

Local and Regional Governments' Forum – 2018 HLPF Draft Concept Note and Preliminary Programme



16 July 2018 - 10-1pm, 3-6pm
Conference Room 2 UNHQ New York

Background

In 2018, the High-Level Political Forum – the United Nation’s central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda – will focus on the theme, “Transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies”. Sustainable Development Goals 6 [Clean Water and Sanitation], 7 [Affordable and Clean Energy], 11 [Sustainable Cities and Communities], 12 [Sustainable Consumption and Production], 15 [Life on Land], and 17 [Partnerships for the Goals] will be under in-depth review.

While the inclusion of a stand-alone goal on Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) highlights the importance of municipal and regional solutions for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, the successful implementation of SDG 11 will also have widespread and cross-cutting significance on most of the other SDGs.

Paragraph 89 of the 2030 Agenda ensures that the High-Level Political Forum supports the participation of local governments in follow-up and review processes. Local and regional governments have a wealth of valuable experience in the “localization” of the 2030 Agenda, where they provide leadership in the mobilization of a wide range of stakeholders, the facilitation of “bottom-up” and inclusive processes, and the formation of multi-stakeholder partnerships. This work directly supports the transformation towards sustainable and resilient societies, the thematic focus of the 2018 HLPF.

Objectives

Given the important role that local and regional governments play in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a Local and Regional Governments Forum will be organized during the 2018 HLPF, in partnership with leading urban and regional development organizations, with the following objectives:

- Highlight the cross-cutting and cross-sectoral nature of SDG 11 with the local dimension of all other SDGs, and the important role that local and regional governments play in its implementation;
- Demonstrate the importance of the urban/territorial lens in accelerating implementation of all 17 SDGs;
- Share concrete experiences, key challenges, and best practices of local implementation of the 2030 Agenda spearheaded by local and regional governments;
- Provide a space for interaction and nurturing new collaborations between local and regional governments and Member States, to better coordinate strategies for SDG implementation at all levels of government;
- Explore opportunities for enhancing national level reporting on SDGs (VNRs) through local level implementation, follow-up and review;
- Explore opportunities for strengthening regional coordination mechanisms on the monitoring and reporting of SDG targets under Goal 11

Co-organizers

The Local and Regional Governments' Forum is co-organized by UN-DESA, UN-Habitat, and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

Preliminary Programme

Representatives of local and regional governments, Member States, and other stakeholders will be invited to contribute with their experiences, including challenges, and key opportunities on the following themes:

10am-10:30am: Opening

Opening statements and setting the scene: High-Level Panel

10:30am-1:00pm: Morning session

Session theme: Localization of the 2030 Agenda - Local and regional governments' work towards implementation of the SDGs

Panel 1: SDG 11 and its interlinkages with the other SDGs under in-depth review: progress and key challenges for implementation

- Concrete initiatives of implementation by local and regional governments, examined through case studies directly related to the implementation of SDG 11 and the other SDGs, including examples of efforts which address multiple SDGs simultaneously

Panel 2: Local and regional governments' engagement in the preparation of Voluntary National Reviews

- Best practices and examples from past and 2018 Voluntary National Reviews

Panel 3: The importance of integrated territorial planning to achieving the SDGs

- Examples of how multi-level (local, regional, state, national, global) governance on land use planning, resiliency, disaster risk reduction, transportation, and water and sanitation promotes the reduction of territorial inequalities and accelerates efforts to leave no one behind

3:00-5:55pm: Afternoon session

Session theme: Innovative Means for Local Implementation of the SDGs

Panel 4: Rethinking sub-national financing systems to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda

- Exploration of options for local financing beyond traditional measures

Panel 5: Local & sub-national monitoring of the SDGs

- The importance of municipal and regional data collection, including available tools and mechanisms for localized data collection

Panel 6: Synergies and coherent implementation of multiple international agreements at the local level

- Local strategies for coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, the Sendai Framework, Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries

5:55-6:00pm: Closing

Key messages and take-aways