



Local2030 Coalition High Impact Initiative Special Event at the 2025 High-level Political Forum (HLPF)

“Scaling up Local Innovation for Systemic SDG Impact”

16 July 2025 | 15:00-18:00 EDT | UN Headquarters, CR11

#SDGLocalization

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted in 2015, serves as a comprehensive blueprint to eradicate poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. While significant strides have been made, persistent and interconnected global challenges—including climate change, armed conflict, economic disparities, and public health emergencies—continue to hinder collective progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As global efforts continue to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), there is an increasing emphasis on the power of localizing the SDGs, ensuring their implementation comes from the ground up and is rooted in co-created efforts, to foster impact and transformation. Sustainable development stakeholders increasingly recognize the transformative potential of SDG localization—a people-centered, locally-based approach that matches global aspirations into local realities, ensuring that sustainable development is inclusive, equitable, and deeply rooted in the experiences, capacities and leadership of local actors.

Within this context, the Local2030 Coalition, the United Nations platform on SDG localization comprised of 14 UN entities and five constituencies (national governments, local governments, civil society/academia, the private sector, and youth) will convene a Special Event at the 2025 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF). This event will reaffirm the centrality of SDG localization as a catalyst for systemic transformation and inclusive sustainable development.

Building on the progress and momentum generated through key impactful localization efforts, the event will bring together diverse partners and stakeholders to showcase concrete results and emerging practices that demonstrate the power of localization as a strategic lever for inclusive, sustainable development. This session will highlight how



local action, grounded in locally owned solutions, advances both subnational finance and the localization of the six transitions. From the Bilbao Blueprint and the Localization Marker, both supported by Spain and designed to embed subnational financing mechanisms from policy design through to implementation, to the operationalization of the High Impact Initiative (HII) on Localization from a wide ranging set of actors, it is clear that SDG localization is fostering the acceleration of impact in implementing the 2030 Agenda from the ground up.

By showcasing co-created multistakeholder innovation, strengthened multilevel governance, and local ownership of sustainable development, this event will demonstrate that local action is not only complementary to global agendas—it is fundamental to their success.

Objectives

The Local2030 Coalition Special Event will highlight how local action, grounded in co-created territorial solutions, is accelerating impact across the six transitions.

The event will serve as a platform for the Local2030 Coalition and its partners to:

- Showcase concrete results and promising practices emerging from the HII on Localization, demonstrating how local implementation of the six transitions fosters integrated, inclusive, and impactful responses to global challenges.
- Foster multi-stakeholder dialogue on enabling environments for localization, with a particular focus on increasing capacity and mobilizing innovative and catalytic financing to scale up local action, unlock persistent bottlenecks, and drive forward inclusive implementation.
- Illustrate synergies among the High Impact Initiative on Localization and other High-Impact Initiatives to foster systemic transformation and collaboration among UN Agencies, governments, and stakeholders.

Expected Outcomes

To highlight progress under the High Impact Initiative (HII), the United Nations Local2030 Coalition is collecting results-driven stories and evidence of local action that drives territorial transformation for sustainable development, delivering systemic



impact and improving people's lives. This event will serve as a platform to receive these contributions.

Contributions from the special event will be featured in a report of the High-Impact Initiative on Localization developed by the Local2030 Coalition to:

- **Demonstrate how SDG localization in fostering systemic transformation** through the six transitions, and addressing persistent barriers through bold, locally driven solutions.
- **Show how innovative policies, financing mechanisms, and partnerships** have enabled effective SDG localization, particularly in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs under review at the 2025 HLPF (SDGs 3, 5, 8, 14, and 17).
- **Produce a set of actionable policy recommendations and scalable strategies that** have proven catalytic and cross-cutting impacts across the SDG framework.
- **Contribute to relevant global processes in 2025 and 2026 to deliver a surge of capacities at the local level that can be showcased at the 2027 SDG Summit.** This would reinforce the role of localization as a key driver of inclusion, equity, and resilience in future global agendas—particularly in the countdown to 2030.

Participants

Member states, local and regional governments, UN entities, civil society representatives, among others.

Format

The event will be in-person and web-streamed at the following link:

<https://webtv.un.org/en/asset/k1b/k1bwe11qih>

Registration

This event is open to all registered participants of the 2025 HLPF. Member states delegates, UN Staff, and other stakeholders who have a valid UN Grounds Pass are welcome to attend the event in person without registration. Interested participants not included in the above categories can register by 11 July by contacting the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat at massimo.perrino@un.org.



Language

English, French, and Spanish

Programme

Overall Moderator: Mr. Sébastien Vauzelle, Head of the Secretariat, UN Local2030 Coalition

High-Level Opening by the Local2030 Coalition Co-Chairs (10 minutes)	
15:00-15:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)• Ms. Angélica Jácome, Director, FAO Liaison Office with the United Nations
Keynote Speech (10 minutes)	
15:10-15:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations (TBC)
Interactive Roundtable 1: <i>"Fostering local finance through innovative multi-stakeholder solutions"</i> (35 minutes)	
Chaired by Mr. Giovanni Bassu , Deputy Director of New York Office, UNHCR	



15:20-15:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hon. Richard Bissen, Mayor of the County of Maui, Hawai'i, USA • Ms. Shwetha Grace Eapen, Representative of the World Bank Youth Summit • Dr. Moses Isooba, Vice Chair of Forus and Executive Director of the Uganda National NGO Forum • Ms. Maitane Leizaola, CEO, Bermeo Tuna • Ms. Layalee Ramahi, North America Regional Lead, United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative
Spotlight Contributor: Outcomes of FFD4 and the Seville Platform of Action (10 minutes)	
15:55-16:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sergio Colina, Director-General for Sustainable Development Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, EU and Cooperation, Spain
Open Contributions to the High-Impact Initiative on Localization (30 minutes) Moderated by Mr. Sébastien Vauzelle , Head of the Secretariat, UN Local2030 Coalition	
16:05-16:35	Open floor segment Interactive segment in which different constituencies engaging with the Local2030 Coalition present their contributions to advancing the targets of the High-Impact Initiative on Localization .
Interactive Roundtable 2: "Localizing the six transitions through scalable actions stemming from the ground-up" (35 minutes) Chaired by Dr. Amson Sibanda , Chief, National Strategies and Capacity Building Branch, Division for Sustainable Development Goals, UNDESA	
16:35-17:10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Emilia Sáiz, Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments • Mr. Mukhammeddiar Zakhidzanov, Director, Ulybka Foundation; Youth Advisory Board Member, UN Country Team Kyrgyzstan



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Clara Muzzio, Deputy Mayor of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina • Dr. Baldomero Lago, Chief International Officer – RO, Utah Valley University • Dr. Sangheon Lee, Director of the Employment Policy, Job Creation and Livelihoods Department of the ILO
Spotlight Contributor: Towards COP30 (10 minutes)	
17:10-17:20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambassador Antonio da Costa e Silva, Head of the International Office of the Brazilian Ministry of Cities
Open Contributions to the High-Impact Initiative on Localization (30 minutes) Moderated by Mr. Sébastien Vauzelle , Head of the Secretariat, UN Local2030 Coalition	
17:20-17:50	Open floor segment Interactive segment in which different constituencies engaging with the Local2030 Coalition present their contributions to advancing the targets of the High-Impact Initiative on Localization .
Closing Remarks by the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat (5 minutes)	
17:50-17:55	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Sébastien Vauzelle, Head of the Secretariat, UN Local2030 Coalition