Background

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)\(^1\) ensures an inclusive, equitable, prosperous and sustainable future for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seek to end poverty and hunger, realise the human rights of all, achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, and ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources.

Started in 2020, the UN has called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action on three levels: global action to secure greater leadership, more resources and smarter solutions for the Sustainable Development Goals; local action embedding the needed transitions in the policies, budgets, institutions and regulatory frameworks of governments, cities and local authorities; and people action, including by youth, civil society, the media, the private sector, unions, academia and other stakeholders, to generate an unstoppable movement pushing for the required transformations. Following the call, the local and regional governments would play a pivotal role in achieving Agenda 2030 at the local level. The SDGs localisation processes will be the crucial part in ensuring the creation of more inclusive and resilience cities.

Indonesia is among the first countries to adopt the 2030 Agenda, considering SDGs as National Agenda for Development. The Government of Indonesia (GoI) has established a Presidential Regulation No. 59/2017 which has been revised by Presidential Regulation No. 111/2022 on the Implementation of SDGs and Ministerial Regulations No. 7/2018 on the preparation of strategic environmental assessment for local mid-term development plan as guidance for local governments to accelerate the attainment of the SDGs. The GoI has also set up a National

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\(^1\) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 for the year 2030
Coordination Task Force for SDGs implementation, released the SDGs Roadmap and the National Action Plan, and integrate the SDGs into the National Mid-Term Development Plan. Furthermore, the GoI has released and updated Technical Guidance to prepare SDGs Local Action Plan along with its revised 3rd edition of metadata indicators, and Technical Guidance for the SDGs implementation Monitoring and Evaluation. Indonesia has been very active in submitting Voluntary National Review (VNR) to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) which so far has submitted three times in 2017, 2019 and 2021.

In 2014, UCLG in collaboration with UN HABITAT co-led “the Dialogues on Implementation” of the post-2015 development agenda, a milestone in the local implementation of the global agendas, conducting local, national and global consultations on the process. The two “Local and Regional Governments Forums”, organized in the framework 2018 and 2019 United Nations’ High Level Political Forums, were a breakthrough in the global conversation on Voluntary Local Reviews as a medium for locally-sourced information and mutual knowledge exchange at the local level. In 2018, New York City and three Japanese cities (Kitakyusu, Shimokawa and Toyama) were to the frontrunners which officially launched VLRs, soon followed by Helsinki and several others. More cities came together in 2019 to sign a VLR Declaration, also endorsed by UN HABITAT, and to create the VLR Community of Practices supported by UCLG.

In 2023, UCLG ASPAC and Tanoto Foundation has come to an agreement to join forces in expanding the initiative to assist local governments in improving the SDGs monitoring and reporting mechanism. The VLR development for Kendal Regency will serve as their VLR report following other cities which have launched their VLRs. The VLR in those regencies is aimed at analysing the progress and challenges of SDGs localisation as well as showcasing the best practices of sustainable development initiatives in the targeted regencies. The VLR for Kendal Regency is expected to be able to provide a description of SDGs localisation in the Regency capturing the achievement as well as best practices of local development policies.

Objectives

The purpose of this assignment is to provide technical support to develop Voluntary Local Review (VLR) report for Kendal Regency, comprising of data (qualitative and quantitative) and best practices of the Regency’s work and contribution to the localisation of SDGs in Indonesia. The findings of the VLR will contribute local government’s inputs in the process of developing Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) by the Government of Indonesia to be submitted to the HLPF.

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2 Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews, Volume 1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs, UCLG and UN HABITAT, 2020

3 Ibid
It is essential to acknowledge even more of the immense work that local and provincial governments put into localization of SDGs, an effort without which the SDGs would be ultimately unattainable (although if they do not label their actions as “SDGs”). Therefore, the VLR aims at collecting a number of information on what local governments are doing for the localisation of SDGs in their respective territories. The information shall not only include the local data that shows impact of the SDGs mainstreamed policies but the qualitative information of the Regency’s experiences, policies, and practices, embedded for localisation of SDGs in the local services.

The expected outcomes of the study assignment are as follows:
- Active and visible participation of Kendal Regency in Indonesia’s future VNR (as well as stronger and better references to the activities of the Regency in the VNR)
- Available advocacy tool for the Regencies to create their own report, collected evidences and accounts of SDG localisation and advanced concrete proposals to national and international institutions to even further empower local governments
- A showcase of Kendal Regency’s VLR in national workshops and international platform (e.g. Asia Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development, UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development)

Scope of Work/Key Duties

This assignment is provided to develop a detail study report consist of analyses of local government work and role in localisation of SDGs through consultations, data collection, interviews, and meetings to collect information. The scope of work shall be as follows:

1) Support the identification and the mapping of Kendal Regency that have made strides to integrate the SDGs in their action, and how (e.g., declarations of interest, alignment of local development plans and budgets with the SDGs, SDG integration in programmes and projects, indicators utilised, etc.).

2) Desk study: analyse the institutional context of local governments in Indonesia, especially in Kendal Regency, to support the localisation of the SDGs: decentralisation trends, devolved and shared powers and responsibilities between local, provincial and national governments, fiscal decentralization, the position of provincial and local governments in the national development strategies for SDGs implementation, involvement of local governments in the preparation of the VNR and in the national coordination mechanism (Sustainable Development Council or National Committee for SDGs).

3) Select several examples of Kendal Regency’s local development practices to serve as an example of ‘pilot case studies on the localisation of the SDGs’ or best practices that will contribute to the national government’s VNR.

4) Identify local, provincial or national monitoring instruments or database available that can contribute to measure subnational progress in the implementation of the SDGs, especially in Kendal Regency.
5) Facilitate the kick off meeting and Focused Group Discussion (FGD) involving the Regency officials and local stakeholders (legislative councils, private companies, civil society organisations, community leaders, academics, etc) to seek for their political support as well as active participation for inputs and feedbacks during the VLR processes.

6) Prepare a self-standing report or Voluntary Local Report of Kendal Regency in Bahasa Indonesia and English

The report will contribute to support other fellow local and provincial governments in the efforts to report on their initiatives for the localisation of the SDGs. It could also contribute to assess their strategies and strengthen their advocacy activities to promote the localisation of the SDGs. Structure for the report will be guided by UCLG ASPAC in reference to available guidelines prepared by UNESCAP and or UCLG/UN Habitat and previous VLRs.

The assignment is expected to be up to 90 days and shall take place between 12 December 2023 to 31 March 2024.

**Period:**
3 Months (12 December 2023 – 31 March 2024)

**Deliverables**

Following shall be key deliverables for this assignment:

1. Consultation meeting report with Kendal Regency officials and other local stakeholder representatives
2. Validation meeting report
3. First draft of VLR report in Bahasa Indonesia
4. Final draft of VLR report in Bahasa Indonesia

**Qualifications and Requirements**

The consultant/firm must have demonstrated expertise and knowledge on local governance issues, research, and the SDGs. More specifically, the firm/consultant must have demonstrated experience in:

- Having, at minimum, a master’s degree in social sciences and other related majors.
- Having at least a minimum of 5 years of excellent experience in developing similar researches and studies.
- Having deeper knowledge of political, legal and development context at local level
- Having good communication skills
- Performing the scope of work as set out in the above requirement to a very high standard:
- Ability to work with minimum supervision and in a team.
- Having previous experience and knowledge about VNR, VLR and other reporting process on SDGs in Indonesia
Having active involvement in any established SDGs activities in Indonesia including good relations with Bappenas will be an advantage.

**Supporting Team**

The post will be supervised by the Learning and Capacity Building Coordinator of UCLG ASPAC.

**How to apply**

For interested candidates kindly submit your Motivation Letter, CV, including your proposed timeline and send it to recruitment@uclg-aspac.org, copy to Hendra.ad@uclg-aspac.org

Kindly submit before 12 December (17.00) Jakarta time

Only selected candidates will be invited for an interview session.
### Detailed Timetable

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