

Municipal localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a device to the continuous activation of the 2030 Agenda: a narrative review

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ABSTRACT

Will the 2030 Agenda that advocates the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) be immune from the consequences of the effects of the pandemic? This article analyzes the international debate that states that it is more necessary than ever to follow the 2030 agenda with the same ambition, regardless of the effects of the pandemic, and points to possibilities for continuing to act on the agenda's activation. From the perspective of a narrative review, contextualized and qualitative, the implementation plans of the 2030 Agenda of only five Brazilian municipalities that voluntarily reported on the UN website, between 2017-2023. These plans are presented and analyzed 1) for their vision of the future, 2) for their ambition in defining goals, and 3) for the Local Agenda activities Activation. The municipalities respond to the international call for the necessary localization of the agenda, as all five identify actions connected with the 17 SDGs but make their respective choices and priorities. These three cases demonstrate the possibilities of activating Agenda 2030 locally, despite the social, health, and economic impact of COVID-19.

Keywords: cities; local government; sustainable development; health priority agenda; public policy.

INTRODUCTION

Agenda 2030 and the effects of the pandemic

Will the world we return to after the social distancing measures adopted by most countries in the world be the same as the one, we came from?

Krenak¹ in a recent essay “Tomorrow is not for sale” states that if we return to normality, it is because the deaths of thousands of people all over the world were not worth anything. Iamarino², virologist and scientific broadcaster warns: “After coronavirus, the

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world will not go back to what it was. The Covid-19 pandemic will forever change science, the press, politics, work, and relationships”.

Some scholars have been calling this future condition the “new normal”³, but there are those who claim that the term has become a “successful cliché” and that the “new normal is the new abnormal”⁴. For Brum⁵ this world was already and will continue to be contentious in all fields of social, economic, political, environmental, and cultural life and in the ways of living life with different impacts on people and the planet.

Will the 2030 Agenda, launched in 2015 by the UN, advocating the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), be immune to the different consequences of the pandemic?

Report from ECLAC⁶: “Latin America and the Caribbean in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic: economic and social effects”, released on April 3, 2020, warns that the Covid-19 crisis puts full compliance with the 2030 Agenda at risk.

This report simulated 72 statistical series of SDGs and shows that in 73% of the indicators, there will be problems until 2030 and encourages countries to analyze what specific impacts COVID-19 will have on public policies in the region.

In a study, Thornton⁷ states that the progress rate towards the United Nations’ sustainable development goals is slow, and much of what has already been achieved is being lost due to the Covid-19 pandemic, in line with the WHO Director who announced that:

*The good news is that people around the world are living longer and healthier lives. The bad news is that the rate of progress is too slow to meet the sustainable development goals and will be further thrown off track by COVID-19*⁸.

Buss^{9,10} echoes this analysis by the WHO Director, stating that the pandemic “combined with a post-pandemic global recession, will be catastrophic for many developing countries, and will hinder progress towards the SDGs” and this situation can only be concretely mitigated if solidarity rhetoric is converted into resources of around US\$2.5 trillion to support these nations.

Two years had already passed since the launch of SDGs, when Oswaldo Cruz Foundation¹¹ warned about the existence of a large gap in the commitments made, both at the global and national level.

Among the numerous commitments, we can highlight those linked to SDG 3 “Health” and SDG 4 “Education”.

Impact on SDG 3 – Health and Well-Being

ECLAC estimates serious hindrance to many goals with emphasis⁶ on 3.8 and 3.9. This ECLAC analysis is in line with a Brazilian civil society document expressed in the Spotlight Report, published in 2020¹², which also identified these goals as jeopardized, and that only three of the goals had satisfactory progress. As an exercise in analyzing all SDG 3 goals, the Report concluded that

23% of them received it. 31% are threatened, 15% are stagnant, 8% have insufficient progress, and only 23% show some progress.

Impact on SDG 4 – Quality education

ECLAC estimates serious hindrance to the following SDG 4 goals⁶: 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.7. This analysis collated with Spotlight Report identified these four goals as having insufficient progress or receding and did not observe any SDG 4 goal with sufficient progress. In an SDG 4 overview, the Spotlight Report concluded that 40% of the goals have insufficient progress, 40% have receded, and 20% are stagnant¹². The data presented demonstrate that Covid-19 is a setback for the SDGs.

Given the technical feasibility of the SDGs, experts, scientists social movements, and civil society must “speak truth to power” on what needs to be done to achieve the SDGs, rather than appealing to a lower ambition”¹³.

Our article argues, based on the international debate that, despite this impact, achieving the 2030 Agenda with the same ambition is more necessary than ever; and points out possibilities to continue working to achieve the 2030 Agenda based on the cases of five Brazilian municipalities: Barcarena (PA), Barueri (SP), Francisco Morato (SP), Santana de Parnaíba (SP), and São Paulo (SP).

We use the attributes of a narrative review, through a selective review of the theme, from a contextual and qualitative point of view, discussing the “state of the art” of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, but pointing out possible alternatives, in the interpretation and critical analysis of the authors. A narrative review does not require a rigid protocol for its execution, contrasting with a systematic review¹⁴.

Brazil and the 2030 Agenda: brief contextualization

The latest National Status Report on the SDGs in Brazil, published in 2017, and available on the UN website¹⁵, tracks the progress of the SDGs at the national level.

In Brazil, Presidential Decree No. 8,892, of October 27, 2016, created a collegiate body of consultative and equal nature composed of representatives from the three spheres of government and the civil society with the purpose of “internalizing, disseminating, providing transparency and conducting the coordination, mobilization, and discussion processes with federative entities and the civil society for achieving the 2030 Agenda throughout the national territory”^{15,16}.

If the adoption of the SDGs in municipalities represents an opportunity to mitigate the great regional, social, and economic disparity in the national territory, their incorporation into state government plans can strengthen the Federal Government’s mobilization capacity.

In this sense, the participation of civil society is considered fundamental to achieving the 2030 Agenda. In terms

of institutional mechanisms, the National Commission for Sustainable Development Goals (CNODS) should constitute an institutionalized space for dialogue, exchange, and cooperation between government bodies and segments of civil society¹⁵.

The composition of the National Commission for SDG, 2017-2019 Plan, created by SEGOV Ordinance No. 38, of May 24, 2017, amended by Ordinance No. 56, of August 7, 2017¹⁰, included representatives of governments, civil society, productive sector, with advising from IBGE and IPEA and 17 Thematic Chambers¹⁵.

The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA) would permanently advise the Commission on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the country. The National School of Public Administration Foundation (ENAP) would be responsible for developing a methodological proposal with the aim of constructing the foundations of the Action Plan of the National Commission for SDG.

Some mechanisms and tools can and should support the participation of civil society, the planning, and dissemination of the SDGs in the localization process, among which the following stand out¹⁵: *DialogaBrasil* - a digital participation platform; *Portal Participa Br* - social media instrument to carry out public consultations, etc.; *Estratégia ODS* - an electronic website with organizations representing civil society, the private sector, local governments, and academia; 2030 Agenda Platform - a platform structured into three axes for monitoring the SDGs; Map of Civil Society Organizations - a georeferenced platform with data from civil society organizations; and the Municipal Vulnerability Atlas - a platform that integrates the Social Vulnerability Index (IVS) organized into three dimensions - urban infrastructure, human capital, income and work - it allows mapping social exclusion and vulnerability in 5,565 municipalities. This tool helps municipalities to evaluate and plan locally focused actions.

As it is a complex planning and management model and requires wide dissemination, the 2030 Agenda would therefore need to be of interest to several parties and align internalization and localization strategies with broad communication, involving the entire Brazilian society.

In this sense, the following initiatives that support SDG localization stand out:

- *The Civil Society Working Group for the 2030 Agenda (2030 Agenda WG)*. It seeks to disseminate the SDGs, mobilize civil society, and exert political influence on the Brazilian government and the UN. Each year, the 2030 Agenda WG produces the Spotlight Report¹², which communicates the potential impact of implementing the SDGs on people and territories.
- *The National Confederation of Municipalities (CNM)* launched the Guide for the Integration of Sustainable Development Objectives in Brazilian Municipalities - 2017-2020 Administration¹⁷. This CNM document is based on the

guide *Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos – Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible – lo que los Gobiernos Locales Deben Saber (s/d)* produced by the Global Organization *Ciudades e Gobiernos Locales Unidos (CGLU)* based in Barcelona is a network of cities and local, regional, and metropolitan governments.

- The *“Partnership for Sustainable Development – Project for Strengthening Municipalities to Promote the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda”* is an initiative of the Brazilian Association of Municipalities (ABM) with funding from the European Union in Brazil.
- The *Oswaldo Cruz Foundation*, which was not part of CNODS, launched the *Ágora Platform*¹¹ in November 2017 – one of the initiatives of the *Fiocruz Strategy for the 2030 Agenda*, to interactively stimulate the development of cooperative intelligence to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in Brazil.

From the creation of CNODS in 2016 up to now, little government action has been observed. On the contrary, another setback^{9,10} was seen during the Bolsonaro administration with the extinction of CNODS itself by Decree No. 9,759, of 11 April 2019¹⁸. This provision ended not only CNODS but several other bodies created by decrees or ordinances, saving only those created through laws, meaning an attack on society's participation in the process of formulating and implementing public policies in Brazil.

As Buss⁹ points out, the Bolsonaro administration “by sanctioning the multi-annual plan for the next four years (2020-2023), through Law 13,971, of December 27, 2019, vetoed “the pursuit of the goals of the Millennium Development Goals of United Nations”, with the justification that the provision is unconstitutional...”

In June 2023, civil society and members of the elected government met at the National School of Public Administration to prepare the re-creation of the CNODS, which had been reactivated by Decree No. 11,397/2023, of January 21, 2023, as a collegiate body of the Government Secretariat¹⁹. After this meeting, on July 4, 2023, a GT was created to present a proposal for restructuring CNODS within 90 days²⁰.

Problematizing the polarization between following an ambitious agenda and seeking more caution in achieving goals

The effects of the climate crisis, despite different impacts on and within the countries in the world, are a threat to everyone. Therefore, the feeling of losing the world can be collective, and this presupposes the sharing of a common destiny for humanity, but certainly, we are not all in the same boat sailing towards the end of the world²¹.

There are transatlantic ships, yachts, speedboats, sailboats, schooners, kayaks, rowing boats, rafts, and even shipwrecked people clinging to logs in the middle of the current²². Social and economic inequality in countries around the world and between countries is an ethical-political commonality that needs to be addressed.

The SDGs carry the message that if the world does not take care of 17 strategic themes in a well-planned way, as advocated by the 2030 Agenda, the common destiny of our survival on the planet will be jeopardized, and that failing to treat all the world's inhabitants with an equity lens is a moral failure.

As Ailton Krenak very well reminded us in his recent book "Tomorrow is not for Sale"²¹: *This pain may help people answer whether we are indeed humanity*.

However, voices are calling for the ambition announced by the agenda to be revised, as the pandemic is an obstacle to achieving the targets set in 2015²³.

As demonstrated by education and health data in Latin America indicated by ECLAC⁶, other sources show that vaccination of children in 70 countries has stagnated, 90% of the world's students have been kept out of school, hindering child development goals, the increase in domestic violence caused by lockdown measures had a great impact on the goals of gender equality and female empowerment, and more than 70 million people have returned to extreme poverty²⁴. Furthermore, the UN and the World Bank surveyed 122 national data collection offices and observed that 96% of them stopped collecting data in person, which hinders the updating of population statistics²³.

Those, including the authors of this article, who want to continue with the agenda's ambition, recognize the impact of the pandemic on the successes that were being achieved, and suggest paths that keep the agenda moving:

- Aggregate the goals and indicators into six groups that require "transformation," favoring the concentration of efforts by themes: (1) education, gender, and inequality; (2) health, well-being, and demographics; (3) decarbonized energy and sustainable industry; (4) sustainable food, land, water, and oceans; (5) sustainable cities and communities; (6) digital revolution and sustainable development¹³.
- Disengage growth goals from the SDGs, both because growth does not mean equity, and undesirable issues such as dangerous work, traffic jams, and pollution are included in the calculation of growth^{25,26}.
- Withdraw fossil fuel subsidies and favor the creation of jobs in clean energy areas²⁵, a movement already started by Joe Biden after his inauguration in 2021 as American president²⁷.

This is no time to be complacent: the requirements of the 2030 Agenda have never been more necessary to combat poverty, gender inequality, the climate crisis, and the immense socioeconomic differences between the countries of the world.

The future is up for grabs, and "ambitious goals, if pursued creatively, can unleash human innovation to accelerate progress beyond previously unimaginable rates"¹³.

Possibilities to continue working to achieve the 2030 agenda: municipal localization as a strategic path.

As we previously pointed out about SDGs 3 and 4, the situation is one of stagnation, setbacks, insufficiency, and jeopardy about their goals.

The scenario is alarming, but SDG "localization" has been proposed as a possibility to strengthen municipal capacities about the SDGs, "translating them into the local realities of Brazilian municipalities"¹⁷, as a framework for a local development policy²¹: The government alone is not capable of activating local development, but without the government, this is also not possible²⁸. This implies that local governments "act based on agreements and coordination with other territorial actors, to ensure that actions are effective and sustainable"¹⁷.

In this sense, here are conceptual and operational contributions to what the term "localization" means, expressed by the National Confederation of Municipalities:

Localizing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs does not simply imply a direct translation of global policies into local contexts. It does imply fostering a process based on the training and coordination of local actors, aimed at achieving sustainable development, through actions relevant to the local population, by their needs and aspirations¹⁷.

It is important to raise awareness and involve not only local public managers but also councilors, members of the judiciary, control bodies, civil society, academia, and the private sector, as well as state and federal actors who work in the Municipality¹⁷.

The creation of national and local forums, bodies, and initiatives to raise awareness and implement the 2030 Agenda is essential and requires institutional rearrangements and the implementation of fairer and more equitable policies that respond to social demands.

Once the federal government's omission of this Agenda is demonstrated, state and municipal governments can make their contribution. Since 2015, there have been movements in cities and regions, actively localizing the 2030 Agenda, bringing the SDGs closer to the people who live and work in these places.

In this sense, local and regional governments are increasingly involved with the 2030 Agenda, and some seek international visibility in monitoring the SDGs, by voluntarily publishing their actions on the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs website²⁹ without any obligation to repeat them annually.

These publications are called Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR). Despite not having official status, they demonstrate the political will of the authorities to achieve the 2030 Agenda locally²⁹.

Although this movement is providing international visibility for the localities involved and initiating a dialogue with the UN, so far, only five cities and two Brazilian states have been willing to post their reports on the UN website. Although the VLR website informs that “the process of carrying out these subnational reviews is providing multiple benefits to the entities that participate in them and to the implementation of the SDGs, in general, 5565 municipalities and 25 Brazilian states have not yet taken advantage of this possibility, perhaps because they do not realize how beneficial these would be, or by the abysmal distance that separates them from international organizations.

The states of Pará and São Paulo and the cities of Barcarena (PA), Santana de Parnaíba (SP), São Paulo (SP), Barueri (SP), and Francisco Morato (SP) are the only subnational entities that have voluntarily reported their progress²⁹.

For our argument that municipal localizations are strategic to (1) achieve the SDGs, (2) maintain the ambition of the Agenda, and (3) compete for a more promising future, we critically analyzed the main aspects of the five municipal reviews posted on the website of the UN^{21,30-33}, without, however, considering the two states in the analysis, which would not be included in the scope of municipal localization, the analytical core of this study.

In Table 1, we identified the municipalities’ reports made available to the UN (1) the outlook they express, the scope of goals and indicators they commit to, (2) their ambitions, and (3) the local activities initiated by the municipalities to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

Table 1 shows the potential of SDG municipal localization for achieving the 2030 Agenda by indicating which devices are initiated for social mobilization in each city.

It is interesting to note that each of them has its operational uniqueness, but the exercise of social expansion with the involvement of the government, private sector, and civil society is common to all.

There is some degree of innovation driven by the language of the SDGs, but all municipalities start with already implemented projects, connecting them with the SDGs according to the theme of the respective projects.

The 2030 Agenda continues to encourage an outlook that encompasses environmental preservation and social inequalities actions in the five municipalities seeking equity, often with an emphasis on action in health and education, areas of life impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The municipalities respond to the international clamor to pursue the agenda’s ambition on merit, as all three identify actions connected to the 17 SDGs, but their choices and priorities in the VLR are based on their municipal plans and PPA that quantify goals.

These five cases demonstrate possibilities for activating the 2030 Agenda locally even in the face of the low social immunity impact (fiscal austerity policies) that was already in place when COVID-19 started, with all its impact on social, health, and educational life.

Although the 2030 Agenda is a global framework and dialogues with countries, without the cities it loses its basis. The SDG municipal localization shown in the five municipalities cases analyzed is a strategic possibility to anchor the 2030 Agenda and all its meaning in a plant, animal, and human life eco-society rooted in cities, a primary reason for life preservation on planet Earth.

Comments: “The ground against the money sign” to initiate the 2030 Agenda

The quote in the title of these final comments is from the eminent geographer Milton Santos. It was used in his article published in the *Folha de S. Paulo*³⁴, in which he advocates the territory as the space to form, formulate, implement, and evaluate public policies, and to resist the harmful effects of globalization^{34,35}.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a harmful effect of globalization^{5,33} and, in this sense, valuing and acting on the ground, the place we step on, the soil of our cities, the SDG municipal localization can be considered to counter the impact that COVID-19 is having on achieving the SDG goals.

We argue that the operationalization of the 2030 Agenda begins in the concrete space of people’s lives, where they live, love, and work, i.e., in the local territory.

We saw in the examples of the five municipalities that the 2030 Agenda continues to promote an outlook that includes environmental preservation actions and equity-seeking actions on social inequalities, with a frequent emphasis on health and education areas, which have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

If the current situation of the Brazilian societal crisis, characterized by a total absence of public policies, has put Brazil in 2022 at the forefront of the receding process³⁶, and caused devastating effects in confronting the pandemic compared to the V Spotlight Report³⁶, in the VI Report³⁶, the receding goals increased from 92 to 110, and those with insufficient progress went from 13 to 24³⁶. On the other hand, concrete possibilities are opening and helping an awareness of the need to ensure universal rights resurface in speeches and practices.

This is the greatest advocacy in the social areas, supporting permanent mobilization against setbacks in the public sphere and fighting for new, more inclusive, and collective societal projects.

Income inclusion policies as an instrument to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable populations will be essential to support the post-pandemic period, as well as to enable the expectation of a more dignified life for all. A sociopolitical reformulation will be necessary to meet the current need for multilateral

Table 1: Outlook, ambitions, and 2030 Agenda activation local activities initiated by the municipalities of Barcarena (PA), Santana de Parnaíba (SP), São Paulo (SP), Francisco Morato (SP), and Barueri (SP).

Municipalities	Outlook	Ambition	Agenda Activation Local Activities
Barcarena (PA) Pop. 126,650 IBGE, 2022.	Recognition of Barcarena, by 2025, as a sustainable city, based on a tripod that involves: the protection of natural resources, including natural resources and cultural aspects of the man-nature relationship; a platform for social rights accessible to all citizens and economic development on a local basis.	Commitment to 40 goals in the 17 SDGs.	Change in the municipal management model and in the State-Society relationship, marked by the process of preparing the 2014-2017 Multi-Year Plan (PPA), coordinated by the Municipal Secretariat for Institutional Coordination and Planning (SEMPILA). Partnership with the Center for Higher Amazon Studies at the Federal University of Pará (NAEA/UFPA) to carry out a Training Course in Public Administration and Government Planning. Public Hearings in the 5 Administrative Regions of the municipality and technical meetings with the private sector and other social actors. Situational diagnosis of the municipality that innovated the concept of government planning. In 2016, the municipal government of Barcarena started linking its plans, programs, projects, and actions to the 2030 Agenda and incorporating its icons into every piece of government advertising.
Santana de Parnaíba (SP) Pop. 154,105 IBGE, 2022.	Santana de Parnaíba connected to an equitable and sustainable future	Seven priority SDGs – 1, 3, 4, 11, 15, 16, 17 – have been chosen, with the motto “Measuring what matters”, monitoring 67 goals, but associating with all 17 goals through their projects and programs	Three priority projects were chosen, synergistic with strong ideas – inequalities, smart city, environmental policy – to activate the SDGs: (1) Untying knots: an analysis of the impact of public policies for women in reducing inequalities; (2) Intelligence as a human factor: the quest to be a Smart City with the engagement of public administration; (3) From action to action: environmental policy in the search for sustainability. Five stages were defined for the activation of the SDGs in the city, each with specific tools/activities: 1) Engagement – Make visible everything that the city has already achieved positively within the SDG goals (72 projects and programs and analysis of their impact on the SDGs); 2) Vertical Integration - Selection of the most important Objectives for the municipality; 3) Measuring what matters Using a robust set of evidence-based goals and indicators; 4) Producing a Voluntary Local Report and presenting it at a Public Hearing; 5) Mainstreaming - inspiring stories identified with effective results to permeate the technical and political narrative.
São Paulo (SP) Pop. 11,451,245 IBGE, 2022.	The 2030 Agenda materializes the integration and trajectory followed by all municipal planning instruments. The result is the achievement of a more sustainable São Paulo, with a higher quality of life, education, and health and a reduction in poverty rates and social inequality.	A total of 135 municipalized goals among the 17 SDGs.	ODS Municipal Commission with consultative and deliberative functions and equal composition of public authorities and civil society, with eight municipal public bodies with incumbents and substitutes and 16 civil society organizations (8 incumbents and 8 substitutes) distributed in 3 segments – regional, private initiative, and educational institutions. Publication of a notice for the Public Selection of Civil Society Representatives to form the Municipal Commission for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) in the 2020-2022 biennium, with a mandatory minimum of 50% women. The ODS Municipal Commission established the division of work into 7 Thematic Chambers. Educational, Economic, Environmental, Health and Well-being, Social, Urban and Institutional Strengthening for SDG municipal localization. The deliberations of the Thematic Chambers were submitted to public consultation online, through the Open Government platform Participe+.
Barueri (SP) Pop. 316,473 IBGE, 2022.	“Barueri, Smart and Sustainable City.” The idea is to act locally to generate change globally. “Barueri on the Right Path – ideas for the city to continue growing”	The Sustainable Cities Development Index – Brazil (IDSC-BR) was used to select the indicators for each of the 17 SDGs, which total 90 indicators. Barueri's choice to use IDESC-BR allowed them to compare results with other municipalities and use a methodology that already has recognition from the United Nations.	Assistance action via CRAS and income generation and community garden projects: Solidarity funds; Expansion of health services and the Active Life and Healthy Eating Program; Expansion of classrooms and school inclusion programs; Supervision of laws protecting women and leisure activities; Women's Space; Universal access to water, projects to improve water quality and rational use of water; Green IPTU and encouragement of the use of solar sources; Partnerships with the private sector and governments to increase the supply of stable and decent jobs; Paperless Barueri; Assistive Technology; Housing programs; Cycle paths; Water drainage projects; Sewage treatment before flowing into rivers; Creation of urban parks
Francisco Morato Pop. 165,139 IBGE, 2022.	Government program based on the SDGs, a guide for public policies. Construction of a city that can (re)know itself as a city, with pride in being Moratense.	Construction of public policies that aim to serve everyone, especially people in vulnerable situations, young people, women, and the elderly. Until 2020 the actions were related to only 7 of the SDGs; for the 2020-2024 period municipal actions are related to the 17 SDGs.	Creation of Municipal Laws; Municipal public servants training on the SDGs; Municipal administration tools to disseminate the SDGs; Elaboration of a Multi-Year Plan in a participatory manner linked to the SDGs met for the four years 2018-2021 and 2022 to 2025; Municipal SDG Committee; SDG dissemination tools; Inclusive and Sustainable Morato Program; Partnerships with the Sustainable Cities Program, ABRINQ, and Estratégia ODS.

Source: Data from UN Voluntary Local Reviews (2023). Available from: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/voluntary-local-reviews>.

regulation of powers to promote social justice with public policies based on equal opportunities.

To promote education and health, public policies should emphasize expanding participation and transparency and bringing closer ties between powers (federal, regional, and local) and organized civil society.

This could be the role of the SDG Commission in Brazil as a promoter of a necessary national governance process and become a state action. The contextualization of the 2030 Agenda made at the beginning of this article in Brazil showed the obstacles, but also the tools and stakeholders in this movement.

We rely on the fight of civil society movements and the actions of some Brazilian states and municipalities. “And this seems to me to be the main cause that should move us at the moment”, as pointed out by Vilhena³⁷, a professor of law at the Fundação Getúlio Vargas

(FGV), which calls on us to observe, analyze, debate, and disseminate the subnational experiences that governments and civil societies are activating, such as those presented in this study.

Furthermore, the SDGs must be activated in line with the demands of the Unified Health System (SUS). Thus, principles dear to the SUS, such as intersectionality, universalization, and equity in health, can connect with the complexity of the 2030 Agenda themes³⁸. It is important to end on a note of optimism, as the UN in its 2023 *High-Level Political Forum* continues to advocate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda with the same ambition as in 2015 by urging its members to “Accelerate the recovery from coronavirus disease (Covid-19) and fully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels”³⁹. And the re-creation of the National Commission for Sustainable Development Goals can echo this UN proposal in Brazil.

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