

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 / 14:00-14:50 CET)

Organizers: UN-Habitat and Local2030 Coalition

Where: Whova Platform

Link to register: https://whova.com/portal/registration/ecoso_202202

Session at glance

This side-event will be co-organized by UN-Habitat, UNDP and the Local2030 Coalition. It will explore different settings of multi-stakeholder partnerships 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 11th 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*¹ 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

¹ 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>

should be reinforced. This means boosting the ownership of the Agenda among communities and their 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)². 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.

Agenda

Time in CET

Opening of the session 14:00-14:05	Moderator: Martino Miraglia, Human Settlements Officer, SDG Localization and Local Governments, UN-Habitat
Panel discussion 14:05 – 14:45	<p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicolas Gharbi, Principal Advisor of Madrid City Council, Madrid (Spain) • Filipe Braga Farhat, Partnership Liaison for the 2030 Agenda, Economic and Social Development Parana State Council (CEDES), Brazil • Laura Kam, Local2030 Islands Network Coordinator, Hawaii Local2030 Hub • Minerva Novero, Policy Specialist, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Final remarks 14:45 – 14:50	Moderator: Martino Miraglia, Human Settlements Officer, SDG Localization and Local Governments, UN-Habitat

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

Biographies of speakers

Mr. Martino Miraglia, Human Settlements Officer, SDG Localization and Local Governments, UN-Habitat



Martino is the technical focal point on SDG localization, including Voluntary Local Reviews, within the Urban Practices Branch of UN-Habitat. He manages UN-Habitat's workstream on local governance and coordinates institutional relations with local and regional governments and their associations worldwide. Before joining UN-Habitat, Martino worked in Algeria as development expert and project manager in the context the EU-UNDP CapDeL Programme on democratic governance and local development. He joined the UN family in 2013, collaborating with UNDP's Brussels Office as UN Coordinator and with the UNDP ART Initiative as

Policy and Partnership Consultant. Martino holds a master's degree in International Security Studies from the *Université libre de Bruxelles* and a bachelor's in Political Studies and Communication from the *Università degli Studi di Firenze*.

Mr. Nicolas Gharbi, Principal Advisor of Madrid City Council, Madrid (Spain)



Nicolas Gharbi is an urban planner and anthropologist. He has been the Policy Coordinator for Multilateral Urban Affairs at the European Commission responsible for the multilateral dimension of EU urban policies, as well as contributing to the analysis, design and implementation of the urban and territorial dimension of EU policies and European Multi-annual Financial Framework. After that, he joined the Madrid City Council where he's Principal Advisor for International Affairs.

Mr. Filipe Braga Farhat, Partnership Liaison for the 2030 Agenda, Economic and Social Development Parana State Council (CEDES), Brazil



Servant of the State of Paraná, Filipe Braga Farhat acts as a Partnerships Liaison for the 2030 Agenda in the Economic and Social Development Parana State Council – CEDES. He specialized in the Sustainable Development Goals at the University for Peace - UPEACE, a university established by the United Nations in Costa Rica. He is an OECD focal point in the State of Paraná for the Program: A Territorial Approach to the SDGs. Participated in training by GIZ BR – German Agency for International Cooperation on New Partnerships and Capacity Building. Participated in training at Trinity College Dublin on the

topic: Achieving Sustainable Development. And also, at ABC - Brazilian Cooperation Agency on the topic of International, bilateral and decentralized cooperation.

Ms. Laura Kam, Local2030 Islands Network Coordinator, Hawaii Local2030 Hub



Laura Kam currently serves as the Coordinator for the Local2030 Islands Network, a global, island-led network devoted to advancing the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals through locally-driven, culturally-informed solutions. Hawaii Local2030 Hub and the Global Island Partnership serve as the secretariat for the islands network. Laura previously served as Hawaii Local2030 Hub's Network Manager where she supported the Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) partnership's statewide network, meetings and events, and strategic initiatives. HGG formed in response to the 2011 Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in Honolulu to identify green growth priorities and advance a green economy within an island context. In November 2018, the UN invited HGG to become one of

the world's first Local2030 sustainability hubs – and the first Island and Pacific hub. This recognizes the collective achievements of the HGG public-private partnership through the Aloha+ Challenge, a local framework to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Ms. Minerva Novero, Policy Specialist, Bureau for Development Policy, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)



Minerva Novero-Belec is a Policy Specialist on Local Governance and Urbanization in UNDP's Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) in New York. She serves as part of UNDP's cross-practice focal point team for urbanization and cities, with a focus on inclusive governance in local and urban settings, innovative approaches to sustainable urbanization, and SDG-anchored smart cities. Prior to this post, she served as Policy Specialist for ICT for Development, e-Governance and Access to Information, managing UNDP engagement in the Broadband Commission; UNDP's role as permanent vice-chair of the UN Group on Information Society (UNGIS, which organizes the annual WSIS Forum); UNDP engagement in multilateral efforts such as the Open Government Partnership (OGP); and, coordination of ICTD and e-governance policy advisory support to UNDP country programmes. She managed the Secretariat of the Programmatic Response Coordination Group, UNDP's internal mechanism for Covid-19

response at the height of the pandemic. Ms. Novero-Belec's career straddles policy, communications and journalism. She holds a Degree in Mass Communications (major in Journalism) from the University of the Philippines and a Master's Degree in International Affairs with a concentration on economic and political development from Columbia University in New York