Unlocking the Potential of VLRs: Building Sustainable Cities Through Local Action and Follow-up and Review Processes

MALAYSIA’S VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW

Accelerating the Sustainable Urban Agenda 2030

Dr. Azmizam Abdul Rashid
**URBANICE MALAYSIA**

**VISION**
A Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cities and Communities

**MISSION**
To localise and mainstream the **sustainable urban agenda**, **catalyse urban solutions**, **foster community resilience** and **promote climate-actions** for the sustainability of our communities and cities.

**INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

UN Conference on the Human Environment

Rio Summit: World commitment on sustainable development & Agenda 21
Adopted UNFCC (UN Framework on Climate Change)

Kyoto Declaration on Green House Emission

Johannesburg Earth Summit 2002, Rio +10

Bali Roadmap Towards International agreement on Climate Change

COP 1st Meeting – Conference of Parties

Rio de Janeiro, The Future We Want; Rio +20

UN set up the World Commission on Environment and Development

Bruntland Report on definition and principles of sustainable development

UN Conference on the Human Environment

Malaysia National Environmental Policy

Malaysia signs UNFCC

**NATIONAL LEVEL**

• Malaysia (Local Agenda 21)
  • Planning Doctrine – holistic devt for land use planning
  • 5th Fuel Policy, in the 8th Malaysia Plan
  • SREP (small renewal energy power program)
  • Selangor Mampan 2005 (1998)

• 2002 – Malaysia ratified Kyoto Protocol
• 2004 – Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
• 2005 – National Physical Plan
• 2006 – 9th Malaysia Plan – 4th thrust (Improve Standard and Sustainability of Quality of Life)
• 2006 – National Urbanisation Policy
• 2009 – Ministry of Energy, Green Technology and Water (KeTTHA), National Green Technology Policy

• 2010-Green Building Index (GBI)
• 2011: MURNInet
  Low Carbon Cities Framework
  GBI Township

• Green Neighbourhood Guidelines
• Iskandar Malaysia
  Low Carbon Society

2015 Sustainable Development Goals –

2015 Sendai Framework –

2015 COP 21 Paris Climate Change Agreement –

2015 Adis Ababa

2016 NEW URBAN AGENDA

2018 WUF9
KL Declaration
RMK12
A Prosperous, Inclusive and Sustainable Malaysia

Themes
- Resetting the Economy
- Strengthening Security, Wellbeing and Inclusivity
- Advancing Sustainability

17 SDGs
- Transforming Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises as the New Driver of Growth
- Imperatives for Reform and Transformation
- Transforming the Approach in Eradicating Hardcore Poverty

Challenges
- Post-Covid19, Challenging Global Outlook
- Natural Disaster - Climate Crisis, National Debt
- Weak Competitiveness, Low-Quality Investment, Corruption, Transparency
- Unequal Development, Nation’s Resilience, Living Cost and Poverty
- Cares and Compassion

6 Rukun
- Sustainable
- Prosperity
- Innovation
- Trust
- Respect
- Cares and Compassion

3 Strategies
- Driving Economic Growth that is inclusive and sustainable
- Reforming Institution and Governance to restore confidence
- Upholding Social Justice to combat inequality

Themes
- Transformative implementation
  - Development Enablers
    - National Urban Policy
    - Urban Economy and Municipal Finance
  - Operational Enablers
    - Urban Planning and Urban Design
    - Urban Economy and Municipal Finance
- Effective implementation
  - Development Enablers
    - National Urban Policy
    - Urban Economy and Municipal Finance
  - Operational Enablers
    - Urban Planning and Urban Design
    - Urban Economy and Municipal Finance
National SDG Governance

The main decision-making body for the national SDG governance structure is the National SDG Council, which is helmed by the Right Honourable Prime Minister. The Council endorses and monitors SDG implementation and progress towards the 2030 Agenda. It is supported by a National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC prepares the national reports that are presented at the UN through the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development.

Inclusive Committee for Good Well-being and Economic Growth (EPU)

Sustainable Financing Committee (MOF)

Human Capital Committee (MOE)

Environment and Natural Resources Committee (NRECC)

JK Localizing SDG (KPKT)

Each Working Committee is represented by members from government ministries and departments, state governments, UN agencies, the private sector, civil society organizations (CSOs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and academic experts.

SDG Steering Committee (Chaired by the Minister at the Ministry of Economy)

SDG Technical Committee (Chaired by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Economy)

National SDG Council (Chaired by the Right Honourable Prime Minister)

Setting the direction for the implementation of SDGs, establishing the national agenda and milestones, and reporting to the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (State Chief Minister/State Secretary as representatives).

Monitoring the progress of SDG implementation and reporting to the National SDG Council.

Preparing the SDG Roadmap, monitoring SDG goal progress, identifying issues, and reporting to both the National SDG Council and the SDG Steering Committee.

There are seven SDG Cluster Working Committees (CWC), which support the NSC by identifying gaps and opportunities for each goal, planning and implementing programmes, as well as reporting on their progress.
The performance of any country, to achieve the SDGs, depends on its leadership.

Effective leadership translates SDGs into public policy formulation and implementation, as well as good public service delivery, to meet the needs and aspirations of citizens.

Achieving the SDGs require concerted efforts of governments, the business sector, society, and individual citizens.

The Need to Implement SDGs by All Levels

National Government
The Malaysia SDG Cities will provide important inputs needed to report on Voluntary National Review for SDGs, establish coherent national policies to address important urban issues and promote necessary regulatory frameworks.

State Government
The SDG Cities will allow States to measure the performance of their State in SDG implementation. Provide an opportunity to facilitate state wide planning to address challenging issues and coordinate state multiple sectoral interventions.

Local Government
The SDG City Report will provide a good opportunity for Local Actions that translates the Global Agenda to overcome local issues and to streamline State and National Policies. It will also lead to encourage Local Governments to prepare its Voluntary Local Review.

Private Sector
The SDG Cities roadmap will include the role of private sector to promote the financing and delivery of products, infrastructure, goods, and services; adopt new technologies to strengthen measures to achieve the SDGs targets.

Civil Society
The SDG Cities roadmap will open up space for engagement and participation in local decision-making and enable civil society to understand on their role and responsibilities to effect change to the SDG implementation.
An action-oriented document with global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, by readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed, and managed, through cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors at all levels of government as well as the private sector and in supporting the 2030 Agenda.
The Malaysia SDG Cities

A framework to guide cities to prepare their Roadmap Towards a Sustainable City

In localizing the SDGs, the Malaysia SDG Cities will adapt, implement and monitor the SDGs goals and targets at the local level.

Aligning To National & State Policies And Plans

To implement the National SDG Roadmap for Malaysia, the need to align local SDGs programs and initiatives with State and National is important. This will support a bottom-up process, where the City Roadmap and Voluntary Local Reviews by Local Governments will provide the mechanism for implementation and monitoring.

Vertical Integration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>National</th>
<th>Policies, Blueprints, Development Plans and Voluntary National Reviews</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Policies, State Development Plans and State Sustainable Agenda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Local Plans, Strategic Plans, Action Plans, Guidelines, Rules and Regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
  - City Voluntary Local Review
  - SDG Cities Report
  - Community Programs and Initiatives

Launched on the 29th September 2020 by Prime Minister of Malaysia @ MUF2020
To uplift the standards and status of Local Governments
Malaysia SDG Cities will assist Local Governments to align its operations goals and objectives with the sustainable agenda to ensure cities and communities priorities are achieved.

- Set local priorities and focus attention on urgent urban challenges to harness future opportunities
- Develop an Action Plan to match the SDG and synchronized and align with National, State and Local development agendas.
- Strengthen role of Local Governments to monitor, evaluate and report SDG progress to national and state level
- Raise local government awareness, commitment and capacities towards sustainable agenda
- Create a platform for Partnership to mobilize and empower stakeholders to identify practical integrated and innovative Solutions
- Facilitate local government access to funding resources and develop business models to finance SDGs actions
Malaysia SDG Cities Network – 45 Cities

Lebih daripada 30 rakan kongsi utama menyertai rangka kerja Malaysia SDG Cities sejak penubuhannya pada 2021.
WORK SCOPE AND PROCESS

STAGE 1
Preparation of SDGs City Assessment and Mapping Reports
- Capacity Development/Training Program on SDGs
- Analysis of Urban/Area PBT Profile
- Analysis of Current Potential and Challenges
- Alignment of SDGs with Current PBT Policies, Strategies, Plans, and Programs
- Workshops and Stakeholder Engagement Sessions
- Current Implementation Status of SDGs within PBT
- Assessment of the Gap in SDGs Implementation
- Preparation of Current SDGs Implementation Assessment Report

STAGE 2
Preparation of SDGs Voluntary Local Review (VLR)
- Preparation of PBT VLR Draft
  - Progress of SDGs for PBT
  - Challenges in Implementing SDGs for PBT
  - Prioritizing SDGs Implementation for PBT
  - Draft Voluntary Local Reviews

STAGE 3
Preparation of SDGs City Roadmap Reports
- Preparation of PBT SDGs Action Plan Draft
  - PBT's Direction in Achieving the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030
  - Identification of Programs, Projects, and Development Planning.
  - Engagement of Stakeholders in the PBT SDGs Action Plan
  - Workshops and Local Stakeholder Engagement

PBT SDGs Roadmap and Final VLR Report
First Two Malaysian Cities to Prepare Voluntary Local Review 2021 Developed by URBANICE

The Subang Jaya SDG Voluntary Local Review (VLR) captures the strategies, plans, actions and allocations that has been prioritized by the city to accelerate its achievements to localized the SDGs.

It is produced as an outcome of the Shah Alam SDG City Roadmap 2030 consultations, data analysis, translating policies into coherent action, and continuous monitoring and evaluation process - bringing the SDGs closer to the people that MBSA serve.

Published on July 2021. https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews
The Malaysia SDG Cities Framework

3 KEY OUTCOMES for Malaysia SDG Cities

Outcome 1
Ensure Inclusive Growth and Development for All
SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 6, SDG 7

Outcome 2
Enhance access to quality services to address disparities
SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 16, SDG 17

Outcome 3
Promote Environmental Sustainability to Mitigate Climate Change
SDG 11, SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Most Aligned</th>
<th>Moderately Aligned</th>
<th>Least Aligned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Cities and Communities</td>
<td>Water and Sanitation</td>
<td>Gender Equality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Health and Well-being</td>
<td>Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure</td>
<td>Affordable and Clean Energy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>81%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Responsible Consumption and Production</td>
<td>Quality Education</td>
<td>Partnerships for the Goals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zero Hunger</td>
<td>Climate Action</td>
<td>No Poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduced Inequalities</td>
<td>Life on Land</td>
<td>Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 SDGs for Kuala Lumpur that shows strength and readiness and these SDGs will be strengthened and strategies will be reformed for greater impact.
The SDG Centre Kuala Lumpur will accelerate the Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals

The 5 Key Functions of the SDG Centre

Knowledge Centre:
To inform and present reports of various programme initiatives in Kuala Lumpur related to the 17 SDGs.

Data Centre:
To gather, analyse and compile relevant SDG data indicators that will assist in the planning and urban regeneration of Kuala Lumpur.

Community Centre:
To channel activities and programmes on local current issues related to the SDGs.

Innovation and Launchpad Centre:
To encourage idea creation and innovation towards solving pertinent issues in the city.

Partnership Centre:
To establish partnerships and collaborations with global, regional and local organizations/institutions working on SDGs and ensure its successes.

The SDG Centre Kuala Lumpur will accelerate the Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals.
Urbanice Malaysia is a Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Cities and Community Well-being and a CLBG under the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Our role is to facilitate the acceleration of the Sustainable Urban Agenda and to create better cities through promoting knowledge sharing, partnerships programs, urban innovation and applied research.