

WUF11 SESSION CONCEPT NOTE

WORLD ASSEMBLY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

1. List of Partners Contributing to the Session:

- Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

2. Key Words:

Local Action, SDG localization, sustainable urbanization, inclusive governance, urban resilience

3. Objectives of the Session:

- To provide space for discussion among local governments and their associations around the world, specifically on the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.
- To renew the commitment of the Global Taskforce constituency to contribute to the follow-up and review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator of sustainable development in line with other global Agendas by driving transformative action for a better urban future.
- To increase coordination and cooperation between different stakeholders and constituencies for the advancement and implementation of sustainable urbanization.
- To organize political inputs into concrete actions and innovation policy areas in line with the six WUF dialogues.
- To recommend concrete proposals for the inclusion of local and regional governments towards a transformative future, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and other complex emergencies.
- Improve the collective knowledge of sustainable urbanization through inclusive open debates, sharing of lessons learned and the exchange of best practices and good policies.

4. Summary:

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments constitutes the representative mechanism through which the local and regional governments constituency provides inputs to the global agendas, building on the realities and expertise of communities. The World Assembly has likewise become the mechanism through which the local and regional governments constituency made its official inputs during the drafting process of the New Urban Agenda and during its follow-up and review process at the High Level Meeting in April 2022.

Cities are constantly innovating to be able to play their role in offering transformative actions that forge inclusive cities and territories that ensure opportunities for all. Following the High Level Meeting and continuing with the important roadmap of global advocacy in 2022, during the WUF11, the Assembly will address the challenges of sustainable urbanization in relation to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The discussion will similarly approach the underscored potential of the disruptive effect to building forward differently, in a manner that confronts structural inequalities and drives towards the realization of the SDGs.

The World Assembly will be convened by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. Building on the premise that entrenching resilience for sustainable urban futures entails a multi-sectoral, multi-dimensional and multi-stakeholder effort - which requires effective collaboration and cooperation across all scales - the Assembly will bring the voice of Mayors, Governments and city networks to the Eleventh Session of the World Urban Forum.

5. Guiding Questions for Discussions:

- What is the renewed commitment of the Global Taskforce after the review of the New Urban Agenda at the High-Level Meeting in April?
- How can local governments advance the implementation of the NUA in coordination with their national counterparts?
- What are the major contributions of local governments to global innovation in cities to make them inclusive and with opportunities for all?
- What kind of multilateralism is needed to support cities and territories to strive for sustainable development?
- What policy directions can governments and relevant stakeholders at various levels and in different contexts take to build resilience across various dimensions (economic, social and environmental), including appropriate governance and institutional structures?
- In what ways recovery from disruptive events can trigger equitable urban futures? What are the roles of the different levels of government and relevant stakeholders in ensuring this transformation?
- How to better link the monitoring and reporting processes of the implementation of the NUA with the urban-related indicators in the other SDGs and Agenda 2030 as a whole?

6. Expected Outcomes and Impact:

- Presentation of key policy positions of the local and regional government's constituency to the global community of governments and urban practitioners.
- Showcase how local and regional governments are facing urban challenges and building forward better in line with the New Urban Agenda principles.
- Providing a platform for dialogue between national governments and local and regional governments and a privileged interlocutor for the UN and other international partners.

7. Session Format:

The debate will consist of **three different moments** of 30 minutes each. Each moment will be composed by two roundtables composed by speakers and respondents. Topics will be fine-tuned, but the preliminary time allocation is the following:

The LRG Assembly will start with a high-level opening (16:00 – 16:10)

1. First Moment: Local and regional governments implementing the SDGs in line with the NUA (16:10 – 16:40)
2. Second Moment: Multi-level and multi-stakeholder paradigm shift to build forward better (16:40 – 17:10)

(10 minutes *break*) 17:10 – 17:20

3. Third Moment: Specific innovations cities are implementing to support the global agendas (17:20 – 17:50)

Closing Remarks (17:50 – 18:00)