Local Experiences Transforming Global Policies

Focus in Least Developed Countries membership

Local4Action HUBs
by UCLG

Take an active part and propose your own **Local4Action HUB**!

UCLG
United Cities
and Local Governments

UCLG fosters the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals through the support of local initiatives that can accelerate the achievement of the Global Agendas. Through the Local4Action HUBs initiative, UCLG will visualize existing initiatives, provide an international profile and when needed facilitate seed financial support or international expertise.

In the framework of UCLG's partnership with SIDA, UCLG is enhancing its work focused on supporting the membership with higher capacity needs and based in the group of Least Developed Countries (LDC), as defined by the United Nations (UN).

Key values that will drive the collaboration:

• The global advocacy for LGR in LDCs

• The support of decentralized cooperation

• Knowledge sharing

• Advocating for gender strategies

• Local capacity building & strengthening

• Fostering of partnerships for sustainable development

The objective is to seek enhanced participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the global agendas while fostering dialogue among stakeholders through the Local4Action HUBs and contributing to the visibility of local initiatives to complement, enhance and empower the solutions and partnerships promoted by local governments in LDCs.

The **"LOCAL4ACTION HUB" notion** has been developed over the last years within UCLG.

It emerged as part of the sustainable development conversation as a call by members, and local and regional governments' (LRG) to give more prominence to the role that their practices and approaches had over the advancement of the **2030 Agenda**.

Members and their world organization have thus been looking for ways to support, articulate and expand locally-driven localization initiatives, and better embed them in UCLG's overall localization strategy, focused especially in advocacy, knowledge production and learning.

From early 2020 onwards, the UCLG World Secretariat has developed a more consistent proposal for the Local4Action HUBs initiative after the participation of LRG-members and various parts of the organizations' ecosystem.

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The concept of the Local4Action HUBs is coming from the UCLG concept of the LOCAL4ACTION HUB that allows a networking and gathering space in the UCLG gatherings and dynamics to allow and empower Localization of SDGs.

Why?

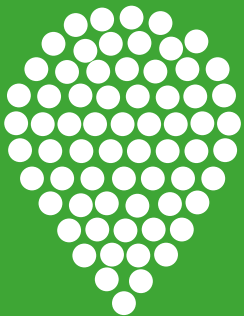## Recognizing the efforts done on the ground for implementing and localizing

The Local4Action HUBs are a means to get closer to local challenges, aspirations and initiatives as experienced by members themselves: **to be closer to local life, around the Mayors, including citizens and all relevant stakeholders driving transformation towards sustainability**.

The concept of the Local4Action HUBs has been validated and mandated by the Executive Bureau of UCLG as a tool for giving visibility and enhancing the local-global connection to strengthen the movement's contribution to the global agendas.
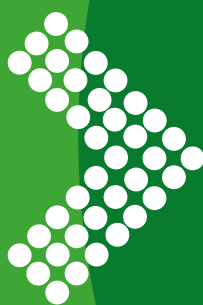
Based on the key concepts described below, the Local4Action HUBs initiative will also nurture ongoing processes within the World Organization related to the localization agenda. This entails advancing key messages and building a stronger narrative at the global level, on the basis of members-LRGs practices. Indeed, the Local4Action HUBs will foster collective learning and new knowledge, but also consolidate **UCLG's reporting capacity as a means to strengthen its representation and advocacy efforts**.

It should further ensure that our advocacy and policy recommendations as World Organization are built on true local practices, strengthening our voice and empirical capacity to demonstrate the key role that local and regional governments have to play achieving global goals.
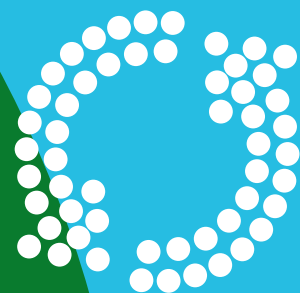
Three key concepts underpin Local4Action

Local-global connection:
Initiative that link the global policy to the Local action.

Acceleration:
Accelerating the localization of global agendas.

Synchronization:
Ensuring that actions are connected and building on those of other parts of the network to enhance impact.

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What are Local4Action HUBs?

The Local4Action HUBs initiative provides visibility and a UCLG label to the LRGs initiatives, approaches and policies on sustainable development with a platform of support and expanded accessibility to the global arena. This is also intended to facilitate their impact in overall UCLG actions and policies. In the case of Least Developed Countries, UCLG will also provide support to specific projects and programs aiming at implementing the SDGs at local level.

A strategic opportunity for members to bring local approaches to sustainability at the forefront of the global conversation

The Local4Action HUBs is an initiative by UCLG aimed at anchoring its international strategy on localization of sustainable development goals, on members' practices and initiatives. It provides a platform for showcasing, recognizing and scaling-up local policies and processes; fostering synchronization between activities and parts of the network while accelerating the constituency's impact over the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Therefore, a specific communication strategy and tools have been generated to be dedicated to this specific visibility at cities level. The strategy is to have a specific UCLG Brand to be given to local and regional governments developing Local4Action HUBs.

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The key features of the HUBs

Locally driven

The initiative must be locally driven by a specific local, regional government or local/regional governments association.

Time

Deliverables must be agreed beforehand between the partners and available in a limited time frame (from 1 to 3 years).

UCLG brand

The initiative should be coherent with the UCLG brand: whether the hub will be developed for in person or virtual participation, values and visuals must be identified in the development of the HUBs. A common set of visual materials must be respected and presented.

Actionable and scalable results

Actionable results for acceleration, these deliverables are criteria previously established by partners and stakeholders in a participatory process to allow a monitoring process with partners/stakeholders in order to measure its acceleration and synchronization impact.

2030

Topic

The topic could be part of the priorities as defined in the political manifestos from Durban Congress or in line with the priorities of the global agendas, in particular the 2030 Agenda. The topic can also bring an innovative approach to the sustainable development.

Communication

A communication strategy for the dissemination and diffusion of the hub and hub activities must be designed to nurture the global agenda and overall road map with a common set of activities and documents, addressing the goals and impacts.

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How?

The Local4Action HUBs connect the virtual and the physical networking spaces and UCLG membership, making the extent of our network visible and creating new ties.

The Local4Action HUBs by UCLG are connected through an "action platform" with an online component which also connects with UCLG Policy Councils and Consultations mechanisms. The activities will be showcased in **the international policy recommendations and advocacy**. They will further be presented and gathered in annual meeting at the Venice City Solutions 2030' international forum.

Next steps   Towards Local4Action HUBs

1. Launching of a call for proposals: A call will be launched to the members for the definition of the Local4Action HUBs.

2. Monitoring the HUBs process and development, the World Secretariat will facilitate the international platform that will connect the different experiences through publications, events and joint products. These efforts will be supported by the consultation's mechanisms and an Advisory Board.

3. An online platform The aim is to provide information on the initiatives that are being set up supported by an interactive exchange space facilitated by the World Secretariat.

United Nation's List of Least Developed Countries

(as of 11 February 2021)

- Afghanistan
- Angola
- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Bhutan
- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Cambodia
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Comoros
- Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Djibouti
- Eritrea
- Ethiopia
- Gambia
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Haiti
- Kiribati
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Lesotho
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Malawi
- Mali
- Mauritania
- Mozambique
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Niger
- Rwanda
- São Tomé and Príncipe
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Solomon Islands
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Timor-Leste
- Togo
- Tuvalu
- Uganda
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Yemen
- Zambia

For further information and updates on the Least Developed Countries please consult: https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/least-developed-country-category.html

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