



2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

2030 Agenda: from global emergencies to solutions at the regional level

Friday 10 July 2020 | 8:30 - 10:00 am (EST)

Concept Note

Background

The decade of action and delivery to step up progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and realize their targets by 2030 is now taking off in an entirely different context than what we expected. The unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our health, economies, and environment, and challenges all levels of government to respond effectively.

Regional authorities worldwide are at the forefront of the fight against the pandemic, being called upon to provide emergency services, communicate on how to contain the spread of disease, coordinate efforts, and mitigate as far as possible the impact on economies. In addition to responding urgently to stem the impact of the pandemic, regional governments strive to emerge stronger from this crisis by designing recovery plans aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

The HLPF is a moment to demonstrate commitment to a multilateral response, international cooperation, and solidarity. It is an opportunity to celebrate SDG actions and initiatives that regional governments are undertaking in line with the decade of action. Regions4's event will discuss and show examples of how regional governments are building back better, greener, and fairer, getting back on track toward the 2030 Agenda, and putting a spotlight on the need to strengthen multilevel governance. Our commitment to achieving the SDGs has not changed, but the urgency to act has.

Objectives and format

The event intends to draw upon and convey lessons learned to improve region-to-region peer knowledge-sharing and cooperation. It will stress the role of the regional governments within the United Nations as key actors in the implementation of 2030 Agenda, emphasizing the need for multilevel cooperation in the decision-making process.

Regional authorities will reflect on how subnational governments are responding to the COVID-19 crisis, how they are planning for a sustainable recovery, how the role of regional governments will be critical in this process, and how the Sustainable Development Goals can support a balanced recovery.

The event will be virtual in an interview format, in which speakers reply dynamically to questions from the moderator. All speakers will reflect on the following questions:

- How the pandemic is affecting your region? Which measures are in place for mitigation and recovery from the crisis? How are they working so far?
- What has been the impact of the pandemic on the implementation of SDGs in your region? Have your priorities changed?
- How is your government linking recovery and SDGs?



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In addition, each speaker will address a different topic, providing examples of their governments' measures and efforts on:

- wellbeing of vulnerable populations, in particular access to food
- economic shock and shifting priorities
- social sustainability and capacity strengthening as an empowerment of change
- climate emergency
- SDGs as a roadmap to recovery strategies

Agenda

8:30 Opening by Regions4 President, Ms. Elena Moreno

8:35 Messages from the international community

- Chief of Outreach and Partnerships Branch at UN DESA Division for Sustainable Development, Ms. Lotta Tahtinen
- Coordinator of the UNDP ART initiative, Mr. Johannes Krassnitzer
- Head of the Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division at OECD, Ms. Aziza Akhmouch

8:45 High-level panel discussion

- Prefect of Azuay, Mr. Yaku Pérez
- Vice-Minister of Industry of Basque Country, Mr. Javier Zorraonandia
- Member of the Committee on Territorial Management and Development and Environment of Rabat Salé-Kenitra and Regions4 Vice-President for Africa, Ms. Aatimad Zahidi
- Minister of Development of Åland, Mr. Alfons Röblom
- Minister for Rural Development and Environment of Navarra, Ms. Itziar Gomez
- Minister of Environment and Climate of Lombardy, Mr. Raffaele Cattaneo
- Vice-President and Minister of Economy and Finance of Catalonia, Mr. Pere Aragonès-Garcia

Moderated by the journalist, Ms. Silvia Intxaurreondo

10:00 Closing remarks by Regions4 President, Ms. Elena Moreno

Logistics

Register [here](#) by July 8. Pre-registered attendees will have access to the online platform. A recording will be available in Regions4 social media channels.

Simultaneous interpretation will be provided in English, Spanish, and French.