

# **Second High Level Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda**

*“Connecting global ambition and local action”*

Special High-Level Event on the occasion of the United Nations SDG Summit 2019

*24<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 15:00 – 18:00*

*Conference Room 3, United Nations Headquarters, New York*

**Hosted by Cameroon**

## **CONCEPT NOTE**

### **Background**

When adopting the 2030 Agenda, United Nations Member States committed to working closely with local and regional governments on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). From metropolises to small cities, local and regional governments and their associations have been actively localizing the 2030 Agenda, bringing the SDGs closer to the people they serve.

Localization is not merely the implementation of the global goals in local contexts. It is an ownership process whereby local and regional governments play a catalytic role harnessing local opportunities, priorities and ideas. Cities, and local and regional governments are also ideally placed to mobilize local communities, civil society, the private sector and other local stakeholders in joining efforts to contribute to this unique and truly transformative agenda. The localization of the 2030 Agenda is crucial for achieving the SDGs. Over 60% of the targets rely on action at the local and regional spheres and on the delivery and provision of public services, ranging from access to water and sanitation, to decent housing, and mobility and public transport.

A ground-up implementation, as well as ownership of the 2030 Agenda is required if the ambitious global goals, including those of the Paris and Sendai Agreements are to be achieved. Local and regional governments share the sense of urgency regarding the achievement of the 2030 Agenda as well as the sense of responsibility vis a vis the communities they represent. The localization of the 2030 Agenda can trigger the type of transformation needed to address the climate challenge. A growing number of cities and regions are embracing the SDGs and climate commitments as tools to articulate and promote integrated local policies. The constituency of local and regional governments is collecting cases and monitoring progress in a yearly Report on LRGs’ Localization of the SDGs which is presented to the HLPF. Furthermore, there is a growing number of cities that are presenting Voluntary Local Reviews, and training materials on localization are increasingly being produced and shared by the national, regional and global networks. In general, mayors, governors and local public officers are increasingly committed to leaving no one and no place behind, to address the current climate challenge, and to achieve the New Urban Agenda, which is central in the achievement of the SDGs.

In 2018, [the First Forum of Local and Regional Governments on the 2030 Agenda](#), organized by the United Nations and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, was hosted during the United Nations High Level Political Forum (HLPF), under the auspices of

ECOSOC, in New York. More than 250 local representatives were mobilized to attend this groundbreaking event where mayors and governors highlighted their efforts and contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Participants also reinforced the need of strengthened synergies and coherent policies between the different levels of government.

In September 2019, at the SDG Summit, Heads of State and Government will be meeting for the first time after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda to review progress and provide global political guidance towards its implementation. This provides a strategic moment to host the second edition of the Forum of Local and Regional Governments, expanding the engagement of local and regional governments, their networks and partners to showcase results and to promote synergies. The Second Forum of Local and Regional Governments on the 2030 Agenda will also feature the announcement of Acceleration Actions towards SDG and climate action implementation.

As a prelude to a decade in which much is at stake, the Local and Regional Governments Forum represents an opportunity to take stock of the lessons learned until now, and to explore new ways in which successful local, national and international policies can be scaled up. This Forum will collaborate closely and create substantive connections to the cities and local action dimension of the Secretary-General's 2019 Climate Summit (23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019) as well as strengthening synergies with other High-Level events happening on this week, such as the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development and the High-Level Review of the SAMOA Pathway.

### **Objectives:**

The objectives of 2<sup>nd</sup> LRGF are:

- To showcase successful experiences from local and regional governments on the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda.
- To cultivate multilevel, permanent and structural dialogue between national, local and regional governments and their associations to support the effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local and regional level, building on the roadmap for localization laid out in the [Seville Commitment](#)<sup>1</sup>.
- To share experiences from UN member states in localizing the SDGs and on how local, regional and central governments are working together to make the 2030 Agenda a reality at the local level.
- To establish synergies and announce acceleration actions by local and regional governments on the climate-development nexus, in both the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the Paris Agreement.

### **Organization and Participants**

The High-Level event will be hosted by Cameroon. The 2<sup>nd</sup> High Level Forum will be coordinated by a broad group of partners, in order to allow for inclusive, diverse and representative participation. The organization will be led by UN entities and partners,

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<sup>1</sup> The "[Seville Commitment – Cementing a Local-Global movement to Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals](#)" was the outcome of the High-Level event on "Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals", which was held from 25 -27 of February 2019 in Seville, Spain. Co-hosted by the governments of Spain, Ecuador and Cape Verde in collaboration with the United Nations Local 2030 Initiative and other UN entities, as well as with the participation of the Global Taskforce (GTF) of Local and Regional Governments.

including UN DESA, UN-Habitat and Local 2030, and the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments.

Considering the High-Level nature of the UN 2019 SDG Summit, all special events organized at the margins will promote the highest possible level of inclusivity, participation and engagement from interested stakeholders, including through transparent selection processes for participation at the event to ensure regional, gender and multi-sectorial representativity.

**Communications**

The event will be webcast. A communications strategy will be developed including a social media package. An engagement with the public via social media will be promoted during the event focusing on highlighting strengthened commitments from local and regional governments across the world towards SDG implementation.

**Outcome:**

A political statement by Local and Regional Governments, to be coordinated by the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments.

A summary of the event will be prepared and broadly shared by the organizers.