



## 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 UN High-Level Political Forum (HLPF)

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

### **PANEL 3: THE TRANSFORMATION OF WORK AND EVOLVING PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION MODELS**

#### *Background Note*

*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*

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a global economic recession and massive damage to work, time and income. Young workers and women were particularly hard hit by the crisis in the labour market, with employment losses in 2020 of 8.7% and 5.0% respectively, as opposed to 3.7% for adults and 3.9% for men.<sup>1</sup> This year, the global economy is slowly recovering, although it may remain below pre-pandemic trends for a prolonged period.

The latest 2021 *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report* of the Secretary-General reports that unsustainable production and consumption is driving “the three planetary crises: the climate crisis, the biodiversity crisis, and the pollution crisis.”<sup>2</sup> It is critical that the relationship between consumption and production models on the one hand, and climate action on the other hand, needs to be strengthened.

The recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic provides a window for opportunity to explore more inclusive and equitable development models, underpinned by sustainable economic growth, consumption and production. This includes the future of work and equitable access to opportunities for all. Building resilience, nature conservation, and green job opportunities are key.

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<sup>1</sup> Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General, paragraph 96. Available on: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG_SDG_Progress_report_2021.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General, paragraph 132. Available on: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_report\\_2021.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG_SDG_Progress_report_2021.pdf).



This panel will discuss concrete aspects related to the future of work at local level and its impacts for SDG implementation, including: 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, and the role of small and medium enterprises circularity.

Speakers are invited to deliver a statement (**3 minutes maximum**) considering the proposed guiding questions below:

- What role should local governments play in the transformation of work and evolving production and consumption models?
- How are local governments supporting in the promotion of climate action and green job opportunities?
- What types of partnerships between different government levels and other stakeholders could contribute for green job opportunities and economic recovery and growth at the local level in support to SDG implementation?