

**SDG ACTION WEEKEND
SEPTEMBER 2023**

Local and Regional Governments Forum

**Action and leadership from the
ground up towards the rescue
plan for people and the planet**

Concept Note

Background

Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of policies supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, caring for people and the planet, through public service provision, local policy fostering social inclusion, local economies, ecological transformation, and the creation of alliances and partnerships.

The Local and Regional Government Forum (LRGF) at the SDG Action Weekend will highlight the commitments of the local and regional government constituencies 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 sub-national level. A special emphasis will be 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 solutions.

High-impact localization policies and partnerships currently in place to advance the Goals and new innovative commitments will also be announced as well as the specific localization needs and aspirations of local and regional governments to bring SDG implementation back on track. Likewise, coalitions led by constituencies that have multiplier effects and build on local-global partnerships, international cooperation, and solidarity will be presented.

The Local and Regional Governments Forum will therefore bring together local, regional, and national governments as well as representatives from the United Nations and other stakeholders to announce strong commitments, present coalitions for policy change, and illustrate high-impact localization policies. The Forum will also reflect on the importance of Voluntary Local and Voluntary Subnational





Reviews in the acceleration of the implementation of the SDGs as reporting tools but also policy tools. The Forum will provide reflections on the constituency's priorities and aspirations for the UN Summit of the Future in 2024 and the World Social Summit in 2025.

Objectives:

The objectives of the Local and Regional Government Forum at the SDG Action Weekend are to:

- Announce voluntary actionable and scalable commitments by local and regional governments towards the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda that will contribute to realizing the SDG transitions and the 12 high-impact initiatives.
- Present existing coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency that have multiplier effects and illustrate high-impact localization policies from local and regional governments to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs that will both contribute to the High-Impact Initiative on Localization.
- Reflect on the priorities and aspirations of local and regional governments towards the SDG Summit and the UNGA high level week.

Organization and Participants:

The event will be led 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. Where appropriate, global networks of regional and local governments and other stakeholders will be engaged through the core group of partners.

Considering the High-Level nature of the SDG Summit, all special events organized at its margins will promote the highest possible level of inclusivity, participation and engagement from interested stakeholders, including through transparent selection processes for participation in the event.

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



Local and Regional Governments Forum

SDG Mobilization Day

16 September 2023

Conference Room 1, UNHQ

12:00-14:00 (EDT)

16:00-18:00 (EDT)

Special High-Level Event on the occasion of the 2023 SDG Action Weekend

Programme

Morning Segment - 12:00 - 14:00 EDT

- **Opening - 12:00 - 12:15 EDT**
 - Ms. Carolina Cosse, Mayor of Montevideo, Uruguay
 - Mr. Eric Adams, Mayor of the City of New York, United States
 - Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- **Local and regional governments joining the UN's Collective Action to realize SDG transitions - 12:15 - 13:00 EDT**

During this segment, local and regional governments will highlight their commitments towards the 2030 Agenda that can mobilize leadership and investment to bring transformative progress to scale at the local level. Emphasis will be placed on how these commitments contribute to delivering the High-Impact Initiative on Localization. The goal is to inspire and demonstrate that localization is key to realizing the six major SDG transitions, five critical means of implementation and the transversal priority of gender equality.

Facilitated by Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments

- Ms. Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director, International Trade Centre
- Ms. Paola Pabón, Governor, Pichincha, Ecuador
- Mr. Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor, Konya, Türkiye
- Ms. Yvonne Aki-Sawyer, Mayor, Freetown, Sierra Leone
- Mr. Horacio Rodríguez Larreta, Mayor, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Mr. Carlos Martínez, Mayor, Soria, Spain
- Ms. Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Canada
- Representative of Italy



- **Coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency: scaling up acceleration of the SDGs - 13:00 - 14:00 EDT**

This segment will put a special emphasis on how local and regional governments are driving progress on the Goals by expanding and elevating the impact of existing coalitions, generating multiplier effects and building on local global partnerships, solidarity, international cooperation and subsidiarity. During this segment, specific coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency will be presented and linked to the High Impact Initiatives.

Facilitated by Raf Tuts, Director, Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat

- Ms. Nelya Rakhimova, ECE Regional CSO Engagement Mechanism
- Ms. Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor, Banjul, Gambia
- Mr. Filippo Mannino, Mayor, Lampedusa, Italy
- Ms. Asmaa Rahlou, Mayor, Rabat, Morocco
- Mr. Daithí de Róiste, Lord Mayor, Dublin, Ireland
- Ms. Claudia López, Mayor, Bogota, Colombia
- Member State

Afternoon Segment - 16:00-18:00 EDT

- **High impact localization policies: commitments and announcements to close the gap in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals - 16:00 - 16:45 EDT**

This segment will include announcements of high-impact localization policies and partnerships and of new and innovative commitments from the local and regional government constituencies towards SDGs implementation. It will also be a space for dedicated discussions on specific localization needs that could contribute to bringing SDG implementation back on track.

Facilitated by Francine Pickup, Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP

- H. E. Mr. Jader Filho, Minister of Cities, Brazil
 - Ms. Marilou McPhedran, Senator, Canada, Representative of Inter-Parliamentary Union
 - Mr. Andreas Wolter, Mayor, Cologne, Germany
 - Mr. Said Daoud, Mayor, Djibouti, Djibouti
 - Mr. Berry Vrbancovic, Mayor, Kitchener, Canada
 - Ms. Clara Brugada, Mayor of Iztapalapa, Mexico
- **Voluntary Local and Voluntary Subnational Reviews going beyond reporting - 16:45 - 17:45 EDT**

This segment will illustrate the priorities of the constituency in relation to VLRs and VSRs and in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs as going beyond reporting tools. It will



also reflect on the main aspirations of local and regional governments looking towards the Summit of the Future.

Facilitated by Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) (TBC)

- Mr. Aryan Sanghrajka, MGCY Executive team member, UNHCR Young Champion for Refugees
- Mr. Yousef Alshawarbeh, Mayor, Amman, Jordan
- Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick, President, Nouakchott Region, Mauritania
- Mr. Kongantiev Kuvanychbek, Chairman, Bishkek City Council, Kyrgyzstan
- Mr. Héctor Olimpo Espinosa Oliver, Governor, Sucre, Colombia
- Mr. Juan Hobeiche, Mayor of Jonieh, Lebanon
- H.E. Ms. Ana Jiménez de la Hoz, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Spain to the UN, Chargée d'Affairs a.i.

• **Closing - 17:45 - 18:00 EST**

- Dr. Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat and Head of Secretariat, Local2030 Coalition
- GTF