

## 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Side Event: Enabling multi-stakeholder partnerships for sustainable development at the local level

**Date:** Wednesday 2 February 2022 (8:00 – 8:50 EST// 15:00-15:50 CET)

**Organizers:** UN-Habitat and Local2030 Coalition

**Where:** Whova

**Link to register:** [https://whova.com/portal/registration/ecoso\\_202202](https://whova.com/portal/registration/ecoso_202202)

### Session at glance

This side-event will be organized by UN-Habitat in partnership with the Local2030 Coalition. It will explore different settings of multi-stakeholder partnerships led by both organizations that are helping to advance the achievement of sustainable development at the local level and in line with the SDGs.

The results of this session will feed the discussions on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda during the UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting in April 2022, and other major 2022 events on local governance and local urban development, such as the 11<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum or the UN High-Level Political Forum.

### Background and objective

With less than ten years ahead to meet the global goals set on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and with growing complexities and emergencies, the need for renewed and transformative partnerships to build the cities we want by 2030 and beyond is more central than ever.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has exposed the systemic weaknesses of our systems and rolled back years of progress on the SDGs. This disruption has been particularly notorious in cities that became the epicenter of the pandemic. With the further exacerbation of inequalities and exclusion, **the UN-Habitat's report *Cities and Pandemics*<sup>1</sup> underlines the challenges cities are facing to deliver a lasting and sustainable recovery:** 1) rethink their form and function; 2) give an adequate response to support poor and vulnerable groups; 3) promote a greener and equitable economic recovery; and 4) implement a more integrated and cooperative multi-level governance.

On the flip side, solving these pressuring issues has unlocked a huge potential for transformative change. **Aligning recovery strategies with the SDGs accelerates sustainable development, reduces inequalities and strengthens the social contract.** The implementation of the SDGs must regard whole-of-society and whole-of-government approaches in which collaboration across sectors and levels of governments is underscored. Inhabitants of a city are co-owners of the public space, and thus their participation must be ensured throughout the entire policy implementation and cycle.

**Localizing the SDGs means putting territories and citizens' needs and resources at the center of sustainable development, so that the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda become real to communities and individuals.** Throughout this process, the multistakeholder ownership of the agenda is key and should be reinforced. This means boosting the ownership of the Agenda among communities and their

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<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat's Report on Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future: <https://unhabitat.org/cities-and-pandemics-towards-a-more-just-green-and-healthy-future-0>

organizations by participating in the localization and implementation processes and ensuring that local priorities and interests are present.

**Beyond the SDGs, multi-stakeholder partnerships facilitate the implementation of other international frameworks, such as the New Urban Agenda (NUA)<sup>2</sup>.** UN-Habitat recognizes that the NUA contributes to the implementation and localization of the 2030 Agenda in an integrated manner. In this line, the NUA emphasizes civil engagement and co-production of sustainable cities by encouraging participation in decision-making, planning and follow-up processes for all.

At the same time, multi-stakeholder partnerships are at the core of the UN system. Prove of this is the launch of the **Local2030 Coalition, the UN-wide initiative designed to support and accelerate local delivery of the SDGs.** The coalition offers a common space to allow local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations, and the UN agencies to be connected, in order to join forces and efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda at the local level.

**By showing some renewed multi-stakeholder arrangements in place, this session will shed light on emergent local governance models based on collaboration and partnership.** The panel will showcase experiences and advance the discussion on the engagement of various stakeholders and their contribution to the delivery of the SDGs at the local level while revamping the social contract and reducing inequalities.

#### Panelists

##### Introduction and moderation:

- To be defined

##### Speakers:

- UN (to be defined)
- Local and Regional Government Representatives (to be defined)
- Civil Society Organization (to be defined)

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<sup>2</sup> The New Urban Agenda (2017) A/RES/71/256: <https://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>