

**INFORMAL SPOTLIGHT SESSION**  
**ACHIEVING THE SDGs AND A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY FROM THE  
COVID-19 PANDEMIC THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS AND SOUND GOVERNANCE: THE  
VITAL ROLE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS**  
**2 February 2022, 18:00-18:50 CET**

**Session Summary**

This spotlight session organized by the Local Authorities Major Group (LAMG), gathered within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF) and in partnership with Open Government Partnership and International IDEA counted on the participation of representatives of local and regional governments and their networks, national government, and representatives of civil society from around the world to share how the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is strengthened by putting communities, local public service provision, establishing solid partnerships, and sound governance at the centre. A particular focus was given to illustrate innovative partnerships formed between local and regional governments and civil society and how they can be supported by putting sound governance, local democracy, and greater transparency and accountability at the forefront of policy making.

Voices heard during the session include representatives of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), the Mayor of Valongo, the Mayor of Strathroy-Caradoc and President of FCM, the Director of International Relations of Montevideo, the General Secretary for Social Transition and 2030 Agenda of the Basque Government, the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs of South Africa, the Head of the 2030 Agenda Office at the Mexican Ministry of Economy, International IDEA and UNICEF.

**Key Issues discussed**

- The key role that local and regional governments play in fostering innovative partnerships as closest sphere of government to the communities and as guarantor of local public service provision.
- The importance of behavioural change to transform how we cooperate, work and empower each other and that civic energy and the inclusion of multilevel and horizontal approaches can be a great ally to transformation and partnership.
- Local and regional government associations are key to the achievement of the SDGs and to partnerships given their coordination and organized interlocution role with other actors.
- Digital technologies are a key tool for integrated development and participatory governance and can help ensure the needs of communities are met if used in a sustainable and inclusive manner.
- Partnerships are key to accountability and realizing dialogue with civil society to reach the most vulnerable populations and those that are hardest to reach. Local and regional governments are key actors in this regard.
- Democracy and open governance are essential prerequisites for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Democracy entails partnership and open governance allows citizens to be able to influence the agenda and the way the implementation take places.

# ECOSOC Partnership Forum

## **Key recommendations for action**

- There needs to be a collective drive towards bringing local and regional governments and their associations to decision making processes, it is imperative we are all at the table.
- We need a more integrated problem solving mechanism, the problems heading towards us are more transnational in nature and we need partnerships to address these issues.
- Strengthening local democracy and open government will be key to achieving the global agendas. Effective partnership and dialogue with civil society have to be at the forefront of these efforts.
- We need to envision new systems of governance in which communities have a priority role. Digital technologies and innovative tools must be used to ensure this heightened participation in a sustainable and inclusive manner.
- It is vital to empower local and regional governments to adequately identify inequalities for successful partnerships to be carried out.