

Catalyzing Local Action: Advancing the Localization of the SDGs through Innovative Financing

Date: 3 July 2025 – Tuesday | Time: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Venue: Conference Venue – Room: Side Event 13

Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) – Sevilla, Spain

Background

As the 2030 Agenda deadline approaches, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demands more than national strategies — it requires bringing the SDGs to life with solutions emanating from the territorial level, where people's needs, priorities, and ambitions take root and are best identified. Cities and territories are where sustainable development succeeds or fails.

The Government of Spain, host country of the FFD4 Conference, is championing multilateralism and the localization of SDGs both at the national and local levels and in global Fora. As such, it is hosting the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide platform for the localization of the Agenda 2030, and supporting the Joint SDG Fund, which drives systemic transformation toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through integrated programming focused on identifying and supporting innovative policies and financing solutions. Spain is also supporting politically, technically, and financially efforts to localize development finance, through the elaboration and promotion of approaches and tools to support the localization of sustainable development at all levels.

Building on these joint efforts and the principles of the [Bilbao Blueprint](#)— jointly developed by the UN Joint SDG Fund, Local2030 Coalition and the Basque Government — this session, convened by the Spanish Cooperation, will showcase how a whole-of-UN work with innovative and inclusive financing approaches can be systematically channeled to empower local systems to deliver transformative, measurable impact.

The discussion will be situated within the global financing for development reform efforts under FfD4, and the growing call to facilitate and strengthen existing local capacities, governance, and access to finance to accelerate SDG implementation at the community level.

This session will also serve as a launching pad for continuing efforts on localization post a successful [Local Finance Design Sprint](#), that brought together in May a diverse group of experts and stakeholders from eight countries to co-create financing solutions for subnational food systems and green economy transformation. It continues to build a roadmap of action for the co-creation of bankable and scalable

financing solutions grounded in country needs and territorial multi-stakeholder participated ecosystems.

Event Purpose

1. Present the Bilbao Blueprint, offering practical pathways and tools to advance localizing finance for sustainable development.
2. Provide a platform to present the outcomes and lessons of the Design Sprint and announce the proposal for a Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp.
3. Showcase prototypes from the Design Sprint and anchored on the Bilbao Blueprint (e.g., Colombia, Tanzania, Cabo Verde, Nepal) demonstrating how localization principles and systemic transformative solutions are being accompanied by concrete financing solutions at municipal and territorial levels.
4. Facilitate dialogue on next steps — how to move from co-created designs to implementation, identify catalytic partnerships, and embed the Localization Marker 2.0 into broader financing strategies, including in the lead-up to FfD4 and beyond.

Objectives

- Highlight the urgency of localizing development finance to more effectively close the SDG financing gap and drive systems transformation.
- Introduce the Bilbao Blueprint as a strategic framework for territorial sustainable development and to develop channel investments toward local impact.
- Showcase territorial-led experiences and innovations from the Bilbao Design Sprint illustrating localization in practice.
- Gather a community of stakeholders committed to scaling local finance solutions — linking development finance institutions (DFIs), national and local governments, UN agencies, private sector, civil society and academia actors and other.

Key Themes

- **Scaling Localized Finance:** How unlocking municipal finance, subnational bonds, local revenue mobilization, and blended finance supports SDG localization.
- **Capacities and Governance:** Strengthening multi-level public institutions, financial management systems, and multi-stakeholder governance to absorb and manage investments.
- **Data, Accountability, and Impact:** Using robust indicators, foresight models, and the Localization Marker 2.0 to track outcomes and attract sustainable financing.
- **Partnerships for Territorial Transformation:** Building strong ecosystems of public-private-civil society collaboration and local ownership at the territorial level.

Agenda

The event will feature a keynote speech, high-level opening remarks, presentation of the Bilbao Blueprint and a panel discussion representing key actors in the localization and development finance landscape.

Keynote Address:

- **Hon. Eva Granados Galiano**, State Secretary for International Cooperation, Government of Spain

Opening Segment: Contextualizing Localization as Critical for SDG Financing

- **Ms. Anaclaudia Rossbach**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
- **Mr. Ander Caballero**, Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, Basque Government

Presentation of the Bilbao Blueprint and Outcomes from the Design Sprint

- **Mr. Sebastien Vauzelle**, Head of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat
- **Mr. Steven Stone**, Deputy Director of Industry and Economy Division of UNEP

Roundtable: Scaling Local Finance – Challenges, Innovations, and Next Steps

Moderator: Javier Cortés Fernández, Director of eLankidetza, Basque Government

- **Nepal - Ms. Hanaa Singer**, United Nations Resident Coordinator
- **Cabo Verde- Mr. Gilson Pina**, National Director of Planning, Ministry of Finance
- **Basque Country - Mr. Asier Aranbarri**, Director of the 2030 Agenda of the Presidency Bureau
- **Colombia – Ms. Eleonora Betancur González**, Director of the Presidential Agency of International Cooperation
- **Tanzania – Representative of the Government of Zanzibar (TBD)**

Closing Reflections Toward a Localized Financing Future

- **Hon. Nialé Kaba**, Minister of Economy, Planning, and Development of Ivory Coast

Expected Outcomes

- Amplification of visibility of the Bilbao Blueprint for broader awareness and application.
- Recognition of the Bilbao Design Sprint as a replicable model for inclusive program design, with potential to inform future UN programming and financing dialogues.

- Strengthened momentum toward positioning localized finance as a pillar of FfD4 and post-2025 SDG financing discussions.
- Announcement of the Bilbao Blueprint Bootcamp.

Conclusion

This session will connect global financing reforms to real transformations on the ground — making the case that localizing development finance is not a side conversation but a core strategy for achieving the SDGs.

The Joint SDG Fund and Local2030 Coalition stand ready to work with partners to turn ambition into action, ensuring that every dollar invested delivers real, lasting impact in communities across the world.