LOCAL AND REGIONAL VOICES ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

OUR POST-2015 JOURNEY

www.gtf2016.org   #UrbanSDG   #Localizing2015   #Action2015

The **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** facilitated by UCLG, brings together over 30 international networks of local and regional governments.

Please visit
gtf2016.org

or write to
globaltaskforce@uclg.org

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THE ROAD TO POST-2015

LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

The Post-2015 process has represented an unprecedented opportunity for local and regional governments **to contribute local perspectives, experiences and proposals to the international debate on sustainable development.**

However, for local and regional governments, the Post-2015 Summit is just one more step in **a journey that began back in 2005.** In the year of the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals, we demonstrated our commitment to achieving the MDGs with our Millennium Towns and Cities Campaign.

1

Over a thousand towns, cities, counties, and regions across the world joined the campaign directly

ROME

PARIS

BUENOS AIRES

THE POST-2015 SUMMIT IS JUST ONE MORE STEP IN A JOURNEY THAT BEGAN BACK IN 2005

MILLENNIUM TOWNS AND CITIES CAMPAIGN

The campaign highlighted the role of local governments in the achievement of the MDGs and called on Member States to establish a formal advisory role for local governments within the UN on issues of global governance.

Over a thousand towns, cities, counties, and regions across the world joined the campaign directly and many more were represented by their national local government associations.

In 2010, UCLG published **"Eight ways to change the World"** with the UN Millennium Campaign, suggesting eight ways that local authorities could contribute to the achievement of the goals. The Global Taskforce welcomes the increasing international recognition of the importance of broad participation in, and ownership of, the global development agenda. The Post-2015 Summit is a chance to look back at how we have harnessed this historic opportunity to promote **local governance as a cornerstone of sustainable development**.

RIO+20
UN CONFERENCE
ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
A STRONG FOUNDATION

2

The Local Authorities Major Group was actively involved in the preparatory process for the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference.

With the negotiations focusing on an environmentally driven agenda, local and regional governments advocated for the agenda to include governance, territorial cohesion, social inclusion, service provision and culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

Over 250 local and regional government representatives met at the Urban Summit, organized by UCLG and UN-Habitat with the support of Cities Alliance, UNACLA and the City of Rio.

+250
LOCAL AND REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT
REPRESENTATIVES

URBAN SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RIO +20 PROCESS

01 Create a new multi-level governance architecture

02 Treat sustainable cities as a crosscutting issue in the Sustainable Development Agenda. Include at least one goal on "Sustainable Cities for All" in the SDGs.

03 Foster cohesion among territories in development policies

04 Acknowledge culture as an important dimension of sustainable development

05 Develop legal mechanisms for local and sub-national governments

06 Develop financial mechanisms for local and sub-national governments

07 Harness local and sub-national governments as hubs of green growth

08 Consider the Rio+20 Conference as the first step towards Habitat III

RIO+20 OUTCOME DOCUMENT

*"We reaffirm the key role of all levels of government and legislative bodies in promoting sustainable development. We further acknowledge **efforts and progress made at the local and sub-national levels,** and recognize the important role that such authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development."*

*"We recognize the importance of international, regional and national financial mechanisms including those **accessible to sub-national and local authorities** to implement sustainable development programmes and call for their strengthening and implementation."*

*"Sustainable development requires the **meaningful involvement and active participation of regional, national and sub-national legislatures and judiciaries.**"*

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S HIGH-LEVEL PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

A LANDMARK MOMENT

3

Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG, Kadir Topbaş, contributed the vision of local and regional authorities to the High-Level Panel set up in 2012 to make recommendations on the Post-2015 Agenda to the UN Secretary General.

This invitation was a landmark moment and represented a clear declaration of intent by the UN to launch a more inclusive process to develop the Post-2015 Agenda.
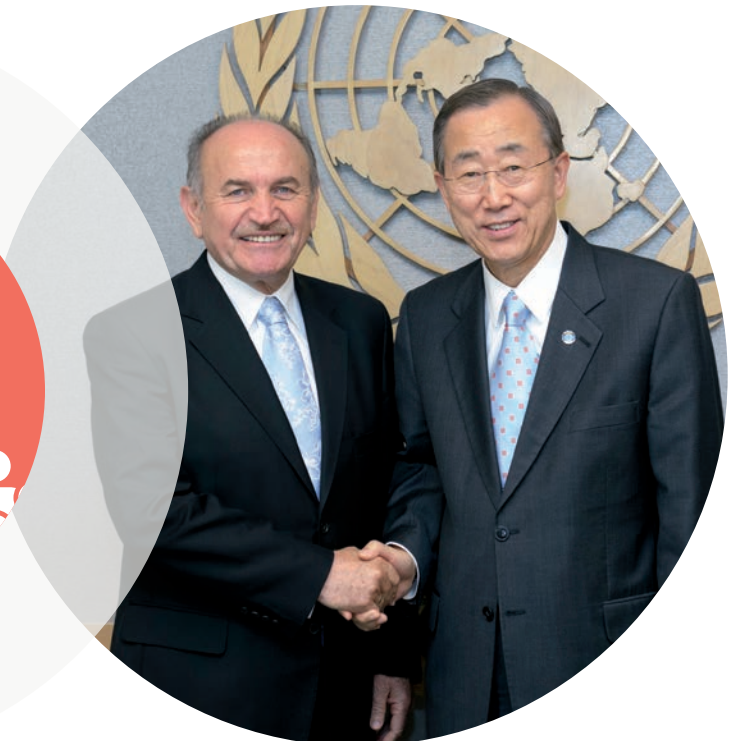
CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO THE HIGH LEVEL PANEL

"The achievement of many of the MDGs goals and targets depends on local governments."

"Growing inequalities are the Achilles heel of the Millennium Development Goals. Many of these inequalities cannot be addressed without proper service provision to urban dwellers around the world."

"The success of our recommendations will be assured if we develop a sense of ownership and accountability at all levels, international, national and subnational-local levels."

A NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP: THE REPORT OF THE HIGH-LEVEL PANEL OF EMINENT PERSONS ON THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

*"Local authorities form a vital bridge between national governments, communities and citizens and will have a **critical role in a new global partnership.**"*

*"The most pressing issue is not urban versus rural, but **how to foster a local, geographic approach to the Post-2015 Agenda**. The Panel believes this can be done by disaggregating data by place, and giving local authorities a bigger role in setting priorities, executing plans, monitoring results and engaging with local firms and communities."*

"Almost all targets should be set at the national level or even local level, to account for different starting points and contexts."

THE GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR POST-2015 AND TOWARDS HABITAT III

A JOINT STRATEGY

4

The Global Taskforce was set up in 2013. Building on the contributions of local government networks to Rio+20 and the High Level Panel, it aims to bring together the major international networks of local and regional governments to build a joint advocacy strategy for the Post-2015 Agenda and related international policy debates.

One of the Global Taskforce's main ambitions is to bring together the Sustainable Development, Post-2015, Habitat III, Climate Change, disaster risk reduction,and Financing for Development processes. This has already been achieved in part, with the convergence of Sustainable Development and Post-2015 processes.
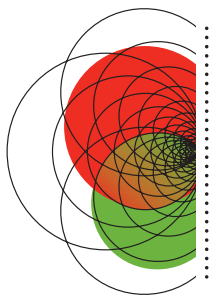
"We call for a single, universal agenda that has differentiated responsibilities is built on subsidiarity and which acknowledges the transformational potential of urbanization."

CAMPAIGN FOR AN URBAN SDG

THE URBAN OPPORTUNITY

5

Urbanization is among the most significant global trends of the 21st century. Half of the world's population now lives in cities. The **transformative power of urbanization** must be part and parcel of any successful strategy to fight poverty and ensure sustainable development. For many years, local and regional governments have advocated for a shift from viewing urbanization as a problem, to seeing **cities as a powerful tool for democratic governance, economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability**.

"Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost."

High Level Panel Report

#urbanSDG
I Support the Stand-Alone Goal on Sustainable Urban Development!

+50% WORLD POPULATION NOW LIVES IN CITIES

One of the most significant and successful initiatives of the Global Taskforce has been its proactive support for the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network's **campaign for a stand-alone Urban Sustainable Development Goal.**

"It is so important that we work together to build the capacity of mayors and all those concerned in planning and running sustainable cities."

Ban Ki-Moon's declaration on receipt of signatures in support of an Urban SDG

WHY DOES THE WORLD NEED AN URBAN SDG?

01 Educate and focus attention on urgent urban challenges and future opportunities

02 Mobilize and empower all urban actors around practical problem solving

03 Address the specific challenges of urban poverty and access to infrastructure

04 Promote integrated and innovative infrastructure design and service delivery

05 Promote land use planning and efficient spatial concentration

06 Ensure resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction

UCLG and the Global Taskforce mobilized local elected representatives from worldwide to participate in the first ECOSOC integration segment on sustainable urbanisation in May 2013.

"Environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without serious action at the city level, most of it by local authorities."

Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the ECOSOC Integration Segment

Sustainable Cities Days organized by UCLG, UN-Habitat and the Friends of Sustainable Cities, 11-13 December 2013.

The outcomes of this meeting fed into the OWG on sustainable cities and human settlements in January 2014.

"We need a common approach to urban policies to be developed throughout the world we need to seize the opportunity to link national and local policies."

Cllr Philip McPhee, Vice-Chair of The Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) and President of the Caribbean Association of Local Government Authorities, Bahamas

"*The world's cities and citizens need an Urban SDG as much as the national governments and the global community need the support of local and subnational governments, as* **no global targets or goals can be reached without us**."

David Cadman, ICLEI at Open Working Group 7 on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

"*I look at the main goals — to end poverty and hunger, provide quality education, provide water and sanitation for all, build resilient infrastructure, provide economic growth and more — and then I ask: Where will all that be decided and take place? And suddenly it's clear: It will be at the local, the city level across the world.*"

Josep Roig, Secretary General, UCLG

SDG 11

The global campaign resulted in the inclusion of Goal 11, "Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" **in the final report of the Open Working Group in July 2014.**
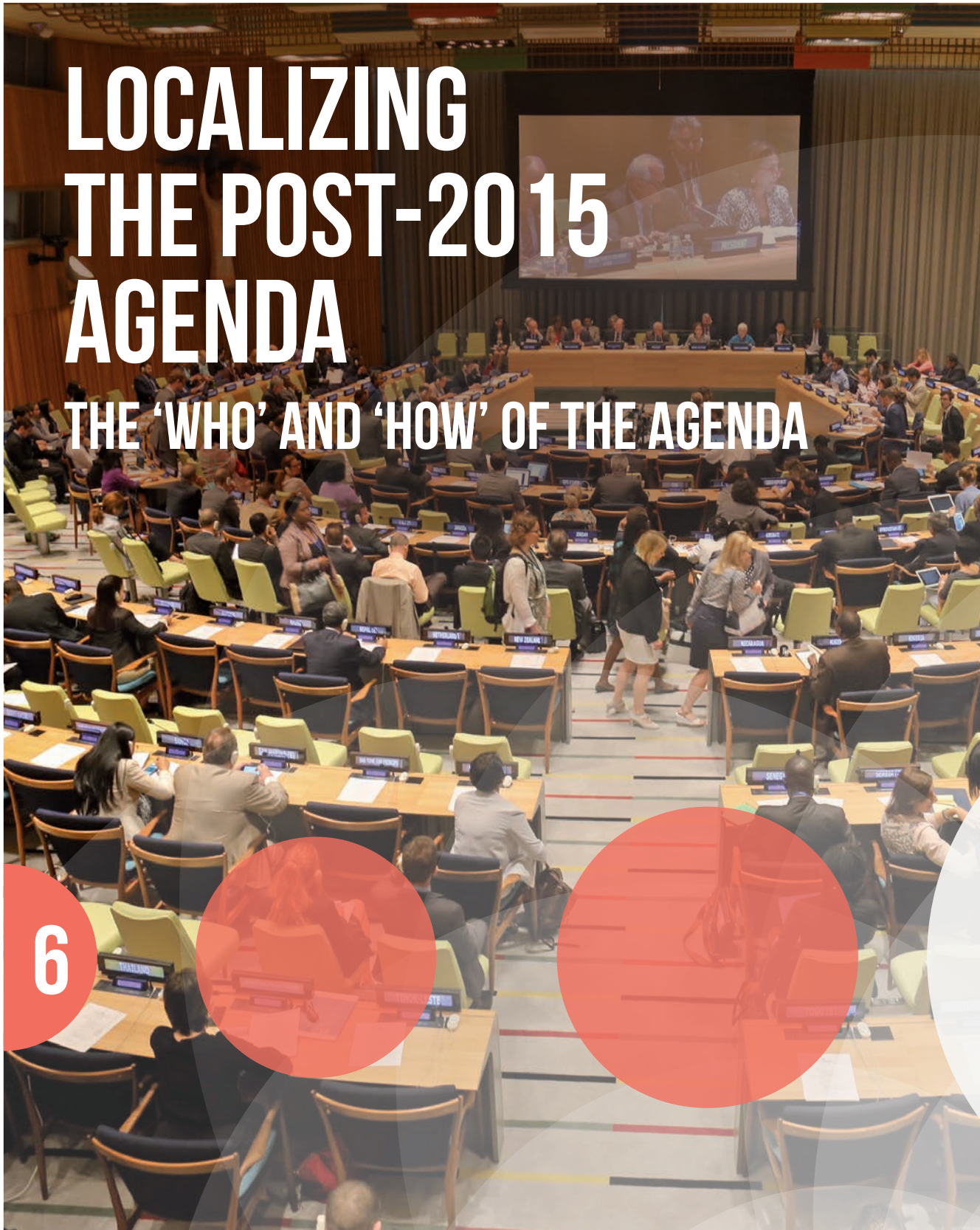
LOCAL LEADERS IN THE FRAME SUPPORTING GOAL 11 DURING URBAN OCTOBER

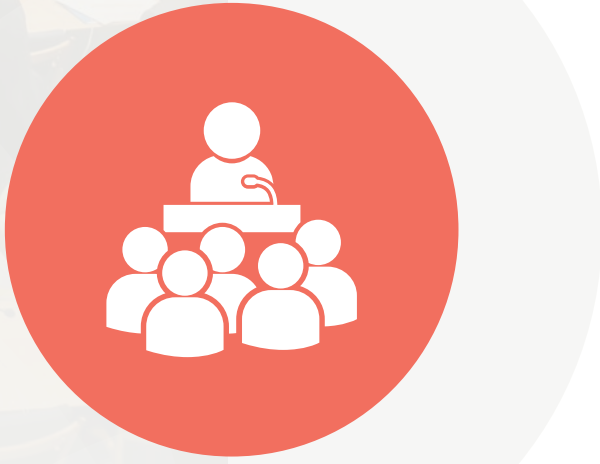# LOCALIZING THE POST-2015 AGENDA

## THE 'WHO' AND 'HOW' OF THE AGENDA

6

As well as calling for an Urban SDG, the Global Taskforce has been tirelessly advocating for the localization of the whole Post-2015 Agenda so that sub-national contexts, challenges, opportunities and governments are taken into account at all stages of the process, from the setting of goals and targets, to the means of implementation, the indicators used to monitor progress and the structure and mechanisms of the New Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

The Global Taskforce actively participated in the Open Working Group mandated to produce a report on the sustainable development goals to the General Assembly.

Our advocacy continued through the intergovernmental negotiations on the 17 proposed goals, which met monthly from January to July 2015, open to all Member States, international organisations, Major Groups and stakeholders.

CONSULTATION ON LOCALIZING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
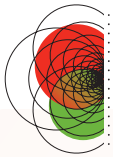
GLOBAL TASKFORCE
OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS
FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
TOWARDS HABITAT III

UN@HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNDP
Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments co-led a consultation on localization with UN-Habitat and UNDP in the summer of 2014, which aimed to identify lessons from the MDGs and best practices on how to implement the new Sustainable Development Goals at local level.

National dialogues were carried out in 13 countries, with approximately 4,200 participants from national and local institutions.

As well as the national dialogues, there were three global and six regional- level events, with more than 1000 participants from over 80 countries, and e-discussions on the World We Want platform. The process culminated in a global meeting in Turin, Italy, in October 2014.

National dialogues

4,200 PARTICIPANTS
13 COUNTRIES

Three global and six regional level events

+1,000 PARTICIPANTS
80 COUNTRIES

"*Most critical objectives and challenges of the Post-2015 Development Agenda will certainly depend on local action, community buy-in and local leadership, well-coordinated with all levels of governance... **Accountable local governments** can promote strong local partnerships with all local stakeholders – civil society, private sector, etc. Integrated and inclusive local development planning that involves all stakeholders is a key instrument to promoting ownership and the integration of the three dimensions of development – social, economic and environmental.*"

Helen Clark, Chair of the United Nations Development Group

"*Local **strategic planning** would allow a greater integration of the three pillars of development: social, economic and environmental. Likewise, further integration between urban and rural areas needs to be promoted, in order to foster greater territorial cohesion.*"

Ms. Milagro Navas, Mayor of the Municipality of Antiguo Cuscatlán and President of FLACMA, El Salvador, EU Policy Forum Lima, 2014

CONSULTATION REPORT: LOCALIZING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
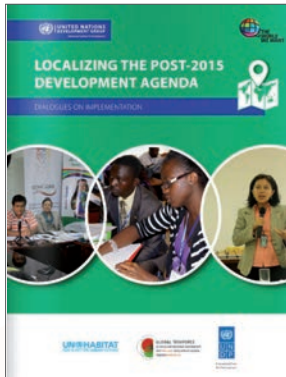
"Political and social leadership by women is key for territorial development and the implementation of SDGs. More locally elected women will help to ensure women's full and effective participation in decision-making in political, economic and social environments."

*"The review of the MDGs demonstrated the need to communicate the global agenda more effectively, and the need for **stronger engagement of local stakeholders** in defining, implementing and monitoring the Post-2015 Development Agenda."*

*"The global agenda should be inspired and implemented by local institutions, responding directly to citizens' needs. It should be transformative; include multi-level and multi-stakeholder participation; strengthen local leadership and ownership by citizens; generate **a bottom-up approach**; be based on a wide consultative process that identifies solutions and ideas collaboratively; and should provide a framework for monitoring results."*

*"**Decentralization, subsidiarity and good governance at all levels** are essential to implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda."*

*"The **transfer of responsibilities should be accompanied by appropriate resources and finance**, and local capacities should be recognized and harnessed to implement the global agenda at the local level."*

*Financing territorial and urban development is a key challenge for local governments. To strengthen local self-government, efforts must be made to ensure that local government has access to sources of revenue, and **effective fiscal decentralization** should increase local governments' ability to rely on their own resources."*

"A holistic approach to achieving the SDGs can be developed by defining clear means of engagement to encourage transparency and accountability (e.g. participatory budgeting and planning), and promoting collaboration between local governing bodies, CSOs, the private sector and other relevant stakeholders."

HOW TO LOCALIZE THE TARGETS AND INDICATORS OF THE POST-2015 AGENDA

A technical report by the Global Taskforce

"A key challenge will be to develop and monitor local targets and indicators for a more contextualised SDGs system."

The "Localizing the Post-2015 Agenda" consultation highlighted the importance of localized targets and indicators in allowing the goals to be implemented and monitored at sub-national level. Such geographically disaggregated data would allow sub-national inequalities to be identified and resources allocated accordingly. It would also enable communities to track progress at local level and hold their governments accountable.

With this in mind, the Global Taskforce published a report reviewing potential data sources and indicators for all of the targets of the urban goal, as well as targets from a number of other goals which we believe to have significant local dimensions. The report aims to feed into international debates on the 'data revolution for sustainable development', and to reaffirm the importance of leaving no city or region behind.

THE NEW GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"The success of future development strategies depends on a fundamental revision of the global partnership, the institutional and financial framework that should underpin the goals and targets. The new framework should be supported by a stronger and more democratic international governance structure that includes new stakeholders and covers issues and regulations not being addressed at present.

A new, real global partnership for development that includes all stakeholders, with a bottom-up approach and constituency, is a prerequisite to the implementation of the future development agenda.

The special role of local and subnational governments, already acknowledged in the Rio+20 outcome document, should be further strengthened in the Post-2015 Agenda, and specific arrangements should be made to include this constituency in relevant decision-making mechanisms."

Statement of the LAMG and the Global Taskforce on the Means of Implementation and Global Partnership at the Informal interactive hearings on the Post-2015 Development Agenda General Assembly Hall, United Nations, New York 26-27 May 2015.

POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

A NEW ERA IN GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7

2015
TIME FOR
GLOBAL ACTION
FOR PEOPLE AND PLANET

The Post-2015 Development Agenda gives the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments much to celebrate, particularly:

- **GOAL 6** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- **TARGET 8.9** to devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products

- **GOAL 10** to reduce inequality within and among countries

- **GOAL 11** to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe and sustainable

- **TARGET 13.B** to promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

- **GOAL 16** to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- **GOAL 17** to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Local and regional governments reaffirm our commitment to playing our full role in the implementation, monitoring and follow-up of the Sustainable Development Goals in the communities we serve, and in the New Global Partnership at international level.

TOWARDS HABITAT III AND THE SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

AN ORGANIZED CONSTITUENCY READY TO CONTRIBUTE

8

TOGETHER TOWARDS

H III

HABITAT III

The Habitat III Conference in Quito in October the next big moment in the calendar for local and regional governments. Habitat III will be the first UN global conference to be held after the adoption of the Post-2015 sustainable development goals.

It will focus on how to implement the urbanization dimension of sustainable development and, hopefully, a new climate change agreement. The agreements made will define the new urban agenda for the international community over the coming decades.

Over the last 40 years, the partnership between local authorities and UN-Habitat has been expanded and reinforced.

- **1976 - HABITAT I:** Local governments were recognized as one of the main partners of UN-Habitat in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

- **1996 - HABITAT II:** Saw the First World Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities and the foundation of UCLG.

- **2016 - HABITAT III:** Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Authorities and an opportunity to make a qualitative leap forward in the relationship between the UN and local governments.

THE SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES WILL PROVIDE A JOINT DECLARATION AT THE HABITAT III

We are calling for the UN to:

- Accept this declaration as representing our constituency
- Officially acknowledge local authorities as full partners in the Habitat Agenda
- Give local and regional government networks a more direct role and increased responsibilities within the governing bodies of UN-Habitat.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

"The success of our recommendations will be assured if we develop a sense of ownership and accountability at all levels, international, national and subnational-local levels"

Kadir Topbaş
Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG

"We call for a single, universal agenda that has differentiated responsibilities is built on subsidiarity and which acknowledges the transformational potential of urbanization"
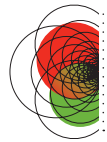
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FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA
TOWARDS HABITAT III

Contribution to **High Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Agenda**

Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is born

2012

2013

2014

LOCALIZING THE

URBAN

"We ... recognize the important role that such authorities and communities can play in implementing sustainable development "

The Future We Want
RIO+20 Outcome document

"Cities are where the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost..."
High Level Panel Report 'A New Global Partnership'

ECOSOC integration segment on Sustainable Urbanization

Global campaign for a **stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization**
#UrbanSDG

UCLG, UN-Habitat and the Group of Friends of Sustainable Cities organize the **Sustainable Cities Days**

I SUPPORT
#URBANSDG

SDG
11

TO THE POST-2015 AGENDA

Cities and local governments renew commitments to mitigate climate change through World Compact of Mayors

Speaking up for local and regional governments in the Open Working Group

GTF, UN HABITAT, and UNDP co-organize **consultations on 'Localizing the Post-2015 Agenda'**

"How to Localize Targets and Indicators of the Post-2015 Agenda" Global Taskforce report

UNSG Synthesis Report on Post-2015: The Road to Dignity by 2030

> **"Local and subnational governments are keen to play a more active role in the definition, implementation and follow-up of the transformational Post-2015 Development Agenda"**

Local Authorities Major Group Statement

UN General Assembly Hearings

Third High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

WHAT'S NEXT?

TOGETHER TOWARDS
H | III
HABITAT III

POST-2015 AGENDA #LOCALIZING2015

2015

2016

SDG CAMPAIGN #URBANSDG

Open Working Group 7 on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements

"Environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without serious action at the city level, most of it by local authorities." Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat at the ECOSOC Integration Segment

Urban October: Local leaders in the frame supporting **Goal 11**

First Habitat III PrepComm

Goal 11: **"Make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."** Included in final Open Working Group Report. **#SDG11**

> A successful strategy against climate change requires public policies and non-State actors' measures to be articulated on the basis of a robust local approach, with a strong view to strengthening local and regional governance, to fostering fundamental rights protection and a sustainable human and gender-sensitive development.

Lyon Declaration 2015

UN Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

Habitat III and the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

> Habitat III should revive the spirit of Istanbul and encourage Member States to "intensify their cooperation with associations and networks of local authorities, non-governmental organizations."

Global Taskforce statement at Second Habitat III PrepComm2
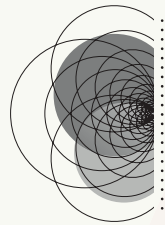
2015
TIME FOR
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FOR POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

TOWARDS HABITAT III

LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

Supported by the European Commission