



High Level Political Forum 2021
Side Event

Local2030

*Accelerate Post-Pandemic Recovery and SDG Localization
through joined up local action*

15 July 2021 | 1pm – 3.30pm EDT | Virtual event
@Local2030 #Local2030

Topic Advancing the localization of the SDGs for an inclusive, resilient and sustainable post-COVID-19 pandemic recovery, specifically in urban environments, and through multi-level and multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Context It is widely acknowledged that the achievement of the SDGs by the horizon 2030 will highly depend on local action and local leadership. To respect the transformative potential of the Agenda 2030, the SDGs need to be fully realized at local level – they need to be *localized*.

At the same time, cities and local governments are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. They have important responsibilities not just in the immediate response to this crisis, but also in leading the recovery from its socio-economic impact.

COVID-19 is widening existing spatial, social, and economic inequalities in cities and communities, making the virus more harmful in a self-perpetuating negative spiral. However, it is widely acknowledged that we cannot just strive to re-gain the pre-pandemic status quo. To become more resilient to future crises—be they disease outbreaks or climate-related disasters, cities and communities must address longstanding inequalities, nurture local economies, and strengthen sustainability.

Addressing COVID-19 in an increasingly urbanized world requires a focus on how urbanization shapes development processes and longer-term recovery. Sustainable urbanization can accelerate progress towards the social, environmental and economic dimensions of the 2030 Agenda.

Achieving the SDGs and recovering from COVID-19 are two sides of the same coin. The Agenda 2030 represents the framework of reference that countries and territories should use to orient their recovery efforts. Indeed, by reducing vulnerabilities,



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increasing access to services, driving job creation and growth, and creating a liveable environment for all we are able to recover from the pandemic while advancing towards the achievement of the Global Goals.

Cities' administrations, local and subnational governments have a significant role to play in this process. They have the power to plan for and control the ways our cities change and grow and are the closest point of interaction with local communities providing key basic public services and development opportunities. Cities and local governments are the actors driving the localization of the SDGs.

Nevertheless, to boost and harness the potential of SDG localization for post-COVID-19 recovery, cities, local governments and communities cannot act alone. Coordination, dialogue and mutual support between local and central governments is essential along with engagement with partners from different sectors – such as civil society and businesses. Multi-level and multi-stakeholder partnerships are the key to ensure the SDG are localized and the recovery is sustainable, green and inclusive.

Against this background, the United Nations have created the Local 2030 as a platform for the convergence of networks of local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations and other local actors, and the United Nations system.

Local 2030 seeks to foster collaboration, incubate innovation, share solutions, and implement strategies that advance the SDG localization, leveraging on rapid urbanization processes happening around the globe to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

Participants Member states, local and regional governments and their associations, UN agencies, businesses (including small and medium-sized enterprises, social enterprises, and major corporations), finance, academic and civil society leaders, youth, entrepreneurs and solution-makers.

Format The event will consist of a high-level keynote; an opening panel and two thematic moderated panel discussions.

Focus will be on highlighting innovations in implementation and financing for the SDGs (Panel 1) as well as new monitoring and reporting processes inspiring evidence-based policy development and long-term SDG localization strategies (Panel 2).

The event will be fully virtual and accessible to pre-registered participants. The audience will be able to interact via chat. The event will be held in English.



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Agenda

JULY - starts at 1 PM EDT	
Master of Ceremony: Lara Blanco, Deputy Director, Sustainable Development Unit, Executive Office of the Secretary General	
Time	Session
Segment 1: Laying the foundations of the Local2030	
1.00pm – 1.15pm (15 min)	<p>Introduction Maimunah Mohd Sharif, UN-Habitat Executive Director, introduces Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina Mohamed</p> <p>Keynote speech Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations on <i>Reinvigorating joint commitments at national and local level for localizing the SDGs and an inclusive, resilient and sustainable recovery.</i></p>
1.15pm-1.45pm (30min)	<p>Opening panel Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marco Ricci, Plenipotentiary Minister, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs • Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General • Celeste Connors, Executive Director, Hawai'i Local2030 Hub • Fernanda de Arruda Camargo, Founding Partner, Wright Capital Wealth Management
Segment 2: Multilevel and multi-stakeholder collaboration for localizing the SDGs: inspiring a green, just, and inclusive recovery at local level.	
1.45pm – 2.30pm (45min)	<p>Recovering better: innovative and sustainable financing for SDG Localization</p> <p>COVID-19 pandemic is reversing years of development gains. Innovative and integrated solutions must be identified to accelerate progresses towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, specifically at local level.</p> <p>Early best practices and lessons learned with SDG localization can inform the post-COVID-19 recovery period.</p> <p>Worldwide, pandemic lockdowns and restrictions have affected the economies of countries and territories. Early on during the outbreak, most financing efforts focused on the immediate response to the pandemic. As countries and cities move towards building back better, the question on how to finance a sustainable recovery is at the center of the global and local debates.</p> <p>There is an urgent need to boost mobilization, alignment and impact on the SDGs of all sources of finance, including domestic resources and ODA in line with existing commitments, as well as South-South and Triangular co-operation</p>

	<p>initiatives, blended and private sector financing. Well-designed, transparent and country-led financing frameworks are key for the implementation of national and sub-national sustainable development strategies.</p> <p>Gathering partners from different levels and sectors, the panel will provide an opportunity to discuss innovative practices on implementing and financing SDG localization, in the context of the COVID-19 recovery.</p> <p>Moderator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thomas Beloe, Deputy Director Finance Sector Hub, UNDP <p>Introductory remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preeti Sinha, Executive Secretary, United Nations Development Capital Fund <p>Speakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nana Yaw, Principal Economist, Ministry of Finance, Ghana • Hançerli, Mayor of Avcılar, Turkey • Émilie Maehara, Director of Programs, Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) • Katarzyna Wawiernia, United Nations Resident Coordinator (ai), Sao Tome & Principe • Ana Claudia Rossbach, Regional Adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cities Alliance <p>Q&A</p>
<p>2.30pm – 3.15pm (45 minutes)</p>	<p><u>SDG monitoring and reporting for long-term development planning.</u></p> <p>The capacity to adapt to the new context imposed by the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic also depends on our capacity to monitor, report and learn from past and present development initiatives.</p> <p>The question of monitoring and reporting has recently become more and more central in the global debate on sustainable development and post-pandemic recovery. At the local level, for cities and local governments, this question is often a difficult one due to the lack of access to adequate data and resources. Nevertheless, a global movement for SDG monitoring at local level is rapidly growing thanks to the emergence of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). VLRs are gradually establishing themselves as the main tools for local and regional</p>

governments to monitor and report on their development advances. Despite VLRs are not the *final solution* to the complex issue of territorial sustainable development, over the last years, they have proven to be an important accelerator of the localization of the SDGs – inspiring both practical SDG implementation as well as the global debate on sustainability.

Many local governments have been active in collecting quantitative data and in creating new information at city level, often complementing missing data at national level. They have done so in collaboration with national statistical offices, creating new opportunities for enhancing multilevel collaboration. At the same time, SDG monitoring has been the opportunity to involve communities and vulnerable groups in the assessment of development performances, hence and bringing them closer to decision-making and placing their priorities at the center of strategic planning. Moreover, through participatory and inclusive processes, cities and local governments were able to collect new non-traditional and inclusive data.

Last but not least, the process of monitoring and reporting on SDG at local level, including VLRs, has proven essential to enhance policy coherence. Cities were able to strengthen multilevel policy alignment by adjusting existing local strategies and plans, hence improving efficiency of delivery and effectiveness of development.

The panel will be the occasion to hear the experiences, perspectives and reflections of partners from the globe on the key question of SDG monitoring and reporting. Tapping into the ever growing VLR global movement, the session will look into specific practices linked to the VLR process. In addition, the focus will be on how to improve monitoring and reporting at local level: which support is needed to local governments; how to ensure the multilevel collaboration needed; and which is the role of communities and territorial stakeholders.

Moderator

- **Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief, Urban Practices Branch at UN-Habitat

Introductory Remarks

- **Amson Sibanda**, Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch UNDESA

Speakers

- **Eng. Lamia Al-Zoubi**, Director of the Evaluation and Impact Assessment Unit, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
- **Dr. Steven Heddle**, Spokesperson, COSLA Environment and Economy

LOCAL 2030

LOCALIZING THE SDGS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ana Patricia Graça, United Nations Resident Coordinator, Cabo Verde• Marco Zupi, Deputy Director, Center for International Politics Studies (CESPI), Italy Q&A
3.15 – 3.30pm (15min)	Closing Maimunah Mohd Sharif , Executive Director, UN-Habitat