

SDG ACTION WEEKEND
16 & 17 SEPTEMBER 2023

Local and Regional Governments Forum

Organized by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments, UN DESA, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the Local2030 Coalition



Background

The Local and Regional Government Forum (LRGF) highlighted the commitments of the organized constituency of local and regional governments towards the 2030 Agenda, with a special focus on local acceleration and local accountability through the lenses of the 6 SDG transitions, 5 means of implementation and 1 crosscutting enabler of the High-Impact Initiatives and their relationship with action taking place at local and regional level. A special emphasis was placed on how these actions contribute to the High-Impact Initiative on SDG Localization by showcasing how local and regional governments are driving progress on the Goals. The aim is to inspire and scale up efforts to deliver the transitions, demonstrating that a new trajectory for the SDGs is possible through local-led policies accelerating the 2030 Agenda through localization, high-impact transformative coalitions, and the integration of local-national evaluation frameworks for SDG monitoring and policy-making. The delegation was composed of over 80 Mayors and Governors and 120 delegates, together with the presence of the political leadership of the Global Taskforce and UCLG.

Key Issues

- Over 30 mayors and governors, along with representatives of Member States, stakeholders, and UN agencies, took the floor within the Local and Regional Governments Forum and showcased future-oriented and innovative coalitions formed by local and regional governments and their networks to achieve the SDGs and their alignment with the High-Impact Initiative on SDG Localization and the SDG Transitions. The coalitions presented within the session included among others:
 - The Global Alliance for Care which brings care to the forefront of the discussion around inequalities and climate action based on the recognition, reduction, remuneration and redistribution of domestic and care work among women and men, and all actors in our societies.
 - The Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees which will bridge practice-policy coherence gaps, and foster bold, people-centered local actions and



advocate for the endorsement and implementation of the Marrakech Mayors Declaration.

- The Culture 2030 Goal Campaign which advocates for the inclusion of an 18th SDG on culture and for the fourth pillar of sustainable development being based on culture.
 - The Malaga Global Coalition for Municipal Finance provides innovative solutions to redefine finances and economy and advocating for open, accessible and verifiable information and data, in order to make the international financial ecosystem more fit to the needs of local and regional governments
 - The Agricities initiative which facilitates and promotes policy at the local level around agricultural production and guaranteeing the right to food for all.
 - The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments which is a coordination and consultation mechanism that brings together the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes and achieve the 2030 Agenda.
- The forum further presented the perspective of local and regional governments on the 6 transitions of the UN's High Impact Initiatives including on education energy, food systems, social protection and jobs, digitalization, and the natural environment, emphasizing the need to strengthen local public service provision, address inequalities, and foster the ecological transition to ensure that the 2030 Agenda gets back on track in this second half of its implementation and to consider SDG11 as the SDG of the world.
 - The constituency moreover presented its priorities and aspirations for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024 and the World Social Summit in 2025 emphasizing the interlinkages between these summits and the SDG Summit.

Key Recommendations for Action

- Local and regional governments are key actors in bringing impact on the ground with innovative local policies and will play a vital role in this second-half of the achievement of the SDGs to accelerate action and the localization of the 2030 Agenda. There will be no acceleration without localization.
- Local and regional governments play a vital role in promoting partnerships between communities and spheres of government and have to be at the forefront of all of the United Nations' High Impact Initiatives, moving across them and beyond the SDG Localization one, for their realization.
- The final SDG Summit Political Declaration, while emphasizing localization, sustainable urbanization, transforming international finance, and multilevel coordination for the 2030 Agenda, was less ambitious than desired and omitted references to the key role local and regional governments play in protecting people and the planet.
- Universal access to local public service provision is a precondition for the achievement of all the SDGs and the backbone of our cities, towns and territories, ensuring that all



communities, regardless of administrative status or any other condition, can live healthy, fulfilling and sustainable lives, and a crucial lever to rebuild trust within our communities.

- A renewed multilateral system which is more inclusive and networked with local and regional governments with formal and permanent seat at the decision-making table will be key to overcome the multiple crises the world faces today. This will also rest on a reformed global financial architecture that changes what and how we finance development.
- The local and regional government constituency stressed that more ambitious climate action and the protection of the global commons will be key to realize the achievement of the SDGs, highlighting the interconnectedness of the 2030 Agenda with other global agendas.
- The importance of Voluntary Local and Voluntary Subnational Reviews in the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs as policy tools and not only reporting tools must be harnessed and welcomed by the multilateral system fostering ownership and accountability towards the SDGs and its targets.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/SDGSummit2023/SDG-Action-Weekend/local-regional-governments-forum>.