

## **SIDE EVENTS SUMMARIES**

### ***Summary of Side Event [Multilevel Governance for SDG Localization]***

31 January 2023, [8.30 – 9.45 EST]

#### **Background on the event (one paragraph)**

2023 marks the midpoint on the implementation of the SDGs before the 2030 deadline and our work to achieve the expected results must be scaled up. Local and regional governments have proved to be key actors to mitigate the consequences and impacts of the current global crises. Years of implementation have shown that to be fully realized, the 2030 Agenda must be implemented at the local level – it needs to be localized. Acknowledging that no sphere of government nor actor can act alone, achieving the SDGs is only possible if healthy and effective multilevel governance systems are in place. The event brought together stakeholders from different spheres of government to discuss how to accelerate SDG localization through enhanced multilevel governance.

#### **Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)**

- Localization efforts of municipalities through the adoption of the SDGs as a primary framework to develop sustainable indicators in cities.
- Mainstreaming of the SDGs into municipal planning and strategic development as an alignment exercise.
- The importance of evidence-based practice to formulate public policies and guide decision-making processes.
- Multilevel Governance as a cooperation mechanism between the local level, national level, and other stakeholders for the promotion of sustainable urban development, aligning priorities and challenges.
- Value of cross-cutting and multi-stakeholder partnerships and consultations, not only as the government sphere but beyond, for strategy formulation and adoption, as well as promoting collaborative and transformative projects.
- Role of Voluntary Local Reviews in enhancing local-national linkage and providing a platform for citizens input in city development.
- Main challenges and issues municipalities encounter ranging from resources and funding to data management and SDGs awareness.

#### **Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)**

- Close collaboration between the local government and national government when developing Voluntary Local Reviews and Voluntary National Reviews, respectively.
- Development and implementation of Voluntary Local Reviews as a key accelerator towards the 2030 Agenda and entry-point for long-term planning.
- Promote sustainable development and multilevel interaction in-between government, departments, and offices through institutionalized processes.
- Transform existing governance structures through a multilevel approach, working closely with stakeholders and partners within and outside the organization sphere.

- Advocate for a stronger role of civil society in city-led processes for developing a comprehensive and all-encompassing strategy, leaving no one and no place behind.