2024 Report of Activities

December 2024

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Local 2030 Coalition is the United Nations' system-wide platform for the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It ensures that the UN system is equipped to articulate global goals and national policies with local contexts, needs and priorities, while securing a one-UN approach to localization.

Through its five constituencies – national and local governments, civil society and academia, the private sector, and youth – the Local2030 Coalition serves at a convergence point between the United Nations system and local development stakeholders, enabling connections for higher impact and systemic transformation, with a focus on those furthest behind.

This process of localization is crucial for ensuring that the global vision for sustainable development is rooted in local contexts, with tailored solutions that reflect the unique challenges and opportunities faced by different territories. The Local2030 Coalition brings together the whole UN system to drive meaningful local impact by bridging global sustainable development frameworks and local action. It ensures that frameworks such as the 2030 Agenda, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement are not only translated into actionable strategies at the local level but also shaped within local systems. This allows local transformation to come from a multi-level, multi-stakeholder perspective, while leaving no one – no place and no group – behind. Likewise, the Coalition plays a vital role in integrating local voices and needs into global processes and agendas with a systemic focus. By continuously monitoring and assessing the progress of these initiatives, the Coalition scales up the transformative impact of localization to achieve differentiated and sustainable outcomes.

Significant progress has been made over the past two years in building and strategically positioning the Coalition, bringing together the work of UN entities and our constituencies. This period has allowed the Coalition's members and constituencies to come together in an institutionalized space, supported by the installation of the Secretariat team in the last quarter of 2024. Additionally, thanks to the work of the Coalition and its UN members and partners, the localization approach has been elevated in the Pact for the Future outcomes and commitments and other key development frameworks and processes (such as the UN High-level Political Forum, the SDG Summit, conclusions of the Council of the European Union, and opinions and resolutions of the European Committee of Regions).

In the last months of 2024, the Coalition has initiated preparations for its operational phase starting in 2025, with a strategic focus on enabling connections for higher impact and systematic transformation through the localization of the six SDG transitions and the Pact of the Future.

The Local2030 Coalition Strategy for the Decade of Action, launched in December 2021, clusters the Local2030 Coalition's work into three main areas:

Advocacy: to increase awareness and enhance bottom-up and inclusive processes to engage local stakeholders on the 2030 Agenda to address interlocking crises and development challenges.

Action: to build and nurture a support platform to advance an effective multi-level governance system for SDG localization and increase and channel financing to multi-stakeholder initiatives.

Monitoring and Reporting: to encourage monitoring and reporting by subnational and local actors and increase opportunities for them to exchange knowledge and perspectives and contribute to national frameworks.

This Local2030 Coalition 2024 Report of Activities outlines the important strides made in these efforts, as well as the pivotal role of local action in driving the SDG agenda forward. It provides a comprehensive overview of the key outcomes achieved through the Coalition's three core strategic pillars: advocacy, action, and monitoring. Advocacy initiatives have played a crucial role in raising awareness and mobilizing political will at both the local and global levels, fostering greater support for SDG localization. The action workstream emphasizes the practical steps taken to implement and accelerate the SDGs on the ground. The monitoring pillar focuses on tracking progress, ensuring accountability, and measuring the effectiveness of localized efforts through data-driven tools, methodologies, and reporting. Together, these pillars form a cohesive strategy that ensures the Coalition's work is both impactful and sustainable in the long term.

The report provides an in-depth summary of the Coalition's ongoing initiatives and future priorities. While significant accomplishments have been made, the document acknowledges the need for continued collaboration and innovation to address emerging challenges. Looking ahead, the Coalition is committed to strengthening its governance framework, ensuring more inclusive participation from diverse stakeholders, and expanding its reach to even more regions around the world. By focusing on these priorities, the Local2030 Coalition aims to further catalyse the global movement for SDG localization, ensuring that the 2030 Agenda is accomplished through effective, locally-driven solutions that improve lives and promote sustainable development at every level.

Results Achieved in 2024

The next sections showcase the results achieved by the Local2030 Coalition in advancing the objectives of its 2024 Work Plan. These results, structured around the Coalition's three primary working areas and governance efforts, are demonstrated through the concrete activities undertaken.

"With only 17% of the SDG targets on track to 2030, urgent and transformative action is imperative. It is also our commitment following the 2023 SDG Summit, when we agreed on transformative and accelerated actions for the SDGs. And this is exactly the spirit that guided the creation of the Local2030 Coalition, brings together the UN systems with partners for SDG Localization. Under our Coalition, a combined set of actors are championing the SDGs at the local level."

Amina J. Mohammed
Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group

UN Summit of the Future's Action Days

The primary objective of the Coalition's advocacy work is to create a deeper understanding of the importance of localization in accelerating the achievement of the SDGs and to make resources available to support these efforts. By increasing the representation and participation of local actors in global processes and discussions, the Coalition ensures the inclusion of unique experiences, challenges, and solutions. The events the Coalition's UN agencies and partners organize and participate in are akin to the visible tip of an iceberg, as much of our work takes place in the discussions, negotiations, and decisions that shape policies on a global scale. Our objective is to ensure that localization is a guiding approach for the implementation and achievement of such processes.

Outcome 1.1: Increased Local Actors' Engagement to Accelerate the Achievement of the SDGs within the Decade of Action

Steering Committee

As the key governance mechanism of the Coalition, the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee (SC) is the space where the Coalition's constituencies meet to give their feedback and strategic orientation on the Coalition's work to the UN members. Co-chaired by two UN entities (UN-Habitat as the permanent co-chair and FAO as the rotational co-chair) and with the support of outgoing co-chair UNDP, it makes key strategic decisions, ensures effective governance oversight, and ensures that the vision and priorities are reflected in the Coalition's work (Annex 1).

Second Cohort of the Steering Committee

Following the successful conclusion of the nomination process in December 2023, the principals of the Local2030 Coalition co-chairs confirmed the next cohort of Steering Committee members for 2024-2025. The newly appointed members are distinguished leaders renowned for their advocacy and achievements in advancing SDG localization within their constituencies, as well as for their influential roles in international fora:

● Hon. Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho, Minister of Cities, Brazil;
● Hon. Eva María Granados Galiano; Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, in

Trio: Co-chairs (UN-Habitat and FAO) and Outgoing Co-chair (UNDP)

Anacláudia Rossbach
Executive Director, UN Human Settlements Programme; Under-Secretary-General, UN

Qu Dongyu
Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN

Mr. Achim Steiner
Administrator, UN Development Programme

Steering Committee

Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho
Minister of Cities, Brazil

Eva María Granados Galiano
Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain

Noraini Roslan
President of the Municipal Council of Klang, Malaysia

Emilia Sáiz
Secretary-General, United Cities and Local Governments on behalf of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Goverments

Jesper Nygård
CEO, Realdania

Celeste Connors
CEO, Hawai'i Green Growth Hub

Nakita Aboya
PhD Candidate in Economics

Members of the second cohort of the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee (2024-2025).

representation of the Hosts of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat;

- Hon. Noraini Roslan, President of the Municipal Council of Klang, Malaysia;
- Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), in the representation of the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments;
- Mr. Jesper Nygård, CEO of Realdania;
- Ms. Myriam Nakita Bossogueno Aboya, PhD Student at La Sapienza University;
- Ms. Celeste Connors, CEO of Hawaii Green Growth Local2030 Hub, in representation of the Local2030 Hubs.

Steering Committee Meetings in 2024

As the second cohort took office, an induction meeting was held on 2 May 2024, to introduce the Local2030 Coalition, its governance structure, and the upcoming Steering Committee meeting.

The third meeting of the Steering Committee (first of this cohort), co-chaired by the Principals of the Local2030 Coalition Co-chairs, was held on 9 May 2024 in Nairobi, Kenya. The session began with an inspiring video message from Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group, followed by a presentation of the Coalition's key achievements since 2021. The presentation addressed pivotal topics, including the advancements of the High Impact Initiative on Localization, the roadmap of events, the SDG Localization Marker, the launch of the SDG Localization Portfolio, and a revised proposal for establishing a new Local2030 Hub in Cairo, Egypt. Members also approved the 2024 Work Plan and shared insights on how their constituencies could contribute to its effective implementation. For example, the Minister of Cities of Brazil, Hon. Jader Fontenelle Barbalho Filho, committed to foster collaboration in shaping COP30, ensuring that local perspectives are represented. Ms. Celeste Connors, CEO of Hawai'i Green Growth Hub, committed to catalyzing locally and culturally appropriate island-led solutions to achieve the SDGs (Annex 2).

Third meeting of the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee in Nairobi, Kenya.

Additionally, an extraordinary Steering Committee meeting took place on 20 September 2024, in the margins of the United Nations Summit of the Future in New York, United States, to establish how members of the SC can ensure that the actions and commitments of the Pact for the Future can be achieved at the local level and explore ways in which the Local2030 Coalition can drive and support these efforts. Members recognized the critical role of culture and values in the localization of the SDGs, highlighting their importance alongside other key issues such as housing, climate change, and localized financing, as well as the key role of LRGs, youth, and the private sector. Ambassador Antonio da Costa e Silva, Head

of the International Office, Brazilian Ministry of Cities, suggested developing a strategy for COP30 centered on climate, urbanization and localization, with a localization event at COP29 serving as a basis for COP30; Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG, proposed to use the Cities Countdown as a model to engage LRGs around SDG transitions and foster a lab idea; Mr. Marcos Neto, Assistant Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support of UNDP, highlighted the importance of integrating national financial frameworks and connecting them to the FfD4 in Seville; and Ms. Lara Blanco, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary-General stressed the

importance of both integrating women in the Coalition's work and exploring Beijing +30 in the Local2030 Coalition's advocacy strategy ([Annex 3](#)).

Meetings of the Technical Focal Points of the Steering Committee in 2024

The Local2030 Coalition Secretariat convened three meetings with the technical focal points of the Steer-

Extraordinary Steering Committee meeting on the margins of the UN Summit of the Future in New York, USA.

ing Committee on 3 July, 2 September, and 9 December 2024. These meetings played a crucial role in ensuring Steering Committee members were well-prepared for their engagements and remained actively involved throughout the year. Discussions covered the Coalition's current state, upcoming milestones, and key events, including the Third Steering Committee Meeting, the 2024 High-Level Political Forum, the Summit of the Future, and the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12).

Contributions of the Steering Committee Members

1. Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Co-operation of Spain: Spain has advanced the work of the Local2030 Coalition by supporting – in cooperation with the Government of the Basque Country, the City of Bilbao, and the BBK Foundation – the establishment of the office of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat as well as through its participation in negotiations and international fora where localization has been highlighted as a game-changer for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Spain has been present at various noteworthy events, such as the February 2024 meeting of directors in Bilbao, which led to the approval of the SDG Localization Marker of the Joint SDG Fund, for which Spain played a key design role; the first EU-UN dialogue on SDG lo-

calization; and the Steering Committee meetings in May and September, in which the Secretary of State for International Cooperation participated. Spain was also present and participated in the main side events held in important fora related to sustainable development, such as the High-Level Political Forum 2024, the Summit of the Future, and the World Urban Forum.

2. Youth representative: As a member of the Steering Committee, the Youth Representative actively participated in key international fora and initiatives, including the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee meetings in Nairobi and New York, the Summit of the Future, the Local2030 Knowledge Sharing Network (KSN) and the World Food Forum, with a focus on fostering strong networks among young people to leverage collective strengths and ensure synergy rather than duplication of efforts. A notable achievement was the establishment of links with Hawaiian youth networks, further expanding opportunities for collaboration and impact.

3. Hawaii Green Growth: As a Steering Committee member of the Local2030 Coalition, in 2024 the Hawai'i Green Growth Hub (HGG) advanced the work of the Local2030 Hubs by advocating for SDG Localization, local finance, and raising awareness on the importance

of multi-stakeholder mechanisms in local policies. A key example of this was HGG's participation within the Summit of the Future, in which it actively participated within the Extraordinary Steering Committee Meeting of the Local2030 Coalition at the Summit of the Future and engaged in events and activities with national governments, UN agencies, and local actors to advocate for localizing the Pact for the Future through regeneration, sustainability, youth engagement, culture, and values.

UN Directors Group

Another key part of the Coalition's governance is the UN Directors Group which drives the UN system-wide mechanism that the Coalition represents, and catalyzes UN action on localization of the 2030 Agenda. It was established in 2021 as an advisory body for the Local2030 Coalition and currently counts on the participation of 14

UN entities: United Nations Human Sttelements Programme (UN-Habitat), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Development Coordination Office (UN DCO), United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) (representing the Regional Commissions), World Health Organization (WHO), UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UNICEF, International Organization for Migration (IOM), working with the close support of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) and the UN Joint SDG Fund.

In 2024, the UN Directors Group met regularly to provide strategic direction and input for the Steering Com-

mittee's consideration, while advancing discussions on how the UN system can collectively drive local action. Through the Local2030 Coalition, coordinated and coherent efforts were fostered by UN members to enhance impact at the local level.

UN Directors Group Retreat

The Local2030 Coalition convened the first UN Directors Group Retreat from 6 to 9 February 2024, attended by the Local2030 Coalition Co-chairs, the UN Directors Group, and Technical Focal Points. The retreat aimed to foster collective dialogue and strategic planning among UN entities, with a focus on harnessing the power of localization as an accelerator for achieving the SDGs (Annex 4).

This gathering provided a significant opportunity for the UN Directors Group to share thought leadership, vision, and direction for the Coalition's work for 2024.
Key outcomes of the retreat included:

● Agreement on the establishment of two working groups:
 1. Localizing the six transitions with FAO, IOM and UN-Habitat as leading entities
2. Financing the six transitions at the local level with UNICEF, UNDP and UNEP as leading entities.
● Endorsement of the SDG Localization Marker
● Endorsement of the Terms of Reference of the UN Directors Group.

The Retreat marked the way forward for the Local2030 Coalition, setting a precedent for future gatherings and establishing the intention to make it an annual event. Preparations are already underway for the next retreat in February 2025.

UN Director Group Meetings in 2024

With the support of the Secretariat, the Local2030 Coalition Co-chairs (UN-Habitat and FAO) convened the UN Directors Group meetings on 24 April and 16 Sep-

UN Directors Group Retreat welcome with the hosts of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat in Bilbao, Spain.

tember. These meetings discussed several key topics for the Coalition, including the 2024 Work Plan, the High Impact Initiative on Localization, the 2024 HLPF, and the roadmap towards the Summit of the Future and WUF12.

The UN Directors Group made significant contributions in several key areas of the Local2030 Coalition's work. These included supporting the UN inter-agency policy briefs on localizing the SDGs, led by UN DESA; supporting the organization of the International Fora of Mayors, facilitated by UN DESA and UCLG ASPAC in Jakarta, Indonesia; providing leadership to the Local2030 Coalition working groups; and presenting a health self-assessment and response resource kit developed by WHO, which has the potential to be championed at the upcoming World Social Summit in 2025 and recognized as a flagship of the Local2030 Coalition.

In addition, the Local2030 Coalition organized three meetings with the UN Directors Group technical focal points, on 11 April, 12 June, and 13 December 2024. These meetings provided critical support to the Directors Group, helping to inform the director-level representatives and steer their engagement with the Coalition.

Contributions of the UN Entities

The following are the contributions of some of the UN member entities:

UN-HABITAT

UN-Habitat's work on the SDG Localization portfolio is anchored on a global network of partners the agency has built over the years; UN-Habitat's draft Strategic Plan 2026-2029 refers to SDG Localization and Multilevel Governance as part of its Means of Implementation.

Following three years of project implementation, tools development, and a consolidation of approaches, UN-Habitat's corporate SDG Localization portfolio exceeds 22 countries, and it is structured on three levels:

● Local: Supporting cities to enhance data systems, planning processes, institutional capacities, and finance ecosystems through the SDG Cities Global Initiative, anchored in Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).
● National: Assisting national governments in developing SDG localization frameworks and policies, particularly through the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, jointly implemented with the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security.
● Global: Leading global dialogues on SDG localization in major UN fora, fostering peer learning and partnership-building through the SDG Cities Global Community.

Advocacy is central to UN-Habitat's agenda, with the programme co-organizing high-level events at fora such as the HLPF and the WUF12. On technical cooperation, UN-Habitat has supported the development of 15 VLRs and launched the 'Action-Oriented VLR Methodology' and the 'Planning for Change with the SDGs' training modules. Additionally, it contributes to the G7 and G20 processes, including the G20 Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities.

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

In 2024, FAO worked to support the acceleration of the localization of SDGs through agrifood systems transformation. To support its staff and personnel in Regional and Country Offices, FAO developed e-learning resources. Specifically, this included a microlearning module on the preparation of VLRs and Agrifood Systems Transformation and on Localizing SDG Action for Agrifood Systems Transformation, highlighting the importance of local action in achieving the 2030 Agenda. Additionally, a database of existing VLRs and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) was developed to create evidence based on the acceleration of SDG 2 and agrifood systems transformation through local action.

As part of the implementation of the Joint SDG Fund proposals, FAO, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and UNDP at the regional level, works with municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Georgia to support the preparation of 2025 VLRs through capacity building and peer-to-peer learning exchanges.

Finally, FAO, in collaboration with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, convened the Urban Agrifood Systems Workshop, bringing together diverse stakeholders, including representatives from local and national governments, city networks, and UN agencies, to co-develop a common UN positioning paper on urban agrifood systems and a five-year roadmap to guide collaborative efforts within and beyond cities.

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION OFFICE

In partnership with the Local2030 Coalition, the Joint SDG Fund has pioneered its SDG Localization portfolio (30 joint programmes with a budget of USD 18 million launched in 2024-25) and SDG Localization Marker system, which has garnered significant attention from key partners including Spain, OECD, and the EU. In Chile's Ñuble and Araucanía regions, the joint programme is set to benefit over 44,000 people by improving digital connectivity, enabling the use of climate-resilient agricultural technologies, and enhancing social services in rural areas. Building on the successful pilot of the Integrated Assembly Financing Framework (IAFF) to enhance resource mobilization and deployment, the joint programme is now integrating the IAFF into planning and budgeting guidelines, with the goal of extending its application across all 100 Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies. In Honduras, the joint programme, with the support of the President's office, is revitalizing its education system in 30 municipalities by introducing performance-based indicators, benefiting over 125,000 children. Further to the SDG Localization portfolio, an additional 19 joint programmes have been identified through the Marker as having SDG localization as a central pillar. Therefore, an additional USD 27 million is already being allocated to joint programmes that advance the SDGs at the local level.

RCs have been working to bring the SDGs to the local and regional levels and to bring multiple layers of governments to work together for SDG acceleration.

● In Kenya, the UNCT, under the guidance of RC and the technical lead by the UN SDGs Technical Working Group, has supported 17 Voluntary Local Reviews to inform the Voluntary National Review that was presented at the High-Level Political Forum in 2024. The process generated commitments from county governments to align their development efforts with national and global SDG efforts and helped identify unique development challenges in respective counties for more tailored support.

● In Colombia, RC, together with UNCT, embedded SDG progress analysis for 32 departments using a set of indicators reflective of the UNSDCF's four thematic pillars in its CCA, for a localized, tailored approach to CF implementation. As part of a new approach to localization, the UNCT ran territorial innovation labs in the three most disadvantaged departments to design and implement, in a participatory manner, initiatives which directly address the needs of the most vulnerable populations, including an initiative supported by the Joint SDG Fund to design a sustainable model for renewable energy communities that enables food security.

With UN-Habitat and the EOSG convening, selected RCs contributed to the work of the SG's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, i.e., a policy brief on improving cooperation between national, local, and regional governments and UN Country Teams, which was submitted to the SG for consideration in the drafting process in the inter-governmental negotiations for the Pact for the Future.

Under SDG 8 and SDG 11, local and regional governments' areas of interest and actions in promoting social justice and decent work reveal a strong alignment with the ILO's four pillars of decent work agenda, particularly emphasizing "Full, productive and freely chosen employment," and expressing significant interest in thematic policy like expanding access to employment and addressing inequality. LRGs showed a high level of engagement with topics such as youth employment, formalizing the informal economy, gender equality, green jobs, and the digital economy, highlighting a broad spectrum of initiatives from improving youth employment and social protection to promoting gender equality and sustainable enterprises.

Key projects developed by the ILO under its mandate to promote social justice and decent work at the local level include:

LRG	Initiatives with the ILO	Brief description
ACOBOL (National Association from Bolivia)	Mitigating the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on the income and employment of self-employed women in the informal economy	Capacity-building for self-employed women in women's rights, soft skills, and financial literacy. Additional information
Damietta Region, Egypt	Decent Jobs for Egypt's Young People: Tackling the Challenge Together in Damietta	Increase decent job opportunities for young women and men in the governorate of Damietta. Additional information
Dili Region, Timor-Leste	Spotlight Initiative Programme	Contribute to the elimination of domestic violence/ intimate partner violence (DV/IPV) by responding to the needs of women and girls and addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, using a multi-sectoral and intersectional approach across the ecological model. Additional information
Municipality of Douala, Cameroon	Workshop on training, structuring, and promoting craftspeople	Validation workshop of the evaluation of the potential of the Social Economy in Cameroon. Additional information
Munici-pality of Santiago, Chile	Capacity building of local governments in Santiago to strengthen the socio-economic integration of migrants, refugees, and forcibly displaced persons through access to decent work, sustainable livelihoods, and social dialogue.	This joint project seeks to improve migrant workers' and refugees' access to decent work and sustainable livelihoods by ensuring they benefit from employability, employment, and social protection programmes implemented in Mexico City and Santiago. Additional information
Municipality of Travnik, Bosnia & Herzegovina	Entrepreneurship and Innova-tion Network (TREIN)	Contributing to capacity-building in the field of employment through the creation and development of support mechanisms for young people in starting and running their businesses. Additional information

In 2024, UNDP advanced SDG localization by strengthening multi-level governance, fostering integrated planning, and enhancing financing mechanisms for local action. Across its country and regional programmes in 170 countries and territories, UNDP assisted local SDG implementation by aligning national and subnational strategies. Amidst interconnected risks and polycrises, UNDP reiterated its commitment to protect communities by strengthening urban resilience and localization efforts through capacity building of local and regional governments and harnessing nature-based solutions, while addressing the reduction of multidimensional poverty and territorial inequalities through targeted policies and financing at the local and regional levels. In addition, UNDP stressed its commitment to ensure equitable and inclusive digital transformation by supporting people-centered and localized digital solutions to leave no one and no place behind. UNDP advances SDG localization in the following ways:

● Co-leading the Local2030 Coalition's Working Group on Financing the Six SDG Transitions at the Local Level. In 2024, this group published a policy brief ahead of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) titled "Local Finance is Development Finance."

● Organizing 10 side events at WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt from 4-8 November 2024, including high-level representation in several dialogues and roundtables, covering a range of discussion areas on achieving inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development for cities and regions around the world – such as boosting local financing mechanisms, accelerating local climate action, enhancing multi-level governance, and engendering recovery and reconstruction efforts in Gaza and Ukraine.

● Fostering knowledge exchange, in collaboration with the Local2030 Coalition and its platforms, and accelerating localized SDG action across UNDP's country and regional programmes.

● Supporting countries and regions in developing VLRs and integrating them into VNRs, through multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder consultations.

● Supporting local climate action at the urban and subnational levels in 74 countries through UNDP Climate Promise by collaborating national, local and regional governments in:

○ Assisting cities in developing and implementing climate policies and action plans aligned with international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, with NDCs playing a pivotal role.

○ Providing technical assistance to help cities identify climate risks, develop climate-resilient infrastructure, and design effective climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

○ Supporting cities in accessing new sources of finance and innovative financing mechanisms, while integrating climate and environmental concerns into economic and financial policies.

○ Developing and implementing climate-related policies and action plans that are aligned with international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement and SDGs, with Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) playing a pivotal role in advancing this agenda.

● Scaling up local financing solutions, including the deployment of SDG-aligned municipal investment frameworks and performance-based fiscal transfers, with guidance from the Local2030 network.

● Strengthening local governance capacities and supporting 18 countries and regions, through UNDP's Innovation Community in Europe and Central Asia, in accelerating SDG achievement by harnessing data, new technologies, and innovative finance. Key initiatives include:

○ City Experiment Fund (CEF): In partnership with the Slovak Ministry of Finance, CEF enables up to 10 cities to tackle complex urban challenges—such as migration, climate change, and inequality—by experimenting with innovative technologies and cross-sectoral solutions.

○ Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG): A joint initiative with the EU, M4EG supports over 350 towns and cities in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldo-

va, and Ukraine in reimagining local economic development. It provides seed-funding and supports demonstration sites for urban transformation.

○ Open Data in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ODECA): Covering 18 countries, ODECA fosters open data innovation by empowering governments, civil society, and tech communities to enhance transparency and data-driven decision-making.

● Strengthening disaster risk governance and recovery capacities at the local level with a focus on building resilience through community-based initiatives across country and regional programmes.

ECA has supported pilot VLRs in the region and collaborates closely with partners UN-Habitat and UN DESA, directly responding to the demands of Member States. ECA provides technical support on the VLR process, convenes local governments through workshops for peer-learning and capacity building, facilitates Member State participation at global and regional localization events, including the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD), the HLPF, and the WUF12. Specifically, ECA, with partners, leads the organization of the ARFSD and an annual preparatory capacity building workshop on VNRs-VLRs to strengthen the integration of and reporting on the 2030 Agenda and Agenda 2063, linking local and national processes, as well as to identify African priorities for the HLPF.

In 2024, ECA provided VLR capacity building at the local, national and regional levels, through the dissemination of the Africa Regional VLR Guidelines during in-person and virtual trainings, and through direct support to Member States. In 2024, ECA provided support directly to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Lusaka, Zambia, and Dire Dawa, Ethiopia on their VLR processes. Localization sensitization and stakeholder workshops were held in each locality to either commence the preparation of VLRs or finalize ongoing processes.

In addition to the development of VLRs and capacity building support, ECA strengthened knowledge on localization and lessons learned across regional SDG localization processes. As an example, ECA contributed a policy brief: National structures promoting localization: Practical examples from Africa to the DESA led inter-agency

publication: Inter-agency policy briefs on accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda from local to global levels: The critical importance of SDG localization.

Furthermore, in 2024, ECA built an online platform for national development plans, urbanization data, and regional VLRs. The ECA Urbanization Portal includes a dedicated VLR landing page that will be further developed in 2025 to support deeper analysis on key areas, including, but not limited to, SDG financing, monitoring and implementation, and national and local integration. ECA is focused on synthesizing regional experiences while supporting localization through peer learning and knowledge exchange and building technical capacity to create maximum impact.

IOM values its participation in the Local2030 Coalition, including its participation in Working Group 1, as it facilitates learning and the exchange of best practices among members, strengthening collective efforts to localize the SDGs.

In 2024, IOM played a key role in ensuring migration is included in local and national development efforts, helping communities and governments create policies that leave no one behind. Through its Making Migration Work for Sustainable Development (M4SD) Programme, IOM helped shape 77 local migration policies. In Ecuador and Serbia, the programme strengthened local authorities' ability to integrate migration into planning, focusing on job opportunities and social inclusion.

The commitment to localizing the SDGs is reflected in IOM's development of practical tools like the Toolkit on Integrating Migration into Urban Development interventions co-developed with UN-Habitat and the EU. This Toolkit helps cities and development practitioners plan for migration in a way that supports growth and stability. The Toolkit was piloted in Madagascar and Ecuador.

Additionally, the Local Migration Governance Indicators (MGI) of IOM provided cities like Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil), Nairobi and Mombasa (Kenya), and Accra (Ghana) with insights to improve migration policies and services.

Finally, through IOM's Community-Based Planning (CBP) approach, IOM empowered communities to take the lead in shaping their own development priorities. These ef-

forts highlight IOM's commitment to making migration work for sustainable development at every level, ensuring that policies are not only designed at the national level but effectively implemented in local communities.

In 2024, UN DESA continued to work through its DESA Network on Localization of the 2030 Agenda, to facilitate intra-departmental collaboration, coordination, and coherence in mobilizing action at the local level for SDG achievement and to support the scaling up of its impact. The DESA Network developed and implemented a DESA-wide work plan relating to SDG localization, which included support to intergovernmental dialogues and processes, research, and analysis; capacity building; coordination and partnerships with UN entities and other stakeholders; and awareness-raising and knowledge management. In implementing its workplan, members of the DESA Network regularly engaged with the Local2030 Coalition.

DESA, together with FAO and UN-Habitat, serves as lead entity for the Local 2030 Coalition's Working Group 1, focused on localization of the six SDG transitions. Engagement in the working group in 2024 facilitated cooperation amongst the participating entities and, in 2025, will result in collaborative research, analysis and the development of capacity building approaches to advance localization of the transitions.

DESA has also collaborated with the Local 2030 Coalition in the preparation of several analytical papers, including two 2024 publications: 1) Inter-agency policy brief: Accelerating SDG localization to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and 2) Inter-agency policy briefs on accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda from local to global levels: The critical importance of SDG localization. In partnership with UNCDF and UNDP, DESA also prepared a policy brief on Breaking the SDG finance gridlock through strengthening local government finance. This was shared with the Local 2030 Coalition and its Working Group 2, which focuses on financing for SDG localization. Moreover, DESA reviewed and provided comments on a separate policy brief prepared by Working Group 2, also focused on local financing.

In addition, DESA, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), UN-Habitat, UNDP and Local 2030 Coalition joined forces to organize the 7th Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda, aa special event held in connection with the High Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF). The objective of the 2024 LRGF was to showcase effective localization policies and high impact coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency. The LRGF also featured innovative advancements in local reporting and monitoring initiatives such as the VLRs and VSRs in connection to VNRs, as well as fostered multi-level governance and partnerships among different spheres of government, the international community, and other stakeholders towards closing the gap on SDG implementation.

In 2024, UN Women continued to support multi-stakeholder, human rights based comprehensive programming with local and national governments, women's rights organizations, UN agencies, and other partners to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women and girls and to create safe and sustainable cities and public spaces through the Safe Cities and Safe Public Spaces with Women and Girls Initiative Global Initiative. The Global Initiative currently spans 64 cities in 35 countries (including cities in the Global North and Global South) and continues to support the localization of CEDAW, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and SDGs, in particular (SDGs 4, 5, 11, 16). It includes interventions that enhance women's political participation and economic empowerment, support gender-responsive budgeting and urban and transportation planning, and address sexual violence in multiple settings (conflict, humanitarian, rural, online, workspaces, etc.).

UN Women continues to support efforts within and across countries and sectors (environment, transportation, urban planning, education, agriculture value chain, etc.) to scale up interventions in these catalytic integrated programmes. These programmes are helping to break the silence on sexual harassment, address gaps in local data on sexual harassment, address legislation and policies on sexual harassment in public spaces, including sexual violence enabled by technologies, improve access to quality essential services for survivors, and implement measures to support social norm changes at the institutional and community levels.

In 2024, UN Women continued to document good practices in the Global Initiative (e.g. Third International Compendium on Practices in the Global Initiative, forthcoming in 2025) with its network of partners, and to inform the production of global knowledge products and tools led by other UN agencies (e.g. UNOPS and UNESCO). UN Women also collaborated in global sessions convened by other UN agencies, drawing on collective expertise on gender equality and ending violence against women at the subnational level. This included, for example, events held during the First Global Ministerial Conference on Ending Violence Against Children in Bolivia, Colombia (with WHO, PAHO, and the World Bank), and WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt (with UN-Habitat).

UN environment programme

In 2024, UNEP has supported the localization of the SDGs, in particular the environment and climate related SDGs (SDGs 11, 12, 6, 7, 13, 15 and 3). UNEP has contributed to global efforts to scale up municipalities' access to financing for the localization of these SDGs through the following:

1. As a Co-lead of the Local2030 Working Group on Financing the Six SDG Transitions at the Local Level. In 2024 this group published the Coalition Policy Brief "Local Finance is Development Finance" ahead of FfD4.

2. As Commissioner of the SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance. The aim of the Commission is to increase financial flows to cities and regions for SDG implementation by developing and advancing a portfolio of solutions that will align with and support current and proposed reforms. The Commission aims to operationalize a Green Cities Guarantee Fund.

3. As a supporting partner of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action. CHAMP was created to enhance cooperation between national and subnational governments in the planning, financing, implementation, and monitoring of climate strategies.

4. As a Member of the Steering Committee of the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance.

5. Through strong partnerships with cities' networks in support of global messaging under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements through the UNEP Major Stakeholder Groups/Local Authorities and platforms, such as UNFCCC Marrakesh Partnership, Generation Restoration, #UrbanShift, 3DEN, and more.

6. Through research and knowledge via the publication of the State of Finance for Nature in Cities report and the development of new tools.

UNEP has also provided direct support to municipalities through several programmes, including UrbanShift (23 cities) and Generation Restoration (24 cities). Additionally, UNEP is launching a technical assistance programme for integrated, local energy system planning and implementation, with the aim of localizing SDG 7 – locally delivering affordable and clean energy for all. This is UNEP's flagship activity under the Local2030 Coalition.

UNHCR The UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR remains committed to advancing localization and strengthening partnerships with local and national NGOs to ensure forcibly displaced and stateless persons are not left behind. At the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, UNHCR pledged to allocate at least 25% of its funding to local actors, aligning with broader efforts to enhance localized responses. The New York Declaration and the Global Compact on Refugees (GCR) emphasize meaningful engagement with displaced persons and host communities, advocating for strong partnerships with local actors.

As a member of the IASC Taskforce 5 on Localization, UNHCR works to enhance the leadership of local and national actors, particularly women-led organizations. Since January 2024, it has chaired the Funding Board of the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), which has supported over 1,200 CSOs across 44 countries. At UNHCR's request, WPHF now tracks the number of funded CSOs led by forcibly displaced persons, which currently accounts for 24% of all supported CSOs.

At the 2023 Global Refugee Forum, three multi-stakeholder pledges on localization were launched:

1. Advancing Localization in Displacement and Statelessness Response – Strengthening partnerships with local and displaced-led organizations.

2. A Call to Local Action for Migrants and Refugees – Encouraging cities and local authorities to support refu-

gees and foster inclusion.

3. Shifting Power: Advancing Localization of Research – Elevating the voices of displaced and host communities through locally-produced knowledge.

The Cities Stand #WithRefugees campaign has garnered commitments from 300 cities and counties across 50 countries, and a coalition of over 500 organizations to promote refugee inclusion. Additionally, UNHCR is partnering with the Mayors Migration Council (MMC) in their call to local action for migrants and refugees, to expand city-led support for migration and refugee initiatives. The MMC is also one of the co-leads of the pledge on localization, advocating for increased, sustained, and flexible support for civil and refugee-led organizations through trust-based investment.

unicef
for every child

The localization of SDG Fund objectives has led countries to develop tailored sustainable development strategies, improving inclusivity and participation. Notable progress in local governance includes Honduras scoring 10 out of 12 for engagement, with Tajikistan, Serbia, and Ghana scoring 5, 7, and 6, respectively. Liberia and Gambia showed initial engagement with scores of 4 and 2. This progress results from collaboration among various stakeholders, including government, civil society, academia, multilateral organizations, and the private sector.

Various countries are currently working to involve local governments in developing child-centered plans and budgets. Serbia has backed 34 local governments, while Ghana has engaged 261, Honduras has empowered 32, and Tajikistan has supported one. These initiatives play a crucial role in localizing the SDGs and enhancing the design, implementation, and accountability of collaborative programmes and projects.

Key achievements include:

● Support for national and subnational policies: Engagement with national governments in Serbia, Tajikistan, Ghana, and Honduras aimed to improve local governance through the creation of localized and child-responsive policies. Initial efforts in Liberia and Gambia had a limited focus on localized and child-sensitive policies.

● Development of contextualized local policies: Honduras has successfully advocated for localized and child-responsive policies and programmes, resulting in positive changes in local governance. Similarly, Serbia and Ghana have demonstrated consistent progress in this important area. While Liberia, Tajikistan, and Gambia have initiated advocacy efforts, there remains an opportunity for them to develop more localized and child-responsive policies to further enhance their governance frameworks.

● Facilitation of localized and child-responsive budgets: Serbia has made significant strides in promoting the development and adoption of localized and child-responsive budgets, effectively addressing the needs of children within its communities. Similarly, Honduras has accomplished noteworthy progress in this area. Meanwhile, Tajikistan, Ghana, Gambia, and Liberia are beginning their journey towards budgeting that better reflects local needs, though they are still in the initial phases of enhancing budget localization.

World Health Organization

In 2024, WHO, in collaboration with Local2030 Coalition partners, advanced the localization of the SDGs through its cross-cutting urban health work. Prioritizing the interlinkages between SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and other SDGs, WHO provided local governments and stakeholders with guidance, tools, technical support, and networking platforms to develop, implement, and monitor intersectoral health policies.

A series of policy briefs was launched on essential implementation means to strategically address urban health – Generating and Working with Evidence; Governance and Financing; Innovation; and Partnerships and Participation. WHO also finalized the Urban Health Capacity Assessment and Response Resource Kit, providing local policymakers with practical tools to evaluate key capacities for cross-sectoral urban health efforts.

At the country and city level, WHO supported the implementation of the Urban Health Capacity Resource Kit in Fiji and the Republic of Korea, integrating health aspects into local policies, including those on food safety and supply. Additionally, in partnership with UN-Habitat, WHO advanced the implementation of the Young Gamechangers Initiative (YGI) in Colombia,

India, and Senegal. The initiative provided online and on-site training for youth and local government officials, helping them incorporate urban health considerations into urban planning and governance.

WHO also mainstreamed health co-benefits in discussions among local leaders and practitioners at major global and regional events, including the World Urban Forum, the International Conference on Urban Health, the Alliance for Healthy Cities Conference, and the Global Symposium on Health Systems Research.

Principals' Ad Hoc Informal Meeting at CEB

Convened by the Local2030 Coalition Co-Chairs, UN Principals from UN-Habitat, FAO, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO and ECLAC met informally on 3 May 2024, on the sidelines of the UN System CEB in Santiago, Chile. The outcomes of this meeting included an agreement to organize a special event at the 2024 Summit of the Future on LRGs and localization, a commitment to ensure active participation of UN Principals in the Local2030 Coalition events, and the planning of a follow up meeting with UN Principals and DSG at the 2024 HLPF.

Enabling Connections for Higher Impact and Systemic Transformation through the Local2030 Hubs

The Local2030 Hubs are Local2030's centers of excellence established to build capacities for innovative action and nurture the development of and access to methodologies and tools for SDG localization. They are an integral part of the work of the Local2030 Coalition facilitating a connection between concrete activities and policies at the local level on SDG Localization and global processes such as the UN HLPFs, the COPs, and FFD conferences, among others. In short, they are Local2030's anchor on the ground, allowing for impact, systemic transformation, and action to be scaled up at all levels.

There were eight Local2030 Hubs in 2024 located in different world regions and focusing on different topics relevant to each local context and to the localization of the SDGs:

- Hawai'i Green Growth Hub, a US 501(c)(3)
- Liverpool 2030hub, a certified B-Corp
- Malmö Local Ocean Action Hub, hosted by the city of Malmö
- Paraná Hub, hosted by the Paraná State Government
- Red de Ciudades Cómo Vamos Hub, a network of 35 Colombian municipalities
- Sahel Hub, hosted by SOS SAHEL
- Shizuoka Hub, hosted by the city of Shizuoka
- Sweden Hub, hosted by the Shared City Foundation

Deep dive on select initiatives from the Local2030 Hubs in 2024:

1. Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG): The Hawaii Local2030 Hub is scaling locally and culturally appropriate sustainability solutions to global challenges through the implementation of Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona 'Ae'oia, as a local framework to achieve the SDGs. In 2024, the Hub engaged in various activities to scale up SDG localization, among them, the Summit of the Future, in which it put culture, indigenous knowledge, and climate resilience at

Principals' ad hoc informal meeting on the sidelines of the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in Santiago, Chile.

the forefront of the agenda. This includes the Hawaii SDG Youth Council opening the Local2030 Coalition event and connecting their place-based cultural protocol to the importance of SDG localization. The Hawaii Local2030 Hub participated in the May International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), including the Local2030 Coalition Side Event organized by Cabo Verde. In April, over 170 officials and other stakeholders from 42 islands convened in Honolulu as part of the Local2030 Islands Network, co-chaired by the Hawaii Local2030 Hub to discuss SDG localization, resilience, and regenerative tourism. The Hawaii Local2030 Hub also participated in the October Deusto University Forum on the SDGs, engaging in high-level meetings with Basque government officials on SDG localization good practices and exchanges.

2. Liverpool 2030hub: The Liverpool 2030hub focuses on contributing to the achievement of the SDGs by fostering sustainable entrepreneurship and raising community awareness on the 2030 Agenda. The majority of 2030hub's 2024 impact centered around private sector engagement, whilst also successfully interconnecting multiple stakeholder groups and initiatives across Liverpool City Region and nationally. Through the hosting of Global Goals Week, Liverpool held six days of nationally significant advocacy, awareness, and action events thanks in part to the Labour Party (and now UK Government) Conference being held in the city at the same time. They had multiple local city leaders, Members of Parliament, government departments, and UN agencies engaged, including the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, Bank of England, British Council, Arts Council, and UNESCO. The 2030hub also built SDG advocacy into the Liverpool City Council's Net Zero Living Plan as it successfully lobbied for the opportunity to lead on the industrial engagement element of the city's net zero action plan. The hub's advocacy and support across the visitor economy continued to grow, and this year attracted national recognition with praise provided by Visit Britain's Chair and CEO on two separate visits to the city.

3. Paraná Hub: The Paraná state Hub focuses on the municipalization and localization of the SDGs, centering on ways to share knowledge on the 2030 Agenda in the 399 municipalities that are part of the state. In 2024, it developed a tool called the BI ODS platform, which aims to help build localization strategies by presenting official SDG indicators for each municipality and region. The Paraná Hub implemented an ESG committee composed of the private sector and the government to work and develop task forces on different issues and the governor signed a letter of commitment to ocean sustainability, which aims to preserve the coast and the marine environment. Also, it co-organized a meeting with the Ministry of Cities of Brazil and the Local2030 Coalition bringing together representatives of Lusophone countries to strengthen cooperation towards SDG localization at the 12th Session of the World Urban Forum.

4. Shizuoka Hub: The Shizuoka Hub builds collaborative frameworks to accelerate the promotion of SDG-related actions by citizens, businesses, schools, and other entities in the city, and sharing these best practices with Japan and beyond, with specific focuses on youth engagement, sustainable marine industries, and organic food production. A key activity in 2024 was Shizuoka's youth engagement activity with schools from Taiwan, Vietnam, and Australia, helping raise awareness for the SDGs among high school students and disseminating best practices.

5. Sweden Hub: The Sweden Hub works to enhance capacity building in inclusive and sustainable urban development, focusing on local implementation for more equal societies through multi-stakeholder cooperation. In 2024, to pave the way for the Summit of the Future, the Sweden Hub, through the Shared City Foundation and the UN Foundation, organized an Intergenerational Town Hall in Sweden focused on fostering dialogue around youth-centered issues that are fundamental to achieving and localizing the SDGs.

Strengthening the Work of the Local2030 Hubs

2024 has been a pivotal year for the Local2030 Hubs, marking the first year since the adoption of the Local2030 Hubs Terms of Reference. This key document, approved by the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee, provides a framework to structure and align the diverse yet complementary work and activities of each Hub.

Throughout the year, the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat worked closely with the Hubs to both scale up and globally showcase their best practices and policies by linking them to the Coalition's work plan and providing technical support to develop each Hub's terms of reference and work plans for 2025. This collaboration has helped establish clear objectives, governance structures, and activities, enhancing alignment and impact. In 2025, the Hubs will formalize their relationship with the Local2030 Coalition by signing Memorandums of Understanding, further institutionalizing this collaboration.

New Hubs Prospects

The expansion process for the establishment of new Hubs

World map showing Local2030 Hubs.

continued to progress in 2024, as the Local 2030 Coalition received formal expressions of interest from partners who wished to become part of the Hubs network, reflecting the growing momentum and interest in this global-local approach to tackling sustainability challenges.

a) Cairo

In May 2024, the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee reviewed and provided feedback on the formal application for the establishment of a Local2030 Hub in Cairo from the Ministry of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation of the Arab Republic of Egypt (Annex 5). Throughout the year, the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat and the Ministry have been working together to address the feedback received by the SC and the Secretariat on the structure of the Hub and its work focus. The final proposal is set to be finalized in early 2025.

b) Euskadi

In October 2024, the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee received the formal application for the establishment of a Local2030 Hub in Euskadi from the Basque Government, which will have as a key focus multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration on the implementation of the SDGs (Annex 6). The Secretariat is working closely with the Basque Government to ensure its Hub proposal follows the guidelines and expectations of the ToR adopted by the SC. The final proposal is set to be finalized in early 2025, ahead of the 2025 Steering Committee meeting.

c) Buenos Aires

In December 2024, the Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee received the formal application for the establishment of a Local2030 Hub in the Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina (Annex 7). The proposed Hub will have as a potential key focus gender equality and women's empowerment for the SDGs. The Secretariat will be working closely with the Province of Buenos Aires to ensure its Hub proposal follows the guidelines and expectations of the ToR adopted by the SC. The proposal is also set to be finalized in early 2025, ahead of the 2025 Steering Committee meeting.

Local2030 Hubs Hybrid Meeting at WUF12
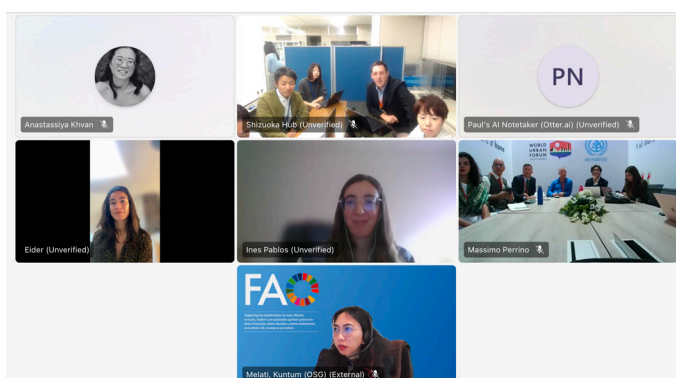
The Local2030 Hubs hybrid meeting at WUF12.

The Local2030 Hubs hybrid meeting at WUF12 culminated a series of meetings that took place online throughout the year with all Local2030 Hubs to discuss their activities for 2024, their terms of reference, priorities, and trending issues. The hybrid meeting was the only in-person meeting of 2024 and took place at WUF12. The meeting included a tour de table from all participants, a presentation

from the Local2030 Coalition on the 2025 Workplan, and a brainstorming on engagement for upcoming milestones ([Annex 8](#)).

Secretary General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments

The Local2030 Coalition has actively contributed to the work of the [Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments](#), established by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in October 2023 to identify ways to enhance collaboration among local and regional governments and international processes to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. The Coalition provided specific support in the development of its Deliverable 3, a "Policy brief on improving cooperation between national, local, and regional governments and UN Country Teams" ([Annex 9](#)), and Deliverable 4, a "Global strategy for the UN's engagement with local and regional governments to strengthen contributions towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda" ([Annex 10](#)). As a result, the Coalition was designated as one of the key mechanisms within the UN system to follow up on the Advisory Group's recommendations, given the Local2030 Coalition's far reach as a UN System-wide network and given the importance of local and regional governments to the Coalition's work.

Outcome 1.2: Increased Participation of Local Actors and the Use of Their Experiences in Localizing the SDGs to Inform National, Regional, and Global Sustainable Development Fora

The Local2030 Coalition fosters connections between the UN system and several constituencies to ensure that innovative local solutions can achieve more significant impact and be scaled up by facilitating relevant discussions on SDG localization within national, regional and global sustainable development fora. Below are highlights from key Local2030 Coalition activities and events throughout 2024.

7th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs

The 7th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs took place on 29 May 2024, organized by the OECD and the Basque Government in collaboration with the Local2030 Coalition. The Roundtable discussed the role of artificial intelligence (AI) and digitalization in the localization of the SDGs, identified solutions to mobilize public and private financing for SDG localization, and analyzed the impact of decentralized development cooperation and

city-to-city partnerships on the achievement of the SDGs, including within the framework of the EU Global Gateway ([Annex 11](#)).

Flyer of the 7th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs.

4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States "SDG Localization Tailored for SIDS" Antigua and Barbuda

Flyer of the "SDG Localization tailored for SIDS" side event.

The Government of Cabo Verde, in partnership with the European Union, the Local2030 Coalition, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and the United Nations Country Team in Cabo Verde, hosted a side event on 30 May, 2024, within the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States to explore and exchange ideas on enhancing the impact, efficiency, and scalability of SDG localization in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The event addressed the unique challenges and opportunities faced by

SIDS to localize the SDGs. The session included representation from Cabo Verde, Spain, the Hawaii Green Growth Hub, and local and regional governments, among others (Annex 12).

2024 EU-UN Policy Dialogue on SDG Localization

Participants of the EU-UN Policy Dialogue on SDG Localization.

The "EU-UN Policy Dialogue on SDG Localization" was held on 4 June 2024, in Brussels, Belgium, to foster stronger synergies between the EU and the UN on SDG localization, recognizing it as a key piece in the puzzle towards accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The dialogue was co-organized by the Local2030 Coalition, the European Commission Directorate General for International Partnerships, and the European Committee of the Regions, in collaboration with UN-Habitat, FAO, UNDP, and the Belgian and Spanish Governments.

The dialogue outlined key messages and recommendations that UN, EU, and Member States representatives are using to feed into statements, CoR Opinions and Resolutions, Council of the EU Conclusions, and briefings for the new EU leadership (Parliament and Commission). The dialogue also resulted in a roadmap outlining joint actions and initiatives that the EU and UN can take forward in the short, medium, and long term with key ideas the Local2030 Coalition is following up on, such as joint briefings for EU political representatives on SDG localization, the use of the Localization Marker within the EU, and the next edition of the dialogue focused on finance in light of the FfD4 process, among others (Annex 13).

International Mayors Forum, Jakarta, Indonesia

From 2 to 4 July 2024, the Government of the Republic of Indonesia, represented by the Special Region of Jakarta and the UN DESA, in collaboration with United

Cities and Local Governments in Asia Pacific and the Local2030 Coalition, organized the International Mayors Forum. The Forum provided a platform for policy dialogue and knowledge exchange on implementing the 2030 Agenda and SDGs at the local level.

High-level participants included the Governor of Jakarta, Hon. Mr. Heru Budi Hartono, and UN DESA's Assistant Secretary-General, Mr. Navid Hanif, along with other key figures such as Ms. Celeste Connors, CEO of Hawaii Green Growth Hub. The Forum concluded by emphasizing the importance of integrated policies and collaboration between local and national governments, innovative financing mechanisms like PPPs, and improved asset management for sustainable development. It also launched four VLRs (Kendal Regency, West Java Province, Samarinda City, and Jakarta Special Region) and adopted the Jakarta Declaration, committing to resilient, adaptive, and inclusive municipal environments in the face of climate change.

Flyer of the International Mayors Forum.

2024 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

The 2024 High-Level Political Forum came at a critical moment to reinvigorate commitment and mobilize resources for advancing the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs,

and as it preceded the Summit of the Future in September 2024.

1. Local2030 HLPF Special Event

On 10 July 2024, the Local2030 Coalition hosted a special event titled "Unlocking Transformative Change Through the Localization of the Six SDG Transitions," focusing on the progress of the High-Impact Initiative on SDG Localization. The event explored strategies for scaling impact and localizing the SDGs through bold actions and innovative financing mechanisms. It emphasized the importance of strengthening inter-agency collaboration and synergies to effectively implement SDG transitions at the local level. Addressing systemic financing barriers, the event highlighted the need for creating enabling environments, including improved fiscal frameworks, enhanced institutional capacity, and effective coordination. Additionally, discussions centered on the preparations for key UN milestones—such as the Summit of the Future, WUF12, FfD4, and COP30—underscoring the need to mainstream SDG Localization within these agendas and reinforce mechanisms like the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments to ensure broader stakeholder engagement in UN processes. (Annex 14).

2. Seventh Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF)

The LRGF, co-organized by the Local2030 Coalition, UN DESA, the Global Task Force of LRGs, UN-Habitat, and UNDP, was held on 11 July 2024. The Forum highlighted successful localization policies and coalitions led by local and regional governments in advancing the SDG Rescue Plan through the six SDG transitions. It focused on innovative local reporting approaches, such as VLRs and VSRs, and discussed a renewed multi-lateral system and financial architecture in preparation for the Summit of the Future (Annex 15).

Flyer of the Seventh Local and Regional Governments Forum.

3. Keeping the SDG Promise: Pathways for Acceleration

The Local2030 Coalition participated in the HLPF Special Event entitled "Keeping the SDG Promise: Pathways for Acceleration," convened by the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group and Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Spain (Annex 16). The Special Event explored the role of the SDG transitions in accelerating progress, showcasing concrete examples of success, and emphasizing the critical link between the development of updated Nationally Determined Contributions and SDG acceleration. It also provided an update on the progress of the "High Impact Initiatives" (HIIs). The Local2030 Coali-

Local2030 Coalition's special event "Unlocking Transformative Change Through the Localization of the Six SDG Transitions" in New York, USA.

Local2030 Coalition's special event "Keeping the SDG Promise: Pathways for Acceleration" in New York, USA.

tion was represented by UN-Habitat, which offered a snapshot of the advancements made since September 2023 (Annex 17).

4. Localization Track

The Local2030 Coalition contributed to the 2024 HLPF with its annual Localization Track, a monitoring and communications tool featuring the key events and activities focused on the localization of the SDGs organized at and on the sidelines. The track not only offered HLPF participants a comprehensive overview of localization

engagements but also served as a gauge to measure how SDG Localization is growing in importance throughout the HLPF, featuring a total of 35 events with a focus on SDG localization in 2024 (Annex 18).

Summit of the Future

The Summit of the Future, held in September 2024 during the UN General Assembly's high-level week, brought together global leaders, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, academia, the private sector, and youth under the theme "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow."

Local2030 Coalition's side event on the occasion of the UN Summit of the Future's Action Days in New York, USA.

The Summit aimed to establish a global consensus on shaping a sustainable future and provided a platform to reinvigorate multilateralism and adapt global governance to emerging challenges. Key issues addressed included finance, sustainable development, peace and security, digital technologies, youth empowerment, and governance reform. The event culminated in the adoption of the "Pact for the Future," an action-oriented document outlining a roadmap for transformative global action leading to 2030 and beyond.

1. Shaping local pathways for a more equitable, sustainable, and secure future for all – "Localizing the Pact for the Future" Local2030 Side Event on the occasion of the UN Summit of the Future's Action Days

On 21 September 2024, the Local2030 Coalition, in partnership with the Governments of Spain and Brazil and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, hosted a side event during the Summit's Action Days. The event focused on the importance of localizing the commitments and actions outlined in the Pact for the Future, showcasing local initiatives that promote social inclusion, equality, and human rights. It discussed how key milestones such as COP30, WUF12, and HLPF 2025 can inform and incubate innovative solutions for the global goals. The session demonstrated effective models of collaboration among stakeholders, inspiring concrete commitments and partnerships for SDG localization. It also generated actionable recommendations to enhance local capacities and secure sustainable financing ahead of the Pact for the Future's implementation (Annex 19).

Forum on Sustainable Development Goals: Connecting Academic Research and Policy Solutions to SDG Localization

Jointly organized by the University of Deusto and the Local2030 Coalition, the Forum on Sustainable Development Goals: Connecting Academic Research and Policy Solutions to SDG Localization took place 22-23 October 2024 in Bilbao, Spain.

The forum convened global leaders, academics, and experts to address the challenges and opportunities associated with localizing the SDGs and sought to foster collaboration between scientific research and policy-making to enhance the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

The event included a special segment dedicated to the Local2030 Coalition's Knowledge and Scientific Network and included participation from representatives of different sectors, including Ms. Celeste Connors, CEO of the Hawaii Green Growth Hub.

The main takeaways from the forum were that academic research has a clear and direct application in localization efforts, emphasizing that these are not separate domains, and that its impact is maximized when it is conducted in collaboration with non-academic stakeholders, such as the private sector, public institutions (including local ones) and multilateral organizations, thereby enhancing its applicability and potential impact through greater usability.

Participants of the Forum on Sustainable Development Goals.

12th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12)

The Local2030 Coalition actively participated in the WUF12 in November 2024, ensuring that SDG localization was high on the agenda. The Coalition curated the ONE UN Space, which served as the space to show the UN System strategies, policies, and programming to advance the implementation of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda. To this end, the Secretariat approved ONE UN partner-led events proposals and helped to coordinate over 30 sessions organized by 21 different UN entities. Moreover, the Local2030 Coalition co-organised various sessions dedicated to SDG localization with key partners, with a special focus on financing and high-impact localized policies.

1. "Boosting Localization of the SDGs to Propel Transformative Change"

Local2030 Coalition's One UN event "Boosting Localization of the SDGs to Propel Transformative Change" in Cairo, Egypt.

This One UN Space session held on 6 November 2024, co-organized with the Joint SDG Fund, delved into strategies for boosting the localization of the SDGs to propel transformative change by highlighting the importance of leveraging financing, showcasing tools to improve programming, and presenting concrete examples of projects from different regions of the world that are localizing the six SDG transitions. It included opening remarks from Spain and a multistakeholder panel with representatives from the UN RC system, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and different levels of government (Annex 20).

2. "Building Financial Sustainability through Localization"

This networking event, held on 6 November 2024, co-organized with USAID, focused on building financial sustainability through localization, offered insights into approaches to empower local actors to increase financing capabilities, and addressed the critical need to shift financial support from the national to the local levels to empower communities as drivers of sustainable development. It included opening remarks by USAID and a multistakeholder panel with representatives from USAID, BBK Foundation, the mayor of Klang, Malaysia, Local2030 Coalition Working Group 2, and civil society. The session discussions fed into a joint compilation of good practices and guidelines on access to financing for local actors to advance the SDGs, which is being developed by the Coalition in collaboration with USAID (Annex 21).

Local2030 Coalition's networking event "Building Financial Sustainability through Localization" in Cairo, Egypt.

3. "From Local Action to Global Impact: Insights from Local2030 Hubs"

Local2030 Coalition's networking event "From Local Action to Global Impact: Insights from Local2030 Hubs" in Cairo, Egypt.

This Networking event held on 7 November 2024, co-organized with the Paraná Hub, presented insights from the Local2030 Hubs and key partners on how local action generates global impact to promote collaboration and co-creation among different regions of the

world. The event included opening remarks from the State of Paraná followed by a keynote from the mayor of Klang and a multistakeholder panel with representatives from the Paraná Hub, the Liverpool 2030 Hub, the Sweden Hub, and the future Cairo Hub. The session culminated with a letter of intent being signed by the Local2030 Coalition and the State of Paraná to further strengthen collaboration and scale up the state's quadruple helix model (Annex 22).

4. "Knowledge in Action: Bridging Policy and Practice through Scientific Research for SDG Localization"

Local2030 Coalition's Knowledge in Action One UN event in Cairo, Egypt.

This One UN Space session held on 8 November 2024, co-organized with UN-Habitat, FAO, CeSPI ETS, and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation focused on bridging policy and practice through scientific research for SDG localization. It included opening remarks by the Government of Italy before diving into a multi-stakeholder panel discussion on the importance of collaboration between policy-makers and academia and a segment with PhD students presenting their research on SDG localization and concrete solutions to overcoming local challenges (Annex 23).

5. "Local2030 CPLP Meeting: Localizing the SDGs and Pact for the Future through the Local2030 Hubs Model"

Local2030 CPLP meeting in Cairo, Egypt.

On 7 November 2024, a meeting was co-organized with the Brazilian Ministry of Cities (a SC member) and the Paraná Hub, bringing together lusophone countries to explore strategies for localizing the SDGs and actions from the recently adopted Pact for the Future. The session provided a strategic opportunity for representatives from CPLP countries, local partners, UN entities, and other stakeholders to discuss how to scale up efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda. The meeting focused on leveraging regional platforms, multi-stakeholder engagement, and capacity building, with a particular emphasis on scaling the Paraná Local2030 Hub's multi-stakeholder model. Representatives from Angola, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and Portugal participated in the discussions. A key outcome of the meeting was the recommendation to institutionalize a task force or working group within the CPLP, focused on advancing SDG localization in Portuguese-speaking countries. This group will include representatives from all levels of government and various stakeholder groups, ensuring a collaborative and inclusive approach to driving localization efforts across the region (Annex 24).

Local2030 Coalition Secretariat team, the Basque Government, UN-Habitat Spain, Liverpool Hub and Paraná Hub at WUF 12.

COP29

On 19 November 2024, the Local2030 Coalition co-organized a session at the COP29 Multi-level Action and Urbanization Pavilion, in partnership with UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Cities of Brazil. Moderated by UNEP, the session, titled "Local Action, Global Impact: Advancing Multi-level and Multi-stakeholder Climate Solutions on the Road to COP30," focused on the mechanisms needed to ensure that Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are ambitious, community-driven, and aligned with SDG localization. It also showcased best practices for scaling up local climate action and emphasized connecting COP discussions with broader sustainable development efforts, such as the HLPF, FfD4, etc. This event marked a pivotal moment in advancing the Coalition's work on SDG locali-

zation and climate solutions as part of preparations for COP30. ([Annex 25](#)).

Participants of the "Local Action, Global Impact: Advancing Multi-level and Multi-stakeholder Climate Solutions on the Road to COP30" event at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Outcome 1.3: Improved Knowledge-Sharing and Capacity Building Opportunities for Local Actors on SDG Localization as an Integral Part of the Local2030 Coalition's Work

Communication Strategy

A draft communications strategy has been developed, along with a narrative, vision and key messages tailored to specific audiences to ensure that the Coalition's communication efforts remain focused, impactful, and aligned with its overall mission ([Annex 26](#)). This strategy will be further reinforced following the Local2030 Coalition UN Directors Group Retreat and the Steering Committee meeting in 2025.

Website

The Local2030 Coalition's website is regularly updated with event details and stories to provide timely information and resources. In 2024, it featured many sto-ries from partners from all over the world and events taking place in the framework of global, regional, and local processes.

Over the past year, 24,000 new users from various regions visited the website. The top five contributors to this growth were from the United States, Spain, India, the United Kingdom, and Hong Kong. Notably, the platform achieved an impressive engagement rate of 48.56%.

These statistics demonstrate the global reach and influence of the Local2030 Coalition's digital presence. The steady influx of new users reflects a growing interest in the Coalition's work, while the engagement rate underscores the value and relevance of the content being shared. Despite effectively reaching a diverse international audience, the site is being revamped to enhance user experience and interactivity to better serve stakeholders and to strengthen the Coalition's ability to share knowledge and inspire action.
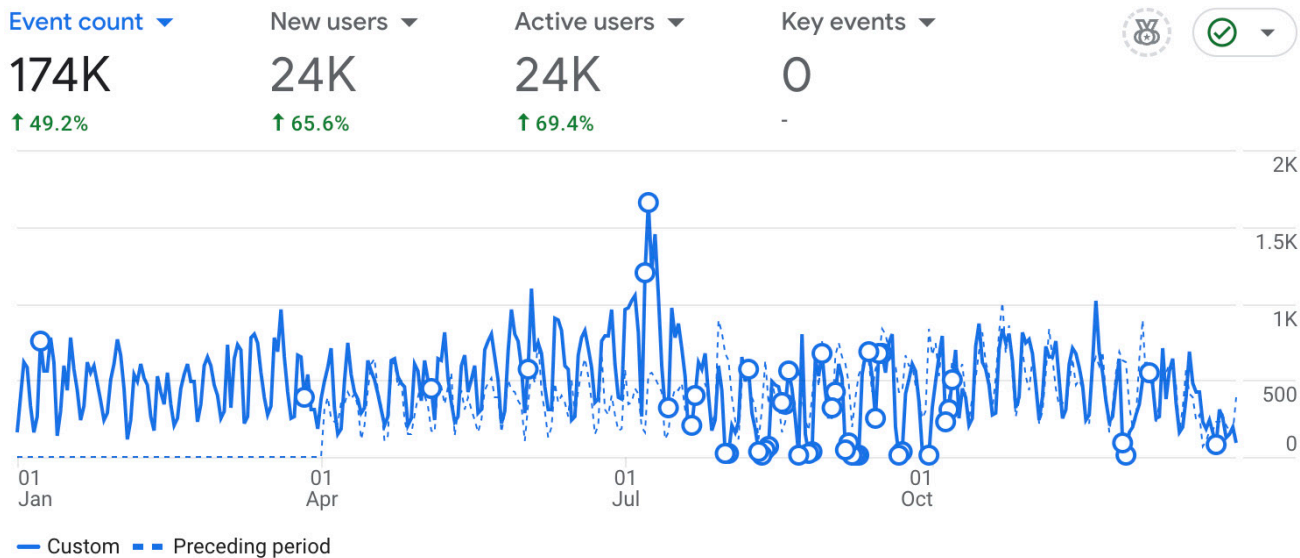
Local2030 Coalition's website analytics.

Social Media

Throughout 2024, the Local2030 Coalition actively engaged audiences via social media, sharing updates on events and partner initiatives. For instance, as of 31 December 2024, a total of 179 posts have been published on X, reaching 40,370 people. Likewise, the Local2030 YouTube channel currently hosts videos that promote the Coalition's key messages.
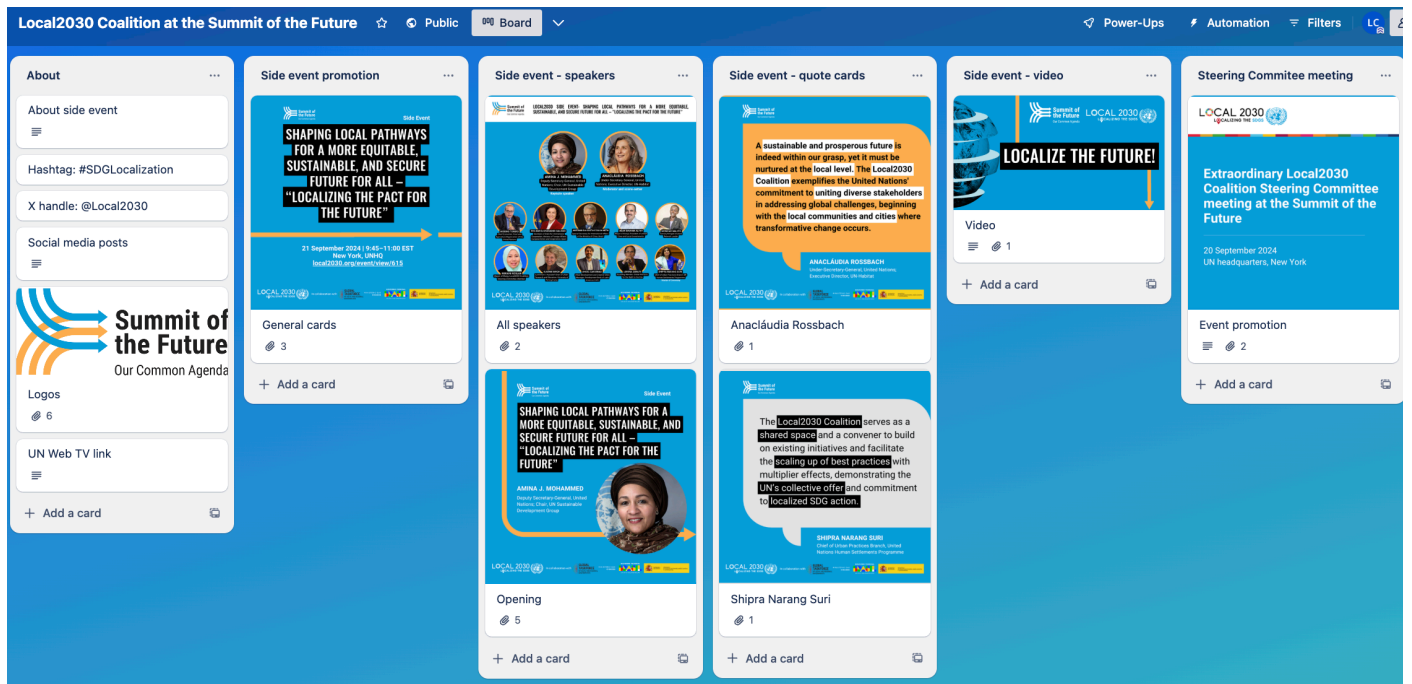
The Local2030 Coalition leverages Trello as a key coordination tool for managing social media content and outreach efforts. To streamline promotion and collaboration, dedicated Trello boards were created for major events, such as the Summit of the Future and WUF12, and shared with partners.

These Trello boards served as centralized content hubs, featuring general social media cards for event promotion, speaker cards highlighting key participants, quote cards with impactful statements, and key messages to support unified and amplified event outreach.

These social media activities demonstrate the Coalition's efforts to amplify its message through diverse platforms. The growing follower base, significant reach, and consistent engagement illustrate the impact of these channels in building awareness, fostering community, and driving conversations around SDG localization. By leveraging social media, the Coalition can connect with stakeholders in real time and broaden its influence across key audiences.

Local2030 Coalition's YouTube channel.

Local2030 Coalition's Trello board.

Local2030 Coalition's posts on X.

ACTION

The action workstream focuses on scaling up and promoting sustainable development solutions implemented by the Local2030 Coalition's participating UN entities, constituencies, and partners at the local level. This is framed within a multi-stakeholder, multi-level approach that enables systemic transformation and increased impact on human lives, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. While advocacy and influencing global processes are essential, this focus on action is fundamental to operationalize localization and prove its differentiated impact, while offering inspiring examples that can be adapted and scaled up around the world.

With the will to spread localization best practices, the Coalition is committed to ensuring that local communities are equipped with the necessary tools, resources, and support to implement the SDGs. This involves working directly with local actors to implement projects addressing the most pressing issues in their regions, be it climate change, sustainable economic development, or social equity. In this sense, UN entities have begun preparing to empower UNCTs to operationalize localization at the country level, in a process that will become operationalized in 2025.

Outcome 2.1: Improved Prioritization of SDG Localization by the UN System

Call for Seed Funding Proposals

In 2024, the Local2030 Coalition, in partnership with the Joint SDG Fund and supported by the Government of Spain, launched a call for seed funding proposals under the Fund's SDG Localization Portfolio.

The call represents a significant global effort to empower local communities and authorities in driving SDG transitions at the local level, with a USD 10.5 million commitment from the Spanish Government to support catalytic local initiatives, and an additional USD 7.3 million mobilized in co-funding the portfolio. The Joint SDG Fund's Operational Steering Committee approved the call on 27 March 2024 (Annex 27).

Geographical regions of the call for seed funding proposals for SDG localization.

30	Countries	**54**	Policies, plans, or regulatory frameworks being created and implemented.
$10.5 million	Joint SDG Fund grant	**177**	Reports, assessments, or knowledge materials to be developed to inform evidence-based policies and strategies to advance SDG Localization.
$17.8 million	Total budget		
12.4 million	People expected to directly benefit from joint local actions.	**24**	Business processes and tools enhanced and/or created to foster better planning, implementation, monitoring and accountability of the SDGs at the local level.
177	Local and regional governments engaged in implementation.	**14**	Digital tools or platforms to be created to enhance SDG-related activities.

With a wide geographic spread, the portfolio spans across 30 countries: Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Fiji, Gambia, Ghana, Georgia, Honduras, Indonesia, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Philippines, Micronesia, Nepal, Palestine, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Uganda, and Zambia.

All eligible UN Country Teams that met minimum criteria and scored at least 3 on the SDG Localization Marker have been approved, based on a review carried out by two UN and one non-UN expert. As of 2024, 26 proposals were approved for funding and are implementing their Joint Programmes.

In addition, a notable achievement was the merging of Chile's proposal under the Localization Portfolio with another Joint SDG Fund call on digital transformation. Chile is improving internet access for over 8,500 people in 50 underserved rural communities and training 4,000 small farmers in digital skills. This larger, USD 3 million programme is set to serve as a model for scaling up localization efforts.

Outcome 2.2: Increased Adoption of Local Action as a Central Component of Development Plans and Strategies at All Levels of Governance

High Impact Initiative on Localization

Keeping the SDG Promise

2024 Update on the
High Impact Initiatives
at the High-Level Political Forum
for Sustainable Development
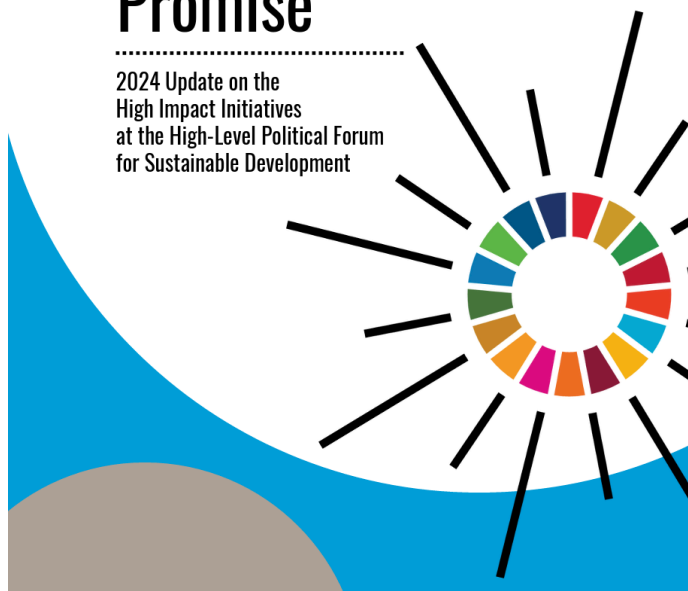
Cover of the first progress report on the HII "Keeping the SDG Promise: 2024 Update on the High Impact Initiatives at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development"

The Local2030 Coalition's High Impact Initiative (HII) launched at the 2023 SDG Summit continues to gain momentum. The initiative focuses on demonstrating the transformative potential of localizing the six SDG transitions to drive progress toward the 2030 Agenda. Following feedback received during the UN Directors Group

⊚ Short-term Deliverables	⊗ Medium-term Deliverables	⊡ Long-term Deliverables
1. Two working groups to focus on supporting localizing and financing the six SDG transitions 2. 50 national and subnational governments supporting local actions by joining the Coalition 3. Key IFIs committed to channelling significantly more financing towards the local level 4. Innovative practices and solutions that demonstrate the impact of local action and scalability.	1. USD 25 million invested in catalytic initiatives at the local level via the Joint SDG Fund 2. Expand the network of the Hubs to support localization efforts 3. Ensure that UN country teams embrace localization as an accelerator for achieving the SDGs 4. Ensure that all members of the UNSDG are aware of the Coalition and its activities.	1. 1000 local governments advancing SDGs locally, including through the SDG Cities Initiative 2. USD 150 million invested in catalytic initiatives at the local level through the Joint SDG Fund 3. Major private sector investments in at least 100 cities aligned with the SDGs 4. 100 countries where VLRs contribute effectively to VNRs 5. USD 50 million mobilized to support women in leadership delivering on SDGs at the local level.

retreat, the targets for the HII were updated to better reflect the evolving needs and priorities.

A significant milestone in 2024 was the release of the first progress report on the HII in July: Keeping the SDG Promise: 2024 Update on the High Impact Initiatives at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development (Annex 17). The report highlights key achievements, adjustments made to deliverables, progress on

success indicators, and features three impactful stories that showcase the practical outcomes of SDG localization efforts. Key highlights from the report include the establishment of two thematic working groups focused on the six SDG transitions; the organization of the EU-UN Policy Dialogues on SDG Localization; the launch of the Local2030 Coalition Knowledge and Scientific Network; the advancement of the partnership with the Joint SDG Fund, which has already funded 26 UN country teams to implement joint programmes focused on localizing the SDGs; and the expansion of the Local2030 Hubs.

Working Groups

Launched in February 2024, the Local2030 Coalition Working Groups aim to strengthen the UN's impact on localizing the SDGs by uniting UN entities around key areas. These groups were conceptualized to enhance the UN's response to global processes like the HLPF and the

FfD4 process by quickly mobilizing expertise and elevating localization messages. The groups also provide a platform for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and amplifying the UN's voice on SDG priorities.

The working groups are focused on two areas: (1) localizing the six SDG transitions, and (2) financing these transitions at the local level. They are supported by lead agencies — UN DESA, FAO, and UN-Habitat for Working Group 1, as well as UNDP, UNICEF, and UNEP for Working Group 2. The Secretariat has been instrumental in developing the Terms of Reference and work plans for each group, ensuring that each group has clear objectives and operational guidelines. These groups are expected to continue guiding the implementation of the Coalition's work and provide actionable insights through policy briefs and other outputs.

Working Group 1: Localizing the Six SDG Transitions

Working Group 1 (WG1) aims to produce evidence-based analysis and recommendations to support the localization of the six SDG transitions. The group's objectives include driving thought leadership on advancing these transitions at the local level and providing practical guidance within a multi-level governance framework to UN Country Teams (UNCTs), national and local governments, and other stakeholders. In 2024, WG1 began meeting monthly and held an in-person meeting at HLPF,

established rotating informal coordinator roles, agreed on common objectives and the group's terms of reference (Annex 28) and work plan (Annex 29), identified goals, needs, and areas to support the implementation and localization of the Pact for the Future, and began the process for its first work plan deliverable – a synthesis report analyzing the localization of the transitions through mapping exercises and case studies, identifying the state of play, best practices, and needs in select country contexts. This report as well as resulting policy guidance and recommendations are anticipated in 2025, with the group planning to collaborate with the Coalition to engage in the HLPF process, holding a high-level event and selecting countries to pilot the recommendations.

Working Group 2: Financing the Six SDG Transitions at the Local Level

Working Group 2 focuses on ensuring that financing flows to the local level quickly, effectively, and at the scale required to achieve the SDGs through the six transitions. The group's objectives include analyzing global constraints in local SDG financing, developing policy options and financing models, and enhancing local governments' capacities. Its main aims are to engage in the FfD4 process and influence the outcome document and effective implementation. In 2024, the group began meeting monthly, convened by the Secretariat, elected a Coordinator, and finalized its terms of reference (Annex 30) and work plan (Annex 31). At the end of 2024, Working Group 2 also published its first deliverable: a policy brief approved by the UN Directors Group for the FfD4 process, 'Recommendations for FfD4: Local Finance is

First page of the Financing Policy Brief drafted by the Working Group 2.

Development Finance,' (Annex 32) which is being leveraged for advocacy in various FfD4 events and engagements. In 2025, the group plans to contribute to a report outlining current challenges, best practices, and tools for enhancing local financing aligned with the six transitions and focus on engaging in advocacy and commu-
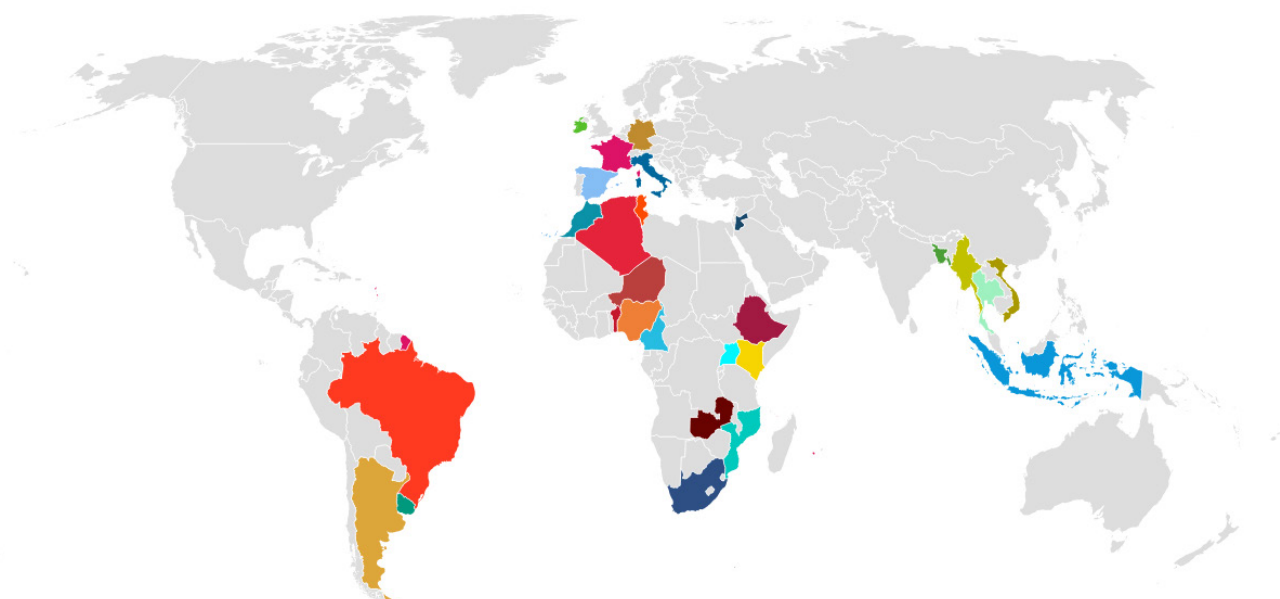
In 2024, nearly 100 institutions from 47 countries engaged with the KSN.

nications around the FfD4 process. Later in 2025, it may conduct a feasibility study on establishing a technical assistance facility to support the operationalization of financing tools and solutions at the local level.

Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network

To meet the challenges of the 2030 Agenda, the academic and research community plays a pivotal role in shaping local transformation by providing new, innovative, and sustainable analysis and solutions. Young researchers can be key drivers of sustainable development when provided with the right resources and a conducive environment that enables them to better connect their research and the needs of the communities, cities, and regions, accelerating systemic transformations through science and knowledge.
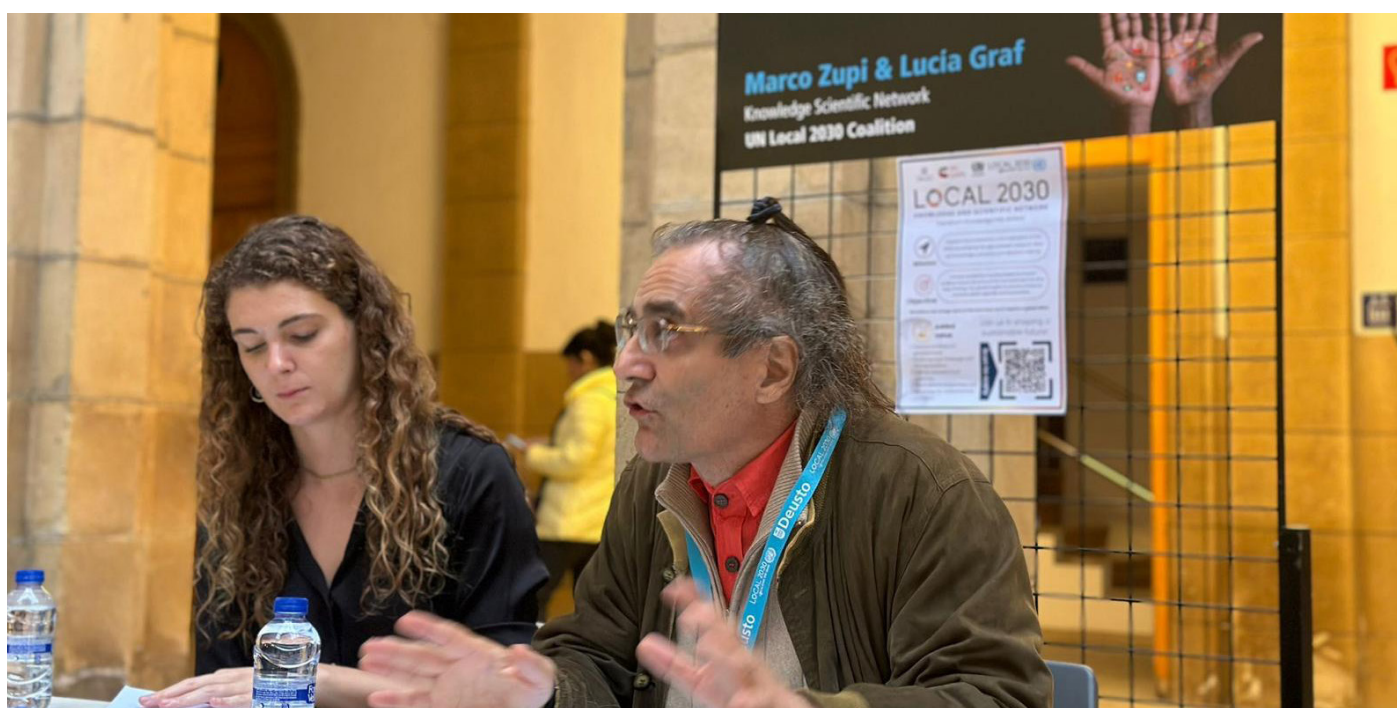
The Local 2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network (KSN) was created to bridge the gap between academic research and policy-making to support the localization of the SDGs (Annex 33). As a dynamic global network where academic knowledge on localization drives SDG acceleration, KSN serves as a specific space to connect young researchers from around the world who are interested in bridging the gap between science, local needs, and their universities or research centers. KSN is sponsored by the Italian Government as a contribution to advance the work of the Local2030 Coalition and implemented in partnership with UN-Habitat to deliver pilots in Tunisia and Jordan and CeSPI ETS to develop and coordinate academic programmes.

By connecting this space to global processes through the wider Local2030 Coalition network, KSN is giving voice to these researchers and the academia backing them in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It further supports translating their findings into inputs to SDG-related global processes, reinforcing coherence between global agendas and local realities and needs.

In 2024, nearly 100 institutions from 47 countries engaged with the KSN, demonstrating their commitment to its mission by sharing expertise, actively participating in meetings, global events, workshops and training programmes, and seizing opportunities for collaborative research.

In 2024, the KSN made significant strides in disseminating its initiatives and cultivating dialogue among academia and policymakers. The official launch of the global component of the Network took place in the margins of the 2024 HLPF, with participation of the Counselor Luigi Diodati, Chief of Office of the General Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy (Annex 34).

Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network at the Forum on Sustainable Development Goals.

In October 2024, the University of Deusto and the Local2030 Coalition co-organized a Forum on the SDGs to enhance collaboration between scientific research and policy-making for the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. The Knowledge and Scientific Network had a dedicated segment in the Forum and met with strategic global leaders, academics, and experts with the same goal of bridging the gap between research and policy, creating valuable opportunities for future collaboration (Annex 35).

The Network also organized an event during the WUF12, with the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy and with a dedicated segment for PhD students, who presented their research on SDG localization and discussed concrete solutions to overcome local challenges (Annex 36).

As an example of its reach, the KSN was reflected as an impact story in the 2024 Update on the High Impact Initiatives at the High-Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and was also mentioned by the Chair of the UN Sustainable Development Group and Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, Amina J. Mohammed, in the HLPF Special Event entitled "Keeping the SDG Promise: Pathways for Acceleration" as an example of an initiative that is making an impact in accelerating progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

At the local level, KSN has recently created a multidisciplinary cluster of PhD candidates and young researchers in the selected pilot countries (Jordan and Tunisia), who are benefiting from training and capacity building and will be linked to territorial and national authorities to inform SDG-related planning, policies, and reporting. The PhD student selection process was completed in November 2024, and the selected researchers officially started the 2024/2025 academic programme of the KSN in December 2024.

Outcome 2.3 Increased SDG Financing towards Local Action and for Effective Localization

SDG Localization Marker

The Local2030 Coalition has joined forces with the Joint SDG Fund to launch the Localization Marker. This tool serves to identify joint initiatives that effectively prioritize localization efforts, ensuring both policy coherence and transparent and accountable tracking of allocated financing for SDG localization, and facilitating rigorous monitoring and reporting on the progress achieved in localizing the SDGs.

The SDG Localization Marker received formal endorsement from the UN Directors Group on 9 February 2024, during their retreat in Bilbao, Spain (Annex 37). It has since been piloted across all the Joint SDG Fund´s new investments in 2024, serving as a critical tool to ensure that joint programmes strategically and effectively prioritize localization efforts through the entire project cycle.

Through the use of the marker, 19 additional programmes under other funding tracks that also have a principal contribution to SDG localization have been identified. As a result, the Joint SDG Fund is providing approximately USD 24 million to programmes with a Localization Marker score of 3, thus driving the SDGs locally.

The goal is for the marker to become a widely recognized reference, both within the UN system and externally, serving as a key tool for advancing SDG localization efforts globally.

Additionally, some partners have expressed interest in developing a pilot phase for a Localization Marker 2.0, which would place a stronger focus on financing and monitoring. Discussions to explore this next phase are ongoing.

MONITORING

The third line of work of the Local2030 Coalition focuses on supporting the establishment of robust multi-level systems for monitoring and evaluating the efforts being undertaken at the local level.

As reflected in the targets of its High Impact Initiative on localization, the Local2030 Coalition promotes the inclusion of local and subnational governments in existing national reporting mechanisms and the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), including by raising awareness on this issue during various high-level events that were organized by or included the participation of the Coalition, UN members, Local2030 Hubs, and partners. It is also a key pillar of the work of various Local2030 Coalition constituencies, which monitor and report on the progress made on SDG localization through specific tools and mechanisms.

Outcome 3.1: Increased Participation of Local and Subnational Governments as Part of the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews or Existing National Reporting Mechanisms

The Coalition seeks to strengthen the connection between Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) on the SDGs. Through its High Impact Initiative (HII), the Coalition has set an ambitious target: to ensure that in 100 countries, VLRs and the contributions of local and sub-national governments are effectively integrated into VNRs. The Coalition promotes VNRs as key platforms for multi-stakeholder dialogue, such as through the HLPF Local and Regional Governments Forum, and is actively working to scale up such spaces. For instance, in 2024 the Local2030 Coalition has collaborated with various UN entities such as UN DESA, DCO, UN-Habitat, and ECLAC to enhance, consolidate, and align their capacity building and advocacy strategy to strengthen the local component of VNRs through support to UN Country Teams (UNCTs).

As reported by UN-Habitat, 59% of the countries producing a VNR reported medium to high levels of LRG involvement, and 55% have involved their LRGs in one way or another in their national coordination mechanisms. This year, significant progress has been made with VLRs directly linked to VNRs published in 2024. Examples include the contributions from Jordan, Lao PDR, Malawi (in coordination with UN DESA), Mozambique, Nepal, Palestine, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, Thailand, Tunisia, and the UAE.

At the 2024 HLPF, the Local2030 Coalition co-organized the Seventh Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF) together with UN DESA, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), UN-Habitat and UNDP. The Special Event focused on highlighting the critical role of local action and governance in driving the SDG Rescue Plan through the six key SDG transitions. It showcased innovative approaches to local reporting and monitoring, such as the VLRs and VSRs in alignment with VNRs and how they can better contribute to formal UN and HLPF review processes related to the SDGs. The forum acted as a key example of how the Local2030 Coalition, with the support of its member constituencies, is raising awareness on the importance of monitoring and reporting of the SDGs to foster localization.

At WUF12, the topic of monitoring and reporting on SDG localization was also emphasized within the Local2030 Hubs Networking event held on 7 November 2024, co-organized with the Paraná Hub, in which Local2030 Hubs presented insights on how multi-stakeholder collaboration and multi-level governance can foster more impactful monitoring and reporting exercises, particularly through the quadruple helix model.

Outcome 3.2: Increased Use of Participatory Processes to Develop Local and Sub-national SDG Monitoring and Reporting Systems

IIn 2024, the Local2030 Coalition undertook a comprehensive analysis and assessment of existing SDG monitoring mechanisms and tools to identify those that could be scaled up and effectively promoted across various stakeholders.

One example of this is through the work of the Local2030 Hubs, centers of excellence focused on scaling up and replicating best practices on SDG localization. The Local2030 Hubs ensure that the work they undertake related to SDG localization at the local level is monitored and reported so that their results can be effectively communicated. Examples of this include:

1. The Liverpool 2030 Hub, which facilitates an open data platform for the city of Liverpool reporting on each of the 17 SDGs through an open-source methodology that can be replicated in other municipalities and world regions. The platform includes a section on the reporting status of each SDG, underlining which SDGs are under-reported on and which are sufficiently monitored.

2. The Hawaii Green Growth Hub, which facilitates the Aloha+ Dashboard, a mechanism to measure progress and actions towards locally-determined goals through data visualization focused on key local priorities, such as local food production, clean energy consumption, and green workforce and education, among others.

3. The Paraná Hub, which is monitoring the implementation of the SDGs in Paraná's 399 municipalities through the "BI ODS" platform, a platform that provides easy access SDG indicators, enabling public managers and stakeholders to track the progress of relevant targets and goals based on data from the Paraná Institute for Economic and Social Development.

Likewise, the Coalition has been sharing a range of tools and case studies to inspire and support the implementation of monitoring and reporting systems, as well as the development of transformative VLRs. These resources are available through the Local2030 Coalition platform, which features over 30 tools, including the Hawai'i Green Growth Aloha+ Challenge Dashboard, UN-Habitat's Global Urban Monitoring Framework, UNDP's Monitoring Tool for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, and the United Nations Global Compact's guidelines for businesses to report on the SDGs.

At the territorial level, the Coalition has supported multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance reviewing

mechanisms, such as the Basque Country Social Transition and 2030 Agenda Forum, in which it participated in November 2024. This forum reviews the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the Basque Country through a multi-level and multi-stakeholder participation to identify opportunities and gaps and forge public-private alliances to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs by 2030.

Basque Country Social Transition and Agenda2030 Forum in Miñano, Spain. Photo credit: Jon Rodriguez Bilbao

Finally, the Local2030 Coalition monitors how SDG localization is reflected within key UN processes and outcome documents. Throughout 2024, SDG localization, thanks to the efforts of the Local2030 Coalition, its member UN agencies, and partner constituencies, has been referenced as being essential to accelerating the implementation of the SDGs in key political outcome documents. Below is an overview of select references to SDG localization stemming from key multilateral processes.

● 2024 HLPF Ministerial Declaration: SDG localization is explicitly referred to in Clause 34, which commits to strengthening global, regional, national, and local partnerships for sustainable development, recognizing the essential role of local actors in achieving the 2030 Agenda. It also emphasizes enhancing multi-level governance and bottom-up approaches to accelerate SDG implementation.

● UN Pact for the Future:Localization is referenced in Action 6, which stresses integrating the SDGs into local contexts to foster social inclusion and help leave no one and no place behind, as well as Action 55, which focuses on strengthening collaboration with local and regional authorities to drive sustainable development.

● WUF12: The Cairo Call to Action emphasizes SDG localization throughout its text, underscoring the critical need for localization by prioritizing enhanced access to financing for local governments and strengthened capacity for SDG implementation.

GOVERNANCE

Outcome 4.1: Local2030 Coalition's Governance Structure Established and Implemented

The Coalition strengthened its governance mechanisms by revising its operational framework to reflect feedback from key stakeholders. A major milestone was the start of activities in the Secretariat Office in Bilbao, as this fully operational office provides a central hub for strategic coordination and scaling up of high-impact initiatives.

Governance Structure

In April 2024, a revised governance document for the Local2030 Coalition was approved, reflecting feedback gathered from the UN Directors Group Retreat, the Steering Committee, and the Local2030 Hubs. The updated document consolidated all Terms of Reference (Steering Committee, Co-chairs, UN Directors Group, Local2030 Hubs, and Secretariat), providing a cohesive framework to guide the Coalition's operations and decision-making processes.

The 2024 Work Plan

The 2024 Work Plan of the Local2030 Coalition was approved by the Steering Committee during its meeting in Nairobi on 9 May 2024. As part of the preparation process, the Secretariat consulted the UN Directors Group and incorporated feedback gathered during their retreat. Further input was obtained from the Local2030 Hubs and the technical focal points of the Steering Committee, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive approach to developing the plan (Annex 38).

Agreements

● Spanish Hosts of the Secretariat

Following the acceptance of the whole-of-government proposal made by the Government of Spain, the Basque Government, the City of Bilbao and the BBK Foundation, the Local2030 Coalition has concentrated its efforts on operationalizing the Secretariat office in Bilbao.

The Bilbao office aims to energize the work of the Local2030 Coalition and further advance the localization of the SDGs within the UN system and at the territorial and local levels. Its multi-level public-private partnership is maximizing the transformative impact of the Coalition and strengthening its strategic and catalytic capacities.

An important milestone was reached on 16 April 2024 with the signing of an agreement with the Basque Government for the use of premises in Bilbao. The terms of this agreement were agreed by the Basque Government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEUEC) of Spain, and UN-Habitat. The following day, on 17 April, the office underwent a security clearance by UNDSS. Following the implementation of the recommended measures, the office was prepared for occupation.

By 16 September 2024, the office was fully operational and occupied by the Secretariat team, which was relocated to Bilbao, marking a major milestone for the Local2030 Coalition and the advancement of its mission.

● Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Following the signature of the agreement last year, the partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy has been further strengthened following the successful outcomes achieved by the Knowledge and Science Network in 2024. Recognized as a crucial component of the Coalition, the Network facilitates connections between academia and key development actors to drive SDG localization. It was also highlighted as a successful and impactful example by the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General during the HLPF session focused on reporting high-impact initiatives.

Human Resources

With the agreement and funds in place, the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat is staffed with the following team members:

- Senior Programme Officer (P5)
- Programme and Partnerships Manager (P4)
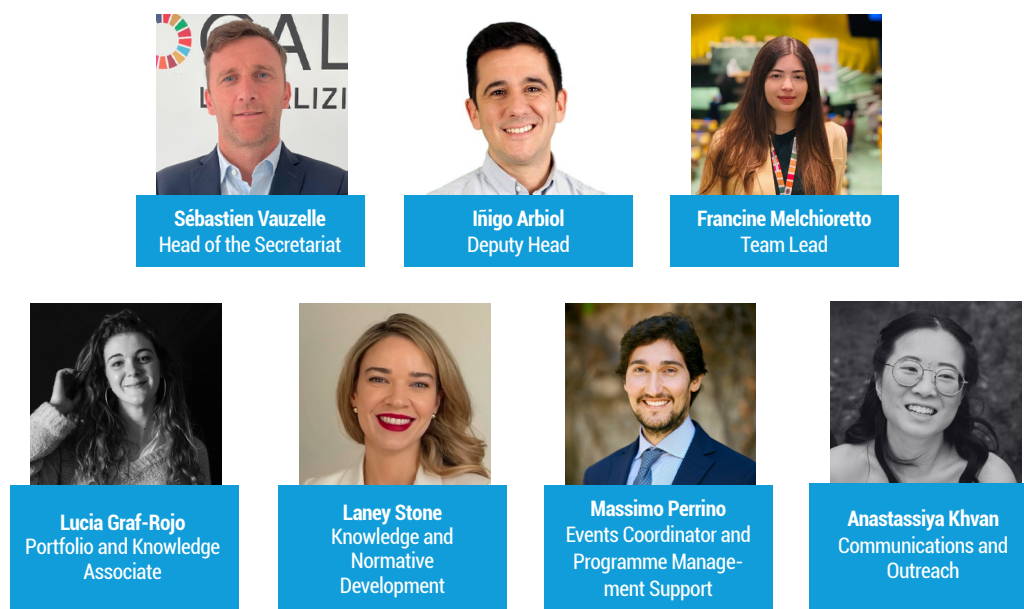
Local2030 Coalition Secretariat team.

- Programme Management Officer (P3)
- Portfolio and Knowledge Management Associate Consultant
- Knowledge and Normative Development Consultant
- Events Coordinator and Programme Management Support Consultant
- Communications and Outreach Consultant

The Coalition is in the process of continuing to staff its Secretariat, and several positions are currently under recruitment:

- Localization Portfolio Coordination and Support (P3)
- Programme Management Assistant (G6)
- National Coordinator

The Local2030 Coalition Secretariat is also developing Terms of Reference to engage several interns and junior consultants, who will be supporting the delivery of key activities.

Partnerships

The Local2030 Coalition has discussed new partnership perspectives with bilateral donors, philanthropies, universities, local government networks, and NGOs during 2024 to promote SDG localization.

USAID

The Local2030 Coalition has further cultivated and developed its partnership with USAID, which has led the way in recognizing the importance of shifting funding to the local level and has set two key targets to guide its pursuit of locally-led development: (1) 25% of funding will go to local impact by 2025; and (2) At least half of USAID programmes will promote space for local actors to exercise leadership over priority setting, activity design, implementation, and defining and measuring results by 2030. The Coalition hopes to leverage this commitment and to engage USAID to encourage similar commitments to localization of donor funding in similar institutions.

The partnership included hosting the joint session at WUF12 detailed above. Building on the discussion and outcomes of the session, a joint compilation of good practices and guidelines on access to financing for local actors to advance the SDGs is under development as a short knowledge product. The product is being drafted with input and collaboration from members of Working Group 2 on financing the SDGs at the local level. In the future, it will be complemented by case studies to be shared on the online searchable repository of resources planned for development in 2025. The Secretariat has also been engaging with the Agency on the potential piloting the use of the Localization Marker in its projects.

EU institutions and Bodies

The partnership between the Local2030 Coalition the EU Committee of the Regions (CoR), and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA/G2) exemplifies the power of collaborative advocacy and technical expertise in embedding localization within global and regional policy

frameworks. The combined efforts of the members of the Coalition and Brussels-based colleagues continue to demonstrate the UN's leadership in SDG localization, further positioning the Coalition as a key partner for the EU.

In 2024, this collaboration has yielded notable advancements, further embedding SDG localization within EU policy and decision-making processes:

● **6 February 2024**: Participation of CoR and DG INT-PA at the UN Directors Group Retreat in a session to discuss SDG Localization trends and how we can work together to coordinate our efforts better.

● **4 June 2024**: Celebration of the first EU-UN Policy Dialogue on SDG Localization, emphasizing shared goals and outlining a roadmap for collaboration (An-nex 34).

● **7 June 2024**: Presentation of outcomes and key messages steaming from the EU-UN Dialogues to the EU Council Working Party on Agenda 2030 in the meeting hosted by the Belgium Presidency, where there was overwhelming support from Member States. Spain, Belgium, Italy, Germany, France, Czech Republic, and Greece were among those that took the floor to highlight the importance of localization and stress the importance of the continued collaboration between the UN and the EU.

● **10 September 2024**: Stakeholder consultation organized by the CoR to refine the EU Strategy with Africa, integrating insights from the Coalition and UN members to strengthen localization strategies.

● **20−21 November 2024**: The CoR unanimously adopted the Opinion: EU Strategy with Africa (paragraphs 16 and 27), highlighting the pivotal role of EU-UN dialogues and advocating for the use of a localization marker.

● **17 December 2024**: Under the Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU, the Coalition is recognized as a reference in the Council conclusion on "The EU beyond the half-way point in implementing the 2030 Agenda: Policy coherence for sustainable development to accelerate progress on the SDG" (paragraph 10).

With localization increasingly recognized as a vital strategy for accelerating SDG implementation, the Local2030 Coalition's efforts in 2025 will focus on deepening collaboration and building on the solid foundation established with the EU. Key priorities for the year include:

● Organizing a second edition of the EU-UN Dialogues for SDG Localization, tentatively scheduled for May 2025, with a focus on localized financing and refining key European messages for the Financing for Development Forum (FfD4).

● Supporting the CoR's advocacy efforts with newly elected Members of the European Parliament to emphasize the importance of localization in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2028−2034).

● Exploring the use of a localization marker as a tool to guide and prioritize discussions with European institutions and bodies.

OECD

The partnership between the OECD and the Local2030 Coalition has been strengthened throughout 2024. As previously reported, the Coalition collaborated with the OECD and the Basque Government to co-organize the 7th OECD Roundtable on Cities and Regions for the SDGs on 29 May 2024. This event brought together key stakeholders to explore innovative solutions for advancing sustainable urban development.

In addition, the OECD has actively participated in several events organized by the Local2030 Coalition, and vice versa, fostering ongoing dialogue and collaboration. The Coalition has also been exploring further opportunities to align with the OECD's work on SDG localization and decentralized development cooperation, aiming to create synergies and enhance collective impact in this critical area.

Development Banks

To support achievement of the High Impact Initiative To support achievement of the High Impact Initiative target "Key [International Financial Institutions] (IFIs) committed to channeling significantly more financing towards the local level," the Coalition Secretariat has also discussed potential collaborations and areas of support with development banks. In 2024, it has engaged extensively in ongoing discussions on potential areas of collaboration with the Finance for the Just Green Energy Transition (FJGET) Joint Initiative, consisting of financial organizations and partners including CAF, IDB, IFC, WB, IDB-Invest, BNDES, ICS, IEU, and BlendGroup.

The Coalition Secretariat explored engagement in substantive planning and contributions to the EGMs; providing substantive input in developing the FJGET Theory of Change, the Just and Green Energy Transition Investment Thesis, guidelines and parameter for pipeline selection; and a project accreditation framework. The Coalition could also play a key role in providing localization context and knowledge as well as supporting the initiative to harmonize its definitions and concepts of the 'just' and 'green' parameters for investment in the energy transition. Coalition members, especially Working Group 2, could provide insight on the assessment and accreditation of projects, as well as building partnerships and collaborations to strategically leverage finance and engage through a co-investment platform and collaborations with private capital on a bond series and investment mechanisms.

While the Joint Initiative has stalled as of the autumn of 2024, the Coalition Secretariat continues to engage the partners to find potential ways to build and bridge engagement with not only IFIs but also the private sector and implementing actors.

Basque Local Actors

Throughout 2024, and particularly since the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat Office in Bilbao became fully operational, with a dedicated team already in place, several meetings have been held with local Basque actors.

The Basque Country has shown a solid commitment to the 2030 Agenda, both as a political champion and a practical example, being recognized as a global leader in the localization of the 2030 Agenda, with numerous mechanisms, initiatives, and tools implemented to advance the localization of the SDGs.

The Basque Country is home to a wide range of local actors who are actively implementing sustainable policies and projects in line with the SDGs. The Local2030 Coalition Secretariat has engaged with many of these stakeholders. In addition to the Basque hosts of the Secretariat (Basque Government, Bilbao City Council, and BBK Foundation), the following can be highlighted:

- Basque Agency for Development Cooperation
- UN Etxea
- Mondragon Corporation
- Mondragon University
- University of Deusto
- UPV (University of the Basque Country)
- Bilbao Metropoli 30 (BM30)
- Ekhilur
- Agirre Lehendakaria Center
- Athletic Club Foundation
- El Correo

Given the extensive list of Basque local actors, the Basque Government is in initial discussions with the Local2030 Coalition to establish a Local2030 Euskadi Hub in the Basque Country. As reported earlier, this Hub will consolidate Basque efforts and strengthen their role as a driver of sustainable development. The Euskadi Hub will create synergies and strengthen their capacity to implement the SDGs locally as well as contribute to the global network by providing resources, insights, strategies, and innovative solutions that could benefit other cities and regions worldwide.

Basque Country Social Transition and Agenda2030 Forum, led by the Lehendakari Iñigo Urkullu, in Miñano, Spain. Photo credit: Jon Rodriguez Bilbao

FUTURE PRIORITIES

Looking ahead, the Local2030 Coalition is transitioning into a new phase focused on impact and scale. With a fully functional Secretariat and enhanced capacity, the Coalition is now primed to drive systemic transformation by fostering connections, identifying and scaling up proven successful local practices, and facilitating collaborations that lead to SDG acceleration. This shift towards actionable, scalable results will focus on operationalizing localization and enabling concrete progress towards the SDGs at the local level. The Coalition's growing capacity, coupled with strengthened partnerships and a clear emphasis on practical solutions positions it to significantly advance the localization agenda and amplify its impact in the years to come.

Specifically, in 2025 the Coalition aims to:

Continue advocacy efforts with a strong focus on operationalizing localization at the country level through UN Country Teams, mainstreaming localization in the upcoming UN Common Country Analysis and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, building capacities for the design and implementation of joint programmes, and promoting Local2030 Flagship Programmes and localization tools from UN supported initiatives in different country contexts, among other approaches.

Expand the SDG Localization Portfolio to include digital transformation pilots and financing innovations. These pilots will explore new pathways for integrating technology into local development plans.

Strengthen inter-agency collaboration through its working groups, producing actionable policy briefs and fostering capacity-building initiatives. These groups will provide practical guidance on overcoming bottlenecks in SDG implementation.

Deepen the collaboration with and between Local2030 Hubs, and further explore the interests expressed by prospective Hubs in Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa to map, scale up, and promote contextualized solutions in these regions, which are currently missing in the Hubs' global representation.

Amplify participation in key global processes, from the preparatory/negotiation stage to the culminating event (e.g., FfD4, HLPF, COP30, World Social Summit), ensuring localization messaging is integrated in the discussions and strategic documents, in a way that enables actionable priorities to advance on the ground.

Revamp the Coalition website as the online space reflecting the Coalition's efforts to pool together resources for operationalizing localization; facilitating dialogue between UN entities and constituencies; making solutions available in the form of tools, online repositories, etc.; and disseminating best practices and success stories.

Expand and strengthen partnerships with key actors, including EU institutions and bodies, USAID, and other international organizations ensuring that these collaborations continue to increase the Coalition's impact. These partnerships will help secure strategic support, advance innovative solutions, and scale up the Coalition's efforts to localize the SDGs globally.

Launch the second pilot phase of the Localization Marker, engaging with IFIs to channel finance towards local action using the Marker. This phase will further test and refine the Marker, helping to direct financial resources more effectively to support localized SDG initiatives and ensure that financing is aligned with local needs and priorities.

Through these actions, the Local2030 Coalition reaffirms its commitment to empowering UN entities and its constituencies, i.e. the stakeholders of local development, fostering multi-level partnerships, and driving transformative change for the achievement of the SDGs. By building on its 2024 achievements, the Coalition is well-positioned to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda, including the six transitions and the Pact for the Future, as well as the Paris Agreement and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, in the coming years.

"The Local2030 Coalition exemplifies the United Nations's commitment to uniting diverse stakeholders in addressing global challenges, beginning with the local communities and cities where transformative change occurs."

Anacláudia Rossbach
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN Summit of the Future's Action Days