

SIDE EVENT
HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2019

THE KEY ROLE OF PARTNERSHIPS FOR AN INCLUSIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AGENDA 2030 AT LOCAL LEVEL: AN OPEN DISCUSSION
(English and Spanish interpretation)

Instituto Cervantes / European Union Representation
211 E 49th St, New York, NY 10017, EE. UU
July 15th, 17:00 – 19:00

CONCEPT NOTE

According to the UN, "55 percent of the world's current population lives in urban areas and it is predicted that this proportion will reach 68 percent by 2050, so that sustainable development will increasingly depend on the proper management of urban growth"¹. Cities have always placed people at the centre of their concern, and in recent years an increasing number are working to generate models of management, planning and governance that allow for a better sustainable development, embracing an international commitment that places the accent on not only "leaving no one behind", but also "no place behind". This objective requires the unequivocal leadership of the cities, which in turn requires a new distribution of responsibilities necessarily based on a different and open way of governance that allows thinking, planning and governing among all. It also calls cities and regions to renew their international cooperation ties with peers across the globe so as to align them with the 2030 Agenda and to strengthen mutual learning on the SDGs localization process.

The articulation of the so-called localization processes has local governments as key actors since the main challenges posed by the SDGs are materialized at territorial level. In this way, the local sphere has become in the best place to experiment, collaborate, innovate and co-design public policies, new models of governance and international cooperation, and in turn, to promote a pedagogy of sustainable development for the citizenry. The commitment to fulfil the 2030 Agenda is calling local governments to mobilize actors, to facilitate spaces for citizen participation, to promote inclusive development, to collaborate further with peers for mutual learning and to demand more efficiency and coherence with other spheres of government.

Local governments and the associations that represent them have actively participated in the design of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. Both international agendas recognize the importance of local governments to ensure the effective implementation of these objectives from a new approach of cooperation and institutional and intersectoral coordination in which dialogue, policy coherence and complementarity at the local, national and international level are essential, as well as the collaboration with the public, private sectors, civil society, academia, the media and research centres, *think tanks* among others.

Likewise, in this multilevel and multi-stakeholder context it is important to highlight the work done by *UN Global Compact Cities Program* to promote a strategic and systematic partnership of local institutions with responsible and sustainable business sectors; thus allowing to incorporate innovation, technologies, capacities, resources and data necessary for the design and implementation of local policies. The Executive Office of the Deputy Secretary of the United Nations has shown its commitment by promoting the Local 2030 Initiative for the localization of the SDGs and, with this, places the multilateral development system at the service of the localization process. The result of this effort is the "[Seville Commitment](#)", a localization roadmap reached last February 27th at Seville, Spain. Among whose commitments are: (1) the promotion of territorial and rural-urban cohesion through intersectoral and integrated approaches for sustainable local and territorial development, as well as inclusive multilevel governance arrangements and (2) the promotion of adequate financial instruments and resources to support localization processes.

¹ <https://www.un.org/development/desa/es/news/population/2018-world-urbanization-prospects.html>

The EU is called to lead, from its experience and background, the effective acceleration of the transformation inherent of the 2030 Agenda, using all the instruments at its disposal, including its development cooperation policies aimed at sharing and exchanging experiences and knowledge with partner countries, as shown in the reflection paper '[Towards a Sustainable Europe by 2030](#)' adopted by the European Commission. In this context, the Government of Spain understood the need to address the objectives of the 2030 Agenda by counting on the different key actors to design and implement solutions, policies and transformative dynamics in order to accelerate the effective implementation of the Agenda 2030 both in Spain and in partner countries.

From that perspective in the Spanish context, the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces made a firm commitment in 2015 with the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, convinced that it is the roadmap to follow in the coming years for the development of a more just, free and egalitarian society. This commitment has materialized in the development, elaboration and implementation, in an open and participatory manner, of the 'Strategy of the FEMP for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals'.

The Strategy, based on institutional strengthening, advocacy for the role of local governments in the multi-level articulation of the 2030 Agenda in Spain and in the design and implementation of Spanish development cooperation programmes; local knowledge exchange and the development of stronger national and international partnerships, has had among its main results the articulated participation of the local constituency in the 'Spanish Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda', the development of strategic alliances with key actors for the strengthening of local sustainable development policies and the establishment of Local Observatory of the 2030 Agenda in Spain. Moreover, it has resulted in stronger partnership ties with key local and regional voices from partner countries, particularly in Latin America, with whom dialogue, and mutual learning is sought in order to shape better and more effective decentralized cooperation programmes.

In turn, the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development (REDS), created in 2015, is the Spanish chapter of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) with the mission of mobilizing and sensitizing Spanish society, public institutions and the private sector so that they have a more rigorous and committed knowledge of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as favouring their incorporation into public policies, business environment and the behaviour of society in general. The main purpose of REDS is to foster universities, research centres, companies and civil society to solve practical problems on sustainable development.

Through this shared vision, REDS and FEMP have formed a strategic alliance of collaboration to exchange experiences, practices and develop assessment, knowledge and monitoring tools in areas of common interest related to sustainable urban development and the strengthening of local governance and of local governments authorities for the promotion of the SDGs. Such local expertise on the Agenda 2030 localisation is to be shared with partners in Europe and internationally by rethinking cooperation modalities, through FEMP's membership in PLATFORMA².

Under this framework and considering the existing challenges regarding local data and information for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies with a SDG perspective, FEMP along with other actors- Iberdrola and Mediapost-, supported REDS's initiative to elaborate the Report 'The Sustainable Development Goals in 100 Spanish cities' with the purpose of contributing to sustainable development in Spanish cities. The relevance of the Report and its complementarity in the framework of the Local Observatory for the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda promoted by the Federation, make it one of the main tools that can serve as a scorecard in favour of the development of Local 2030 Plans in Spain, and as a relevant replicable tool for the implementation of the SDGs in partner countries. Also, it will favour the debate on setting shared and

² PLATFORMA is the European coalition of local and regional governments – and their associations – active in city-to city and region-to-region development cooperation. the coalition helps reflect on how to improve, experiment and rethink international partnerships of local and regional governments with the 2030 Agenda as policy framework.

agreed indicators among local authorities which allow a coherent and homogeneous approach and comparison.

In this process, key policies have been identified such as urban mobility, air quality, sustainable and healthy design of cities, equity, access to energy (clean energy), child poverty and gender equality, among others, as essential areas for the landing of the leverage policies that the 2030 Agenda requires. Thus, different institutions such as ISGlobal, ITD, Iberdrola, etc. have joined, constituting true alliances capable of generating a real and scalable impact.

FEMP and REDS together with PLATFORMA and other relevant actors are organizing this Side Event to address the role of public-private, multilevel and multi-sectoral alliances as a fundamental axis for the acceleration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and as a mechanism to favour that the whole of actors that live in the same territory feel concerned and recognized in a common strategy of sustainable development. The session, proposed as an open dialogue between multiple actors, will reflect on the need to establish virtuous synergies through multi-actor platforms in the territories/cities, that contextualized in the different national areas foster the indisputable capacity of the local area to transfer knowledge, through an instrument as powerful as international cooperation for development, and the specific between city-city, both nationally and internationally.

OBJECTIVES

The Side Event aims to share and value the work carried out by Spain when designing a methodology of collaboration and co-responsibility among different stakeholders, from different levels of government and with different approaches to the challenge of locating the Goals for Sustainable Development. Such methodology aims at promoting new cooperation modalities by integrating the 2030 Agenda at the core of local knowledge exchange and technical cooperation with cities and regions in partner countries.

The session is structured around three specific objectives:

- Present FEMP's Strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda: Local 2030 Observatory and REDS Report 'The Sustainable Development Goals in 100 Spanish cities'.
- Promote good practices of different multi-stakeholder platforms developed in cities and existing cooperation opportunities.
- Reflect on the added value of decentralised development cooperation policies in order to achieve the SDGs at the territorial level.

DURATION: Approximately 120 minutes

FORMAT / METHODOLOGY:

The session will be a space for open dialogue and reflection with different actors to discuss how multilevel and multi-stakeholder alliances are being key to the effective implementation of the 2030 agenda in the territories by analysing different initiatives in progress, showing as a practice to be replicated, the work done in Spanish context by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and the Spanish Network for Sustainable Development and giving dimension to the importance of networking.

DRAFT AGENDA
05:00 pm to 07:00 pm

Presentation of the event: FEMP/REDS

- **María Eugenia Simarro Ossorio.** General Director of Organization of FEMP
- Member of Cervantes Institute (tbc)

Panel 1:

From global to local -> Global partnerships for inclusive development cooperation policies

- **Cristina Gallach.** Spanish High Commissioner for the Agenda 2030 (Spanish Government)
- **Stefano Manservigi.** General Director of International cooperation and development -DG DEVCO (European Commission)
- **Carlos Martínez Mínguez.** Mayor of Soria, European vice-president of UCLG and member of FEMPS' policy committee (Spain)
- **Rebeca Grynspan.** Secretary General of SEGIB
- **Leire Pajín Iraola.** President of REDS and IS-GLOBAL
- **Kerry Constabile.** LOCAL 2030

Respondent:

- **Nelson Fernández.** Executive Director of MERCOCIUDADES

Panel 2:

From local to global -> Seville Commitment and the localization of the Agenda 2030

- **Juan Espadas Cejas.** Mayor of Seville and spokesperson of climate of CCRE (Spain)
- **Gabriel Ferrero de Loma-Osorio.** General Director for Sustainable development policies (Spanish Minister of Foreign Affairs)
- **Mohamed Sefiani.** Alcalde de Chefchaouen (Moroco)
- **Marlène Siméon.** Director of PLATFORMA- CMRE
- **Agustín Delgado Martín.** Director de Innovación, Medioambiente y Calidad (Iberdrola)
- **Javier Cortes Fernández.** Global Compact-Cities Programme

Respondent:

- **PNUD**

Closing session:

- **María Eugenia Simarro Ossorio.** General Director of Organization of FEMP
- **Agustín Santos Maraver.** Ambassador Permanent of the Spanish Representation to the United Nations (*to be confirmed*)

LEADING INSTITUTIONS

	<p>FEMP is the national association of representation of local governments with wider implantation in the territory, it is also the Spanish section of the Council of Municipalities and Regions of Europe (CEMR), and an active member of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). FEMP is constituted as a privileged space for the promotion of local action within the framework of the 2030 Agenda both from a national perspective and from it work at international action for development, as shown by the collaboration agreements signed with SECIPIC and AECID (MAUEC) and the recognition as a driver institution within the framework of the Action Plan of Spain for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.</p>
	<p>The Spanish Network for Sustainable Development is one of the 9 national networks of the <i>Sustainable Development Solutions Network</i>, a global initiative launched by the United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in 2012, and Its mission is to mobilize experience and resources - both technical and scientific - from academia, civil society and the private sector, providing solutions for sustainable development at a local, national and global level. The mission of REDS is to mobilize and sensitize Spanish society, public institutions and the corporate world so that they may know more rigorously and with commitment the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as favouring their incorporation into future policies, business environment and the behaviour of society in general.</p>

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