COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY ANALYSIS OF SDG LOCALIZATION

BRAZIL

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Brazil is a federal republic with a two-tiered subnational government system. Brazil is formed by the union of 26 federal states and the Federal District, and comprises 5,570 municipalities.[1]

Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR), [2] which reports on a situation that is now totally different since the election of President Bolsonaro. For more details on the changes this brought about regarding SDG implementation, see section 3 of this profile.

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are aligned with the **2016-2019 Multi-year Plan (PPA)** of the Federal Government and the **Action Plan SDG Commission 2017-2019** (which has been revised by the government of President Bolsonaro).

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Commission on the SDGs** was established in 2016. This advisory and parity body aimed at internalizing, disseminating and conferring transparency to the 2030 Agenda implementation process. Its composition was promising, with equal representation from governments, including LRGs, and civil society. Other governmental and civil society actors could participate as collaborators in the National Commission, especially through its **Thematic Chambers**.
However, the government under President Bolsonaro extinguished the National Commission (more details below, in section 3). In 2021, ordinances were published that indicated the beginning of the creation of an internal inter-ministerial and inter-institutional group within the federal government, to coordinate work on the 2030 Agenda; it does not involve other stakeholders.[3]

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The 2017 VNR was written by the **Secretariat of Government** and the **Ministry of Planning, Development and Management**, under supervision of the **Secretariat of Social Communication** and the **Office of the Chief of Staff** of the Presidency of the Republic.

1.3 MONITORING

The Brazilian government has been working to build sound technical backing, not only to guide the discussion on global indicators, but also to prepare subsidies for the discussion on the definition of national indicators.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The **National Commission on the SDGs** included two representatives from the **National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)** and two representatives from the **Brazilian Association of States Entities of Environment (ABEMA)**. Also, several strategic principles were established, one of which was to develop a territorialized plan for the 2030 Agenda that would include the creation of **commissions for the SDGs at state and municipal levels** to coordinate their implementation, taking into account the need to move towards a 'new federative pact' that fully involved LRGs. Some states have created committees for the coordination of SDG implementation at regional level. At the local level, more than 70 municipalities have undertaken projects related to the SDGs in at least 8 states: Goiás, Paraná (54 municipalities), Minas Gerais (8 municipalities), Amazonas, Piauí,

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf
2. See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/15806Brazil_English.pdf (2017)
3. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.

Santa Catarina, São Paulo and the Association of Municipalities of Pernambuco.[4]
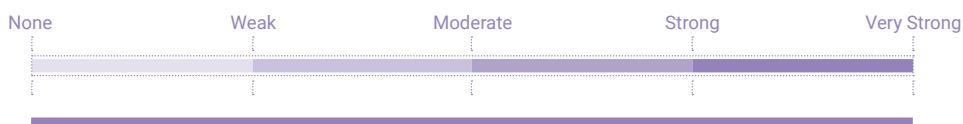Furthermore, the 2017 VNR presents different tools supporting SDG localization, some of them involving local governments (see VNR, 2017, 22-23). These include the **SDGs Strategy** website, bringing together organizations representing civil society, the private sector, local governments and academia; and the **Municipal Vulnerability Atlas**, a platform comprising the Social Vulnerability Index (IVS), based on indicators of the Human Development Atlas.[5] The **Sustainable Cities Program**, aiming to raise awareness, mobilize and provide tools for Brazilian cities to develop in an economically, socially and environmentally sustainable manner. The program offers public managers an agenda structured into 12 thematic axes, accompanied by a set of indicators and a database of good practices. Between 2012 and 2016, 285 Brazilian Municipalities, accounting for 33% of the national population, joined the Sustainable Cities Program. As of 2015, the initiative emphasized SDGs targets that can be adopted at the municipal and regional levels, precisely those on which Municipalities play a central role.

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► **In the VNR process**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2017
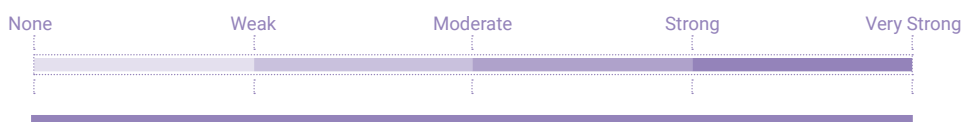
► **In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation**

None	Weak	Moderate	Strong	Very Strong

2017

This assessment is based on the information collected in the VNR and in the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments' annual survey on the localization of the SDGs.

2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The 2017 VNR contains a specific section on subnational governments (see VNR, 2017, p. 37-38). It acknowledges their role, as well as that of the **National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)** and the **Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM)** in localizing the 2030 Agenda. It highlights the alignment of the SDGs with local planning and the adoption of new laws and decrees (**Barcarena**), the creation of working groups (**Paraná, São Paulo** and **Federal District**), the development of indicators (**Paraíba**) and the creation of awards to raise public awareness (**Rio de Janeiro**).

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)** has placed the 2030 Agenda at the centre of its advocacy strategy (in collaboration with the Brazilian government) to disseminate and promote localization. It has developed awareness campaigns, meetings (*Diálogos municipalistas*), published guides[6] and organized training sessions (CNM Qualifica) on public management and the SDGs together with the National School of Public Administration (ENAP). Also, the CNM developed a followup system with indicators adapted to various categories of municipalities — the **Mandala** — which included 24 indicators aligned with the SDGs in economic, social, environmental and institutional areas.[7] This interactive platform allows Brazilian mayors to assess how their municipalities are doing in the process of achieving the SDGs and makes it possible for them to prepare local reports and goal plans. An improved version of the Mandala is currently being developed, however, due to the unfavorable national political climate, the project has not been finalized.[8]

► Another association, the **National Front of Mayors (FNP)**, also actively participates in the multi-stakeholder SDG Strategy, together with representatives from civil society organizations, the private sector, academia and local governments. The association is running training sessions, delivering communications, aligning municipal management instruments with the SDGs and their indicators, sharing methodologies, and establishing and consolidating a bank of best practices.[9]

4. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
5. See: https://www.estrategiaods.org.br/ and http://ivs.ipea.gov.br/images/publicacoes/Ivs/publicacao_atlas_ivs.pdf. Organized in three dimensions (Urban Infrastructure, Human Capital, and Income and Labor), the Social Vulnerability Index allows mapping out exclusion and social vulnerability in 5,565 municipalities and in Human Development Units of the main metropolitan regions of the country. This tool assists municipalities to assess and plan actions focused on the local level.
6. In 2016, the CNM launched the "Guide for Localization of SDGs in Brazilian Municipalities - What Municipal Managers Need to Know". The publication addresses the importance of the 2030 Agenda for local public action, as well as the relationship between the SDGs and municipal competences. The CNM also published the "Guide for Incorporation of SDGs into Municipal Multi-Year Plans for the period 2018-2021".
7. See: http://ods.cnm.org.br/mandala-municipal. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
8. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf
9. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf

► For its part, the **Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM)** has organized a large number of SDG workshops in the five regions of Brazil for more than 300 members, with the support of the European Union.[10]

► The state of **Minas Gerais** is aligning its development plan with the SDGs through the Secretariat of Planning with the support of the Rio + Centre (World Centre for Sustainable Development), a UNDP initiative. Notable aspects of this include the process of rapprochement with the territory through 17 regional forums held in various parts of the state, as well as a willingness to involve various sectors of society that have come together to discuss the future of local planning.[11]

► The state of **Parana** has undertaken major efforts to monitor the progress of the SDGs at both regional and local levels — in particular environmental sustainability — in collaboration with a public company (Itaipu Binacional) and the UNDP. A platform has been developed that gathers together 67 environmental and social indicators at municipal, state and federal level; these are then used in 110 municipalities in 14 states, as well as other cities in the Piaui region. It has also mainstreamed the SDGs within its budgetary planning.[12]

► **Barcarena** has aligned the SDGs with the new Government Plan 2017-2020 and Multiyear Participatory Plan 2018-2021 through a participatory process that has helped identify seven major issues: poverty and hunger, gender, health, education, economic growth and partnerships, environment and peace. In 2018, the city co-organized the 3rd National Meeting of Rede ODS Brasil: 'What are the opportunities and challenges for the implementation of the SDGs in Brazil?'.[13]

► The city of **Salvador** is promoting the Caravana da Mata Atlântica project to raise awareness amongst young people about environmental protection and in particular about its impact on marginalized communities and those affected by the deforestation taking place in Brazil.[14]

► Through the Restructuring Plan for Public Transport in the Metropolitan Region of **Belo Horizonte**, the city opted to establish an intermodal and integrated urban transport system that combines buses, underground trains and an inter neighbourhood system with direct, circular and peripheral lines.[15] The municipality also created in 2015 a multi-stakeholder Millennium Observatory which has contributed to the monitoring of the SDGs.[16]

► **Rio de Janeiro** and **Sao Paulo** have integrated the SDGs into their strategic plans. Sao Paulo has created an Inter-Departmental Working Group on the SDGs pursued by the municipal government and developed a consultative process, in 2020, identifying at least 500 localized and locally measurable indicators.

► Linking the SDGs with the COVID-19 pandemic, the government of the **Federal District (Brasilia)** published a report listing the main measures taken in line with the 2030 Agenda.

2.4 VOLUNTARY SUBNATIONAL AND/OR LOCAL REVIEWS (VSRs / VLRs)

The municipality of **Bacarena** published a VLR in 2017, the states of **Sao Paulo** and **Santana Parnaiba** in 2019, the state of **Pará** and the cities of **Rio de Janeiro** and **Niteroi** in 2020, **Belo Horizonte** in 2020 and 2022, and **Sao Paulo** in 2020 and 2021. The state of Pará published its second and third VLRs in 2021 and 2022.[17] Moreover, in 2022, the state of Sao Paulo published its second VLR and the city of **Barueri** produced its first one.[18]

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

Through the generation of data, analyses, and management reports regarding national efforts to achieve the SDGs, the **Integrated System for Budget and Planning** should allow the monitoring of the implementation of the 2016-2019 PPA as related to the 2030 Agenda.

10. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
11. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
12. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
13. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
14. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
15. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
16. UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf
17. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Barcarena%20(2017)_0.pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Santana%20de%20Parnai%CC%81ba%20(2019)_0.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sao_paulo_2019.pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/para_2020.pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/rio_2020.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sao_paulo_2020_1.pdf ;
https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/niteroi_2020.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/belo_horizonte_2020.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/uploaded/belo_horizonte_2022.pdf;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/sao_paulo_2021.pdf ;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/para_2021.pdf.
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/para_2022.pdf
18. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/sao_paulo_state_2022.pdf;
https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/field-document/barueri_2022.pdf

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

Brazil has been advancing its legal frameworks and structuring policies to strengthen subnational governance since the 1980s. The Brazilian government has developed several initiatives to create an enabling environment for local governments and states in what has been dubbed a 'new federalism' over the past decade, in order to strengthen the involvement of LRGs in national development, foster territorial development strategies, and improve multilevel and multi-stakeholder dialogue. With the adoption of the Statute of Cities in 2001, municipalities acquired a strategic role in urban planning. The master plan, a guiding instrument of local urban policy, became mandatory to define the social function of urban property. However, there is still a lack of technical and financial assistance to municipalities in the development of urban policy. The Ministry of Cities and Council of Cities is one salient example, acknowledged at international level as a national participatory mechanism comprising national and local governments and civil society institutions and organizations (all elected through the Conference of Cities). The Council has the legal power to monitor and evaluate the implementation of national urban development policies, particularly housing and public services, to advise on the necessary measures and to promote cooperation among governments at national, federal state and municipal levels, as well as involving civil society in formulating and implementing national urban policy.

However, under President Temer, the national government abolished the competences of the Council of Cities in organizing and implementing the National Conference of Cities and postponed the National Conference, disregarding the participatory processes that had been developed over almost 15 years.
With the election of President Bolsonaro, progress in defining an SDG action plan is currently on hold.[19]
The federal government under President Bolsonaro has abandoned many of its SDG commitments.[20] The National Commission on the SDGs, created in 2016 ceased to exist.[21] Since its election, the impacts of its first initiatives regarding environmental protection (e.g. renewing the expansion of exploitation of resources of the Amazonian region as well as threatening to disengage from the Paris Climate Agreement), social policies (e.g. severe cuts in health and education expenditure) and respect for human rights (e.g. increasing violence against peasant organizations, indigenous and LGBTQIA+ communities) have not been encouraging. Brazil also decided to withdraw from the list of countries that reported to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in 2019. The example of Brazil is symptomatic of the break from, and discontinuance of, public policies which have resulted in a weakening of the process of building mechanisms for participation and dialogue. Brazil's withdrawal from certain global commitments is likely to have an important impact, not just in the Mercosur area.[22]

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

The program Policies for Women includes the promotion of women's participation in politics and in decision-making bodies and authorities.

3.2 COVID 19

In Brazil, there has been inertia and resistance on the part of the federal government in mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Brazilian states and municipalities therefore took their own initiatives (with their own resources) to mitigate the effects of the crisis.[23]

► Via the "Full Plate" project (Prato Cheio), the National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil (CNM) has organized the distribution of products to meet basic necessities in municipalities with fewer than 50,000 inhabitants and with low scores on the Human Development Index.[24]

► The National Front of Mayors (FNP) has been promoting initiatives for economic recovery and fighting the COVID-19 virus together with the federal government, parliament and judiciary. It coordinated the implementation of a Public Consortium for the purchase of vaccines against COVID at the municipal level.[25]

► Maricá, a municipality of the state of Rio de Janeiro created a local social currency for families experiencing economic difficulties.[26]

19. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
20. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.
21. See: https://www.socialwatch.org/node/18506
22. UCLG, 2019, GOLD V Report, https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ENG-GOLD-V-2020.pdf
23. Answer of Belo Horizonte to the GTF Survey in 2021.
24. With the Association of Members of Courts of Accounts of Brazil (Atricon) and the support of Sebrae Nacional and the National Association of Members of the Public Ministry (Conamp). The project aims, by the end of its implementation, to benefit 3,399 municipalities and about 1.3 million families distributed throughout the country. See: https://pratocheio.cnm.org.br/index.php.
Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.
UCLG, 2021, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/hlpf_2021.pdf
25. Answer of the National Front of Mayors (FNP) to the GTF Survey in 2021. See: https://consorcioconectar.org/
26. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.
See also: https://brasil.elpais.com/sociedade/2020-07-19/marica-no-rio-preserva-empregos-e-negocios-na-pandemia-e-coloca-a-renda-basica-no-centro-do-debate.html

► Also, many municipalities supported their inhabitants during the crisis by transferring emergency monetary aid to the most vulnerable (for example, Guaxupé, Belém, Canoas, Bela Vista de Goiás, Rolândia, etc.).[27]

► To support the families most affected by the economic crisis, Sao Paulo hired the unemployed mothers of many students enrolled in the public school system.[28]

4. SDG INDICATORS[29]

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		13.5 (2018)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	88 (2020)
	Rural	72 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	51 (2020)
	Rural	-
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		16.3 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		73.8 (2015, São Paulo)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		11.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

27. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021.
28. Answer of the National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM) to the GTF Survey in 2021. See also: https://g1.globo.com/sp/sao-paulo/noticia/2021/02/17/progra-ma-da-prefeitura-de-sp-que-vai-contratar-maes-para-ajudar-em-escolas-recebe-91-mil-inscricoes.ghtml
29. The data used for this table come from the UN SDG Indicators Database. See: https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/UNSDG/IndDatabasePage.
More information on the country's progress towards the SDGs here: https://country-profiles.unstatshub.org/bra