

## Launch of the Voluntary Local Review of the City of Amman Workshop

5-6 OCTOBER 2022

AL HUSSIEEN CULTURAL CENTER, GREATER AMMAN MUNICIPALITY, RAS ALAIN  
AMMAN, JORDAN

### CONCEPT NOTE

#### BACKGROUND

In 2015, during the Global Sustainable Development Summit at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Jordan and 192 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). By adopting the SDGs, Jordan committed to exerting the efforts required to address emerging issues and challenges to achieve sustainable development.

In 2016, at Habitat III in Quito, Ecuador, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) was adopted by all member states, including Jordan. The NUA emphasized the centrality of addressing the global accelerated urbanization through ensuring social, economic, environmental, and spatial sustainability. It emphasized the core role of SDG 11, which focuses on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, as a framework for achieving sustainable urban development.

Achieving sustainable urban development cannot be realized without the engagement of all the relevant stakeholders, including local authorities. In fact, as per the 2030 Agenda SDGs and the NUA, 65% of the 169 SDGs targets cannot be achieved without the involvement of local governments. Therefore, implementing the SDGs at the national level is a direct reflection of the countries' commitment to the 2030 Agenda. However, it is only through localizing the SDGs and strengthening the national-local policy dialogue that sustainable development can be achieved.

Globally, countries voluntarily have been reporting on the progress made towards implementing the SDGs through the development of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). As of today, Jordan has developed two VNRs that were presented at the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in 2017 and 2022.

Since 2018, local governments across the world have started developing Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) as means to highlight the importance of SDG localization and to monitor progress of local implementation. This review constitutes a means for highlighting local development priorities mapped to the SDGs. Through evidence, this local review analyzes the city's strengths, challenges, and opportunities for achieving sustainable development agenda. As of 2022, more than 140 VLRs were published covering the status of SDGs localization in cities from various parts of the world, with the exception of the Arab region. This event marks the launch of the first VLR in the Arab region, the VLR of the City of Amman.

In line with its commitment to advance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the NUA, the Greater Amman Municipality (GAM), with the Amman Urban Observatory (AUO) as the lead coordinator, exerted notable efforts to develop the VLR of the City of Amman. This was done with the support of and in close collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), United Nation Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat), and the United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA). This concerted effort was conducted under the umbrella of the global development project on the 'Inter-Regional Cooperation to Implement the New Urban Agenda' implemented in nine cities around the globe, two

of which are in the Arab Region: Amman in Jordan and Agadir in Morocco. While the VLR of the City of Amman has been completed, the development of the VLR of Agadir is underway.

The development of the VLR of the City of Amman was done in parallel to the 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR of Jordan and the 1<sup>st</sup> National Report on the progress of the implementation of the NUA in Jordan, the latter of which was presented at the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda held in New York in April 2022. The VLR of Amman was highlighted at the Arab Forum for Sustainable Development held in Beirut, Lebanon in March 2022. It was also highlighted at the World Urban Forum held in Katowice, Poland in June 2022 and launched globally at the HLPF in New York in July 2022 along with Jordan 2<sup>nd</sup> VNR.

The development of the VLR of Amman followed an inclusive and multi-stakeholder approach. The consultative process involved more than 60 stakeholders from the public sector, academia, civil society, private sector, and the international community, among others. It reviewed the progress of the city in implementing selected SDGs and reflecting the main local development priorities. Indeed, the VLR of the City of Amman is a means to promote an international dialogue with other cities at the national, regional, and global levels and to effectively articulate a long-term strategy to localize and fulfill the SDGs, while ensuring coherence with national development.

## **OBJECTIVES**

This workshop aims to launch the VLR of the City of Amman, specifically its key messages and development details, as well as build the capacities of local authorities and key stakeholders in developing VLRs. The workshop is composed of two days as follows:

The first day aims to strengthen the capacities of local authorities in developing VLRs. It overviews the phases of the VLR development process and the guiding principles of the VLR development framework with particular emphasis on challenges, opportunities and lessons learnt. During this first day, the theoretical concepts that will be explored will be mapped to the case of Amman for detailed discussion.

The second day of the workshop will be dedicated to formally launch VLR of the City of Amman with high-level representation. This will include a summary of the review and the related key highlights. It will also include a panel discussion on how to further strengthen the local-national policy development dialogue and the ways forward. The panel will discuss the importance of reporting on SDGs localization, as well as the governance mechanisms and means to foster local-national inter-sectoral development dialogue. This session will also explore how VLRs constitute a core means for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

Participants in this workshop will include representatives from GAM, national and local authorities, UN organizations, international organizations, donor and financing institutions, academia, civil society, and relevant stakeholders.

## **VENUE AND DATE**

This event will be held in person at Al Hussien Cultural Center in Ras Al Ain, Amman on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.

## **LANGUAGE:**

The main working language of the event is Arabic. Simultaneous interpretation from English to Arabic and vice versa will be provided.