

## TURIN COMMUNIQUE ON LOCALIZING THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

15<sup>th</sup> October, 2014

*The implementation of the Post-2015 Agenda will greatly depend on local action and leadership, in coordination with all other levels of governance. Any new development agenda will only have an impact on people's lives if it is successfully implemented at the local level.*

On 14<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014, the Municipality of Turin and the Government of Italy hosted representatives of national, regional and local governments, UN agencies, international institutions, civil society organizations (including women, youth, and slum dwellers), the private sector, academia, foundations and development partners from more than 30 countries at a "Global dialogue on the Localization of the Post-2015 Agenda" in Turin.

*The Post-2015 Development Agenda* is the first major United Nations policy process to be informed by a comprehensive global dialogue. While the first phase of the dialogue, held during 2013, was focused on the potential issues and areas to be included in the Post-2015 Development Agenda (the "what" of the Agenda), the second phase, launched in April 2014, is dedicated to the means of implementation (the "how" and "who" of the Agenda). The dialogues on implementation cover six main areas of discussion, one of which is "Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda". The High Level Global Dialogue in Turin was the culmination of the dialogues on the localization of the Post-2015 agenda.

Over recent months, national dialogues on the Localization of the Post-2015 Agenda have been carried out in 13 countries across all continents, as well as four global and five regional level events. The dialogues were attended by over 5000 participants from more than 80 countries, representing national and local institutions, local and regional authorities, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector. These dialogues resulted in a number of concrete recommendations for facilitating the successful implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda at the local level.

An Advisory Committee consisting of national and local governments, bilateral partners, civil society, the private sector, foundations, and academics has guided the process to ensure its transparency and inclusiveness.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), on behalf of the United Nations Development Group, together with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for the Post-2015 Development Agenda towards HABITAT III (Global Task Force - GTF), worked together to co-lead the Localizing consultation.

### **Preliminary key messages from the Dialogue on Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda:**

Building on the national, regional and global dialogues and the cross-cutting messages and principles that emerged from the six dialogues carried out on the means of implementation (particularly *participation*, *inclusion* and the need for *strengthened capacities* and *partnerships*), the participants and co-leads of the Dialogue on Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda approve the following messages:

- Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) are essential for promoting inclusive sustainable development within their territories and, therefore, are necessary partners in the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda.
- Effective local governance can ensure the inclusion of a diversity of local stakeholders, thereby creating broad-based ownership, commitment and accountability.
- An integrated multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach is needed to promote transformative agendas at the local level.
- Strong national commitment to provide adequate legal frameworks and institutional and financial capacity to local and regional governments is required.

In light of the above, the participants and co-leads of the Dialogue on Localizing the Post-2015 development agenda make a number of **recommendations**. The participants and co-leads:

- Call upon national governments and the UN to strongly advocate for the localization of the agenda at the intergovernmental negotiations and to support the involvement of local and regional governments and local stakeholders in the intergovernmental negotiation through their representative networks, including in the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;
- Encourage the Post-2015 agenda to stress the importance of establishing environments that unlock the development potential of local and regional governments and local stakeholders by creating an enabling institutional framework at all levels and by localizing resources and ensuring territorial approach for sustainable development.
- Further call for the redoubling of efforts to include reliable targets and indicators for the SDGs that respond to local contexts, needs and concerns, in order to foster transparency and accountability.

The participants and co-leads of the Dialogue on Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda also:

- Underline the importance of establishing sustainable financing mechanisms to localize the global development agenda and build responsive and accountable local institutions. This includes the full and effective participation of local governments in public expenditure allocation through fiscal decentralization, as well as new forms of financing for local development.
- Underscore the importance of strengthening capacity building programmes and of the role of territorial development approaches in facilitating integrated planning for effective transformative agendas at the local level.
- Recognize the need for multilevel and multi-stakeholder approaches that will allow all relevant stakeholders to participate in the implementation of the development agenda of their respective territories and, thus, strengthen local ownership of the localization process. Specific emphasis should be put on inclusive and participatory processes that allow local and regional governments to engage with the private sector and civil society, including distinctive local cultures, particularly of indigenous peoples, migrants,

minorities, traditionally excluded groups, as well as traditional institutions and authorities, in a meaningful and effective way.

- Promote pilot initiatives to demonstrate the added value of LRGs in the monitoring and implementation of the SDGs in low, middle and high income countries, including small island developing states, and scale-up existing good practices and innovations for localization.
- Call for the acknowledgement of decentralized cooperation, particularly through direct exchanges between local and regional governments, and south-south cooperation initiatives to support the localization of the SDGs.

As this process unfolds, the UNDP, UN-Habitat and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments are committed to continue to collaborate with national and local partners to strengthen the global partnership for the Localization of the Post-2015 Development Agenda; we express our willingness to advocate for and work towards the implementation of the Post-2015 agenda at the local level.

This way forward for the Localization of the Post-2015 Development Agenda will have to be closely linked to next steps of the entire Post-2015 process, whilst taking into consideration other global agendas and the existing strong crosscutting linkages among them, e.g. the Global Partnership for an Effective Development Cooperation and the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

Turin, 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2014