

## **High-Level Political Forum 2018** **18 July 2018, New York**

### **SIDE EVENT**

#### ***Localizing the SDGs: local and regional governments as drivers of change*** **Presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Report**

*UN Conference Building, Conference Room 11*  
*From 13.15h to 14.30h*

#### **Background**

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) will present at the 2018 HLPF the second report on the role of local and regional governments (LRGs) in the localization of the SDGs. The report explores the extent to which LRGs are able to create and spread awareness, their involvement in the preparation of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), and the initiatives they have undertaken to localize the SDGs.

The report will be based on first-hand information, collected by LRG networks around the world, and complement member states' VNRs. In most countries reporting to the HLPF this year, LRGs have significant responsibilities in many areas related to the "Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies" and to SDG 11 on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. Many LRGs have been frontrunners in the achievement of the Goals: bottom-up initiatives and alliances have proven essential to successful implementation. The report will highlight crucial linkages with the other goals assessed this year (SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12 and 15).

This side-event is an ideal venue to illustrate the report's findings, explore localization in the framework of SDG implementation, and engage local stakeholders in the collection of information, data, practices and 'stories' from the local level. It will provide a stage for LRGs to voice what they expect and demand from the localization process. It will be a channel to improve a cross-tier dialogue that has the right to the city, the right to adequate housing, and the creation of inclusive and sustainable citizenship at its core. The report and the conversation that it prompts are an opportunity to involve subnational governments more in national and global processes, while acknowledging their unique contribution to the achievement of the global agendas.

#### **Agenda and speakers**

The session will rely on the participation of GTF members and partners, as well as other contributors to the report. It will be organized on two different segments: the first part will

build on the presentation of key results by contributors to the report. It will be followed by an open floor consisting in responses and remarks by LRGs representatives.

The session will be organized as follows:

Moderation: Greg Munro, Secretary General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

1. Introductory remarks (8 min)
  - Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Treasure of UCLG (tbc)
2. Presentation of key results, by contributors to the report (5 min each)
  - Nelson Fernández, Director of International Relations and Cooperation, City of Montevideo (Uruguay), Mercociudades
  - Projal Dutta, Director of MTA, International Association of Public Transport (IUTP)
  - Yunus Arikan, Head of Global Policy and Advocacy, ICLEI.
  - Claire Markgraf, City Diplomacy team, C40
3. Remarks from key partners (5 min each)
  - Rafael Tuts, Director, Programme Division, UN Habitat
  - UNDP (tbc)
  - UNCDF (tbc)
4. Remarks from local and regional governments (5 min each)
  - Carlos Martínez Mínguez, Mayor of Soria, Federation of Municipalities of Spain (FEMP)
  - André Viola, President, Departmental Council of Aude (France), Cités Unies France (CUF)
  - Basque Country (Spain), on behalf of nrg4SD
5. Questions and answers (15 minutes)
6. Concluding remarks: Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG