

Shaping local pathways for a more equitable, sustainable, and secure future for all – “Localizing the Pact for the Future”

Side Event on the occasion of the UN Summit of the Future’s Action Days

21 September 2024, 9:45-11:00 – UNHQ, CR3

Concept Note

Background

As we witness deepening inequalities and social unrest to multiple environmental challenges, worsening hunger, malnutrition, and rising conflicts, it is clear that the world must change its trajectory to realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). According to the 2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report, only 17% of the SDGs’ targets are currently on track to be achieved by 2030, about 30% have had only marginal progress, and more than 30% are either stagnated or moving in the wrong direction. Despite these alarming figures, ambitious global efforts continue to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, and localization is a key part of these efforts.

Localization of the SDGs is about accelerating the progress towards these ambitious global goals in local realities and contexts, through engagement processes that facilitate the voices and contributions of local and regional governments, stakeholders, and local communities into various facets of implementation, to bolster bottom-up solutions and innovations. It is estimated that over half of the 169 SDG targets will not be reached without proper engagement and coordination at the local level. Whether it is through the leadership of local and regional governments as the closest level of government to people, the participation of civil society and youth to foster local community-based action, or partnerships with the private sector to ensure social development and climate action alongside economic growth and innovation, it is clear that localization is the driving force to accelerate the transformations needed to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

The Local2030 Coalition, the UN System-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda, creates an enabling environment for localization and demonstrates the UN’s collective offer on localized SDG action by providing support to local and regional governments and boosting local stakeholders’ capacities. It acts as a convening space to build on existing initiatives and facilitate the scaling up of best practices with multiplier effects. Recognized as one of the 12 High Impact Initiatives of the United Nations, the Local2030 Coalition drives achievement across the six SDG transitions at the local level, from agrifood systems, energy access and affordability, digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection, to climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. By working through three main action areas - advocacy,



action and monitoring - the Coalition has been helping to accelerate commitments to support locally driven actions. For instance, in partnership with the UN Joint SDG Fund and with \$10 million in support from Spain, 30 UN Country Teams are receiving seed funding for catalytic initiatives at the local level. Likewise, the SDG Localization marker was launched to bolster joint initiatives from UN Country teams that prioritize localization efforts, ensuring policy coherence and transparent tracking of financing allocated to localization initiatives. The marker helped identify approximately USD 24 million for programmes driving the SDGs locally.

Additionally, the Coalition has launched, with the support of Italy, the Local2030 Coalition Knowledge and Scientific Network, which aims to bridge the gap between research, data and knowledge, and policy and decision-making on SDG localization. Local2030 is also supporting the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, which seeks to advise on the structural relationship between the local and regional government self-organized constituency and the UN system, and has brought localization to the center of numerous high-level events, including the UN Economic and Social Council Partnership Forum, the World Urban Forum, the High-Level Political Forums (HLPF), UN Climate Change Conferences (COP), the UN Water Conference, UN Food Systems Stocktaking Moment, the SDG Summit, the Global Refugee Forum, the International Conference on Small Island Developing States, and many others.

Objectives

Looking towards the 2024 UN Summit of the Future with the theme “Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow”, the Local2030 Coalition has joined forces with the Governments of Spain and Brazil and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments to organize a Side Event during the Summit's Action Days focused on the importance of localizing the commitments and actions stemming from the Pact for the Future. The side event will build on the objective of the Summit to forge a “new global consensus” on the future of multilateralism by illustrating the power of multi-stakeholder collaboration and multilevel governance to achieve the promise of the Pact for the Future and Our Common Agenda at the local level.

Drawing on the 2023 SDG Summit's political declaration, where countries emphasized the importance of working together at all levels to achieve the SDGs, the side event will focus on local action and sustainable urbanization as key enablers to drive progress on the 2030 Agenda. It will provide a unique space to showcase local initiatives that champion social inclusion, multi stakeholder collaboration, and equality and human rights. The event will also share how key milestones between HLPF 2024, the Summit of the Future and COP30, including the 12th World Urban Forum, COP29, the 4th Conference on Financing for Development, HLPF 2025, and the World Summit for Social Development, can serve to inform and incubate innovative multi-stakeholder commitments and solutions, to achieve the global goals.

- Special emphasis will be given to showcasing actions based on stakeholder engagement that can have multiplier effects and that accelerate the implementation of the SDGs through the lens of the 6 SDG transitions and that consider the three priority themes of the Action Days: Digital Futures, Peaceful Futures and Sustainable Futures for All, with gender equality, human rights and addressing inequalities at the center.



- Concrete examples of local level policies and initiatives leading to a more equitable, sustainable and secure future for people and the planet, including through the provision of adequate, safe and affordable housing and the planning of just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient and sustainable cities will be presented. The event will also link to other high-impact, multi-stakeholder initiatives, such as CHAMP and SDSN Global Commission for Urban SDG Finance.
- Foster dialogue on the follow-up to the Summit of the Future and the role of multistakeholder collaboration in SDG Localization with a particular focus on increasing capacities and financing at the local level to follow up on the proposals of the Pact for the Future and Our Common Agenda.

Expected outcomes

- Demonstrate models and initiatives that illustrate effective collaboration among stakeholders, inspiring concrete commitments and partnerships for SDG Localization.
- Generate actionable recommendations and commitments from stakeholders to enhance local capacities and secure sustainable financing for the provision of adequate, safe and affordable housing and the planning of just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient and sustainable cities.
- Develop follow-up strategies on the mechanisms and proposals included in the Pact for the Future and Our Common Agenda related to stakeholder engagement in the UN system.

Supporters

- Submitting Entity: Local2030 Coalition
- Member state: Spain
- Member state: Brazil
- UN Major Group: Local Authorities Major Group (represented by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments)

Participants

Member States, Local and Regional Governments and their networks, private sector, academia and UN entities.

Format

The event will be in-person and web-streamed. It will involve a high-level opening segment, an action round which will present multistakeholder initiatives that have multiplier effects and closing reflections from the hosting entities.

Registration

This event is open to all registered participants of the Summit of the Future Action Days. Member States delegates, UN staff, and other stakeholders who have valid UN ground passes are welcome to attend the event in person. Interested participants not included in the above categories can register by contacting the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat at massimo.perrino@un.org.

Language

English, Spanish and Portuguese

Programme and Speakers

21 September 2024 – From 9:45 am to 11:am EDT	
Time	Session
Master of Ceremony: Shipra Narang Suri, Chief of Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat	
High-level opening	
9:45 – 10:10 am	<p><u>Greetings from the Hawaii SDG Youth Council (2 min)</u></p> <p><u>Opening remarks (4 min each)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eva María Granados Galiano, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, Spain • Uğur İbrahim Altay, Mayor of Konya, President of United Cities and Local Governments on behalf of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments • Antonio da Costa e Silva Neto, Special Secretary for International Affairs of the Ministry of Cities, Brazil <p><u>Keynote speech (5 min)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amina J. Mohammed, United Nations Deputy Secretary-General and Chair of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group
Action round - Multistakeholder initiatives to accelerate the SDGs through Localization	
10:10 – 11:00 am	<p><u>Chair and Scene-setter (5 min)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ana Claudia Rossbach, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat <p><u>Video: Voices on Localizing the Pact for the Future (3 min)</u></p> <p>Panel debate: Multistakeholder initiatives for SDG Acceleration addressing the 3 priority themes of the Action Days: Digital Futures, Peaceful Futures and Sustainable Futures for All</p>



Guiding question for speakers: How can multi-stakeholder engagement and multi-level governance help to accelerate the SDGs and advance the Pact for the Future at the local level? Each speaker will share their reflections and an example from their perspective and experience (5 min each).

1. **Monicah Malith**, Tertiary Refugee Student Network Leader
 - **Topic:** Refugees and migration – SDG Localization

2. **Eugenie Birch**, Lawrence C. Nussdorf Chair of Urban Research and Education, University of Pennsylvania
 - **Topic:** Role of academia to bridge the gap between scientific knowledge and policy making towards achievement of the SDGs

3. **Noraini Roslan**, Mayor of Klang, Local2030 Coalition Steering Committee Member
 - **Topic:** Local and Regional Governments leadership role in achieving the SDGs and implementing the Pact for the Future

4. **Angel Cardenas**, Urban Development and Creative Cities Manager, Development Bank of Latin America (CAF)
 - **Topic:** Leveraging the role of development banks towards the SDGs

5. **Lorena Zarate**, Co-Founder and Co-Coordinator, Global Platform for the Right to the City
 - **Topic:** Role of civil society in facilitating a sustainable future for all

6. **Máximo Torero Cullen**, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
 - **Topic:** Role of the UN-System to localize the pact for the future, joining forces through the Local2030 Coalition to amplify and scale up impact

Wrap-up and closing by the Chair

- **Ana Claudia Rossbach**, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat

