

Summary of Side Event

Addressing policy coherence and finance gaps in the pursuit of SDG Localization and multilevel governance

Date: 30 Jan 2024

Time: 16.15 – 17.30 EAT

Background on the event (one paragraph)

As we approach the deadline of 2030 it becomes increasingly urgent to take action and make the changes for sustainable development. A crucial aspect of this action is the localization of Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of multilevel governance. It is important to ensure coherence across policy levels and sectors to achieve sustained development. Although there are gaps that need to be addressed such as a \$4 trillion annual funding gap in developing countries and global losses amounting to \$3.6 trillion due to corruption, efforts are being made. Countries like Italy are prioritizing policy coherence as they align their strategies with adequate financial resources. To further advance SDG implementation through governance support UN Habitat has launched the MLG4SDGs initiative. This initiative aims to address challenges, showcase successful practices, facilitate peer learning launch the MLG4SDG series and provide recommendations with a focus on financing and policy coherence, for effective SDG delivery.

Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- Importance of Financing and strategies for Strengthening SDG Localization Finance: Emphasis on the importance of financing SDGs at local level, highlighting the various strategies to strengthen SDG localization finance, including challenges such as global access to finance and proposing solutions to bridge the gap.
- National Roadmap for Sustainable Development: The National Road map for sustainable development was outlined focusing on four strategic objectives. These are: improving monitoring and evaluation, adopting a strategic framework, aligning public policies with SDG targets, and increasing public ownership and awareness of the 2030 agenda.
- Challenges in Fiscal Decentralization: Challenges in fiscal decentralization were discussed, including resource allocation criteria, borrowing regulations, and expenditure management at the local level, highlighting the need for capacity building and technical assistance.
- Methods of Stakeholder Engagement: Various methods of stakeholder engagement were discussed, including engagement beyond tokenism, public consultation forums, workshops, advisory committees, and community-based planning for neighborhoods.

- Role of Academia in SDG Implementation: Role of academia in influencing policies and advocating for the inclusion of marginalized groups in SDG implementation was emphasised. This would address issues such as women and young people's participation.

Key recommendations for action (5 - 6 bullet points)

- Need to strengthen national, regional and local financial empowerment by utilizing a variety of financial tools adapted to the specific context and enhancing capacity building and collaboration.
- Importance of developing effective mechanisms of policy alignment across levels of governance.
 - Promotion of multilevel governance and increased public ownership of SDG processes.
- Strengthen the capacity of resource management by reviewing and improving resource allocation criteria and enhancing the transparency and accountability in borrowing processes.
- Diversify and expand stakeholder engagement tools that go beyond tokenism
 - Tools include collaborative platforms, public consultation forums, workshops, advisory committees, community-based plans for neighborhoods and online engagement.
- Importance of establishing clear targets and defining traceable indicators to monitor progress and create a coordinated monitoring framework
 - Possibility to rely on existing methodologies that may be adapted to the SDG project.
- Look to academia to support the inclusion of marginalized groups in stakeholder engagement processes and the continuous assessment of and innovation within the SDG process.
- Use private-public partnerships that allow for the testing of innovative ideas from the private sector and academia in the public sector.