

# Local and Regional Governments' Networking Hub

*15 July, 18:30 – Millennium Hilton New York One UN Plaza, Riverview Room*

## Background

**Democratic backsliding, political instability, and fragmented diplomacy threaten progress towards the 2030 Agenda.** To secure a more sustainable, inclusive, and equitable future, world leaders must renew their commitment to the principles of collaboration and cooperation.

**Local and regional governments (LRGs) have consistently upheld these values**, showing steadfast commitment to the localization of the SDGs through cross-border cooperation, innovative adaptation of global goals to local contexts, and creative strategies to mobilize resources. From health care (SDG 3) and gender equality (SDG 5), to decent work and inclusive local economies (SDG 8), and the protection of marine ecosystems (SDG 14), LRGs translate global ambitions into everyday action rooted in the realities of communities.

**This leadership is increasingly acknowledged**, but not at the pace that current crises demand. The urgency of environmental degradation and deepening inequalities calls for accelerated integration of local governments into national and international policy and decision-making frameworks.

**The year 2025 offers key opportunities to close this gap.** Major multilateral milestones provide critical entry points to foster coherence and shared ownership across all levels of government. Within this context, the 2025 High-Level Political Forum and the Local and Regional Governments' Networking Hub will serve as strategic spaces to consolidate and amplify this momentum. By convening local leaders and global partners, the Networking Hub will reinforce the centrality of local action in the governance of sustainable development and make the case for multilevel cooperation as the path forward.

## The 2025 Local and regional governments' Networking Hub

**The Local and Regional Governments' Networking Hub** at the 2025 HLPF will be a key space for dialogue, exchange, and strategy-building among LRGs and their partners committed to localizing the 2030 Agenda. Conscious that only through collective action and multilevel cooperation can the SDGs be achieved, the Hub will gather local and regional leaders, networks, and allies to assess progress and shape future pathways.

The first segment will present the **9th report on "Towards the Localization of the SDGs"** (GTF/UCLG 2025), offering a comprehensive overview of LRG contributions to sustainable development and outlining key policy recommendations. It will also provide an updated analysis of LRG engagement in the localization of the four SDGs under review at the 2025 HLPF

(SDGs 3, 5, 8, and 14), highlighting trends, gaps, and transformative practices emerging from territories worldwide.

A second segment will focus on the **Cities Countdown to 2030**, the local governments' collective commitment to driving the SDG agenda in the coming years. This space will allow for operational discussion on next steps for enhancing policy coherence, resource mobilization, and international recognition of local leadership in the final phase of the Agenda and beyond.

The Hub will also feature a **marketplace of initiatives**, providing GTF networks and their members an opportunity to present impactful experiences, tools, and partnerships, accelerating action for sustainable development in the final stretch to 2030. This interactive segment will showcase replicable practices and foster peer learning.

The Local and Regional Governments' Networking Hub will be followed by the traditional **GTF reception hosted by UCLG**.

## Draft agenda

### Welcoming remarks

**Presentation of the GTF Annual Report 2025 *Towards the localization of the SDGs: main findings and steps forward***

**The bottom-up push towards 2030: progress, challenges and opportunities around SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 14 (Life Below Water)**

- *Beyond narrow approaches to health and towards holistic, locally grounded action for the well-being of everyone*
- *Mainstreaming gender equality at the core of all local policies*
- *LRGs and workers' unions as key actors in granting decent work conditions for all and the fostering of truly inclusive economic growth*
- *Protecting life below water starts from the local level. LRGs as creators of sustainable and prosperous marine and human ecosystems*

### The Cities Countdown to 2030

### Memorandum of understanding with UN Youth Office