



## HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### Concept note

#### ***UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) Side Event 2022***

***Building Back Better by deepening the integration of the SDGs in national and local planning processes: effective multilevel governance and the role of VLRs in supporting local authorities***

(Venue: lifesize platform) [Registration](#)

**Tuesday 12 July 2022, 07:30-09:00 (EDT)**

**Co-organised by Italy, UN-Habitat, UNECE and OECD**

Successfully implementing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs requires an effective strategic framework and sound institutions at all levels of government, underpinned by strong civil service skills and civil society engagement. Effective multilevel governance aimed at declining national strategic objectives at local level is crucial to strengthen the implementation process through a deeper integration of the SDGs in national and local planning processes.

Voluntary local reviews involving directly different levels of government and Non State actors provide an opportunity to describe efforts in place and areas that need further support reflecting the requests of local authorities and relevant stakeholders. VLRs represent a valuable input to the Local 2030 Coalition initiative launched by the UN System to trigger the involvement and engagement of local actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

### **Objectives:**

This side event aims at:

- Promoting peer-learning dialogue on the main challenges emerged from VLRs in aligning efforts for building back better with the SDGs and on effective ways to support local and regional authorities in this endeavour.

- Supporting the adoption of territorial approaches and the implementation of multi-level governance mechanisms and policies that are capable of empowering local actors in advancing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda while respecting local, regional, national and international contexts.
- Sharing practical experiences from local authorities in declining the vision and goals of the 2030 Agenda and of national sustainable development strategies at regional and local level and how countries are supporting SDG implementation through more integrated policy making.
- Supporting communities of practice on VLR preparation and on the role of local and regional authorities in the monitoring, follow up and review process of the 2030 Agenda.

Participants will share successful experiences that are generating impact and contributing to accelerated action on the 2030 Agenda as well as identifying bottlenecks and challenges in terms of capacities, policies, tools and mechanisms in order to further accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda and to contribute to the Local 2030 Coalition recently launched by the UN system as a common space to engage and mobilise actors at local level. Local and regional authorities will also have an opportunity to exchange views on how to strengthen synergies among different reporting processes, including under the New Urban Agenda.

During this Side Event, Italy will present key messages from the VNR/VLR 2022 and invite other national and subnational authorities to share similar inputs. OECD and UN-Habitat will present the G20 Platform on SDG Localisation and Intermediary Cities (G20 PLIC) and the G20 Rome High-level Principles on City-to-City partnerships endorsed by G20 Leaders to unlock the potential of intermediary cities and advance the local implementation of the SDGs.

The event will also be an occasion to reflect on the outcomes of the second Forum of Mayors<sup>1</sup>, held in Geneva (4-5 April 2022), and on how to bring forward the recommendations set out in the Geneva Declaration of Mayors<sup>2</sup> aimed at strengthening the resilience of cities and their role in the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda.

**Format and questions to be addressed:**

This side event at HLPF will be held in virtual format and is structured in two parts:

- an introductory segment with high-level speakers from co-hosting organisations,
- an interactive multi-stakeholder panel to showcase practical experiences and challenges in declining the 2030 Agenda at regional and local level by assessing innovative tools and mechanisms and providing vision on the way forwards in the coming years towards 2030.

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<sup>1</sup> [www.forumofmayors.unece.org](http://www.forumofmayors.unece.org)

<sup>2</sup> The Geneva Declaration of Mayors is available at: <https://unece.org/sites/default/files/2021-03/Mayors%20declaration%20booklet%20-%20ver.4.pdf>

Panellists will be asked to address the main challenges in implementing the 2030 Agenda at regional and local level and to share innovative tools set in place to enhance effective multilevel governance and a deeper integration of SDGs into national and local planning processes. The Panel will discuss how to better reflect these within the follow up and review process at national, regional and international level and what could be done to further support VLRs within the 2030 Agenda FuR process.

### Programme

Welcome & Opening remarks by organisers and co-organisers
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- H.E. Vania Gava, Under Secretary of State - Ministry for Ecological Transition of Italy</li> <li>- Marco Ricci, Min. Plen. - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy</li> <li>- Dr Shipra Narang Suri, Chief - Urban Practices Branch (UN-Habitat)</li> <li>- Paola Deda, Director - Forests, Land and Housing Division (UNECE)</li> <li>- Ragnheidur Élin Arnadottir, Director - OECD Development Center</li> </ul>
<p><b>Interactive Panel Discussion:</b> common challenges local authorities are facing in localizing the 2030 Agenda and what innovative solutions are needed to strengthen implementation, follow up and review.</p>
<p>Introduction to the Panel and setting the scene by moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mara Cossu, Coordinator National Strategy for Sustainable Development – Ministry for Ecological Transition of Italy</li> </ul> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Raffaele Cattaneo, Minister for Climate and Environment – Lombardia Region, Italy</li> <li>- Carla Rey, Segretario Generale - Associazione italiana per il Consiglio dei Comuni e delle Regioni d'Europa (AICCRE)</li> <li>- Natalia Uribe, Secretary General Regions4</li> <li>- Adolfo Uriarte, Director of Natural Heritage and Climate Change – Basque Government</li> <li>- Arnau Queralt, Director of the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS)</li> </ul>
Closing remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Italy - UN-Habitat – UNECE – OECD</li> </ul>