



Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF) on the 2030 Agenda

“Governing in partnership: powering a Local SDG Rescue Plan”

Special High-Level Event on the occasion of the 2024 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

11 July, 10:00 - 1:00PM - UNHQ

DRAFT Concept Note

Updated on 13 June 2024

Background

- At the [2023 SDG Summit](#), leaders recognized the need for accelerated action to rescue the SDGs, and committed to taking transformative steps at all levels to overcome the crises and obstacles facing our world.
- From rising inequalities to the climate crisis, our world needs to act swiftly and decisively to ensure that no one and no place is left behind and that the aspirations of our communities and future generations are safeguarded. This will require a shift in the way we structure our societies, our production and consumption systems and our governance mechanisms. Local and regional governments, as the closest level of government to communities, are vital players in ensuring that people and the planet are protected through local public service provision and have to be fully involved in the achievement of the global agendas.
- Drawing on analysis of SDG implementation to date, including the [Global Sustainable Development Report](#) (GSDR), the UN system has identified the need for synergies-based approaches to SDG implementation, focusing particularly on key transitions — food, energy, digitalization, education, social protection and jobs, and biodiversity protection — easing the access to financing for the SDGs, and translating the commitments made in the 2023 political declaration into concrete policies on the ground. As recalled in the 2023 GSDR, local and regional governments have been especially active in engaging with the SDGs through innovative action, recalling that the SDGs can only be achieved if contextualized at local and regional levels.
- In the [2023 SDG Summit political declaration](#), Member States recognized the importance of partnerships for SDG localization and sustainable urbanization, calling for multilevel coordination to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and to urgently transform the international finance architecture. To this end, during the [2023 SDG Action Weekend](#), the organized constituency of local and regional governments presented multi-stakeholder high-impact

coalitions, aimed at speeding up the SDG rescue plan by mobilizing political commitment to scale-up local action with global impact. Also, the [Local2030 Coalition was identified as one of the 12 High-Impact Initiatives](#) aimed at harnessing transformative progress and leadership and investment to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, with the [Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments](#) included as a key initiative.

The 2024 Local and Regional Governments Forum

- 2024 is a key year for the local and regional government constituency as it is the year in which the UN's Summit of the Future will be taking place, meant to forge a "new global consensus" on what our shared future should look like, and what can be done today to secure it. The local and regional government constituency has been actively involved in the Summit of the Future process ensuring ways to strengthen engagement between local and regional governments and the UN System through the Local Authorities Major Group and through the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments to the United Nations Secretary General.
- As we approach the [Summit of the Future](#) as the space for the renewal of the multilateral system and through a more enabling global financial architecture, the HLPF will be building on previous and coming milestones, such as the [Financing for Development Forum](#), the [SIDS conference](#), the [World Urban Forum](#) and the [COP](#), among others.
- Within this context, the Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF), a Special Event to be held during the 2024 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), will illustrate the interconnected importance and breadth of local action and governing in partnership to power the SDG Rescue plan through the six key SDG transitions.
- Building on this legacy, during this edition of the LRGF special emphasis will be given to building up high-impact coalitions led by local and regional governments, as transformative and multisectoral partnerships, drivers of progress and future-oriented.
- A special focus will be given to the five SDGs under review in the 2024 HLPF: SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the Goals). The LRGF will delve into the interconnection between these SDGs effective implementation with multilevel cooperation.
- The role of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) in fostering policy transformation towards the achievement of the SDGs will be highlighted, as well as their connection with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- This Special Event will be an opportunity for the constituency of local and regional governments to share key messages and inputs towards the Summit of the Future, to be held in September 2024, and the [World Social Summit](#), to be held in 2025. The Local and Regional Governments Forum will therefore bring together local, regional, and national governments as well as representatives from the United Nations and other stakeholders to discuss how high-impact localization policies, partnerships, multilevel governance and financing can close the gap in the implementation of the SDGs.

Objectives:

The objective of the 2024 LRGF is to showcase effective localization policies and high impact coalitions led by the local and regional government constituency, in relation to the SDGs under review at the 2024 HLPF, and with a particular focus on the SDG Rescue Plan and the links of the 2030 Agenda with the Summit of the Future. The LRGF will aim at featuring innovative

advancements in local reporting and monitoring initiatives such as the VLRs and VSRs in connection to VNRs, as well as to foster multilevel governance and partnerships among different spheres of government, the international community and other stakeholders towards closing the gap on SDG implementation.

Organizers: UN DESA, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), UN-Habitat, UNDP and Local 2030 Coalition.

Thematic Focus:

In light of the SDGs under review at the 2024 HLPF, and through the multilevel governance perspective, the LRGF will focus on the following four themes:

A multilateral system and renewed financial architecture fit for our common future: governing in partnership to rescue the SDGs

Issues to be discussed: Summit of the Future, possible outcomes of relevance for local governments and the role of the Advisory Group of the [UN Secretary General on Local and Regional Governments](#) (AGLRG), renewed multilateral system, renewed finance architecture towards the Financing for Development Summit in 2025, the relationship between spheres of government and other stakeholders, multilevel governance, high-impact SDG partnerships, means of engagement of LRGs in the multilateral system.

SDGs in focus: In-depth review of SDG 17

A renewed global social agenda to end hunger and poverty and foster social inclusion: new essential local public services to leave no one behind

SDGs in focus: In-depth review of SDGs 1 and 2

Issues to be discussed: caring systems, ending hunger, innovation in public services delivery, governance and access to water and sanitation at local level, food systems and the right to food, current and future demographic trends, human mobility, housing, education, healthcare, digital divide, social justice, future of work, the 2025 World Social Summit, accessibility to city services for all.

High ambition partnerships for climate action: achieving the ecological transformation and accelerating Nationally Determined contributions through multilevel cooperation

SDGs in focus: In-depth review of SDG 13

Issues to be discussed: ecological transformation, urban resilience, loss and damages, partnerships, climate finance, transportation, rural-urban continuum, urban disaster risk reduction, climate justice, desertification, heating cities, ocean life.

Renewing trust and engagement in our communities: local democracy, inclusive governance and sustainable development as local building blocks of peace and conflict prevention

SDGs in focus: In-depth review of SDG 16

Issues to be discussed: peacebuilding, community building, strong institutions at all levels, decentralization, local democracy, trust, human rights, local democracy, participatory processes and budgeting, youth participation, multi-stakeholder approaches, SDG Rescue Plan.

Draft Agenda

10:00 - 10:30 - A renewed multilateral system and financial architecture fit for our common future: governing in partnership to rescue the SDGs

- **H.E. Dennis Francis**, President of the United Nations General Assembly
- **H.E. Paula Narváez**, President of the Economic and Social Council
- **Mr. Uğur İbrahim Altay**, Mayor of Konya (Türkiye)

10:30 - 11:10 - Panel 1: A renewed global social agenda to end hunger and poverty and foster social inclusion: new essential local public services to leave no one behind

Chaired by **Ms. Ana Lucía Reis Melena**, Mayor of Cobija (Bolivia), President of the Association of Municipalities of Bolivia

Opening remarks: **Mr. Navid Hanif**, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Local and Regional Government Representatives

- **Mr. Ababacar Kalifa Ndao**, President of the Department of Dagana (Senegal)
- **Mr. Jorge Macri**, Mayor of Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- **Mr. Richard Calderón**, Prefect of Imbabura, Representative of CONGOPE (Ecuador)
- **Mr. Vítor Aleixo**, Mayor of Loulé (Portugal)
- Representative of the National League of Cities (United States) (TBC)
- **Mr. Bernd Vöhringer**, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

Member State Representatives

- Spain
- Brazil

Commitment announcement on SDG 1 & 2 by **Ms. Eider Inunciaga**, Councillor of Bilbao (Spain)

11:10 – 11:50 - Panel 2: High ambition partnerships for climate action: achieving the ecological transformation and accelerating Nationally Determined Contributions through multilevel cooperation

Chaired by **Mr. Berry Vrbanovic**, Mayor of Kitchener (Canada)

Opening remarks: **Mr. Michal Mlynár**, Assistant Secretary-General and UN-Habitat Acting Executive Director

Local and Regional Government Representatives:

- **Mr. Ravi Bhalla**, Mayor of Hoboken (United States of America)
- **Ms. Nicole Unterseh**, Deputy Mayor of Bonn (Germany)
- **Mr. Mauricio Vila Dosal**, Governor of Yucatan (Mexico)
- **Mr. Axel Schmidt Grael**, Mayor of Niterói (Brazil)
- **Mr. Marcelo Metediera**, Mayor of Canelones (Uruguay)

Member State Representatives

- **Ms. Mara Cossu**, Deputy Head of Unit Instruments and Technologies for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Environment and Energy Security, Italy
- Cabo Verde

Commitment announcement on SDG 13 by **Ms. Clare Hart**, Vice-president of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole (France)

11:50 – 12:30 - Panel 3: Renewing trust and engagement in our communities: local democracy, inclusive institutions and sustainable development as local building blocks of peace and conflict prevention

Chaired by **Ms. Fatiha El Moudni**, Mayor of Rabat (Morocco)

Opening remarks: **Ms. Shoko Noda**, Assistant Secretary-General and Director of the UNDP Crisis Bureau

Local and Regional Government Representatives

- **Ms. Maria José García-Pelayo Jurado**, Mayor of Jerez de la Frontera (Spain), President of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces
- **Mr. Issa Kassis**, Mayor of Ramallah (Palestine)
- **Mr. Kelvin Cruz Cáceres**, Mayor of La Vega (Dominican Republic), President of the Dominican Federation of Municipalities
- **Mr. Kuvanychbek Kongantiev**, Chairman of Bishkek City Council (Kyrgyzstan)
- **Mr. Fernando Gray**, Mayor of Esteban Echeverría (Argentina)

Member State Representatives

- Canada
- Honduras
- European Union

Commitment announcement on SDG 16 by **Ms. Elisenda Alamany**, Vice President of the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (Spain)

12: 30 - 13:00 - Closing

- **Co-chair**, Local 2030 Coalition
- **Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, President of Nouakchott Region (Mauritania) and Co-chair of the Advisory Group of the UN SG on Local and Regional Governments
- Representative of ORU Fogar
- **Global Taskforce**