

## **Local2030 Coalition Special Event**

*Unlocking transformative change through the localization of the six SDG transitions*

### ***2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)***

**10 July 2024 | 10 am to 01 pm EDT**

**UNHQ - CR3**

**@Local2030 #Local2030**

#### **Context**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a crucial roadmap adopted in 2015, is paramount to end poverty, eliminate hunger, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity and justice for all. Despite significant progress in the past eight years, challenges like climate change, conflicts, and pandemics, coupled with a lack of urgent transformative action and investment, hinder our advancement.

The 2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) will be the first HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC after the [2023 SDG Summit](#), and its outcomes will be instrumental in the run-up to the Summit of the Future in September 2024, which will shape the future global agenda. The HLPF in 2024 will also conduct an in-depth review of **SDGs 1, 2, 13, 16, and 17**. The theme of '[Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions](#)' comes at a critical moment to reinvigorate commitment and mobilize resources for advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

However, to truly fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda, we must make more than a few small changes. We need a fundamental shift in economies, financial architecture, governance systems, and mindsets. The tools for this transformation are not out of reach; they can be found at the local level.

Acknowledging the pivotal role of local action in achieving these global goals, the High Impact Initiative (HII) on Localization was launched to bolster efforts in localizing the SDGs. Building on the momentum generated during the 2023 SDG Summit, which highlighted the six key transitions crucial for achieving the SDGs, the HII on Localization aims to catalyze transformative change by accelerating progress through focused action on these transitions. These transitions encompass critical areas such as food systems, energy access, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social

protection, and addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These key transitions are rooted in local components that require local solutions.

This year's HLPF is a pivotal opportunity to amplify these efforts and evolve strategies to localize the 2030 Agenda. We must seize the momentum through decisive strengthened partnerships at the local level, political leadership, international cooperation, and enhanced contributions from all stakeholders.

In this context, the Local2030 Coalition is convening this Special Event to showcase the first signs of change achieved by the HII on Localization. The event will bring partners from diverse sectors and regions to illustrate impactful actions along the six SDG transitions, highlighting localization as the pivotal strategy for advancing collective efforts towards enhanced inclusion and sustainability. In addition, the special event will advocate for greater resources and capacity for local governments and local actors.

Furthermore, following the launch of the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments in October 2023, the session will assess how the HII on localization can help to advance coordination and collaboration with the constituency of local and regional governments, towards coherent actions aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda and their representation within the UN System. Furthermore, the session will be linked to the [7<sup>th</sup> Local and Regional Governments Forum \(LRGF\)](#), which will highlight effective localization policies and high impact coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency, in relation to the SDGs under review at the 2024 HLPF, ensuring its discussions are linked with the reporting of the HII on SDG Localization.

## Objectives

The Special event aims to present the advancements achieved by the HII on SDG Localization scaled up through the Local2030 Coalition that have multiplier catalytic effects to promote transformative actions and solutions at the local level through the lens of the 6 SDG Transitions. A special focus will be put on how these advancements can elevate commitment and collaboration towards SDG Localization. To this end, the session will bring results from UN entities and partners of the Local2030 Coalition to:

- Spotlight practices, initiatives, and solutions that enhance localized actions and elevate the level of ambition on local responses in advancing the 2030 Agenda through the prism of the six SDG transitions.
- Engage in dialogue on increasing capacity and financing at the local level and present mechanisms to address persistent challenges, unlock opportunities, scale up progress, including the availability of catalytic financing.

The ultimate goal is to showcase how the HII on Localization is acting as a mechanism to foster multilevel governance structures, bridge various sectors to address multiple territorial scales, help to build coherence across policies and actions, strengthen

multistakeholder capacities and enhance their collaboration and leverage resources to finance a pipeline of local-level initiatives and broad avenues for inclusive participation.

**Expected outcomes**

- Illustrate the importance of SDG localization across the six SDG transitions to promote transformation and highlight and commit to address bottlenecks through bolder action.
- Identify transformative policies, mechanisms, financial instruments, and partnerships that support SDG localization and align with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs in review (SDG 1, 2, 3, 13, 16 and 17).
- Generate a set of actionable policy recommendations and strategies to strengthen HII on SDG Localization that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs to ensure transformative and accelerated progress.
- Inform the upcoming Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future to ensure localization is at the center of future global agendas for sustainable development.

**Participants**

Member states, local and regional governments, UN entities, civil society representatives, and Local2030 Hubs.

**Format**

The event will be in-person and web-streamed. It will involve an opening segment, two moderated panel discussions, and closing reflections from hosts. The first panel will highlight innovative solutions and best practices that bolster localized actions towards the realization of the SDGs, and the second will look at transformative financing mechanisms to accelerate progress on the 2030 Agenda.

**Registration**

This event is open to all registered participants of the 2024 HLPF. Member states delegates, UN Staff, and other stakeholders who have a valid UN Grounds Pass are welcome to attend the event in person without registration. Interested participants not included in the above categories can register by contacting the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat at [massimo.perrino@un.org](mailto:massimo.perrino@un.org).

**Language**

English, Spanish and French

**Tentative Programme**

**10 JULY 2024 - starts at 10:00 AM EDT**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Master of Ceremony:</b> Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of Urban Practices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)</li> </ul>	
<b>Time</b>	<b>Session</b>
<b>High-level opening</b>	
<b>10.00am – 10.15am (15 min)</b>	<p><b><u>Opening remarks</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Michal Mlynár</b>, Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme</li> </ul>
<b>Panel debate 1: Scaling up impact and localizing the SDGs through ambitious action</b>	
<b>10.15am – 11.15am (1 hour)</b>	<p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Stefanos Fotiou</b>, Director, Office of SDGs, FAO</li> </ul> <p><b>Setting the scene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Amson Sibanda</b>, Chief of UN DESA/DSDG’s National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Leah Namugerwa</b>, UN Habitat Youth Advisory Board</li> <li><b>Ministry of Planning and Economic Development of the Arab Republic of Egypt (TBC)</b></li> <li><b>Jaime de Aguinaga Garcia</b>, Vice Provost for Strategy and Development, IE University</li> <li><b>Emilia Saiz</b>, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments, on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments</li> <li><b>Dimitris Kafantaris</b>, Secretary General of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE) and Municipal Councillor of Pylou-Nestoros, Greece</li> </ol> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<i>Transition (5 min)</i>	
<b>Panel debate 2: Catalyzing innovative financing mechanisms through multi-stakeholder and multi-sector collaboration</b>	

<p><b>11.20am – 12.20pm (1 hour)</b></p>	<p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jamil Ahmad</b>, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, New York United Nations Environment Programme</li> </ul> <p><b>Setting the scene</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Haoliang Xu</b>, UN Undersecretary general and UNDP Associate Administrator</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Representative of the Inter-American Development Bank (TBC)</b></li> <li>2. <b>Lisa Kurbiel</b>, Head of Secretariat, Joint SDG Fund</li> <li>3. <b>Jesper Nygård</b>, CEO, Realdania</li> <li>4. <b>Representative of the UNCDF</b></li> <li>5. <b>Shereen Faraj</b>, Deputy Assistant Administrator in the Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR), USAID</li> </ol> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><i>Transition (5 min)</i></p>	
<p><b>Next steps towards the Summit of the Future and the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development</b></p>	
<p><b>12.25pm – 12.50pm (25 min)</b></p>	<p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Peter Anyang' Nyong'o</b>, Governor of Kisumu County, Kenya, Member of the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments</li> <li>2. <b>Fatiha El Moudni</b>, Mayor of Rabat, Morocco</li> <li>3. <b>Sergio Colina Martin</b>, General Director of Sustainable Development Policies, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation</li> </ol> <p><b>Q&amp;A</b></p>
<p><b>Closing</b></p>	



<p><b>12.50pm – 1.00pm (10 min)</b></p>	<p><b>Wrap-up of the session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Shipra Narang Suri</b>, Chief of Urban Practices of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)</li></ul>
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