



4TH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON
**Small Island
Developing States**
27-30 MAY, 2024
ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

SIDS4 Conference Side Event

SDG Localization Tailored for SIDS

30 May 2024, 10:00-11:00 am, Room 4, American University of Antigua

Organized by: Government of Cabo Verde, the European Union, the Local2030 Coalition, the organization of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Cabo Verde

Background on the event

The Government of Cabo Verde, in collaboration with the European Union, Local2030 Coalition, the organization of United Cities and Local Government (UCLG), and the United Nations Country Team in Cabo Verde, organized this side event with the purpose to discuss and exchange ideas on how to improve the impact, efficiency and scale of SDG localization in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) countries and territories, by adapting the SDG localization approach to capture the unique circumstances of SIDS.

SDG localization We know that two-thirds of the SDGs cannot be achieved unless local and regional governments and stakeholders are fully involved and empowered to drive implementation at the local level. For the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to enable its transformative potential, it must be fully realized at the local level – it needs to be localized. Thus, SDG localization is one of the 12 high impact initiatives coming from the SDG Summit, it is a crucial accelerator to achieve the SDGs by 2030 as a means of implementation for the six SDG transitions.

Key Issues discussed

1. Small Island Developing States (SIDS), though diverse in culture, geography, and economy, share common challenges that necessitate a unique approach to sustainable development. SIDS vulnerabilities are stark: from the ever-present threat of climate change and natural disasters to economic and social instability. These challenges demand solutions that are not only innovative but also tailored to SIDS specific needs.

2. The SDGs to be truly effective must be localized and adapted to fit the specific context of SIDS. Thus, SDGs localization tailored for SIDS is not just a necessity, it is imperative, as the only way to accelerate the pathway of implementation of the SDGs, it is a way of thinking, and it is an opportunity.
3. Local communities can lead the process and they are the foundation of implementation, where policies transform into practical action and tangible progress, especially in islands. Islanders have rooted in their nature and spirit the sustainability of development that their territories, island, need to survive and succeed. When local governments, civil society, businesses, and individuals take ownership of the SDGs, they can unlock a cascade of benefits that ripple across the territory and nation, forming critical pathways for SDG acceleration.
4. To advance the SDG Localization there is a need to meet some conditions, based on lessons learned, such as a territorial approach to development fostering partnerships, profound and trustful collaboration between national and regional & local government, inclusive governance structures to guarantee diverse perspectives and stakeholders mobilization, developing strong partnerships with communities and organizations, engaging and empowering them drawing on local knowledge to co-create local solutions to achieve SDGs, capacity building for local governance, resource mobilization as access to finance is critical, investing in data and monitoring.
5. The local2030 Coalition was mentioned by several panelists as a useful and relevant mechanism and tool to bringing together an ecosystem of stakeholders to find specific solutions supporting SDG localization. It was also appreciated the catalytic funds for SDG localization coming from the Joint SDG fund of the UN, of which 20% goes to SIDS.
6. The spirit of the main outcome approved in the SIDS4 Conference, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), embrace the power of local action, invest in communities, and forge a future where sustainable development is a reality for all.

Key recommendations for action

1. The implementation of the SDGs need to be at local level, and it must be done in coordination and articulation with all stakeholders: local, regional, national and international.
2. The need of implementing the SDG transitions' system approach to accelerate SDG achievement at national and local level.
3. The implementation of 4 ingredients for succeeding in SDG localization in islands are recommended: political leadership at local level, developing partnerships, enhance accountability and transparency, and implementing concrete actions. The importance of sharing local-level SDG solutions through Communities of practices.
4. Engagement, participation and supporting the local2030 Coalition platform and network and its associated local2030 Hubs to share and find collective SDG solutions to achieve SDG localization.