



Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF) on the 2030 Agenda

“Harnessing high impact localization policies to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals through SDG 11 and towards the 2023 SDG Summit”

Special High-Level Event on the occasion of the 2023 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

12 July, 10AM – 1:PM - UNHQ

DRAFT Concept Note

Background

- Local and regional governments have been playing a key role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, through the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), aiming to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.
- Whether it be through the provision of education, food, water, waste management or health beyond healthcare, the provision of local public services has been central in responding and addressing the multiple crises, illustrating the intrinsic connection between SDG 11 on sustainable cities and territories and the other SDGs.
- Within this context, the High-Level Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF), a Special Event to be held during the 2023 High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), will illustrate the interconnected importance and breadth of SDG11 to the whole 2030 Agenda as well as how local and regional governments are localizing the SDGs through high-impact localization policies.
- A special focus will be given to the five SDGs under review in the 2023 HLPF: SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, SDG 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure, SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities, and SDG 17 on partnerships for the Goals.
- Special emphasis will be placed on showcasing impact and hope, by highlighting high-impact localization policies and partnerships for the goals currently in place as well as reflecting on specific localization needs that could contribute to bringing SDG implementation back on track.

- During the Special Event, the role of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) in fostering policy transformation towards the achievement of the SDGs will be highlighted, as well as their connection with Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).
- This Special Event will be an opportunity for the constituency of local and regional governments to share localization policies, key messages and inputs towards the SDG Summit, to be held in September 2023.
- The Local and Regional Governments Forum will therefore bring together local, regional, and national governments as well as representatives from the United Nations and other stakeholders to discuss how high-impact localization policies, partnerships, multilevel governance and financing can close the gap in the implementation of the SDGs.

Objectives:

The objective of the 2023 LRGF is to showcase high impact localization policies related to the SDGs under review at the 2023 HLPF, with a particular focus on SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities, and to reflect on the challenges and aspirations of local and regional governments towards the 2023 SDG Summit. The LRGF will aim at featuring innovative advancements on reporting and monitoring such as the VLRs and VSRs in connection to VNRs, as well as to foster multilevel governance and partnerships among different spheres of government, the international community and other stakeholders towards closing the gap on SDG implementation.

Organizers: UN DESA, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), UN-Habitat, UNDP, and the Local2030 Coalition.

Thematic Focus:

In light of the SDGs under review at the 2023 HLPF, and through the multilevel governance perspective, the LRGF will focus on the following four themes:

SDG 11 as an entry point for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda

SDGs in focus: In-depth review of SDG 11 and its crosscutting connections with all other SDGs, including those under review.

Issues to be discussed: sustainable urbanization, urban planning, affordable housing, cultural heritage, universal access to inclusive green and public spaces, affordable and sustainable transport, urban disaster risk reduction, climate justice

Local public services to address inequalities, promote innovation and foster sustainability

SDGs in focus: SDG 6 on clean water and sanitation, 7 on affordable and clean energy, SDG 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; cutting across all of the SDGs

Issues to be discussed: Public services delivery, governance and access to water and sanitation at local level, transforming financing ecosystems to ensure the provision of local public services

Local and regional governments and the future of production and consumption

SDGs in focus: SDG 9 on Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities; cutting across all of the SDGs

Issues to be discussed: Future of work, role of local and regional governments in strengthening local industry and services, smart cities and territories, digital rights

Localization and Innovation Exchange: Initiatives to Close the Gap and foster high-impact partnerships

SDGs in focus: SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals; all other SDGs crosscutting

Issues to be discussed: renewed multilevel governance, the relationship between spheres of government and other stakeholders, including the private sector, role of local and regional governments in the lead-up to the SDG Summit and the Summit for the Future