

LOCALIZING THE POST 2015 AGENDA

Dialogues on Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda



2nd Newsletter, August 2014

In the framework of the global dialogues on the means of implementation of the future post 2015 development agenda, local and national consultations have been successfully organized in **Armenia, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ecuador, Ghana, Jamaica, Malawi, Philippines, Tajikistan and Tanzania**. Furthermore, the scope of the dialogues on the localization of the post-2015 agenda has been expanded to also include Europe, with the consultation held in **Portugal**, and the Pacific Islands and Small Island Developing States, with **Vanuatu**.

UNDP and UN Habitat, on behalf of UNDG, together with the Global Task Force of Local and Regions Governments for the post 2015 Agenda towards Habitat III have been facilitating the process. The ongoing consultations are celebrated at the



territorial level with the organization of local dialogues led by local governments in broad partnership with all relevant stakeholders including CSOs, the private sector, academia, universities and territorial networks. With the strong engagement of local, regional and national governments, CSOs, the private sector, thanks to the partnership and collaborative efforts of UN Country Teams, the localization consultations have contributed to building and forging partnerships both at national and global levels, aiming at finding solutions at local level to implement the future development agenda.

Preliminary reports of some of the local and national consultations held over the last months have been published. Click the links below to read the first reports and discover more details on the inclusive and multi-stakeholder dialogues celebrated during the last months in:



Cameroon



Ecuador



Ghana



Malawi



Philippines



Portugal



Tanzania



Vanuatu

The reports outline how the consultations have allowed identifying and advancing critical elements that will allow a successful implementation of the new agenda at the local level. This includes the complementarity of actors, consolidated during the dialogues, as a key element to achieve the future goals at local level.

Furthermore, an **Advisory Committee** for the Localization of the Post-2015 Agenda has also been established. Composed by national and local governments, Academia, the European Commission, the private sector, represented by the Global Compact, as well as Youth and Women Networks and Foundations, this consultative body is providing overall guidance to the process and aims at facilitating the cross-fertilization between the local and national governments, CSOs and the UN System. In this regard, a **cross-fertilization approach** is also being pursued to increase synergies with other ongoing dialogues on the means of implementation of the future SDGs, with a special focus on the partnership with the private sector, civil society and culture for development.

RECENTLY CELEBRATED CONSULTATIONS

Final National Consultation, Lisbon (Portugal)



A public consultation was conducted in Portugal between 23rd May 2014 and 7th July 2014. This consultation was organized by a group of Portuguese Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and Camões, the Institute for Cooperation and Language, which is responsible for the coordination of the Portuguese position on the post 2015 Agenda, with the support of the United Nations Regional Information Centre for Western Europe.

The Consultation consisted of six regional workshops in Lisbon, Porto, Évora, Coímbra and Madeira Island, an online survey and a national final event, held on July 7th, coinciding with the worldwide launch of the Millennium Development Goals report 2014. It was further complemented and amplified by a radio program on national radio.

A total of 433 people – individual citizens, NGO members, representatives of municipalities and businesses – participated in the consultation process. Overall, participants voiced their satisfaction over the fact that they are being consulted and that, contrary to the MDG framework, this time the international community is attempting to adopt a bottom-up approach.

The consultation process highlighted the importance of communicating the universality of the post-2015 Agenda in order to have governments and CSOs involved and engaged in the process. Clear communication of the post-2015 Agenda, integration of the Agenda and the concept of sustainable development in school curricula, reinforcement of local government and local social networks were identified as fundamental aspects for a successful local implementation of the Agenda. Furthermore, civil society networks proposed and volunteered to be active agents in monitoring the implementation of the Agenda.

The large majority of participants also highlighted that the Post-2015 Agenda should be anchored in Human Rights and stressed the importance of ensuring accountability for the implementation, even if this implies changing national and international law. Individual citizens expressed high interest in the process, since it is a subject close to people's hearts as became visible during the radio program. One listener congratulated the radio for bringing this subject to the program. Another listener said about the Agenda: "This is a good Agenda to build a less selfish and more solidary society. Sustainable development must be a goal for all."

EU Committee of the Regions, Brussels (Belgium)



Committee of the Regions

In the context of the Dialogue on the localization of the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the Committee of the Regions of the European Union, in collaboration with the co-leads of the consultation on localization, held in its Brussels premises on 7th July 2014 a conference on localizing the Post-2015 development agenda.

The event included a first session on the main challenges and opportunities for Local and Regional Governments in the future development agenda and a second session on the Post 2015 Localization process and Consultation. The consultation gathered representatives from European regions, the European Commission, the UN System, and also included the participation of the Vice-Minister of Cooperation for Development, of El Salvador, who presented the ongoing consultation process organized in his country.

The dialogue highlighted the importance of synergies between global, national and local levels, which can only be ensured with the full engagement of all citizens. It was also mentioned that institutional capacity development is a big necessity and while strengthening these capacities, "citizens based approach" should be the focus and institutional tools should be elaborated to fit this purpose. To effectively implement a new development agenda at the local level, transparency and accountability tools are extremely important and need to be fostered. Finally, it was stated that the promotion of the SDGs among society is critical in order to raise the ownership.

With regards to the implementation modalities of SDGs at local level within Europe, it is stated the necessity to also work on what has been achieved so far, what could be the priorities for the next fifteen years and what kind of flexibilities could be provided to regional and local authorities. A comprehensive report is currently being elaborated and will be available soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Caribbean consultation on localization of the post 2015 agenda, Nassau (Bahamas)



A regional Caribbean consultation on localization of the post 2015 agenda will take place on 29th August in Nassau, Bahamas. The meeting will be hosted by Hon Alfred V Gray, the Minister of Local Government and Mayor Philip McPhee President of the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities (CALGA) and Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) Vice Chairperson. It is expected the participation of representatives from most of the Caribbean countries, accompanied by the co-leaders of the localization consultation.

VI World Regional Governments Summit ORU FOGAR, Cartagena (Colombia)



The Organization of Regions United/Forum of Regional Governments and Global Associations of Regions (ORU/FOGAR), international organization that gathers Regions, Provinces, Departments and Regional Government associations of the world, will be holding the VI World Regional Governments Summit ORU/FOGAR on September 1 to 3, 2014 in Cartagena de Indias (Colombia), city declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

ORU/FOGAR represents the regions before international audiences and ensures the recognition of the role of sub-national governments as key actors in the implementations of governance and global policies in their territories.

In this framework, a global consultation on the localization of the post 2015 agenda has been organized. The event will provide another opportunity to analyze the localization of the future development agenda, and specifically consider the regions and their role for the implementation of the future goals for Sustainable Development.

Seminar for Dialogue and Capacity building of local and regional authorities in the Mashrek in the development and local governance fields, Amman (Jordan)



As part of the localization consultation process, PLATFORMA with the support of the European Commission and the co-leads of the dialogue on "Localizing the post-2015 Development Agenda" are organizing a regional dialogue during the "Seminar for Dialogue and Capacity building of local and regional authorities in the Mashrek in the development and local governance fields", to be held from 24th to 25th of September 2014, in Jordan. Participants

attending the main seminar are invited to join this dialogue on September 25th from 14:30 to 17:00 to provide their views on the implementation of the future development agenda at sub-national level.

The dialogue will allow discussing key issues for the effective implementation of the future Development Agenda at sub-national level and come up with concrete policy recommendations based on lessons learned, examples and the analysis of specific challenges and opportunities at sub-national level for the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda.

UNDG Side Event, New York (USA)



In the framework of the 69th United Nations General Assembly, the United Nations Development Group is organizing a side event to showcase the UNDG dialogues on implementation of SDGs as an authoritative source of information on some of the most important building blocks for implementation of the Post-2015 development agenda. The side event will aim to inform

delegates and other stakeholders on how the priorities that people and governments have articulated in the Post-2015 process to date could be implemented.

High Level Global Dialogue, Turin (Italy)



A 2-day High Level Global Dialogue on Localizing the post-2015 Development Agenda will be celebrated from the 14th to 15th of October 2014 in Turin, Italy. The event, which is the climax of the dialogues on the Localization of the post-2015 process, is intended to: i) gather and present the preliminary key messages and recommendations drawn from the local/territorial, national, regional, and global stakeholders on how to implement the new agenda at the local level during the local/territorial, national and regional dialogues; ii) amplify the voices of local

stakeholders (local governments, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), private sector, etc.), paying specific attention to also include the poor and other traditionally excluded groups in formal intergovernmental negotiation processes on a post-2015 agenda; iii) support the overall international negotiation processes on the new development framework so that they align with aspirations emanating from the local level; and iv) contribute to the final report of the Dialogue on Localizing the post-2015 Agenda.

Prominent among the participants would be a gathering of representatives from national and local governments and their associations from all countries that conducted consultations in their countries, including event co-hosting countries, CSOs, the private sector and foundations, thereby ensuring a multi-stakeholder representation and participation, accompanied by members of the Advisory Committee on Localizing the post 2015 agenda and the co-leaders of the localization consultation.

JOIN THE E-DISCUSSION

What has been your experience of implementing the MDGs at the local level? How can we improve coordination between local, provincial/state and national government to ensure successful implementation of the SDGs post 2015?

[Visit the website](#) of the consultation, answer to these and other questions and join the discussion. Many partners have already participated; do not hesitate to do the same: **share your experience and thoughts on how to localize the post 2015 agenda! We look forward to receiving your contribution!**



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