Side-event - HLPF 2017

"Localizing the SDGs: local and regional governments actions for poverty eradication and prosperity"

Organised by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)
And the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF),
co-hosted by the Permanent mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

12 July 2017, 18.15-19.30
Conference Room 7, UNHQ

Summary

An effective follow-up and review (F&R) framework should promote the seamless integration of Local and Regional Governments in monitoring process at all levels. During the side event, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) will present the **first contribution to the report on the localization of the SDGs**. Building on an assessment of the process, its quality and features, the session will highlight local and regional governments' initiatives to foster SDG implementation through localization policies and strengthening multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Background

Local and regional governments (LRGs) play a fundamental role in the process of implementation of the global agendas and, in particular, of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Empowered LRGs endowed with adequate resources and embedded in a cooperative ecosystem that fosters the exchange of knowledge and practices, can become **drivers of change in the way development policy and actions are designed and implemented to reach communities and peoples**.

UCLG and GTF, which bring together major global and regional networks of sub-national authorities, are promoting an enabling framework for LRGs to come together and collaborate actively in the achievement of the global goals and agendas through a process of **localization**.

As reflected in the worldwide UN consultation, launched by the UN Development Group in 2014, and co-led by UNDP, UN Habitat and the GTF, **the 'localization' of the global agendas is a powerful driver of sustainable inclusive territories** that can unite efforts and improve efficiency and delivery of the SDGs at local, national and global levels.

This side-event will be an opportunity to present the initial findings of **the process of monitoring and reporting on the localization process** that the GTF, facilitated by UCLG, has undertaken over the past few months, carrying out localizing actions and initiatives worldwide, as well as helping LRGs be involved, wherever possible, in their countries' Voluntary National Reviews and voice their own narratives on the localization of the agendas.

The side-event will present the outcome of the collection and analysis of **first-hand information on SDG implementation provided by LRGs**, via qualitative methods that promotes and enhances LRGs' self-reporting. Since this process has been shaped to fit the High-Level Political Forum's assessment cycles, this side-event will focus specifically on findings concerning "Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world".

Scope and aim

The main goal of this side-event is to present and discuss the **first contribution to the global report on the SDG localization process**, in order to provide LRGs, their national associations, as well as national governments and the main partners and stakeholders involved – e.g., CSOs, private sector, UN agencies – an opportunity to explore together the current state of affairs of the implementation of global goals and agendas, paying specific attention to sub-national participation, ownership, and empowerment.

The conversation will highlight, in particular, to what extent LRGs – as the layer of governance closest to the communities – can contribute valuably and cooperatively to the implementation process. It aims to do so by:

- assessing the extent to which LRGs are being involved in the reporting on SDG implementation in different regions of the world, and especially in the definition of the Voluntary National Reviews, thus exploring the vantage point of communities, cities and territories on the national and global debates;

- promoting sub-national policies and initiatives for poverty eradication and social inclusion, access to and delivery of basic services, food security, health, gender equality and resilient infrastructures, goals that are at the core of their responsibilities and agendas;

- fostering dialogue and collaboration to support sub-national initiatives, identifying their strengths and weaknesses, the common challenges and the resources to be mobilized in the framework of localization.

Speakers and participants

This side-event brings together representatives from LRGs, national LRG associations and organizations, civil society and UN agencies to debate the status of SDG implementation and localization. The core information presented in this first contribution to the global report has been provided directly by local and regional governments, with the intermediation of national associations of LRGs. The support of UN partners, civil society organizations, and other stakeholders involved in the localization process has likewise been essential.

The side-event's panel would include:

1. **Introduction and welcoming words**:

   Mr. Hugo von Meijenfeldt, national coordinator SDGs, Government of The Netherlands (10 minutes)

2. **Presentation of the first contribution to the global report on the localization of the SDGs** (10 minutes)

   - **Mr. Jan Van Zanen**, Mayor of Utrecht, and President of VNG, the Association of Netherlands Municipalities;

3. **Feedback from local leaders and partners** (25 minutes)

   Facilitated by Emilia Saiz, Deputy Secretary General, UCLG
   - Ms. Silvia Muzila, Mayor of Francistown, and Vice President of the Botswana Association of Local Authorities, CLGF
   - Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under-Secretary General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP
   - Mr. Isidra Sala Queralt, Director General for Multilateral and European Affairs, Generalitat de Catalunya
   - Ms. Rosa Pavanelli, General Secretary, Public Services International (PSI)

4. **Questions and answers** (15 minutes)

5. **Wrap-up** (5 minutes)