



GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT



Virtual Dialogue between the Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) for the 2023 Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) and representatives from local and regional governments

1st June 2023

Concept Note

A. BACKGROUND: GSDR & the 2023 SDG Summit

The Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) was first mandated in “[The Future We Want](#)”, the outcome of [the 2012 Rio+20 Conference](#), and further reaffirmed in [the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), with a view to strengthening the science-policy interface and providing a strong evidence-based instrument to support policy-makers to better understand and navigate the relationships among social, environmental and economic development objectives. In 2016 Member States [decided](#) that the GSDR will be produced once every four years to inform the quadrennial High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development under the auspices of the General Assembly (the SDG Summit) and that it should be written by an Independent Group of Scientists (IGS) appointed by the Secretary-General. The IGS consists of 15 experts representing a variety of backgrounds, scientific disciplines, and institutions, ensuring geographical and gender balance.

2023 will mark the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The [2023 SDG Summit](#) will be held in September 2023, during the high-level week of the 78th session of the General Assembly. It will review the state of the SDG implementation, provide policy guidance, mobilize action to accelerate implementation and consider new challenges since 2015. [The upcoming 2023 GSDR](#) will be an important instrument to inform the deliberations at the Summit. An initial draft of the 2023 GSDR has been circulated to governments and the major groups and other stakeholders in January 2023 for comments. An advanced copy of the 2023 GSDR was made available in March to inform the intergovernmental deliberations on the political declaration to be adopted at the 2023 SDG Summit in September.

B. The proposal: a virtual dialogue between the IGS and local and regional governments

The virtual dialogue will provide an opportunity for a United Nations officer supporting the report and a member of the IGS to share key messages from the GSDR with representatives from local and regional governments and to engage in a dialogue about specific ways that the GSDR recommendations could be nurtured by the perspective of local and regional governments and how they can be implemented at sub-national level. Local and regional governments representatives will also be invited to share examples of scalable, practical tools that can support in accelerating SDG implementation considering the main recommendations of the report as well as to reflect on how local and regional governments and local communities can be supported to lead in efforts for transformation in the various entry points identified in the report.

C. Time



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1st June 2023 – 09:00AM – 11:00AM (EDT)

D. Format

The webinar will be virtual and hosted by UNDESA in partnership with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), facilitated by United Cities and Local Governments who will be supporting the outreach and mobilization of local and regional governments representatives. UN-Habitat, UNDP and the Local2030 Coalition will also be invited to collaborate and contribute to the discussions.

E. Guiding Questions for Discussion

1. Based on the presentation, have the local and regional governments roles and perceived priorities, challenges and opportunities for SDG achievement been addressed by the report?
2. What are some examples of scalable, practical tools implemented at sub-national level that could contribute to implementing the recommendations of the Report?
3. Are there any additional concrete policy recommendations the report should incorporate to support local and regional governments to more effectively contribute to the SDGs going forward?

Draft Agenda

09:00 – 09:10	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG ● Ms. Lotta Tahtinen, Chief of Outreach and Partnerships Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UN DESA
09:10 – 09:35	Presentation from the United Nations Secretariat supporting the GSDR process: Recommendations of the 2023 GSDR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dr. Astra Bonini, Senior Sustainable Development Officer (Division for Sustainable Development Goals)
09:35 – 10:10	Perspectives from local and regional governments: Moderator - Lucy Slack , Secretary General, Commonwealth Local Government Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ms. Fabiana Goyeneche, Director of International Relations, Montevideo ● Mr. Zayd Ebrahim, Executive Director, Strategy, Policy Coordination and Relations, Johannesburg ● Ms. Luz Amparo, Director of International Relations, Bogotá ● Ms. Mercedes Sánchez Salido, Subdirector of International Relations and Cooperation, Spanish Federation of Municipalities ● Ms. Neila Akrimi, Manager Networks and Strategy and Director of CILG, VNG International



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10:10 – 10:50	Discussion followed by Q&A
10:50 – 11:00	Closing remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Reflections: Dr. Åsa Persson, Research Director and Deputy Director of the Stockholm Environment Institute● UNDESA● GTF