

Framing the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Movement



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1) Background–The VLR Movement

2) Why VLRs?



1) Background: Voluntary Local Review (VLR), an Introduction

The 2030 Agenda urges **national governments** to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven".

This has been pursued in the **Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)**, which are presented every year by MemberStates at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held in New York. VNRs are a vehicle for national governments to **share their experiences** in implementing the SDGs, outlining both **successes and challenges**, and accelerate progress based on the lessons learnt.



1) Background: Voluntary Local Review (VLR), an Introduction

However, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) remarked:

"an estimated **65% of the 169** targets behind the 17 SDGs will not be reached without engagement of **local and regional governments**".

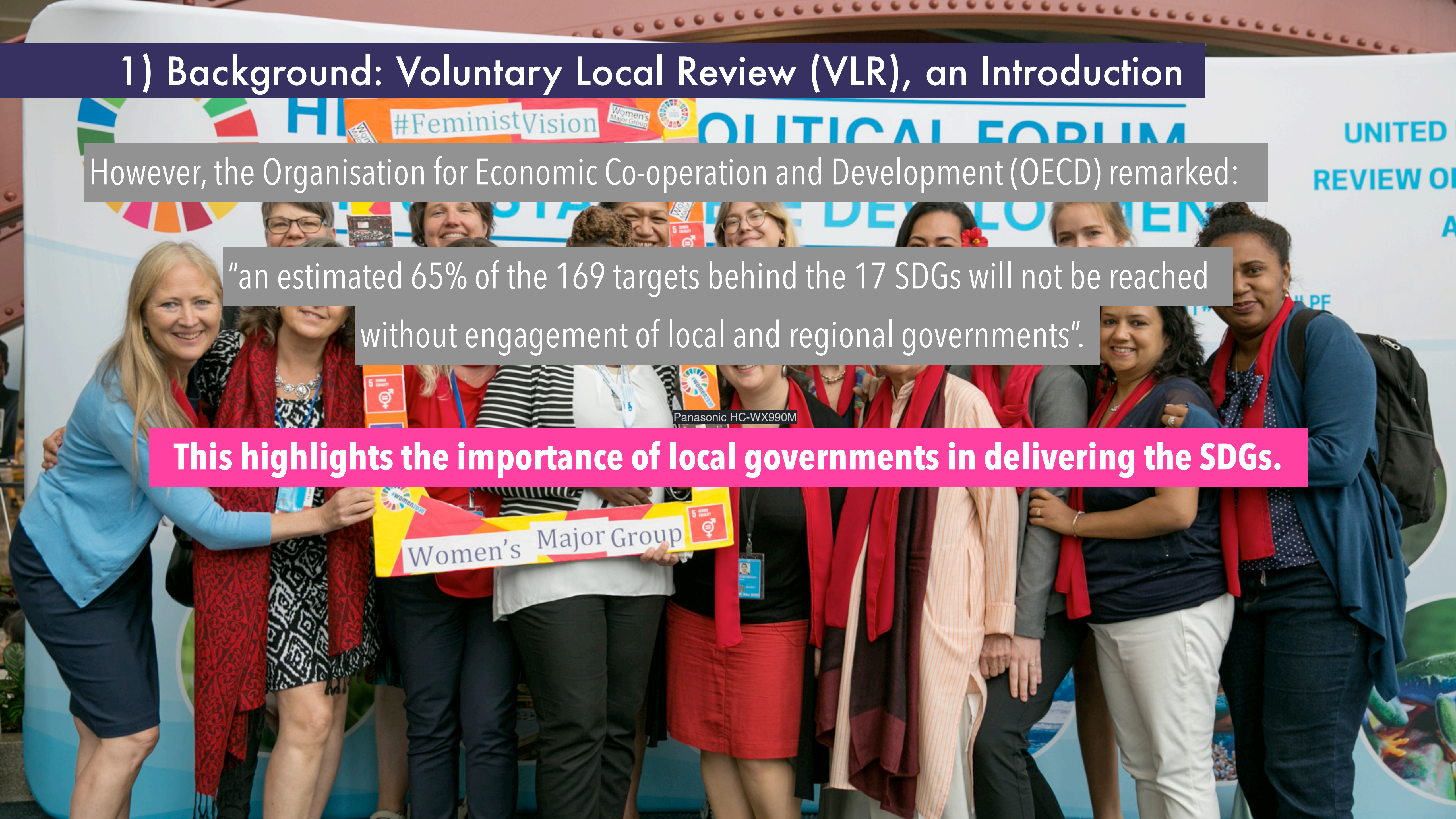


1) Background: Voluntary Local Review (VLR), an Introduction

However, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) remarked:

"an estimated 65% of the 169 targets behind the 17 SDGs will not be reached without engagement of local and regional governments".

This highlights the importance of local governments in delivering the SDGs.



1) Background: 2018, Origins



In 2018, four local governments presented the first ever VLRs at the HLPF. 3 of them co-authored by IGES.

1) Background: Voluntary Local Review (VLR), an Introduction

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

– Ortiz-Moya et al. (2020), p. 2



1) Background: 2019, Expansion



VLRs Published in 2019

1) Background: 2020, VLRs Under COVID-19 Pandemic



VLRs Published in 2020

1) Background: 2021, Consolidation

+ 43 VLRs Presented in 2021

> 17 in Europe | 13 in Asia and the Pacific | 10 in Latin America and the Caribbean | 3 in North America

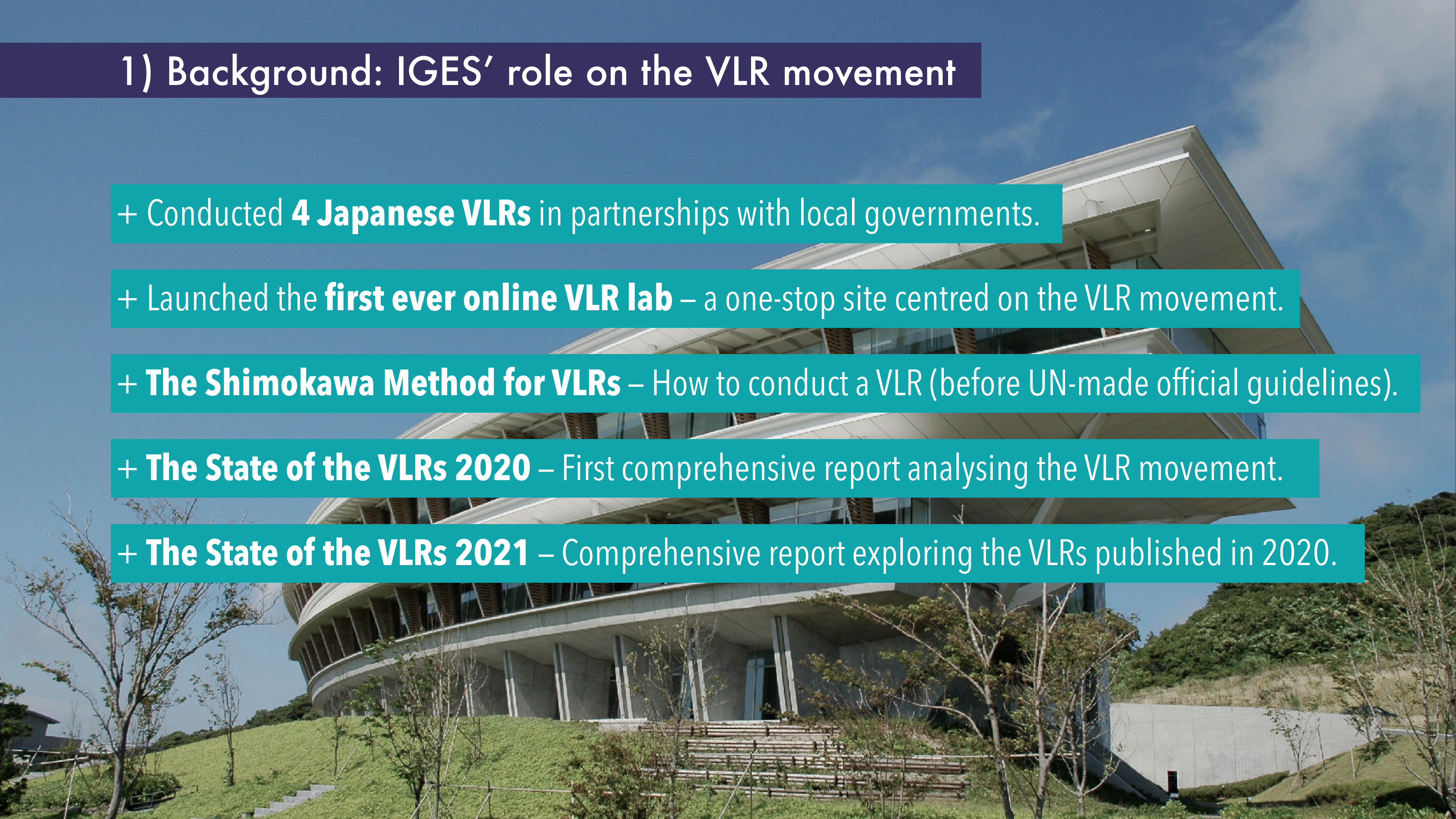
> 4 ASEAN cities (Malaysia and Indonesia)

> 2 Japanese cities



1) Background: IGES' role on the VLR movement

- + Conducted **4 Japanese VLRs** in partnerships with local governments.
- + Launched the **first ever online VLR lab** – a one-stop site centred on the VLR movement.
- + **The Shimokawa Method for VLRs** – How to conduct a VLR (before UN-made official guidelines).
- + **The State of the VLRs 2020** – First comprehensive report analysing the VLR movement.
- + **The State of the VLRs 2021** – Comprehensive report exploring the VLRs published in 2020.



2) Why VLRs? The Benefits of Conducting a VLR

+ A VLR allows the local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policymaking.

+ A VLR invites self-reflection, by diagnosing the state and pointing to pathways for a better localisation of the SDGs.

+ A VLR provides for a process that is data-driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want.

+ A VLR gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development.

– Ortiz-Moya et al. (2020)

2) Why VLRs? Monitoring Progress Toward the SDGs

- + VLRs help to benchmark the current state of cities in relation to the 2030 Agenda.
- + They provide a framework for monitoring progress and gap analysis.
- + Help discover areas needing additional efforts.



2) Why VLRs? Supporting SDGs Governance Structure

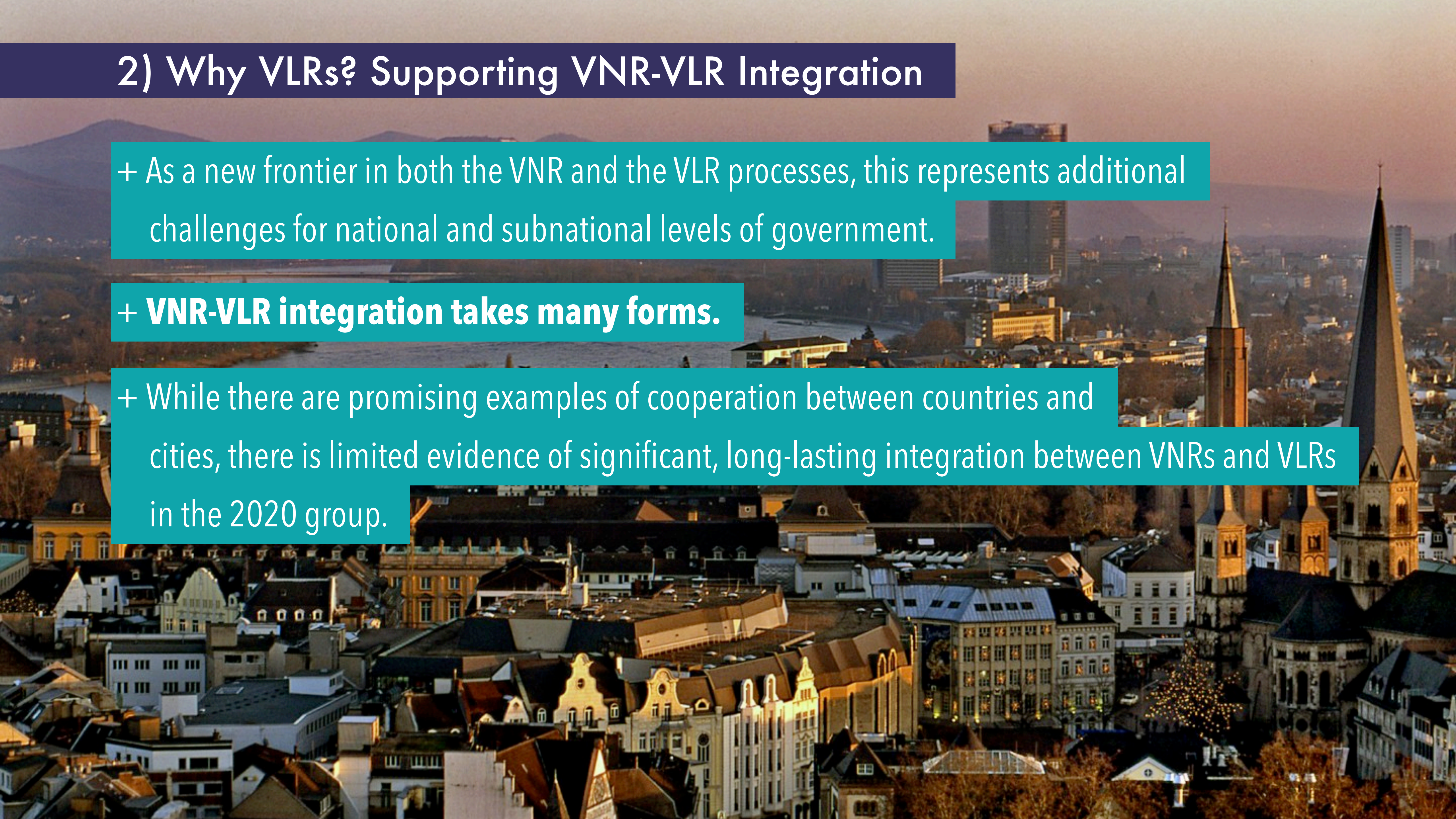
- + Cities understand the **VLR as a process** rather than as a one-time exercise resulting in the production of a report.
- + Cities strive to make use of the VLR to **advance horizontal coordination** across units of government.
- + The holistic and integrative approach of VLRs might position them as an ideal instrument for local policymaking to **support responses to complex issues**, such as planning for a post-COVID-19 world or **fighting climate change**.

2) Why VLRs? Supporting VNR-VLR Integration

+ As a new frontier in both the VNR and the VLR processes, this represents additional challenges for national and subnational levels of government.

+ **VNR-VLR integration takes many forms.**

+ While there are promising examples of cooperation between countries and cities, there is limited evidence of significant, long-lasting integration between VNRs and VLRs in the 2020 group.



Online Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Lab



For more information visit:

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

VLR Lab



Thank you so much!

If you want assistance with you VLR journey, please, contact me at:

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