



Side Event

Localizing the SDGs to accelerate effective implementation of Agenda 2030



Background

As it has been stressed by the UN Secretary General, “many of the investments to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will take place at the subnational level and be led by local authorities”. With 65% of the indicators relevant to local authorities, **the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs depends on the local ownership and the involvement of various stakeholders at local level.**

While great progress was made towards sustainable development during the MDG era, this progress has been unevenly distributed. Hidden under global and national averages are groups of people, mostly the poorest and most marginalized that have not been properly reached by development efforts. **Development outcomes require a focus on local level and multi-stakeholder approaches through partnerships and direct involvement of the beneficiaries in co-creating policies and solutions.** In this regard, the involvement of Local Government Associations in the definition, implementation and monitoring of national development strategies is of particular relevance.

Localizing the SDGs and the Global partnership

SDG 17 is about working together to make the 2030 Agenda a reality. In this regard, the Global partnership stresses the fact that achieving the SDGs will be as much about the effectiveness of development co-operation as it is about the quantity and form such co-operation takes. It does matter to local governments because it is at the local level that coherent policies can be developed to address the multiple challenges of poverty reduction and sustainable development. Also, local tax and revenue generation must play its part in financing sustainable development. Local governments are in the ideal position to encourage and facilitate partnerships between public bodies, the private sector and civil society in the communities.

In this regard, **the “localization” process contributes to effectiveness of development cooperation and aims at accelerating the SDGs implementation on the ground.** The localization process is of particular importance to meet the principle of “leave no one behind” and “to reinforce municipal finance” that both the Agenda 2030 and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paragraph 34) are built on. The localization of SDGs is actually understood **as a process to revitalize the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation** by



ensuring the inclusion of a diversity of local stakeholders and creating broad based ownership, commitment and accountability. The achievement of the SDGs depends, more than ever, on the ability of local and regional governments to promote integrated, inclusive and sustainable territorial development.

The toolbox and the roadmap for localizing the SDGs

In order to facilitate the implementation of the SDGs at the local level, UNDP, UN-Habitat and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional governments are developing a **Toolbox for Localizing the SDGs** to support local stakeholders to design and implement strategies ensuring that no one is left behind. This Toolbox (www.localizingTheSDGs.com) will help city leaders and municipal governments to address the development challenges, in order to help them translate the 2030 Agenda into concrete development strategies and impact on citizens' life. It proposes concrete instruments, tools, and practices that (i) *raise awareness and advocate* for the active role of local actors in the localization of the SDGs; (ii) support them in the *design, implementation and monitoring* of development policies within their territories, towards the achievement of the SDGs.

This open initiative (see introductory video <https://goo.gl/j5L9Fx>) will be launched in Quito during the Habitat III conference and the proposed side event constitutes an excellent opportunity to present it to a wide range of stakeholders present at the HLM2 and to offer them to participate. In particular, a specific component of the *Toolbox* is devoted to **the set-up and strengthening of enabling institutional arrangement for SDGs implementation**, and particularly for development cooperation effectiveness through effective mechanisms and tools supporting the harmonization and alignment of development cooperation actors at local level. The session will also support the constructive and participatory development of the [Roadmap for Localizing SDGs](#), by presenting possible actions, possibilities of engagement and learning and gathering feedback from stakeholders to improve the tools. This roadmap aims to support local and regional governments and their associations to implement and monitor the SDGs and to influence national policy-making with a view to creating an enabling environment for action at local and regional level.

Objectives and expected outcomes.

The session will be under a panel discussion format. It aims:

- to provide a learning space on development effectiveness at the local level
- to link the Global Partnership to the Localizing SDGs process
- to contribute to the Toolbox and the Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs

The three organizing partners are expecting the following outcomes:

- Recommendations are made on locally tailored approaches and enabling environment and can be used as input for plenary sessions
- The toolbox is promoted and disseminated
- Partners are mobilized and committed to localize global agendas.