

LOCALIZING THE SDGs

Transformative partnerships to accelerate achievement of the Global Goals at the local level

Summary

In 2020, the UN Secretary-General launched the Decade of Action, identifying local action as one of the key areas to achieve the SDGs by 2030. In addition, the crises of our times— climate change, pandemics, conflicts – all have a key urban dimensions, and it is from the bottom-up that solutions to address them have to be found.

All the SDGs have targets which are directly or indirectly related to the daily work of local and regional governments and local stakeholders. While the SDGs are global in their ambition, their achievement will depend on local action and local leadership.

SDG localization is the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level, in coherence with the national frameworks and in line with communities' priorities. To be successful, localization needs to be anchored on the principles of inclusion, partnership, and multilevel governance and build on adequate data and financing availability at the local level.

The United Nations and the international development community are prioritizing SDG localization. Several interconnected global initiatives have been launched such as the G20 Platform on SDG Localization and Intermediary Cities, with the support of the Italian Presidency of G20; the SDG Cities Initiative, led by UN-Habitat; and the Local 2030 Coalition, the UN-wide initiative on localizing the SDGs.

This session aims to create an engaging debate with a wide array of stakeholders from different spheres of government and sectors. The four macro topics of discussion are linked to the key dimensions of SDG localization: (1) data, planning and reporting (2) multi-level governance, (3) financing local SDG impact, (4) inclusive partnerships. In addition, the session will be an occasion to present and discuss the main global initiatives on SDG localization supported by the United Nations Systems and specifically UN-Habitat.