

**From:** [Web E-mail - Mayor's Office](#)  
**To:** [Web E-mail - City Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** Email - Communication - Penny Abeywardena - Invitation from New York City and UN-Habitat to Join the Voluntary Local Review - CK 150-1  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:11:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[VLR Declaration\\_Final.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good morning,

Please find attached a request to join the Voluntary Local Review.

Thanks,

**Anna | tel 306.975.3202**

Office of the Mayor

City of Saskatoon | 222 3rd Avenue North | Saskatoon SK S7K 0J5

**Treaty 6 Territory and Homeland of the Métis**

[www.saskatoon.ca](http://www.saskatoon.ca)

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**From:** City of Saskatoon - Customer Care Centre <customercare@saskatoon.ca>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 11:32 AM  
**To:** Web E-mail - Mayor's Office <Mayors.Office@Saskatoon.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Invitation from New York City and UN-Habitat to Join the Voluntary Local Review (Thread:224439)  
**Importance:** High

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**From:** Commissioner Penny Abeywardena <[PennyAbeywardena@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:PennyAbeywardena@cityhall.nyc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:22 AM  
**To:** 'talkingabouttargets@saskatoon.ca' <[talkingabouttargets@saskatoon.ca](mailto:talkingabouttargets@saskatoon.ca)>  
**Subject:** Invitation from New York City and UN-Habitat to Join the Voluntary Local Review (Thread:224439)  
**Importance:** High

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May 3, 2021

Dear Mayor Clark,

We hope this letter finds you well under the current circumstances. It is a great pleasure to invite the City of Saskatoon to join us in committing to the Voluntary Local Review Declaration.

Local leadership on global issues continues to be important. Today, more than half of the world's population lives in cities, and that number is predicted to grow to two-thirds by the year 2050. The urgent challenges that we are facing on a global level, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, other health crises, and growing economic inequality, are often felt even more deeply by the residents of our cities. As such, we have a responsibility to lead on these issues to better serve our constituents and to empower our communities to take action.

It was in this spirit that New York City launched the ambitious OneNYC plan in 2015, which strives to fulfill the Sustainable Development Goals in the five boroughs and build a more equitable, resilient city. In July 2018, through the leadership of the Mayor's Office for International Affairs, New York City took an important step in furthering this mission by developing the concept of the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) and proudly became the first city to submit one to the United Nations.

The VLR allows subnational governments to be publicly accountable for reporting the progress they have made on the SDGs, as well as share their challenges in order to learn from other cities and nations. Since its launch, with the support of UN-Habitat, over 210 local governments are part of the global VLR movement to achieve the SDGs through strategic alignment and stakeholder engagement. The values of the SDGs are even more important as we must ensure a recovery post-COVID-19 that is inclusive and sustainable. The VLR enables local governments to meet these objectives through the sharing of knowledge and techniques.

UN-Habitat, with its vision of a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world, is committed to continue supporting local governments in their efforts to localize the SDGs through the VLR movement in support of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda. Advocacy and mainstreaming of the New Urban Agenda at city and community level ensures that we work collaboratively to build back better, greener, and fairer.

We hope that your city will join this growing movement and commit to taking action on the Sustainable Development Goals by signing the declaration, a copy of which is included with this letter. For questions regarding the VLR and the declaration, please do not hesitate to contact the NYC Mayor's Office for International Affairs at [globalurban@cityhall.nyc.gov](mailto:globalurban@cityhall.nyc.gov) or +1 (212)-319-9300.

We look forward to working with you to build a more equitable and sustainable world.



**Penny Abeywardena**

Commissioner for International Affairs  
Executive Director  
City of New York



**Maimunah Mohd Sharif**

Under-Secretary-General and  
UN-Habitat