

High Level Political Forum 2020**Voluntary National Review Lab: Multi-level governance and subnational reporting
on Voluntary National Reviews and Voluntary Local Reviews****Wednesday, 8 July 2020****8:00-9:00 EST**

A very good morning, afternoon and evening to all of you!

I would like to thank Mr. Amson Sibanda, Chief, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA for fruitful collaboration with UN-Habitat on this Lab on multi-level governance.

I would also like to thank Ms. Hilde Hardeman, Director of the Service for Foreign Policy Instruments, European Commission, for enlisting UN-Habitat's support to the EU International Urban Cooperation Programme, and for delivering the keynote speech today. UN-Habitat appreciates the commitment of the EU Institutions, to support multilateralism on the subnational level through the efforts of "urban diplomacy".

The VLR is a useful monitoring instrument to the cities to monitor implementation of Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda.

The partnership between national and local governments from an integrated planning perspective is mutually beneficial. I would like to encourage National Governments to consider putting policy into practice by using the VLRs to prepare for their VNRs. This opens up possibilities of a broader territorial approach to monitoring implementation, taking into account the system of cities, the interaction of urban and rural areas and other dimensions that provide the full picture. To have meaningful monitoring for agenda 2030, the whole framework of multi-level, multi-stakeholder governance on all relevant territorial scales in the urban-rural continuum needs to be considered.

I wish every success to the Lab and hope that it will help to broaden attention to monitoring SDGs, integrating the national and the subnational level.

Thanks very much to all of you.