

The background of the slide is an aerial photograph of a densely populated urban area, likely in South Asia. The image shows a mix of modern multi-story buildings and older, more densely packed structures. A large green field is visible in the middle ground, and a river or canal flows through the lower right portion of the image. The top of the slide is decorated with several horizontal, wavy bands of color in shades of red, orange, yellow, green, and blue.

# Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines on Voluntary Local Reviews

22 February 2022

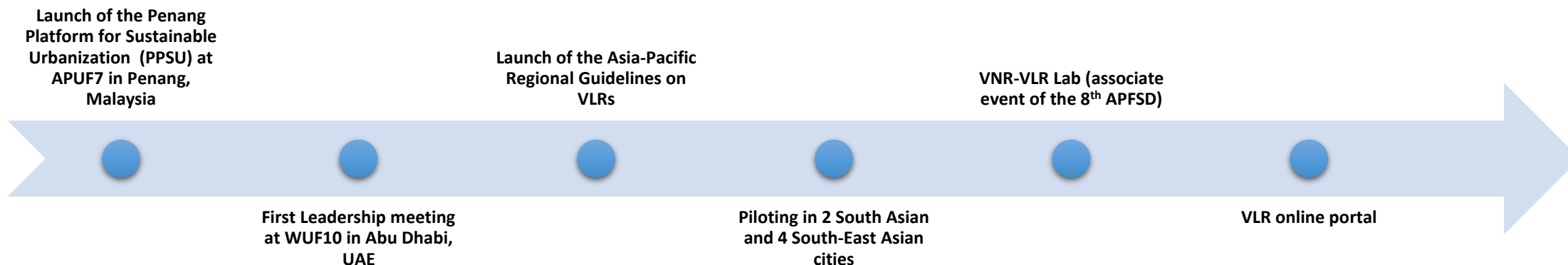
**Samiuddin Ahmed**

Regional Sustainable Development Consultant  
Environment and Development Division, ESCAP



ENVIRONMENT AND  
DEVELOPMENT

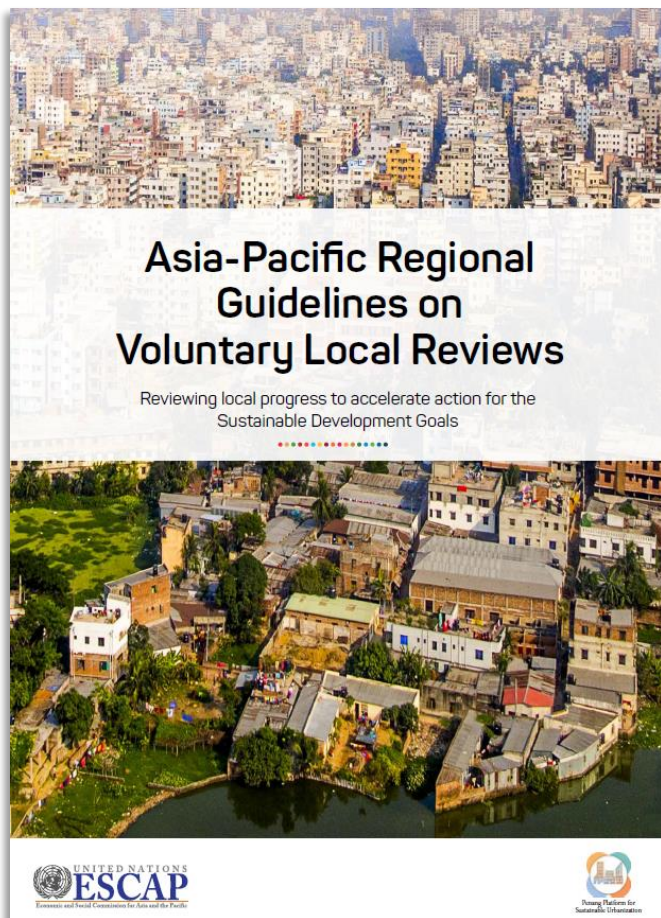
# ESCAP's VLR Journey



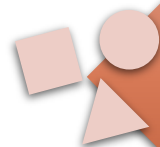
- Guidelines co-produced with 16 PPSU members including UN-Habitat, UNDP, UCLG ASPAC, Urbanice Malaysia, IGES and others
- Fully aligned with UNDESA's Global Guiding Elements for VLRs



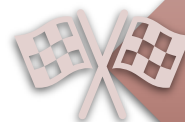
# Regional Guidelines on VLRs



Unique



Simple

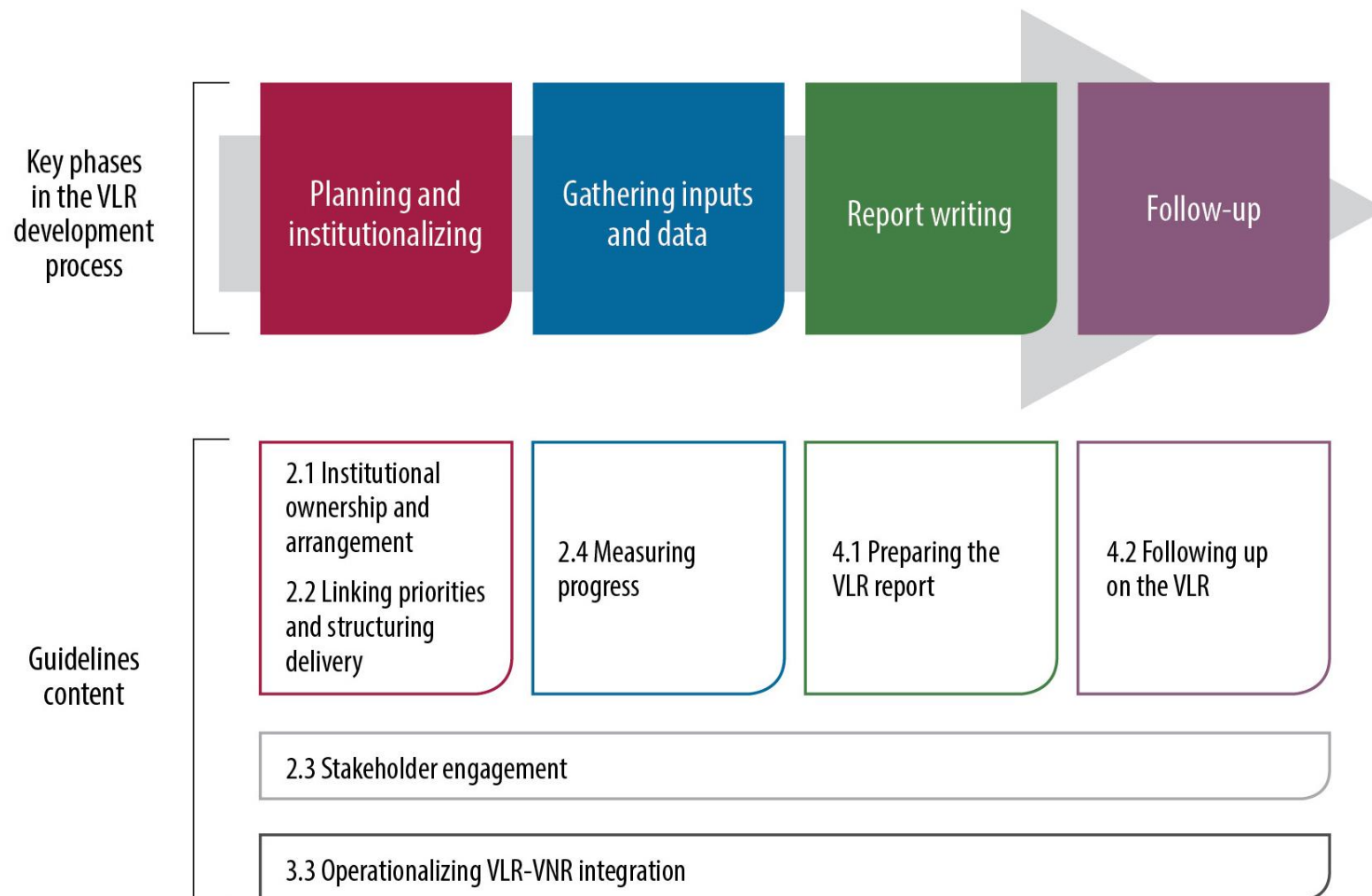


Complete

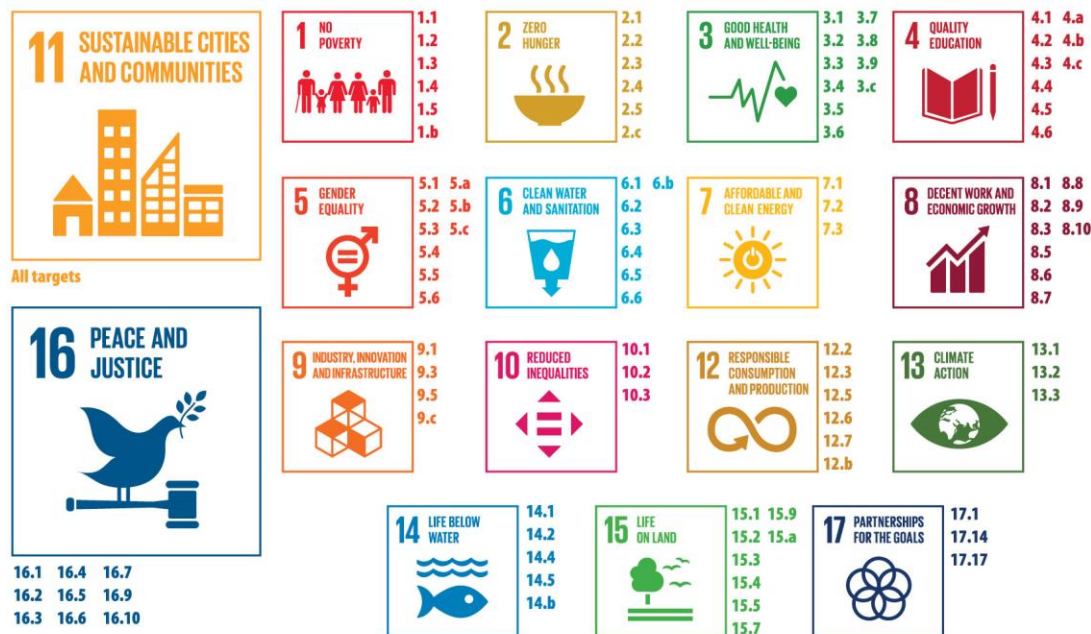


Responsive

# Getting Started: The VLR Process



# Integrating National and Local Review of the SDGs



Source: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2018.

Systems Thinking approach



Fill information gaps



Enhance vertical and horizontal coordination



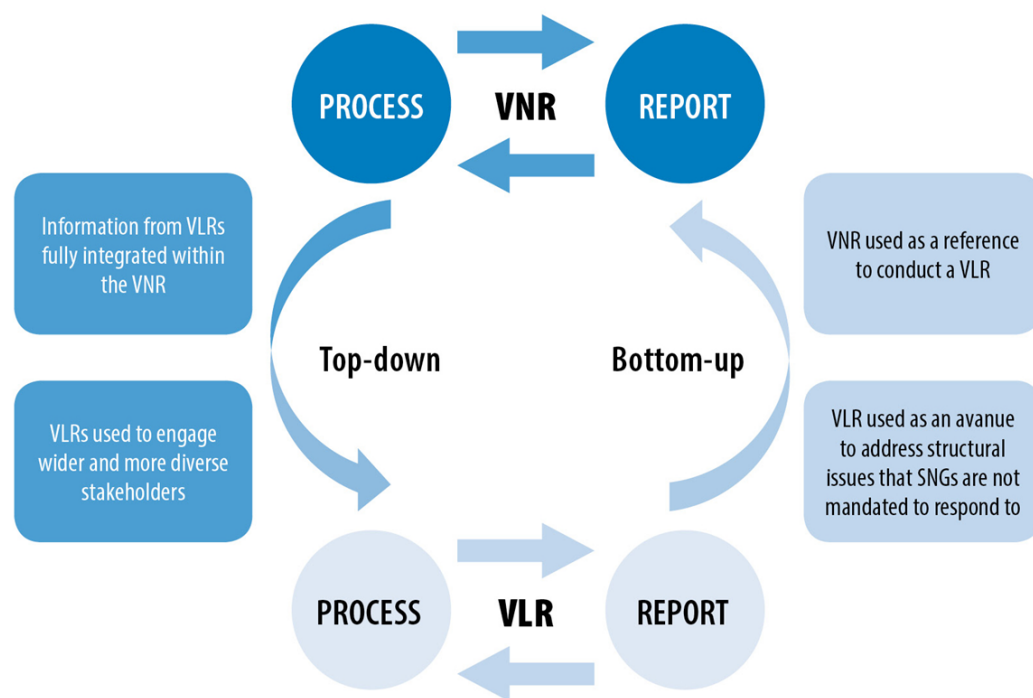
Broaden stakeholder engagement



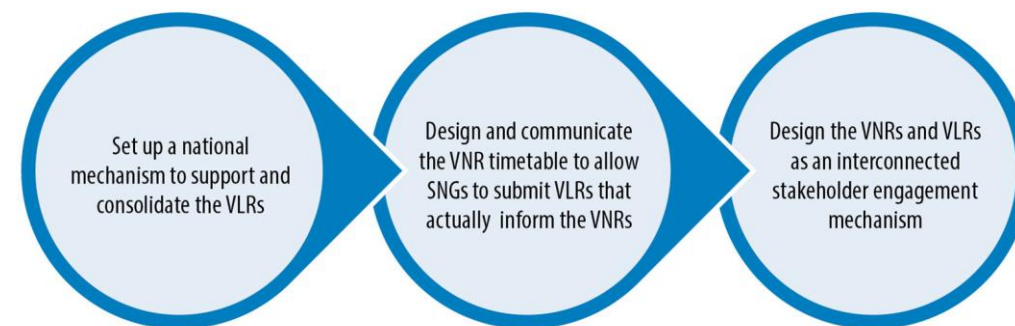
Strengthen legitimacy of local follow-up and review of the SDGs

# Operationalizing VNR-VLR Integration

## Basis for effective integration



## Actions to consider



# VLR E-learning Platform



Interactive

Visually engaging



Practical

Tested tools and resources



Targeted

Different content for different users



[vlr.unescap.org](http://vlr.unescap.org)





# Lessons Learned



High-level  
political  
support

Enabling  
environment

Dedicated  
team

Technical  
capacity

SDG  
awareness

Meaningful  
stakeholder  
engagement

Vertical  
coordination



# VLR: A Continuous Process

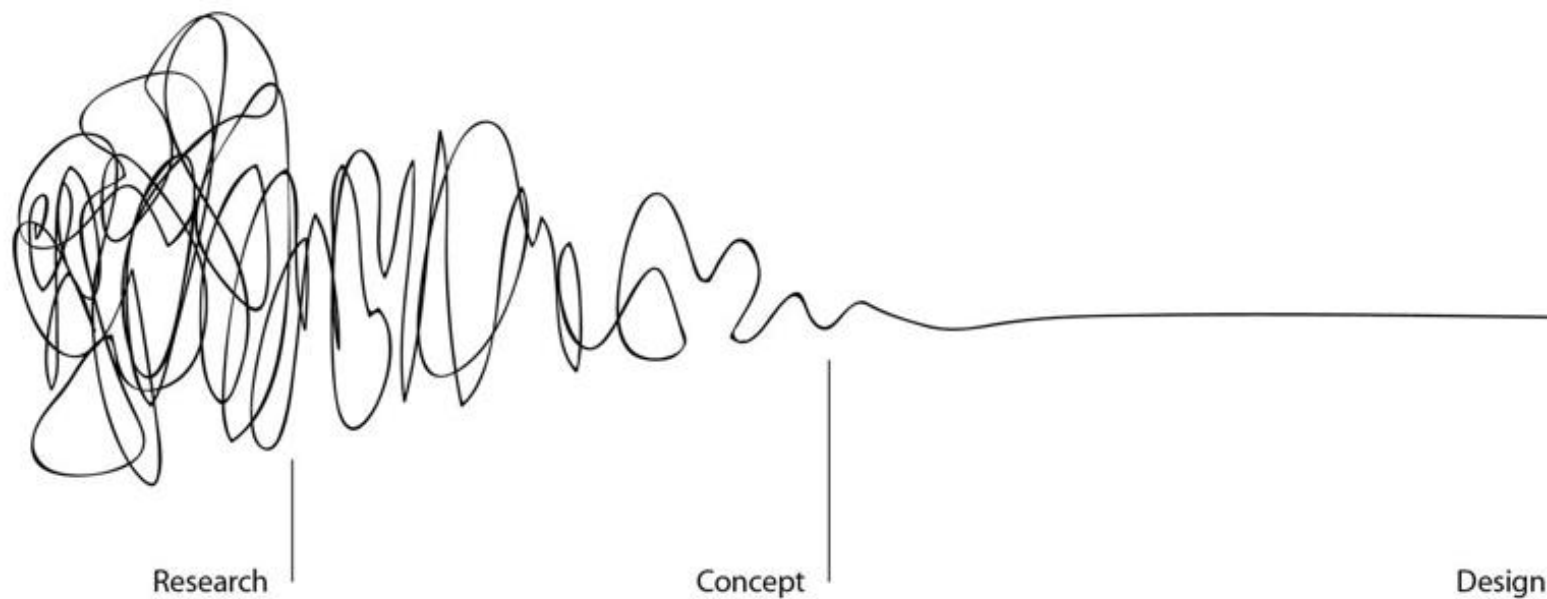


Illustration: the 'Design Squiggle' by Damian Newman

# THANK YOU

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