

## TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Cuba is a unitary country divided into 14 provinces and 169 municipalities. The central government directly oversees the provincial and local governments through a hierarchical network of assemblies and committees. Each of the provinces is formally governed by a provincial assembly, which elects a provincial committee. The president of the provincial committee functions as the provincial governor. Each of the country's 169 municipalities is governed by a municipal assembly, which elects a municipal committee, whose president functions as mayor.



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Review (VNR).<sup>1</sup>

## 1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The SDGs are aligned with the **National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES 2030)**, approved in May 2017. Provincial and local governments should align their plans with the PNDES and the SDGs.

### 1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

The **National Group (NG)** for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda is the institutional mechanism for monitoring the SDGs in the country. The NG comprises national organizations and entities, including **representatives of the territories** and civil society organizations. The Ministry of Economy and Planning (MEP) chairs the NG and ensures the incorporation of the components (goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) in the plans and strategies of the national economy. The NG also verifies the adoption of the SDG approach in institutional processes, as well as the creation of structures and technical groups in government institutions (at the national, **provincial and municipal levels**) to systematically address progress in the implementation of the SDGs. The government has also been working on the elaboration of the **National Action Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba 2017-2036**.

### 1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

Multidisciplinary work teams were made up of various organizations, entities, research centers, **territories** and civil society organizations under the leadership of the institutions designated as responsible for each SDG. The mechanisms used for the coordination and participation were adapted to the new conditions holding work sessions and meetings virtually.

### 1.3 MONITORING

The government has been working in the production and evaluation of indicators conducted by **Onei**,<sup>2</sup> a national entity subordinated to the Council of Ministers, with the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Also, periodic checks have been carried out by public administration institutions and other stakeholders on progress, presenting setbacks and challenges in implementation. Finally, the design and implementation of the SDG Lab for real-time monitoring of the country's SDGs initiatives is ongoing.

## 2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

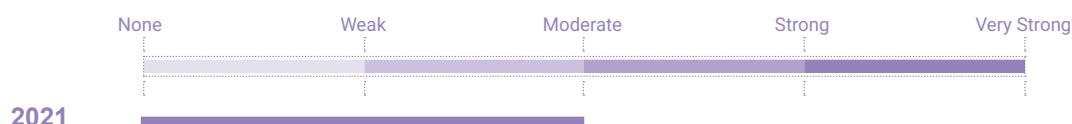
LRGs are represented in the **National Group (NG)**, as well as in the work teams in charge of the VNR process.

1. See: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280872021\\_VNR\\_Report\\_Cuba.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/280872021_VNR_Report_Cuba.pdf) (2021)

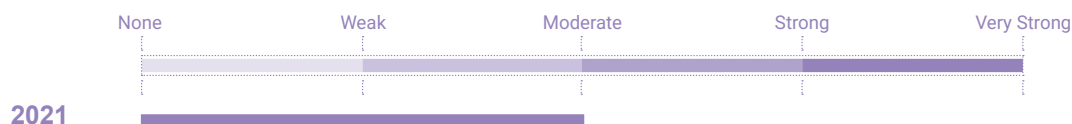
2. See: <http://www.onei.gob.cu/>

## 2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

### ► In the VNR process



### ► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



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

## 2.2 VNR REFERENCES

The document has a subsection called "Territorialization process of the 2030 Agenda", which mentions the different actions undertaken by the government, such as: i) awareness raising and promotion of the PNDES 2030 goals and the SDGs and their relevance to localities, ii) preparation of Municipal Development Strategies (EDM) and Provincial Development Strategies (EDP) and updating of territorial and urban planning instruments, based on an assessment of problems, opportunities, strengths and needs to define priorities and localize the SDGs and iii) **participation of all local stakeholders** to establish shared priorities, develop effective leadership capabilities and foster ownership and co-responsibility in the execution of strategic projects.

## 2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Articulated Platform for the Integrated Development of Territories (PADIT)** programme in Cuba aims to strengthen capacities in municipalities for defining, planning and implementing territorial strategies that encourage the entrepreneurship of women and young people and complement decentralization processes.

► Another important project is the **Capacity Building Program for Local Development (PRODEL)** which contributes to strengthening the capacity of municipal administrations and municipal administrations and civil society to manage local development strategies and projects designed to have an impact on the quality of life of women and men, especially socially disadvantaged groups. PRODEL is part of the 2011-2016 Strategy of the Swiss Cooperation in Cuba.

► Also, within the framework of Habitat II, the **Local Orientation and Training Centers (CLOC)** were created, anchored to the Municipal University Centers (CUM). They act as an interface between the universities and the territories, in order to exchange knowledge, methodologies and experiences. Some actions have been developed for the local implementation of the New Cuban Urban Agenda that impact on the territorialization of SDG 11 and its articulation with the other SDGs.

► The country is working to implement its SDG Portal and has a National Communications Campaign: Cuba, Con Paso 2030, which contributes to promoting the 2030 Agenda and the PNDES. The Project "**SDG Cuba Laboratory**" (Lab-ODS) is an inter-institutional and participatory technological platform with a multidimensional approach to implement the 2030 Agenda in the country. One of its main components is "Localization/Territorialization of the SDGs": it outlines the efforts of different levels of government (national, provincial and municipal) to contribute to the SDGs and promote inclusive development.

► The "**Tierra Brava**" farm in the municipality of **Los Palacios** stands out, diversifying and increasing its agricultural production in line with the municipal development strategy in terms of municipal and community self-sufficiency.

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

Not applicable.

## 2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The government has been working on mobilization of endogenous resources needed to achieve the objectives set in the Municipal and Provincial Development Strategies. Also, it worked on the alignment of territorial budgets with the objectives of the PNDES 2030 and the 2030 Agenda. The program "Support for the Formation of the Integrated National Financing Framework for the SDGs in Cuba" (Ciffra) aims to articulate financing policies under a coherent framework that facilitates the

identification of resource gaps, existing opportunities and constraints to take advantage of them, and to align financing needs with national development priorities established in the PNDES 2030.

### 3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

**General comments:** Cuba has been moving towards **decentralization** since 2016 by adopting new economic and social policy guidelines, as well as recent constitutional reforms. The Constitution of 2019 recognizes the principle of municipal autonomy and calls for the expansion of the decision-making capacity of the municipalities, creating the legal bases for greater promotion and realization of local development.

#### 3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

In Cuba, the Comptroller of the Republic of Cuba and the Attorney General of the Republic are women. In local governments, there is a greater presence of women in leadership responsibilities. In 2020, the government approved the National Program for the Advancement of Women (PAM).

#### 3.2 COVID 19

The prevention and control plan was designed to involve all agencies and their territorial units, companies, local authorities, the non-state sector, civil society and the population in general. Internationally, Cuba has given strong evidence of its solidarity and multilateralism in favor of South-South cooperation. Proof of this has been the dispatch of 56 brigades from the Henry Reeve Contingent to 40 countries and territories, including those on the European continent, with the incorporation of 4,941 Cuban professionals, of which more than 65% are women.

### 4. SDG INDICATORS<sup>3</sup>

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		36.8 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	-
	Rural	-
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	32 (2020)
	Rural	51 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		6.6 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		76.4 (2012, Havana)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		19.1 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		-

3. 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/cub>