budgeting and delivery systems.	Priority projects are structured and progressing through preparation, partnership and financing pathways.	Institutions and implementation actors are receiving the technical and capacity support needed for delivery.	Resources and partnerships are translating NLF priorities into concrete territorial action.

8. FEEDS INTO

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

Generates implementation, financing and delivery evidence that feeds performance monitoring, reporting and adaptive management while implementation continues.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 04

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

1 Institutional Integration and Mainstreaming

PURPOSE

Embed SDG localization into existing governance, policy, planning, budgeting and monitoring systems, translating the NLF Strategy and Action Plan into routine institutional practice. This includes mainstreaming localization priorities into urban and territorial planning systems including land-use and spatial plans.

The process strengthens existing systems so localization can be sustained beyond individual programmes or projects.

KEY QUESTION

How can SDG localization be embedded into existing government systems and processes?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION
NLF priorities are defined, but may still operate outside routine government systems.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES
Integrates localization into governance, planning, budgeting and monitoring processes.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES
Institutionalized SDG Localization Integration Mechanisms and Processes.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
Creates the systemic basis for sustained territorial delivery.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- NLF Vision and Strategy;
- Action and Implementation Plan;
- governance arrangements;
- existing policies and planning systems;
- budgeting and public-finance systems;
- monitoring and reporting arrangements.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: national planning / NLF lead institution.

Key participants: finance, sector institutions and regional/local governments.

As needed: statistics, regulatory and technical institutions.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-4.01	Link the national and territorial sustainable development strategic frameworks to the administration's own organizational and performance planning instrument.	PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-4.01	Establish a catalytic territorial development financing mechanism that funds priority plans and supports their implementation.	PARTNERSHIP
SENEGAL · SN-4.02	Review intergovernmental fiscal arrangements and propose reforms that increase local resources for territorially aligned SDG investment.	PARTNERSHIP
TUNISIA · TN-4.01	Review and align intergovernmental transfers, municipal lending and community-based financing mechanisms with territorial SDG priorities through policy dialogue.	PARTNERSHIP, PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-4.02	Integrate SDG-based project prioritization criteria into national fiscal transfers and municipal lending to scale local implementation.	PARTNERSHIP, DATA
TUNISIA · TN-4.03	Use locally tested project and financing needs to improve how national transfer and lending mechanisms respond to SDG priorities.	PARTNERSHIP, PLANNING
TUNISIA · TN-4.04	Establish a shared, SDG-aligned project tracking system connecting municipal priorities, implementation progress and financing information to national monitoring mechanisms.	GOVERNANCE, DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D1 – Conducive institutional environments.
- D3 – Transformative partnerships and policy alignment.
- D4 – Localized financing mechanisms.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Use the Marker as a recurring screen for programmes and budgets being mainstreamed; identify and address weaknesses in Actions, Financing and Accountability & Sustainability.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Embed agreed housing priorities and localization actions into existing institutional mandates, national housing and urban policies, territorial plans, regulations and public budgeting systems. Strengthen c**oordination between housing institutions and local governments** to make implementation part of established delivery mechanisms rather than parallel initiatives.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 4— NLF Policy Assessment & Integration
- Complementary: Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit; Sport for Sustainable Urban Development Playbook

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

SDG LOCALIZATION INTEGRATION MECHANISMS/ PROCESSES

- governance and coordination integration;
- policy and planning integration;
- budget and finance integration;
- national–local alignment mechanisms;
- monitoring and reporting integration;
- institutional responsibilities;
- assessment arrangements covering *ex-ante*, *in-itinere* and *ex-post* stages.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ NLF priorities are connected to existing systems.
- ☑ National–local integration is strengthened.
- ☑ Institutional responsibilities are clear.
- ☑ Parallel processes are avoided.
- ☑ Integration can continue beyond the NLF formulation period.

LOCAL2030 HUB IN PRACTICE

BOX 11. Buenos Aires Local2030 Hub — Integrating Gender Equality into Public Budgeting

The Province of Buenos Aires has integrated gender-responsive budgeting into its public financial management system to ensure that gender equality commitments translate into concrete budget allocations. A specialized "gender tag" was incorporated into the provincial financial management software, enabling gender-related expenditures to be identified and tracked from the budget formulation stage. Public finance officers are supported through standardized analytical toolkits, technical manuals and targeted technical assistance.

Since its introduction, participation has expanded from 11 to 26 provincial public bodies, while the number of gender-tagged policies has increased from 57 to 158. In 2026, gender-responsive allocations reached 4.2% of the provincial budget. Between 2024 and 2025, 74 technical assistance sessions were also conducted across provincial institutions and municipalities.

Transferability and lessons learned: The approach can be adapted by integrating gender-responsive tagging into existing public financial management systems, supported by standardized methodologies, classification criteria and reporting guidelines. Buenos Aires demonstrates how embedding sustainability priorities directly into budget formulation and monitoring can strengthen policy coherence, institutional accountability and the alignment of public resources with territorial development objectives.

Source: Local2030 Coalition, 2026.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 04

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

2 Project Pipeline Development and Investment Facilitation

PURPOSE

Translate priority NLF actions and territorial needs into a structured pipeline of projects and investment opportunities, and connect them with suitable financing mechanisms and partners.

The process strengthens project readiness and creates clear pathways from priority action to financed delivery.

KEY QUESTION

Which priority projects should move forward, and what financing, partnerships and preparation are needed to deliver them?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION	WHAT THE PROCESS DOES	WHAT IT ESTABLISHES	WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
Priority investments are identified, but projects may be fragmented or insufficiently prepared for financing.	Prioritizes projects, assesses readiness and identifies financing and partnership pathways.	A structured project pipeline and investment pathway.	Moves priority projects toward preparation, financing and implementation.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- NLF Strategy and Implementation Plan;
- priority territorial investment needs;
- existing project concepts and pipelines;
- preliminary costing and financing gaps;
- existing financing mechanisms;
- potential partners and investors.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: finance / investment and NLF lead institutions.

Key participants: sector institutions, regional/local governments and project owners.

As needed: investors, development banks, private sector and development partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-4.02	Promote the standardization of ESG information requested to SMEs for sustainability reporting and for access to incentives, to reduce the burden placed on them.	PARTNERSHIP
ITALY · IT-4.03	Enhance the contribution of enterprises to the achievement of sustainable development objectives at all territorial level.	PARTNERSHIP

ITALY · IT-4.04	Use competitive calls with a mandatory partnership criterion to generate a pipeline of initiatives supporting localization processes.
SENEGAL · SN-4.03 **TUNISIA · TN-4.05**	Assess municipal fiscal space, financial capacity and revenue potential to inform local investment and funding strategies.
SENEGAL · SN-4.04	Use NLF multilevel governance partnerships to develop joint programmes and blended-risk financing instruments for underserved territories.
SENEGAL · SN-4.05	Translate catalytic project pipelines emerging from VLRs and territorial plans into costed, financially assessed proposals for potential financing partners.
TUNISIA · TN-4.06	Appraise existing municipal project pipelines for costs, revenues, development impact and budget fit, then prepare investment-ready proposals.
TUNISIA · TN-4.07	Develop municipal funding strategies and broker partnerships across public finance, development banks, donors, private actors and community-based enterprises.
TUNISIA · TN-4.08	Run sequenced project bootcamps to turn local SDG priorities into refined proposals through technical mentoring and partner feedback.

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P2 Strategic long-term vision; P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Full application: score priority programmes/projects with Marker 2.0; use Programme Design, Actions, Financing and Accountability & Sustainability criteria as pipeline selection and readiness filters.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Identify and prioritize **territorial housing and informal settlement upgrading initiatives**, including affordable housing, serviced land, basic infrastructure and climate-resilient improvements. Strengthen project preparation, assess financing readiness and connect prioritized initiatives with relevant public funding, development finance and investment mechanisms.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

SDG LOCALIZATION PROJECT PIPELINE AND PARTNERSHIP, INVESTMENT AND FINANCING PATHWAYS

- prioritized project pipeline;
- project readiness profiles;
- preparation requirements;
- financing needs and gaps;
- potential financing instruments;
- partner and investor pathways.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Priority projects are clearly identified.
- ☑ Projects align with NLF priorities.
- ☑ Readiness and preparation gaps are understood.
- ☑ Financing pathways are identified.
- ☑ Relevant partners are connected to the pipeline.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 7 — Partnerships, Investment, Funding & Project Pipeline
- Secondary: Toolkit 4 and Toolkit 8
- Complementary: Framework for SDG-Aligned Finance

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 04

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

3 Delivery Support and Capacity Strengthening

PURPOSE

Provide targeted technical and capacity support during implementation, responding to practical bottlenecks as NLF priorities move into delivery.

The process turns the Capacity Development Package into applied support, learning and institutional strengthening linked directly to implementation needs.

KEY QUESTION

What practical support is needed to strengthen implementation capacity and keep delivery moving?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION
Implementation is underway, but capacity gaps and delivery bottlenecks may emerge.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES
Provides targeted technical support, learning and capacity strengthening.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES
Stronger institutional and operational capacity for delivery.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
Supports more effective and sustained implementation.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- Capacity Development Package;
- NLF Implementation Plan;
- identified delivery gaps;
- institutional responsibilities;
- existing technical-support initiatives;
- available expertise and resources.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF implementation / coordination team.

Key participants: implementing institutions and regional/local governments.

As needed: technical agencies, training institutions and development partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

SENEGAL · SN-4.06	Create national-level support arrangements for strategic territorial projects beyond local delivery capacity, aligned with development-partner investments.
TUNISIA · TN-4.09	Build municipal capacity to design catalytic, system-changing projects aligned with available national financing instruments.

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement; P6 Stakeholder engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D2 – Enhance capacities, innovation & collaboration.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Support national and local institutions **in operationalizing housing action plans and delivering prioritized interventions**. Strengthen **implementation capacities, interinstitutional coordination and community participation**, particularly for settlement upgrading, housing infrastructure, land management and basic-service delivery.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

DELIVERED CAPACITY BUILDING SESSIONS

- priority institutions and participants;
- capacity needs addressed;
- support modality and content;
- delivered sessions / technical assistance;
- follow-up actions and support needs.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 3 — Workplanning, Roadmapping & Budget
- Secondary: Toolkit 4 and Toolkit 2
- Complementary: Integrated Policies and Policy Coherence for the SDGs Toolkit; Regional Technical Office. More in Annex 15.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Support responds to real implementation needs.
- ☑ Priority institutions are reached.
- ☑ Learning is applied to delivery.
- ☑ Follow-up support is identified.
- ☑ Capacity strengthening can continue over time.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 05

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

1. TRANSFORMATION INTENT

Establish an integrated monitoring, reporting and learning system that tracks NLF implementation and territorial results, connects national and territorial evidence, strengthens accountability, and enables continuous adaptation of strategies, actions, governance arrangements and resource priorities.

Successive VNR cycles increasingly function as learning loops, with countries reporting how earlier recommendations led to reforms (UN DESA, 2026). The NLF can use each review cycle as a checkpoint for adjustment.

2. STREAM LOGIC

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOME
Performance Monitoring and System Review	SDG Localization Operational Monitoring System	Decisions continuously improve through evidence and learning
Reporting and Accountability	Integrated Localization Reporting System	
Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement	Adaptive Learning Mechanism	

3. TRANSFORMATION ACROSS THE FOUR NLF ENABLERS

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS
Establish multilevel review, accountability and feedback mechanisms through which national and territorial actors jointly assess progress and identify required adjustments.	Review whether policies, strategies and implementation arrangements remain coherent and use evidence to update priorities, plans and regulatory responses.	Track resource mobilization, financing and project-pipeline performance and use results to adjust allocations, partnerships and investment priorities.	Operate aligned national–local indicators, monitoring and reporting systems, connect VNR/VSR/VLR processes where relevant, and convert evidence into structured learning.

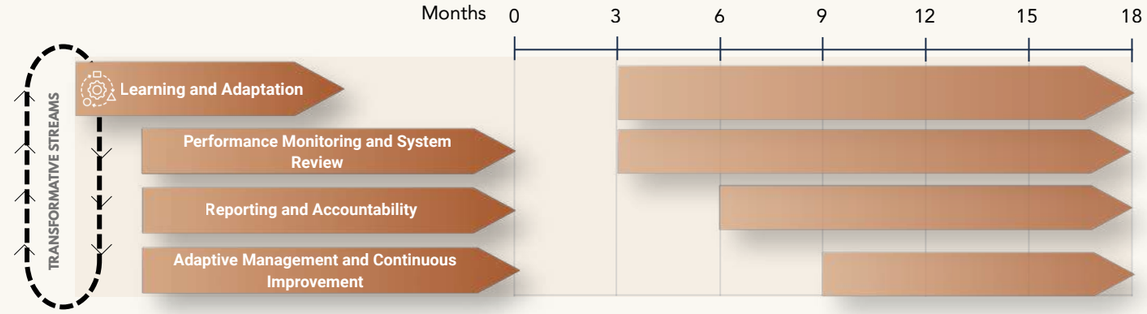
4. WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THIS STREAM?

A multilevel monitoring and reporting system is functioning; results, financing and implementation performance are visible; learning is captured; and evidence routinely informs adjustments to strategies, actions, institutional arrangements and resource priorities.

5. WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED?

LEAD INSTITUTIONS	CORE INSTITUTIONS	OTHER STAKEHOLDERS
SDG coordination / national planning; national statistics and monitoring institutions.	Sector monitoring units; finance; regional/local governments; VNR/VSR/VLR focal points; data and digital agencies; accountability institutions where relevant.	Civil society; communities; academia/research; private sector; development partners; independent data and knowledge actors.

6. INDICATIVE SEQUENCING OF THE TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM



Indicatively, Learning and Adaptation can extend over approximately **15 months**, typically between months 3 and 18. Performance Monitoring and System Review begins early and continues throughout implementation. Reporting and Accountability follows **as sufficient evidence becomes available**, while Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement intensifies later, **once monitoring and reporting findings can inform adjustments to implementation.**

7. YOU ARE READY TO PROGRESS WHEN...

MONITORING OPERATIONAL	REPORTING CONNECTED	LEARNING CAPTURED	ADJUSTMENTS ACTED ON
Indicators, baselines, targets, responsibilities and review arrangements are functioning.	National and territorial reporting responsibilities and systems are sufficiently aligned.	Implementation lessons, emerging issues and performance evidence are systematically reviewed.	Evidence is translated into agreed changes to strategies, actions, governance or resource priorities.

8. FEEDS INTO

Feeds evidence and learning back across Political Ownership and Anchoring, Visioning and Strategy, Action Planning and Collective Delivery, enabling the NLF to continuously adjust and strengthen over time.

ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING ACROSS THE NLF CYCLE

The NLF treats policy assessment as continuous rather than a one-off upstream exercise. *Ex-ante* assessment (Streams 2 and 4) tests the coherence of policies and plans before adoption; *in-itinere* assessment (Stream 5) reviews how they perform during implementation; *ex-post* assessment (Stream 5) evaluates results at the end of a cycle and informs the next one.

Three distinct functions feed this cycle:

- **SDG results monitoring** – tracks progress towards SDG targets and territorial outcomes. Are territories progressing?
- **Policy implementation (performance) monitoring** – tracks whether NLF policies, actions and resources are delivered as planned. Are we doing what we committed to?
- **Policy assessment / evaluation** – interprets both, identifying contribution, synergies, trade-offs and needed adjustments. Why, and what should change?

The first two generate evidence; the third turns it into decisions through Adaptive Management.

LOCAL2030 HUB IN PRACTICE

BOX 12. Euskadi Local2030 Hub — Connecting Territorial Experiences through International Peer Learning

The Euskadi Local2030 Hub connects territorial experiences with international learning and cooperation opportunities through the Local2030 Coalition. Using the Localization Blueprint as a common reference framework, the Hub facilitates exchanges between territories with different governance systems, institutional contexts and development priorities, helping transform local experiences into transferable knowledge and solutions.

Building on Euskadi's multilevel and multi-stakeholder governance model, the Hub supports international exchanges, thematic dialogues, study visits, collaborative projects and knowledge-sharing activities. These enable participating territories to compare experiences, identify common challenges and adapt successful approaches to their own contexts. Euskadi has also produced nine Voluntary SDG Monitoring Reports, contributing to international knowledge-sharing and accountability processes.

Transferability and lessons learned: The approach can be adapted by systematically documenting territorial experiences, translating them into transferable knowledge using the Localization Blueprint, and connecting institutions with international peer-learning networks. Euskadi's experience illustrates how structured cooperation can strengthen institutional capacities, support policy innovation and enable locally developed solutions to inform sustainable development efforts in other territories.

Source: Local2030 Coalition, 2026.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 05

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

1 Performance Monitoring and System Review

PURPOSE

Establish an operational monitoring system that tracks both policy implementation (performance) and SDG territorial results, as well as changes in enabling conditions.

The process connects NLF monitoring with existing national and subnational data systems, creating a shared evidence base for review and adjustment.

KEY QUESTION

How will NLF implementation and territorial results be monitored acros levels of government?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Implementation is underway, but performance evidence may remain fragmented across systems and institutions.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Aligns indicators, data sources, responsibilities and review mechanisms

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

An integrated SDG Localization Operational Monitoring System.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Provides evidence for reporting, accountability and adaptation.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- NLF Strategy and Implementation plan;
- results, indicators and targets;
- existing monitoring frameworks;
- national and territorial data systems;
- institutional reporting responsibilities;
- available baseline data.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead / national reporting institution.

Key participants: statistics, sector institutions and regional/local governments.

As needed: finance, data and technical partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-5.01	Build a three-tier indicator architecture combining context, performance and process measures.	DATA
ITALY · IT-5.02	Guarantee periodic reporting on the implementation of the national sustainable development frameworks.	DATA
ITALY · IT-5.03	Run periodic meetings of the National Working Group for the monitoring of the NSDS.	GOVERNANCE, DATA
ITALY · IT-5.04	Align the NSDS indicator system with the national wellbeing measurement already embedded in the budget cycle.	DATA
SENEGAL · SN-5.01	Strengthen national territorial observatories and interoperable subnational data systems to monitor spatial plans and localized SDG progress.	DATA
TUNISIA · TN-5.01	Align PCSD monitoring with national SDG indicators and establish VLR evidence as a formal channel for municipal input to national decisions.	DATA
TUNISIA · TN-5.02	Use academic and community feedback to review whether localized actions are addressing territorial needs and inclusion gaps.	GOVERNANCE, DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D2 – Continuous capacity strengthening and learning.
- D5 – Amplification & follow-up.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Use Accountability & Sustainability indicators—and annual reporting requirements for Marker 2/3 initiatives—to track local results, local finance, stakeholder engagement and PCSD integration.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Monitor **housing adequacy, affordability, tenure security, informal settlement conditions, access to basic services and territorial disparities**, alongside the implementation performance of housing policies and investments. Connect national housing monitoring frameworks with **localized indicators and data systems** to assess progress and identify gaps.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

SDG LOCALIZATION OPERATIONAL MONITORING SYSTEM

- results and indicator framework distinguishing context (SDG results), performance (implementation) and process indicators
- a set of territorial outcome indicators (e.g. housing, access to services, spatial inequalities, etc.), disaggregated by territory;
- baselines and targets;
- national–territorial data links;
- data sources and responsibilities;
- monitoring and review cycles;
- performance dashboard / tracking arrangements.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 4 —NLF Policy Assessment &Integration and Toolkit 8 — Monitoring, Reporting, Learning & Adaptation
- Complementary: SDG Computation Tools; Metropolitan Observatories Guide. More in Annex 15.

IN PRACTICE

BOX 13. Republic of Korea — Connecting National and Local SDG Monitoring

The Republic of Korea has developed an SDG data platform that reduces fragmentation by single-sourcing data, enabling real-time monitoring and using shared metrics across levels of government. The system links national K-SDGs and local L-SDGs to address inconsistencies between central and local evaluation indicators and encourage the compilation of statistics that better reflect local characteristics. For the NLF, Korea illustrates how an operational monitoring system can connect national and territorial indicators within a shared evidence architecture, making performance information more comparable, accessible and useful for regular review.

Source: Republic of Korea / Ministry of Data and Statistics (2025), "Lessons Learned from National SDG Implementation"; UN Statistics Division (2025). 16th IAEG-SDGs Meeting: session 9a and Republic of Korea presentation archive.

Why it matters for this process:
It shows how shared indicators and integrated data can turn fragmented monitoring into a national–local performance system.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Indicators reflect NLF priorities and results, and are disaggregated by territory, including underserved areas.
- ☑ Baselines and targets are defined.
- ☑ National and territorial data are connected.
- ☑ Monitoring responsibilities are clear.
- ☑ Regular performance review is operational.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 05

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

2 Reporting and Accountability

PURPOSE

Connect NLF results with national and territorial reporting and accountability systems, ensuring that localization progress is visible across levels of government.

The process clarifies reporting responsibilities and strengthens links between VNRs, VSRs, VLRs and other existing reporting mechanisms where relevant.

KEY QUESTION

How will localization results be reported and connected across national and territorial levels?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION

Monitoring evidence exists, but reporting may remain fragmented across institutions and levels.

WHAT THE PROCESS DOES

Connects reporting systems, responsibilities and national–territorial evidence flows.

WHAT IT ESTABLISHES

An Integrated Localization Reporting System.

WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT

Strengthens accountability, learning and evidence-based adjustment.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- operational monitoring system;
- NLF results and indicators;
- national and territorial reporting systems;
- VNRs, VSRs and VLRs where relevant;
- institutional reporting responsibilities;
- implementation and expenditure evidence.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead / national reporting institution.

Key participants: statistics, sector institutions and regional/local governments.

As needed: audit, civil society and reporting partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-5.05	Integrate subnational voluntary reviews into the national review as constituent parts rather than annexes.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-5.06	Extend the national review to an explicitly intergenerational format.	GOVERNANCE
ITALY · IT-5.07	Invite the supreme audit institution to integrate the strategy into its audit reporting.	PLANNING
SENEGAL · SN-5.02	Integrate VLR findings into the VNR through a dedicated SDG localization and territorialization section, strengthening national and local ownership of SDG reporting.	PLANNING DATA
TUNISIA · TN-5.03	Integrate SDG localization and the NLF into the Voluntary National Review (VNR), highlighting local contributions to national SDG progress and strengthening political ownership.	PARTNERSHIP DATA
TUNISIA · TN-5.04	Share NLF results and local SDG progress through accessible public reporting and media engagement to strengthen citizen accountability.	GOVERNANCE DATA

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination; P5 Subnational engagement.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D5 – Amplification & follow-up through coordinated evidence and reporting.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Embed Marker 2.0 reporting indicators in the multilevel reporting architecture; connect local strategy monitoring with national frameworks and VNR–VLR reporting.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Integrate l**ocalized housing evidence and results** into **existing national and territorial reporting mechanisms**, including **VLRs** and **VNRs**. Strengthen **accountability** by **connecting local housing outcomes, community perspectives and implementation performance** with **national housing policy reviews** and sustainable development reporting.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

INTEGRATED LOCALIZATION REPORTING SYSTEM

- reporting roles and responsibilities;
- national–territorial reporting links;
- agreed reporting cycles and formats;
- integration of monitoring evidence;
- VNR–VSR–VLR connections where relevant;
- accountability and dissemination arrangements.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 8 — Monitoring, Reporting, Learning & Adaptation
- Secondary: Toolkit 4
- Complementary: Practical Guide to Evidence-based VNRs; Youth SDG Dashboard. More in Annex 15.

IN PRACTICE

BOX 14. Ghana — Connecting VLRs with National SDG Accountability

Ghana's SDG is embedded within the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC) including oversight of VLRs in the country, while local implementation is an anchored in the Local Assemblies and supported through the Smart SDG Cities and coordinated by the Ministry of Local Government, Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs with NDPC providing technical backstopping, Voluntary Local Reviews and local data collection and monitoring. The VLR process creates opportunities for multilevel learning and strengthens the connection between territorial evidence and national SDG processes. For the NLF, Ghana illustrates how reporting and accountability can connect local review mechanisms with national coordination and monitoring, rather than treating VLRs as stand-alone local reporting exercises.

Source: UN-Habitat (2026). Governance for SDG Localization, section "Ghana Smart SDG Cities"; Government of Ghana / NDPC (2025). Ghana Voluntary National Review 2025, local review and accountability sections.; Office of the Head of Local Government Service, Ghana (2023). Localising SDGs in Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies.

Why it matters for this process:
IIt shows how local reporting can strengthen multilevel accountability when territorial evidence is connected to national review and coordination.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT...

- ☑ Reporting responsibilities are clear.
- ☑ National and territorial reporting are connected.
- ☑ NLF evidence feeds existing reporting cycles. Localization
- ☑ results are visible and accessible.
- ☑ Reporting can support accountability and learning.

TRANSFORMATIVE STREAM . 05

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESSES

3 Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement

PURPOSE

Turn monitoring, reporting and implementation experience into regular adjustments to NLF priorities, actions and delivery arrangements.

The process creates a structured feedback loop so the NLF can learn, adapt and improve as conditions evolve. This is the final process of the framework, but it reconnects directly with the preceding streams.

KEY QUESTION

What should change in the NLF based on evidence, implementation experience and emerging conditions?

1 PROCESS LOGIC

STARTING SITUATION	WHAT THE PROCESS DOES	WHAT IT ESTABLISHES	WHAT IT ENABLES NEXT
Performance evidence and lessons exist, but may not systematically influence decisions.	Reviews evidence, lessons and emerging changes to identify required adjustments.	A structured Adaptive Learning Mechanism.	Feeds learning back into strategy, planning, governance and delivery.

2 MAIN INPUTS / PREREQUISITES

- monitoring and performance evidence;
- localization reporting;
- implementation lessons;
- emerging risks and opportunities;
- stakeholder feedback;
- existing review and planning cycles.

PROCESS LEADERSHIP & PARTICIPATION

Lead: NLF lead / coordination institution.

Key participants: implementing institutions and regional/local governments.

As needed: stakeholders, technical experts and peer partners.

3 ACTIONS ACROSS THE FOUR ENABLERS

ITALY · IT-5.08	Use the mandatory revision cycle to convert lessons learnt into the design of the next programming period.	PLANNING
ITALY · IT-5.09	Run international peer learning as a structured extension of the domestic architecture.	GOVERNANCE
SENEGAL · SN-5.03 **TUNISIA · TN-5.05**	Engage national and local stakeholders in international SDG localization peer learning and integrate lessons into NLF implementation.	GOVERNANCE
SENEGAL · SN-5.04	Organize a national NLF launch event to connect national and territorial planning instruments, urban policies, and VNR–VLR processes, building momentum for implementation and scale-up.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-5.06	Validate and communicate the NLF nationally, using municipal pilots to refine the model before scaling to additional territories.	GOVERNANCE
TUNISIA · TN-5.07	Consolidate pilot results into a nationally validated NLF and a phased scale-up strategy for additional municipalities.	PLANNING GOVERNANCE

PCSD PILLARS & PRINCIPLES OPERATIONALIZED

- Pillar I: P3 Policy integration.
- Pillar II: P4 Whole-of-government coordination.
- Pillar III: P7 Policy & financing impacts; P8 Monitoring, reporting & evaluation.

LOCALIZATION BLUEPRINT DRIVERS OPERATIONALIZED

- D2 – Learning, innovation & capacity adaptation.
- D5 – Amplification & follow-up.

HOW TO USE/LEVERAGE SDG LOCALIZATION MARKER 2.0

Reapply the Marker periodically to identify dimension-level gaps and reorient actions, budgets and partnerships; track changes in criteria and score over time.

APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS

Use monitoring results, implementation experience and community feedback to **adjust housing priorities, institutional arrangements, policies and financing approaches**. Identify **emerging housing needs, persistent territorial inequalities and unintended impacts** to inform revisions to national housing strategies and localized action plans.

OUTPUT — WHAT SHOULD IT CONTAIN?

ADAPTIVE LEARNING MECHANISM

- periodic review arrangements;
- lessons and emerging issues;
- agreed adjustment decisions;
- responsible institutions;
- follow-up and revision mechanisms;
- feedback into NLF processes.

TOOL SUPPORT

- Primary: Toolkit 4 — NLF Policy Assessment & Integration and Toolkit 8 — Monitoring, Reporting, Learning & Adaptation
- Secondary: Toolkit 3
- Complementary: After-action Review Guide

IN PRACTICE

BOX 15. Serbia — Moving from Data to Good Governance

Serbia's experience illustrates how local SDG monitoring can inform planning, learning and institutional improvement. Through the SDG Cities process, supported by the UN in coordination with the Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Serbia, Niš developed its first VLR, providing a basis for assessing SDG performance, identifying priorities and informing follow-up action.

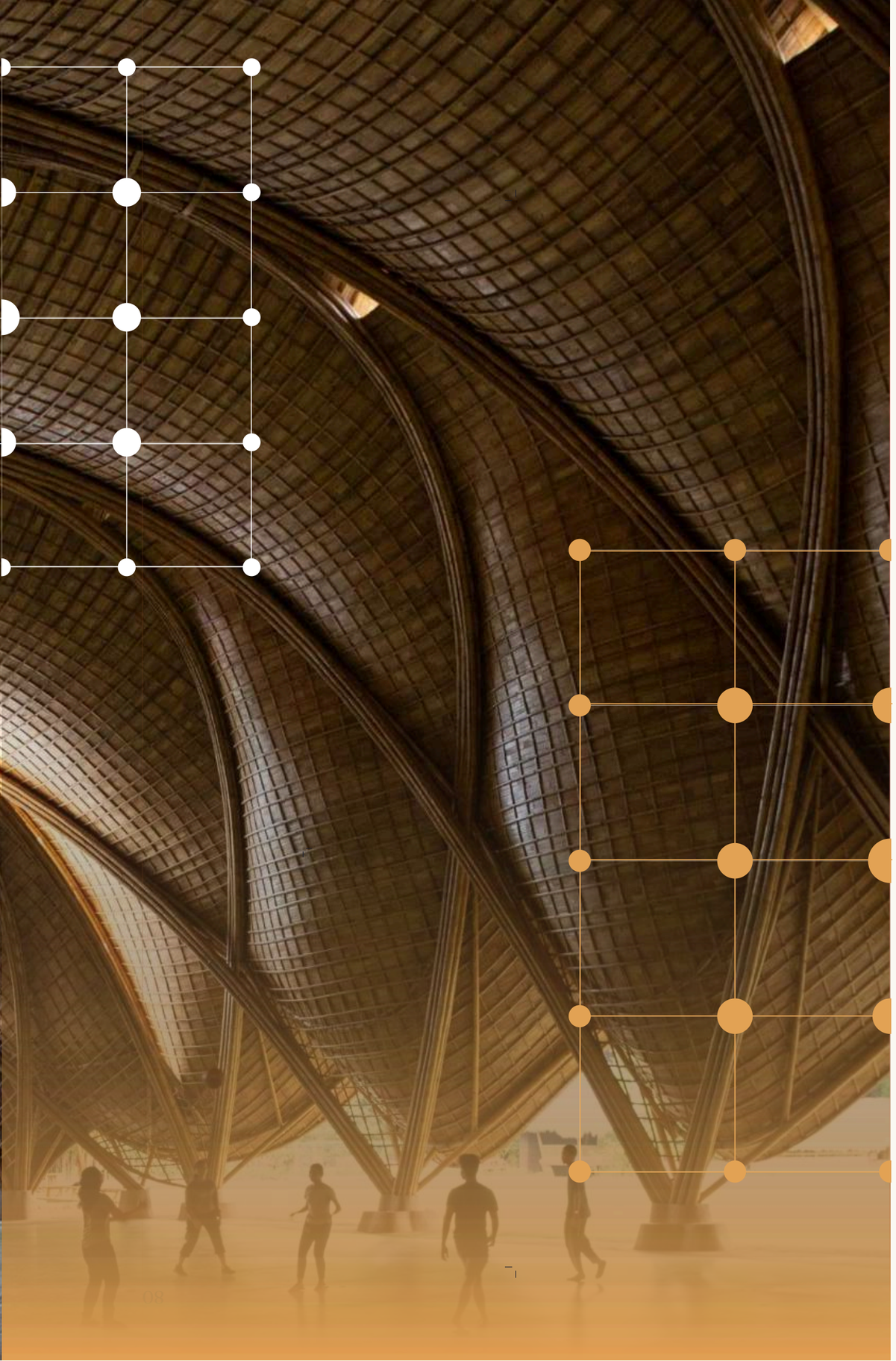
The Niš experience became a reference for scaling SDG localization to other Serbian cities. National–local collaboration, reinforced through the second National Urban Forum, has supported municipalities in aligning local indicators with SDG targets, strengthening data systems and developing analytical tools for evidence-based policymaking.

Source: City of Niš (2024). Voluntary Local Review of the City of Niš, Republic of Serbia; UN-Habitat (2024). Niš Advances SDG Localization in Serbia with First Voluntary Local Review; United Nations in Serbia (2024). Serbia's 2nd National Urban Forum; Public Policy Secretariat, Republic of Serbia (2025). Workshop "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals" — presentation "From Data to Good Governance".

Why it matters for this process: Serbia demonstrates how local monitoring and VLR findings can move beyond reporting to inform adaptive management, helping institutions adjust governance arrangements, policies and implementation approaches based on territorial evidence.

BEFORE MOVING FORWARD, CHECK THAT…

- ☑ Evidence and lessons are regularly reviewed.
- ☑ Emerging changes are considered.
- ☑ Adjustment decisions are clearly recorded.
- ☑ Responsibilities for follow-up are assigned.
- ☑ Learning feeds back into the NLF cycle.



Part III

Volume II
Operational Guide

Toolset

Tools for applying and supporting the NLF process

1
Building the NLF Toolset
From existing practice to an integrated operational toolset — *p.II-93*

2
Tool Use Roadmap
How the core tools work together — *p.II-96*

3
Core Tools
The essential tools for implementing an NLF — *p.II-98*

4
Thematic Lenses
Adapting the NLF to different development priorities and contexts — *p.II-113*

5
Complementary Tools
Additional tools for deeper and context-specific NLF application — *p.II-120*

1

Building the NLF Toolset

From existing practice to an integrated operational toolset

From existing practice to an integrated, co-developed operational toolset

The NLF Toolset was not developed as a fixed package of tools assembled centrally. It was built through **a collaborative process** combining the **systematic mapping and assessment of existing tools and methodologies** with **structured inputs from UN-Habitat Regional and Country Offices** and practitioners working directly on SDG localization in different contexts.

This process allowed the emerging toolset to be **tested against regional and country implementation realities**, identifying where existing tools could be retained or strengthened, where duplication could be reduced, where contextual adaptation was required, and where new operational support needed to be developed. The resulting toolset combines existing tools, adapted methodologies and newly developed instruments, organized around the NLF transformative streams, processes, actions and expected outputs.

1.1 — The toolset development methodology

1 — MAP

Identify and map existing tools
Review relevant tools, methodologies and approaches and map their contribution against the NLF architecture.

2 — ASSESS

Assess coverage and operational relevance
Examine where existing tools sufficiently support NLF processes and actions, where they overlap, and where important gaps remain.

3 — CO-DEVELOP

Ground the toolset in regional and country practice
Use inputs from regions and countries to identify implementation needs, missing tools, contextual adaptations and practical challenges.

4 — CONSOLIDATE

Build an integrated core toolset
Group related functions and tools into coherent toolkits, reduce duplication, and distinguish between core, complementary and context-specific tools.

5 — TEST & REFINE

Learn through application
Use country application and implementation experience to refine tools, identify gaps and progressively strengthen the toolset.

1.2 — A regional and country co-development process

The co-development process was designed to combine regional breadth with country-level depth. **UN-Habitat Regional Offices played a central convening role, bringing together Country Offices and regional practitioners** to review the emerging NLF architecture and toolset from the perspective of different institutional and development contexts. Dedicated regional sessions were complemented by more focused country discussions where deeper engagement was requested.

Regional and inter-regional meetings provided a common space **to introduce the evolving methodology and toolset, examine the proposed tools and identify shared regional needs, implementation challenges, gaps and adaptation requirements.** More targeted meetings with individual Country Offices and subregional teams then allowed specific tools, processes and country experiences to be discussed in greater depth.

This created a two-way process: the emerging NLF architecture provided a common framework for reviewing existing practice, while the experience of Regional and Country Offices helped reshape the toolset itself.

11	160	5	6	4	36+
co-development meetings and working sessions	recorded participant attendances	regional and inter-regional sessions	targeted country and subregional sessions	UN-Habitat regions engaged	countries represented

Regional and targeted dialogues

Regional meetings were organized with the **Arab States, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa**, alongside an initial inter-regional working session. These meetings introduced the NLF emerging toolset, provided a space for collective discussion and mobilized Regional and Country Offices to participate in the detailed review.

Where additional engagement was useful, dedicated discussions were organized with **Country Offices or subregional teams, including Morocco, Syria, Nepal, the Philippines, Thailand and the Pacific**. This flexible approach allowed the co-development process to respond to specific requests and explore country implementation realities in greater detail.

Structured online review

Following the meetings, participants could continue the review through a dedicated digital co-development platform. The platform mirrored the NLF architecture and guided contributors through:

Transformative Stream → Process → Supporting Tools → Process-level Feedback → Stream-level Feedback

For each process, contributors could **review the proposed supporting tools, assess whether they adequately responded to implementation needs, identify gaps or overlaps, propose missing tools, upload supporting materials, share impact stories, and provide wider feedback on the realism and completeness of each stream.**

From feedback to redevelopment

Regional and country inputs were consolidated against the same NLF structure, allowing feedback from different contexts to be compared **at stream, process and tool level**. The review informed decisions on which tools should be **retained, adapted, strengthened, consolidated or newly developed**, as well as where several tools could be **brought together into a common toolkit**. The co-development guide explicitly framed participant feedback as the basis for these decisions.

This iterative process ultimately informed the architecture presented in the following chapters: 10 integrated Core Toolkits, complemented by NLF Lenses and complementary tools.

1.3 — Principles behind the toolset

Build on what exists

Use and strengthen established tools, systems and approaches before creating new ones.

Selective, not comprehensive

Use tools according to country needs, priorities, capacities and opportunities.

Integrated, not fragmented

Tools should connect across processes and contribute to common NLF outputs.

Country-grounded and adaptable

Tools provide structured methods without prescribing identical institutional solutions.

Iterative and learning-oriented

The toolset evolves through application, monitoring and feedback.

1.4 — The architecture that emerged

CORE TOOLKITS

8 integrated toolkits
Essential operational support for the NLF processes.

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

Specialized and thematic technical support
Additional tools that can be activated when thematic technical support is required.

NLF LENSES

Contextual adaptation
Help apply the NLF through specific development priorities, territorial conditions or transformation agendas.

2 *Tool Use Roadmap*

How the core tools work together

The NLF Core Toolset is designed to work as an **integrated and selectively activated system of support**, rather than as a fixed sequence of tools. Each toolkit responds to specific NLF processes, contributes to defined outputs and can provide primary or secondary support at different points in the framework. This chapter shows **what the 8 core toolkits are, how they connect with one another, and where they support the five transformative streams and their processes**. The roadmap should therefore be read as a guide for assembling the right combination of tools around a country's priorities, institutional readiness and implementation pathway, not as a checklist requiring every toolkit to be applied in order.

The NLF Core Toolset at a Glance

The 8 **core toolkits** provide the main operational support for applying the NLF. Each addresses a distinct function—from initial design and institutional anchoring to strategy, planning, delivery, monitoring and adaptation—and together form **a coherent support system that can be combined according to country needs.**

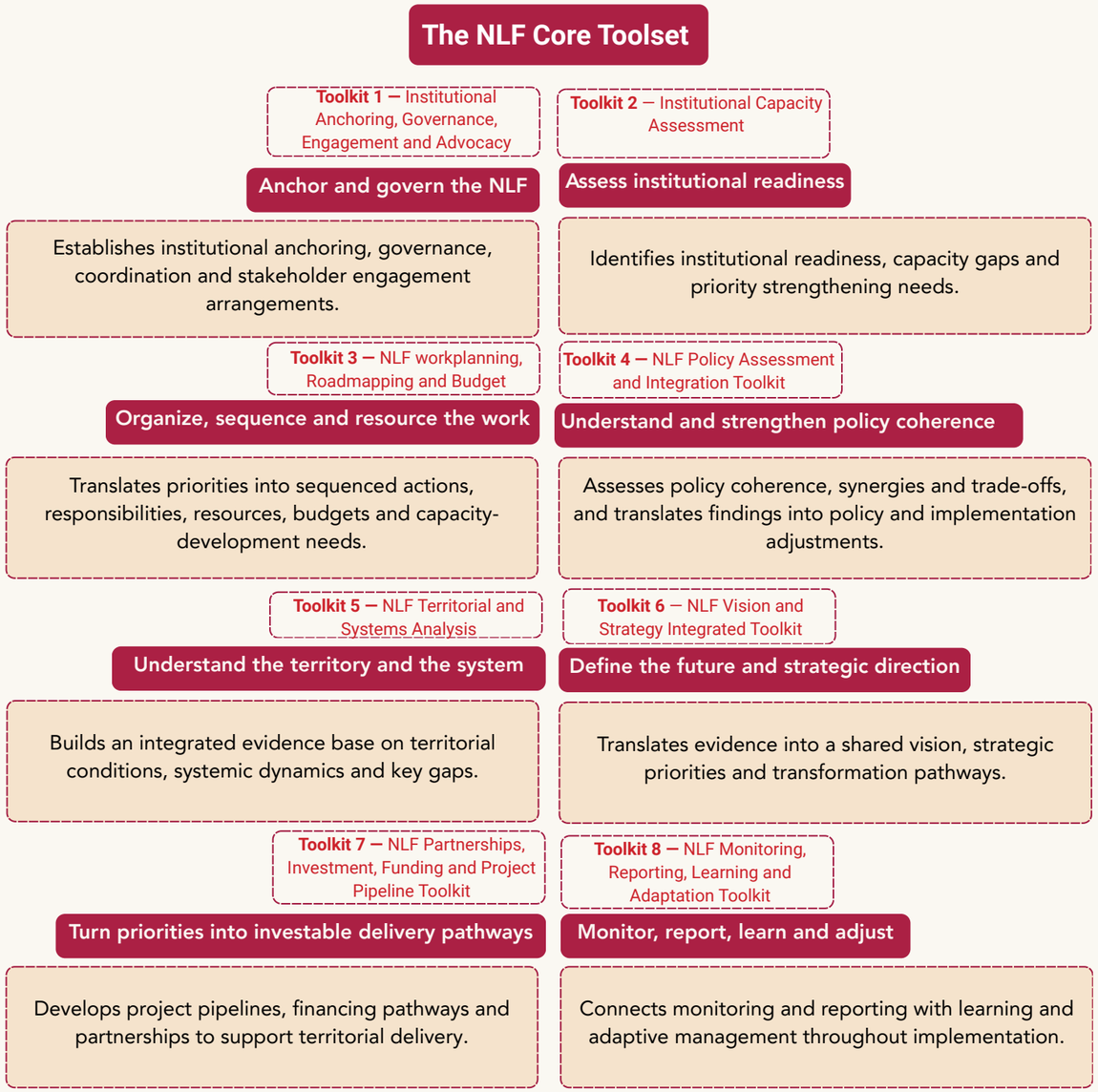


Figure 6. *Overview of the eight NLF Core toolkits*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

3

Core Tools

The essential tools for implementing an NLF

The **8 NLF Core Toolkits** provide the main operational support for applying the NLF methodology. Together, they cover the functions required across the five transformative streams — from initial institutional anchoring to strategy, action planning, delivery, monitoring and adaptation.

The chapter first presents **the complete Core Toolset mapped against the NLF transformative streams, processes, outputs and outcomes**, showing where each toolkit provides primary methodological support and how the tools connect across the framework. It then provides **a dedicated tool fiche for each of the 8 toolkits**, outlining its purpose, the functions and processes it supports, its main components, expected NLF outputs and the points in the NLF process where it can be activated.

The toolkits should be used **selectively and in combination**, according to the country's existing systems, priorities, capacities and NLF pathway.

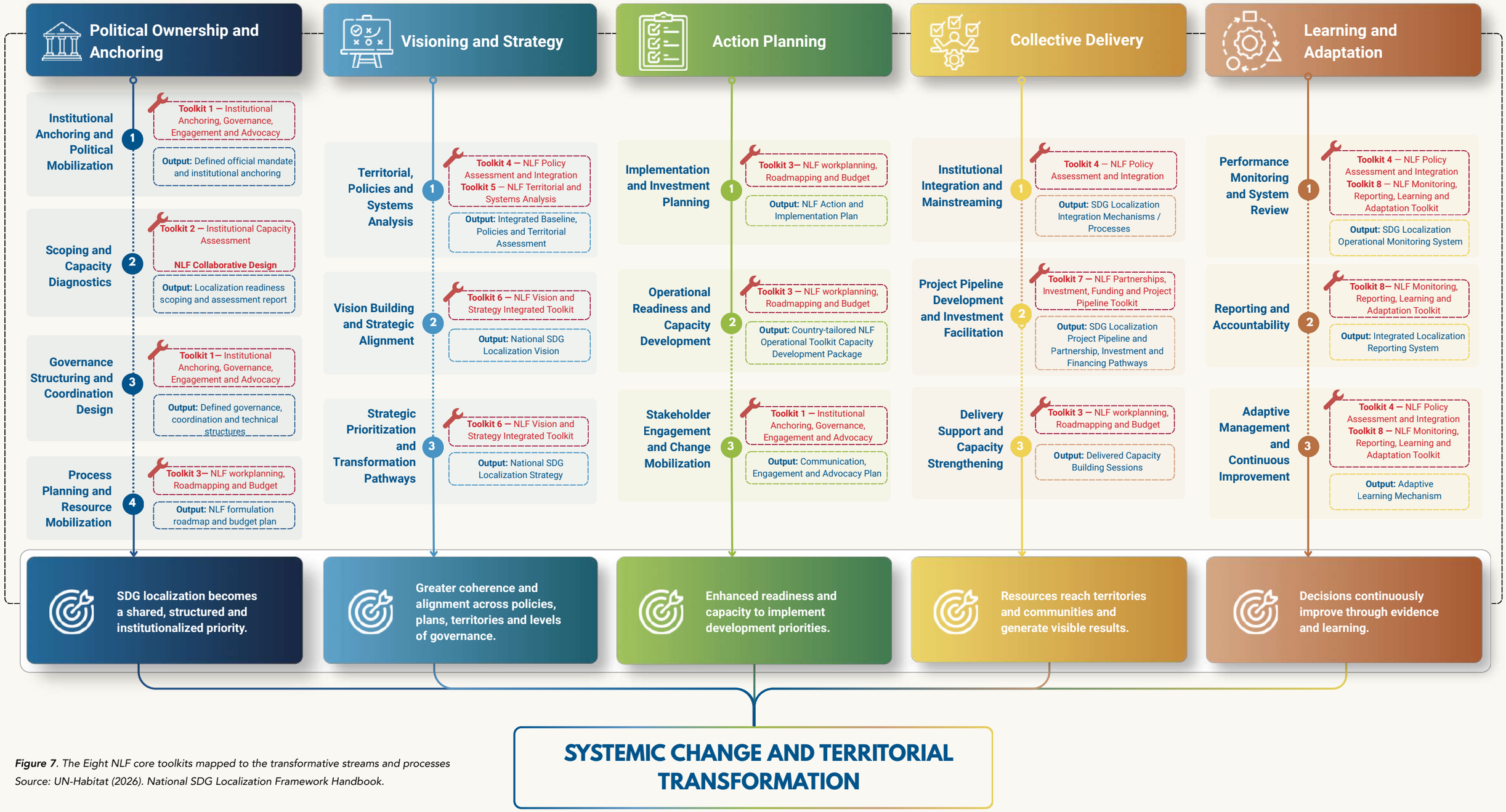


***Figure 7**. The Eight NLF core toolkits mapped to the transformative streams and processes*
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). National SDG Localization Framework Handbook.

NLF Collaborative Design Tool

Its purpose is to support a facilitated multi-stakeholder process to rapidly assess the country's enabling environment and co- design an initial NLF pathway, identifying where the framework can add value and which areas require further technical work.

What it supports

- Rapid assessment of the four NLF enabling conditions;
- identification of existing strengths, gaps and opportunities;
- collective identification of priority NLF processes and actions;
- selective activation of the NLF architecture;
- development of an initial country-tailored NLF pathway;
- identification of areas requiring deeper technical assessment.

When to use it

3 GETTING STARTED IN PRACTICE
CO-DESIGN THE INITIAL NLF PATHWAY



Toolkit components

01 Assess the Enabling Environment
Assess current conditions across governance, policy, finance/investment and data.

02 Identify Priorities
Identify strengths, bottlenecks, capacity gaps and opportunities under each enabler

03 Select & Adapt Actions
Review proposed actions across the NLF stream–process–enabler matrix; select, adapt or propose actions

04 Review & Validate the Initial Pathway
Review overall coverage, PCSD and Localization Blueprint contribution, priority processes and next technical steps

NLF Outputs

Preliminary NLF design and Pathway
Identifies priority issues, potential processes for activation and areas requiring further technical work.

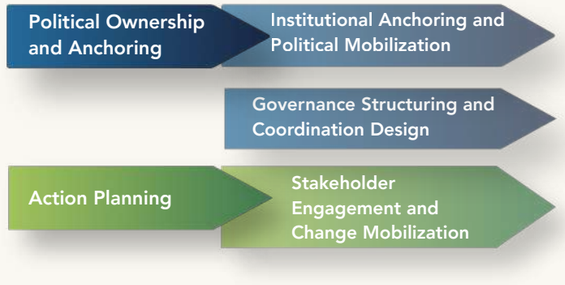
TOOLKIT 1: NLF Institutional Anchoring, Governance, Engagement and Advocacy Toolkit

Its purpose is to anchor the NLF within existing institutions, clarify who leads and participates, and establish the governance, coordination and engagement arrangements required to sustain the NLF process, strengthening existing arrangements before creating new ones.

What it supports

- Institutional anchoring and political ownership;
- Clarification of mandates, roles and responsibilities;
- Multilevel and interinstitutional coordination; including intermunicipal and regional arrangements.
- Stakeholder participation and engagement;
- Communication and advocacy.

When to use it



Toolkit components

01 **Institutional & Stakeholder Mapping**
Stakeholder, Institutional and Mandate Mapping Tool

02 **Anchoring & Governance Design**
Governance Instruments Guide; Governance Organigram

03 **Governance Formalization**
Steering Committee ToR; Technical Working Group / Task Force ToR; Multilevel Coordination ToR; Cross-Boundary Governance and Coordination Arrangements (mandates, intermunicipal and regional coordination, conflict resolution)

04 **Engagement & Participation**
Stakeholder Engagement Guidance; Social Inclusion Checklist; participatory dialogue methods; Cross-Territorial Stakeholder Engagement (urban and rural stakeholders in joint planning and decision-making)

05 **Communication & Advocacy**
Communication, Engagement and Advocacy Plan; Advocacy Planning Guide

NLF Outputs

- Defined official mandate and institutional anchoring
- Defined governance, coordination and technical structures
- Communication, Engagement and Advocacy Plan

NLF Collaborative Design Tool

IN PRACTICE — SELECTIVE ACTIVATION ACROSS 10 COUNTRIES

The NLF Collaborative Design Tool was applied in **Cabo Verde, Colombia, Ethiopia, Honduras, Jordan, Nepal, the Philippines, Senegal, Tanzania and Tunisia**.

Across the ten applications, countries did not simply select actions according to where enabler scores were lowest. Instead, activation reflected **existing mechanisms, institutional relationships, national priorities and current reform opportunities**.

ACTIVATION CRITERION	COUNTRY EXAMPLE	WHAT THE ASSESSMENT SHOWED	ACTIVATION RESPONSE	WHAT IT ILLUSTRATES
1. Respond to an identified gap or opportunity	**COLOMBIA — Financing**	SDG tagging existed, but **did not yet influence allocation decisions**.	Propose innovative financing mechanisms linked to incentives and payment-by-results, connected to the ongoing **Sistema General de Participaciones reform**.	A diagnostic gap can trigger a **targeted NLF action** rather than a new parallel mechanism.
2. Strengthen an existing mechanism	**HONDURAS — Governance**	An **SDG National Commission already exists**, bringing together central and local government, private sector and civil society, but it needs to be reactivated by the new administration.	**Activate and strengthen the existing Commission**, rather than create another coordination structure.	Selective activation should first ask what can be **activated, strengthened or better used** before proposing something new.
3. Improve connections across the system	**Ethiopia — Multilevel finance**	An intergovernmental transfer system already exists, but stronger fiscal decentralization is needed to better connect federal and regional financing.	Strengthen links between existing **federal and regional financing arrangements.**	The NLF can add value by **connecting existing parts of the system**, not only by filling gaps.
	Nepal — Budgeting	Federal, provincial and municipal governments already have distinct budgeting responsibilities.	Clarify and connect responsibilities across the **three levels of government**, rather than centralize them.	System coherence can be improved by strengthening **vertical connections and role clarity.**
4. Address an important national or territorial priority	**Cabo Verde — Policy alignment**	Policy alignment was already relatively advanced, but all 22 municipal plans needed updating to align with the forthcoming PEDS III.	Retain and activate the action because it responds to a live national priority.	**High maturity does not mean deactivation** when an action remains strategically relevant.
5. Respond to a current policy or reform opportunity	**Cabo Verde — PEDS III**	A new national planning cycle created a concrete opportunity for municipal-plan alignment.	Time the municipal-plan update to the PEDS III cycle.	Activation is stronger when an NLF need coincides with an **open policy or planning window**.
	Colombia — SGP reform	The financing gap coincided with an ongoing reform of the intergovernmental transfer system.	Link the proposed financing response directly to the **SGP reform process**.	Reform windows can turn a diagnostic finding into a **timely and actionable intervention**.

TOOLKIT 2: NLF Institutional Capacity Assessment Toolkit

Its purpose is to assess institutional capacity against what the NLF needs to deliver, and identify priority strengthening needs

What it supports

- Assessment of institutional readiness for NLF implementation;
- Identification of capacity gaps across the four enablers;
- Identification of institutional strengthening priorities;
- Identification of capacities or conditions required before specific actions can be activated.

Toolkit components

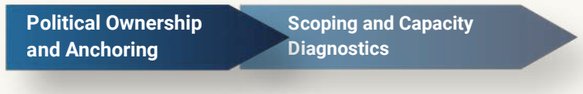
01 **Governance & Coordination Capacity**
Mandates, roles, staffing, coordination and participation capacities

02 **Policy & Planning Capacity**
Policy formulation, coherence, regulatory and planning capacities

03 **Partnerships, Investment & Funding Capacity**
Partnerships, investment mobilization, funding access, project preparation and investment-readiness capacities

04 **Data, Digital & Monitoring Capacity**
Data availability, indicator management, monitoring, reporting, digital governance and digital capacities

When to use it



NLF Outputs

Localization Readiness Scoping and Assessment Report

Provides the evidence base for selective activation, sequencing and the Capacity Development Module within Toolkit 3

TOOLKIT 3: NLF Workplanning, Roadmapping and Budget Toolkit

Its purpose is to turn NLF priorities into a feasible, sequenced and resourced delivery pathway, defining what happens, when, by whom and with which resources

What it supports

- Formulation and implementation planning;
- Sequencing of actions, milestones and dependencies;
- Clarification of responsibilities and delivery roles;
- Costing, budgeting and resource-gap identification;
- Alignment with national planning and budgeting cycles;
- Tailoring and sequencing of capacity-development support.

Toolkit components

01 **Formulation Planning**
NLF Formulation Workplan; Timeline; Policy Review and Validation Schedule

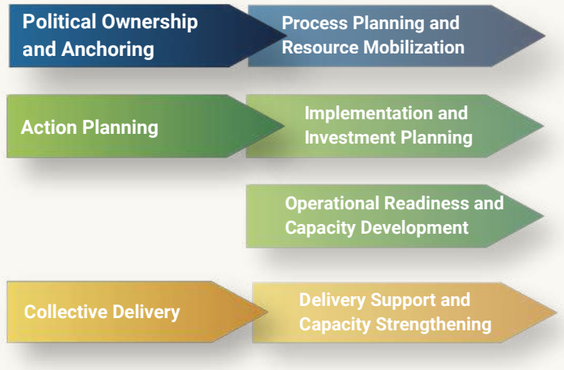
02 **Implementation Roadmapping**
Action Sequencing & Dependency Matrix; Milestones; Implementation Roadmap; Risk & Assumptions Register

03 **Roles & Responsibilities**
Responsibility / RACI Matrix; Institutional Delivery Assignments

04 **Budget & Resource Planning**
Budget Template; Preliminary Costing; Resource Requirements & Gap Matrix

05 **Capacity Development Planning**
Capacity Needs-to-Response Matrix; Capacity Development Package ; Training / TA / mentoring modalities; Capacity Development Roadmap;

When to use it



NLF Outputs

- NLF Formulation Roadmap and Budget Plan
- NLF Action and Implementation Plan
- Country-tailored NLF Operational Toolkit / Capacity Development Package

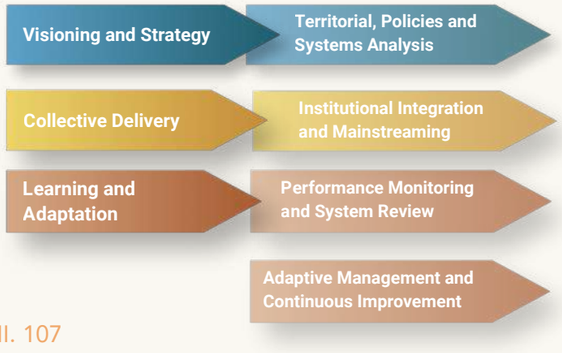
TOOLKIT 4: NLF Policy Assessment and Integration Toolkit

Provide specialized tools to assess and strengthen policy coherence for sustainable development across sectors, levels of government and territories. Support the identification of policy interactions, synergies, trade-offs and sustainability impacts, and translate findings into practical policy integration, regulatory and implementation adjustments, with periodic review and adaptation.

What it supports

- *Ex-ante* assessment of new or revised policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks;
- Alignment across national, sectoral and territorial policies; including urban-rural coherence;
- Identification of synergies, trade-offs and policy gaps;
- Integration of territorial priorities into national policy processes;
- Anticipation of future trends, risks and uncertainties;
- Identification of policy and regulatory strengthening priorities;
- *In-itinere* and *ex-post* coherence reviews, interpreting monitoring evidence (with Toolkit 8) to identify what should be adjusted.

When to use it



Toolkit components

01 **Policy Landscape & Alignment Assessment**
Policy and Strategy Inventory; SDG / NLF Alignment Mapping; Policy, Regulatory and Legal Gap Assessment (including legal mandates, competences, planning powers and fiscal responsibilities across levels of government)

02 **Policy Coherence Assessment**
Sustainability Matrix; Policy Coherence Sheet; External Coherence Matrix; Synergies & Trade-offs Analysis; urban–rural coherence check (interactions between urban and rural policies relating to land, food, water, transport, the environment and economic development)

03 **Internal Policy Coherence**
Internal Coherence Matrix linking objectives → actions → indicators → resources; Financial Dimension where relevant

04 **Strategic Foresight & Robustness**
Horizon Scanning; Megatrend Analysis; Three Horizons; selected methods such as Delphi, Futures Wheel, Wild Cards, Backcasting and Policy Stress-Testing

05 **Coherence & Reform Prioritization**
Multilevel Alignment Assessment; Priority Coherence Issues; Policy and Regulatory Reform Recommendations

NLF Outputs

- Integrated Baseline, Policies and Territorial Assessment
- SDG Localization Integration processes
- SDG Localization Operational Monitoring system
- Adaptive Learning Mechanism

TOOLKIT 5: NLF Territorial and Systems Analysis Toolkit

Its purpose is to build an integrated understanding of the territory and the systems shaping SDG localization, connecting spatial, socioeconomic, environmental and institutional evidence to identify key disparities, interdependencies and priorities.

What it supports

- Integrated analysis of territorial conditions and disparities;
- Identification of spatial, socioeconomic and environmental patterns;
- Analysis of relationships and interdependencies across systems;
- Assessment of subnational data availability and gaps;
- Identification of territorial priorities, vulnerabilities and opportunities;
- Development of a shared evidence base for NLF strategy formulation.
- Analysis of functional territories and flows connecting urban, peri-urban and rural areas, including cross-boundary interdependencies and impacts.
- Use of spatial and territorial data to inform urban planning, land-use decisions and integrated development priorities.

When to use it



Toolkit components

01 **Territorial Baseline**
Territorial Profile; Key Indicators and Trends; Existing Assessment Review

02 **Spatial & Inequality Analysis**
GIS / Spatial Analysis; Territorial Disparities Mapping; Vulnerability and Opportunity Mapping

03 **Systems Analysis**
Systems Mapping; Interlinkages Analysis; Functional Territories and Flow Analysis (people, food, water, energy, finance, ecosystem services and waste), building on the Flows-to-Action Framework; Drivers, Bottlenecks and Leverage-Points Assessment

04 **Data Availability & Gaps**
Subnational Data Mapping; Indicator Coverage and Disaggregation Assessment; Data Gap Matrix

05 **Integrated Territorial Synthesis**
Territorial SWOT / Diagnostic; Priority Challenges and Opportunities; Integrated Baseline Synthesis, including cross-boundary impacts, coordination needs and the distribution of benefits and costs across interconnected territories.

NLF Outputs

Integrated Baseline, Policies and Territorial Assessment

Provides the evidence base for identifying strategic priorities and shaping the NLF Vision and Strategy, drawing on territorial analysis, subnational data and indicator coverage.

TOOLKIT 6: NLF Vision and Strategy Integrated Toolkit.

Its purpose is to translate the integrated evidence base into a **shared, future-oriented vision and strategic direction for SDG localization,** identifying the priorities, transformations and pathways that should guide implementation.

What it supports

- Development of a shared long-term SDG localization vision;
- Translation of evidence into strategic priorities;
- Identification of transformation pathways and policy shifts;
- Alignment of national and territorial ambitions;
- Integration of future trends and uncertainties into strategic choices;
- Definition of the strategic direction for subsequent action planning.
- Alignment of strategic priorities with urban and territorial planning frameworks.

Toolkit components

01 **Vision Co-Creation**
Visioning Workshops; Shared Vision Canvas; Stakeholder Vision Exercise

02 **Future-Oriented Visioning**
Three Horizons; Scenario Exploration; selected foresight methods where relevant

03 **Strategic Prioritization**
Priority-Setting Matrix; Strategic Objectives Framework; Criteria-Based Prioritization

04 **Transformation Pathways**
Transformation Pathway Mapping; Backcasting; Leverage-Point Analysis

05 **Strategy Consolidation & Alignment**
NLF Strategy Framework; National–Territorial Alignment Check; Strategic Results Framework

When to use it



NLF Outputs

SDG Localization Vision
Defines the shared long-term direction for localization across national and territorial levels.

SDG Localization Strategy
Translates the vision into strategic priorities, transformation pathways and priority system shifts that guide subsequent action planning.

TOOLKIT 7: NLF Partnerships, Investment, Funding and Project Pipeline Toolkit

Its purpose is to turn NLF priorities into fundable and investable delivery pathways by starting from delivery priorities and identifying the right financing mechanisms, partners, and institutional support required for implementation.

What it supports

- Translation of NLF priorities into concrete projects and investment opportunities;
- Development and prioritization of SDG-aligned project pipelines;
- Assessment and prioritization of projects using the SDG Localization Marker 2.0;
- Identification of appropriate public, private and blended financing pathways;
- Development of strategic partnerships for implementation;
- Connection of territorial priorities with investors, development partners and financing institutions;

Toolkit components

01 **Financing & Partnership Landscape**
Financing Ecosystem Mapping; Partner and Investor Mapping; Existing Funding Mechanisms Assessment

02 **Project Pipeline Development**
Project Identification Template; Project Prioritization Matrix; SDG / NLF Alignment Screening; SDG Localization Marker 2.0

03 **Project Readiness & Preparation**
Project Readiness Assessment; Preparation Needs Checklist; Project Concept / Profile

04 **Financing Pathway Design**
Financing Options Matrix; Public / Private / Blended Finance Matching; Funding Gap Assessment

05 **Partnership & Investment Facilitation**
Partnership Strategy; Partner–Project Matching; Investment Engagement Plan; Pipeline Tracking

When to use it



NLF Outputs

SDG-Aligned Project Pipeline
Translates priority NLF actions into structured and progressively investment-ready project opportunities.

Partnership, Investment and Financing Pathways
Identifies the partners, financing instruments and preparation requirements needed to move priority projects toward implementation.

TOOLKIT 8: NLF Monitoring, Reporting, Learning and Adaptation Toolkit

Its purpose is to establish a **continuous evidence, reporting and learning cycle** that tracks NLF implementation, connects national and territorial results, and enables institutions to learn and adjust priorities and delivery as conditions evolve.

What it supports

- Monitoring of NLF implementation and localization results;
- Alignment of national and territorial indicators and data;
- Integration of VNR, VSR and VLR reporting where relevant;
- Periodic multilevel performance and system reviews **including *in-itinere* and *ex-post* policy assessment;**
- Structured learning from implementation;
- Evidence-based adjustment of strategies, actions, governance and resources.

NLF Outputs

SDG Localization Operational Monitoring System
Connects indicators, data and periodic reviews across the NLF's governance, policy, financing and territorial dimensions.

Integrated Localization Reporting System
Connects national and territorial reporting and clarifies responsibilities across levels.

Adaptive Learning Mechanism
Creates a structured feedback loop through which evidence and learning inform adjustments to implementation.

Toolkit components

01 **Monitoring Framework & Indicators**
NLF Results Framework; Context, Process & Outcome/Impact Indicators; Baselines and Targets; Indicator Alignment Matrix;

02 **Multilevel Performance Monitoring**
Monitoring Dashboard; National–Local Data Integration; Performance Review Template; Data Gap & Quality Review

03 **Reporting & Accountability**
Multilevel Reporting Framework; VNR–VSR–VLR Alignment Guidance; Reporting Responsibilities Matrix; NLF Progress Report

04 **Learning & System Review**
Periodic Multilevel Review; Learning Log; Coordination & Policy Review; Lessons and Emerging Issues Assessment

05 **Adaptive Management**
Adaptive Action Tracker; Adjustment Decision Matrix; Roadmap Review; Strategy / Action Revision Protocol

When to use it



Three Indicator Types

- **Context indicators —** track changes in the broader environment in which the NLF is implemented.
- **Process indicators —** track whether the NLF processes and implementation arrangements are being carried out as intended **(policy implementation monitoring)**.
- **Outcome/impact indicators —** the changes and results emerging from NLF implementation **(SDG results monitoring).**

Cumulative assessment

Monitoring shows what is changing; assessment explains why. Across successive review cycles, process and outcome/impact indicators are compared — *in-itinere* during implementation and *ex-post* at the end of each cycle — using the same coherence instruments as the *ex-ante* assessment (Toolkit 4). This builds a cumulative assessment of localization progress and feeds learning, review and adaptation.

4

Thematic Lenses

Adapting the NLF to different development priorities and contexts

4.1 — How to apply an NLF Lens?

Activating a lens means looking at the NLF through a particular development priority and adapting the pathway accordingly. Lenses adapt the focus of the NLF; they do not replace the cross-cutting principles - such as human rights, gender equality and leave no one behind - that apply to every pathway.

1 — Frame the priority
Define the thematic challenge, territorial dimensions and relevant national commitments or policy processes.

2 — Re-read the enabling environment through the lens
Examine the four NLF enablers in relation to the priority:

- **Governance** — Who leads? Which levels and institutions need to coordinate?
- **Policy and regulatory frameworks** — Which policies need to align or change?
- **Partnerships, investment and funding** — What resources and partnerships are required?
- **Data and digital** — What evidence is needed to understand and monitor the issue?

3 — Adapt the NLF roadmap
Select and adapt relevant actions across the five transformative streams. A lens may increase the importance of particular processes without changing the underlying NLF architecture.

4 — Assemble the appropriate tool mix
Use the relevant NLF Core Toolkits together with specialized Complementary Tools for deeper thematic analysis or implementation.

5 — Learn and adjust
Track thematic and territorial results and use evidence to adapt priorities, investments and implementation over time.

4.2 — LENS 1 — HOUSING

ADDED VALUE

The Housing Lens connects housing, land, infrastructure and basic services to wider territorial development. It helps move from fragmented sector interventions towards a coordinated pathway linking national housing policy, local planning, investment and service delivery. The lens also addresses informal settlements, tenure security and in-situ upgrading.

SDGs FOCUS



APPLYING THE HOUSING LENS ACROSS THE NLF

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

- Housing Profile
- Spatial Development Framework
- Infrastructure Asset Management Diagnostic Tool
- Urban Profiling Toolbox
- Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)
- Count Me In
- Slum Situation Analysis
- WUF Practices Hub / Housing Knowledge Platform

WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS LENS

Particularly relevant when a country is developing or reforming a **national housing or urban policy or strategy**, addressing major housing shortages or informal settlements, undertaking land reform, expanding basic-service infrastructure, or mobilizing significant housing and urban investment.

POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS

National: national housing strategy; national urban policy; land policy or reform; infrastructure and basic-services programmes; affordable housing programmes; national spatial or territorial plans, national informal-settlement upgrading and prevention strategies; tenure-security and land-regularization programmes.
Subnational: local housing profiles or strategies; spatial and land-use plans; informal-settlement upgrading programmes; municipal infrastructure plans; serviced-land programmes; urban regeneration initiatives.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS

Housing and urban-development ministries; land and planning authorities; finance and infrastructure ministries; local and regional governments; utilities; housing-finance institutions; developers and cooperatives; community organizations; civil society and residents.

Stream	What the lens brings into focus
Political Ownership & Anchoring	Housing, land, infrastructure local-government mandates and coordination, responsibility for informal settlements and tenure.
Visioning & Strategy	Housing need, affordability, tenure, service access, spatial inequalities and settlement patterns.
Action Planning	Regulatory reform, in-situ upgrading, tenure security, serviced land, affordable housing, infrastructure and investment priorities.
Collective Delivery	Integration into plans and budgets and development of territorial housing and infrastructure pipelines, including upgrading
Learning & Adaptation	Housing adequacy, affordability, tenure, service access and spatial disparities, and the share of the urban population living in informal settlements or inadequate housing.

4.3 — LENS 2 — CLIMATE

ADDED VALUE

The Climate Lens connects national climate commitments with the places where climate risks, emissions and investment decisions materialize. It helps embed mitigation, adaptation and resilience into territorial development rather than treating climate action as a parallel process.

SDGs FOCUS



APPLYING THE CLIMATE LENS ACROSS THE NLF

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

- City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT)
- Multicriteria Vulnerability Assessment Tool
- Urban Resilience Action Planning (URAP) Approach
- Spatial Development Framework
- Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT)

WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS LENS

Particularly relevant during the preparation or revision of an **NDC, National Adaptation Plan, long-term climate strategy or climate law**; following major climate-risk assessments; when accessing climate finance; or where territories face significant climate vulnerability.

POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS

National: NDCs; National Adaptation Plans; long-term low-emission strategies; climate legislation; disaster-risk strategies; national climate-finance frameworks; sectoral climate programmes.

Subnational: local climate-action plans; resilience strategies; local adaptation plans; climate-risk assessments; resilient infrastructure programmes; city or regional decarbonization initiatives.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS

Environment and climate institutions; planning and finance ministries; energy, transport, agriculture, water and infrastructure authorities; disaster-risk institutions; local and regional governments; meteorological agencies; utilities; private sector; climate-finance institutions; communities and civil society.

Stream	What the lens brings into focus
Political Ownership & Anchoring	Coordination between climate, planning, finance, sector institutions and subnational governments.
Visioning & Strategy	Climate risk, vulnerability, emissions, future scenarios and national climate commitments.
Action Planning	Mitigation, adaptation and resilience priorities, costing and capacity requirements.
Collective Delivery	Climate mainstreaming, resilient infrastructure, investment pipelines and climate-finance pathways.
Learning & Adaptation	Changing risks, emissions, resilience outcomes and effectiveness of climate interventions.

4.4 — LENS 3 — INCLUSION

ADDED VALUE

Building on the cross-cutting principles that apply to every NLF roadmap, the Inclusion Lens makes visible who participates, who benefits and who may otherwise be left behind. It embeds equity into governance, evidence, prioritization, investment and accountability while recognizing that exclusion may be social, economic, spatial, institutional or cultural.

SDGs FOCUS



APPLYING THE INCLUSION LENS ACROSS THE NLF

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

- Sport for Sustainable Urban Development Playbook
- Quality of Life Initiative (QoLI)
- Demographic Dividend Atlas
- Youth SDG Dashboard
- Participation Plan Guide
- Count Me In
- Urban Inclusion Marker
- Participatory Mapping for Slum Upgrading

WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS LENS

Particularly relevant where inequalities persist between populations or territories; during reforms of social-protection or inclusion systems; when developing gender, youth, disability or Indigenous Peoples policies; or where governments seek stronger participation, accessibility and equitable investment.

POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS

National: social protection and inclusion strategies; gender, youth and disability policies; Indigenous Peoples frameworks; migration policies; sport policies; LNOB strategies.

Subnational: community-development plans; participatory planning and budgeting; local inclusion strategies; youth and sport programmes; accessibility initiatives; community-led territorial plans, informal-settlement upgrading with resident participation.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS

Social-development, gender, youth, disability, Indigenous affairs and sport authorities; planning ministries; local governments; civil society; community organizations; youth and sport actors; organizations of persons with disabilities; academia and social partners.

Stream	What the lens brings into focus
Political Ownership & Anchoring	Representation, meaningful participation and inclusion of relevant rights holders and communities
Visioning & Strategy	Disaggregated evidence on inequalities, accessibility, exclusion and underserved territories
Action Planning	Equity criteria, targeted actions, accessibility, security of tenure, participation and distribution of resources.
Collective Delivery	Inclusive services, community initiatives, equitable investment and institutional mainstreaming.
Learning & Adaptation	Distributional outcomes, participation and whether different groups and territories benefit.

4.5 — LENS 4 — RECOVERY

ADDED VALUE

The Recovery Lens connects immediate recovery and reconstruction with longer-term sustainable territorial development. It helps governments move beyond restoring individual assets towards rebuilding institutions, services, livelihoods and territorial systems in ways that reduce future vulnerability.

SDGs FOCUS



APPLYING THE RECOVERY LENS ACROSS THE NLF

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

- Urban Recovery Framework (URF)
- Urban Recovery Planning System (URPS)
- Urban Profiling Toolbox
- City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT)
- Infrastructure Asset Management Diagnostic Tool
- STDM

WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS LENS

Particularly relevant following disasters, conflict or displacement; during preparation of national recovery or reconstruction programmes; when major reconstruction financing is being mobilized; or where governments want to integrate preparedness and resilience into development systems before future crises occur.

POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS

National: recovery or reconstruction frameworks; disaster-risk and resilience strategies; post-crisis needs assessments; reconstruction programmes; recovery-financing facilities.

Subnational: local recovery plans; settlement-reconstruction programmes; livelihood-restoration initiatives; local resilience strategies; infrastructure-restoration programmes; area-based recovery initiatives.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS

Central recovery or reconstruction authorities; disaster-management institutions; planning and finance ministries; housing, infrastructure and social-protection authorities; local and regional governments; utilities; humanitarian and development partners; development banks; civil society; affected communities and private-sector actors.

Stream	What the lens brings into focus
Political Ownership & Anchoring	Recovery mandates, coordination structures and connections between emergency and permanent institutions.
Visioning & Strategy	Damage and needs alongside pre-existing vulnerabilities,territorial inequalities and future risks.
Action Planning	Sequencing urgent recovery, reconstruction and longer-term transformation; costs and dependencies.
Collective Delivery	Restoration of services and livelihoods, reconstruction pipelines and integration into mainstream systems.
Learning & Adaptation	Recovery progress, changing needs, resilience and whether vulnerabilities are being reduced.

4.6 — LENS 5 — PROSPERITY

ADDED VALUE

The Prosperity Lens connects national economic transformation with **where jobs, enterprises, infrastructure, investment and productive opportunities are actually located.** It helps translate macroeconomic and sector priorities into differentiated territorial development pathways.

SDGs FOCUS



APPLYING THE PROSPERITY LENS ACROSS THE NLF

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

- Quality of Life Initiative (QoLI)
- Demographic Dividend Atlas
- Rapid Own-Source Revenue Analysis (ROSRA)
- Local Finance Framework
- Synergetic Multiplier Network Mapping (SMNM)

WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS LENS

Particularly relevant during preparation of national economic, industrial or employment strategies; regional-development reforms; major investment programmes; economic diversification efforts; or where growth is accompanied by significant territorial inequality, unemployment or weak local economies.

POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS

National: development and economic strategies; industrial, employment, MSME and investment policies; regional-development frameworks; sector and value-chain programmes.

Subnational: local economic-development strategies; regional investment plans; economic clusters; value-chain initiatives; skills and employment programmes; market and infrastructure development; urban–rural economic initiatives.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS

Economic, planning, finance, industry, trade and labour authorities; local and regional governments; investment agencies; development banks; businesses and MSMEs; chambers of commerce; training institutions and development partners.

Stream	What the lens brings into focus
Political Ownership & Anchoring	Coordination between economic institutions, territories, businesses and labour-market actors.
Visioning & Strategy	Territorial economies, jobs, skills, value chains, productivity, connectivity and investment patterns.
Action Planning	Economic infrastructure, skills, enterprise development, enabling reforms and investment priorities.
Collective Delivery	Territorial economic programmes, public–private partnerships and investable project pipelines.
Learning & Adaptation	Employment, enterprise, productivity, investment and territorial economic disparities.

4.7 — LENS 6 — URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

ADDED VALUE

The Urban–Rural Linkages and Integrated Territorial Development Lens recognizes urban, peri-urban and rural areas as interconnected systems rather than administrative units. It highlights the flows of people, goods, services and resources between territories and how these shape livelihoods, access to services and environmental sustainability. It promotes cross-boundary coordination and more equitable distribution of the benefits and costs of urbanization.

SDGs FOCUS



APPLYING THE URBAN-RURAL LINKAGE LENS ACROSS THE NLF

COMPLEMENTARY TOOLS

- Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development
- Urban-Rural Linkages and Land: Flows-to-Action Framework

WHEN TO CONSIDER THIS LENS

Particularly relevant when developing or reviewing strategies, spatial plans and territorial policies involving interconnected urban, peri-urban, intermunicipal and rural areas, particularly where challenges cross administrative boundaries.

POSSIBLE ENTRY POINTS

National: National Urban Policies (NUPs); national spatial & territorial development plans/strategies; rural development & agricultural plans/policies: national land use plans/policies; transport & mobility strategies; food and water security policies; environmental and ecosystem management frameworks; regional development policies.

Subnational: regional & metropolitan plans; integrated urban-rural development strategies; local land-use and spatial plans; urban-rural mobility and service delivery programmes.

LEADING INSTITUTIONS & STAKEHOLDERS

National planning and urban development authorities; local and regional governments; metropolitan authorities; rural development and agriculture ministries; transport, infrastructure, water and environment authorities; service providers and utilities; private sector; urban, peri-urban and rural communities; civil society and community organizations; farmers' and producers' organizations.

Stream	What the lens brings into focus
Political Ownership & Anchoring	Shared national and subnational priorities; mandates and coordination across territories.
Visioning & Strategy	Conditions within territories and flows between metropolitan, peri-urban and rural areas, and opportunities for integrated territorial
Action Planning	Coordinated policies, plans and investments across connected areas.
Collective Delivery	Collaboration on implementation and service delivery across connected areas.
Learning & Adaptation	Equity, sustainability and impacts of urban–rural connections and territorial development.

5

Complementary Tools

Additional tools for deeper and context-specific NLF application

The NLF Core Toolkits provide common methodological support, while Complementary Tools offer specialized technical support for specific processes, enablers or thematic priorities. These tools may originate from UN-Habitat, other UN entities, partner institutions or established methodologies.

Complementary Tools are activated selectively according to the country-tailored NLF roadmap, strengthening existing processes without creating additional ones. Many were identified through the NLF Toolset co-development process with UN-Habitat Regional and Country Offices, reflecting diverse regional and country experiences.

The table below presents the evolving set of Complementary Tools, mapped to the transformative stream where each contributes most. Annex 15 provides the detailed catalogue, including each tool's added value, recommended use, links to Core Toolkits and relevance to the thematic lenses.

Transformative Stream	Current Complementary Tools
1. Political Ownership and Anchoring	Participation Plan Guide; Institutional Scorecards Template; Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR); Metropolitan Legislation Toolkit; Metropolitan Management Pyramid; Effective National-to-Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation; Metropolitan Institutions Guide; Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance.
2. Visioning and Strategy	Constraints, Challenges, Opportunities and Suitability Mapping; Housing Profile; Multicriteria Vulnerability Assessment Tool; Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action; Urban-Rural Linkages and Land: Flows-to-Action Framework; Urban Profiling Toolbox; Urban Recovery Planning System (URPS); Participatory Mapping for Slum Upgrading; Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM); Count Me In; Slum Situation Analysis; Urban Profiling Questionnaire; Demographic Dividend Atlas; City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT); Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Data Tool; Spatial Development Framework; Quality of Life Initiative (QoLI); Urban Inclusion Marker; Urban Recovery Framework (URF); Synergetic Multiplier Network Mapping (SMNM).
3. Action Planning	Dynamic National Financing Simulator (DNFS); Integrated Budgeting and Intelligence Toolkit (iBIT); Urban Resilience Action Planning (URAP) Approach; Rapid Own-Source Revenue Analysis (ROSRA); Local Finance Framework.
4. Collective Delivery	Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT); Sport for Sustainable Urban Development Playbook; Framework for SDG-Aligned Finance; Integrated Policies and Policy Coherence for the SDGs Toolkit; Regional Technical Office (RTO); Infrastructure Asset Management Diagnostic Tool.
5. Learning and Adaptation	Metropolitan Observatories: Structuring and Implementation Guide; SDG Computation Tools; Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT); Youth SDG Dashboard; Transparency Tracker; Practical Guide to Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews; After-action Review Guide (AAR).

The Complementary Tools catalogue is designed to remain **open and evolving**, incorporating additional tools identified through Regional and Country Office engagement, country application and continued NLF co-development.

→ See Annex 15 for the detailed catalogue of the complementary NLF tools.

List of Boxes

Box 1. Brazil — Reforming the National Commission for the SDGs — p. II.36
Box 2. Georgia — Linking Local Needs Assessments to Capacity Support — p. II.39
Box 3. Nepal — Connecting SDG Implementation Roadmaps with Local Planning and Financing — p. II.44
Box 4. Jordan — Connecting Territorial Evidence with National Planning through VLR–VNR Linkages — p. II.49
Box 5. Japan — Japan's SDG Future City Initiative Links National Policy Support with Local Experimentation — p. II.55
Box 6. Kenya — Linking SDG Priorities to County Planning and Budgets — p. II.61
Box 7. India — Building Institutional Capacity for SDG Localization — p. II.64
Box 8. Thailand — Mobilizing Provincial and Community Participation — p. II.67
Box 9. Paraná Local2030 Hub — POLIS Municipal Action Planning — p. II.68
Box 10. Hawai'i Local2030 Hub — SDG Youth Council — p. II.68
Box 11. Buenos Aires Local2030 Hub — Integrating Gender Equality into Public Budgeting — p. II.73
Box 12. Euskadi Local2030 Hub — Connecting Territorial Experiences through International Peer Learning — p. II.81
Box 13. Republic of Korea — Connecting National and Local SDG Monitoring — p. II.84
Box 14. Ghana — Connecting VLRs with National SDG Accountability — p. II.87
Box 15. Serbia — Moving from Data to Good Governance — p. II.90

List of Figures

Figure 1. The NLF Collaborative Design Tool — p. II.09
Figure 2. The NLF Architecture: Five Transformative Streams, Four Enablers and Expected Outcomes — pp. II.17–18
Figure 3. NLF's Transformative Streams to Transformative Processes — p. II.20
Figure 4. Part II Overview: NLF Streams, Processes, Outputs and Outcomes — pp. II.27–28
Figure 5. Indicative Sequencing of the Five Transformative Streams over 18 Months — pp. II.29–30
Figure 6. Overview of the Eight NLF Core Toolkits — p. II.97
Figure 7. The Eight NLF Core Toolkits Mapped to the Transformative Streams and Processes — pp. II.99–100

Abbreviations and Acronyms

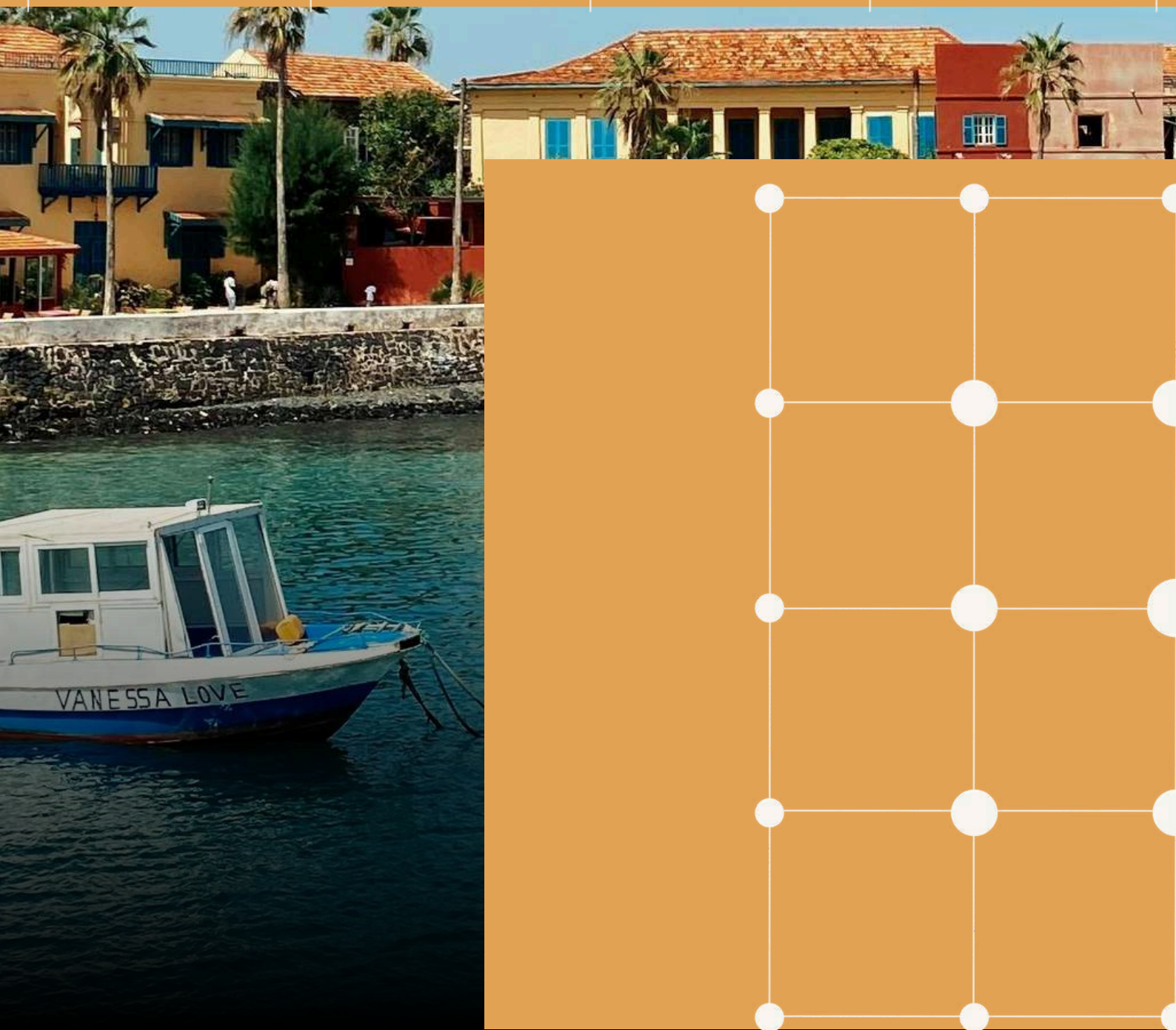
AAR — After-Action Review
CEPA — Committee of Experts on Public Administration
CIDP — County Integrated Development Plan (Kenya)
CityRAP — City Resilience Action Planning Tool
CNODS — National Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals (Brazil)
CNCPS — National Coordination Council for Social Policies (Argentina)
CRPT — City Resilience Profiling Tool
DEF — Economic and Financial Document (Italy)
DNFS — Dynamic National Financing Simulator
ECA — United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
ECLAC — United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCWA — United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESG — Environmental, Social and Governance
FAO — Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GAF-MTR — Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan Territorial and Regional Management
GIS — Geographic Information System
HGG — Hawai'i Green Growth
HLPF — High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
iBIT — Integrated Budgeting and Intelligence Toolkit
IAEG-SDGs — Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
INAFED — National Institute for Federalism and Municipal Development (Mexico)
IPRT — Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit
LAO — Local Administrative Organization (Thailand)
LNOB — Leave No One Behind
MASE — Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (Italy)
MLG — Multilevel Governance
MSME — Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
NAP — National Action Plan
NDC — Nationally Determined Contribution
NDPC — National Development Planning Commission (Ghana)
NITI Aayog — National Institution for Transforming India
NLF — National SDG Localization Framework

NSDS — National Sustainable Development Strategy
NUP — National Urban Policy
OECD — Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PCSD — Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
PEDS — Strategic Plan for Sustainable Development (Cabo Verde)
QoLI — Quality of Life Initiative
RACI — Responsible, Accountable, Consulted and Informed
ROSRA — Rapid Own-Source Revenue Analysis
RTO — Regional Technical Office
SDG — Sustainable Development Goal
SGP — General System of Participations (Colombia)
SME — Small and Medium Enterprise
SMNM — Synergetic Multiplier Network Mapping
STDM — Social Tenure Domain Model
SWOT — Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
TA — Technical Assistance
ToR — Terms of Reference
UCLG — United Cities and Local Governments
UN — United Nations
UN DESA — United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNDP — United Nations Development Programme
UNECE — United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UNEP — United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA — United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat — United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNICEF — United Nations Children's Fund
UNITAC — United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities
UNITAR — United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNPOG — United Nations Project Office on Governance
URAP — Urban Resilience Action Planning
URF — Urban Recovery Framework
URPS — Urban Recovery Planning System
VLR — Voluntary Local Review
VSR — Voluntary Subnational Review
WaCT — Waste Wise Cities Tool
WUF — World Urban Forum

List of References

1. United Nations. 2015. Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. A/RES/70/1.
2. United Nations. 2016. New Urban Agenda. A/RES/71/256.
3. UN-Habitat. 2025. Strategic Plan 2026–2029. Nairobi: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
4. UN-Habitat. 2026. National SDG Localization Framework Handbook. Volume I: Strategic Summary. Nairobi: United Nations Human Settlements Programme.
5. OECD. 2019. Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development. OECD/LEGAL/0381.
6. OECD. 2021. Implementing the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.
7. UNEP. 2024. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development: Handbook on Indicator 17.14.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.
8. United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). 2018. Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development.
9. United Nations Local2030 Coalition. Localization Blueprint.
10. United Nations Local2030 Coalition. SDG Localization Marker 2.0.
11. United Nations Local2030 Coalition. 2026. Inter-Agency Policy Brief: Localizing the SDGs by Advancing the Six Transitions at the Local Level.
12. UN DESA. 2026. 2026 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report. New York: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
13. Government of Brazil. 2024. Voluntary National Review of the 2030 Agenda.
14. Presidency of Brazil. 2023. Decree No. 11,704 of 14 September 2023, Establishing the National Commission for the SDGs (CNODS).
15. City of Tbilisi. 2025. Voluntary Local Review of the City of Tbilisi, Georgia.
16. Government of Georgia. 2024. Voluntary National Review 2024.
17. UNDP, UNICEF and FAO. 2025. Strengthening SDG Localization in Georgia — Joint SDG Fund Final Narrative Report.
18. UNDP Georgia. 2024–2026. Strengthening SDG Localisation in Georgia.

19. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission. 2024. Voluntary National Review 2024.
20. Government of Nepal, National Planning Commission. 2017. Sustainable Development Goals: Status and Roadmap 2016–2030.
21. Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. 2026. Third Voluntary National Review.
22. Greater Amman Municipality, UN-Habitat and ESCWA. 2026. Second Voluntary Local Review of the City of Amman: Smart Pathways to a Resilient and Livable Future.
23. UN-Habitat. 2024. Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts.
24. Government of Japan. 2025. Voluntary National Review 2025. Section on regional revitalization, SDGs and SDGs Future Cities.
25. Cabinet Office, Government of Japan. 2026. SDGs Future Cities — 2026 Selection Results.
26. Government of Japan. SDGs Future City Initiative — Background and Programme Concept.
27. Government of Kenya. 2024. Voluntary National Review 2024.
28. Council of Governors, Kenya. 2023. Voluntary Sub-National Review on SDG Localisation.
29. Parliament of Kenya. 2024. Report on Progress in Fulfilling International Obligations.
30. UNDP. 2024. Institutionalizing SDG Localization in Multi-Level Governance Settings: Lessons from India. Development Futures Series.
31. UN-Habitat. Localizing the SDGs — Voluntary Local Review Framework for Thailand. Voluntary Local Review Repository.
32. United Nations Local2030 Coalition. 2026. Local2030 Hubs Country Experiences and Practices: Paraná, Hawai'i, Buenos Aires and Euskadi.
33 Guía para la Elaboración de Planes Municipales de Desarrollo con el Enfoque de la Agenda 2030.
34. Republic of Korea, Ministry of Data and Statistics. 2025. Lessons Learned from National SDG Implementation.
35. United Nations Statistics Division. 2025. 16th Meeting of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). Session 9a and Republic of Korea presentation archive.
36. UN-Habitat. 2026. Governance for SDG Localization. Section on Ghana Smart SDG Cities.
37. Government of Ghana, National Development Planning Commission. 2025. Ghana Voluntary National Review 2025.
38. Office of the Head of Local Government Service, Ghana. 2023. Localising SDGs in Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies.
39. City of Niš. 2024. Voluntary Local Review of the City of Niš, Republic of Serbia.
40. UN-Habitat. 2024. Niš Advances SDG Localization in Serbia with First Voluntary Local Review.
41. United Nations in Serbia. 2024. Serbia's 2nd National Urban Forum.
42. Public Policy Secretariat, Republic of Serbia. 2025. Workshop "Localization of Sustainable Development Goals" — Presentation "From Data to Good Governance".


VANESSA LOVE

Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

National SDG Localization Frameworks Handbook



03

Country Solutions Catalogue

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

UN-HABITAT

National SDG Localization Frameworks **Handbook**

Published by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

First published in Nairobi in November 2026 by UN-Habitat Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2026.

All rights reserved.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO, Kenya
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office) www.unhabitat.org

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its member states.

UN-HABITAT

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE
E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

About the authors and Acknowledgements

The *National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) Handbook* has been developed by the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, a joint operational initiative led by UN-Habitat and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE).

From UN-Habitat side, the Handbook has been developed by UN-Habitat's SDG Cities and Multilevel Governance Team, under the mandate and supervision of the SDG Localization and Governance Section, the Global Solutions Division and the Local2030 Coalition.

The development of the Handbook was supervised by **Sébastien Vauzelle** and coordinated by **Martino Miraglia**. **Achraf Ghrib**, urban development expert, led the development of the handbook with core contributions from **Pietro Ceppi, Sophie Lena Heuser, Antoine Saurat, Pytrik Oosterhof and Nanor Karageozian**.

Additional contributions were provided by **Camilla Almeida, Nikita Sehmi, Marina Akl** and **Doreen Muinamia**.

Editorial development and editing were led by **Achraf Ghrib**, with editorial support from **Antoine Saurat** and **Moses Wanyonyi**.

From the **Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE)**, the Handbook was coordinated by the Unit for Sustainable Development of the Directorate General for European and International Affairs and for Sustainable Finance led by **Director Alessandro Guerri** which jointly with UN-Habitat developed the structure and contents. Substantive contributions were provided by **Mara Cossu** - coordinator of the Sustainable Development Unit - and by **Isabelle Ronvaux** and **Francesca De Crescenzo**, technical assistance Sogesid at MASE.

The Handbook builds on experiences and lessons emerging from **Italy**, **Senegal** and **Tunisia**. We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of **national and subnational government representatives, institutions and partners** engaged in the design and implementation of National SDG Localization Frameworks, whose experiences have helped ground the methodology in concrete country realities.

We also thank colleagues from **UN-Habitat's headquarters, Regional and Country Offices**, members and partners of the **Local2030 Coalition**, and the wider network of experts and practitioners who contributed through technical exchanges, consultations, peer learning and review processes.

The development of the National SDG Localization Framework Handbook benefited from a dedicated co-creation process with UN-Habitat Regional and Country Offices, including regional and country-level working sessions, with **36 countries consulted and 160 participants recorded**. Their contributions helped inform the identification, review and adaptation of tools to diverse institutional and territorial contexts.

Foreword



Anacláudia Rossbach,

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director,

United Nations Human Settlements Programme. (UN-Habitat)

With four years remaining until 2030, the world is not short of policies, plans, strategies or commitments. What falls short are the systems that turn them into results. Only 36 per cent of assessable targets for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are on track or showing moderate progress, and 15 per cent have regressed. As many as 3.4 billion people live without secure, safe and adequate housing, more than one billion of them in informal settlements and slums. These gaps converge in cities and territories, where at least 105 of the 169 SDG targets cannot be met without local and regional governments.

Nowhere is this clearer than in housing, the roof of the Sustainable Development Goals and one of the most demanding tests of governance. National governments set legal, fiscal and policy frameworks; local and regional governments plan land, deliver basic services and lead the transformation of informal settlements; communities, including women's and grassroots organizations, shape neighbourhoods every day. When they act in isolation, the crisis deepens. When they act together, with resources reaching territories, progress follows. This is why UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 places adequate housing, land and basic services at the center of our mandate, with participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization as essential means of implementation. They are not a parallel agenda; they are how the Strategic Plan is delivered.

Member States have reached the same conclusion. UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/6 requested UN-Habitat to support governments in enhancing multilevel governance for SDG localization. In July 2026, the Political Declaration on the midterm review of the New Urban Agenda recognized the need for inclusive multilevel governance systems and for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development approaches and tools that empower local and regional authorities. The Secretary-General's report on Action 55(e) of the Pact for the Future highlights the Local2030 Coalition as an UN-system mechanism to advance localization and multilevel governance. The question is no longer whether to localize, but how to do so systematically, at national scale and in ways that last.

UN-Habitat is answering that question with its partners. As permanent co-chair of the Local2030 Coalition, the United Nations system-wide platform for SDG localization, we work across the UN system to deliver as

one through shared instruments such as the Localization Blueprint, the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 and the Bilbao Bootcamp – a pioneering effort with the Joint SDG Fund to advance local financing solutions for territorial transformation.

The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs transforms these guidance and processes into operational support at country level. Launched in 2024 under Italy's G7 Presidency by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat, it builds on our Strategic Plan and on Italy's experience in Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development with the aim of helping countries and territories delivering on their sustainable development priorities by supporting the design of National

SDG Localization Frameworks. Above all, the Partnership Platform responds to what governments ask for: not another plan, but the means to coordinate across levels, connect policies, multiply action and turn priorities into transformative projects for territories and communities that can be financed.

Countries are already showing what this approach can achieve. In Senegal, the National SDG Localization Framework builds on Vision 2050 and the revision of the National Plan for Territorial Development, bringing Voluntary Local Reviews from three territorial poles into the 2026 Voluntary National Review. Connected to the Bilbao Bootcamp, it helped secure a US$3 million programme expected to leverage around US$24 million for the development of Casamance Region's Agropole. In Tunisia, it aligns the National Development Plan 2026–2030 with the National Territorial Master Plan 2050 across 14 plans, policies and strategies.

The support of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs does not stop at country level. Anchored in the Local2030 Coalition's global engagement, it scales up country experiences and connects partners to exchange practices and solutions. The 2026 VNR peer-learning series, for example, connected 17 countries which co-created a Joint Message on SDG Localization integrated into 2026 Voluntary National Reviews. These technical processes culminate in the Partnership Platform Annual Meeting, traditionally hosted during the High-Level Political Forum.

This Handbook distils this experience into a practical and action-oriented methodology any country can use. A National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) is the connective governance architecture that starts from what each country already has, linking institutions, strategies, budgets, partnerships and data systems into one coherent framework for implementation, with Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development as its backbone. Five transformative streams, from political ownership to learning and adaptation, strengthen four enablers: participatory multilevel governance, coherent policies, partnerships and investment, and data systems. Within each framework, UN-Habitat's SDG Cities approach provides the territorial interface from data to strategies to investable projects.

This is why the Handbook is a milestone for UN-Habitat. It takes our work on multilevel governance to the next stage of support, giving governments a tested, nationally owned way to move from fragmented projects to systemic territorial transformation. It offers the United Nations system a common operating framework at country level, recognized by the Local2030 Coalition as an operational architecture for localizing the six SDG transitions and aligned with Cooperation Frameworks. In the years ahead, it will be UN-Habitat's reference methodology for multilevel governance.

The Handbook is a living resource that will grow with every country that applies it, through the NLF Learning Programme and new evidence from the Global Stock take on SDG Localization, co-led with the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the Local2030 Coalition, towards the 2027 SDG Summit. Towards 2030 and into the second decade of the New Urban Agenda, the ability of governments to act as one system across all levels will decide whether global ambitions become better lives.

I invite governments, local and regional authorities, United Nations Country Teams, development partners and financial institutions to use this Handbook, adapt it and help improve it. I thank the Government of Italy and its Ministry of Environment and Energy Security for their vision and steadfast partnership, as well as Senegal, Tunisia and all partner countries and institutions of the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. The true measure of this Handbook will not be how widely it is read, but how many countries use it to change the way they deliver: for every person, in every community, in every territory.

Foreword



Claudio Barbaro

Under Secretary of State to the Environment and Energy Security, Italy

The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals is not simply about bringing a global agenda closer to territories. It is about rethinking how sustainable development is governed and delivered. As we move towards 2030, our ambitions will only translate into lasting, transformational change if Institutions are able to work across sectors and levels of government, connect national priorities with territorial realities, and ensure that policies are mutually reinforcing rather than working in isolation or restraining one another.

Local and regional governments are essential to this endeavour, as territories are where many of the transformations envisioned by the 2030 Agenda ultimately take shape, where Institutions get nearer to people and can gain trust. Effective localization therefore requires national governments to create the conditions for territories to become full partners in sustainable development, strengthening multilevel governance, policy integration and coherence against sustainable development goals, institutional capacities and the connections between planning, financing, implementation and monitoring.

This understanding lies at the heart of this National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) Handbook, developed within the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, initiative promoted by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) and UN-Habitat.

At the global level, the Partnership Platform contributes to the implementation of UN-Habitat Resolution 2/6 on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly and co-sponsored by Italy, as well as to the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide initiative for SDG localization. It also aligns with Italy’s broader engagement with Africa, including through the Mattei Plan, and provides an enabling environment for the development and implementation of projects under MASE’s bilateral and multilateral environmental cooperation. In this context, it also responds to the renewed commitment set out in the Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda, which recognizes the importance of supporting countries in localizing the 2030 Agenda, including through the establishment of national Sustainable Development Goals localization frameworks.

At the country level, the Partnership Platform promotes the NLFs as multilevel governance architecture aiming at enabling territories and local communities in designing and implementing high social and environmental impact projects.

The Handbook therefore reflects a shared ambition: to move from valuable but often fragmented localization experiences towards more systematic, nationally anchored and territorially responsive approaches. Rather than adding a new layer of planning or governance, it seeks to connect and strengthen what already exists, building an enabling architecture through which Institutions, policies, resources, partnerships and data can work together more coherently. This reflects the Handbook's definition of National Localization Frameworks as an integrated and adaptive architecture rather than an additional planning instrument.

For Italy, this Handbook is both the achievement of a continuous collaboration and the expression of a broader commitment. Over the past decade, our country has progressively built a sustainable development governance system connecting national strategic vision with territorial ownership and implementation, and that work is still ongoing. Through the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS), with Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as its backbone, Italy has sought to strengthen cooperation across levels of government while promoting greater integration across policies and sectors around shared sustainable development objectives. This approach is grounded in a simple conviction: territories are not merely where national policies are implemented, but essential partners in defining priorities, identifying solutions and shaping the country's sustainable development pathway. The Italian experience described in the Handbook similarly places multilevel governance and PCSD at the heart of a system linking governance, policy, finance, participation, monitoring and assessment.

Italy's 2026 Voluntary National Review marked a further step in this journey, connecting national, territorial and intergenerational perspectives through Voluntary Local Reviews and, for the first time, a dedicated Youth Voluntary Review. These experiences remind us that localization is not an end in itself. Its value lies in making public action more coherent, inclusive and responsive, and ultimately in strengthening the capacity of Institutions to deliver tangible results for people and territories. This perspective is increasingly shared across countries, as reflected in the Joint Message on SDG Localization, annexed to Italy's and six other VNR in 2026, which reaffirmed a common commitment to strengthening localization as a key pathway for accelerating sustainable development.

Italy has chosen to bring this experience grown over the years into the international arena not as a model to be replicated, but as a contribution to a shared learning process. This is the rationale behind the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. The initiative has progressively gained international support and today brings together ten countries and four international organizations, including the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and the OECD who joined in 2025, providing a common environment for cooperation and for supporting projects developed at the local level in participating countries. This growing engagement confirms the relevance of the Italian initiative and reinforces the recognition of localization as a key dimension of SDG implementation.

Combining political dialogue, peer learning and operational country support, the Platform allows national experiences to inform international cooperation and countries to learn from one another. The Handbook is an important outcome of this cooperation, drawing initially on the experiences of Italy, Senegal and Tunisia and on the broader knowledge generated through UN-Habitat, the Local2030 Coalition and the Partnership Platform.

But this Handbook should not be seen as a finished product. Its value will grow through its use. Conceived as a living resource, it is intended to be progressively enriched by a growing number of national experiences. As new countries engage with the National SDG Localization Framework approach, their practices, challenges and solutions will contribute to expanding the shared body of knowledge and strengthening the methodology itself. The next phase of the Partnership Platform will therefore be as much about learning from implementation as about applying the Handbook, building on new country experiences and progressively broadening the Country Solutions it brings together. This reflects the Handbook's own experience-driven and adaptive approach.

This perspective is particularly important as we look towards the next phase of the global sustainable development agenda. The years ahead must be used not only to accelerate delivery on the 2030 Agenda, but also to safeguard and carry forward its fundamental principles: integration, universality, participation, territorial cohesion and leaving no one behind. Looking also beyond 2030, we believe that the capacity of Institutions to work coherently across sectors and levels of government and connect global ambition with territorial transformation will remain essential.

For Italy, this is also a vision for the future. We believe in the value of the Partnership Platform and of our cooperation with UN-Habitat to support countries in developing their own localization pathways, broadening opportunities for peer learning and strengthening the connections between sustainable development priorities, territorial action and investment. At the same time, we will continue advancing our own national localization process, recognizing that governance frameworks must evolve with new challenges, evidence and the changing needs of territories and generations.

The ambition of this Handbook therefore extends beyond the creation of a methodology. It is to help build a community of countries and partners that can learn from one another and collectively strengthen the systems through which sustainable development is delivered. In doing so, the Handbook and the Partnership Platform can contribute to making multilevel governance and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development not exceptional practices, but ways to make sustainable development a business-as-usual policy making.

We warmly thank UN-Habitat for its vision and partnership throughout this journey, as well as the governments and Institutions of Senegal and Tunisia, whose engagement has helped translate the National SDG Localization Framework approach into concrete country processes. We are equally grateful to the countries and international organizations that adhered to Platform and to all countries, local and regional authorities, organizations, experts and partners that have contributed with their knowledge and experience to this initiative and to this Handbook. We hope that an ever-growing number of countries will feel comfortable in making this resource their own, contribute to its evolution and join us in transforming localization from a shared ambition into a lasting change for people and territories.



National SDG Localization Framework Handbook

Volume III
Country Solutions Catalogue

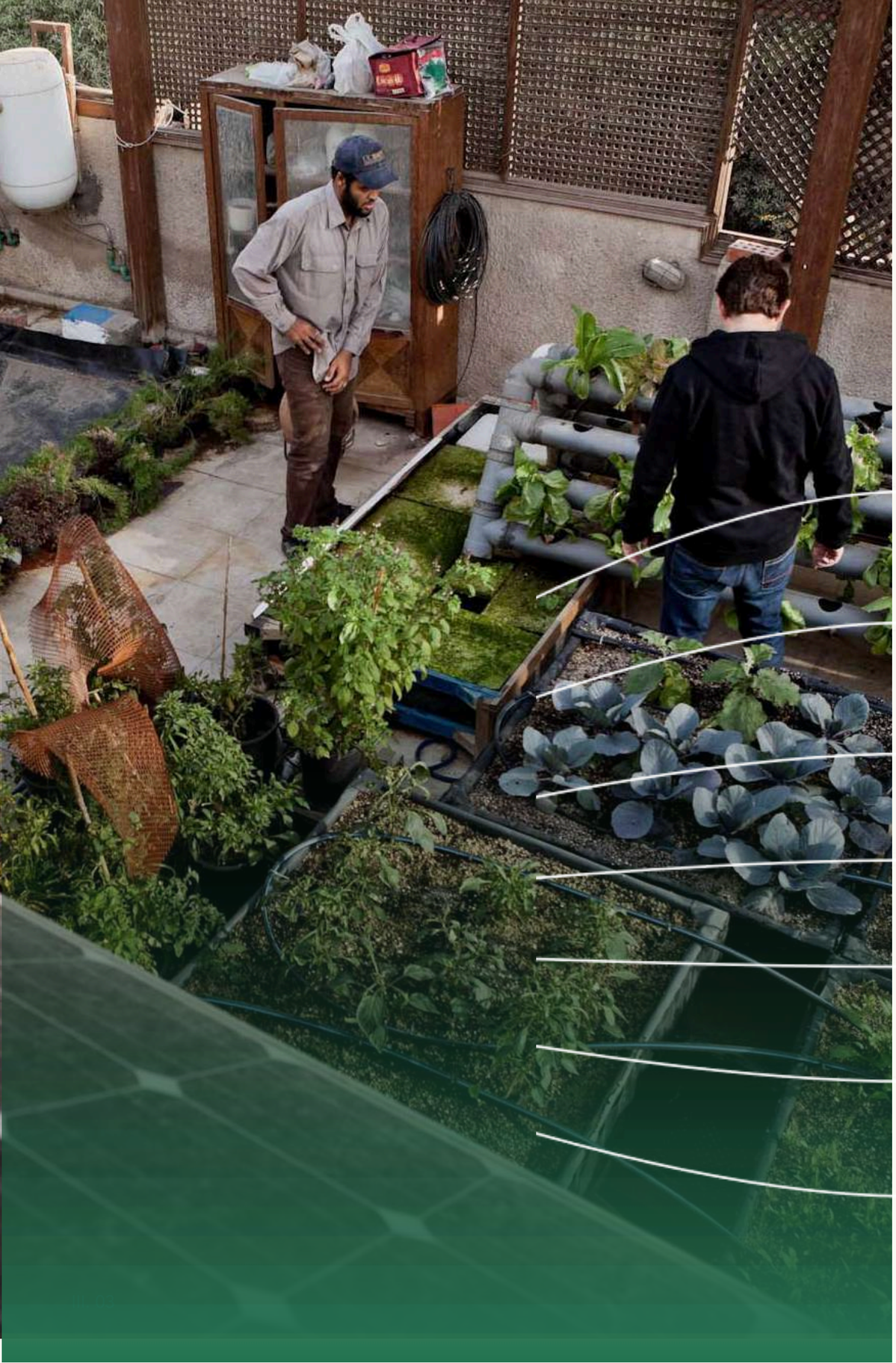
Contents

Introduction
How to navigate the Solutions Catalogue *p.III-04*

1. Italy
Building an NLF through policy coherence for sustainable development and multilevel governance *p.III-08*

2. Senegal
Building an NLF through the territorialization of national development *p.III-38*

3. Tunisia
Building an NLF through bottom-up territorial action and evolving governance systems *p.III-52*



Volume III
Country Solutions Catalogue

Introduction

How to navigate the Solutions Catalogue?

From methodology to country experience

Volume III grounds the NLF methodology in concrete country experience. The Catalogue focuses on **Italy, Senegal and Tunisia** because of their **particular role in the development of the NLF approach**: Italy's experience in Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, multilevel governance and territorial implementation of the 2030 Agenda has provided an important foundation and source of inspiration for the methodology, while Senegal and Tunisia are the two **pilot countries through which the NLF has been designed and is being applied and tested in practice.** All three countries presented Voluntary National Reviews at the 2026 High-Level Political Forum and are cited in UN DESA's 2026 VNR Synthesis Report as examples of SDG localization and VLR–VNR integration.

The Catalogue does not present three models to be replicated. Each country illustrates **a different roadmap through which the institutional, policy, territorial, partnership and data dimensions of SDG localization can be strengthened.** Italy provides a mature experience built around its National Sustainable Development Strategy, Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development National Action Plan and multilevel governance, while Senegal and Tunisia provide evolving implementation experiences through which additional lessons and solutions are being generated and progressively documented.

Connecting Volume II and Volume III

Volume II and **Volume II**I are designed to be **used back and forth**.

In **Volume II**, each transformative process includes proposed actions across the four NLF enablers. These actions are not abstract recommendations: they are **identified and formulated through the analysis of country experience**. Each **coded action** points to **Volume III**, where the practitioner can **understand how that action emerged and how it has been applied in practice.**

Volume III therefore provides the **evidence and experience behind the operational guidance** presented in Volume II. As the Senegal and Tunisia processes advance, additional country actions will be documented and mapped to the same NLF architecture, progressively expanding this practice base.

How the Catalogue is organized

The Catalogue is organized by country:

1. **Italy** — Building an NLF through policy coherence for sustainable development and multilevel governance anchored in the National Sustainable Development Strategy
2. **Senegal** — Building an NLF through the territorialization of national development
3. **Tunisia** — Building an NLF through bottom-up territorial action and evolving governance systems

Each chapter first presents the country roadmap and enabling environment, helping the reader understand the institutional and development context from which its solutions emerge. Country actions are then mapped against the same transformative streams and processes used throughout Volume II.

For each action, the Catalogue identifies:

- the **action** and its corresponding **NLF transformative process**;
- the **lead stakeholder(s)** responsible for its implementation;
- the **result** generated or observed;
- the **country evidence** documenting how the action has been applied; and
- its **transferability**, indicating the extent to which the underlying approach may be relevant in other contexts and any important conditions for its adaptation.

Using Country Solutions in practice

Practitioners can enter the Catalogue in different ways. When working through a process in **Volume II**, an **Action ID** can be followed into **Volume III** to examine the country experience behind it. Conversely, readers interested in a particular country solution can use its NLF coding to trace it back to the relevant transformative process and understand **how it fits within the wider methodology**.

The purpose is not to reproduce institutional arrangements exactly. **Transferability** refers to the underlying mechanism or approach, which should be interpreted and **adapted according to national mandates, governance systems, capacities and territorial realities.**

In this way, the Catalogue connects the common NLF architecture with **real implementation experience**, allowing practitioners to **move continuously between methodology and practice**: from a proposed action, to the experience behind it, and back to its possible adaptation within a country-tailored NLF pathway.

Connecting with the WUF Practices Hub

The documentation format of this Catalogue is consistent with the approach of UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum (WUF) Practices Hub, launched at WUF13 to curate and share proven urban practices. The Practices Hub selects practices on the basis of evidence of change and impact, verifiable implementation, and potential for learning, replication or scale-up. Each country action in this Catalogue is documented along the same lines: the result observed, the country evidence behind it, and its transferability to other contexts. This shared logic allows NLF country solutions to be considered for future Practices Hub calls, and relevant Practices Hub examples to be mapped onto the NLF architecture. It supports the systematic curation, dissemination and replication of localization practices through WUF and other UN-Habitat knowledge-sharing platforms.



1. Italy

Building an NLF through policy coherence for sustainable development and multilevel governance

ITALY

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Italy did not build a localization framework from scratch. It transformed its legally mandated National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) into a multilevel system connecting governance, policy, finance, participation and monitoring. Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) acts as the organizing principle linking these elements across levels of government.

NARRATIVE

Italy's National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) provides an advanced example of how sustainable development can be enabled through Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), multilevel governance and territorial implementation. Initially established as the national reference framework for sustainable development for planning, programming and evaluation, the Strategy is progressively evolving into an integrated system connecting governance, policy, finance, participation and monitoring across levels of government.

A central feature of the Italian approach is its constant ambition and mission to operate through a structured multilevel governance architecture. Central administrations, regions, autonomous provinces, metropolitan cities and municipalities are connected through permanent coordination mechanisms, territorial agreements and thematic working groups, while civil society, research institutions and other stakeholders participate through dedicated forums and collaborative platforms. Rather than operating through isolated projects, sustainable development is therefore embedded within regular governmental and territorial processes implementing the NSDS.

The localization of the SDGs is reinforced through Regional Sustainable Development Strategies, Metropolitan Agendas and territorial partnerships, which adapt national priorities into place-based action. Within this common strategic framework, territories retain flexibility to respond to their own development challenges and priorities while contributing to shared national sustainable development objectives.

PCSD provides an integrating layer. Dedicated coordination structures and coherence tools support the identification of synergies and trade-offs across policies and sectors and strengthen links between national priorities and territorial implementation along the policy cycle. Monitoring, reporting and training are also integrated into this architecture, connecting national indicators with territorial evidence and supporting continuous adjustment of strategies and implementation.

Overall, the Italian experience illustrates how an existing national strategy can become a long-term institutional architecture for SDG localization, linking strategic direction with multilevel coordination, territorial action, financing and evidence-based implementation.

ENABLERS COVERAGE

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS

Permanent interministerial and national–subnational coordination mechanisms, a permanent multi-stakeholder forum linked to territorial equivalents, and standing central and multilevel laboratories organized by thematic area.

Italy combines permanent interministerial coordination on the implementation and revision of the NSDS with multilevel mechanisms engaging with territories at the level of Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities. The formal body called State–Regions Conference advises on the NSDS triannual revision. Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities are supported through bilateral Collaboration Agreements and Public Calls anchored to each sub-national sustainable development strategy. Stakeholders participate to the NSDS processes through the National Forum for Sustainable Development which connects to similar fora and initiatives at local level

POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES

A clear and legally mandated reference framework for Sustainable Development and its localisation, with a dedicated National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD NAP) as implementation roadmap, with its own results, actions and targets and an operational set of coherence tools deployed across the policy cycle.

The legally mandated NSDS, anchoring the sustainable development frameworks and processes at territorial level, includes a dedicated PCSD NAP. PCSD is operationalized across the policy cycle through coherence tools including coherence matrices, coherence fiches, PCSD laboratories and strategic foresight. These mechanisms support integrated planning, assessment of synergies and trade-offs, multilevel governance and SDG localization.

PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS

Public programming and financial planning, at central and regional level, evaluated towards its contribution to the NSDS. The fund for sustainable development supports multilevel governance and PCSD, while work on private finance and enterprise reporting is emerging.

Public investment is strongly connected to sustainability priorities through the evaluation of EU programming, national plans and subnational funds towards the NSDS objectives. The Fund for Sustainable Development mobilized €27 million for 2022–2026 for multilevel governance and PCSD tools deployment, with an increasing number of programmes and budgets analysed through this lens. Moreover, a collaboration with the National Working Group on Sustainable Finance led by The Ministry of Economy and Finance is ongoing to promote ESG through the "initiative for Sustainable Finance for SMEs".

DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS

A three-tier indicator architecture, a national statistical framework aligned to the global indicators, territorial disaggregation, and an integrated monitoring system fed by the coherence tools themselves.

Italy uses an integrated monitoring system combining the national SDG statistical framework with territorial disaggregation and strategy-specific indicators. The National Statistical Institute (ISTAT) provides the statistical backbone aligned with sustainable and fair wellbeing (Benessere Equo e Sostenibile – BES) indicators, while additional process and performance indicators help capture complex social dynamics and policy outcomes. Coherence tools support the process while enabling multilevel monitoring mechanisms and territorial indicators, coordination and learning.

Italy in the 2026 VNR Synthesis Report

UN DESA's synthesis of the 36 VNRs presented in 2026 cites Italy for its two-level Inter-ministerial Group overseeing the SNSvS and the PCSD National Action Plan (p. 12); its integrated Voluntary National, Local and Youth Review, with 14 VLRs led by regions and metropolitan cities and a first Youth Voluntary Review (pp. 16, 34); PCSD matrices embedded across the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (p. 25); and permanent multi-stakeholder fora, multilevel laboratories and Territorial Working Groups (pp. 32–33). Italy also co-created the Joint Messaging of 2026 VNRs on SDG localization (p. 25).

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Institutional Anchoring and Political Mobilization	**IT-1.01** Include a sustainable development strategic framework in primary legislation, with a mandatory periodic revision cycle.	Government -MASE as custodian	NSDS adopted 2017, revised 2022-2023, next revision due end-2026; the statutory cycle has held across three governments.	Article 34 of the Environment Code requires a national sustainable development strategy, revised every three years.	**High** Any country with a statutory planning obligation can reinterpret it rather than create a new instrument.	PLANNING
	IT-1.02 Anchor, within the primary legislation, the SDGs localization framework to the sustainable development strategic framework, obliging subnational authorities to adopt aligned territorial sustainable development strategies within a fixed period of each national update and to further engage municipalities.	Government -MASE as custodian	18 on 19 regional and 2 on 2 provincial strategies, 11 on 15 metropolitan agendas are adopted.	Article 34 of the Environmental Code requires Regions and Autonomous Provinces to adopt their own sustainable development strategy within 12 months of each national strategy update.	**High** The cascade is the mechanism, not the twelve-month figure.	PLANNING
	IT-1.03 Secure formal adoption of the sustainable development strategic framework, its revision and its funding by the highest interministerial decision-making body.	CITE and CIPESS, both operating within the Presidency of the Council.	NSDS is triennially approved by CITE. NSDS annual report and its three-year financial programming is approved by CIPESS. The NSDS connects to development cooperation policies through the "Triannual Programming Document on the Italian Development Cooperation"	NSDS is the reference framework for sustainable development in Italy. Triannual NSDS updates are adopted by CITE (last 18 September 2023). Each year, CIPESS receives the Annual Implementation Report and approves its financial programming. The NSDS is included in the "Triannual Programming Document on the Italian Development Cooperation".	**Medium** Depends on the existence of standing interministerial committees.	GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP
	IT-1.04 Use the existing statutory national-subnational conference as the formal endorsement channel for the sustainable development strategic framework and its localization.	State-Regions Conference	Triennial updates formally endorsed; provides the constitutional channel for the legal cascade.	The State-Regions Conference formally endorses the triennial strategy updates and provides recommendations.	**Medium** Requires an equivalent constitutional forum.	PLANNING

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
	IT-1.05 Secure, at the highest possible level, the establishment of a multilevel governance mechanism allowing integrated programming, implementation and monitoring of sustainable development objectives	Government – MASE as custodian	A National Working Group for the monitoring of the NSDS, a Territorial Working Group MASE – Regions/ Autonomous Provinces/Metropolitan cities, and a Forum for Sustainable Development are established and operational since 2018. An Inter-ministerial Group for the implementation of the NSDS is established and operational since 2022.	CIPE resolution 108/2017 firstly approving the NSDS requires the establishment of Interinstitutional Working Groups with Ministries and Local governments.	**High**	GOVERNANCE
	IT-1.06 Secure, at highest possible level, the establishment of a multistakeholder platform as reference for the participation of civil society and non-state actors to the implementation, revision and monitoring of sustainable development strategic framework	Government – MASE as custodian	A Forum for Sustainable development is established since 2018 and is operational through its 6 working groups and a Steering Committee. It coordinates with the National Council on Development Cooperation (CNCS) to bridge domestic and external dimensions of sustainable development.	CITE resolution 1/2023 approving the revision of the NSDS includes as annex the Rules of procedure of the National Forum for Sustainable Development, including the relationship with the CNCS.	**High**	GOVERNANCE
	IT-1.07 Institutionalize PCSD as implemen-tation enabler and accelerator for the sustainable development strategic framework at national and territorial level with dedicated expected results, actions and targets.	Government – MASE as custodian + OECD	PCSD NAP adopted alongside the 2023 NSDS with coherence tools operational by 2026.	PCSD NAP is institutionalized and annexed to the NSDS: 3 pillars, 14 expected results, 42 numbered actions with targets, built on the 2019 OECD Recommendation.	**High** The 2019 OECD Ministerial Recommendation on PCSD is a publicly available document. OECD and UN-Habitat cooperates on PCSD and multilevel governance and can assist countries	PLANNING

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Scoping and Capacity Diagnostics	**IT-1.08** Commission an independent governance diagnostic of PCSD capacity as the evidence base for the restructuring/operationalization of governance mechanisms and policy integration.	OECD with MASE; EC DG REFORM funding	Scan published 2021; directly grounded the structure and content of the coherence action plan.	The Italy Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, conducted with the OECD and funded through DG REFORM, directly grounded the PCSD NAP.	**High** Subject to funding for external expertise.	PLANNING
	IT-1.09 Support sub-national levels in a self-diagnostic of PCSD capacity as the evidence base for the operationalization of governance mechanisms and policy integration at territorial level.	MASE + Territories + OECD (MASE in support with fund from EC DG Reform)	Territorial steering committees formally established in most of the regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan cities.	Following bilateral agreements between MASE and nearly all regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan cities, territorial steering committees have been formally established in each of them. Their operativity is not homogenous, depending on the commitment and internal training provided on PCSD by the administrations. A Technical support initiative from the EU to four Italian regions (Piemonte, Marche, Sardegna, Puglia) aimed to localise the PCSD NAP, provided two-years OECD technical support to enable the steering committees and operationalise PCSD tools.	**High**	PLANNING
	IT-1.10 Baseline the national statistical system's SDG coverage against the global indicator framework.	ISTAT coordinating the National Statistical System (SISTAN)	320 statistical measures covering 148 global indicators; seventeen editions, comprehensive revision in 2025.	ISTAT publishes 320 statistical measures covering 148 IAEG-SDGs indicators as of the 17th edition, December 2025.	**High** Though the achievable coverage depends on statistical capacity.	DATA

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	**IT-1.11** Establish an interministerial coordination body on the implementation and revision of the sustainable development strategic framework structured in two tiers, separating political steering from technical delivery.	MASE + All central administrations	Operating since 2022; periodically meets to steer the implementation of the NSDS and the triannual revision of indicators and targets.	The "Inter-ministerial Group for the implementation of the NSDS", created in accordance with CIPE Resolution 108/2017 and CITE Resolution 1/2023, operates a Political Steering Group alongside a Technical Working Group.	**High** The two-tier split is the transferable feature.	GOVERNANCE
	IT-1.12 Establish an interministerial coordination body on the monitoring of the national sustainable development strategic framework.	MASE + ISTAT, ISPRA, MAECI, MEF	The "National Working Group for the monitoring of the NSDS" is operating since 2018; produced the indicators of the NSDS selected on the basis of their parsimony, feasibility, timeliness, sensitivity to public policies, territorial availability.	The "National Working Group for the monitoring of the NSDS", created in accordance with CIPE Resolution 108/2017, operates on the selection of indicators and its monitoring.	**High**	GOVERNANCE
	IT-1.13 Establish permanent territorial working groups giving subnational authorities a standing role in design, implementation and monitoring of the sustainable development strategic framework.	MASE + All Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities	More than 110 meetings including: plenary, bilateral, technical assistance, thematic multilevel laboratories held between 2018-2026. Meetings have helped in forging and implementing the Cooperation agreements activated from 2018 on.	Territorial Working Groups have linked MASE to regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan cities since 2018, in accordance with CIPE Resolution 108/2017. Furthermore, joint meetings strengthened horizontal cooperation and relationship between regions and respective metropolitan cities.	**High**	GOVERNANCE
	IT-1.14 Institutionalize a permanent multistakeholder forum for the implementation, monitoring and revision of the sustainable development strategic framework and link it to territorial equivalents.	MASE + Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities + National Forum for Sustainable Development	Operating since 2018. The National Forum for Sustainable Development participated to the revision of the NSDS in 2023 and in 2026. It provided Position Papers included in 2022 and 2026 Italy VNR. It yearly organizes the National Conference for Sustainable Development.	The National Forum for Sustainable Development counts more than 362 registered organizations and over 700 representatives across six thematic working groups, and actively participates to the implementation, revision and monitoring of NSDS. Regional and Metropolitan Cities are encouraged to establish territorial Forum or participatory mechanisms at their level.	**High**	GOVERNANCE
	IT-1.15 Connect the sustainable development strategic framework and its localization processes to development cooperation governance and policies as to allow 2030 Agenda internal and external dimensions converge.	MASE; MAECI	First CNCS working group seated in the Forum coordination committee; internal-external convergence in progress.	The Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation is chaired by the Prime Minister under Law 125/2014; the first working group of the National Council sits on the Forum coordination committee.	**Medium** Relevant mainly to countries that are also donors.	PLANNING

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Vision Building and Strategic Alignment	**IT-2.01** Structure the national sustainable development strategic framework building on the principles of transversality and integration of the SDGs.	CITE + MASE	NSDS is structured along the five Ps of the 2030 Agenda, articulated in National Strategic Choices, National Strategic Objectives associated to targets and Indicators. It also contains the definition of the enabling conditions named "Vectors of Sustainability".	The specific structure of the NSDS allows for adapting SDGs at the national and sub-national context, gaining in terms of ownership. It also provides the systemic environment to allow PCSD and multilevel governance to enable the implementation processes.	**High**	PLANNING
	IT-2.02 Include in the national sustainable development strategic framework a specific section dedicated to the governance and enabling conditions for the achievement of the framework and its localization.	CITE + MASE	By integrating in its structure a set of enabling conditions, the NSDS can ensure implementation all along its policy-cycle through multilevel and multistakeholder approach. The enabling factors break up siloes and unhinge fragmentation.	Italy's *Sustainability Vectors* are designed in order to be the enabling conditions for achieving the NSDS objectives. They cover PCSD, culture for sustainability and participation, each broken into domains, objectives, work trajectories, instruments and relevant actors to be involved.	**High** The identification of enabling conditions is structural for the definition of NLF.	PLANNING
	IT-2.03 Build a shared multilevel context indicator base for the national sustainable development framework allowing also for territorial disaggregation.	National Working Group for the Monitoring of the NSDS (MASE, MEF, MAECI, ISTAT, ISPRA	Core set of few indicators that align with IAEG-SDGs indicators applicable to Italy and selected by the ISTAT, and in close synergy with the BES indicator system. The indicators were selected on the basis of their parsimony, feasibility, timeliness, sensitivity to public policies, territorial availability.	The National Working Group for the Monitoring of the NSDS selected 83 core context indicators that form the integrated monitoring system to measure the contribution of sectoral policies and of the territorial Strategies for Sustainable Development to the NSDS.	**High**	DATA
Strategic Prioritization and Transformation Pathways	**IT-2.04** Structure a PCSD National Action Plan (PCSD NAP), including and linking to multilevel governance, according to a diagnostic on PCSD, so findings map directly onto commitments.	MASE	The PCSD NAP responds to the Governance Scan on Italy's PCSD Recommendations and adapt them to its national and territorial context. It is organized in Expected results, actions and targets.	The 2023 revised NSDS institutionalized the PCSD NAP including it as an annex. The PCSD NAP is organized on 3 blocks, vision and leadership, institutional mechanisms, policy and financing impacts, as suggested by the 2021 OECD Governance Scan. The 2026 NSDS embodies the PCSD NAP contents and directly provides mechanisms, tools and work trajectories to fully implement it. The NAP still remains an annex to the Strategy.	**High** Requires budget for specialized technical assistance, and it is what makes the diagnostic auditable later.	PLANNING

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
	IT-2.05 Use the UNEP-OECD Monitoring Framework on PCSD included in the IAEG-SDGs indicator framework as a national self- assessment to design and monitor the PCSD NAP.	MASE	Italy reports regularly. In 2026, ISTAT included the 17.14.1 monitoring into its 2026 SDGs Report.	SDG 17.14.1 instrument scores 8 themes on a 0-to-4 scale with worked examples per level, and Italy reports against it regularly. PCSD NAP allowed Italy to score high.	**High** The rubric is public and needs no external consultant.	DATA
	IT-2.06 Localize the PCSD framework and its monitoring through process indicators, reflecting implementation at territorial level.	MASE with Territorial Working Groups	57 Process indicators published for the 35 territorial administrations (all Regions, Autonomous Provinces, Metropolitan Cities) in the 2026 VNR, banded high, medium, low.	An annual territorial questionnaire covers all the 35 regions, autonomous provinces and metropolitan cities, producing coded process indicators banded high, medium and low.	**High** Low cost, and it generates the maturity gradient.	DATA
	IT-2.07 Introduce strategic foresight in the policy cycle of the national sustainable development strategic framework, including into its revision cycle.	MASE – SNA (School of Public Administration)	The NSDS 2026 revision process has for the first time launched an experimental path to factor in foresight as a criterion for the update of the NSDS.	MASE has entered in an agreement with the School of Public Administration to enact Expected Outcome 1.5 of the PAN PCSD, entailing the mainstreaming of the strategic foresight in the revision process of the NSDS. The project has developed a methodology which will inform a next cycle of training programmes by SNA at central and territorial level.	**Medium** Requires methodological capacity.	PLANNING
	IT-2.08 Integrate the intergenerational dimension into the coherence instruments themselves, not only into consultation.	MASE with youth organizations	Co-design exercise conducted on European Youth Forum tools; integration into the instruments in progress.	A co-design exercise builds on European Youth Forum tools to assess how decisions affect younger generations over short, medium and long terms.	**High** Second-order and often overlooked.	PARTNERSHIP
	IT-2.09 Run the international reporting exercise on the 2030 Agenda (VNR) and the revision of the national sustainable development strategic framework as one time-aligned process, ensuring the integration of territorial processes and stakeholders' perspectives.	MASE with MAECI	VNR/VLR process and NSDS revision are synchronised since 2017VNR.	The VNR 2026, integrating 14 Voluntary Local Reviews, the first Italy Youth Voluntary Review, and the Position Papers of the Forum for the Sustainable Development, feeds the update due at the end of the same year.	**High** Purely a sequencing decision.	GOVERNANCE

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Implementation and Investment Planning	**IT-3.01** The implementation of the NSDS is anchored in the enabling conditions, the Sustainability Vectors, that are operationalized through the Fund for sustainable development.	CIPESS + MASE as custodian	The Fund has allowed, since 2018: the definition and implementation of 3 cycles of bilateral agreements with all Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities; the publication of several public tenders with more than 80 projects funded; the establishment of institutional agreements; the organization of several meetings, workshops, Conferences, trainings, laboratories, etc.; the realization of international initiatives as the Partnership Platform; the provision of technical assistance for accompanying the process.	CIPESS approves the triannual financial programming of the NSDS, defining the budget according to the three Sustainability Vectors.	**Medium** Depends on the availability of a specific budget dedicated to the implementation of actions for achieving the enabling conditions.	PARTNERSHIP
	IT-3.02 Assess the main national investment programming instrument against strategy objectives, then link the assessment to actual financial allocations.	MASE + Department for Cohesion Policies and the South	182 intervention fields assessed; programmed resources attached to each strategic choice (Prosperity 54, People 23, Peace 12, Planet 11 per cent).	The internal coherence matrix applied to the EU Partnership Agreement 2021-2027 covered 182 intervention fields through impact, magnitude and product sub-matrices, then attached programmed resources to each strategic choice.	**Medium** The method transfers; the scale of analysis assumes strong technical capacity.	PARTNERSHIP
	IT-3.03 Pilot the mapping of the Annual Economic and Financial Document (DEF) and of the State budgeting against the NSDS, connecting SD objectives to budget missions and programmes.	Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) with MASE	Pilot completed on mapping the NSDS	A pilot exercise with ENEA maps NSDS against the first two classification levels of the State Budget. Further mapping is currently ongoing on regional and metropolitan level (DEFR/DUP).	**Medium**	PARTNERSHIP
	IT-3.04 Support subnational governments in reflecting sustainable development strategies at their level in subnational economic and financial planning documents.	Regions, Autonomous Provinces, Metropolitan Cities + MASE as facilitator	Around 45 per cent of territorial administrations use coherence tools in their financial planning documents.	Regional Economic and Financial Documents and Single Programming Documents integrate the strategies; around 45 per cent of territorial administrations use coherence tools to this aim (refer to VNLYR2026).	**High** Adaptable to any context, provided technical assistance on methodological skills on PCSD	PARTNERSHIP

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Operational Readiness and Capacity Development	**IT-3.05** Develop coherence tools anchored to the national and sub-national sustainable development strategic frameworks and use them for integrated multilevel policy-making and monitoring along the policy-cycle.	MASE	The coherence tools have supported the work of mainstreaming the implementation and monitoring of the NSDS and of the RSDS and Metropolitan Sustainable Development Agenda into other sectoral policies by mapping synergies, trade-offs and spillovers. They also set the framework for integrated policymaking.	Indicated by the Italian PCSD NAP, three coherent tools were developed: the External and Internal Coherence Matrices, the Coherence Fiche, the Indicators Dashboard, included into the multilevel monitoring system of the NSDS. They have been experimented in nine central administrations and in four Regions.	**High** Adaptable to any context, provided adequate technical support	PLANNING
	IT-3.06 Equip the coordination mechanisms dedicated to the implementation of the national and territorial sustainable development strategic framework with coherence tools.	MASE	The coherence tools become vehicles for enhanced coordination, dialogue and interaction within the "Interministerial Group for the NSDS implementation and revision" and the "Territorial Working Groups" reuniting Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities. 43% of territorial administrations currently declare to use coherence tools.	The use of coherence tools has been piloted within the "Interministerial Group for the NSDS implementation and revision" and of the "Territorial Working Groups" reuniting Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities. Under both spaces, they represent a structured modality for policy investigation and alignment with the NSDS and the territorial frameworks. When transposed at local level, the coherence tools have worked in the same direction anchoring in the Regional Sustainable Development Strategies and in the Metropolitan Sustainable Development Agendas.	**High** Adaptable to any context, provided technical assistance on developing methodological skills on PCSD.	PLANNING
	IT-3.07 Map existing sectoral plans and programmes against the objectives of the sustainable development frameworks to reveal cumulative effects and intersectoral overlaps. (External coherence matrix for Policy integration)	Inter-ministerial Group for the implementation of the NSDS, regions	Eight programmatic instruments mapped since 2025 at national level. 57% of territorial administrations declare to map policies against the SD strategies.	The external coherence matrix has mapped eight programmatic instruments since 2025 within the Inter-ministerial Group. Further mapping has been developed in the 4 Regions involved into the TSI (Piemonte, Puglia, Marche, Sardegna) and in other territorial administrations.	**High** Can start with two or three instruments.	PLANNING

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
	IT-3.08 Complement formal coordination mechanisms meetings with operational multilevel laboratories as spaces for capacity-development, co-creation and trial.	MASE	More than 20 Labs organised in 2025/2026	Multilevel laboratories have been enhanced on five domains: localization, coherence for sustainable development, culture, participation and youth, and sustainable finance, involving central and territorial institutions and stakeholders. Further laboratories have been organised at national and regional level targeting strategic foresight and EU programming assessment through PCSD tools.	**High**	GOVERNANCE
	IT-3.09 Deliver training on the coherence instruments to subnational steering bodies and extend it to local authorities.	MASE with National school of Administration (SNA) and subnational administrations.	40 per cent of administrations train on the tools, 20 per cent on the fiche, 9 per cent reach local authorities.	Around 40 per cent of territorial administrations provide training on coherence tools, 20 per cent on the Coherence Fiche, and 9 per cent extend training to local authorities. Further training is foreseen at national and territorial level targeting strategic foresight and PCSD integration in 2027 in collaboration with SNA.	**High** The low rates are the instructive part.	DATA
Stakeholder Engagement and Change Mobilization	**IT-3.10** Establish an age-differentiated youth engagement architecture whose outputs feed the national sustainable development strategic framework.	MASE as the custodian + Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) + Ministry for the Education and Merit (MIM)	First Youth Voluntary Review published within the Voluntary National Review presented by Italy at the 2026 HLPF.	Two parallel but integrated pathways: an open call and workshops for ages 6–18 run with AICS and MIM, and a structured exercise with students, researchers and experts under 35 to integrate the youth perspective into the PCSD matrices and indicators.	**High** Adaptable to any context.	GOVERNANCE
	IT-3.11 Ensure the engagement of stakeholders and rights holders to the implementation, update and monitoring of the sustainable development frameworks at local, national and international level.	MASE	The Forum's Position Papers were included in the 2026 Italy VNR and contribute to the 2026 revision on the NSDS.	The Forum for Sustainable Development actively participates with the production of Position Papers, the annual organization of the National Conference for Sustainable Development, the codesign and the implementation of networking activities and the participation at national and international review mechanisms.	**High**	GOVERNANCE

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
	IT-3.12 Facilitate the implementation of initiatives and projects aiming at fostering the networking among stakeholders and to enhance the role of the Forum for Sustainable Development.	MASE	20 projects funded on culture for sustainability, with an award criterion for organizations part of the Forum for Sustainable Development.	Through the Fund for Sustainable Development, MASE has funded 20 projects supporting, awareness raising, networking, youth engagement, also supporting territorial processes.	**Medium** Subject to the availability of dedicated funds	GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Institutional Integration and Mainstreaming	**IT-4.01** Link the national and territorial sustainable development strategic frameworks to the administration's own organizational and performance planning instrument.	Regions, Autonomous Provinces and Metropolitan Cities.	Experiments are ongoing to make the NSDS, the RSDS and the Metropolitan Sustainable Development Agendas used as the reference frameworks for steering and assessing the production of public territorial value.	At territorial level the strategies connect to the Integrated Plan of Activity and Organisation, becoming the frame for assessing capacity to produce public territorial value.	**Medium** Depends on an equivalent instrument existing.	PLANNING
Project Pipeline Development and Investment Facilitation	**IT-4.02** Promote the standardization of ESG information requested to SMEs for sustainability reporting and for access to incentives, to reduce the burden placed on them.	Sustainable Finance Platform – chaired by the MEF and composed of the MASE, the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy, Bank of Italy, CONSOB, IVASS, and COVIP.	The Document for the Sustainability dialogue between SMEs and Banks published on December 2024 (40 ESG indicators, 61 stakeholders consulted) and currently under update.	The Initiative provided an enabling environment on sustainable finance, including relevant actors from institutions, banking sector, insurance sector. Moving from the SMEs - banks sustainability document, the current update widens the scope to insurances reducing the ESG indicators in order to further ease the exercise for micro, small and medium enterprises.	**Medium** Presupposes a functioning banking supervision architecture.	PARTNERSHIP

IT-4.03 Enhance the contribution of enterprises to the achievement of sustainable development objectives at all territorial level.	MASE in collaboration with MEF, supporting the Sustainable Finance Platform	The "Sustainable Finance for SMEs Initiative" has been launched in 2026 engaging research institutions and the chambers of commerce system	The Initiative is expected to support companies and SMEs in completing and returning sustainability information, strengthening ESG capacity building, informing strategic choices through data-driven evidence, and mobilising territorial networks for the initiative's widespread dissemination, building on the implementation processes from regional strategies and metropolitan agendas for sustainable development.	**Low** Follows the definition of shared ESG standards at national level	PARTNERSHIP
IT-4.04 Use competitive calls with a mandatory partnership criterion to generate a pipeline of initiatives supporting localization processes.	MASE	Around 80 projects funded since 2018 on research and integrated action.	Through the Fund for Sustainable Development, MASE have funded several projects supporting national and territorial sustainable development processes, accordingly to the objectives and directions indicated in the Sustainability Vectors.	**Medium** Subject to the availability of dedicated funds	PARTNERSHIP

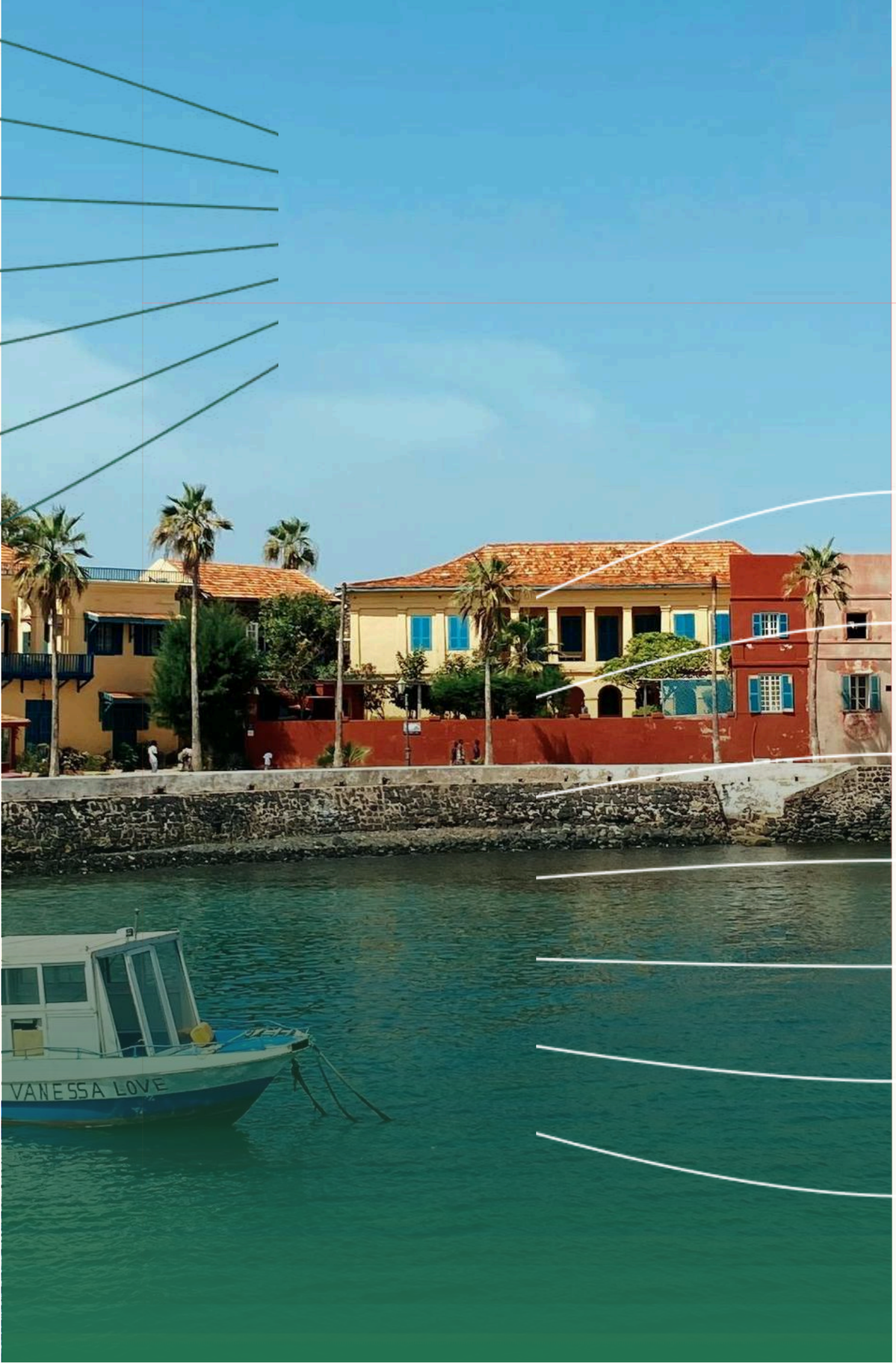
LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFER-ABILITY	ENABLER
Performance Monitoring and System Review	**IT-5.01** Build a three-tier indicator architecture combining context, performance and process measures.	MASE with the National Monitoring Working Group	Integrated, multilevel monitoring system operational; 83 context indicators selected among UN IAEG set to guarantee international comparison; 57 process indicators built on territorial surveys led by MASE; shared performance indicators currently under testing.	The integrated monitoring system of the strategy combines the three tiers, with process indicators related to the implementation of the PCSD NAP and of the Vectors for sustainability. They are used to qualify the process and feed foresight analysis.	**High**	DATA
	IT-5.02 Guarantee periodic reporting on the implementation of the national sustainable development frameworks.	MASE with the National Monitoring Working Group	An annual monitoring report on the NSDS is published in Italy since 2018, including implemented initiatives and indicators trends in the achievement of NSDS objectives. Since 2026, process indicators are included in the report.	The NSDS monitoring report joins the annual ISTAT/SISTAN report on the SDGs, published since 2016. Since 2026, the ISTAT SDG report includes the 17.14.1 indicator on PCSD.	**High**	DATA
	IT-5.03 Run periodic meetings of the National Working Group for the monitoring of the NSDS.	MASE (with MEF, MAECI, ISTAT, ISPRA)	Annual report to CIPESS since 2018.	The National Working Group for strategy monitoring has operated since 2018 with MASE, the finance and foreign affairs ministries, ISTAT, ISPRA and PM departments, reporting annually to CIPESS. It selects the indicators for the NSDS and works to their full localisation.	**High**	GOVERNANCE DATA

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	RESULT	ITALIAN EVIDENCE	TRANSFER-ABILITY	ENABLER
	IT-5.04 Align the NSDS indicator system with the national wellbeing measurement already embedded in the budget cycle.	ISTAT with MEF	57 measures shared between the SDG and wellbeing sets; wellbeing indicators embedded in the Economic and Financial Document.	57 statistical measures are shared between the SDG set and the Equitable and Sustainable Wellbeing system, whose indicators enter the Economic and Financial Document.	Medium The single most reusable design decision in the Italian system.	DATA
Reporting and Accountability	**IT-5.05** Integrate subnational voluntary reviews into the national review as constituent parts rather than annexes.	MASE with reporting territories	Fourteen local reviews integrated in the 2026 national review, plus one territorial youth review.	The integration between VNR and VLRs follows a six month collaborative path where 5 VNR/VLR Labs have been coordinated by MASE to share formats, structure and contents, while defining the overall territorial picture to feed the VNR. 2 Youth Voluntary Local Reviews have also been integrated, following joined elaboration paths through territorial workshops and seminars.	High	GOVERNANCE
	IT-5.06 Extend the national review to an explicitly intergenerational format.	MASE with AICS	The 2026 review published as a national-local-youth review, the youth volume self-standing yet integral.	The review is published as a Voluntary National Local Youth Review, related to 2 territorial youth reviews. The review is designed to return the results of the youth engagement process launched in 2026 including awareness raising and integration of the intergenerational perspective into the PCSD tools. Mapping of relevant initiatives on sustainable development is also provided, to ease networking.	High	GOVERNANCE
	IT-5.07 Invite the supreme audit institution to integrate the strategy into its audit reporting.	Court of Auditors	Action defined in the coherence plan; implementation not documented in the corpus.	Action 3.4.1 of the PAN PCSD concerns the Court of Auditors.	High	PLANNING
Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement	**IT-5.08** Use the mandatory revision cycle to convert lessons learnt into the design of the next programming period.	MASE	Follow-up to the 2022 review shaped the strategy update and the fund programming for 2022- 2026.	Follow-up to the 2022 review shaped both the strategy update and the 2022-2026 Fund programmes; lessons from the 2026 review feed the end-2026 revision and the next Fund period.	High Depends on the mandatory cycle being in place.	PLANNING
	IT-5.09 Run international peer learning as a structured extension of the domestic architecture.	UN-Habitat with MASE	Partnership Platform active with UN-Habitat; review peer learning series running.	The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs with UN-Habitat, and the review peer learning series.	High	GOVERNANCE

List of References - Italy

1. Government of Italy — Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security (MASE). 2026. *Voluntary National Local Youth Review 2026* — Italy. Rome. Presented to the UN High-Level Political Forum, New York.
2. Government of Italy — MASE. 2026. *Youth Voluntary Review 2026.* Rome. Self-standing volume of the VNLYR.
3. MASE. 2022. *Strategia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile 2022 — testo aggiornato*. Rome. Adopted by the Interministerial Committee for Ecological Transition (CITE), 18 September 2023.
4. MASE. 2026. *Integration of Strategic Foresight into the Review and Implementation Process of the SNSvS and the National Programme for PCSD: Phases, Tools, Methods*. Rome, 30 January 2026. Working document shared by MASE.
5. OECD. 2022. *Italy's National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*. OECD Publishing, Paris.
6. OECD. 2021. *Italy Governance Scan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*. Paris.
7. OECD. 2019. *Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development*, OECD/LEGAL/0381. Paris.
8. UN-Habitat. 2022. *Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization.* Nairobi. Principal authors: A. Agostinucci, M. Belletti and M. Biggeri (ARCO / University of Florence). Italy case study, p. 60.
9. ARCO — PIN, Università di Firenze, with MASE. 2024. *Linee Guida per la redazione delle Voluntary Local Review in Italia.*
10. Decreto Legislativo 152/2006, art. 34, as amended by Legge 221/2015.
11. Legge 125/2014, general framework on international development cooperation.
12. CIPE Resolution 108/2017, approving the first National Sustainable Development Strategy.
13. CITE Resolution 1/2023, establishing the Inter-ministerial Group for the SNSvS.
14. United Nations High-Level Political Forum. 2026. *Italy — Voluntary National Reviews 2026* country page, including 14 Voluntary Local Reviews and one territorial Youth Voluntary Review.



2. Senegal

Building an NLF through the territorialization of national development

SENEGAL

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Senegal is building its National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) as it rolls out a new development model. In October 2024 the government adopted the **National Transformation Agenda (ANT)**, known as **Senegal Vision 2050**, which replaced the Plan Senegal Émergent. Vision 2050 is implemented through a **2025–2034 Masterplan** and a **National Development Strategy (SND) 2025–2029**, and it introduces, for the first time, a dedicated pillar on territorial development: **eight territorial poles meant to take the country out of Dakar's macrocephaly**. Each pole is to be equipped with a **Master Plan for Territorial Planning and Development (SDADT)**, whose results will feed the revision of the **National Plan for Territorial Planning and Development (PNADT)** and of the **Orientation Law for Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development (LOADT)**. A **reform of decentralization (Act IV)**, giving it an explicit economic dimension, is in preparation.

The territorial imbalance is the core challenge. The Dakar pole produces about 75% of national GDP, and the urban share of the population is expected to reach 70% by 2050. Poverty stood at 37.5% nationally (2021), and at 51.1% in the South pole (2018). Despite the 2013 Act III of Decentralization, local governments still lack resources, disaggregated data and coordination with the national level. Senegal has strong SDG reporting experience: **VNRs in 2018 and 2022**, and a **third VNR presented at the HLPF in July 2026.**

Entry point: The NLF is anchored in the territorialization of Vision 2050. It works through instruments the **Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Development (MUCTAT)** was already producing — **the pole SDADTs, the PNADT/LOADT revision, the National Urban Policy (NUP)** — and connects them to the **VNR 2026 through Voluntary Local Reviews.** Countries that are redrawing their territorial architecture have the same entry available: the SDGs are built into the new spatial plans while they are drafted.

STARTING CONDITIONS

	Assets to build on	Gaps the NLF addresses
MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	Vision 2050 territorial pillar; MUCTAT as single driver of territorialization; network of local development agencies; Saint-Louis ARD multistakeholder SDG governance mechanism.	Weak coordination between national and local levels; Act IV reform still in preparation; low participation of local authorities, private sector and Ministry of Economy in SDADT work.
POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	SND 2025–2029; SDADT process engaged since February 2025 for pilot poles; NUP under preparation with UN-Habitat; SDG integration in national planning.	National, spatial and urban planning processes progressing in parallel; PNADT and LOADT due for revision.
PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	FIADT, a territorial planning impulse fund, planned by ANAT; Municipal Development Agency and City Contract.	Local governments lack resources; fiscal decentralization architecture under review; large structuring projects exceed local capacity.
DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS	Spatial Development Framework (2023) built on the Matrix of Functions; National Territorial Observatory (ONT); ANSD.	Limited disaggregated local data for SDG tracking; territorial information systems fragmented.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The NLF is led by **MUCTAT**, jointly with the **Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (METE)**, under a **Letter of Intent** signed by the **Minister of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Development** on 25 August 2025. The **National Agency for Territorial Development (ANAT)** leads the SDADTs, the PNADT revision, the ONT and the FIADT. The **Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning** coordinates national development strategies and the VNR; the **Ministry of Youth and Sports** brings the Youth Olympic Games 2026 dimension; the **Ministry of Finance and Budget, ANSD and the Ministry of African Integration and Foreign Affairs** complete the national core. Civil society takes part through Enda ECOPOP.

At subnational level, the **Local Development Agency (ADL)**, the **Regional Development Agencies (ARD)** and the **Municipal Development Agency (ADM)** link the ministry to local governments. Three pilot territories were selected for their demographic and territorial relevance, alignment with the territorial pole reform and ongoing programmes: **Pikine** (Dakar pole, high urban density), **Saint-Louis** (North pole, UNESCO heritage and coastal erosion) and **Ziguinchor** (South pole, significant development challenges). These pilots provide diverse territorial contexts for testing and adapting the NLF approach within Senegal's emerging territorial development framework.

NLF DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Senegal activates the NLF at three scales at once. At national level, it **grounds the PNADT revision in pole-level evidence**, through an **updated Spatial Development Framework** and a **strengthened ONT**. At pole level, it **merges planning and review**: in the **North pole, the SDADT doubles as the pole's VLR**. At city level, Pikine **combines an Action-Oriented VLR with the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP)** tool. Local evidence then travels back up: preliminary results of the Pikine VLR were incorporated into the VNR 2026. **The same governance architecture was used to mobilize finance, securing USD 3 million from the Joint SDG Fund for a South pole guarantee fund.**

ENABLER COVERAGE

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	**Dense**. A multilevel steering committee led by MUCTAT, city and pole task forces, and existing regional committees. More than 50 institutions were mobilized across more than 100 meetings and workshops in less than a year.
POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	**Dense**. SDADTs for the pilot poles, PNADT/LOADT revision, NUP and VNR 2026 connected under one framework.
PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	**Emerging, with a first result.** Fiscal space assessments, FIADT design, fiscal decentralization review, and the Joint SDG Fund guarantee fund for the South pole, expected to leverage about USD 24 million.
DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS	**Strong**. Spatial Development Framework, localized indicator frameworks, CityRAP participatory mapping and the ONT.

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Institutional Anchoring and Political Mobilization	**SN-1.01** Formalize national political commitment to the NLF through an official mandate from the responsible authorities.	MUCTAT	LoI signed on 25 August 2025; letters for Pikine and Saint-Louis signed, Ziguinchor pending.	**High** Any country joining a multi-country localization initiative.	GOVERNANCE
	SN-1.02 Embed the NLF in ongoing national development, territorial and urban planning, SDG reporting and UN cooperation processes to align implementation rather than create parallel structures.	MUCTAT; ANAT; Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning; UN Country Team	SDGs embedded in the new territorial architecture while its instruments are drafted.Territorial poles are one of the four UNSDCF 2024–2028 priorities; a joint programme with the UN Resident Coordinator, FAO, ILO and UNIDO builds directly on the NLF.	**Medium** Countries redesigning their territorial planning system.	PLANNING PARTNERSHIP
	SN-1.03 Maintain political and technical leadership across relevant ministries through structured interministerial coordination.	MUCTAT; METE; Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning; Ministry of Youth and Sports	More than 50 institutions mobilized across more than 100 meetings and workshops in less than one year.	**High** Universal.	GOVERNANCE
	SN-1.04 Engage national statistical institutions and stakeholders responsible for SDG monitoring and reporting from the outset to integrate existing data systems and reporting processes within the NLF.	ANSD, ministry responsible for national SDG reporting, MUCTAT.	Early engagement of SDG data and reporting institutions, with agreed coordination arrangements linking existing monitoring systems to the NLF.	**High** Countries with existing SDG monitoring and reporting institutions.	DATA
Scoping and Capacity Diagnostics	**SN-1.05** Conduct national and local scoping to map institutional stakeholders, policy entry points and implementation gaps for NLF design.	MUCTAT; UN-Habitat	Stakeholder engagement plan, policy map, scoping workshop and launch.	**High** Universal first step.	GOVERNANCE
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	**SN-1.06** Establish multilevel political steering and technical coordination arrangements with national and subnational representation.	MUCTAT; ministries; local governments; Enda ECOPOP	Committee already established. Periodic meetings under a programme of work are expected.	**High** Countries where no single body covers both national and subnational levels.	GOVERNANCE
	SN-1.07 Establish local SDG localization task forces to coordinate data collection, stakeholder engagement, VLR preparation and local priorities.	Municipality of Pikine; Saint-Louis and Ziguinchor; MUCTAT; ANAT	Task forces set up in Pikine, Saint-Louis and Ziguinchor; Pikine roadmap and focal points confirmed in March 2026.	**High** Any city preparing a VLR.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING DATA
	SN-1.08 Use existing regional coordination bodies and local development agencies as the NLF delivery interface between national and local governments.	ARD Saint-Louis; ADL; ADM; regional technical committees	NLF delivered through structures that already link the ministry and local governments.	**Medium** Countries with a network of regional or local development agencies.	GOVERNANCE

Process Planning and Resource Mobilization	**SN-1.09** Align the NLF roadmap with governance reforms, planning and reporting cycles, and key implementation milestones.	MUCTAT; UN-Habitat; Pikine Task Force; ANSD	Workplan 2025–2026 with tracked status per activity. Pikine data workplan in four phases (February–November 2026), with field collection from 21 August to 14 September 2026.	**Medium** Countries where several reforms and reporting cycles overlap.	GOVERNANCE, PLANNING, DATA

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	**SN-2.01** Update spatial development evidence using a functional territorial analysis to inform national territorial planning reforms.	ANAT; UN-Habitat; ECA	SDF analysis and report in August–September 2026; SDF Guidelines launched in Urban October 2026.	**High** The Matrix of Functions is designed for data-scarce contexts.	DATA, PLANNING
	SN-2.02 Develop localized SDG indicator frameworks aligned with national indicators and the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, addressing local data gaps.	SDG Cities Task Forces; ANSD; Ministry of Youth and Sports	Achieved in Pikine: indicators, data gaps, collection. Expected in Ziguinchor from September 2026.	**High** Any city preparing a VLR; the sport thread adapts to any national event.	DATA
	SN-2.03 Combine the VLR with CityRAP participatory risk mapping tool at city and neighbourhood level.	Pikine Task Force; community representatives	About eight vulnerable priority neighbourhoods identified, shaping the VLR's SDG priorities.	**High** Designed for small and intermediate cities with little outside expertise.	DATA, PLANNING
Vision Building and Strategic Alignment	**SN-2.04** Co-produce SDG-aligned territorial development plans through successive diagnosis, participatory visioning and joint drafting with technical and financing partners.	ANAT; regional technical committees; ARD; local governments; SAED; ADM/World Bank; UNIDO	Centre and North pole diagnostics achieved; North pole drafting retreat. North pole SDADT expected to be adopted by MUCTAT in December 2026. Partner review of the draft in October 2026; partners expected to align their portfolios with SDADT priorities.	**Medium** Countries with a regional planning instrument in preparation.	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP
	SN-2.05 Integrate SDG progress review directly into territorial spatial planning so one process informs both the development plan and the territorial VLR.	ANAT; ARD Saint-Louis; Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning	One North pole report serving as both SDADT and VLR.	**Medium** Requires a regional plan being drafted at the same time as the review.	PLANNING
	SN-2.06 Convene local stakeholders and authorities to develop shared territorial visions and agree on priority actions.	Pikine Task Force; municipal focal points; community representatives	Agreed priority challenges and vision statement, October 2026.	**High** Universal at city level.	GOVERNANCE
Strategic Prioritization and Transformation Pathways	**SN-2.07** Screen territorial action-plan projects for technical readiness, financial feasibility, implementation risks and consistency with national investment portfolios.	ANAT; regional technical committee	Prioritized priority action plan; operational launch in Q1 2027.	**High** Any plan with an investment programme.	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP
	SN-2.08 Phase priority local actions by time horizon, assigning implementation responsibilities and potential financing sources.	Pikine Task Force; UN-Habitat	Resilience Framework for Action and list of policy recommendations.	**High** Universal at city level.	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Implementation and Investment Planning	**SN-3.01** Prepare Action-Oriented VLRs to translate local SDG evidence into priority actions, projects and implementation decisions.	SDG Cities Task Forces; ANAT; MUCTAT	Pikine VLR launched in late 2026; Ziguinchor VLR by December 2026.	**High** Cities that want their review to drive planning and budgeting.	PLANNING, DATA
	SN-3.02 Feed evidence and priorities from subnational territorial plans into revisions of national spatial planning frameworks and regulations.	MUCTAT; ANAT	Revision starting in the second half of 2026.	**Medium** Countries with a national spatial plan due for revision.	PLANNING, DATA
	SN-3.03 Align territorial SDG action plans and priority project pipelines with public budgets, national financing instruments and development partner programmes to identify funding opportunities and resource gaps.	MUCTAT; ANAT; Ministries of Economy and Finance; local governments	Funding opportunities and resource gaps mapped against territorial priorities and project pipelines.	**High** Countries aligning territorial priorities with financing opportunities.	PARTNERSHIP
Operational Readiness and Capacity Development	**SN-3.04** Assess institutional capacity gaps and deliver modular training-of-trainers on territorial analysis and spatial planning tools.	ANAT; UN-Habitat; ECA	Capacity gaps assessed. One-week training in Urban October 2026 is expected.	**High** Universal.	GOVERNANCE
Stakeholder Engagement and Change Mobilization	**SN-3.05** Consult communities and economic actors on draft local SDG reviews and territorial plans before validation and wider dissemination.	Pikine Task Force; ARD; regional planning services	Consultation of 80–100 people on World Cities Day; local ownership of the SDADT in three departments.	**High** Universal.	GOVERNANCE

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Institutional Integration and Mainstreaming	**SN-4.01** Establish a catalytic territorial development financing mechanism that funds priority plans and supports their implementation.	ANAT; Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning	FIADT operational and linked to city funding strategies.	**Medium** Countries ready to create a dedicated territorial fund.	PARTNERSHIP
	SN-4.02 Review intergovernmental fiscal arrangements and propose reforms that increase local resources for territorially aligned SDG investment.	Ministry of Finance and Budget; MUCTAT	Policy recommendations to strengthen fiscal decentralization and scale the SDG Cities approach through national allocation.	**Medium** Countries with decentralization reform under way.	PARTNERSHIP

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Project Pipeline Development and Investment Facilitation	**SN-4.03** Assess municipal fiscal space, financial capacity and revenue potential to inform local investment and funding strategies.	Municipalities of Pikine and Ziguinchor; UN-Habitat	Fiscal space assessments and broad financial strategies; municipal financial data already collected in Pikine.	**High** Universal at local level.	PARTNERSHIP
	SN-4.04 Use NLF multilevel governance partnerships to develop joint programmes and blended-risk financing instruments for underserved territories.	UN-Habitat, FAO, ILO and UNIDO; MUCTAT; ANAT; MEPC; METE; ARDs	USD 3 million secured from the Joint SDG Fund for Casamance (Ziguinchor, Kolda, Sédhiou). Expected: about USD 24 million in additional financing.	**Medium** Requires access to a pooled fund and an operational governance structure.	PARTNERSHIP
	SN-4.05 Translate catalytic project pipelines emerging from VLRs and territorial plans into costed, financially assessed proposals for potential financing partners.	Pilot municipalities; ANAT; METE	Pre-identified pipeline for Pikine; proposals ready for financing.	**High** Universal.	PARTNERSHIP
Delivery Support and Capacity Strengthening	**SN-4.06** Create national-level support arrangements for strategic territorial projects beyond local delivery capacity, aligned with development-partner investments.	MUCTAT; Development partners	National carrying of large projects (second Saint-Louis bridge, highway to Rosso, railway); priority financing for the North agropole.	**Medium** Countries with large regional infrastructure programmes.	PARTNERSHIP

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Performance Monitoring and System Review	**SN-5.01** Strengthen national territorial observatories and interoperable subnational data systems to monitor spatial plans and localized SDG progress.	ANAT; ARD	ONT assessed and web platform supported; North pole reference geodatabase finalized.	**Medium** Countries with a territorial observatory or spatial data infrastructure.	DATA
Reporting and Accountability	**SN-5.02** Integrate VLR findings into the VNR through a dedicated SDG localization and territorialization section, strengthening national and local ownership of SDG reporting.	Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning; MUCTAT; Municipality of Pikine	Pikine preliminary results and co-created localization message integrated in the VNR 2026, presented at HLPF. Multi-level political ownership secured through the VNR localization process.	**High** Any country preparing a VNR.	PLANNING DATA
Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement	**SN-5.03** Engage national and local stakeholders in international SDG localization peer learning and integrate lessons into NLF implementation.	MUCTAT; ministries; Municipality of Pikine	New dialogue between the national government and the Pikine Task Force.	**High** Universal.	GOVERNANCE
	SN-5.04 Organize a national NLF launch event to connect national and territorial planning instruments, urban policies, and VNR–VLR processes, building momentum for implementation and scale-up.	MUCTAT; ANAT; Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning	National event planned for December 2026; shift from reporting to implementation.	**High** Countries piloting before national roll-out.	GOVERNANCE

List of References - Senegal

1. UN-Habitat. 2025. *Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs — Senegal Project Document.* Nairobi / Dakar.
2. UN-Habitat. 2026. *Detailed Milestones and Workplan, Senegal Country Office* — Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, 2025–2026. Working document.
3. UN-Habitat. 2026. *Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs — National SDG Localization Framework Implementation Updates in Senegal and Tunisia.* Internal update.
4. UN-Habitat and City of Pikine. 2026. *Chronologie des activités VLR/CityRAP — Pikine.* Pikine Task Force work plan.
5. Republic of Senegal — MUCTAT / ANAT. 2026. *Élaboration du Schéma directeur d'aménagement et de développement territorial du Pôle-Territoire Nord (SDADT-PTN) — Rapport de l'atelier de retraite de finalisation*, Saint-Louis, 20–22 July 2026. With UN-Habitat, SAED, ADM/World Bank and UNIDO.
6. Republic of Senegal. 2024. *Agenda National de Transformation — Sénégal 2050.* Adopted October 2024.
7. Republic of Senegal — Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation. 2025. *Stratégie Nationale de Développement 2025–2029.*
8. Republic of Senegal — MUCTAT / ANAT. *Plan National d'Aménagement et de Développement Territorial (PNADT)* and *Loi d'Orientation pour l'Aménagement et le Développement Durable des Territoires (LOADT).* Under revision from 2026.
9. Republic of Senegal. 2013. *Acte III de la Décentralisation (Code général des collectivités territoriales).*
10. Republic of Senegal. 2018, 2022 and 2026. *Voluntary National Reviews.* Presented to the UN High-Level Political Forum, New York.
11. UN-Habitat and ANAT. 2023. *Spatial Development Framework for Senegal — Matrix of Functions analysis.* Extended to The Gambia in 2025.
12. UN-Habitat. *City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) Tool.* Nairobi.
13. UN-Habitat. 2022. *Global Urban Monitoring Framework.* Nairobi.
14. UN-Habitat. *SDG Cities Global Initiative — methodology.* Nairobi.
15. Local2030 Coalition. *Bilbao Blueprint and SDG Localization Marker 2.0.*
16. *Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD). Statistical data 2021–2024. Dakar.*
17. *ANSD. 2018. Enquête harmonisée sur les conditions de vie des ménages (EHCVM). Source of the South pole poverty rate.*



Volume III
Country Solutions Catalogue

3. Tunisia

Building an NLF through bottom-up territorial action and evolving governance systems

TUNISIA

COUNTRY SNAPSHOT

Tunisia is building its National SDG Localization Framework (NLF) at a moment when most of its planning and governance architecture is being redesigned at once. The 2022 Constitution created **local, regional and district councils**, all recognized as local authorities, and a **National Council of Regions and Districts (NCRD)** acting as a second legislative chamber. A revision of the **Local Government Code** was announced in 2025, and a new **organic law on municipalities** is expected ahead of the next municipal elections. In parallel, the **National Development Plan (NDP) 2026–2030** was prepared through a **bottom-up process** and approved by Law No. 2026-16, while the **National Territorial Master Plan (SDATN) 2050** is at diagnostic stage.

Tunisia has a solid record on SDG reporting: **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) in 2019 and 2021**, a **third VNR in 2026**, and the first **Voluntary Local Review (VLR)** in the country, prepared by the **municipality of Ennour** in 2024 with UN-Habitat and ESCWA — the second VLR in North Africa. Development outcomes remain uneven across territories. Rural poverty reached 24.8% in 2021, roughly double the urban rate (12.7%). Tunisia ranked 20th worldwide for water stress in 2024, and around half of municipalities report having been affected by floods (51%) or droughts (50%).

Entry point. The NLF in Tunisia is anchored on **five planning and reporting processes** that were open at the same time: the **NDP 2026–2030, the SDATN 2050, the National Urban Policy (NUP), the National Housing Strategy (NHS) and the VNR 2026**. Countries going through a planning cycle or an institutional reform have the same entry available: the framework is built into instruments while they are being drafted, rather than added once they are adopted.

STARTING CONDITIONS

	Assets to build on	Gaps the NLF addresses
MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	New councils give local voices a formal channel into national planning; National Council of Regions and Districts (NCRD) reviews the development plan and state budget.	Mandates of the new councils still being clarified; the municipality has no defined place in the development planning chain; coordination across levels unclear.
POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	NDP 2026–2030 built bottom-up from local and regional proposals; NUP and NHS prepared with UN-Habitat; Tunisia Vision 2035 aligned with Agenda 2030.	Socio-economic planning (NDP) and spatial planning (SDATN) run as two chains with no formal articulation; NUP and NHS remain at strategy level, without action plans.
PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	Three national-to-local instruments: Common Fund for Local Authorities (FCCL), Local Authorities Loan and Support Fund (CPSCL), Community-Based Enterprises.	Instruments operate in silos; weak link between transfers, territorial priorities and SDG outcomes; local projects rarely finance-ready.
DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS	2024 General Population and Housing Census; INS SDG monitoring platform; national interoperability platform (2024) in four ministries.	Indicators rarely disaggregated to local level; uneven local capacity to use data for prioritization.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The NLF is implemented through the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs. National leadership is shared between the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs (diplomatic leadership on the 2030 Agenda and the VNR)** and the **Ministry of Economy and Planning (technical coordination of SDG implementation and lead on the NDP)**. The **Ministry of Equipment and Housing leads the SDATN, the NUP and the NHS**; the **Ministry of Interior oversees decentralization**; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is the counterpart of MASE's bilateral cooperation. The Ministry of Finance, the National Institute of Statistics (INS), the Tunisian Institute for Competitiveness and Quantitative Studies (ITCEQ) and the CPSCL complete the core group.

At local level, **five pilot municipalities** were selected with the Ministry of Interior, considering urban development and planning priorities, geographic diversity and prior engagement in sustainability initiatives. These include **Sejnane (Bizerte)**, **Sened (Gafsa)**, **Kélibia (Nabeul)**, **Bechri Fatnassa Negga (Kebili)** and **Zahret Medien (Beja)**. **Local and regional councils** and **Regional Development Offices** are involved alongside the municipalities, contributing to territorial coordination and implementation.

NLF DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION APPROACH

Tunisia's NLF connects policy coherence for sustainable development, territorial priorities and financing through existing national and local processes. At national level, a **dedicated PCSD mechanism** supports alignment between the NDP 2026–2030, SDATN 2050, National Urban Policy and National Housing Strategy, alongside efforts to localize the latter two policies' action plans.

At local level, the NLF is co-created with pilot municipalities through UN-Habitat's **SDG Cities methodology and Action-Oriented VLRs (AO-VLRs)**, building on local priorities and existing project portfolios to identify and prioritize high-impact interventions. This approach could inform **the prioritization of approximately 45,000 projects submitted to the NDP process.**

Assessments of national and local financing mechanisms and **municipal financing strategies** aim to connect prioritized projects with investment opportunities. VNR–VLR linkages integrate local evidence and priorities into national planning and reporting.

ENABLER COVERAGE

MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND COORDINATION ARRANGEMENTS	**Dense**. A multilevel steering committee and technical committee, city VLR task forces, and a PCSD mechanism designed to connect existing coordination bodies across sectors and levels.
POLICIES AND PLANNING PROCESSES	**Dense**. Five anchoring processes (NDP, SDATN, NUP, NHS, VNR), with coherence recommendations and sectoral action plans as the main outputs.
PARTNERSHIPS AND INVESTMENT PATHWAYS	**Emerging.** Assessments of national and local financing mechanisms, municipal fiscal space and financing strategies, alongside the prioritization of existing project portfolios and development of catalytic investment pipelines.
DATA AND MONITORING SYSTEMS	**Emerging**. Localized indicator frameworks aligned with national indicators and the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, City Scan for spatial gaps, and links to the INS platform.

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Institutional Anchoring and Political Mobilization	**TN-1.01** Formalize national political commitment to the NLF through an official mandate from the responsible authorities.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ministry of Economy and Planning	Official mandate for the NLF; LoI planned for March 2026, opening the implementation phase.	**High** Any country joining a multi-country localization initiative.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-1.02 Anchor the NLF in ongoing socioeconomic development planning, territorial and spatial planning, urban and housing policies, and SDG reporting, aligning implementation with their respective cycles.	Ministry of Economy and Planning; Ministry of Equipment and Housing	SDG localization embedded in national planning while instruments are drafted; no parallel planning track. 14 national and local plans, policies and strategies mapped to define entry points and timing.	**Medium** Countries in the middle of a planning cycle or strategy revision.	PLANNING
	TN-1.03 Maintain political and technical leadership across relevant ministries through structured interministerial coordination.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs; MEP; MEHAT; Ministry of Interior; Ministry of Agriculture	Sustained political ownership and alignment across ministries throughout implementation.	**High** Contexts with frequent institutional turnover.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-1.04 Engage development and financing partners early in NLF design to align technical support and funding interests with territorial priorities.	National NLF leadership; development partners; finance institutions; UN-Habitat	Partner mapping and early dialogue; agreed priorities for technical assistance and project preparation.	**High** Countries seeking alignment between planning and external support.	PARTNERSHIP
	TN-1.05 Engage national statistical institutions and stakeholders responsible for SDG monitoring and reporting from the outset to integrate existing data systems and reporting processes within the NLF.	INS, Ministry of Economy and Planning, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.	Early engagement of SDG data and reporting institutions, with agreed coordination arrangements linking existing monitoring systems to the NLF.	**High** Countries with existing SDG monitoring and reporting institutions.	DATA
Scoping and Capacity Diagnostics	**TN-1.06** Conduct national and local scoping to map institutional stakeholders, policy entry points and implementation gaps for NLF design.	UN-Habitat with MEP and Ministry of Interior; municipality of Sejnane for local scoping	Stakeholder engagement plan and policy map; scoping carried out from February 2025.	**High** Universal first step.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-1.07 Partner with universities and research institutions to strengthen territorial diagnostics, data analysis and applied learning throughout the NLF.	National technical team; municipalities; universities and research institutions	Academic collaboration arrangements; inputs to baseline studies, spatial analysis and peer learning.	**High** Countries with local universities or research networks.	DATA
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	**TN-1.08** Establish multilevel political steering and technical coordination arrangements with national and subnational representation.	National authorities with UN-Habitat; regional and local representatives	Committees meeting periodically to steer the NLF, from presentation of the project document onward.	**High** Countries where no single body covers both national and subnational levels.	GOVERNANCE

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	**TN-1.09** Design a PCSD mechanism that builds on existing coordination bodies, with flexible institutional arrangements that can accommodate changes in mandates and responsibilities as decentralization reforms unfold.	UN-Habitat PCSD team; MEHAT; MEP; Ministry of Environment	Diagnostic and methodology and mechanism v1 with tools and consultation, September–December 2026 (PCSD).	**Medium** Countries with dormant coordination bodies or reforms still in progress.	PLANNING
	TN-1.10 Establish local SDG localization task forces to coordinate data collection, stakeholder engagement, VLR preparation and local priorities.	Pilot municipalities; local and regional councils	City-level structure steering data collection, VLR drafting and project prioritization.	**High** Any municipality preparing a VLR.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING DATA
	TN-1.11 Give civil society organizations, including groups representing underserved communities, a defined role in NLF coordination and decisions.	National NLF coordination bodies; municipalities; civil society and inclusion-focused NGOs	Civil society engagement arrangements; documented inputs to NLF decisions and priority setting.	**High** Countries seeking more inclusive multilevel governance.	GOVERNANCE
Process Planning and Resource Mobilization	**TN-1.12** Align the NLF roadmap with governance reforms, planning and reporting cycles, and key implementation milestones.	UN-Habitat; Steering Committee	LoI, VNR integration, NUP/NHS action plans, NDP–SDATN recommendations, VLRs, pipelines, finance strategies.	**Medium** Countries where several reforms overlap in time.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING DATA
	TN-1.13 Plan the NLF endorsement and scale-up pathway early, defining institutional responsibilities, capacity needs and resources for replication.	National Steering Committee; relevant ministries; local government representatives	Consulted scale-up strategy and government endorsement pathway; phased rollout requirements.	**High** Countries planning to expand beyond pilot municipalities.	GOVERNANCE

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	**TN-2.01** Assess and prioritize existing project proposals against territorial needs, SDG impact and catalytic potential before generating new pipelines.	UN-Habitat; MEP; Pilot municipalities	Multi-criteria assessment of pilot cities' projects against their indicator frameworks and national, regional and local plans.	**Medium** Countries whose bottom-up planning produced large, unfiltered project inventories.	DATA PARTNERSHIP PLANNING
	TN-2.02 Develop localized SDG indicator frameworks aligned with national indicators and the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, addressing local data gaps.	VLR Task Forces; UN-Habitat; INS	Data gap assessment, localized indicator frameworks and cleaned quantitative, qualitative, spatial and financial data feeding the AO-VLRs.	**High** Countries where national statistics are not disaggregated below governorate level.	DATA

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	**TN-2.03** Assess policy coherence for sustainable development across national development, spatial and sectoral strategies using a common SDG-based matrix of synergies, trade-offs and governance gaps	UN-Habitat PCSD team; MEHAT; MEP	Horizontal and vertical coherence matrices; gaps classified as coordination failure, lack of integration (PCSD).	**High** Any country preparing a PCSD diagnostic.	PLANNING
	TN-2.04 Use municipal housing profiles and local evidence to identify gaps in national housing priorities and territorial delivery.	Housing ministry; municipalities; VLR teams; housing experts	Municipal housing profiles and evidence-based priorities feeding a localized housing action plan.	**High** Countries translating national housing strategies into territorial action.	PLANNING, DATA
	TN-2.05 Work with community organizations and inclusion-focused NGOs to identify underserved groups and barriers to accessing services and opportunities.	Municipalities; civil society and inclusion-focused NGOs; VLR Task Forces	Participatory needs assessments; inclusion-sensitive territorial priorities and evidence gaps.	**High** Countries seeking more inclusive territorial diagnostics.	GOVERNANCE, DATA
Vision Building and Strategic Alignment	**TN-2.06** Convene local stakeholders and authorities to develop shared territorial visions and agree on priority actions.	Pilot municipalities; local and regional councils; UN-Habitat	Shared vision per pilot city; coordination between municipalities and new councils tested in practice. Sejnane Local Development Plan reviewed with the Local Council.	**Medium** Decentralization reforms where new tiers coexist with municipalities.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-2.07 Organize expert meetings and interministerial seminar on PCSD between socioeconomic and spatial development planning, with ministries, regions, districts and local authorities.	MEP; MEHAT; UN-Habitat	Policy recommendations for multilevel implementation mechanisms of the NDP in coherence with the SDATN.	**Medium** Countries where socio-economic and spatial planning are led by different ministries.	PLANNING, GOVERNANCE
	TN-2.08 Test the PCSD mechanism against local financing challenges and priority initiatives, using findings to refine national coordination arrangements.	PCSD technical team; planning and housing ministries; finance institutions; municipalities	Territorial PCSD tests, documented coordination bottlenecks and revised mechanism.	**Medium** Countries developing a PCSD mechanism with territorial pilots.	PLANNING, PARTNERSHIP
	TN-2.09 Review local development plans against SDG evidence and community priorities to identify changes needed for coherent territorial action.	Municipalities; VLR Task Forces; local councils	Local plan improvement recommendations grounded in VLR evidence and agreed priorities.	**High** Countries with existing local plans requiring SDG alignment.	PLANNING
Strategic Prioritization and Transformation Pathways	**TN-2.10** Select an existing national sustainable-development or territorial strategy as the PCSD anchor by assessing mandates, governance reach and implementation potential.	Ministry of Environment; MEHAT; UN-Habitat PCSD team	Validated anchoring option — SNTE, SDATN or a combination — for the PCSD mechanism (PCSD).	**Low** Countries without a statutory sustainable development strategy.	PLANNING
	TN-2.11 Develop an SDG-aligned, locally grounded multicriteria method to prioritize catalytic projects for territorial transformation.	UN-Habitat; Pilot municipalities	Methodology applied in pilot cities, then proposed as a national framework applicable to other cities.	**High** Any country moving from project lists to prioritized pipelines.	PLANNING, DATA

ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Implementation and Investment Planning	**TN-3.01** Translate national urban and housing policies into costed implementation plans aligned with socioeconomic and spatial development strategies.	MEHAT; UN-Habitat	NUP and NHS action plans, planned for August 2026, moving both strategies from diagnosis to implementation.	Medium Countries with urban or housing policies adopted but not operationalized.	PLANNING, DATA
	TN-3.02 Prepare Action-Oriented VLRs to translate local SDG evidence into priority actions, projects and implementation decisions.	Pilot municipalities; VLR Task Forces; UN-Habitat	AO-VLRs completed and launched by March 2027, guiding city vision, project prioritization and budgeting.	High Cities that already report on the SDGs and want reports to drive investment.	PLANNING, DATA
	TN-3.03 Translate the national housing strategy into localized action plans that define territorial priorities, responsibilities and implementation measures.	Housing ministry; municipalities; regional and local institutions; UN-Habitat	Localized housing action plan, municipal profiles and practical implementation responsibilities.	High Countries with a national housing strategy requiring local delivery.	GOVERNANCE, PLANNING
	TN-3.04 Align territorial SDG action plans and priority project pipelines with public budgets, national financing instruments and development partner programmes to identify funding opportunities and resource gaps.	MEP; Ministry of Finance; CPSCL; pilot municipalities; development and financing partners; UN-Habitat	Funding opportunities and financing gaps identified for localized action plans and priority project pipelines.	High Countries linking local investment priorities to financing instruments.	PARTNERSHIP
Operational Readiness and Capacity Development	**TN-3.05** Assess national and municipal capacity needs and tailor modular SDG localization training to local implementation gaps.	UN-Habitat; Local2030 Coalition; Pilot municipalities	Demand-driven training on SDG localization, SDG Cities tools and the NLF methodology.	High Universal.	GOVERNANCE
Stakeholder Engagement and Change Mobilization	**TN-3.06** Strengthen municipal knowledge-sharing mechanisms to mobilize local expertise and inform SDG planning and implementation.	Pilot municipalities; UN-Habitat	Local knowledge mechanisms extended beyond the project team.	Low Municipalities with academic or expert networks.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-3.07 Involve community groups and inclusion-focused NGOs in validating local action priorities and shaping accessible implementation measures.	Municipalities; VLR Task Forces; civil society and inclusion-focused NGOs	Documented validation of priorities and inclusion measures embedded in local action planning.	High Countries seeking to translate participatory diagnosis into action.	GOVERNANCE, PLANNING
	TN-3.08 Develop a public communication approach that works with local media to explain SDG localization and invite citizen engagement.	NLF coordination team; municipalities; public communication units; local media	Public-facing communication materials, media partnerships and citizen information opportunities.	High Countries seeking wider public awareness and participation.	GOVERNANCE

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Institutional Integration and Mainstreaming	**TN-4.01** Review and align intergovernmental transfers, municipal lending and community-based financing mechanisms with territorial SDG priorities through policy dialogue.	Ministry of Finance; Ministry of Interior; CPSCL; National Employment Fund; UN-Habitat	Recommendations on performance, transparency, allocation logic and SDG alignment of the three instruments, connected to the Seville Platform for Action on Localizing Finance	Medium Countries with several national-to-local finance instruments operating in silos.	PARTNERSHIP, PLANNING
	TN-4.02 Integrate SDG-based project prioritization criteria into national fiscal transfers and municipal lending to scale local implementation.	MEP; Ministry of Finance; CPSCL	SDG-aligned criteria used in national transfers and loans to local authorities.	Medium Countries with an equalization fund or municipal development bank.	PARTNERSHIP, DATA
	TN-4.03 Use locally tested project and financing needs to improve how national transfer and lending mechanisms respond to SDG priorities.	Ministry of Finance; local finance institutions; municipalities; NLF coordination bodies	National financing recommendations and locally tested adjustments to allocation and lending approaches.	Medium Countries with multiple local finance instruments.	PARTNERSHIP, PLANNING
	TN-4.04 Establish a shared, SDG-aligned project tracking system connecting municipal priorities, implementation progress and financing information to national monitoring mechanisms.	Ministry of Economy and Planning, National Institute of Statistics, pilot municipalities, UN-Habitat.	A shared framework to track priority investments, identify implementation bottlenecks and inform resource allocation.	High Countries linking local project pipelines with national planning and monitoring.	GOVERNANCE, DATA
Project Pipeline Development and Investment Facilitation	**TN-4.05** Assess municipal fiscal space, financial capacity and revenue potential to inform local investment and funding strategies.	Pilot municipalities; Ministry of Finance; UN-Habitat	Fiscal space assessment and broad financial strategy per city, presented in workshops	High Universal at local level.	PARTNERSHIP
	TN-4.06 Appraise existing municipal project pipelines for costs, revenues, development impact and budget fit, then prepare investment-ready proposals.	Pilot municipalities; UN-Habitat	SDG catalytic project pipeline per pilot city by March 2027, with proposals ready for financing.	High Cities with infrastructure-heavy, unprioritized project lists.	PARTNERSHIP
	TN-4.07 Develop municipal funding strategies and broker partnerships across public finance, development banks, donors, private actors and community-based enterprises.	Pilot municipalities; Ministry of Finance; CPSCL	Finance strategies for cities and funding of the first catalytic projects by May 2027.	Medium Countries with an active bilateral partner willing to co-finance local projects.	PARTNERSHIP
	TN-4.08 Run sequenced project bootcamps to turn local SDG priorities into refined proposals through technical mentoring and partner feedback.	Municipalities; UN-Habitat; technical experts; development and financing partners	Successive project briefs, documented improvements and investor/partner matchmaking outcomes.	High Countries with prioritized projects requiring structured preparation.	PARTNERSHIP, GOVERNANCE

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	ACTION	LEAD STAKEHOLDER	PRELIMINARY & EXPECTED RESULTS	TRANSFERABILITY	ENABLER
Delivery Support and Capacity Strengthening	**TN-4.09** Build municipal capacity to design catalytic, system-changing projects aligned with available national financing instruments.	UN-Habitat; Pilot municipalities	Municipal teams able to design projects matching the optimized national finance instruments.	**High** Universal.	PARTNERSHIP
LEARNING AND ADAPTATION					
Performance Monitoring and System Review	**TN-5.01** Align PCSD monitoring with national SDG indicators and establish VLR evidence as a formal channel for municipal input to national decisions.	UN-Habitat PCSD team; MEP; INS	Plan and strategy indicators aligned with VNR indicators; municipalities given a formal voice in monitoring.	**Medium** Countries where the municipality has no formal place in the planning chain.	DATA
	TN-5.02 Use academic and community feedback to review whether localized actions are addressing territorial needs and inclusion gaps.	Municipalities; universities; civil society; VLR Task Forces	Participatory learning reviews and recommendations for adjusting local interventions.	**High** Countries implementing local SDG actions with stakeholder partnerships.	DATA GOVERNANCE
Reporting and Accountability	**TN-5.03** Integrate SDG localization and the NLF into the Voluntary National Review (VNR), highlighting local contributions to national SDG progress and strengthening political ownership.	MEP (VNR lead); UN-Habitat within the VNR Taskforce led by UNRCO and UNDP	The VNR 2026 reflects the joint localization message and recognizes the Partnership Platform; 101 local actors consulted in Kairouan on 21 May 2026; the Ennour VLR cited as a model.	**High** Any country preparing a VNR.	PARTNERSHIP DATA
	TN-5.04 Share NLF results and local SDG progress through accessible public reporting and media engagement to strengthen citizen accountability.	Municipalities; national NLF coordination team; communication teams; media	Accessible citizen-facing updates and local dissemination of priorities, progress and lessons.	**High** Countries seeking public accountability for SDG localization.	DATA GOVERNANCE
Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement	**TN-5.05** Engage national and local stakeholders in international SDG localization peer learning and integrate lessons into NLF implementation.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs; MEP; pilot municipalities; UN-Habitat	Tunisian participation in ARFSD, WUF, HLPF, COP and Partnership Platform events, with lessons fed back in the NLF.	**High** Universal.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-5.06 Validate and communicate the NLF nationally, using municipal pilots to refine the model before scaling to additional territories.	MEP; MEHAT; Ministry of Interior; UN-Habitat	NLF validated nationally; a replicable model for further municipalities.	**High** Countries piloting before national roll-out.	GOVERNANCE
	TN-5.07 Consolidate pilot results into a nationally validated NLF and a phased scale-up strategy for additional municipalities.	National Steering Committee; sector ministries; municipalities; UN-Habitat	NLF comprehensive report, validation and endorsement, and a sustainable scale-up plan.	**High** Countries moving from pilots to national application.	GOVERNANCE PLANNING

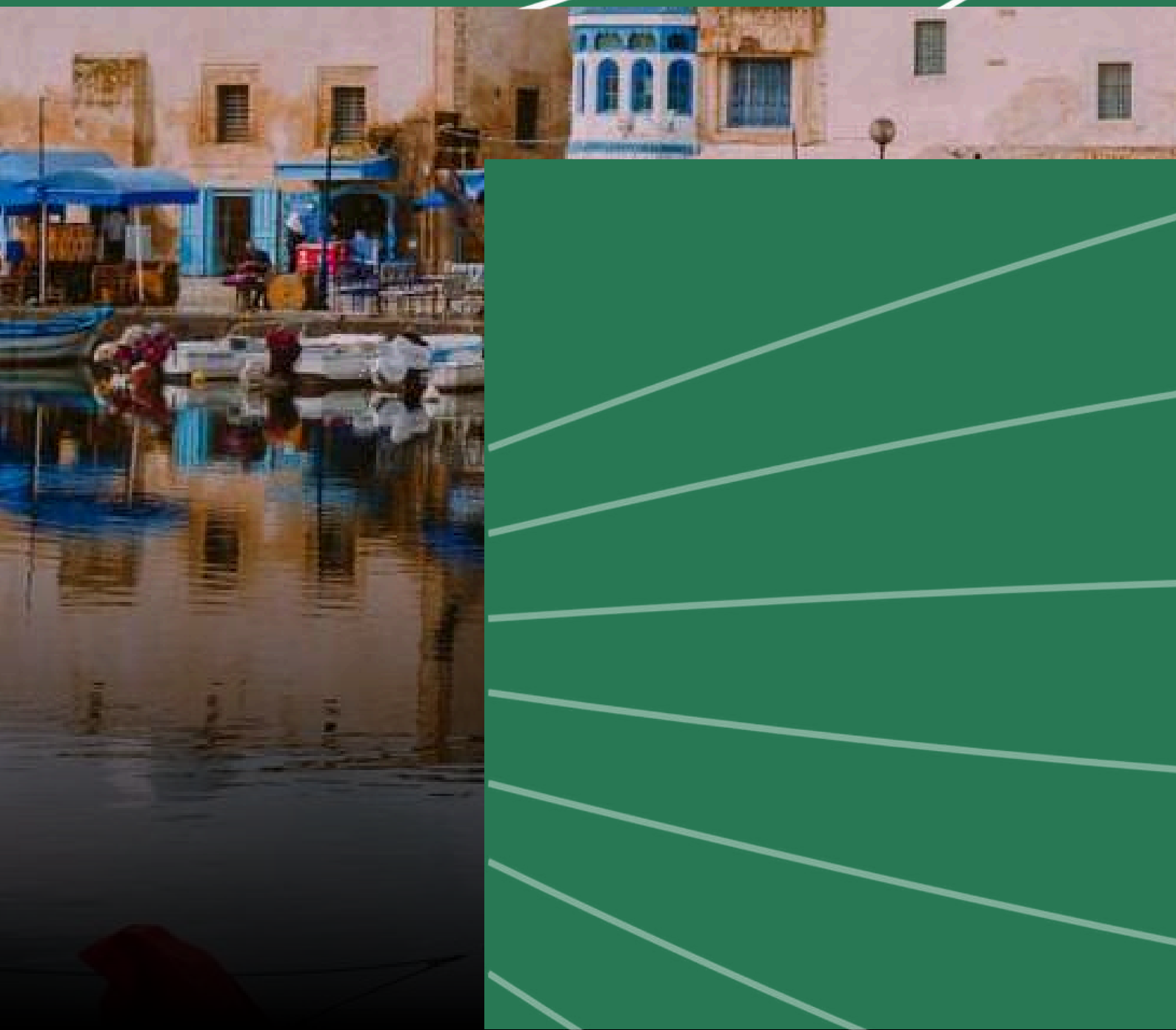
List of References - Tunisia

1. UN-Habitat. 2025. *Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs — National SDG Localization Framework in Tunisia: Project Document* (revised version 6, 30 December 2025). Nairobi / Tunis. Developed with the Ministry of the Environment and Energy Security of Italy (MASE).
2. UN-Habitat and MASE. 2026. *Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs — National SDG Localization Framework in Tunisia* (short version). Presentation.
3. UN-Habitat. 2026. *Un mécanisme PCSD pour mieux localiser les ODD en Tunisie*. Mission presentation, Tunis, September 2026.
4. Republic of Tunisia. 2022. *Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia*, adopted by referendum, 25 July 2022.
5. Republic of Tunisia — Ministry of Economy and Planning. 2026. *National Development Plan 2026–2030*, approved by Law No. 2026-16.
6. Republic of Tunisia. *Tunisia Vision 2035*.
7. Republic of Tunisia — Ministry of Equipment and Housing. *National Territorial Master Plan (SDATN) 2050*. Diagnostic phase, in preparation.
8. Republic of Tunisia — Ministry of Equipment and Housing, with UN-Habitat. *National Urban Policy* (formulation report, 2023).
9. Republic of Tunisia — Ministry of Equipment and Housing, with UN-Habitat. *National Housing Strategy*.
10. Republic of Tunisia. 2019, 2021 and 2026. *Voluntary National Reviews*. Presented to the UN High-Level Political Forum, New York.
11. Municipality of Ennour, with UN-Habitat and ESCWA. 2024. *Rapport Local Volontaire de la commune d'Ennour*.
12. Municipality of Sejnane. *Local Development Plan 2026–2030*.
13. National Institute of Statistics (INS). 2024. *General Population and Housing Census 2024*. Tunis.
14. Republic of Tunisia. 2025. Decree on Community-Based Enterprises (sociétés communautaires).
15. Republic of Tunisia. 1994. Code de l'aménagement du territoire et de l'urbanisme, establishing the Interministerial Committee for Territorial Planning.
16. Republic of Tunisia. 2018. Code des collectivités locales (Organic Law No. 2018-29), under revision since 2025.
17. Republic of Tunisia — Ministry of Environment. National Ecological Transition Strategy (SNTE).
18. OECD. 2019. Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, OECD/LEGAL/0381. Paris.
19. UN-Habitat. 2022. *Global Urban Monitoring Framework*. Nairobi.
20. UN-Habitat. *SDG Cities Global Initiative* — methodology and City Scan tool. Nairobi.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

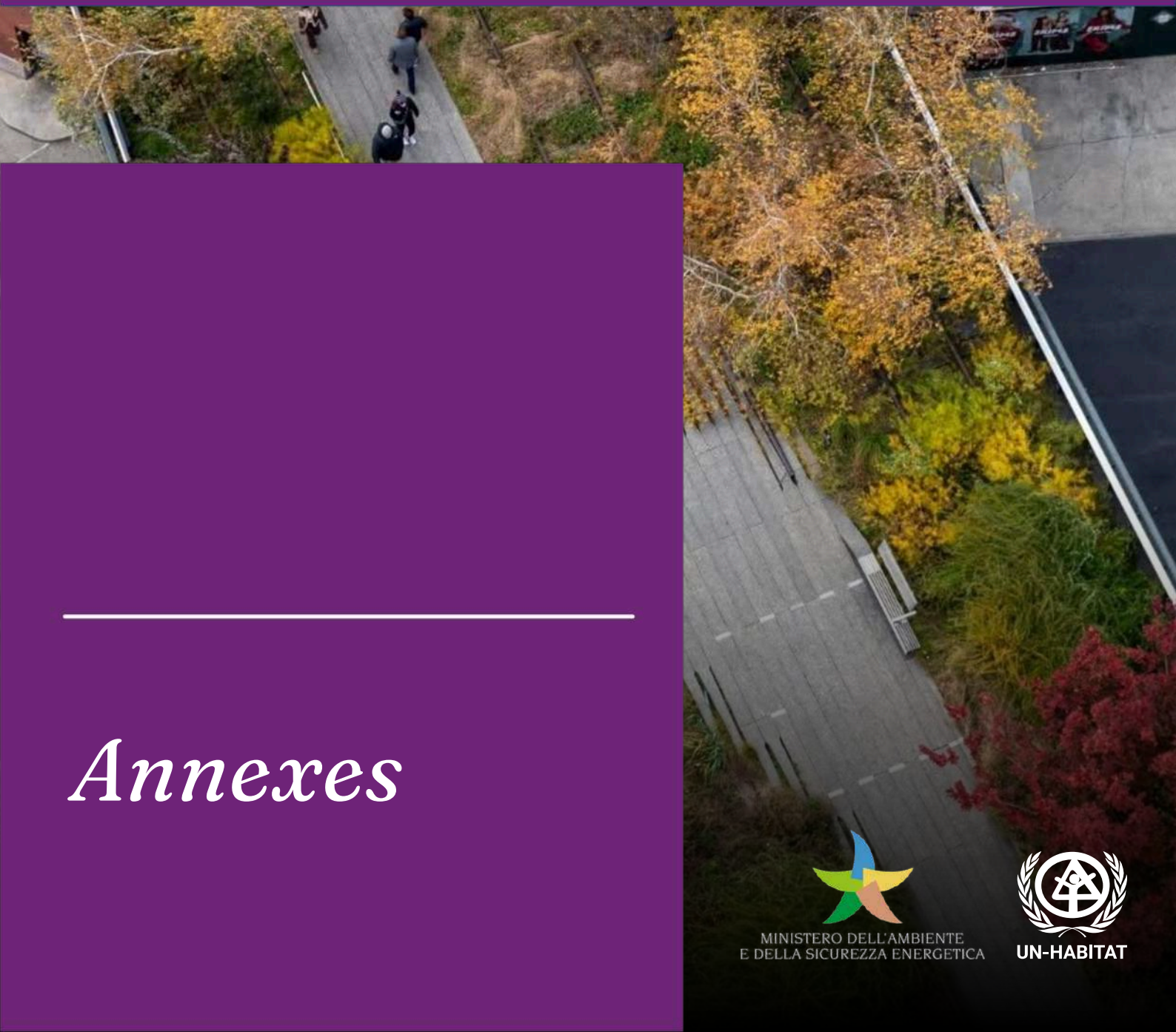
ADM — Municipal Development Agency (Senegal)
ADL — Local Development Agency (Senegal)
AICS — Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
ANAT — National Agency for Territorial Development (Senegal)
ANCI — National Association of Italian Municipalities
ANSD — National Agency for Statistics and Demography (Senegal)
ANT — National Transformation Agenda (Senegal)
AO-VLR — Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Review
ARD — Regional Development Agency (Senegal)
ARFSD — Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development
BES — Equitable and Sustainable Well-being (Italy)
CICS — Interministerial Committee for Development Cooperation (Italy)
CIPE — Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning (Italy)
CIPESS — Interministerial Committee for Economic Planning and Sustainable Development (Italy)
CITE — Interministerial Committee for Ecological Transition (Italy)
CityRAP — City Resilience Action Planning Tool
CNCS — National Council for Development Cooperation (Italy)
CONSOB — Italian Companies and Exchange Commission
COP — Conference of the Parties
COVIP — Commission for the Supervision of Pension Funds (Italy)
CPSCL — Local Authorities Loan and Support Fund (Tunisia)
DEF — Economic and Financial Document (Italy)
DEFR — Regional Economic and Financial Document (Italy)
DG REFORM — European Commission Directorate-General for Structural Reform Support
DNSH — Do No Significant Harm
DUP — Single Programming Document (Italy)
EC — European Commission
ECA — United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
EHCVM — Harmonized Survey on Household Living Conditions (Senegal)
ENEA — Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development
ESCWA — United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
ESG — Environmental, Social and Governance
EU — European Union
FAO — Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCCL — Common Fund for Local Authorities (Tunisia)
FIADT — Territorial Planning and Development Impulse Fund (Senegal)
GDP — Gross Domestic Product
HLPF — High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
IAEG-SDGs — Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators
ILO — International Labour Organization
INS — National Institute of Statistics (Tunisia)
ISPRA — Italian Institute for Environmental Protection and Research
ISTAT — Italian National Institute of Statistics
ITCEQ — Tunisian Institute for Competitiveness and Quantitative Studies
IVASS — Italian Insurance Supervisory Authority
LOADT — Orientation Law for Territorial Planning and Sustainable Development (Senegal)
LoI — Letter of Intent
MAECI — Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy
MASE — Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy
MEF — Ministry of Economy and Finance of Italy
MEHAT — Ministry of Equipment and Housing (Tunisia)
MEP — Ministry of Economy and Planning (Tunisia)
MEPC — Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation (Senegal)
METE — Ministry of Environment and Ecological Transition (Senegal)
MIM — Ministry of Education and Merit (Italy)
MIMIT — Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy
MUCTAT — Ministry of Urban Planning, Local Authorities and Territorial Development (Senegal)
NAP — National Action Plan
NCRD — National Council of Regions and Districts (Tunisia)
NDP — National Development Plan (Tunisia)
NGO — Non-governmental Organization
NHS — National Housing Strategy (Tunisia)
NLF — National SDG Localization Framework
NSDS — National Sustainable Development Strategy (Italy)
NUP — National Urban Policy

OECD — Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONT — National Territorial Observatory (Senegal)
PAN PCSD — National Action Plan for Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (Italy)
PCSD — Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development
PCSD NAP — Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development National Action Plan
PNADT — National Plan for Territorial Planning and Development (Senegal)
RSDS — Regional Sustainable Development Strategy (Italy)
SAED — National Company for the Development and Exploitation of the Senegal River Delta and the Senegal and Falémé River Valleys (Senegal)
SDADT — Master Plan for Territorial Planning and Development (Senegal)
SDADT-PTN — Master Plan for Territorial Planning and Development of the North Territorial Pole (Senegal)
SDATN — National Territorial Master Plan (Tunisia)
SDF — Spatial Development Framework
SDG — Sustainable Development Goal
SISTAN — National Statistical System (Italy)
SME — Small and Medium-sized Enterprise
SNA — National School of Administration (Italy)
SND — National Development Strategy (Senegal)
SNSvS — Strategia Nazionale per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile (National Sustainable Development Strategy, Italy)
SNTE — National Ecological Transition Strategy (Tunisia)
TSI — Technical Support Instrument
UN — United Nations
UN DESA — United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNCEM — National Union of Mountain Municipalities, Communities and Authorities (Italy)
UNDP — United Nations Development Programme
UNEP — United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO — United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat — United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNIDO — United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNRCO — United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office
UNSDCF — United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
UPI — Union of Italian Provinces
VLR — Voluntary Local Review
VNLYR — Voluntary National Local Youth Review
VNR — Voluntary National Review
WUF — World Urban Forum



Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

National SDG Localization Frameworks **Handbook**



Annexes

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

UN-HABITAT

National SDG Localization Frameworks **Handbook**

Published by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

First published in Nairobi in November 2026 by UN-Habitat Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme, 2026.

All rights reserved.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO, Kenya Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office) www.unhabitat.org

Disclaimer

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated. Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its member states.

UN-HABITAT

MINISTERO DELL'AMBIENTE E DELLA SICUREZZA ENERGETICA

Annexes

Contents

Annex 1 - Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)
Annex 2: The Local2030 Coalition
Annex 3: The Localization Blueprint
Annex 4: The SDG Localization Marker 2.0
Annex 5: The SDG Cities Global Initiative
Annex 6: The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 26-29
Annex 7: Multilevel Governance
Annex 8: The Sevilla Platform for Action on Localizing Finance (SPA)
Annex 9: The six transitions
Annex 10 The New Urban Agenda (NUA) & SDG Localization
Annex 11: Regions4SDGs Framework
Annex 12: The Global Stocktake on SDG Localisation
Annex 13: The CEPA Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development
Annex 14: The 2026 VLR–VNR Peer-Learning Series
Annex 15: The 2026 VNR Joint SDG Localization Message
Annex 16: The NLF Complementary Tools

Annex 1:
Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)

Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) is the overarching governance approach underpinning the National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF). PCSD is recognized by SDG 17.14 and by the 2019 OECD Ministerial Declaration on PCSD. PCSD is measured through SDG indicator 17.14.1 where UNEP and OECD are co-custodian. It supports governments in designing and implementing policies that are mutually reinforcing across sectors, levels of government, and time horizons. Recognizing that sustainable development challenges are interconnected and often transcend institutional boundaries, PCSD promotes integrated decision-making that maximizes synergies, manages trade-offs, and contributes to the balanced achievement of economic, social, and environmental objectives. Rather than treating sustainable development as a collection of separate policy areas, PCSD encourages governments to adopt whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches that improve coordination and strengthen implementation, anchoring the policy-cycle to national and sub-national sustainable development strategic frameworks.

The National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF) operationalize PCSD through an integrated architecture for SDG localization. By strengthening coordination between national, regional, and local governments and promoting integrated planning across sectors, the NLF enables governments to move beyond fragmented interventions towards coherent territorial development pathways. In doing so, they support the alignment of national strategies with regional and local priorities, while ensuring that implementation reflects the interconnected nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A core objective of PCSD is to strengthen governance systems that can effectively address cross-cutting challenges and manage interactions between different policy domains. The NLF contributes to this objective by creating institutional arrangements that promote collaboration across ministries, levels of government, and stakeholder groups. Through multilevel governance mechanisms, coordinated planning processes, and inclusive participation, the framework encourages governments to develop shared priorities and align policies, investments, and implementation efforts around common sustainable development objectives.

PCSD also emphasizes the importance of evidence-based decision-making and long-term strategic thinking. Consistent with these principles, the NLF integrates data systems, monitoring mechanisms, and territorial diagnostics into the SDG localization process, enabling governments to identify priorities, monitor progress, and adapt policies over time. Policy assessment is also applied throughout the policy cycle to identify synergies, trade-offs and impacts, including through ex-ante, in-itinere and ex-post assessment, and to inform policy adjustment where needed.

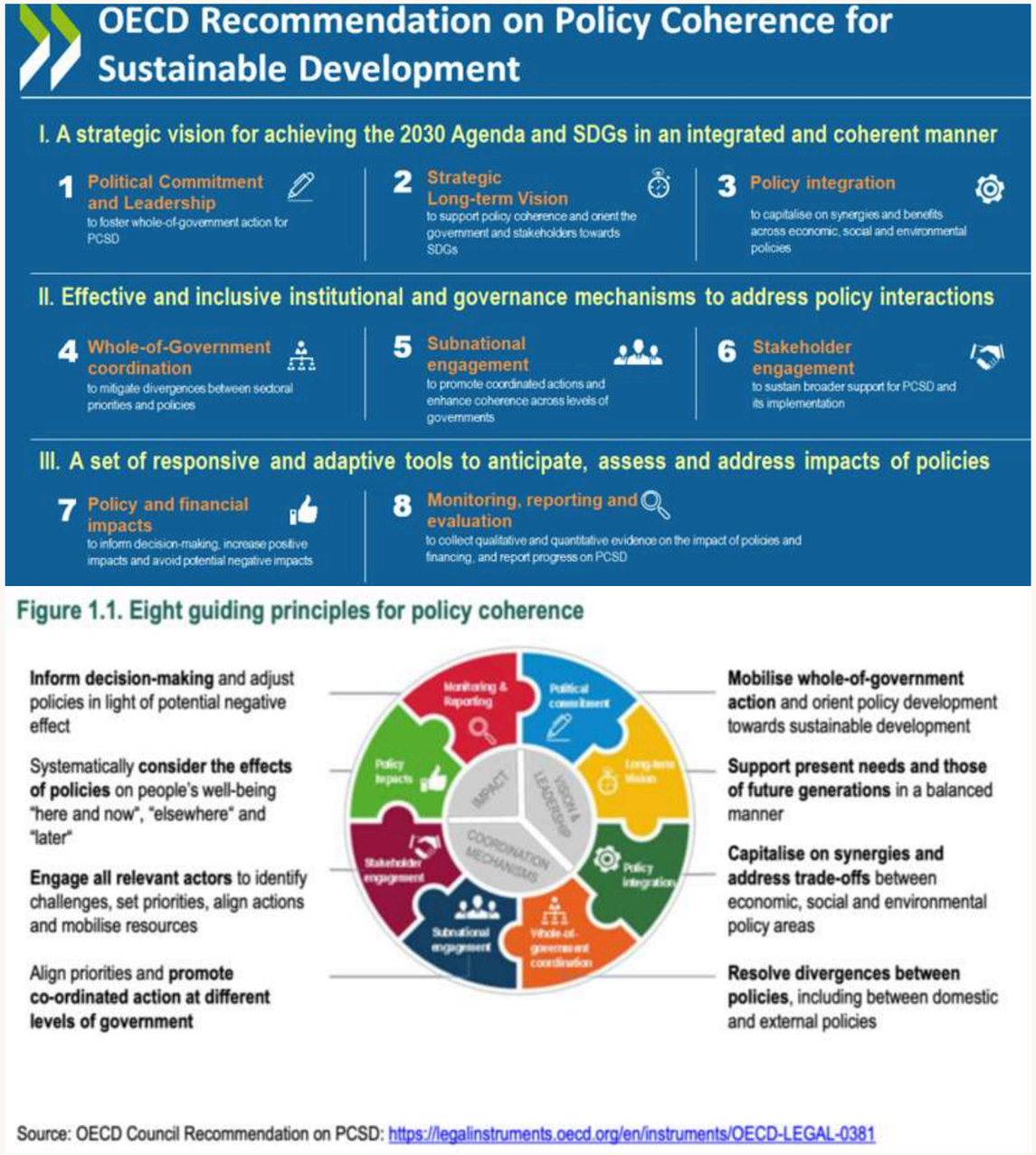


Figure 1. Eight components of the OECD Recommendation on Policy Coherence for sustainable Development
Source: OECD (2025). Recommendation of the Council on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

By linking planning, budgeting, financing, and implementation within a single framework, the NLF helps ensure that public resources are allocated in ways that reinforce policy objectives and generate greater development impact.

Another fundamental dimension of PCSD is the recognition that sustainable development requires collaboration beyond government institutions. The NLF reflects this by promoting the meaningful engagement of local governments, civil society, academia, development partners, financial institutions, the private sector, and communities throughout the localization process. These partnerships strengthen ownership, improve policy relevance, and create the conditions for more inclusive and durable development outcomes.

By embedding the principles of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development into national governance systems, the National SDG Localization Frameworks provide governments with a practical mechanism for connecting policy, planning, financing, assessment, monitoring, and implementation across territorial scales. In doing so, they support a transition from isolated initiatives towards integrated systems capable of accelerating SDG implementation and delivering long-term territorial transformation.

Scan to explore OECD guidance, methodologies and tools on PCSD.

Scan to access the official UN metadata on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

Scan to explore the African assessment of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

Annex 2:
The Local2030 Coalition

Co-chaired by UN-Habitat and UNECE (on behalf of all Regional Economic Commissions), the Local2030 Coalition, the United Nations system-wide platform to accelerate SDG localization driven by 14 UN entities, and bringing together UN entities, Member States, local and regional governments, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth to deliver as one, is enhancing coherence, efficiency, and impact of UN action, avoiding fragmentation, and connecting global goals with local realities. The Coalition has already demonstrated tangible and scalable results:

- More than 2,000 local development stakeholders have participated in global policy processes through the Coalition's Road to: The Local Way engagement processes, including the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the Second World Summit for Social Development, COP30, and WUF13.
- Through the partnership between the Local2030 Coalition and the Joint SDG Fund, joint programmes on SDG localization were supported across 38 countries in 2024/2025 with USD 44 million in funding, generating a financial leverage of USD 235 million. Building on this momentum, the 2026 Bilbao Bootcamp will provide USD 36 million funding to an additional 12 joint programmes, further scaling catalytic financing and unlocking up to USD 340 million in co-financing opportunities for SDG localization.
- The Localization Capacity Building Programme is equipping UN Country Teams to enhance engagement with local stakeholders, benefiting 8 UNCTs this year and scaling up to 12 next year.

Central to this effort is the Localization Blueprint, complemented by the SDG Localization Marker 2.0, which together provides a common framework for translating political commitments into implementation. The Blueprint ensures development and finance are driven from the bottom up by placing territorial priorities, needs, and realities at the centre, enabling governments and partners to co-create investable territorial pipelines and align policies, institutions, and financing across levels of government, while the Marker supports this by fostering multilevel governance and policy coherence, strengthening whole-of-society collaboration, and helping channel catalytic finance toward locally led, people-centred sustainable development outcomes.

Annex 3:
The Localization Blueprint

The Localization Blueprint, developed by the Local2030 Coalition and the Joint SDG Fund in collaboration with United Nations partners, provides a strategic framework for advancing SDG localization by identifying key leverage points for territorial transformation and mobilizing ecosystems of public and private actors capable of driving systemic change. Recognizing that today's interconnected challenges - including climate change, inequality, housing deficits, and economic transitions - cannot be addressed through isolated interventions, the Blueprint promotes a human-centred and systems-based approach that aligns governance, finance, and implementation around local realities and priorities.

The National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF) build on this vision by translating it into an enabling architecture through which governments can organize and accelerate SDG localization. Within the overarching governance approach provided by PCSD, the Localization Blueprint provides a strategic framework for territorial transformation that informs the design and implementation of the NLF. Consistent with the Blueprint, the NLF promotes a shift from fragmented, project-based interventions towards integrated, place-based systems that strengthen the connections between governance, policy, finance, and implementation across levels of government. In doing so, they create the institutional conditions for long-term territorial transformation while ensuring that national priorities are grounded in local realities and contribute to tangible improvements in people's lives.

At the core of the Localization Blueprint are five interrelated drivers of territorial transformation: (i) empower citizens and communities; (ii) enhance capacities, innovation, and collaboration; (iii) co-create pathways for change; (iv) localize financing mechanisms; and (v) amplify and follow up. These drivers provide a practical framework for strengthening ownership, institutional capacity, shared visioning, financing systems, and continuous learning, ensuring that sustainable development is locally led, investable, and scalable.

Figure 2. The five localization blueprint drivers for territorial transformation
Source: UN-Habitat (2026). The Localization Blueprint.

The NLF reflects these drivers throughout their design and implementation. They strengthen enabling environments by promoting multilevel governance, policy coherence, and territorial ownership; enhance capacities by fostering collaboration across governments, civil society, academia, development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector; support the co-creation of shared territorial visions and coordinated pathways for change; connect planning with budgeting, investment readiness, and project pipeline development to localize finance; and embed monitoring, learning, and adaptive governance to amplify successful practices and scale impact across territories. Together, the Localization Blueprint and the NLF provides governments with a coherent approach for translating national sustainable development ambitions into coordinated local action and achieving integrated, systemic, and lasting territorial transformation.

Annex 4:
The SDG Localization Marker 2.0

The SDG Localization Marker 2.0, developed by the Local2030 Coalition, is a common reference framework that supports governments and development partners in designing, assessing, and strengthening SDG localization efforts. It provides a shared understanding of what constitutes effective localization by promoting integrated, place-based, and multilevel approaches that translate global commitments into concrete territorial action. By establishing a common language and set of guiding principles, the Marker helps improve coherence across policies, programmes, and investments while facilitating collaboration among national and local governments, the United Nations system, and other stakeholders.

The National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF) are closely aligned with the principles embedded in the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 and operationalize them through a structured national process. The Marker's emphasis on multilevel governance, policy coherence, territorial approaches, and inclusive participation is reflected throughout the NLF, which strengthens the institutional arrangements required to connect national priorities with local implementation. The Marker can also be applied across the NLF streams as a practical tool to assess and strengthen the extent to which strategies, policies, programmes, and investments contribute to effective SDG localization. In doing so, the NLF provides governments with a practical enabling architecture for translating the Marker's principles into action.

A central feature of the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 is its recognition that sustainable development outcomes depend on effective collaboration across levels of government and sectors. It therefore promotes stronger coordination between national and subnational institutions, encourages the integration of local priorities into national decision-making, and supports mechanisms that enable shared responsibility for SDG implementation. These principles reinforce the NLF's objective of strengthening the national–local interface and ensuring that development policies are informed by territorial realities.

The Marker also emphasizes the importance of adopting place-based and integrated approaches that recognize the diversity of local contexts and the interconnected nature of sustainable development challenges. This aligns closely with the NLF's focus on territorial transformation, systems thinking, and the integration of planning, governance, financing, and data systems. Rather than treating localization as a collection of isolated initiatives, both approaches encourage governments to organize sustainable development around coherent and mutually reinforcing processes that generate long-term impact.

Another key principle of the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 is the promotion of inclusive and participatory governance. By encouraging the meaningful engagement of local governments, civil society, communities, academia, the private sector, financial institutions, and development partners, it strengthens ownership of SDG implementation and supports more equitable and representative decision-making. These collaborative approaches are embedded throughout the NLF and contribute to building stronger partnerships for territorial development.

Together, the SDG Localization Marker 2.0 and the National SDG Localization Frameworks provide governments with complementary approaches for advancing SDG localization. While the Marker establishes a common reference for high-quality localization and shared guiding principles, the NLF translates these principles into an operational framework that organizes governance systems, planning processes, financing mechanisms, and implementation pathways. Applied at relevant stages of the NLF, the Marker can support the assessment and prioritization of territorial strategies and actions, project and investment pipelines, and their contribution to SDG localization over time. By reinforcing one another, they support governments in moving from fragmented interventions towards coordinated, place-based, and transformative approaches to sustainable development.

NLF stream	Application of SDG Localization Marker 2.0
Political Ownership and Anchoring	Establish a shared understanding of the localization principles that should guide the NLF.
Visioning and Strategy	Assess whether strategies and priorities sufficiently reflect multilevel governance, territorial approaches, inclusion and local ownership.
Action Planning	Prioritize proposed actions and policies according to their expected contribution to SDG localization.
Collective Delivery	Apply the Marker to projects and investment pipelines to strengthen localization quality and guide financing decisions.
Learning and Adaptation	Reassess interventions and portfolios to determine whether implementation is strengthening localization outcomes and identify areas for adjustment.

Annex 5:
The SDG Cities Global Initiative

SDG Cities is UN-Habitat's flagship programme for translating the SDGs into local action and sustainable urban development. Structured around three integrated tracks - data, planning, and investment - it simplifies complex urban development processes into a clear development pathway from evidence to impact. SDG Cities strengthens institutional capacities, aligns policies, and generates investable project pipelines, turning cities' ambitions into results. Its approach is demand-driven, adapting to each city's context and communities' priorities, equipping local government and stakeholders with tested technical tools - drawing on the full breadth of UN-Habitat's expertise in one coherent, modular framework.

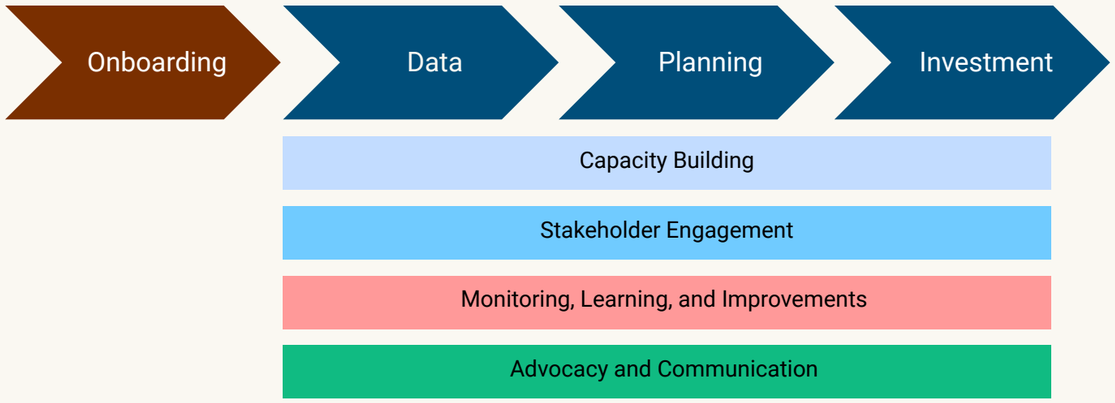


Figure 3. SDG Cities data, planning and Investment tracks
Source: UN-Habitat (2020). SDG Cities Global Initiative.

Within the context of the National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF), SDG Cities serves as the city and territorial-level delivery interface, translating national enabling architectures into concrete local action. While NLF provides the overarching national framework, SDG Cities operationalizes these principles through practical methodologies and tools at the municipal level. This creates a coherent two-way system in which national strategies guide and enable local implementation, while locally generated evidence, priorities, and Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) inform national planning, monitoring, reporting, and policy refinement.

At the same time, SDG Cities strengthens horizontal coordination by fostering collaboration among municipalities, local governments, communities, civil society, academia, development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector. In contexts where inter-municipal cooperation is particularly important, it also supports stronger coordination across territories, helping align local development efforts and reinforcing the broader objectives of NLF.

Beyond implementation support, SDG Cities connects a Global Community of more than 300 cities in more than 80 countries, providing a unique platform for peer learning, partnership-building, and the exchange of innovative practices. This global network enables cities to learn from one another, adapt successful approaches to their own contexts, and build collaborations that accelerate SDG implementation. Through these vertical and horizontal feedback loops, SDG Cities strengthens policy coherence, facilitates the scaling of locally driven solutions, and ensures that national ambitions are translated into tangible improvements in people's lives.

Scan to learn more on the SDG Cities Global Initiative

Annex 6:
The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 26-29

The UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029 provides the overarching institutional framework that guides the development and implementation of the National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF). Building on UN-Habitat's mandate as the focal point for sustainable urbanization within the United Nations system, the Strategic Plan places adequate housing, land, and basic services for all at the centre of sustainable urban and territorial transformation, recognizing that progress on these priorities is fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The Strategic Plan responds to the growing convergence of global challenges, including the housing crisis, climate change, inequality, displacement, and rapid urbanization, by promoting integrated and territorial approaches to development. It emphasizes that these challenges cannot be addressed through isolated sectoral interventions but require coordinated planning, investment, governance, and financing systems that operate across all levels of government.

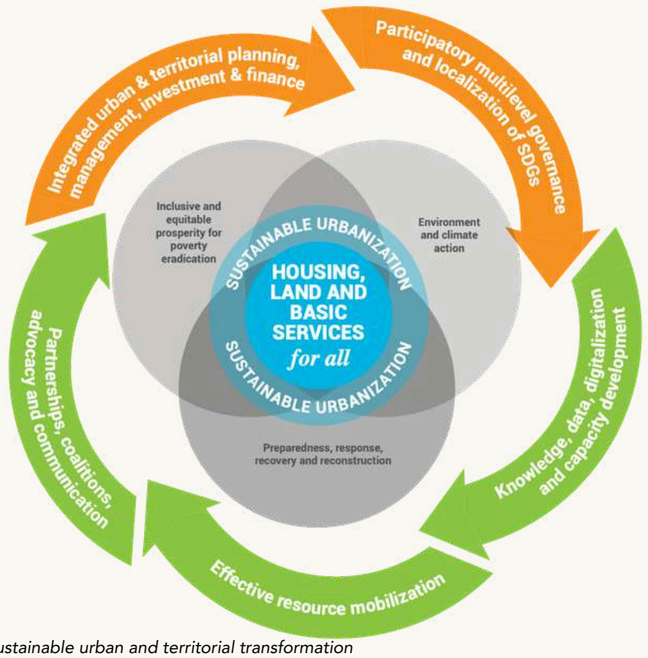


Figure 4. Integrated enablers of sustainable urban and territorial transformation
Source: UN-Habitat (2025). Strategic Plan 2026–2029.

The National SDG Localization Frameworks translate the Strategic Plan's vision into an operational approach for governments. By strengthening multilevel governance, promoting policy coherence, and creating stronger links between national priorities and local implementation, the NLF provides the enabling architecture needed to localize sustainable development.

In doing so, they help embed priorities such as adequate housing, land, and basic services within national development processes while ensuring that territorial realities inform policy design and decision-making.

The NLF is closely aligned with the Strategic Plan's five means of implementation, particularly participatory multilevel governance and localization of the SDGs, which recognizes localization as a collaborative and impact-oriented process. The framework complements this by integrating governance with territorial planning, knowledge and data systems, partnerships, and resource mobilization, creating a coherent foundation for coordinated action across sectors and levels of government.

In practice, the NLF enables countries to establish institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, coordination structures, and data systems required to accelerate SDG implementation. By connecting planning, budgeting, investment, and delivery within a single framework, it helps governments move from fragmented projects toward coherent territorial transformation while strengthening collaboration among national and local governments, communities, civil society, development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector.

Scan to learn more on UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Annex 7:
Multilevel Governance

Multilevel governance is a foundational principle of the National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF) and one of the four core enablers that underpin their implementation. It recognizes that sustainable development outcomes are shaped through the interaction of national, regional, metropolitan and local institutions, and that effective SDG localization depends on strengthening these relationships through structured coordination, shared responsibilities, and collaborative decision-making.

Within the NLF approach, multilevel governance is not simply a mechanism for consultation but a means of building the capacity of the development system to function as a coherent whole rather than as a collection of isolated institutions. As governance arrangements mature, roles and responsibilities across levels of government become clearer, channels for joint planning and decision-making are institutionalized, and SDG localization is increasingly driven by stable and structured collaboration instead of ad hoc coordination. In this way, multilevel governance strengthens the national–local interface and creates the institutional conditions for coherent territorial transformation.

The NLF promotes a balanced and collaborative model of governance in which local and regional governments are not only responsible for implementation but are active contributors to national development processes. By embedding territorial perspectives into planning, policy design, financing, and monitoring, the framework strengthens ownership, improves policy relevance, and ensures that national priorities are grounded in local realities while remaining aligned with broader sustainable development objectives.

The framework also recognizes that effective multilevel governance extends beyond public institutions. Communities, civil society organizations, academia, development partners, financial institutions, and the private sector all play important roles in shaping and delivering sustainable development. Through inclusive coordination mechanisms and participatory processes, the NLF foster a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that broadens ownership, mobilizes expertise and resources, and supports more integrated and sustainable outcomes.





Figure 5. Alignment of 2030 Agenda, Governance, and Multilevel Governance Principles
Source: UN-Habitat (2022).Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization.

Multilevel governance also encompasses metropolitan and regional arrangements. Where urban areas and functional territories extend beyond administrative boundaries, coordination among neighbouring local governments, metropolitan authorities, regional governments and national institutions can help align territorial priorities with national development strategies. These arrangements present specific coordination challenges and opportunities within national SDG localization processes. UN-Habitat's metropolitan governance work, including MetroHUB methodologies and tools, can support this coordination.

A defining characteristic of multilevel governance within the NLF is the establishment of continuous feedback loops between national and territorial levels. National strategies and policy frameworks provide direction and enabling conditions for local implementation, while territorial diagnostics, localized data, and Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) generate evidence that informs national planning, monitoring, reporting, and policy refinement. This two-way exchange strengthens policy coherence, supports adaptive governance, and ensures that SDG localization remains responsive to evolving territorial needs.

By embedding multilevel governance across governance arrangements, planning processes, financing mechanisms, and data systems, the National SDG Localization Frameworks create the institutional architecture required to move from fragmented interventions toward coordinated, integrated, and territorially grounded sustainable development.

Scan to learn more on multilevel governance for SDG Localization

Annex 8:
The Sevilla Platform for Action on Localizing Finance (SPA)

The Sevilla Platform for Action (SPA): Localizing Finance to Drive Systemic Impact for the Achievement of the 2030 Agenda is a multi-stakeholder initiative led by the Government of Spain, UN-Habitat as Secretariat of the Local2030 Coalition, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). Developed in the context of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4), the initiative seeks to strengthen enabling environments for local development finance by promoting knowledge, partnerships, capacity development, innovative financing solutions, and transparent monitoring systems that channel resources toward local impact. It recognizes that local and regional governments are key drivers of sustainable development and that accelerating SDG implementation requires stronger alignment between financing, policy, and governance across all levels.

The objectives of the Sevilla Platform for Action closely align with the National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF), particularly in strengthening the national–local interface and creating the institutional conditions necessary for effective SDG localization. While the SPA focuses on localizing finance and improving the flow of development resources toward territorial priorities, the NLF provides the enabling architecture through which governments can organize governance arrangements, planning processes, financing mechanisms, and data systems to support coordinated implementation. Together, they promote a shift from fragmented projects toward integrated territorial development that links policy, finance, and delivery.

A central objective of the SPA is to create enabling environments for local finance by strengthening multilevel governance, reinforcing local revenue generation, improving investment readiness, and fostering public–private collaboration and innovative financing mechanisms. These priorities are reflected throughout the NLF, which supports governments in connecting planning with budgeting, financing, and implementation while strengthening institutional capacities and partnerships across national and subnational levels. By integrating planning, budgeting, and project pipeline development, the NLF also helps governments connect territorial priorities with partners, investors, and financing opportunities, accelerating the translation of strategies into implementation.

The SPA further emphasizes transparency, accountability, and evidence-based approaches to ensure that financing generates measurable local impact. This complements the NLF's focus on territorial data, monitoring systems, and continuous feedback between local implementation and national policymaking. By promoting coordinated financing, stronger institutions, and place-based investment strategies, the Sevilla Platform for Action reinforces the objectives of the National SDG Localization Frameworks and strengthens their financing dimension, enabling governments to connect policy, planning, finance, and delivery in support of long-term territorial transformation.

Annex 9:
The six transitions

The six SDG transitions provide an integrated framework developed by the United Nations to accelerate progress across the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Rather than addressing individual goals in isolation, the transitions focus on areas with the greatest potential to generate multiple and reinforcing impacts across the 2030 Agenda.

Within the National SDG Localization Framework (NLF), the transitions help governments identify priorities, structure interventions, guide investment decisions, and strengthen policy coherence across sectors and territories.

1. Food Systems
This transition focuses on transforming food production, distribution, and consumption systems to improve food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and environmental sustainability. It promotes resilient and inclusive food systems that support both people and ecosystems.

2. Energy Access and Affordability
This transition aims to ensure universal access to reliable, affordable, and sustainable energy while supporting the shift towards low-carbon development pathways. It addresses energy poverty, energy efficiency, and renewable energy deployment.

3. Digital Connectivity
Digital technologies are increasingly essential for economic development, service delivery, governance, and participation. This transition promotes equitable access to digital infrastructure, technology, skills, and innovation to ensure that no one is left behind in the digital transformation.

4. Education
Education is a key driver of sustainable development and social inclusion. This transition focuses on expanding access to quality education and lifelong learning opportunities while strengthening the skills needed for sustainable and resilient societies.

5. Jobs and Social Protection
This transition promotes inclusive economic development through decent work, productive employment, entrepreneurship, and comprehensive social protection systems. It seeks to reduce inequalities and strengthen resilience to economic and social shocks.

6. Climate Change, Biodiversity Loss and Pollution
This transition addresses the interconnected environmental challenges that threaten sustainable development. It supports climate action, ecosystem protection and restoration, sustainable resource management, pollution reduction, and resilience-building across territories.

The six SDG transitions provide a practical framework for identifying interlinkages across sectors and levels of government. By focusing on areas with high transformational potential, the six SDG transitions help governments move from fragmented interventions towards coordinated approaches capable of accelerating SDG implementation and delivering lasting territorial impact.

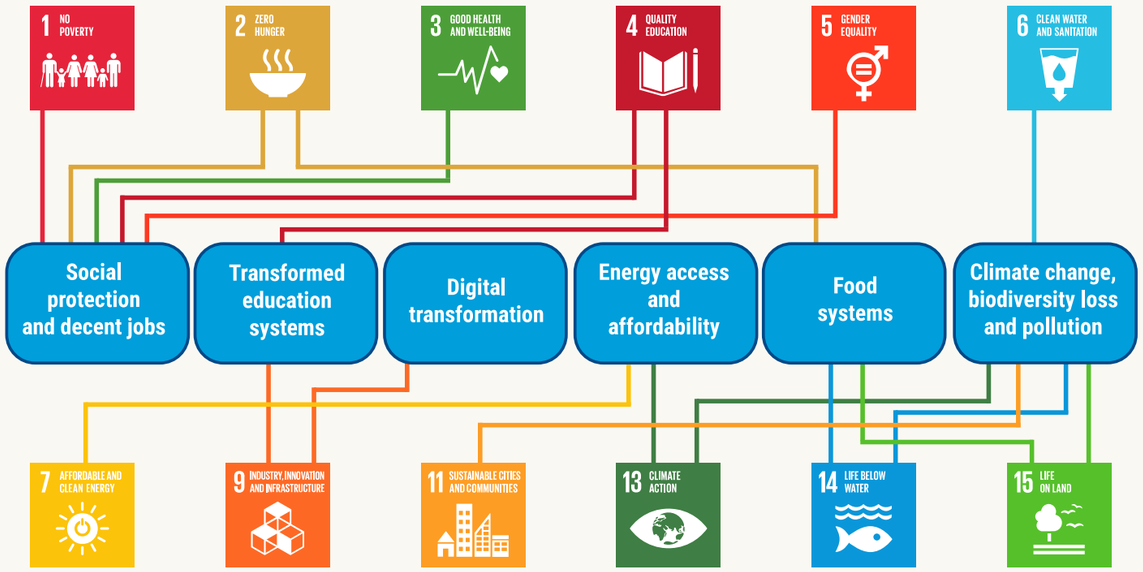


Figure 6. The six SDG transitions and their linkage to the Sustainable Development Goals
Source: UNSDG (2023). Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to deliver the SDGs.

Scan to learn more on the six transitions

Annex 10
The New Urban Agenda (NUA) & SDG Localization

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) provides a global framework for sustainable urban and territorial development and an important foundation for the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. Adopted at Habitat III in 2016, the NUA recognizes sustainable urban development as a critical component of achieving the 2030 Agenda and emphasizes integrated and coordinated action across global, regional, national, subnational, and local levels. Its implementation directly contributes to the localization of the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the SDGs, including SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and human settlements.

The 2026 Political Declaration on the Midterm Review of the New Urban Agenda (A/RES/80/291) further reinforces this connection. In paragraph 50, Member States explicitly recognize national SDG localization frameworks in the context of strengthening UN-Habitat's support to countries in implementing the New Urban Agenda and localizing the 2030 Agenda, including through multilevel governance. This recognition provides an important intergovernmental foundation for the NLF approach.

The NUA and SDG localization share a common emphasis on translating global sustainable development commitments into policies, plans, investments, and actions that respond to territorial realities. The NUA recognizes the leading role of national governments alongside the equally important contributions of subnational and local governments and promotes stronger cooperation across levels of government, integrated urban and territorial planning, inclusive governance, and sustainable financing. SDG localization reinforces this approach by ensuring that national development priorities and the SDGs are adapted to local contexts and that local priorities, evidence, and implementation experiences inform national policymaking.

The National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF) provide an enabling architecture through which this alignment can be strengthened throughout the localization process. Across the NLF, the principles of the NUA inform efforts to strengthen multilevel governance, promote policy coherence, integrate national and territorial planning, mobilize financing, build institutional capacities, and engage stakeholders in implementation. This reflects the NUA's call for enabling policy frameworks at national, subnational, and local levels, supported by participatory planning, effective means of implementation, and capacity development.

Alignment with the NUA is also embedded within the NLF's data and monitoring processes. Through the Indicator Alignment Tool, countries can assess the alignment of national and subnational indicators with the SDGs and relevant New Urban Agenda indicators, helping to establish a common evidence base for identifying territorial priorities and monitoring progress. This supports the NUA's emphasis on strengthening data and statistical capacities at national, subnational, and local levels and combining globally comparable indicators with locally generated and disaggregated data to inform evidence-based decision-making.

The NLF further supports the connection between implementation, monitoring, and learning by creating opportunities for territorial evidence and experiences to feed back into national processes. This reflects the NUA's call for multilevel, participatory follow-up and review, with national, subnational, and local governments contributing to monitoring implementation and strengthening coherence with the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. Together, the New Urban Agenda, SDG localization, and the NLF provides a coherent pathway for connecting global commitments, national enabling environments, and territorial action to advance inclusive and sustainable urban and territorial transformation.

Scan to learn more on the New Urban Agenda

Annex 11: **Regions4SDGs Framework**

The Regions4SDGs Framework, developed through the partnership between Regions4 and UN-Habitat, provides practical guidance to support regional governments in mainstreaming the Sustainable Development Goals into regional governance structures, strategies, policies, and practices. Launched in 2024, the initiative recognizes the critical role of regional governments in accelerating SDG implementation and seeks to transform existing good practices into a living framework that can support regions across different institutional and territorial contexts. The framework is designed to strengthen regional capacities while providing a basis for technical assistance, peer learning, and improved access to financing.

Regions4SDGs reflects the central role of the regional level in connecting national policy frameworks with local implementation. Regional governments often operate at the intersection of national priorities and local needs, coordinating across municipalities, sectors, and functional territories while delivering public services, managing territorial development, and supporting economic and environmental transitions. By strengthening this intermediate level of governance, the framework contributes to more coherent multilevel implementation of the 2030 Agenda and reinforces the ability of regions to translate global and national commitments into territorially responsive action.

The Regions4SDGs Framework is closely aligned with the National SDG Localization Frameworks (NLF). While the NLF provides the overarching national architecture for strengthening multilevel governance, policy coherence, financing, and data systems, Regions4SDGs supports the regional operationalization of these enabling conditions. Its focus on data management and monitoring, strategic planning and policy coherence, institutional capacity, stakeholder engagement, and finance for action complements the NLF's interconnected enablers and transformative streams. Together, the two approaches strengthen the national–regional–local interface by ensuring that regional priorities inform national decision-making while national policies, resources, and institutional arrangements enable effective implementation across territories.

Throughout the NLF process, Regions4SDGs provides a practical entry point for engaging regional governments. Regional institutions contribute territorial evidence and priorities during visioning and strategy development; align regional strategies and policies with the SDGs during action planning; strengthen coordination with municipalities and other stakeholders during collective delivery; and contribute regional data, monitoring, and lessons to national learning and adaptation processes. This helps ensure that the NLF is not implemented solely through national institutions but is supported by capable regional governance systems that coordinate and scale sustainable development across multiple local jurisdictions.

The financing dimension of Regions4SDGs further complements the NLF by strengthening regional institutional capacity, investment readiness, and the development of bankable SDG-aligned projects. The initiative supports regions in improving resource management and connecting projects with potential investors and financial partners, reinforcing the NLF objective of linking territorial priorities with viable financing pathways. Together with SDG Cities at the local level, Regions4SDGs therefore provides an important regional delivery interface for the NLF, creating a coherent multilevel system in which national enabling frameworks, regional coordination and capacity, and local implementation mutually reinforce one another.



Annex 12:
The Global Stocktake on SDG Localisation

Supported by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security and the State of Paraná, and jointly led by the OECD, UN-Habitat and the Local2030 Coalition, The Global Stocktake on SDG Localisation is designed to take stock of almost a decade of SDG localisation efforts and translate them into evidence, guidance and practical recommendations for the final years of the 2030 Agenda and for the emerging post-2030 framework.

At a moment when global SDG progress remains uneven and off track, the Global Stocktake is built on a simple premise: delivery of the SDGs depends to a very large extent on what happens in cities, regions and territories, where local and regional governments shape implementation through planning, services, investment and multilevel governance.

The Global Stocktake is structured around three interrelated components:

- Component 1 aims to create a harmonised global measurement framework on SDG localization by building on UN-Habitat's Urban Monitoring Framework and the OECD's localised indicator framework, helping close local data gaps, assess and track progress over time, and provide benchmarks that support better SDG decision-making at city and regional levels worldwide.

- Component 2 examines nearly 10 years of localisation experience through deep dives in 27 selected countries and territories to identify key approaches and lessons learned, including success factors and pitfalls to avoid, around five strategic areas: 1) Policies, strategies and regulatory frameworks; 2) Multilevel governance and coordination (including VNR-VLR linkages); 3) Financing, budgeting and investment; 4) Data and information systems; and 5) Stakeholder engagement and partnerships. For this component, information will be gathered through both a general "light" questionnaire (open to any city, region or country engaged in SDG localization) and a longer questionnaire applied to 27 selected deep dives case studies across the world (13 in OECD countries and 14 in non-OECD countries).[1]

[1] Each deep dive is organized around a country (or cross-country) initiative and typically involves responses from multiple levels of government – national, regional and local – depending on the governance context and the scope defined for that case study. For instance, a national deep dive may involve the central government alongside a selection of regional and municipal respondents. The selection of deep dive case studies was jointly conducted by OECD and UN-Habitat, guided by three main criteria: (i) a demonstrated track record of engagement with SDG localization; (ii) broad geographic representation across the world's continents; and (iii) representation of the range of territorial scales and governance levels relevant to SDG localization, including local, regional, national and cross-country approaches.

- Component 3 uses foresight analysis to explore pathways for localisation in the post-2030 agenda. Drawing on the evidence generated by Components 1 and 2, it examines how the lessons of a decade of SDG localisation – on governance, financing, data and engagement – can inform the architecture of a successor framework, ensuring that local and regional dimensions are built in from the outset rather than retrofitted after the fact.

Together, these components will feed into a Global Stocktake Report that the OECD and UN-Habitat intend to bring forward for the 2027 SDG Summit to inform Member States and the wider United Nations system.

Within the United Nations system, the Global Stocktake contributes to the mandate of the Local2030 Coalition by generating the data and evidence, and identifying approaches and experiences, including those related to multilevel governance, from countries and cities that the Coalition can highlight, scale up and bring into global processes, such as the High-Level Political Forum, the SDG Summit and the Post-2030 deliberations. In this regard, the Global Stocktake builds on the Local2030 Coalition Monitoring workstream, and links to the Coalition's planned roadmap toward SDG Summit 2027.

For UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, this joint work offers a concrete vehicle to place local data and evidence-based city solutions at the centre of 2030 Agenda implementation. In particular, it directly operationalises "Participatory multilevel governance and localisation of the SDGs" as a means of implementation identified in the Strategic Plan, strengthening UN-Habitat's role on housing, basic services, and multilevel governance across all levels of government. The Global Stocktake also reinforces and complements the partnership model of the Global Urban Data Coalition by helping move from fragmented and project-based local datasets towards open, interoperable and comparable urban data systems that can underpin decision-making and accountability at scale. By identifying and addressing local data gaps, the Global Stocktake strengthens the Coalition's efforts to ensure more comprehensive and reliable urban data for SDG monitoring and decision-making.

The Global Stocktake also generates evidence and practical lessons that can directly inform the design of National SDG Localization Frameworks. By clarifying what works in localisation and how to measure progress consistently, the Global Stocktake strengthens the Partnership Platform's core goal: institutionalising National SDG Localization Frameworks and forging stronger links between Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary National Reviews, so that local data and priorities are systematically embedded in national SDG systems.

Annex 13:

The CEPA Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

The Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development were developed by the UN Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA), a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council. ECOSOC endorsed them in resolution 2018/12, and in resolution 2019/26 encouraged governments to apply them. UN DESA's Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government supports their application.

The 11 principles are voluntary and apply to all public institutions, at every level of government. They are grouped under the three core elements of SDG 16: effectiveness, accountability and inclusiveness. Each principle is linked to a set of commonly used strategies, many of which are detailed in CEPA strategy guidance notes.

The NLF does not treat the principles as a separate checklist. It builds them into its processes: each transformative process in Volume II identifies the principles it operationalizes and the strategies through which it does so.

CEPA and PCSD: complementary frameworks. The two sets of principles overlap on how institutions work together: CEPA collaboration, subsidiarity and participation echo OECD PCSD principles 4, 5 and 6, and intergenerational equity echoes principle 2. CEPA adds two dimensions that PCSD addresses less directly: accountability (integrity, transparency, independent oversight) and inclusiveness (leaving no one behind, non-discrimination). PCSD, in turn, provides the tools to manage synergies and trade-offs between policies. The NLF uses both.

Subsidiarity and SDG localization. Subsidiarity is the principle most directly linked to localization. CEPA has published five strategy guidance notes under it (2023–2024), on fiscal decentralization, urban governance, municipal finance, local capacity for external shocks and multilevel governance. In 2025, UN DESA released a readiness assessment that helps governments apply subsidiarity to SDG localization.



Figure 7. The 11 Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development

Source: UN DESA/CEPA (2018), Principles of Effective Governance for Sustainable Development.

Annex 14:
The 2026 VLR–VNR Peer-Learning Series

The 2026 VLR–VNR Peer-Learning Series was organized by the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, a joint initiative of UN-Habitat and the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE), to strengthen the connections between Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs).

Supported by the Local2030 Coalition and involving UN DESA, UNECA, UCLG and the GTF, and the OECD, the Series brought together national governments, local and regional authorities and stakeholders in preparation for the 2026 VNR cycle.

Held between April and July 2026, including exchanges at the Africa Regional Forum on Sustainable Development and the World Urban Forum and finally at HLPF, the Series engaged more than 100 participants from 17 countries. It provided a collaborative space to exchange experiences, identify practical approaches for integrating local evidence and priorities into national reporting, and co-create a common message on SDG localization.

Key Outcomes and Lessons

- Strengthening VLR-VNR linkages. The Series highlighted the growing role of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) as instruments for national reporting and implementation, rather than standalone reporting exercises. Country experiences demonstrated how local evidence, territorial priorities and stakeholder engagement can inform Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and strengthen national-local policy coherence. This trend was also reflected in the **UN DESA 2026 Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Report**, covering 36 VNRs presented at the High-Level Political Forum, which highlighted the growing role of local reviews and multilevel governance in national SDG implementation. Several country experiences illustrated these connections. In Senegal, the Pikine VLR, developed with UN-Habitat's support, informed the national review process. In Tunisia, the municipality of Ennour contributed its VLR to the preparation of the National Development Plan 2026-2030. Italy's 2026 VNR incorporated 14 territorial voluntary reviews prepared by regions and metropolitan cities. In Jordan, the VNR drew on VLRs from Amman and Irbid to highlight territorial disparities. In Brazil, the national review included six local reports associated with the "My Municipality for the SDGs" initiative. Together, these experiences demonstrate how voluntary reviews can strengthen territorial evidence, policy dialogue and institutional coordination while reinforcing the connection between reporting and implementation.
- Advancing participatory multilevel governance. Discussions underscored the importance of engaging local and regional governments from the earliest stages of VNR preparation as partners in policy dialogue, planning and implementation rather than solely as consultees. Effective localization requires institutionalized coordination mechanisms, clear responsibilities and continuous engagement beyond reporting cycles.
- Connecting reporting with implementation. Voluntary reviews can provide entry points for broader policy and governance processes. Stronger integration between VNRs, VLRs and VSRs helps connect territorial evidence with national planning, budgeting, investment priorities and policy adjustments.
- Developing a common message on SDG localization. The Series supported the co-creation of the 2026 VNR Joint SDG Localization Message, reflecting shared commitments to multilevel governance, policy coherence, territorial evidence, local participation and the institutionalization of SDG localization. The Message was endorsed or referenced in six VNRs, strengthening the recognition of localization within national reporting processes.

Contribution to the NLF Handbook

The Series directly informed the National SDG Localization Framework methodology by reinforcing three operational priorities:

- Institutionalizing localization: Moving beyond ad hoc consultations towards sustained multilevel governance and coordination arrangements.
- Connecting evidence with action: Ensuring that VLRs, VSRs and territorial data inform national planning, budgeting, investment and implementation processes.
- Strengthening the national–local interface: Establishing continuous, structured engagement between national institutions, local and regional governments and other stakeholders.

The NLF translates these lessons into an integrated operational architecture, connecting governance, policy coherence, territorial priorities, resource mobilization, implementation and monitoring across its five transformative streams.

The Series therefore illustrates how VLR–VNR linkages can evolve beyond reporting into mechanisms for institutionalizing SDG localization, strengthening coherence between national ambitions and territorial action.

The Peer Learning Series will continue in 2027 to support the 2027 VNR cohort in localizing their reviews and to sustain multilevel and multistakeholder exchange .

Related reference: See the separate annex on the 2026 VNR Joint SDG Localization Message.

Annex 15:
The 2026 VNR Joint SDG Localization Message

We believe that SDG Localization contributes to advancing systemic transformation as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We reaffirm our intention to progress on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals as a strategic pathway to accelerate progress across the 2030 Agenda and deliver outcomes that leave no one and no place behind.

We recognize that interconnected global challenges - including climate change, inequality, economic vulnerability, and deficits in housing and basic services - are experienced and primarily addressed at the local level, requiring integrated and systemic responses.

We emphasize that sustainable development cannot be achieved without strengthening multilevel governance systems and policy coherence for sustainable development which promote integrated, whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches. SDG Localization effectively connect national priorities with local realities, including through the integration of territorial evidence into national reporting and VNR processes, enabling coherent, place-based delivery and measurable impact.

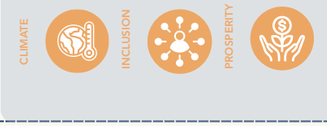
Localized approaches to VNRs are essential to ensure that national reporting reflects territorial realities, addresses disparities and supports effective SDG implementation.
We recognize local and regional governments, including small and intermediary cities and municipalities, as active decision-makers whose data, strategies and priorities must be integrated in the definition of national reporting, planning and policy objectives.

Building on the above we will further enhance our efforts to:

- Reinforce enabling environments that translate national strategies into territorial action, fostering integrated development pathways that respond directly to the needs, capacities, and aspirations of communities.
- Recognize the critical importance of engaging local and regional governments and stakeholders early and continuously throughout the VNR process, moving beyond consultation toward more structured and sustained forms of engagement, ensuring that participatory processes, local data, and territorial evidence inform national planning, implementation, and reporting.
- Underscore the value of strengthening integration between Voluntary National Reviews, Voluntary Local Reviews, and Voluntary Subnational Reviews as a mechanism to enhance policy coherence for sustainable development, strengthen the integration of territorial evidence into VNRs, improve accountability, and support coordinated action across all levels of government.
- Enhance the institutionalization of SDG Localization through strengthened governance frameworks and policy coherence for sustainable development approaches, including their integration into VNR processes, planning and reporting systems and the development and implementation of National SDG Localization Frameworks as promoted by the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, also active in peer learning and country-level support activities. These efforts aim to enable more coherent delivery of the SDGs, strengthening linkages between VNR processes and implementation, including planning, budgeting and investment decisions at all levels and to fast-track the identification and funding of catalytic initiatives at the local level.
- Anchor our efforts within the process of the Local2030 Coalition, reaffirming the role of the UN system as a whole in advancing territorially grounded approaches to sustainable development.
- Promote inclusive multilevel governance systems that strengthen both vertical coordination across levels of government and horizontal exchange among national, local and regional authorities, anchored on local participation and engagement, strengthened capacities of national and local actors, and expanded access to development finance to scale up locally driven solutions.

Through this, we send a clear and collective signal that localization is not optional, but central to delivery, an essential driver of systemic change and a prerequisite for inclusive and resilient territorial transformation.

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Institutional Anchoring and Political Mobilization	Participation Plan Guide, UN-Habitat	Supports preparation of a participation plan, including activity design and risk and mitigation measures for an inclusive participatory process.	stakeholder participation needs to be planned clearly from the outset of the NLF process.		Toolkit 1;
Scoping and Capacity Diagnostics	Institutional Scorecards Template, UN-Habitat	Provides a structured, measurable assessment of institutional readiness for SDG localization across governance dimensions.	institutional strengths and weaknesses need to be assessed and compared across actors, territories or governance levels.		Toolkit 2;
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR), UN-Habitat	Provides a framework for assessing governance arrangements, institutional relationships, decision-making and collective action.	diagnostics need to assess governance arrangements across municipal, metropolitan, regional and national levels.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 2;
	Metropolitan Legislation Toolkit , UN-Habitat(MetroHUB)	Supports review and strengthening of metropolitan legal frameworks, including institutional mandates, decision-making and coordination mechanisms.	legal gaps, fragmented mandates or unclear responsibilities hinder coordination between metropolitan institutions and other levels of government .		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 4;
	Metropolitan Management Pyramid, UN-Habitat(MetroHUB)	Integrates governance, planning and financing into a framework for metropolitan management.	metropolitan governance, planning and financing priorities need to be considered together and aligned with SDG localization priorities.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 7;
	Effective National-to-Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation, UN DESA / UNPOG	Provides structured capacity development on national–local coordination and institutional effectiveness for SDG implementation, with particular attention to the role of local government.	weak vertical coordination, unclear intergovernmental roles or limited institutional capacity is constraining SDG localization.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 2; Toolkit 3;

POLITICAL OWNERSHIP AND ANCHORING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Governance Structuring and Coordination Design	Metropolitan Institutions Guide, UN-Habitat(MetroHUB)	Provides guidance on establishing and structuring institutions responsible for metropolitan-wide issues and coordination across municipalities.	metropolitan areas require formal coordination mechanisms that connect municipalities with regional and national planning and SDG localization processes.	HOUSING, CLIMATE, PROSPERITY	Toolkit 1;
	Metropolitan Housing Management: Guide for Multi-Level Governance, UN-Habitat	Provides a framework for managing housing at the metropolitan scale through multilevel governance, integrated spatial planning, land-use regulation and financing. It also highlights mechanisms for public participation, monitoring, transparency and accountability.	housing challenges extend beyond individual municipal boundaries and require coordinated governance, land management, spatial planning, financing and service delivery across metropolitan areas.	HOUSING, INCLUSION, PROSPERITY	Toolkit 1;

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	Constraints, Challenges, Opportunities and Suitability Mapping, UN-Habitat	Provides spatial analysis to identify territorial constraints, development challenges, opportunities and suitability for different land uses and interventions, supporting evidence-based prioritization and integrated territorial planning.	territorial priorities need to be spatialized or when alternative locations and development options must be compared.	HOUSING, RECOVERY, CLIMATE, PROSPERITY	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;
	Housing Profile, UN- Habitat	Provides a structured housing-sector diagnosis linking housing supply, affordability, land, services and institutional conditions to territorial development priorities.	housing, land or basic-services challenges are a major NLF entry point or require deeper evidence than the general territorial baseline.	HOUSING, RECOVERY, CLIMATE, INCLUSION	Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6 Toolkit 7;
	Multicriteria Vulnerability Assessment Tool, UN-Habitat	Combines multiple vulnerability criteria to identify priority territories and populations and support targeted, place-based action.	vulnerability is multidimensional and the NLF requires a transparent method to compare territories, groups or investment priorities.	HOUSING, RECOVERY, CLIMATE, INCLUSION	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 3;

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN...	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	**Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action,** UN-Habitat	Provides guiding principles and an action framework for integrated territorial development linking urban, peri-urban and rural areas.	the NLF needs to integrate urban, peri-urban and rural priorities; diagnose gaps between urban and rural policies; design cross-boundary governance and intermediate cities strengthened	URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES	Toolkit 1; Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 8;
	Urban-Rural Linkages and Land: Flows-to-Action Framework, UNCCD/UN-Habitat	Provides framework for tracing resource, commodity, migration, ecosystem and service flows between urban and rural areas and turning that evidence into action	flows of resources, commodities, migration, ecosystem and services create impacts across administrative boundaries, such as land degradation, water stress, environmental pressures, livelihood risks, rural out-migration or unequal territorial outcomes	URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES	Toolkit 1; Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 8;
	Urban Profiling Toolbox, UN-Habitat	Provides a holistic urban profiling methodology combining spatial, sectoral and field-based analysis to establish a baseline, identify priority areas and support area-based interventions.	crisis-affected or rapidly changing urban areas require an integrated spatial diagnosis before defining recovery or development priorities.	HOUSING INCLUSION RECOVERY	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;
	Urban Recovery Planning System (URPS), UN- Habitat/UNITAC	Provides a modular geospatial system integrating sectoral data, damage visualization, service reachability and recovery scenario analysis to support coordinated reconstruction planning.	recovery planning requires an integrated spatial evidence platform to compare priorities, coordinate decisions and monitor changing conditions.	HOUSING RECOVERY	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 8;
	Participatory Mapping for Slum Upgrading, UN-Habitat	Quick guides for participatory mapping of informal settlements, supporting participatory urban profiling and slum upgrading	communities need to take part in mapping the conditions, services and risks of informal settlements before upgrading priorities are set.	HOUSING INCLUSION	Toolkit 1; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;
	Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), UN-Habitat	Maps tenure arrangements and related housing, property, documentation and socio economic attributes (not exclusively for but mostly used in informal settlements)	informal or customary tenure is a constraint and land or settlement data are missing.	HOUSING INCLUSION RECOVERY	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;

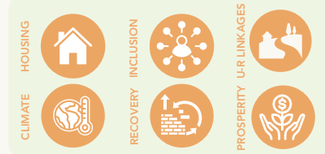
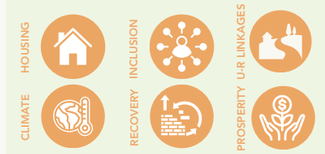
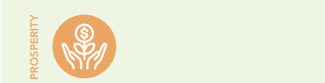
VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Territorial, Policies and Systems Analysis	Count Me In, UN-Habitat	Participatory enumeration for tenure security and related housing and socio-economic attributes	residents need to be counted and involved in collecting data on their own settlement, especially where official data on tenure and housing conditions are missing.	HOUSING, INCLUSION	Toolkit 1; Toolkit 5;
	Slum Situation Analysis, UN-Habitat	Enables to collect information from the settlements at city level	a city needs a citywide picture of where informal settlements are and their conditions.	HOUSING, INCLUSION	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;
	Urban Profiling Questionnaire, UN-Habitat	Enables to collect data on relevant areas for slum upgrading and prevention	detailed settlement data are needed to prioritize upgrading and prevention.	HOUSING, INCLUSION	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;
	Demographic Dividend Atlas, UNFPA	Provides spatial analysis of demographic trends, population structures and youth dynamics to identify territorial disparities, development opportunities and implications for service provision, employment and long-term planning.	population structure, youth dynamics or demographic change materially affects territorial strategy, service demand or economic priorities.	HOUSING, INCLUSION, PROSPERITY	Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 8;
	City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT), UN-Habitat	Provides a multidimensional assessment of urban systems, shocks, stresses and vulnerabilities to identify resilience gaps, interdependencies and capacities, informing integrated resilience strategies and place-based development priorities.	an NLF requires a deeper systems-level resilience diagnosis to inform territorial strategy and investment priorities.	HOUSING, CLIMATE, RECOVERY	Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 3;
	Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Data Tool, World Bank	Provides country-level environmental, social and governance indicators to assess sustainability performance, identify risks and inform policy and financing decisions.	national sustainability performance and ESG-related risks need to inform strategic planning and financing decisions.	CLIMATE, INCLUSION, PROSPERITY	Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 7; Toolkit 8;

VISIONING AND STRATEGY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Strategic Prioritization and Transformation Pathways	Spatial Development Framework, UN-Habitat	Translates settlement patterns, spatial evidence and development priorities into a coherent territorial planning framework.	strategic priorities need to be spatialized and connected to land-use, settlement, infrastructure and territorial-development decisions.		Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6;
	Quality of Life Initiative (QoLI), UN-Habitat	Combines citizen perceptions with objective urban indicators to provide a people-centred picture of quality of life and help identify priority urban and territorial issues.	strategic prioritization needs to reflect both measurable urban conditions and residents' lived experience.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 8;
	Urban Inclusion Marker, UN-Habitat	Provides a georeferenced, multidimensional assessment of urban inclusion, measuring access to housing, basic services, health, education, public spaces and economic opportunities to identify spatial inequalities and inform inclusive territorial development priorities.	spatial inequalities and disparities in access to services and opportunities need to be identified to inform inclusive urban development strategies and investment priorities.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6
	Urban Recovery Framework (URF), UN-Habitat	Provides an integrated framework connecting governance, policies, coordination, financing and area-based priorities for immediate and medium-term urban recovery and longer-term resilience.	a city or country needs a coordinated recovery pathway linking crisis assessments with planning, financing and reconstruction priorities.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 3; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 7;
	Synergetic Multiplier Network Mapping (SMNM), ESCWA	Maps cross-sector spillovers between public spending and development outcomes to identify interventions with strong multiplier effects and synergies.	cross-sector synergies, trade-offs and multiplier effects need to be assessed to identify high-impact interventions.		Toolkit 3; Toolkit 4; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 7;

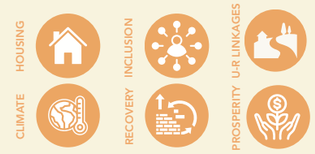
ACTION PLANNING

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Implementation and Investment Planning	Dynamic National Financing Simulator (DNFS), ESCWA	Simulates public, private, domestic and international financing scenarios to identify resource gaps, financing pathways and sensitivity to shocks.	national financing choices need scenario testing or when the resource implications of alternative NLF pathways must be explored.		Toolkit 3; Toolkit 4; Toolkit 7;
	Integrated Budgeting and Intelligence Toolkit (iBIT), ESCWA	Uses AI-powered analysis to assess the impact of public spending on SDG outcomes, identify inefficiencies and optimize budget allocations.	public spending needs to be assessed and optimized to improve SDG outcomes and budget efficiency.		Toolkit 3; Toolkit 7; Toolkit 8;
	Urban Resilience Action Planning (URAP) Approach, UN-Habitat	Translates urban vulnerability and resilience assessments into prioritized, integrated and actionable resilience measures.	urban resilience assessments need to inform coordinated, prioritized and implementable actions.		Toolkit 3; Toolkit 4; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 7;
	Rapid Own-Source Revenue Analysis (ROSRA), UN-Habitat	Assesses municipal own-source revenue potential, performance and constraints, providing evidence on local fiscal capacity and opportunities to strengthen revenue mobilization.	limited local fiscal space is constraining implementation or when project pipelines need a clearer view of realistic municipal revenue capacity.		Toolkit 3; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 7;
	Local Finance Framework, UN-Habitat	Maps local financing options, mechanisms and partners to help connect territorial priorities and projects with feasible financing pathways.	local or regional governments need a deeper assessment of financing mechanisms available for territorial delivery.		Toolkit 3; Toolkit 7;

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Institutional Integration and Mainstreaming	Integrated Planning and Reporting Toolkit (IPRT), UN ECA	Links development priorities, targets and reporting within a common workflow, supporting stronger alignment between planning and SDG reporting.	governments need to connect national planning frameworks with SDG targets and reporting rather than operate separate planning and reporting tracks.		Toolkit 4; Toolkit 8;
	Sport for Sustainable Urban Development Playbook, IOC & UN-Habitat	Provides step-by-step guidance for mainstreaming sport, physical activity and active recreation into urban development through awareness and advocacy, capacity-building, data-driven planning and high-impact implementation.	sport and physical activity are being used as an entry point for inclusion, health, community cohesion or sustainable urban development and need to be embedded in municipal planning and delivery systems.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 2; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 7; Toolkit 8;
Project Pipeline Development and Investment Facilitation	Framework for SDG-Aligned Finance, OECD/UNDP	Provides guidance for aligning public and private finance with the SDGs through investment practices, policy incentives and accountability mechanisms.	financing mechanisms and investment practices need to be aligned with SDG priorities.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 2; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 7; Toolkit 8;
Delivery Support and Capacity Strengthening	Integrated Policies and Policy Coherence for the SDGs Toolkit, UNITAR / UN DESA / ECLAC	Provides training materials, exercises and facilitation methods on integrated policymaking, systems thinking and policy coherence for SDG implementation.	institutions require targeted capacity development to apply policy-coherence and integrated-policy approaches in practice.		Toolkit 2; Toolkit 3; Toolkit 4;
	Regional Technical Office, (RTO), UN-Habitat	Provides an institutional support model through which groups of municipalities can access shared engineering, planning, GIS and project-development capacity.	local authorities need sustained pooled technical capacity for planning, project preparation, service delivery or recovery.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 2; Toolkit 3; Toolkit 7;

COLLECTIVE DELIVERY

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN…	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Delivery Support and Capacity Strengthening	Infrastructure Asset Management Diagnostic Tool, UN DESA	Assesses local-government asset-management practices across inventories, asset performance, service levels, demand forecasting, lifecycle decisions, operational and capital planning, financial planning, sustainability, information systems, procurement and transparency; it produces an asset-management profile and priority technical-assistance needs.	use when infrastructure condition, service delivery, capital investment or municipal asset-management capacity is a material constraint to territorial implementation.		Toolkit 2; Toolkit 3; Toolkit 5; Toolkit 7; Toolkit 8;

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

Performance Monitoring and System Review	Metropolitan Observatories: Structuring and Implementation Guide, UN-Habitat/MetroHUB	Provides guidance for establishing metropolitan observatories to collect, harmonize and monitor territorial data and indicators across municipalities, supporting evidence-based planning and decision-making.	metropolitan monitoring requires coordinated data collection and analysis across municipalities to inform planning and reporting.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 8;
	SDG Computation Tools, UN-Habitat	Provides technical guidance for consistent SDG indicator computation and harmonized data production, supporting comparable and methodologically coherent localization evidence.	national and subnational actors need to calculate SDG indicators consistently or reconcile different data and computation practices.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 8;
	Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT), UN-Habitat	Provides a seven-step method to collect and assess municipal solid-waste data, including generation, collection, recovery chains and environmental control of waste facilities.	waste and circular-economy performance is a priority but local data are incomplete, inconsistent or not yet linked to planning and monitoring.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 8;

LEARNING AND ADAPTATION

TRANSFORMATIVE PROCESS	COMPLEMENTARY TOOL	WHAT IT ADDS	USE WHEN...	LENS RELEVANCE	COMPLEMENTS
Reporting and Accountability	Youth SDG Dashboard, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, developed with UN OICT and Qlik	Visualizes youth-relevant SDG indicators to track progress, highlight disparities and support youth-focused reporting and accountability.	youth-related SDG progress needs to be monitored and communicated to inform reporting and accountability.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 6; Toolkit 8;
	Transparency Tracker, CEPEI	Tracks transparency, accountability and openness of SDG-related processes and information flows, providing evidence for review and continuous improvement.	accountability, public access to information or transparency of localization processes is a significant implementation concern.		Toolkit 1; Toolkit 8;
	Practical Guide to Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews, UN DESA	Provides guidance for evidence-based VNR preparation, stronger statistical inputs and use of the review process to identify data, policy and capacity gaps.	an NLF is being connected to a VNR cycle or when national reporting needs stronger territorial evidence and national–local linkages.		Toolkit 5; Toolkit 8;
Adaptive Management and Continuous Improvement	After-action Review Guide (AAR), UN-Habitat	Provides a structured method to assess implementation results, identify lessons learned and inform improvements to future activities.	completed activities or implementation cycles need to be reviewed to identify lessons and corrective actions.		Toolkit 8;