



VNR LABS HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Publication Launch

“Inter-agency Policy Briefs on Accelerating Progress on the 2030 Agenda from Local to Global levels: The Critical Importance of SDG Localization”.

Friday, 12 July, 2:30-4:00 pm

UN Dag Hammarskjöld Library, 1st Floor Reading Room

Register [here](#)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as a global blueprint for peace, prosperity, people, and the planet. With at least 65 per cent of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets linked to the work and mandates of local and regional governments, achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs necessitates their engagement and leadership.¹ While the 2030 Agenda requires Member States to report on SDG implementation at the national level, this can obscure the true nature of SDG progress, as it does not adequately reflect the progress, gaps, opportunities and challenges facing subnational governments, and the often uneven nature of progress taking place.

SDG localization is the process of adapting and customizing the SDGs and translating them into local development plans and strategies that fit the needs, context, and priorities of a particular region or locality, in coherence with national frameworks. It means placing local communities at the center of sustainable development and anchoring development action on the principles of subsidiarity, inclusion, partnership, and multilevel governance, with adequate data and financing availability at the local level.

As the tier of government closest to local communities, local and regional governments (LRGs) are best positioned to recognize and deliver on local needs and priorities and to craft people-centered policies in keeping with the principles of leaving no one behind. LRGs deliver essential public services such as housing, education, energy, and water, and they are often the first responders to conflict, displacement, and disasters linked to climate change and natural hazards. Given their mandate to deliver these critical services, LRGs can act as catalysts for innovative solutions and transformative change, particularly when faced with emergency situations as was seen during the COVID-19 pandemic or in the face of natural

¹ United Nations (2023). Report of the Secretary-General (Special Edition) on Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a Rescue Plan for People and Planet.

<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2023/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2023.pdf>



hazards such as floods, cyclones, and hurricanes. In the words of the United Nations Secretary-General, “the fight against climate breakdown will be lost or won in cities”.²

In an era of multiple interlinked crises, local and regional governments have demonstrated immense capacity for addressing rapidly changing needs and implementing innovative sustainable solutions that will have a strong bearing on how the international community tackles similar challenges in the future. Their roles will become increasingly important as urbanization advances.

In an ongoing initiative to advance SDG localization, UNDESA in collaboration with an inter-agency taskforce of UN entities and other relevant stakeholders will launch the publication, “Accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda from local to global levels: The critical importance of SDG localization” in the margins of the 2024 High-level Political Forum. This compilation of policy briefs examines critical issues pertaining to local implementation of SDG action to achieve the 2030 Agenda and provides evidence-based recommendations for SDG localization. Some of the key topics include data, monitoring, and reporting; multilevel governance; SDG localization and climate action synergies; and waste and resource circularity. This publication follows an introductory policy brief on SDG localization available [here](#). Future policy briefs will examine topics including financing local development and evidence-based planning for SDG localization.

Please join us for this launch event to hear authors present key findings and recommendations and to engage in interactive dialogue.

Key Questions for discussion will include:

- What are some of the key areas in which local and regional governments contribute to essential SDG localization initiatives?
- How do national and subnational governments collaborate to implement sustainable development at all levels?
- What key actions are necessary to advance disaggregated and timely data, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on SDG localization?
- What role does e-government play in advancing SDG localization? What are some promising practices and case studies in digital governance at subnational levels?
- How do subnational governments contribute to mitigation of and adaptation to climate change? What new innovations and best practices are local governments implementing in this area?

² United Nations (2023). Secretary-General's remarks to launch the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/speeches/2023-10-06/secretary-generals-remarks-launch-the-advisory-group-local-and-regional-governments>

Programme

Proposed Agenda

2:30-2:40	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UNDESA • Remarks by the Dag Hammarskjöld Library
2:40-3:30	Key Issues and Policy Recommendations in SDG Localization: Moderator: Lana Zaman , Sustainable Development Officer, UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martino Miraglia, Coordinator, SDG Localization Team and SDG Cities, UN-Habitat <i>Data, monitoring, and reporting for SDG localization and multilevel governance</i> • Wai Min Kwok, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, UNDESA Division for Public Institutions and Digital Governance <i>Harnessing local e-government for the 2030 Agenda</i> • Daniel Platz, Senior Economic Affairs Officer, UNDESA, Financing for Sustainable Development Office <i>Financing local development</i> • Katinka Weinberger, Chief of the Sustainable Socioeconomic Transformation Section at the Social Development Division, ESCAP <i>Synergies and co-benefits for SDG localization and subnational climate action</i> • Lusungu Kayani, Social Affairs Officer, UNECA <i>Regional Perspectives: National structures promoting localization in African countries</i> Discussants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Castro De Hallgren, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD • Diana Lopez Caramazana, Advisor, Cities and Local Governments, UNDP
3:30-3:55	Q & A
3:55-4:00	Closing of the VNR Lab <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amson Sibanda, Chief of National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, UNDESA Division for Sustainable Development Goals