



## World Forum of Local Economic Development

### Political Dialogue 2.2

***"Capacity building and local co-responsibility for endogenous development and multi-stakeholder alliances: "Localizing Finance through the Road to Sevilla: The Local Way."***

**1 April, 9:00-13:00**

**Auditorium 3 – FIBES Conference Center**

#### ***Focal Point(s) (Name and email)***

---

Iñigo Arbiol, Deputy Head of the Secretariat, United Nations Local2030 Coalition.  
[inigo.arbiol@un.org](mailto:inigo.arbiol@un.org)

Claire Frost, Head of Programmes at Commonwealth Local Government Forum  
[claire.frost@clgf.org.uk](mailto:claire.frost@clgf.org.uk)

Carlos de Freitas, Executive Director, Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)  
[cdefreitas@fmdv.net](mailto:cdefreitas@fmdv.net)

#### ***Organizing institution***

---

Convened by:



Hosted by:



Executive Committee  
United Nations Local2030 Coalition  
Commonwealth Local Government Forum  
Global Fund for Cities Development

### ***List of Partners contributing to the session, if any***

---

Global Taskforce  
United Nations Development Programme UNDP  
United Nations Environment Programme UNEP

### ***Duration***

---

4 hours

---

### ***Working language of the session (English / Spanish / French / Portuguese)***

English

### ***Brief Summary – abstract***

---

The multiple crises facing the world today—interconnected and mutually reinforcing—hinder sustainable development at all levels and underscore the urgency of rethinking development models and devising innovative, contextualized solutions. Cities and regions represent the space where the social contract materializes, where lasting peace is built, where jobs are created, where

Convened by:



Hosted by:



climate action comes to life, where vulnerable groups are integrated, and where there are ecosystems of actors capable of driving profound transformations.

As demonstrated in several cities and regions around the world, these transformations are only possible when fueled and nurtured by investments from multiple sources, operating within a coherent policy framework and driven by public-private collaboration and multi-stakeholder engagement. This observation, supported by numerous examples of transformative impact, highlights the importance of localizing development finance —whether public or private, sourced locally, nationally, or internationally, and in various forms such as sustainable investments, multi-level fiscal systems, public budgets, or external financing (e.g. grants and loans, including climate finance for developing countries and innovative financing instruments such as sustainable bonds or guarantees).

Given the diversity of flows and actors, and the necessity of coordination to amplify and align their impact, effective collaboration within frameworks and with clear strategies and indicators is essential. The SDGs provide a common reference framework, and SDG localization should be pursued alongside localized development financing to ensure mutual reinforcement at local, national, and international levels, including in the reform of global financial architecture.

2025 is a pivotal moment to reflect on the key issue of localized finance and to review progress towards the implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on its tenth anniversary. Both the World Forum on Local Economic Development (WFLED), and the Fourth Financing for Development Conference (FFD4), taking place from 30 June – 3 July 2025 in Seville, Spain, are opportunities to address emerging trends in development finance, reform the international financial architecture, and amplify the role of local actors in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With a multi-level, multi-stakeholder approach, it will also be an opportunity to build on the momentum created by the Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future, putting SDG localization at the forefront of the international agendas, through the engagement of local and regional governments to advance the 2030 Agenda.

Convened by:



Hosted by:



## ***Objectives of the session***

---

This dialogue, led by the Local2030 Coalition, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, and the Global Fund for Cities Development, brings together the Coalition's 14 participating UN entities on one hand, and representatives from its five constituencies on the other hand, to present the convergence of three processes contributing to FFD4 and the localization of finance:

1. A UN system-wide positioning on localizing finance through the production of a Local2030 Coalition position paper entitled "Local finance is development finance," led by UNDP, UNICEF, and UNEP, with the participation of 10 other UN entities. This global process, which pools together expertise from across the UN system, serves as the evidence base for UN agencies and Member States to comment on the outcome document and promote the localization of finance within intergovernmental negotiations.
2. The localization of the Pact for the Future, with a specific focus on localizing finance for systemic transformation, engaging all five constituencies of the Local2030 Coalition, co-led with the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Government. Emphasis will be placed on the role of local and regional governments and other stakeholders in designing and implementing financing solutions, and how this generates local impact on sustainable development through public service delivery, local economic development, environmental Action, and capacity building strategies.
3. Consultations organized by the Coalition's constituencies in various settings (e.g., Local2030 Hubs, localization champions, European institutions) to present contextualized financing solutions with demonstrated transformative, systemic impact.

## **Session 1: The Road to Seville - The convergence of processes contributing to FFD4**

Convened by:



Hosted by:



This session will set the stage for FFD4 through 'the Road to Seville: The Local Way' by highlighting how different global processes are converging to support localized financing solutions. It will explore the intersection of UN system-wide efforts, stakeholder hearings, and localized consultations, and will showcase their collective impact on the financing for development agenda. Speakers will present key recommendations from the UN Local2030 Coalition Working Group on Financing the SDG Transitions at the Local Level and will discuss the role of local actors in shaping the localization of finance in the run-up to the FFD4 conference in Seville.

### Session 2: Multi-level, multi-stakeholder localization of finance - The Spanish experience

This session will present Spain's innovative approaches to local finance as a model for multi-level, multi-stakeholder cooperation. Spain has pioneered decentralized financing mechanisms that effectively integrate national policies, local governments, and international cooperation. In this discussion, representatives from Spanish institutions, local and regional governments, and development partners will share lessons learned related to:

- Decentralized cooperation and financial decentralization
- Public-private partnerships for local investment
- Innovative financing instruments for sustainable local development

### ***Key words***

---

SDG localization  
Fiscal decentralization  
Multilevel governance  
Stakeholder engagement

### ***Link with SDG localization***

---

Cross-cutting link, as session is focused on localizing the entire 2030 Agenda and finance.

Convened by:



Hosted by:



## ***Guiding Questions for discussions***

---

- How can localized finance mechanisms be better integrated into national and international financing frameworks to ensure sustainable and inclusive development?
- What are the key challenges and opportunities in mobilizing diverse financial sources (e.g., public, private, climate finance, innovative instruments) to support local development?
- How can local and regional governments, in collaboration with civil society and the private sector, enhance multi-level and multi-stakeholder cooperation for financing SDG localization?
- What lessons can be drawn from successful models, such as Spain's decentralized financing mechanisms, that could be replicated or adapted in other contexts?
- How can the outcomes of FFD4 contribute to long-term structural reforms in global financial architecture to better support local actors and sustainable development goals?

## ***Expected outcomes and impact***

---

The meeting will strengthen the case for localized finance within the FFD4 agenda, highlighting successful models and multi-stakeholder collaboration through the Road to Seville engagement strategy. It will generate policy recommendations, inform intergovernmental negotiations, and enhance commitments to financing SDG localization, working towards the shaping of global financial architecture reforms to empower local actors for sustainable development. The session's outcomes will do so by feeding into a report the Local2030 Coalition is preparing as part of the Road to Seville: The Local Way process to be presented at FFD4.

## ***Outline the format of the session***

---

The session will include two panel discussions, each followed by a debate amongst the panelists and a short Q&A segment with the floor.

Convened by:



Hosted by:



---

## *Draft Agenda*

---

**09.00 - 09.15 am – Greetings from the Mayor of Seville, Mr. José Luis Sanz – 15 Minutes**

**09.15 - 09.45 am – Opening Segment – 30 minutes**

1. **Welcoming remarks by the Master of Ceremony**, Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG (5 min)
2. **Keynote address** by Ms. Eva Granados, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain (10 min)
3. **Opening remarks and Presentation of the Policy Brief by Local2030's Working Group 2 on Financing the SDG Transitions at the Local Level** by Mr. Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary General and Associate Administrator, United Nations Development Programme (10 min)

**09.45 - 11.00 am – Panel 1: The Road to Seville - The convergence of processes contributing to FFD4 – 1 hour and 15 minutes**

**Moderator:** Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG

1. **Intervention 1:** Mr. Patrick Molinoz, Member of the European Committee of the Regions, Vice-President of the Region of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, European Committee of the Regions (5 min)
2. **Intervention 2:** Ms. Orria Goni, SDG Financing and South-South Cooperation Advisor, UNDP (5 min)
3. **Intervention 3:** Dr. Gilson Pina, Director-General of Planning, Government of Cabo Verde (5 min)
4. **Intervention 4:** Mr. Sithole Mbanga (TBC), CEO of the South African Local Governments Association, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (5 min)
5. **Intervention 5:** Ms Nomoya Daphney Mnisi (TBC), MMC Economic Development, Johannesburg, South Africa (5 min)

Convened by:



Hosted by:



6. **Intervention 6:** Mr. Paulo Galvão Povo Tapuia, Youth representative, Comissão Nacional dos ODS, Brazil (5 min)
7. **Intervention 7:** Ms. Nakita Aboya, PhD Candidate in Economics at La Sapienza University and Member of the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee (5 min)

### **Interactive Discussion and Questions from the floor (40 minutes)**

### **11.00 -11.30 am – Break (30 minutes)**

### **11.30 - 12.45 - Panel 2: Multi-level, multi-stakeholder localization of finance - The Spanish experience – 1 hour and 15 minutes**

**Moderator:** Mr. Jordi Cuadras, President, CONFOCOS

1. **Intervention 1:** Mr. Javier Cortés Fernández, Director of the Basque Cooperation Agency Elankidetza , Government of the Basque Country (10 min)
2. **Intervention 2:** Ms. Isabel Belloso, Director of the International Cooperation Agency for Development of Extremadura (10 min)
3. **Intervention 3:** Mr. Agustí Fernández de Losada, Foreign Affairs and European Union Secretary, Government of Catalunya (10 min)
4. **Intervention 4:** Mr. Pedro Carceller Icardo, Director General of Inclusion and Development Cooperation, Government of Valencia (10 min)

### **Interactive Discussion and Questions from the floor (35 minutes)**

### **12.45-13.00 - Wrap up and Closing – 15 Minutes**

Mr. Sébastien Vauzelle, Head of the Secretariat, Local2030 Coalition

Convened by:



Hosted by:

