

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Ecuador is a unitary republic. Its four-tiered subnational structure is divided into decentralized governments with elected authorities at the regional, provincial, municipal and parochial levels. Ecuador has 24 provinces and 221 municipalities, including the metropolitan district of Quito.¹



Unless otherwise indicated, all the information in this profile is taken from the previously published Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).²

1. NATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Ecuador's main planning instrument is the **National Development Plan (PND "Toda una vida")** to which public policies, programs and projects, the State budget and the investment and allocation of public resources are subject. The PND for 2017-2021 is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The president adopted the 2030 Agenda as a public policy in 2018 and renewed its commitment in 2020.

1.1 NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS

Together with the Vice Presidency of the Republic of Ecuador, the **Technical Planning Secretariat (Planifica Ecuador)** is in charge of coordinating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

1.2 VNR ELABORATION PROCESS

The Vice Presidency of the Republic, the Technical Planning Secretariat, the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs constructed and coordinated the 2020 VNR. Here are the 4 stages of the VNR process: updating the data on the indicators of the PND 2017-2021 and the Statistical Development Plan for the SDGs; collection of information from the national government and associations of local governments; promotion of the participation of different actors; report writing and editing.

1.3 MONITORING

Thanks to the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC) and to the Technical Planning Secretariat, 175 indicators have been identified, which allow the monitoring of compliance with the 2030 Agenda.

2. LRGs INVOLVEMENT IN SDG LOCALIZATION

The Technical Planning Secretariat supports the updating of the **Development Plans and Territorial Ordering (PDOT)** of the local governments, through methodological guidelines, such as the **"Guidelines for the articulation between the PDOT with the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals"**. For the 2020 VNR, the participatory process was limited regarding the involvement of local governments or their associations. Nevertheless, the VSR produced by the **Consorcio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador (Congope)** was taken into account.

1. See: https://www.sng-wofi.org/reports/SNGWOFI_2019_report_country_profiles_DEC2019_UPDATES.pdf

2. See: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19627EcuadorVNRReportENVE2018.pdf> (2018); https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26392VNR_2020_Ecuador_Spanish.pdf (2020)

2.1 LRGs PARTICIPATION

► In the VNR process



Comments: Congope answered a survey and participated in conferences/workshops. Same level of participation in 2018 and 2020. However, the Association of Municipalities of Ecuador (AME) answered that it was not consulted (GTF Survey 2020).

► In national coordination mechanisms for SDG implementation



Comments: Ad-hoc consultations of Congope for the Guidelines for the articulation between the PDOT with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, published by the Technical Planning Secretariat.

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 2020 VNR mentions the local government councils and their role regarding the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda (see VNR, 2020, p. 25). There are also references to a few cities and provinces throughout the report.³

2.3 SPECIFIC PROJECTS AND CASES

► The **Consortio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador (Congope)** is an instance of coordination at the provincial level that promotes decentralization and autonomy, the closing of territorial gaps and sustainable development. □

► The **Consejo Nacional de Gobiernos Parroquiales Rurales del Ecuador (Conagopare)** is the entity representing the common interests of the autonomous decentralized rural parish governments. □

► At the end of the 2020 VNR, a table summarizes 345 projects related to the SDGs in the country, including **58 municipal and provincial initiatives**. □

► The “Intelligent monitoring and control system for green areas” of **Ambato** allows preserving green areas for the care of climate change.

► The Comprehensive Improvement Plan for Peripheral Neighborhoods of **Cuenca** aims to identify and validate the proposals for the development of comprehensive improvement projects for neighborhoods, under the criteria of the New Urban Agenda. As a result, 10 Comprehensive Neighborhood Improvement Plans for the most vulnerable areas were implemented in the city.

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

In 2020, Ecuador was one of the first countries in which a VSR was published. □ The reporting and writing process was carried out by the **Consortio de Gobiernos Autónomos Provinciales del Ecuador (Congope)**, in coordination with the provincial authorities of Ecuador, to identify and make visible the efforts generated from the intermediate tier of government as a central actor in glocal development. Presenting the results of a survey provided to 14 provinces, the report highlights the modalities of their participation in the 2020 VNR and their progress in implementing the SDGs on their territories. It also contributes to giving visibility to initiatives led by the different provinces and connects the dots between SDGs and local authorities' responsibilities. In 2021, a second VSR was elaborated. □

3. The Association of Municipalities of Ecuador (AME) is only mentioned once in the report, without further details.

4. Congope is also President of the World Forum of Regions and World Vice President of UCLG.

5. For more details on Congope's and Conagopare's actions, see VNR, p. 25-26.

6. To see them all, see VNR p. 166-174.

7. See: https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/vsr_ecuador_2020.pdf

8. See: https://gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cape_verde_2021.pdf

2.5 MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

To accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Resolution No. STPE003-2020 officially aligns the National Development Plan with the SDGs. Among other objectives are the **prioritization and targeting of resources**. Considering that public investment is one of the pillars that allows achieving national objectives and the SDGs, an analysis was made of the main axes to which more resources were dedicated (for more details, see VNR, 2020, p. 32). Since 2017, the Guide for the Presentation of Public Investment Studies defines criteria for the allocation of resources, such as the requirement of alignment with the goals of the National Development Plan and other planning instruments. There are no details on resources allocated to LRGs.

3. RELEVANT INFORMATION

General comments: The vision of **civil society** regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda was collected in 2018 through a citizen consultation process with the support of UNDP. In 2019, through the Plurinational and Intercultural Citizen Assembly for Good Living (Acpibv), citizen contributions were collected regarding the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Consultations with actors from civil society, academia, private sector, local governments organizations and others were also carried out in workshops held in five cities of the country: **Quito, Guayaquil, Cuenca, Manta and Tena**.

3.1 WOMEN PARTICIPATION

Progress is noted in the participation of women in the political life of the country, particularly at the local level. In the 2019 elections, women achieved representation in 4 prefectures (17.4%) and 18 municipal councils (8.1%), which is an increase, if compared to the results of the previous elections in 2014, in which they obtained 2 prefectures (8.7 %) and 16 municipalities (7.2%).

3.2 COVID 19

The 2020 VNR mentions the measures taken by the national government in the face of the health crisis, including measures to combat poverty and economic and fiscal measures. The **Municipios Saludables program** has 169 member municipalities. There is no more reference to initiatives from local governments regarding COVID-19, except the **transformation of an arts center into a refuge for homeless people**, particularly vulnerable in the face of the pandemic. It was initiated by the Casa de la Cultura Benjamín Carrión, in partnership with the city of **Quito** and the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion. □

4. SDG INDICATORS¹ □

5.5.1. (b) Proportion of seats held by women (%) in local governments		27.2 (2019)
6.1.1. Proportion of population using safely managed drinking water services (%)	Urban	75 (2020)
	Rural	53 (2020)
6.2.1. (a) Proportion of population using safely managed sanitation services (%)	Urban	31 (2020)
	Rural	60 (2020)
11.1.1. Proportion of population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)		20.1 (2018)
11.6.1. Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed (%)		62 (2006, Santo Domingo de los Colorados)
11.6.2. Air pollution – annual means of particulate matter in cities (population weighted)		19.6 (2016)
11.b.2. Proportion of local governments that have adopted local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with national strategies (%)		89.1 (2019)

9. More details here: <https://www.elcomercio.com/actualidad/ecuador-casa-cultura-albergue-coronavirus.html>

10. 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/ecu>