

Title: Addressing policy coherence and finance gaps in the pursuit of SDG Localization and multilevel governance (online)

Side event link: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/c7d36a25-fc35-4df6-9247-b69ed532b8a4@0f9e35db-544f-4f60-bdcc-5ea416e6dc70>

Date and time: 30 January, 16.15 – 17.30 (Nairobi time)

Background:

As we approach 2030, swift action is imperative to produce the change that we need to achieve sustainable development. In this context, SDG Localization and multilevel governance emerge as essential processes for achieving our goals, as they represent the pathway to ensure vertical coherence across policy levels and domains, horizontal integration across sectors and societal actors, and temporal continuity of development action beyond single-term mandates and short-term political agendas. Effective, sustainable, resilient, and innovative solutions to achieve the Global Goals need hence to be anchored on multilevel governance approaches.

Coherence of policies across governance levels and decentralization of finance for sustainable development emerge as fundamental processes to work towards these goals. However, significant gaps exist and are jeopardizing our efforts to achieve such.

Currently, the annual SDG funding gap in developing countries exceeds \$4 trillion, and approximately \$3.6 trillion is lost globally each year due to corruption and the leakage of public funds—essentially equating to the amount required to fill the annual funding gap. Also, despite a significant overlap between sectors, and the trade-offs and opportunities that exist between them, progress in developing ways to align these with each other has been limited. However, some countries worldwide are increasingly working in such alignment. For instance, Italy recognizes policy coherence for sustainable development as a fundamental tool for achieving the principles of integration and transversality of the SDGs and since 2018, decided to include in the implementation and revision process of the National Sustainable Development Strategy (NSDS) a strengthened and constructive dialogue on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development.

Policy coherence aligns governmental strategies, while finance serves as the lifeblood of SDG implementation, requiring targeted resources for sustained impact. Together, they provide the necessary frameworks, resources, and coordination mechanisms to navigate the intricate landscape of sustainable development and transform aspirations into tangible, positive outcomes.

This event aims to deep dive into the multilevel governance approach for SDG Localization, specifically looking into the elements of financing and policy coherence for the effective delivery of the SDGs. The discussion will be fed through the presentation of concrete practices and examples from around the globe.

Notably, this session marks the international launch of UN-Habitat's MLG4SDGs initiative. This initiative aims to bring multilevel governance to the forefront of discussions and practical efforts aimed at advancing SDG implementation at all levels, everywhere. It specifically builds on UN-Habitat-led research on multilevel governance for SDG Localization and current support to national and local governments throughout the world. Ultimately the initiative wants also to

help UNRCOs, UNCTs and the broader development community to better align development support at the national and local levels.

Expected outcomes:

- To identify the current challenges and gaps jeopardizing the efforts to enhance a multilevel governance system.
- To bring together different levels of governance and stakeholders to showcase good practices and lessons learned when strengthening policy coherence and finance decentralization.
- To create a space to share valuable experiences, and enhance peer-to-peer learning exercise.
- To launch the MLG4SDG series, an initiative that will continue throughout the year.
- To generate practical recommendations on how to strengthen finance and policy coherence.

Proposed Agenda:

Time	Speaker
3 mins	Welcome by the Moderator, Nagwa Lachine, Programme Officer, ROAS, UN-Habitat
5 mins	Keynote speech, Daniel Platz, Senior Economic Officer/DCF Team Leader, Financing for Sustainable Development Office's International Tax and Development Cooperation Branch, UNDESA
Panel discussion	
60 mins	Alexandre Amado Officer in the Multidisciplinary Monitoring Team of PlanAPP – Competence Center for Planning, Policy and Foresight in Public Administration, Portugal
	Cristina Matusse, Director of National Planning and Budget, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Mozambique
	Puvendra Akkiah, Senior Manager for Policy in EThekweni, South Africa
	Julio Saguir, Secretary of Public Management and Planning, Province of Tucuman, Argentina
	Amalinda Savirani, Professor of Political Science and Head of Department Politics and Government at Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia
	Sami Puttonen, Business Advisor, Education Tampere, Business Tampere
Final wrap-up question	