



## **Local Action for Global Commitments**

*16 - 17 July 2019 | United Nations Secretariat | Conference Room #11  
High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)*

**@Local2030**

**#Local2030**

### **Context:**

Local2030 is convening the event Local Action for Global Commitments, which will focus on the local dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under review at the 2019 HLPF, local level financing of the SDGs, and Voluntary Local Reviews. The goals of this event are to:

- Highlight local contributions to the achievement of the SDGs under review; as well as the interlinkages between national, regional, and local action on these SDGs;
- Provide a space for learning and the exchange of experiences, with the goal of strengthening local knowledge and action around the SDGs under review;
- Convene and connect experts from the public, private, and non-governmental sectors, local leaders, and representatives from United Nations agencies to identify opportunities for collaboration and accelerated action on the localization of the SDGs; and
- Enable a structured discussion of experiences of multistakeholder engagement in long term implementation processes in local contexts.

### **Participants:**

Member states, local and regional governments and their associations, UN agencies, businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises, social enterprises, and major corporations), finance, academic and civil society leaders, youth, entrepreneurs and solution-makers.

### **Format:**

The event will consist of a high-level opening, moderated panel discussions, and audience participation. Interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish and French.

**TUESDAY 16 JULY**

**10:00—10:25    Opening**

The high-level opening will set the stage for the two-day event—highlighting challenges, opportunities, and promising solutions for the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

**Speakers:**

- Maimunah Sharif, Executive Director, UN-Habitat
- Alicia Barcena, Executive Secretary, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)
- Guy Rider, Director General, International Labour Organization (ILO)
- Lise Kingo, Executive Director, UN Global Compact
- Parks Tau, President of United Cities and Local Governments on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

**10.30 – 10.40    Presentation of the Seville Commitment—Cementing a Local-Global movement to Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals**

In February 2019, representatives from national, regional, and local governments, local and regional government associations, civil society, academia, private sector and the United Nations came together in Seville, Spain to review progress and lessons learned on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and chart new pathways to accelerate and scale up action at the local level. Speakers in this session will present key outcomes from that event.

**Speakers:**

- Juan Pablo de Laiglesia y González de Peredo, State Secretary for International Cooperation, Ibero America and the Caribbean, Government of Spain
- Juan Espadas, Mayor of Seville, Spain

**10:45—11:45    Financing and supporting SDG localization at the country level**

*Co-leads: UN Global Compact, UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)*

Local and regional governments, local community groups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), particularly in developing countries, remain severely limited in their ability to access development finance and attract investment. This, in turn, is a significant hurdle for effective local SDG implementation.

Yet most SDG finance tends to be centralized. Additional stumbling blocks for local actors include poor or non-existent credit and a general risk adverse marketplace. Against this background, this session will focus on finance solutions to overcome such hurdles. Speakers will highlight factors such as long term local SDG policy plans that can attract long term investment at the local level. They will also debate opportunities to strengthen local access to grants and loans for local SDG implementation.

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**Moderator:** Jaffer Machano, Global Programme Head of the Municipal Investment Programme, UNCDF

**Speakers:**

- Iñigo Urkullu, President of the Basque Country Region, Spain
- Paolo Ciccarelli, Head of Unit, DEVCO C5 - Cities, Local Authorities, Digitalisation, Infrastructure, European Commission
- Fei Yu, Deputy Representative for the North American Office, Asian Development Bank
- Judith Randel, Co-Founder and Strategic Advisor of Development Initiatives
- Gavin Power, Chief Sustainability Officer, Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO)
- Danford Paterson, Managing Director, Fundamental Credit Opportunities *(tbc)*

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11:50—12:50

**The local dimensions of SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals**

*Lead: UN Global Compact*

A core focus of SDG 17 are multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs. With respect to SDG localization, such partnerships are crucial not just to tap into the skills and resources of different actors, but also to ensure well-designed local SDG strategies, plans, and policies, and to strengthen local buy-in and ownership of the SDGs.

Different forms of partnerships and collaboration—including, for example, public-private partnerships, civil society engagement, and horizontal and vertical collaboration across sectors and levels of governance—can help achieve these goals. Speakers in this session will share experiences, challenges, and successes in the design and implementation of such partnerships and collaboration initiatives.

They will also highlight examples of the significant impact that partnerships and other collaborative actions can have on the localization of the SDGs, as well as the capacities, approaches and methodologies that are needed to build robust local multi-stakeholder partnerships. This includes, for example, efforts to track progress on the work of the partnership, mechanisms to foster innovation, and enabling policy and institutional frameworks that support partnership and decentralized collaboration.

**Moderator:** Melissa Powell, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Global Compact

**Speakers:**

- Jan Van Zanen, Mayor of Utrecht, Netherlands
- Abellatif Ennahli, Secretary General, Ministry of Urban Planning, Territorial Planning, Housing and City Policy, Morocco
- Valérie Dumontet, Vice-President of the Aude Department, France
- Yuji Kuroiwa, Governor of Karagawa, Japan
- Miguel Gamiño, Executive Vice President, Enterprise Partnerships, Head of Global Cities, Mastercard

**13:00—15:00**

**BREAK**

**15:05—16:30**

**The local dimensions of SDG 13 on climate action**

*Lead: UNCDF*

SDG 13 presents an existential challenge for development and the achievement of the SDGs. Against this background, it is essential that climate risks are assessed and understood and taken into consideration by local and regional governments and local development actors. This is necessary to enable local communities and economies to adapt to climate change and to support climate resilient development.

For SDG 13 to be effectively localized, sub-national governments and their populations, local businesses, grassroots organizations, and other local actors must be placed at the centre of SDG action. Climate risks need to be integrated into local development plans, enabling policy environments, and finance for climate resilient development. They also need to be considered in data collection efforts and capacity development efforts. Localization of climate action must prioritize cross sectoral, integrated approaches to SDG implementation, as well as engagement of the full array of local development actors.

Speakers will discuss examples, challenges and opportunities of local SDG 13 action. The discussion will draw lessons from national and local efforts to achieve SDG 13 to inspire further localized climate action.

**Moderator:** Tehmina Akhtar, Deputy Director, United Nations Capital Development Fund, UNCDF

**Speakers:**

- Ambassador Perks M. Ligoya, Permanent Representative of Malawi to the United Nations
- Bruno Covas, Mayor of Sao Paulo, Brazil
- Thembisile Nkadimeng, Councillor of Polokwane, South Africa, and President of the South Africa Local Government Association
- Kate Brown, Executive Director, Global Island Partnership
- Matt Russotti, CEO, Sol Purpose
- Richard Sennett, Centennial Professor of Sociology at the London School of Economics

**16:35—17:50**

**The local dimensions of SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth**

*Lead: ILO*

The 2030 Agenda recognizes the important role of decent work in achieving sustainable development, as exemplified in SDG 8 on “promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work”. The world of work is changing—driven by technological changes, climate change and demographics. This has made the achievement of SDG 8 more challenging, but green

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jobs, namely decent jobs that contribute to preserving, restoring and enhancing environmental quality, can be a part of the solution.

Engagement of regions, cities and local communities is critical to achieving the SDGs by providing tailored policies and solutions. Shifting transport systems towards sustainable mobility, improving air quality in urban and local settings, enhancing the delivery of clean water and sanitation, and urban farming are all areas of action where cities from around the world are bringing innovations that deliver both jobs and sustainable solutions. This session will provide an opportunity to share concrete experiences, key challenges, and best practices for promoting a future of work with green jobs showcasing successful initiatives at the local level.

**Moderator:** Rosa Pavanelli, Secretary General, Public Service International

**Speakers:**

- Magdalena Valerio, Minister for Labour, Migration and Social Security, Government of Spain
- Stefano Bonaccini, President of the Emilia Romagna Region, Italy, President of the Italian Association of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (AICCRE), and President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)
- Tri Rismaharani, Mayor of Surabaya, Indonesia
- Moustapha Kamal Gueye, Coordinator of the Green Jobs Programme, ILO
- Wim Dries, Mayor of Genk, Belgium, President of the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG)
- Agustin Delgado Martin, Chief of innovation and sustainability, Iberdrola

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## WEDNESDAY 17 JULY

### 10:00—10:50 **The local dimensions of SDG 10 on reduced inequalities**

*Lead: UN Development Programme (UNDP)*

In the last year, the world's billionaires saw their wealth increase by 12 percent while the poorest 3.8 billion people on the planet lost 11 percent of their wealth. 10,000 people will die today due to lack of proper medical care, 262 million children will not be allowed to go to school for lack of funds, and the poorest women on the planet will do millions of hours of unpaid care work.<sup>1</sup> Inequality is identified by several organizations as a top global concern.<sup>2</sup> We therefore need to not only focus on sustainable development and growth—but how this growth is distributed.

Localities can do a great deal to improve incomes and living standards in low-income communities. Local and regional governments have a key role in reducing these inequalities through the provision of basic services, setting up an enabling

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<sup>1</sup> Oxfam Briefing Note, Public good or private wealth?, January 2018

<sup>2</sup> World Economic Forum, Outlook on Global Agenda 2015 and World Economic Forum, Outlook on Global Agenda 2014, UNU, 6 Global Issues to Watch, 2019.

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environment for economic growth and opportunity, and the inclusion of marginalized groups within decision making and priority setting.

The local governments and other local actors that have been most successful at addressing inequality are generally in nations where national and all levels of sub-national governments work together on this and where they all have responsibilities and capacities to address inequality. Availability of sufficient resources, public support, and better local data on inequalities are also crucial to the achievement of SDG 16 at the local level.

**Moderator:** Mansour Ndiaye, Head of Policy, UNDP

**Speakers:**

- Johnny Araya, Mayor of San Jose, Costa Rica
- Lynrose Jane D. Genon, Member of the Executive Council of Young Women+ for Peace and Leadership, Philippines
- Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco
- Ana Falu, Director of the Housing and Habitat Research Institute, National University of Cordoba, Argentina
- Siamak Sam Loni, Founder and Global Coordinator of UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Youth, and Partnerships Manager for UN SDSN's SDG Financing initiative

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**11:00—11:50**

**The local dimensions of SDG 4 on quality education**

*Lead: United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)*

There is a learning crisis. Over 262 million children and youth are out of school and this includes 64 million children of primary school age, 61 million of lower secondary school age and 138 million of upper secondary age. But even those in school are not learning. For example, 8 percent of children are not achieving minimum level of competencies in reading and mathematics. The learning crisis starts early with three out of 10 children aged 3 and 4 developmentally off track and one third of children not participating in organized learning before entering primary school.

The session will focus on how countries, cities, local and regional governments and partners are working together to ensure quality education at the local level. Capacity at all levels—from ministries through to regional and local levels—is essential to address the learning crisis.

This session will also explore challenges and opportunities from the perspective of local office bearers working in different contexts, based on their experiences of working with all levels of education and wider systems to improve the life chances of children and young people through education.

**Moderator:** Christine Albrecht, Chief Strategy Officer, Junior Chamber International (JCI)

**Speakers:**

- Roheoyatou Lowe, Mayor of Banjul, Gambia

- Rasheda Choudhury, General Coordinator, Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE), Bangladesh
- Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener, Canada
- Mindaugas Sinkevicius, Mayor of Jonava District Municipality, Secretary General of the Association of Local Authorities in Lithuania

**12:00—12:50**

**The local dimensions of SDG16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions**

*Lead: UNDP*

SDG16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies highlights the universality of the 2030 Agenda: all countries have room to improve on peace, justice, and inclusion. The targets also draw attention to the needs of people, communities, and societies that face the greatest risk of being left behind due to violence, injustice, exclusion, and poor governance.

SDG 16 is truly transformative, linking development, peace, justice and good governance. Local governments as public institutions are responsible for combating all forms of violence, particularly in urban spaces, reducing corruption and unethical practices, entrenching dynamic, open, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making processes. Other local institutions are increasingly taking a great role to hold them accountable for such actions.

Speakers will debate the importance of efficient multi-level governance systems and new institutional arrangements and channels of coordination to underpin more effective, accountable, and transparent institutions, as well as more responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making. This is necessary for local governments to become more responsive to their communities, and for states to deliver on SDG 16. Speakers will also discuss positive examples of SDG 16 implementation, such as new forms of participatory decision making in budgets, or the enhancement of city housing or service delivery—which can lead to increased public security.

**Moderator:** Laurel Patterson, Team Leader, SDG integration, UNDP

**Speakers:**

- Carlos Martinez, Mayor of Soria, Spain
- Ismael Del Toro Castro, Mayor of Guadalajara
- Wevyn Muganda, Programme Coordinator for Humanity | Activism | Knowledge | Integrity (HAKI) Africa, Kenya

**13:00—15:00**

**BREAK**

**15:10—17:10**

**Voluntary Local Review lab**

*Co-leads: UN-Habitat, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)*

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are a new modality of reporting that is increasingly been adopted by cities and local and regional governments around the world. The idea behind the VLRs is to monitor and report progress at the local level, following

the example of the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Paragraph 79 of the Agenda 2030 encourages member states to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven". As stipulated in paragraph 84, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and involve multiple stakeholders.

Monitoring and reporting progress is key to understanding if we are getting closer to achieving the SDGs. However, VLRs can also serve many other objectives that can help cities and territories improve their efficiency, inclusiveness, and decision making.

The circumstances and priorities of cities, local and regional governments differ. Accordingly, there are many different methodologies and approaches for elaborating VLRs. At the same time, VLRs can also provide a common framework for local and regional governments to engage in peer learning. Against this background, the objective of this session is to identify potential common elements of VLR preparation and to share how the elaboration of VLRs can be instrumental to achieve the 2030 Agenda at local level. It will feed into, and link to, the Voluntary National Review (VNR) lab on SDG Localization that will take place on 17 July.

**Moderator:** Lotta Tahtinen, Chief of Outreach and Partnerships Branch, UNDESA

**Speakers:**

- Jan Vapaavuori, Mayor of Helsinki, Finland
- Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, United Kingdom
- Antonio Vilaça, Mayor of Barcarena, Brazil
- Junko Ota, Vice-Chair of Kitakyushu City SDGs Council, Japan
- Fernando Straface, Secretary General, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Joana Balsemao, Councillor, Cascais, Portugal
- Alexandra Hiniker, Program Director, Global Vision, Mayor's Office for International Affairs, New York City, USA

Contributions from partners active in the preparation of VLRs: Tony Pipa (Brookings Institute), Stefano Marta (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development), and Prof. Kazuhiko Takeuchi (President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies).

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**17:20—18:00** **From July to September 2019 and beyond—what is next in localizing the 2030 Agenda?**

Short interventions by the organizing institutions (Local2030, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDESA, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNCDF and UN Global Compact)

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