



FOSTERING A LOCALIZATION MOVEMENT

Promoting the
accomplishment of
the 2030 Agenda
from the bottom up





SUMMARY

1

LEADING A MOVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. We we strive to amplify the united voice of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

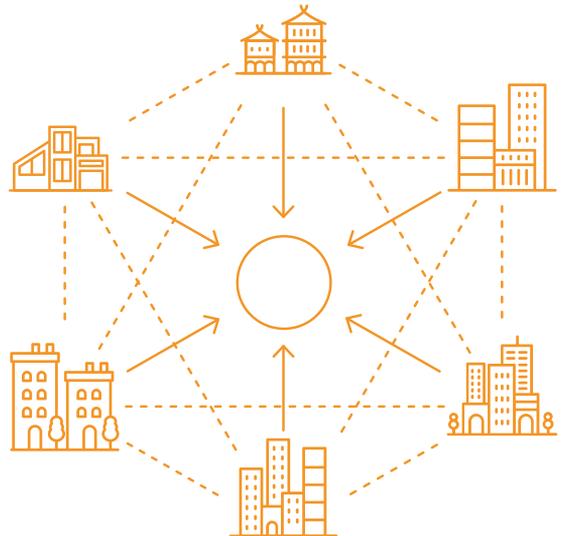
The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent an unprecedented milestone and are a feat to be proud of, as well as a defining moment of what we can do if and when we collaborate. They further represent a bold step forward from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), being more universal in their approach.

There has been a silent constructive tide taking place ever since the Agenda was adopted. United Cities and Local Governments is at the very heart of this movement, promoting, fostering and supporting local action to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Local and regional governments are not only taking ownership of the agenda but are also moving towards its implementation at the local level and, more often than not, doing so without the means they need to face such a crucial task.

Across the world, many cities, provinces and regions are revising their strategic plans, aligning them with the SDGs and launching innovative initiatives. They will organize awareness-raising workshops to share the new agenda with the population. They will training trainers in order to understand the link between what they do and what the 2030 Agenda provides.

This is why we believe that localization (taking into account local realities and communities throughout the process of implementing the SDGs) is such a key issue for local and global development alike, and the only way in which the global agendas will be achieved.

United Cities and Local Governments and its members are thoroughly committed to achieving the SDGs, and we are certain that such an ambitious Agenda cannot, and will not, be achieved without the involvement of local and regional governments at all levels.



2

A LOCAL4ACTION HUB TO ACCELERATE THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GLOBAL AGENDA

As a global network, UCLG has identified four strategic dimensions for action:

- **Advocate** for increased national and international support for, and recognition of, local and regional governments in the achievement of the global agendas, and **raise awareness** of the global goals among local and regional governments so that they can implement them.
- Facilitate **learning, knowledge sharing and peer-to-peer exchanges** to strengthen local leaders' and officers' capacities.
- Identify, support and highlight successful **implementation** efforts at local level, including through **decentralized cooperation** and city-to-city exchange on the localization process.
- Bring local **monitoring and reporting** information to the global fora to voice local and regional governments' interests, contribute to the "localization" of indicators, and bring their experiences and visions to complement and inform central government reporting.



The **UCLG Local4Action Hub** aims to facilitate, consolidate and provide visibility to the integrated efforts of the UCLG strategy, as a UCLG-driven initiative for learning, monitoring and mobilizing.

The goal of the **Local4Action Hub** is to turn the 2030 Agenda into local actions, taking advantage of our network and our experience of exchange and cooperation. Localizing the SDGs at local and territorial level needs swift actions that are well-formed and implemented. Local and regional leaders need sound evidence and timely advice, as well as new approaches, to guide such actions.

The **Local4Action Hub** will build synergies between the global network of UCLG members and partners and other key international organizations that are working on advancing the implementation of the SDGs at local and territorial level. It will complement and be implemented in close collaboration with the capacity and awareness raising initiative "Localizing the SDGs" partnership with the UN Development Programme, UN-Habitat and the GTF; and the UN system-wide Local2030 Hub facilitated by the Office of the UN Secretary-General, which offers a collaboration and innovation platform including the UN and other stakeholders.



The **UCLG Local4Action Hub** will contribute to the development of the above-mentioned UCLG strategic dimensions for action by focusing on the following key objectives and lines of action:

1. **Strengthening strategic thinking to support local action** through a platform of international expertise that will facilitate dialogue with local and regional leaders to advise on the increasing complexity of the global context, the main dimensions of the global agendas and their impact on sub-national governments.
2. **Catalyzing innovation** through learning labs, to facilitate peer-to-peer learning between practitioners, researchers and academics from a wide range of sectors to pilot and experiment with innovative methodologies, tools and ideas to support the localization processes.
3. **Enhancing cooperation and solidarity** to facilitate opportunities for local leaders and decision makers to interact and take action on the SDGs within their territories, countries and networks. The Hub will support networks of local and regional leaders, policymakers and practitioners from different regions to share, implement and scale up strategies on localization.
4. **Generating and facilitating knowledge exchange** to provide curated knowledge and adequate sharing mechanisms, based on previous actions and other sources, to upscale and accelerate progress towards the implementation of the SDGs at local and territorial level.
5. **Visualizing the actions** for localization developed by the UCLG network.
6. **Rallying actors around the territorial and urban dimension of the SDGs.**

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF THE HUB

Component 1:

A Platform for international expertise

An interdisciplinary Advisory Panel, which will act as both a centre of excellence and a “brain trust”, will be set up to connect expertise and to develop policy and knowledge in support of the UCLG Strategy for action. To help us think and shape the future of municipalism, it will scan and analyze new challenges on the policy horizon, identify the implications of new forces and trends, and provide substantive inputs into UCLG’s key policies.

Component 2:

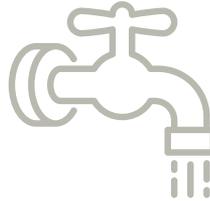
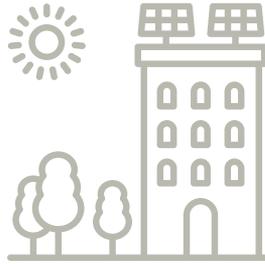
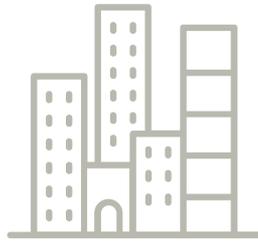
Learning labs and technical exchange

To catalyze innovation and foster cooperation within and outside our networks, **peer learning activities and decentralized cooperation will be put in motion in different regions. These actions will provide inputs to the learning, implementation and monitoring work areas,** building on real on-the-ground experiences implemented by the UCLG membership.

Component 3:

A knowledge & communication platform

The UCLG Local4Action Hub will contribute to the work of the UCLG Global Observatory on Local Finance and Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization, on the assessment of progress towards the implementation of the SDGs at the sub-national level, collecting information from local and regional governments from every region of the world. It will be a nexus for the collection of key contributions, analyses, reports, data and indicators, tracking the achievement of local commitments and progress made at the local level.



3

CARRYING THE TORCH FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES AROUND THE WORLD

Local and regional governments have a big say in achieving and in shaping services that underlying in most of the 17 SDGs. The territorial dimension of the SDGs need to be addressed if we want no one and no place to be left behind.

Global agendas have immediate effect on cities, which is why we strive to link the global and local spheres, and the reason why we cannot give up on our quest towards making sure that cities have a voice on how the global agendas are shaped and implemented. We need to address all of the universal development agendas as one if they are to be achieved.

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

To ensure that local and regional governments have a say, we need to secure a seat for them at the global decision-making tables, which means a greater voice and influence for and by the citizens we represent.



**SDG 11
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES**



BRINGING LOCAL VIEWS TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

UCLG is a founding partner of the **Local 2030 Network**, a multi-stakeholder hub led by the United Nations Secretary-General's Executive Office to **accelerate the implementation of the SDGs**, as well as a longstanding partner of the Localizing SDGs Toolkit developed with UNDP and UN Habitat.

Local and regional governments' networks are also essential in developing partnerships with other organizations which can effectively ensure the achievement of SDGs, which is why we are committed to continue facilitating the **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** as a consultation mechanism that allows Local and Regional Governments' organizations to follow the international processes.

UCLG also facilitates the convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments which is the political gathering behind the **Local and Regional Governments' Forum** co-organised with UN-Habitat, UN-DESA, and our partners of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments at the High Level Political Forum in 2018 and at the SDG Summit in 2019.

ENSURING LOCALIZATION THROUGH STRONG LOCAL FINANCE

For localization to effectively take place, local and regional governments need adequate financing. This sort of financing already exists but that needs to be supported by an enabling financial environment in order for local and regional governments to profit from it, especially in low-income countries.

OUR HOPES

- To bring forward the shared vision of local and regional governments to the decision-making level
- To foster the acceleration of the global agendas through localization and the joint implementation of the agendas



4

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL AGENDAS

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

Our very own **Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD)** is developing a framework for monitoring and reporting activities on the new global development agendas and the implementation of the Global Goals.

Our presence at the High-Level Political Forum goes beyond developing the Local and Regional Governments' Forum. UCLG is the drafting force behind the Annual **Report of LRGs governments** on SDGs implementation, **which showcases the initiatives undertaken at the local level.**

The report aims at providing a regular assessment of the role and involvement of Local and Regional Governments and their Associations in the reporting processes of the SDGs at the national level, the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that are submitted to the HLPF sessions by member states.

GOLD

Global Observatory
on Local Democracy
and Decentralization

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs):

We are also working to push forward the presentation of Voluntary Local Reviews in the formal architecture of the HLPF. The value of a VLR transcends local borders and has an effect within all spheres of government. Voluntary Local Reviews are more than just a monitoring and evaluation tool: they are a tool for transformation that have the ability to act as a learning and training instrument for public officials of all spheres of government, as a mechanism of transparency and accountability for citizens, and as an opportunity to facilitate joint ownership of the universal agendas



OUR HOPES

- To foster the integration of references on local government actions in the VNRs
- To promote the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator of the localization and achievement of the SDGs, contributing to the links between the different agendas
- To ensure that the VLRs are seen as more than a reporting tool with the power to push for bottom-up transformation to achieve the global agendas

5

A UCLG TRAIN OF TRAINERS TO LOCALIZE THE GLOBAL GOALS

HOW WILL WE DO IT?

To raise awareness among city and associations staffers about SDGs, and to foster exchanges on local practices, we are providing tools that ensure that those trainers can bring the message on localization forward.

So far, the train of trainers has travelled to 15 countries across four continents, and organized over 30 individual events, fostering a global learning network that takes action in the localization process. It will continue to gather momentum with more and more municipalities getting on board with the global effort to localize the SDGs.



OUR HOPES

- To foster political will to commit to the global agendas.
- To raise awareness about the links between the local and global agendas by implementing them at the local level.
- To promote solidarity and exchange through peer-to-peer, decentralized cooperation and action learning.
- To build both the knowledge and capacities of local and regional governments to implement the 2030 Agenda.



OUR TOOLS

We train trainers via the **Learning Modules** developed with UNDP and UN-Habitat. They are conceived as guidelines for UCLG members in the localization process and, at the same time, as an open format, which can be adapted to different local realities and are also enriched and enlarged by these experiences.

Visit www.localizingthesdgs.org to find all relevant information on localization.

6

ENHANCING OUR PARTNERSHIPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SDGs

Since Habitat III, we have taken a commitment to enhance our partnerships. Cooperation and solidarity have been at the heart of our movement ever since its inception and following these principles is key for us to continue to contribute to the communities we represent.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Here are just a few of the partnerships that have been developed:



Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. Facilitated by UCLG, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments brings together all of the major international networks of local governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes. **It is the convener of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.**



The **Strategic Partnership with the European Union** has been essential to strengthen ties with the different parts of the network. The legacy of this partnership has been increased visibility for local and regional governments, and has led to the consolidation of the Global Taskforce (facilitated by UCLG) as well as its recognition **as a key representative of the constituency.**



Our strategic partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), with the goal of developing the Local 4 Action Hub, aims to facilitate visibility to the integrated efforts of our strategy, and turn the 2030 Agenda into local actions in order to fully achieve the localization of the Global Goals.

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

UCLG, as a member of Cities Alliance, has developed many initiatives in collaboration with this global partnership. One of the most recent ones is the “Know Your City” Initiative, which aims to tackle urban planning in urban areas where information on development is scarce (such as in slums) has enabled cities to lead the conversation on access to data.



UN
DP

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Our partnerships with UN AGENCIES such as UNDP (the United Nations’ global development network) and UN-Habitat (the United Nations Agency for human settlements) have allowed us to develop tools such as the Localizing the SDG Toolkit, which are proving to be key in aiding local and regional governments carry out the localization process. We are also working closely with other agencies such as the United Nations’ Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), and UN Water.



UCLG is a founding member of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that convenes more than 1,100 unique organizations with over 58,000 networks working on sustainable urban development.

LOCAL 2030

LOCALIZING THE SDGS

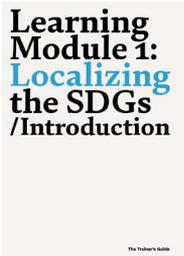
UCLG is one of the co-founders of the Local 2030 Platform, which supports the on-the-ground delivery of the SDGs, and acts as a convergence point between local actors, national governments and the United Nations system. During this edition of the HLPF, The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and Local 2030 will co-host the Local2030: Local Action for Global Commitments Special Event on July 17 to explore the challenges and opportunities local leaders face with respect to implementing the SDGs

But our partnerships do not end there: Currently, we are embarked in partnerships with organizations as diverse as:

The International Association of Public Transports (UITP), and the Global Covenant of Mayors, for which we are a founding member, as well as with civil society organizations such as Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and Public Services International (PSI), and even the network of universities, Columbus, are some of the main partnerships that we are currently embarked on

We are also working to enhance our collaboration with organizations such as Connective City, IS Global and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), and the private sector, where we already are involved in corporate partnerships with IBM, the water management company AGBAR, GDF Suez... which help us enhance our joint action.

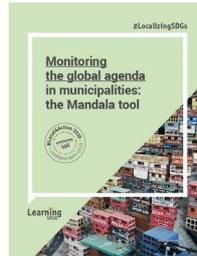
7 OUR TOOLS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOCALIZATION PROCESS



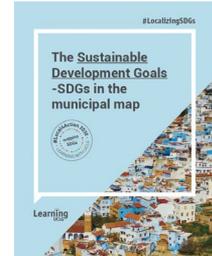
Learning Module 1:
Localizing the SDGs



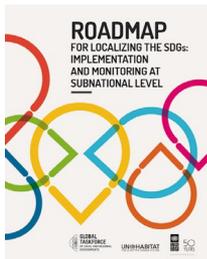
Second Local and Regional
Governments' Report to The
2018 HLPF - Towards the
Localization of the SDGs



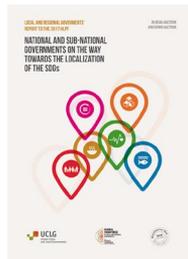
Monitoring the Global
Agenda in Municipalities:
the Mandala Tool



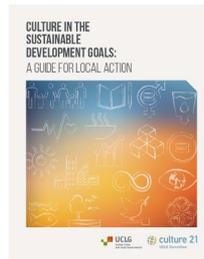
The Sustainable
Development Goals in the
Municipal Map



Roadmap for Localizing
the SDGs: Implementation
and monitoring
at subnational level



National and Subnational
Governments on the way
towards the Localization of
the SDGs (1)



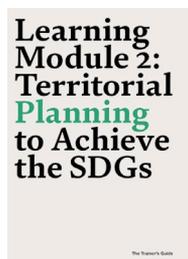
Culture in the SDGs:
A guide for local action



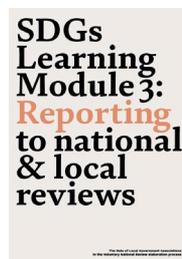
Videos: Learning about the
SDGs [www.youtube.com/
playlist?list=PLkDn e WWJXU
oCK1i7xuCXmo4rlwmd4sN7R](http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkDn e WWJXU oCK1i7xuCXmo4rlwmd4sN7R)



Third Local and Regional
Governments' Report to the
HLPF 2019 - Towards the
Localization of the SDGs



Learning Module 2:
Territorial Planning to
Achieve the SDGs



SDGs Learning Module 3:
Reporting to national &
local reviews

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SDG 1 NO POVERTY

SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER

SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY

SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

SDG 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDG 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION

SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER

SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND

SDG 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDG 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





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