

PROGRESS REPORT

ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS FOR
MEASURING, MONITORING AND
REPORTING ON SUSTAINABLE CITY
POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA

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ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEMS FOR MEASURING, MONITORING AND REPORTING ON SUSTAINABLE CITY POLICIES IN LATIN AMERICA



Period: August 2017 to July 2019

Countries: Bolivia, Brazil, Peru

Executive agency: United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat)

Cooperating entity: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

This project has been launched in the context of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), established by the 2030 Agenda. It aims to improve public accountability systems in urban centers of Latin America, focusing on six cities: Chimbote and Trujillo in Peru, Tarija and La Paz in Bolivia and Niterói and Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

The SDGs, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015, are a set of 17 objectives composed of 169 goals that must be reached by UN member countries until 2030. Although the goals have been adopted by national governments, subnational entities play a critical role in implementing SDGs. Cities must, therefore, align goals with their local development plans and urban development strategies so that they can be achieved nationally and globally.

The project focuses on Goal 11 on Sustainable cities and communities which aims at "Making cities

and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable." Issues intrinsically related to urbanization, such as mobility, access to safe public spaces, solid waste management and sanitation are included in these goals, as well as planning and increasing the resilience of human settlements, taking into account the different needs of rural, peri-urban areas and urban. The choice of priority goals for each city will be based on local demand and alignment with the strategic plans of the municipality.

To achieve its objective, the project foresaw a series of actions to create synergies among the different stakeholders and promote initiatives for the improvement of transparency and public accountability mechanisms of the participating city. Its main activities focus on capacity building, promoting dialogue and the creation of physical and virtual spaces of collaboration among the main stakeholders of the city, which include politicians, civil servants, academia and the private sector.

I. OBJECTIVE(S)

General: To strengthen accountability systems in cities in Latin America and enable monitoring of local government policies for achieving sustainable cities goals

Expected Accomplishment 1

Enhanced capacity of local government officials and institutions in select cities in the Latin American region to design and implement accountability initiatives in urban management and planning for sustainable cities

Expected Accomplishment 2

Improved capacity of city stakeholders to monitor the performance of urban management and planning for sustainable cities

Expected Accomplishment 3

Enhanced knowledge of Latin American city stakeholders of best practices in urban management and planning accountability systems

II. GENERAL RESULTS ACHIEVED

The activities carried out so far focused on identifying the stakeholders and diagnosing the needs of local governments in terms of improving transparency and accountability in order to achieve the implementation of more sustainable urban public policies. The training activities carried out in 6 cities also helped disseminate and encourage local governments to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into their planning activities. Throughout the project, a network of organizations that support the project in different ways and provide technical support to municipalities or civil society actors was also established. It was also possible to participate in training activities and meetings of experts, key actors from the 6 cities, civil society organizations and high-level officials of the municipal governments.

The participant cities also managed to elaborate one action plan each to make progress in localizing SDGs and strengthen accountability systems for policy monitoring.

In addition, the counterparts of each country elaborated the following outputs:

- (1) a training needs assessment for each city;
- (2) a stakeholders map in each city;
- (3) a report on public innovation laboratory experiences;

- (4) an inventory of methodologies for participatory processes;

- (5) a study of good practices and exemplary cases of participation, accountability and transparency in Latin America (produced under the responsibility of Cepal);

- (6) a study on the current state of transparency and accountability systems in each country;

- (7) city accountability labs and action plans to make progress on SDGs implementation for all 6 cities.

III. ACHIEVEMENTS:

I. EXPERT MEETING IN SANTIAGO DE CHILE (CEPAL) (SEPTEMBER 2017)

The expert meeting was the start-up event of the project. The project coordinators, experts and representatives of civil society and local governments of the municipalities that make up the project participated in the three-day meeting: Tarija and La Paz (Bolivia), Trujillo and Chimbote (Peru) and Niterói and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). The objective of the meeting was to allow the presentation of the diagnoses of the cities and of the existing accountability initiatives in those municipalities. In addition, another goal was to understand the needs of each municipality, the existing obstacles to the achievement of SDG 11 and to prepare a preliminary action plan for each city.

In particular, the partial results of an investigation, carried out by Cepal, on practical cases of transparency and accountability in Latin America, were presented to identify the success factors of these experiences and be able to take them into account in the scope of the project.

II. TRANSPARENCY, ACCOUNTABILITY AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION SURVEY IN LATIN AMERICA

This research sought to survey experiences and initiatives of accountability, transparency and citizen participation in Latin American countries. Based on the study of these cases, it was possible to identify elements of success and failure of the initiatives and to formulate recommendations for the project's activities. The actions recommended for the implementation of future initiatives were the following: drawing up a map of interested actors, identifying the collective needs that stimulate

popular mobilization, consolidating forums for dialogue, and having a policy of access to information that allows participants to see the results of their involvement in the initiatives.

The study can be consulted in its entirety here: <https://tinyurl.com/y3xet4pe>

III. TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN TRUJILLO (MARCH 2018)



Within the framework of the project, a Training of Trainers workshop on accountability and public responsibility for sustainable city policies was held in Trujillo, Peru, with the participation of territorial partners, civil society organizations and representatives of the three municipalities. Latin American countries involved in the project: Rio de Janeiro and Niterói of Brazil; La Paz and Tarija of Bolivia; Trujillo and Chimbote in Peru. The workshop served as a space for the exchange of experiences and methodologies in the area of participative processes and the use of data for planning and public policies implementation, which also opened the space to discuss actions, identify problems, obstacles and challenges related to public policies of sustainable development in the cities involved.

Representatives of the Economic Commission for

Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Casa Fluminense, the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, Solidar Switzerland, Forum Cities for Life, Instituto Natura, Fundación para el Periodismo and UN-Habitat were also present. Officials and technical staff of some of the municipalities participating in the project took part of the meeting as well.

IV. URBAN ACCOUNTABILITY ACADEMY IN NITERÓI (OCTOBER 2018)

The workshop served as a space for the exchange of experiences and methodologies for participative processes, which also opened the space to discuss actions, identify problems, obstacles and challenges related to public policies of sustainable development in the cities involved. Present were representatives of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, the Natura Institute, the Pereira Passos Institute, the Smart Citizen Foundation, the National School of Public Administration of Brazil, the Mayor's Office of the City of São Paulo and UN-Habitat, as well as representatives of some of the municipalities participating in the project. On the last day of the event, the teams of each city prepared action plans to advance accountability and promote the monitoring of public policies related to the SDGs.

The three days of the workshop provided contact with contents, theoretical contributions and practical experiences developed at the local level. The representatives of the cities were able to see the progress and projects being developed by the municipalities for the location of the SDGs, the use of technology for the improvement of public management, the promotion of innovative methodologies to make public policies more efficient and aligned with the needs of citizens. Finally, the workshop provided a unique opportunity to exchange experiences, solutions and knowledge among the participants of the six cities.

At the end of the workshop, the participants were asked to assess the event. 70 % of the participants answered that their expectations about the event were met, and for 20% the expectations were totally met.

V. SDG CAMPAIGN NITERÓI

The City Hall of Niterói launched a campaign on SDGs through the Colab platform. Colab is a start-up that builds platforms for local governments to facilitate state-society interaction. The objective of the campaign is to disseminate the actions of the Mayor's office connected with each of the objectives. The campaign consists of making online consultation on themes related to the SDGs and collecting impressions and suggestions from the public. Between March and June, 4 consultations were held on SDGs 3 (health and welfare), 5 (gender equality), 6 (clean water and sanitation), 10 (reduction of inequalities) and 14 (underwater life). There were a total of 778 participants answering the consultations and making 787 suggestions on the direction that public policies should take.



VI. PUBLIC CONSULTATION SDG 11 WITH COLAB (OCTOBER 2018 - FEBRUARY 2019)

The Sustainable Cities consultation was carried out from October 2018 to February 2019 thanks to an alliance between Colab and UN-Habitat. In this consultation, UN-Habitat asked citizens to compare urban life today from that of two years ago. Those who participate are invited to indicate if they agree with statements such as "Access to safe, accessible and sustainable public transport in the city where I live is improving", "The quality of waste

management (collection of garbage and recyclable materials) in the city where I live is increasing "and" In the city where I live there is a possibility for citizens to participate in local urban planning and local management ". The objective is to capture the perception of how the city is evolving in relation to the goals of SDG 11.

The objective of the agency is to help municipal managers and decision makers to formulate public policies that are able to respond to the challenges of urbanization in an efficient and integrated manner, based on the vision of the citizens who live and coexist in our cities.

The consultation managed to gather contributions from 829 municipal areas, in particular Niterói (986), São Paulo (958), Santo André (647) and Rio de Janeiro (532). In total, 9.606 participants answered the consultation during this four month period.

The results were announced at the end of February 2019, in a webinar that was attended by almost 1,000 people, including public officials, researchers, representatives of civil society and interested citizens in general. The range of scores per dimension ranges from 0 to 100 points, depending on the answers given by the participants. The higher the score, the better citizens' perception of the development of a more sustainable city. According to the data collected, the perception of the country's population, in general, is that the dimensions of Adaptation to Climate Change (70 points), Accountability (65 points) and Transparency (61 points) have advanced positively in the last two years. On the other hand, Access to Transport (43 points) has been identified as the public policy most in need of improvement. Moreover, during the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019, a side-event was organized to deliver the results of the SDG 11 consultation and the book containing the results of the 10 cities that had more participation from the public. The results were in the process of being sent to each of these cities' mayor.

Some general results of the consultation:

- Niteroi: 73% of the respondents do not think they have affordable/safe access to public

transport;

- General results (respondents from all cities) also pointed to a concern with access to public transport above all other policy areas;
- Next steps: translate and circulate publication. Expand the consultation to Bolivia and Peru.

VII. CREATION OF THE SDG 11 WORKING GROUP

The municipality of Rio de Janeiro has been making efforts to advance the issue of the localization of the SDGs and, in particular, in the process of adapting global goals to local goals. The Brazil team of the regional desk of UN-Habitat (ROLAC) is following up the work of a Working Group composed of the Pereira Passos Institute, the Secretariat of the Civil House of the Mayor's Office and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE). Currently, the IPP technicians are proposing indicators adapted to the reality of the municipality, finding information that is available to feed the indicators of SDG 11. This work in progress was presented by IPP in the technical visit that was part of the Urban Accountability Academy program. The idea is that this work can serve as a reference for other municipalities in Brazil.

VIII. EVENTS IN BOLIVIA IN 2018

a) Forum in La Paz: Advances and challenges in the achievement of SDG 11 (July 2018)
The event had the objective of providing information to public, private and social actors of the municipality of La Paz and Tarija on the main advances and challenges in achieving the SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities": "Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. " In total, 78 people participated.

The forum "Advances and challenges in the achievement of SDG 11 in the municipalities of La Paz and Tarija" were held in the Auditorium of the University of Our Lady of La Paz was attended by Marcelo Arroyo, Secretary of Planning for Development of the GAMLP, Diego Ávila, Executive Secretary of GAMT, José Antonio Ocho,

Director of Transparency and Fight Against Corruption of GAMLP and Ernesto Pérez, representative of UNDP and the attending public made up of authorities, institutions and members of civil society.

The presentations focused on explaining the characteristics of the SDGs, emphasizing SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, their alignment with the municipal plans and their implementation in both cities. From the evaluation carried out on the activity, it was extracted that:

- 94% of the participants assured that the forum provided them with new knowledge about SDG 11 and how the municipal governments of La Paz and Tarija are implementing them from the alignment of their plans to the goals proposed by the new agenda.
- 98% of attendees affirmed that the forum provided them with interesting information and that the exhibitors provided their information in a clear manner; therefore, despite being statistical information, the speakers managed to make people understand the importance of locating SDG 11.

b) Forum in Tarija: Progress and challenges in achieving SDG 11 (July 2018)

This event had the same purpose as the event held in La Paz. It counted with the presence of Rodrigo Paz, Municipal Mayor of the city of Tarija; Óscar Vargas, Transparency Director of the GAMT; Edgar Pacheco, Director of Research and Municipal Information of the GAMLP; Ernesto Pérez, representative of UNDP and José Luis España (PADEM) on behalf of the La Paz Observatory Como Vamos. In total, 96 people attended the event.

Basically, the same information was shared as in the forum held in the city of La Paz, since the presentations focused in the alignment and implementation of SDG 11 in the cities of La Paz and Tarija. The audience was made up of authorities and representatives of civil society. At the end of the event, the attendees were invited to fill out the on-line survey and to fill out the activity evaluation form. The results of the evaluation were:

- 94% of the participants assured that the forum provided them with new knowledge about SDG 11 and how the municipal governments of La Paz and Tarija are implementing them, from the alignment of their plans to the goals proposed by the new agenda.

- 94% of people said that the forum provided them with interesting information and that the exhibitors gave their information clearly, compared to 6% who believe that the forum did not provide them with new knowledge.

The systematization of the two forums, the presentations and photographs are hosted on the web page of the La Paz Observatory How We Go: <http://lapazcomovamos.org/investigaciones-y-mesas/>

c) Roundtable: La Paz we dream of : the modernity of the viaducts against the identity of the city (October 2018)

The round table "La Paz we dream of: the modernity of the viaducts against the identity of the city" was intended to discuss the new viaducts (San Martín, Tejada Sorzano, San Ramón and Belisario Salinas) that are being built in the city of La Paz. The Municipal Secretary of Public Infrastructure and the President of the Departmental College of Architects discussed the subject. In total, 24 people participated.

The Municipal Secretary's presentation focused on the technical aspect and the benefits that these new infrastructures will bring to the city; while the presentation of the College of Architects examined the impact on citizenship and urban development of the city.

The interventions of the attendees (research institutes, academia, civil society and municipal authorities) focused on analyzing the trend of the latest works that give greater importance to mobility than to pedestrians. Finishing the attendees requested a second round table to continue the debate. The minutes and presentation will be hosted on the website:

<http://lapazcomovamos.org/investigaciones-y-mesas/>

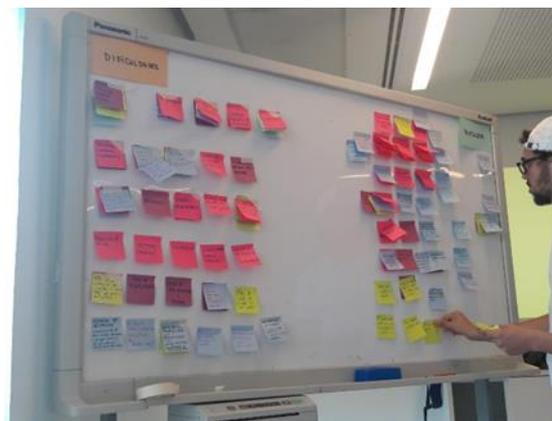
IX. IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCOUNTABILITY LABS (MARCH - MAY 2019)

The accountability labs brought together actors from different sectors (private sector, public, academia, and civil society) to develop an action plan to advance transparency, accountability and participatory initiatives for the progress of the SDGs in the city. CEPAL supervised the labs in Trujillo and Chimbote (Peru), and UN-Habitat supervised those of Niteroi and Rio (Brazil) and La Paz and Tarija (Bolivia).

Rio de Janeiro

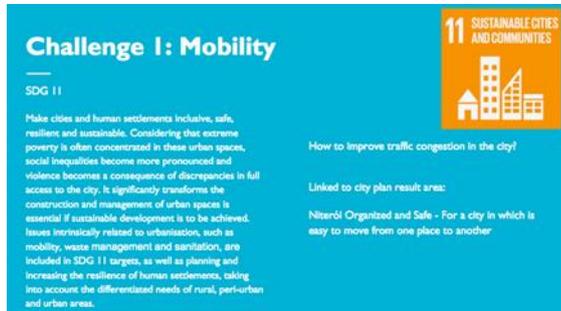
The Rio Accountability Lab was a series of 5 training workshops on the themes of open government such as transparency, innovation and participation, in addition to specific activities on the 2030 Agenda and New Urban Agenda. The activities were designed to support the preparation of the city's Sustainable Development Plan (PDS, in Portuguese). Representatives of civil society and academia participated in the technical activities and managers of various bodies involved in the PDS Committee. In addition to training on the themes, the participants built an action plan to make the PDS more transparent, participatory and innovative.

A total of 1312 people attended the 5 workshops. The majority of participants were civil servants involved in the elaboration of the PDS, but several civil society organisations were participating as well: C40, ITDP, NGO Transporte Ativo, Observatório de Favelas, Observatório Social do Rio de Janeiro, Fabrica de Startups and Sistema B (private sector), PUC-Rio and UFRJ (Universities).



The action plan consists of 18 actions suggested by small groups dynamics during the workshops. On participation, the actions were related to improving participation on different territories of the city making use of public equipment such as schools and health facilities, improving dissemination of the PDS and participation processes related to it and strengthening governance to improve participation policies. On transparency actions were focused on improving the management of data and information, creating an administrative specific for dealing with transparency policy and building a set of data and indicators critical for monitoring policies and the state of the city. During the innovation policy, the actions that were suggested were focused on promoting sustainability and innovative activities in schools and promoting dissemination of SDGs. Niterói: The City Hall organized the SDG Week, a week of events that encouraged staff from different areas to present innovative ideas and projects to address seven challenges that the city faces related to the SDGs. During the week, a workshop was held with experiences from other cities, experts who spoke about innovation and the importance of data and indicators for the public policy cycle. The SDG Week also involved the realization of a contest to choose the three best proposals formulated by civil servants. A total of 19 proposals were submitted. The winning projects involve solutions for solid waste management, traffic congestion and promotion of creative enterprises in the outskirts of the city. The events were attended by nearly 150 people. Some qualitative results: in both cities, managers pointed out that the workshops favored synergy among civil servants. Also, it was mentioned that civil servants were motivated to continue

deepening their knowledge in open government themes and forming working groups to implement the action plan. The focal point in Niteroi also is leading the systematization of the methodology that made the event possible, so it can be replicated by other cities.



Peru (Chimbote and Trujillo)

In both cities, during the workshops, participants from public and private sectors analyzed and prioritized the main challenges that the city has concerning the SDGs 06 (Water and Sanitation), 11 (Sustainable cities and communities) and 13 (Climate Change). Once the analysis was completed, work teams were formed to elaborate action plans to address city challenges and were presented in the final workshop realized in April.

Chimbote

The action plan was structured around the prioritization of two targets from SDG 11 and 13. The SDG 11 group has focused on target 11.1 (ensuring access to housing and services and slum upgrading) and it has proposed actions in two neighborhoods: the Human Settlement My Paradise, and the Human Settlement Balcony of Chimbote located in periurban sandbanks. The two neighborhoods present lack of access to energy and water, thus, it has been proposed to promote sustainable construction with bricks made of PET, promotion of alternative energies in the human settlement and treatment of grey water to obtain natural areas. The idea of working with these neighborhoods is to set an example of urban sustainability so that it can then be reproduced on the basis of the success achieved. Building on the small experiences on solar energy already underway the project aims to include the treatment

of grey water and the use of brick made from recycled plastic, which is crushed to make it easier to mixed with additives. The team was made up of professionals from the Provincial Municipality of the Santa, the Colectivo Chimbote de Pie, the Chamber of Commerce of the Santa, the College of Architects from Ancash and students from Cesar Vallejo University.

The group related to SDG 13, led by the environmentalist Institute NATURA has prioritized targets 13.3 (improving education, raising awareness and improving the and takes into account indicator 13.3.1 No. of countries that reported on institutional capacity strengthening to implement adaptation, mitigation and adaptation to climate change technology transfer). The proposed activities focus on awareness-raising and training of inhabitants in the aforementioned neighbourhoods; to this end, an attempt is made to generate citizen participation through cooperative communal activities. The proposal focuses on training and education in alternative construction; addressing of implementing the manufacture of materials by the same settlers, in such a way that it can generate income. It takes advantage of the existence of settlers who dedicate themselves to the construction It aims at the creation, use and maintenance of public spaces and green areas. Its action plan would take the form of a Chimbote 2030 Environmental Interpretation Centre, work in public spaces and an Environmental Leadership School.

Trujillo

The action plan was structured around the prioritization of two targets from SDG 11 and 13. SDG-13.3

- Action 1: Specialized training and awareness-raising on climate change adaptation and mitigation (formal and informal education)
- Action 2: Plant 3 million trees resistant to the drought period.
- Action 3: Reuse of treated wastewater for irrigation of green areas and trees. SDG-11.6
- Action 1: Situational Diagnosis of the Neighboring Territory N°36 - Urb. Monserrate
- Action 2: Environmental Education: training

for students. Sensitization and regulation of solid waste management addressed to the population of the Neighboring Territory N°36

- Action 3: Evaluation of impacts due to inadequate disposal of solid waste. Source segregation pilot by type of urban activity. Segregated waste collection pilot.

Bolivia (La Paz and Tarija)

For the realization of citizen laboratories in the cities of La Paz and Tarija it was decided to work in three phases:

1) Through meetings with municipal authorities of both cities, the problems that would be worked on in workshops were determined. Both municipal governments agreed to work on citizen security and urban settlements. These issues were coordinated with the corresponding Municipal Secretariats for analysis. In addition, some previous meetings were held with the actors in order to get to know their perception of the problems.

2) In both cities, two workshops on the themes above mentioned were held, which brought together different social actors. In these meetings, the facilitator was Marcelo Rojas, who was in charge of carrying out the analysis of both problems, in addition to proposing work matrices so that the social actors gathered with the authorities can reach agreements on possible suggestions or solutions to the problems. Both workshops in the city of Tarija brought together 47 people each.



In the city of La Paz the workshops were held on April 2 and 3. The working group on urban settlements brought together 27 people, while the working group on citizen security brought together 38 people.

3) The final stage consisted of carrying out the laboratory, bringing together the participants of both working groups for the review, correction and approval of the action plans previously worked on. In Tarija, 81 people participated at the final event on April 10 and in La Paz 47 participants attended the final workshop on April 12. In La Paz, action plan was designed around questions on how to improve informal vendor and use of public space regulation, improve safety in public spaces, facilitating safe access to public transportation for vulnerable people, improve public space access for people with disabilities and improve access to information on urban policy and existing legal framework.

In Tarija, action plan was designed around problems such as housing access to poor people, lack of legal framework and planning for the consolidation of emergent neighborhoods, access to basic services, access to green areas in new neighborhoods and improve access to information on urban policy and legal framework. It also included actions on how to improve access to public transport for vulnerable people, access to safe public space for people with disabilities and actions to improve quality of public space in general.

Some qualitative results achieved with the labs implementation:

- Citizens and institutions showed interest in the themes.
- The GAMT showed predisposition for the implementation of policies or plans suggested by citizens.
- Citizens critically analyzed their situation and made commitments.
- The social actors analysed the problems from different points of view and pointed out the

importance of taking measures from different fields of application.

- The social actors assumed commitments that will be formalized in April.
- The commitment of municipal authorities and civil society to work in workshops and urban laboratories was achieved.

All action plans are published in the UN-Habitat capacity building website:
<http://capacitybuildingunhabitat.org/>

IV. GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION PLANS IMPLEMENTATION

Some recommendations were made by implementing partners from the three participating countries to strengthen action plans and improve chances for effective implementation:



1 - The first thing that should be done is to sign a commitment agenda, in which municipal governments, representatives of local organizations, NGOs and foundations, and participating universities participate. The objective of this commitment is to guarantee the fulfillment of the Action Plans developed.



2 - Along the same lines, it is necessary to set up a technical team to monitor compliance with the action plans, both for the theme of inclusive and sustainable urban settlements, as well as for the theme of safe, inclusive and accessible urban spaces. In both cases there is already a commitment from local actors to follow up on the action plans.



3 - It would be interesting to take advantage of the openness that universities have and the desire that students have to meet reality and, therefore, support the development of the activities set in the Action Plan.



4 - To ensure feasibility, action plans might be reviewed and, perhaps, be adapted to the capabilities of the local government. This can be done in bilateral meetings with local governments before the signing of the commitment agendas.



5- Report any difficulties encountered and lessons learned in implementing the actions.