



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 2: GUARANTEEING SOCIAL INCLUSION AND PROSPERITY FROM THE GROUND UP

Background Note

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

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, modest gains had been made to reduce inequalities, within and among countries. The pandemic is now exacerbating existing inequalities and hitting the most vulnerable people and the poorest countries hardest. It is projected to push back the poorest countries a full 10 years on their SDG progress¹.

Local and regional governments have a key role in reducing inequalities through the provision of basic services, the setting up of enabling environments for economic growth and the inclusion of citizens, including marginalized groups, in decision making and priority setting processes.

Local and regional governments and other local institutions can contribute to the COVID-19 recovery and SDG implementation through redistributive, progressive policies such as addressing housing issues and setting up more affordable housing; setting up minimum wages; increasing wealth taxes instead of sales taxes; ensuring universal health care and education and others. Additionally, local and regional governments can lead in increasing opportunities for people, such as strengthening the enabling environment for small and medium businesses, regulating the financial lending market or by implementing innovative forms of participatory decision making.

In this panel, speakers will discuss ideas and solutions to support sustainable and locally driven food systems; proposal to support the full inclusion and involvement of all migrants and refugees in public life; experiences that promote gender equality and empowerment as well using local culture and education in support of SDG implementation. Speakers will also address

¹ United Nations, Progress Towards the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27610SG_SDG_Progress_report_2021.pdf



practices of participatory and inclusive policy making and efforts to address the disproportionate and unequal effect of climate change on vulnerable communities.

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

- How can local and regional governments support SDG implementation by promoting social inclusion and prosperity? What were concrete examples from your experience?
- What types of actions, including partnerships, can support social inclusion and participation, including redistributive policies?
- What strategies are more successful in support enabling environments for participatory policy making, especially for those furthers behind, at local and regional levels that can support SDG implementation and addressing climate change?