

Two-Minute Intervention for the ECOSOC Partnership Forum

Excellencies, colleagues, partners, all protocols observed

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, facilitated by UCLG, welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this critical discussion. The ECOSOC Partnership Forum remains a key space to align multi-stakeholder efforts in accelerating the 2030 Agenda, fostering inclusion, and strengthening participation at a time when global policymaking faces legitimacy and effectiveness challenges.

Local and regional governments are at the forefront of responding to persistent inequalities, climate justice, and the need for inclusive governance. They bridge gaps in service provision, integrate climate adaptation at the local level, and engage communities in decision-making. To fully leverage their transformative role, we call for three key accelerators:

First, localization as a central pillar for sustainable development. The Pact for the Future recognizes that translating global commitments into local realities is essential. Strengthening localization through direct engagement of local and regional governments in global governance processes is fundamental.

Second, multilevel governance and meaningful participation. A coherent approach between all levels of government ensures policy alignment, accountability, and more effective responses to complex global challenges. Integrating Voluntary Local and Subnational Reviews into national reporting mechanisms will provide an evidence-based foundation for more inclusive policies.

Third, strategies for effective partnerships. Capacity-building, equitable resource allocation, and fiscal decentralization are critical to ensuring that cities and regions have the means to implement ambitious solutions. Ensuring direct financial flows, such as grant mechanisms or green bonds, will unlock the potential of local leadership in sustainable development.

As we look ahead to the Financing for Development Conference and the World Social Summit, we stand ready to accelerate the 2030 Agenda by mobilizing local leadership, fostering bold action, and advocating for the recognition of local and regional governments as political actors in the multilateral system.