



HIGH IMPACT
INITIATIVES



SEPTEMBER 2023

LOCAL2030 COALITION

Pushing key transitions and
achieving the SDGs by 2030

HALFWAY TO 2030

High Impact Initiatives at SDG Action Weekend, 2023

The SDGs are essential but we are off track

World leaders made a historic global promise to secure the rights and well-being of all peoples when they adopted the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. This Agenda recognizes that collectively, we can deliver a better future for all. However, the Agenda is a promise, not a guarantee.

Over the past eight years, the world has seen unprecedented mobilization around the SDGs and we have made significant progress on some fronts, laying the critical foundations for our future success. However, now halfway to the 2030 deadline, we are not halfway there – in fact, we are only 15% of the way.

To keep the promise, we need a fundamental pivot

It will take more than rhetoric or increased attention to deliver the promise. We cannot stay wedded to current ways of working. Everything we do, in every corner of our world, will need to evolve for us to advance.

The fundamental pivot we need at the core of the 2030 Agenda demands that countries reorient economies, ways of working and mind-sets to ensure the rights and aspirations of all can be achieved while preserving our climate and natural environment.

This change will take everyone

In many ways, the foundations for transformation are right in front of us - the technical know-how, institutional infrastructure, global financial resources and proven programmes – but we need to channel these resources more effectively. This is the critical moment for political leadership and bold action from national governments; for the international community to come together in common purpose; and for all partners on the SDG journey to take their contribution to the next level. We start tomorrow, by accelerating what works today.

THE HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVES AT SDG ACCELERATION DAY SUNDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER

As we look to the future, our goal is simple: to generate renewed momentum, strengthen political leadership and channel tangible, integrated and coordinated support behind national plans and priorities. As part of the global effort to meet this challenge, the United Nations development system is mobilizing behind 12 high impact initiatives which provide a platform to help take SDG progress to scale. This platform will enable us to learn, evolve and scale what works with greater coordination and collaboration. The platform cuts across three major areas: economic and social transitions, means of implementation, and a core aspect of the cross-cutting issue of gender equality.

- **Energy** Compacts: Scaling up ambition to deliver on SDG7
- Nature Driving Economic Transformation: Leveraging the power of **biodiversity and nature** to drive equitable economic progress
- **Food Systems** Transformation: Transforming food systems for a sustainable world without hunger
- Transforming **Education**: Learning to build a better future for all
- Global Accelerator: The Global Accelerator on **jobs and social protection** for just transitions
- **Digital** Public Infrastructure: Scaling inclusive and open digital ecosystems for the SDGs
- The SDG Stimulus: Scaling up long-term affordable **financing** for the SDGs
- Transforming **Trade**: Paradigm shift to boost economic development
- **Local2030** Coalition: Pushing key transitions and achieving the SDGs by 2030
- FutureGov: Building **public sector capabilities** for the future
- Power of **Data**: Unlocking the data dividend for the SDGs
- Spotlight Initiative: To eliminate **violence against women and girls**

VISION FOR IMPACT

The crises of our time – environmental, social, health, economic, and conflict – all have local dimensions and require localized responses. We know that two-thirds of the SDGs cannot be achieved unless local and subnational governments and stakeholders are fully involved and empowered to drive implementation at the local level. For the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to enable its transformative potential, it must be fully realized at the local level – it needs to be localized.

Despite the importance of local actions and solutions to global challenges and increased recognition in advancing the SDGs, local and subnational governments often face insurmountable challenges. Establishing and strengthening the capacity of multi-level governance systems and multistakeholder platforms is key to improving coordination across different levels of government and actors to realize the SDGs.

The HII aims to accelerate all SDG transitions through three action areas:

1. **Advocacy**, to generate a deeper understanding of the imperative of Localization to accelerate the SDG transitions
2. **Action**, to facilitate local implementation through technology, capacity building, and financing (e.g., the launch of a Localization Window of the Joint SDG Fund, and the localization of Integrated National Financing Frameworks (INFFs))
3. **Monitoring and reporting** on SDG implementation at the local level, including exchange of knowledge and perspectives, SDG Voluntary Local Reviews and their linkages to national level reporting mechanisms

This High Impact Initiative will drive progress across all SDGs. By bringing together a diverse range of stakeholders to enhance localization efforts, the Local2030 Coalition is accelerating the transitions needed to achieve the SDGs across energy, food systems, education, social protection and jobs, nature and climate and digitalization.

OVERVIEW: LOCAL2030 COALITION

The Local2030 Coalition enables connections across a diverse range of stakeholders – from local and subnational governments to the private sector other local actors – with the shared aim of localizing the SDGs. By bringing together localization efforts from across the UN system, the Coalition provides a bridge for sharing knowledge, expertise, innovations, tools and investments. Further, it empowers and strengthens local and subnational governments and other local actors through regional and local solution Hubs, providing advisory and technical support to accelerate action on the SDGs. Rather than implementing separate projects, the Local2030 Coalition is a convening space to build on existing initiatives and scale best practices to build an enabling environment to fill in gaps, where necessary.

The Local2030 Coalition aims to demonstrate the UN's collective offer on localized SDG action by providing technical and advisory support to strengthen and empower local and subnational governments and boost local stakeholders' capacities across the six transitions needed to achieve the SDGs, viz., Food systems, Energy access and affordability, Digital connectivity, Education; Jobs and social protection, and Climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and catalyzes inclusive, co-created local actions that leave no one behind.

Local2030's activities operate across four key pillars:

1. **Local2030 supports capacity building of local and subnational governments and local actors** by advocating for the importance of localization; increasing participation of local actors in planning, policymaking and financing and implementation of projects; and leveraging their experiences in localizing the SDGs to inform national, regional, and global sustainable development efforts.
2. **Local2030 accelerates action on the ground by strengthening local and regional Hubs and other multistakeholder platforms.** These Hubs support communities – together with the UN system and external partners – in identifying their priorities with respect to the SDGs and implementing innovative solutions that address local needs. In an effort to produce learnings that can benefit other communities, Local2030 Hubs also develop best practices and raise awareness on issues that are key to the local implementation of the SDGs.
3. **Local2030 leverages greater financing and targeted investments to scale local efforts and accelerate progress towards the SDGs.** Through the launch of a SDG Localization Window of the Joint SDG Fund, Local2030 will support catalytic initiatives for SDG localization efforts on the ground. The SDG Localization Window aims to raise USD\$100 million to support localization activities to accelerate the SDGs and for impactful local action.
4. **Through specific initiatives targeting excluded or marginalized populations, Local2030 enhances and reinforces efforts to leave no one behind,** including women (Women-led Cities initiative), children and youth (Youth2030 Scorecard) and refugees (Call to Local Action), among others.

PLANS FOR THE 2023 SDG ACTION WEEKEND

The session will seek to demonstrate the critical role of localization in delivering the six transitions, requiring effective multilevel governance, local data and financing for local action. In particular, it will highlight innovative approaches to strengthening the capacity of local and subnational governments to achieve transitions, financing and enabling local action and boosting advocacy and commitment, with presentations and panel discussions led by a range of speakers from all levels of government, civil society, development banks and the social sector.

ROADMAP TO 2030

Long-term plans will evolve as we learn and circumstances change. Below is our current approach to acceleration through 2030 after the SDG Action Weekend.

Timeline and deliverables for progress:

Local2030 Coalition will seek to catalyze momentum for local action across sectors to achieve the transitions through tracking toward the following deliverables:

- **2023:** 50 national and subnational governments committed to supporting locally-driven actions by joining the Local2030 Coalition
- **2024:**
 - Additional commitments of USD\$25 million secured for the Joint SDG Fund's SDG Localization Window, including through commitments from at least 5 IFIs
 - Women-led Cities Window established (including taskforce, donors, cities selected)
 - All members of the UNSDG have joined the Local2030 Coalition
- **2025:** Network of Local2030 Hubs expanded by ten Hubs across four continents
- **2028:**
 - Major private sector investment has been contributed in at least 100 cities aligned with the SDGs
 - 100 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) demonstrate a link with Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

- 2030:
 - 1000 local governments have joined the SDG Cities initiative
 - USD\$150 million has been invested in catalytic initiatives at the local level through the SDG Localization Window
 - USD\$50 million has been mobilized under the Women-Led Cities initiatives to support cities led by women leaders to accelerate SDG achievement with a focus on reducing social inequality, achieving gender equality and eradicating violence against women

Metrics for success:

While outcome metrics will depend on the locality and relevant SDG transitions that this particular locality is tracking, the Local2030 Coalition will focus on tracking the following output metrics as foundations for the achievement of these outcomes:

- Number of national and sub-national governments committed to supporting locally-driven actions as members of the Local2030 Coalition
- \$ committed to the Joint SDG Fund's Localization Window
- Number of Local2030 Hubs with tools (e.g., dashboards) for tracking local outcome metrics

Roles and responsibilities of partners:

This High Impact Initiative will ensure that advocacy, partnerships and stakeholder commitments are effectively deployed through the following governance structures:

- Lead UN entities: UN-Habitat, UNDP and FAO
- Champion Member States: Spain, Italy, Brazil, Ghana, Indonesia
- Contributing UN entities and partners:
 - UN entities: UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO, ESCAP, UNECE, UNEP, UN DESA, IOM and the Joint SDG Fund;
 - Members of the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee: the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, Government of Italy and the host of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat (Government of Spain, Basque Government and the City of Bilbao); and
 - Local2030 Hubs (Hawai'i Green Growth, Liverpool 2030hub, Paraná Hub, and Local2030 Knowledge Hub)

Responsibilities of partners include but are not limited to:

- Promoting this High Impact Initiative and initiatives showing local actors' unique capacity to deliver the SDGs
- Mobilizing local actors who can show how they are transcending the common challenge of working in siloes and promoting coherent and integrated local strategies and action plans aligned with global and national policies and priorities
- Encouraging knowledge-sharing with all relevant stakeholders including Local and Regional Governments and their associations, national governments, multilateral actors, regional organizations, indigenous peoples, amongst others
- Supporting the Local2030 Coalition to foster the exchange of knowledge and experiences, create partnerships and unlock opportunities to access additional resources and scale up efforts

LOCAL 2030

LOCALIZING THE SDGS



LEADING UN ENTITIES



COLLABORATING UN ENTITIES AND PARTNERS



For more information on the Local2030 Coalition access our website <https://www.local2030.org> or please contact Rafael Tuts (raf.tuts@un.org); Shipra Narang-Suri (shipra.narang-suri@un.org); Francine Melchiorretto (francine.melchiorretto@un.org)

For an overview of the High Impact Initiatives visit the [Transformative Actions](#) action tab on the [SDG Summit website](#)