



**GLOBAL
TASKFORCE**
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS

**STATEMENT OF
THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENTS CONSTITUENCY
TO THE HLPF 2019
GATHERED IN THE GLOBAL TASKFORCE**



Statement of the organized constituency of local and regional governments gathered at the 2019 High-Level Political Forum

New York, 15 July 2019



Local Acceleration to achieve the global agendas

The Development Agendas that were adopted throughout 2015 and 2016 are ambitious in their scope, and they represent our hopes that we can improve the way in which we live and work to preserve our planet for future generations.

The constituency of local and regional governments (LRGs) share the sense of urgency expressed by the United Nations Secretary General regarding their achievement as well as the sense of responsibility vis a vis the communities we represent.

We believe our current patterns of consumption and production, the way we are using resources, a visible drive against gender equality and women’s rights and the growing inequalities make our societies vulnerable and are incompatible with the achievement of the SDGs.

The local and regional movement toward the ‘localization’ of global agendas is progressively expanding to all the regions. It is a testimony of the strength of our commitment. With the mandate received from our communities, as the level of government closest to the people, we are committed to play a leadership role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and reinforce the synergies with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and the Paris Agreement, and to accelerate the realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women to transform our world. We are committed to act and accelerate implementation, and we believe that the LRGs associations, as leverage institutions, are crucial to achieve this.

We are aware that we cannot do it alone. We call on governments and international institutions to embolden their ambitions and accelerate the pace of the needed transformations. To upscale efforts, we need greater cooperation and the national and international coordination mechanisms, as well as enough resources, to make this possible.



Local and regional action is already in place to achieve the SDGs

SDG 4

Local and regional governments are already contributing to quality education through public service provision, creating a learning environment at local level to foster inclusion, human rights and peace values, and working to provide a long-life education cycle in cities and territories. Supporting schools, extra scholar activities, vocational training, arts and culture, and organized civil society to foster local creativity for the achievement of this vital goal that will shape the lives of future generations and of our planet. LRGs are currently mobilizing, articulating and forging partnerships between different local actors in education in their territories, such as academia, civil society organizations, and the private sector, and pushing for innovative initiatives that are both transforming cities and contributing to the 2030 Agenda.

SDG 8

Promoting inclusive local economic development and enabling decent work as complementary and mutually reinforcing policies is at the heart of city and territorial development. Cities and metropolitan areas are globally acknowledged as ‘engines of growth’ but risk becoming engines of precarious work if the appropriate rights-based and inclusive local policies are not in place to promote decent work and

opportunities for all. LRGs have a role to strengthen their local economy, invest in local economic development to foster technological innovation, support the green and circular economy, facilitate the sharing and social economy, promote local culture and products, as well as better integration of informal activities and urban-rural partnerships. Local governments as important local employers and procurers of services have a role to play in ensuring social dialogue and enforcement of labour rights.

SDG 10

Inequality within countries has been the growing transversal challenge upsetting social cohesion both across and within cities and territories resulting in higher economic, social and environmental threats. Climate change in particular does not impact territories equally. Based on their responsibilities, local and regional governments are bringing out the message of inclusion and solidarity to reduce inequalities and increase gender equality through different dimensions, namely through more inclusive urban designs, neighborhood regeneration, better access to basic services, improved mobility, gender integration, safer and greener public spaces, and improved urban-rural cooperation. City networks are particularly active in the protection of human rights, which are inherent to the principle of the 'Right to the city' and to the local responsiveness of local policies to global migration phenomena

SDG 13

Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of climate action and driving change in global negotiations for over two decades. Our collective mobilization has changed the narrative and represented an important push towards the adoption of the Paris Agreement, our commitment to measurable actions is being consolidated. The means to be pro-active and the benefits of climate action are not equitably distributed. Promotion of circular economy and a zero-emission society will necessitate a global change of consumption and production patterns that go well beyond climate action alone. There is a full ecological transition that needs to be led and owned by the communities if we want it to succeed.

SDG 16

The fundamental contribution of local and regional governments lies in the daily task of ensuring access to quality public services for all, in building transparent and accountable local institutions, in taking proactive measures to end violence and discriminatory policies, and to recover trust in public institutions. Promoting peace and coexistence in our communities, reducing inequality in access to justice and local opportunities in all environments, including schools, work, domestic and public spaces, is at the core of local public action. In the past decade, a number of LRGs have explored new ways to co-create and co-produce cities through participatory processes and the implementation of Open Government policies as a way to improving satisfaction and trust in public administration and as a basis for a renewed social contract.

SDG 17

The involvement of local and regional governments in the monitoring and reporting processes of the global agendas' progress is ongoing agendas is increasing, but it is still widely insufficient, as shown by this year's report released by the GTF on behalf of the constituency.

While local and regional governments are working day in and day out towards the achievement of the goals, there is a clear necessity to transform governance and leadership at all levels to make true progress. We need to strengthen fora for multi-stakeholder engagement and both multi-level governance and the multilateral system must evolve towards a "governing in partnership" model.

Local and regional governments need to be regularly consulted by and where possible associated with national mechanisms created or nominated by national governments, to strengthen the coordination of the implementation strategy at all levels. The involvement of local and regional governments in the monitoring and reporting of the 2030 agenda is still limited and need to be strengthened, with the support of voluntary local reviews that are already being developed by frontrunner cities and regions.

The commitment of LRGs to international cooperation as a leverage policy to achieve the SDGs and to meet the gap between territories needs wider recognition, as well as city-to-city and triangular cooperation.

The way forward

Our commitments:

We are committed to further the agenda on localization and to champion the 2030 Agenda, building on the Seville Commitment to cement a local-global movement that can provide the bold transformative leadership that the SDGs call for, and provide dialogue among different spheres of government to make them a reality.

We strive to foster dialogue with all stakeholders in particular through the Local 2030 initiative, and to mobilize a multi-level coalition around localization, which can accelerate our efforts, while setting enabling national frameworks that empower local actors to develop and lead their own strategies aligned with the SDGs.

We are committed to aligning our strategies with the SDGs and to develop voluntary local reviews that can help assess progress and showcase innovation.

Our hopes:

We are encouraged by the development of the Political Declaration of the SDG Summit, that will be held in September 2019, which highlights the need to bolster local action to accelerate the implementation of the global goals, to mobilize adequate and well-directed financing, and that acknowledges that local action is indispensable and that cities, regions and local governments are essential partners in the transformation of our communities. We welcome both the acknowledgment of localization, as well as the coordinated and coherent support from the UN System to local, regional and national governments that are part of this process.

We look forward to the consolidation of the Local and Regional Governments Forum co-organized by our constituency for the first 2018 HLPF as a critical space for dialogue between LRGs, Member States, and the UN system involved in the definition, implementation and follow-up of this agenda.

We are committed to furthering our work in this space. We are working to ensure that the next iteration of the LRGF in the framework of the SDG Summit becomes a recurrent space for dialogue among local, regional and national governments to ensure no one, and no place, is left behind.

As we are gearing up for the SDG Summit, it is vital to reiterate that local and regional governments are indispensable and integral to this task. As an organized constituency, and the level of government closest to citizens, LRGs are committed to leave no-one, no place and no territory behind. We call on national governments and the international community to recognise us as partners in transformation and to truly embrace local governance and territorial cohesion in the global effort leave no-one and no place behind.



