



Fourth Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda

"Fostering a recovery that is resilient and led by the communities"

Special High-Level Event on the occasion of the 2021 United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

12 and 13 July 2021, 8:00 – 10:30AM (EDT)

Concept Note

Background

- Local and regional governments have been at the forefront of the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also through the provision of local public services and management of the territory. Within the context of the crises stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, local public service provision has proved to be vital to ensuring that people and the planet are duly protected.
- To ensure a recovery that is inclusive, sustainable and resilient, the maintenance of these services and access to adequate funding will be key. Moreover, ensuring the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, as accelerators for transformation at the local level will be essential to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.
- The fourth High-Level Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF) will illustrate the importance of localizing action towards the achievement of the SDGs in review in 2021 and how partnerships amongst spheres of government and stakeholders are crucial in this regard.
- This Special Event will highlight the actions taken and the solutions needed by the local and regional governments constituency for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery from COVID-19, by: emphasizing the link between local public service provision and health coverage illustrating the role local and regional governments play in guaranteeing social inclusion and prosperity, reskilling workers and preparing for the transformation of work and evolving models of production and consumption, rethinking the human-nature relationship, and achieving strong institutions based on solidarity and cooperation across borders and continents.

- The fourth Local and Regional Governments Forum will bring together local, regional, and national governments to discuss how decentralized cooperation among local and regional governments and their association and networks, national authorities and the international community can contribute to the achievement of the global goals.
- The fourth Local and Regional Governments Forum will address the main theme of 2021 by bringing concrete recommendations to support a sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. It will also be an opportunity for local and regional governments and other stakeholders to announce SDG Acceleration Actions in support of the Decade of Action.
- Each session will also draw on the findings from the Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews conducted by cities and regions and their associations, and provide a space for these actors to present how they have addressed the topics through their VLR and VSR processes.

Objectives:

The objective of the fourth edition of the Local and Regional Governments Forum is to foster multilevel governance and partnership among different spheres of government, the international community and other stakeholders within the Decade of Action for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, and to foster an inclusive, resilient and locally driven recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thematic Focus:

In light of the SDGs in review in 2021, the forum will focus on the following four axes:

1. Local public service provision: key to universal health coverage and well being

SDGs in focus: SDG 3 on good health and well-being; all other SDGs crosscutting

Issues to be discussed:

- ☐ Link between public service provision, health coverage, and protecting the commons
- ☐ Healthcare in cities and regions beyond the health response
- ☐ Social safety nets and equitable access to public services and healthy public spaces
- ☐ Performance of health systems during the pandemic, with a focus on action integration between different levels of government

2. Guaranteeing social inclusion and prosperity from the ground up

SDGs in focus: SDG 1 on no poverty, SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 10 on reduced inequalities; all other SDGs crosscutting

Issues to be discussed:

- ☐ Sustainable and locally driven food systems
- ☐ Full inclusion and involvement of all migrants and refugees in public life
- ☐ Gender equality and empowerment
- ☐ Culture and education

- ☐ Participatory and inclusive policy-making
- ☐ The disproportionate and unequal effect of climate change on vulnerable communities

3. The transformation of work and evolving production and consumption models
SDGs in focus: SDG 8 on decent work and economic growth, SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production, SDG 13 on climate action; all other SDGs crosscutting

Issues to be discussed:

- ☐ The future of work and equitable access to opportunities for all
- ☐ Reskilling of workers, commerce, and digitalization
- ☐ Fostering proximity models of production and consumption and climate action
- ☐ Building resilience, nature conservation, and green job opportunities
- ☐ Tools for economic recovery and growth, the role of small and medium enterprises and circularity

4. Multilevel governance, and strong, inclusive institutions based on solidarity
SDGs in focus: SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, SDG 17 on partnerships; all other SDGs crosscutting

Issues to be discussed:

- ☐ Localization, territorial approach to development, decentralized cooperation, and capacity building
- ☐ Partnerships for the SDGs between different levels of governance. The role of subnational urban policies
- ☐ Financing the 2030 agenda at the local level through renewed multilevel and multi-stakeholders' partnerships
- ☐ Local participatory democracy, human rights, awareness-raising, and peacebuilding
- ☐ Open government and transparency

Format and Outcomes

The event will be organized fully online. Access to the online event will be provided only to pre-registered participants. In addition to the live meeting, a recording will also be provided through the UN Web TV [TBC]. 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 the achievement of the SDGs. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

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