



CITY OF CAPE TOWN  
ISIXEKO SASEKAPA  
STAD KAAPSTAD

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



## IPPN Knowledge Café- VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

City of Cape Town Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Approach  
20 July 2022

City of Cape Town  
Policy & Strategy Department  
Research Branch

Making progress possible. **Together.**

# Presentation Outline

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- SDG localisation & VLR production
  - CCT SDG approach – key informants
- VLR production development
  - Strategic Informants
  - Approach
  - Organisational process
- Lessons learnt

# Reflections/achievements to date

- SDG localization not without challenges, but underway in different ways
- Enabling environment important to get things going but multi-level governance and leadership needed for the SDGs to land and enable dialogue and partnerships across different actors and spheres of government
- Within cities: importance of finding 'fertile ground': right people, right moment, right entry point
  - Adoption of CCT SDG implementation plan (April 2019)
  - Alignment of Cape Town Resilience Strategy with SDGs
  - Awareness and exposure - through presentations to officials and Portfolio Committees (Energy and Climate Change Committee)
  - Mayor Plato commitment to a VLR for Cape Town (July 2019)

**INTERNAL STRENGTHENING**

- Increase understanding and capacity for SDG engagement and alignment
- Support SDG and City monitoring and reporting

**GLOBAL POSITIONING**

- Localize the SDGs through locally embedded policies and plans
- Contribute to the definition of global good practices on SDG localization by cities

**NATIONAL REPORTING**

- Support SDG and City monitoring and reporting

**NEW YORK CITY**  
Mayor's Office for International Affairs

## Declaration

**Voluntary Local Review**

REPRESENTATIVES OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS, EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO ADVANCING THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, A SET OF 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) WITH 169 ASSOCIATED TARGETS UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED BY UNITED NATIONS MEMBER STATES AT THE UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2015.

WE PLEDGE TO USE THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SDGS TO DO OUR PART TO HELP END EXTREME POVERTY, FIGHT INEQUALITY AND INJUSTICE, AND WORK TO PREVENT THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE BY 2030.

WE APPRECIATE THE 2030 AGENDA'S RECOGNITION OF THE CRITICAL ROLE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES, NOTING THAT WE ARE ON THE FRONT LINES OF ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, AND IN THIS EFFORT WE HAVE A UNIQUE ABILITY TO ESTABLISH COOPERATION WITH KEY SECTORS OF SOCIETIES AND PEOPLE WORKING TOWARD THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AND EQUITABLE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP THAT CAN MORE EFFICIENTLY ADVANCE THE 2030 AGENDA.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS JOINING THE CITY OF NEW YORK IN SUBMITTING DIRECTLY TO THE UNITED NATIONS A VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW OF LOCAL PROGRESS IN ACHIEVING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.

BY SIGNING THE VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW DECLARATION, WE AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING NONBINDING COMMITMENTS, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT EACH SIGNATORY WILL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THEIR INDIVIDUAL STRUCTURE, DATA MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES, AND OTHER LOCAL DYNAMICS IN ORDER TO USE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AS A COMMON LANGUAGE TO DISCUSS OUR PRIORITIES IN CONCRETE TERMS, AND IDENTIFY AREAS WHERE WE CAN SHARE AND ACQUIRE KNOWLEDGE:

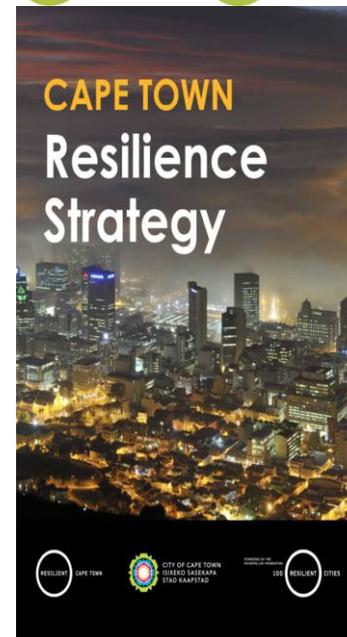
**COMMITMENT 1** TO IDENTIFY HOW EXISTING STRATEGIES, PROGRAMS, DATA, AND TARGETS ALIGN WITH THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**COMMITMENT 2** TO PROVIDE AT LEAST ONE FORUM WHERE STAKEHOLDERS CAN COME TOGETHER TO SHARE EXPERIENCES, LESSONS LEARNED, AND INFORMATION GATHERED USING THE FRAMEWORK OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**COMMITMENT 3** TO SUBMIT A VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW TO THE UNITED NATIONS DURING THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

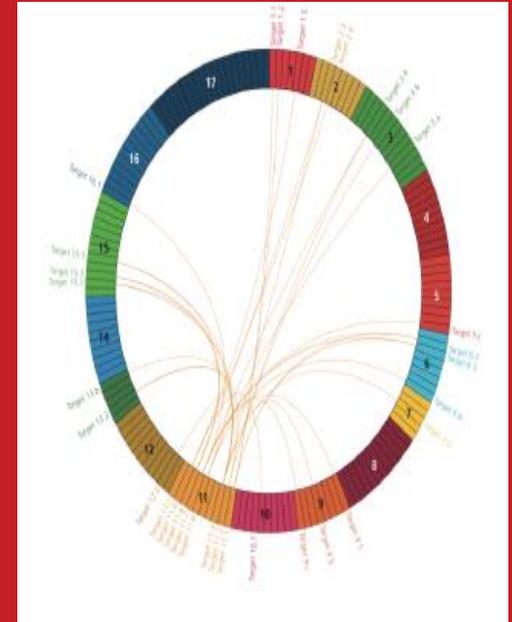
WE PLEDGE TO COOPERATE IN GOOD FAITH AND IN A SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP TO WORK TOWARD THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THIS DECLARATION.

SIGNED BY: DAN PLATO



# City of Cape Town – SDG related capacity development

- Strengthen **indicator capabilities** in CCT:
  - Pilot project in 2015 tested data availability, relevance and appropriateness of the draft targets and indicators for SDG Goal 11
  - ISO 37120 certification – against globally standardized indicators – 2016/2017
  - City Resilience Index (CRI), 2018
  - Integrated Development Plan 2017-2022 alignment with SDGs (at programme level), 2018/2019
- Between 2017 and 2019 **researcher embedded** in the Research branch of Policy and Strategy Department in Corporate Services City of Cape Town (CCT), as part of the Mistra Urban Futures Knowledge Transfer Project (KTP) - MUF MOU between African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town and CCT



# City of Cape Town SDG Localisation Approach (April 2019 approved)

## INTERNAL STRENGTHENING

Increase understanding and capacity for SDG engagement and alignment



Support SDG and City monitoring and reporting



## GLOBAL POSITIONING

Localise the SDGs through locally embedded policies and plans

Contribute to the definition of global good practices on SDG localisation by cities



## NATIONAL REPORTING

Support SDG and City monitoring and reporting



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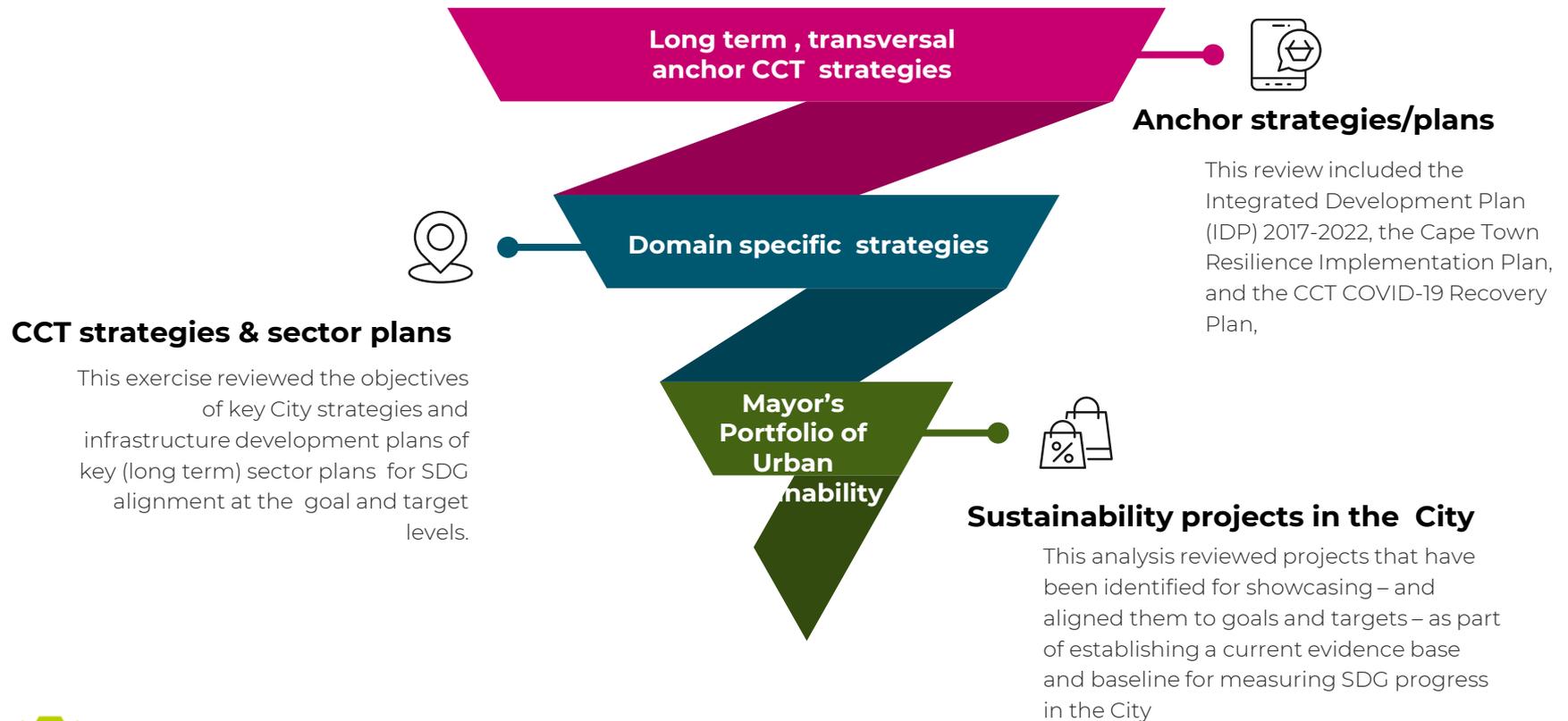
## Strategic informants for CCT VLR

- The **Cape Town Resilience Strategy** (2019). This strategy provides one of the three key anchors for the alignment of City's programmes to the SDGs.
- The City's Resilience Strategy is also aligned to the current **Integrated Development Plan** (2017 to 2022), which is the second key anchor, which will inform the VLR, as well preparation for the new IDP 2022-2027, and the new IDP once approved.
- The third key anchor for the production of the VLR is the City's **COVID19 Recovery Plan**, the parameters of which are being prepared, for implementation starting August 2020 onwards
  - Build back better (Resilience strategies)
  - Leave no one behind (SDGs)



# CCT priority SDGs for VLR reporting 2021

Alignment Reviews



# CCT Priority SDGs



# CCT VLR methodology



VLR development undertaken on 3 levels:

## 1. Approach

Developed various guideline documents, identification of authors, timeline planning and work stream milestone setting, task team prioritisation for goal reporting, work plans, work allocations and implementation plans.

## 2. Data strategy

Developing methodology of data collection including, sourcing and custodians, verifying data provided, review and update data with most current data, included possible trend data, potential online portal development (next phase) for data upload, data visualisation

## 3. Report

Authors identification, allocation of writing pieces, reviewing and editing of submitted pieces and finalisation writing pieces for document presentation.

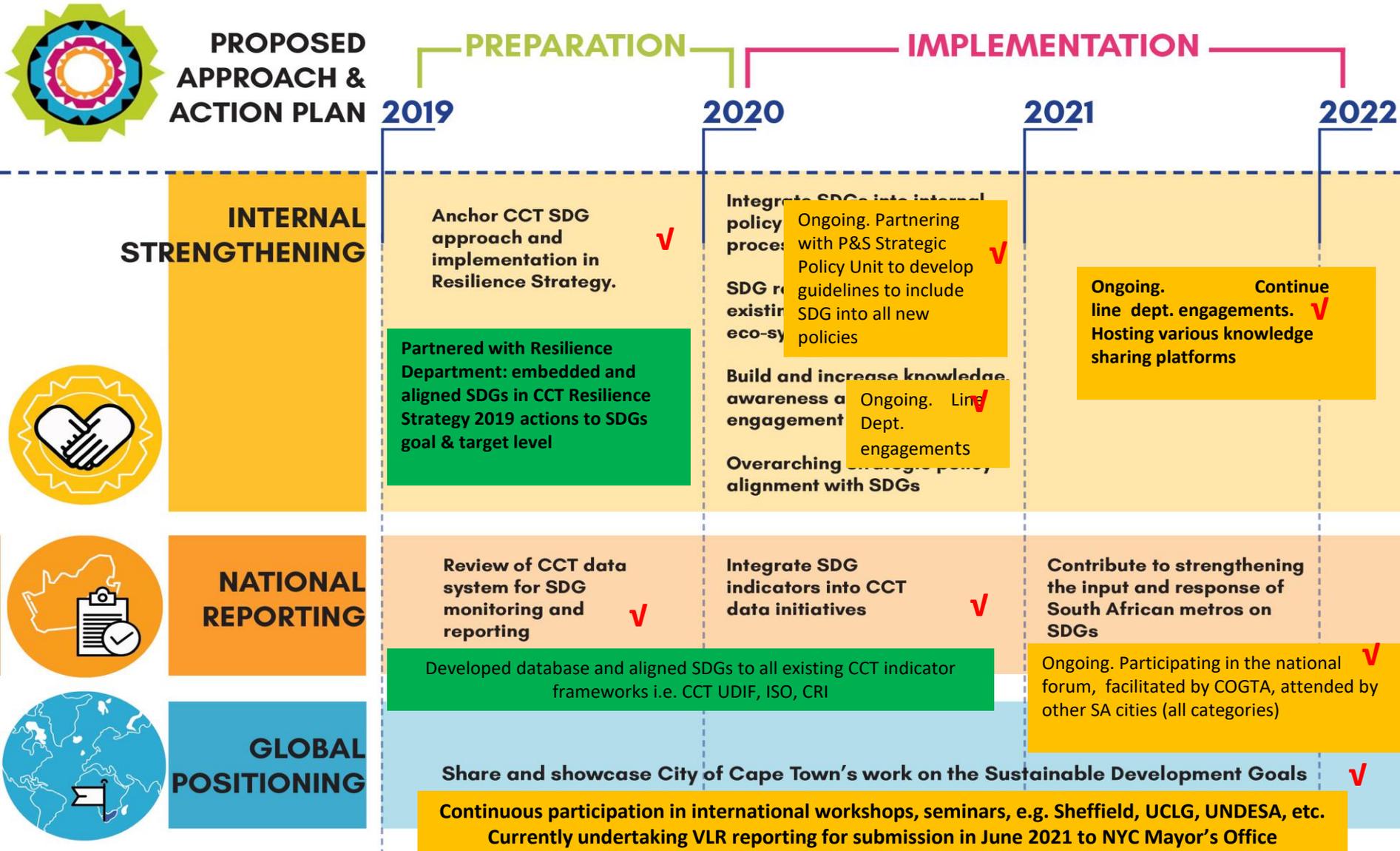
# SDGs – Key Engagements & Partnerships

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- Mistra Urban Futures, through the African Centre for Cities, University of Cape Town
- SA metros – with the view to ensuring the SA metro VLRs are integrated into the national VNRs by working with relevant national departments and metros undertaking VLRs (Ethekewini, CoJ plans) – and alignment to NDP and IUDF
- ICLEI Africa – with lesson sharing on SDG localisation and VLR production
- UN-Habitat – tool analysis of SDG goal attainment (UK Future Cities)
- United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) – VLR Community of Practice – for lesson sharing and capacity development
- UNDESA, Division for SDGs - in support of sub-national VLR production processes and CCT engagement/response
- UNECA
- The Gambia – Information/Lesson Sharing – 2 July 2021
  
- **CCT internal partnerships**
  - with departments and programme leads- focussed on strengthening awareness & localisation –
  - important programme and project linkages
  - transversal work
  - Working with International Relations around the global partnerships

# Milestones achieved

Green – Completed  
Orange – in process



# Lessons Learnt

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# Lessons learnt 1 - Main lessons learned from the VLR global movement?

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- Using the SDG localisation process as a learning/capacity development opportunities
- Which institutional model – city-wide or organisation only?  
How within the City?
- the challenge and balance required with starting with the municipality and then expanding and including communities and NGOs etc. Phasing and timing ...
- Options for structure, look and feel of the VLR document – where/how to pitch the report? Goals level, targets?
- Not to have your approach be limited by the City data available.

## Lessons Learnt 2- What was the process and how the publication of several VLR Guidelines support LRGs?

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Having guidelines and/or reviews of city practices relating to key decision points , e.g.

- Which institutional model to select; Working with Mayors Office or a “hub and spoke” approach? Etc.
- Which are the most important transversal strategies to review for SDG alignment
- Which SDGs to prioritise for the VLR? All 17? HLPF priorities? Or City of Cape Town priorities?
- How to approach data challenges and data reporting against SDGs; how much data – and where/how?
- Build on existing processes/programmes – e.g. deciding which CCT projects to showcase – Build on existing process and products – e.g. Mayor’s Portfolio of Urban Sustainability (has the benefit of creating new partnerships within the organisation, and/or strengthening existing ones)

# Lessons learnt 3- What is still missing? How can LRGs be further supported?

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- Strengthening the ability to gather quality data – for Tier II and Tier III indicator reporting, i.e. build LRG capacity to report on complex/transversal outcomes
- Tools to help assess “goal attainment”
- Local linked target setting and alignment – guidelines for this and linking to the strategic goals of the regional authority/local authority; sustainable and meaningful ways
- Guidelines on Phasing monitoring and delivery to assist to optimise the attainment of the goals (given 10 year window to support change)
- Sharing experiences and lessons learnt and/or providing guidelines for linking subnational and national processes, including integrating LRG data into VNR processes and reports



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Thank You

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