

## ***Localizing the SDGs: regional governments paving the way***

Parallel event during the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) 2018  
Friday, 13 July 2018  
5pm – 6.45pm

Registration is required using the link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/entradas-localizing-the-sdgs-regional-governments-paving-the-way-47583135439>

Venue: 1177 Avenue of the Americas, 7th floor, New York, NY 10036

Belgian-American Chamber of Commerce

Co-organized by: nrg4SD, OECD, CIFAL Flanders

### **Summary**

*Localizing the SDGs relates to how subnational governments can support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through bottom-up action and how the SDGs provide a framework for local, urban and territorial development.*

*Throughout the world, several regional governments have already kicked off with the efforts to implement the SDGs in their territories. Building on the launch of the nrg4SD report 'Localizing the SDGs: regional governments paving the way', the event will gather regions and organizations focused on a territorial perspective for the SDGs.*

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### **Concept note**

The success of the 2030 Agenda relies on our capacity to ensure the localization of the SDGs. Regional governments are especially well-positioned to support this process, as they can ensure an integrated territorial approach, and yet enable the active participation of multi-stakeholders and the coordination among all levels of governance.

Localizing the SDGs relates to how local and regional government can support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through bottom-up action and how the SDGs provide a framework for local, urban and territorial development. Throughout the world, several regional governments have already kicked off with the efforts to implement the SDGs in their territories.

The event happens on the margins of the HLPF and will bring together relevant actors focused on the role of regional governments and a territorial approach to the SDGs. Different initiatives are being developed to support regional governments in the localization of the SDGs. The event will be an opportunity to bring together these different actors to discuss a combined platform for mutual support and synergies on a territorial

During the event, it will be launched the report “Localizing the SDGs: regional governments paving the way”, report was jointly developed by nrg4SD and the University of Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, and with the support of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR), ORU Fogar and the ART Initiative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP ART).

The report is based on a survey with 47 regional governments throughout the world and maps the process undertaken by different regional governments in the implementation of the SDGs. Based on the different instruments and actions to establish the necessary institutional architecture to enable the SDGs implementation in territories, the report compares trends and stresses a set of clear overall policy recommendations and approaches that could be replicated elsewhere.

The localization of the SDGs is not a task that regional governments can or should do on their own. It requires the involvement of all levels of governance, to ensure cross-scale integration and the design of mutually supportive and cohesive national and territorial policies. Moreover, it requires the active engagement of all relevant stakeholders, to join efforts, foster innovative solutions and foment a sense of ownership, which are fundamental to push the 2030 Agenda forward.

A territorial approach to the 2030 Agenda simultaneously addresses urban, rural and natural areas, integrating the multiple dimensions of a territory, such as the social, cultural, environmental and economic ones.

The OECD has launched a Programme on “A Territorial Approach to SDGs”, which is paving the way for enhanced evidence on SDGs’ state of play at sub-national level, as well as the multi-level governance dynamics at the core of their implementation, and lessons learned in terms of incentives and framework conditions. The Programme will provide a unique platform to share valuable data, experience and knowledge across countries, regions and cities on how SDGs can and should change the paradigm for designing and implementing better local and regional policies for better lives.

The side-event will be a unique opportunity to share the high-quality work being carried by regional governments, international organizations and networks of LRGs in the localization of the SDGs. Exploring different methodologies and approaches to this process, the event will provide an overview of the good practices and main challenges being faced on the ground on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

## **Objectives**

The parallel event will highlight:

- the launch of report by nrg4SD on the territorial implementation of the SDGs, based on the experience of regional governments worldwide;
- the proposed roadmap and activities in the OECD Programme on “A Territorial Approach to SDGs”

- the opportunity to establish a coalition among international actors working with regional governments and the territorial approach to SDGs;
- innovative and technical approaches for the localization of the SDGs;
- modalities and good practices of collaboration across levels of government, and the participation of LRGs in national efforts;
- champions and good practices of regional governments in the localization of the SDGs;
- the required support the UN, its Member States and the international community can provide to regional governments in the localization of the SDGs;
- the importance of integrating efforts and global agendas, as the Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sendai Framework, along with UNEA resolutions.

## Agenda

Moderation: Natalia Vera, Secretary General, nrg4SD

Welcome by BelCham

- Launch of the report “Localizing the SDGs: regional governments paving the way”  
nrg4SD
- A Territorial Approach to SDGs  
OECD
- The role of the global level to support the localization of the SDGs  
UNDP

Moderated debate & experiences of local and regional governments:

- City of Kitakyushu (Japan)
- Government of Lombardy
- Government of Flanders
- Government of Paraná
- Government of Catalonia
- Government of Southern Denmark
- Government of the Basque Country
- Government of Cordoba Province

## Q&A

Moving forward - discussion on the establishment of a mechanism for a permanent dialogue and coordination among global actors engaged with a territorial approach to the SDGs