

Local2030 Coalition: 2023 Annual Report

SUMMARY

DECEMBER 2023



Overview



The Local2030 Coalition is the UN System-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We bring together the UN-System, local and regional governments and their associations, national governments, businesses, and community-based organizations to foster collaboration, incubate innovation, share solutions, and implement strategies to support local stakeholders in achieving the 2030 Agenda everywhere. We are guided by a Steering Committee composed of representatives from different sectors and constituencies, with UN-Habitat serving as our permanent co-chair and lead of the Secretariat, with a two-year rotational co-chair, served by UNDP for 2022-2023 and followed by FAO for 2024-2025.

Our priorities



In addition to Governance, which has been one of the Coalition's main focus areas in 2023, the Local2030 Coalition Strategy for the Decade of Action, launched in December 2021, clusters the Local2030 Coalition's work into three main areas

- Advocacy:** Implement the 2030 Agenda at the local level as a roadmap to overcome crises and their subsequent effects by raising awareness and enhancing bottom-up and inclusive processes
- Action:** Build and nurture a support platform to advance an effective multi-level governance system for SDG localization and increase and channel financing to multi-stakeholder initiatives.
- Monitoring:** Encourage monitoring and reporting by subnational and local actors and increase opportunities for them to exchange knowledge and perspectives and contribute to national frameworks.

2023 RESULTS

2023 was a pivotal year for the Local2030 Coalition to advance as the UN System's platform for SDG Localization. Its main achievements include launching the nominations of the Steering Committee's next cohort (2024 - 2025); creating a Technical Focal Points (TFPs) group for the UN Directors Group to bolster engagement of UN entities; developing the ToR of the Local2030 Hubs; improving its advocacy efforts by organizing, co-organizing and participating in a range of high-level events on SDG localization, such as the Local2030 Coalition Special Event and the Sixth Local and Regional Government Forum (LRGF) at the 2023 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the SDG Summit where the Local2030 Coalition was presented as one of the High Impact Initiatives (HII) and short-, medium- and long-term targets up to 2030 were agreed; the UN Food Systems Summit, the Global Refugee Forum, COP28, the organization of a High-level Event in Bilbao to showcase the Coalition's results one year after the Secretariat's opening, etc. Moreover, the Local2030 Coalition launched a call for seed funding proposals to fund catalytic initiatives in partnership with the Joint SDG Fund. The Coalition also advanced the operationalization of the Secretariat Office in Bilbao while agreeing to launch a Knowledge Hub with the support of the Government of Italy, along with a range of activities to bolster new and long-standing partnerships.



ADVOCACY

Steering Committee (SC)

Steering Committee meetings:

The Local2030 Coalition Co-Chairs (UNDP and UN-Habitat) convened the second Steering Committee meeting on 14 July 2023 in New York. The meeting presented the Coalition’s main achievements since the first SC meeting in April 2022, approved strategic documents such as the SC’s ToR and the 2023 work plan, and discussed relevant issues, such as the SDG Localization window and the High Impact Initiative on Localization.

The Steering Committee Technical Focal Points met thrice: on April 13, June 28, and November 29.

Launch of Nominations for the SC’s Next Cohort:

Nominations for the 2024-2025 cohort of SC members were launched in November 2023, and in December 2023, membership decisions were made by the Local2030 Coalition Co-Chairs to include a representative from Member States, Local and Subnational Government, Local and Subnational Government Association, Civil Society, and Private Sector, ensuring a balanced representation with gender and geographic diversity.

Moreover, in 2023, it was decided that the Host of the Secretariat and a rotational Local2030 Hub will have a seat in the SC.

UN Directors Group

The UN Directors Group was established in 2021 as an advisory body for the Local2030 Coalition, comprised of director-level members of 15 UN entities (UN-Habitat, UNDP, DCO, ESCAP, FAO, ILO, IOM, UN-WOMEN, UNDESA, UNECE, UNEP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, and WHO, plus the close support of EOSG and the Joint SDG Fund) to provide strategic direction and inputs for the SC on the Coalition’s activities.

UN Directors Group meetings

The Co-Chairs (UN-Habitat and UNDP) held meetings with the group on April 11, June 16, and September 12, to discuss the Call for seed funding proposal for SDG Localization of the Joint SDG Fund, the HII on Localization, the Coalition’s Work Plan, and other upcoming milestones and strategic priorities. The creation of the Technical Focal Points group has demonstrated a more substantial commitment of the UN entities to the Coalition. The Co-Chairs held meetings with the UNDG’s TFPs on March 24, June 27, and December 7 to delve deeper into the Coalition’s priorities and implementation of activities.

LOCAL2030 HUBS

With a total of eight Local2030 Coalition Hubs in 2023: Liverpool Hub, Hawai’i Green Growth Hub, Paraná Hub, Shizuoka Hub, Local2030 Sweden Hub, Malmö Local Ocean Action Hub, Red de Ciudades Cómo Vamos Hub, and the Sahel Hub, the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat improved its communication efforts with existing Hubs by defining the structure and functions of the Hubs, exploring how they could contribute and benefit from the Coalition, and facilitating participation of the Hubs in high-level discussions. These efforts included the endorsement of the Local2030 Hubs ToR during the second SC meeting on 14 July 2023 in New York, which will be used as a guide to revamp the Local2030 Hubs 2024.



High-Level discussions on SDG Localization:

The Local2030 Coalition organized high-level events on SDG localization and related themes to increase concrete engagement and enhance bottom-up and inclusive processes to apply the 2030 Agenda locally as a roadmap for sustainable development through multilevel governance and multistakeholder partnerships:



High-Level Political Forum:

On 12 July 2023, at the HLPF in New York, the **Local2030 Coalition organized a special event**, on "Actions, solutions, and partnerships to foster multilevel governance and unlock financing to accelerate SDG localization" to explore how multilevel governance can be enhanced and unlock financing for the SDGs.

The Coalition's Secretariat also partnered with UN-DESA, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, and the Global Task Force for Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) to organize the **Sixth Local and Regional Government Forum (LRGF)** on 12 July 2023.

A **Local Track** was created to provide HLPF participants with a comprehensive understanding of relevant events dedicated to the localization of SDGs.

UN Food System Summit:

On 24 July 2023, the Coalition, together with the Urban Food Systems Coalition and the Politecnico di Milano, co-organized a side event in Rome, Italy, on "City, subnational and national government join actions with multiple actors towards healthy, inclusive, sustainable and resilient food systems," promoting interconnected solutions and innovative multistakeholder and multilevel nutrition and food systems governance.



2023 SDG Summit:

Chosen as one of 12 HLLs to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Local2030 Coalition organized several high-level events and side events during the Summit, which marked the midpoint of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda:

During the SDG Mobilization Day on 16 September 2023, the Local2030 Coalition, along with the Global Task Force Of LRGs, UCLG, UNDESA, UN-Habitat, and UNDP, co-organized the Local and Regional Governments Forum (LRGF).

Likewise, The Coalition, together with UN-Habitat, UNCDF and Ella Impacta, co-organized a side event titled "WOMEN LED CITIES - Bringing Gender Responsive Actions, Solutions, and Partnerships from the Local Level to Scale",






THE HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2023

LOCAL TRACK

NEW YORK
10TH TO 19TH JULY 2023

The Local Track is a collective effort of the Local2030 Coalition and its members to showcase discussions on SDG localization taking place in the margins of the HLPF23, for which we are sincerely grateful.



On the SDG Acceleration Day on 17 September 2023, the Local2030 Coalition organized a dedicated session to present the HII on Localization: "[Local2030 Coalition: Pushing the Key Transitions and Achieving the SDGs by 2030](#)". A diverse group of stakeholders spotlighted practices, initiatives, financing mechanisms, and solutions to catalyse local actions and multi-level governance approaches towards achieving the 2030 Agenda.

In addition, in cooperation with the Coalition, the Egyptian Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED), the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), and UNDP, organized a side-event on "Financing Localization or Localizing Finance?", exploring the interdependence between localization and finance for development on the path to achieve the 2030 Agenda.



HII Marketplace. The HII on localization was showcased at the HII Marketplace in the UN Head Quarters in New York during the high-level week.

The Local2030 Coalition prepared for the SDG Summit a video message showing the importance of localization and the Coalition to push for the achievement of key SDG transitions at the local level. Available in three languages: [English](#); [Spanish](#); and [French](#).

High-level event in Bilbao:

A year after the opening of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat in Bilbao, Spain, the Coalition convened an event to showcase its results and milestones, presenting the outcomes of the HII on Localization Session and the SDG Summit and the Coalition’s roadmap until the 2024 Summit of the Future and up to 2030.



COP28:

An official side-event was organized with FAO, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UCLG, and the Global Task Force for Local and Regional Governments on "Multilevel governance for climate, food, and biodiversity action", which took place on December 10.



2023 Global Refugee Forum (GRF):

In partnership with the Global Task Force (facilitated by UCLG), the Mayors Mechanism, Cities Alliance, Civil Society Action Committee, Migration Youth and Children Platform, and the Global Cities Hub, the Local2030 Coalition co-organized the Local and Regional Governments Day on 14 December 2023, during which local governments shared their concrete contributions to implementing the Compact on Refugees.



Enhancements to the Local2030 Coalition online platform, communication, and social media channels

The Local2030 online platform is the leading knowledge and information sharing platform in the localization of the SDGs with best practices, relevant events, and stories. In 2023, the Coalition engaged the Reverse Thought maintenance company to ensure that the website was updated, while purchasing an email subscription (info@local2030.org) from GoDaddy for one year and opening a new account with an email delivery company called Sendinblue. The security and functioning of the website were improved, especially on event postings, including hybrid events, accurate display of Local2030 Coalition as the event poster, and correct presentation of event organizers and dates.

The Local 2030 Coalition also published a large selection of events, publications, and stories in 2023.

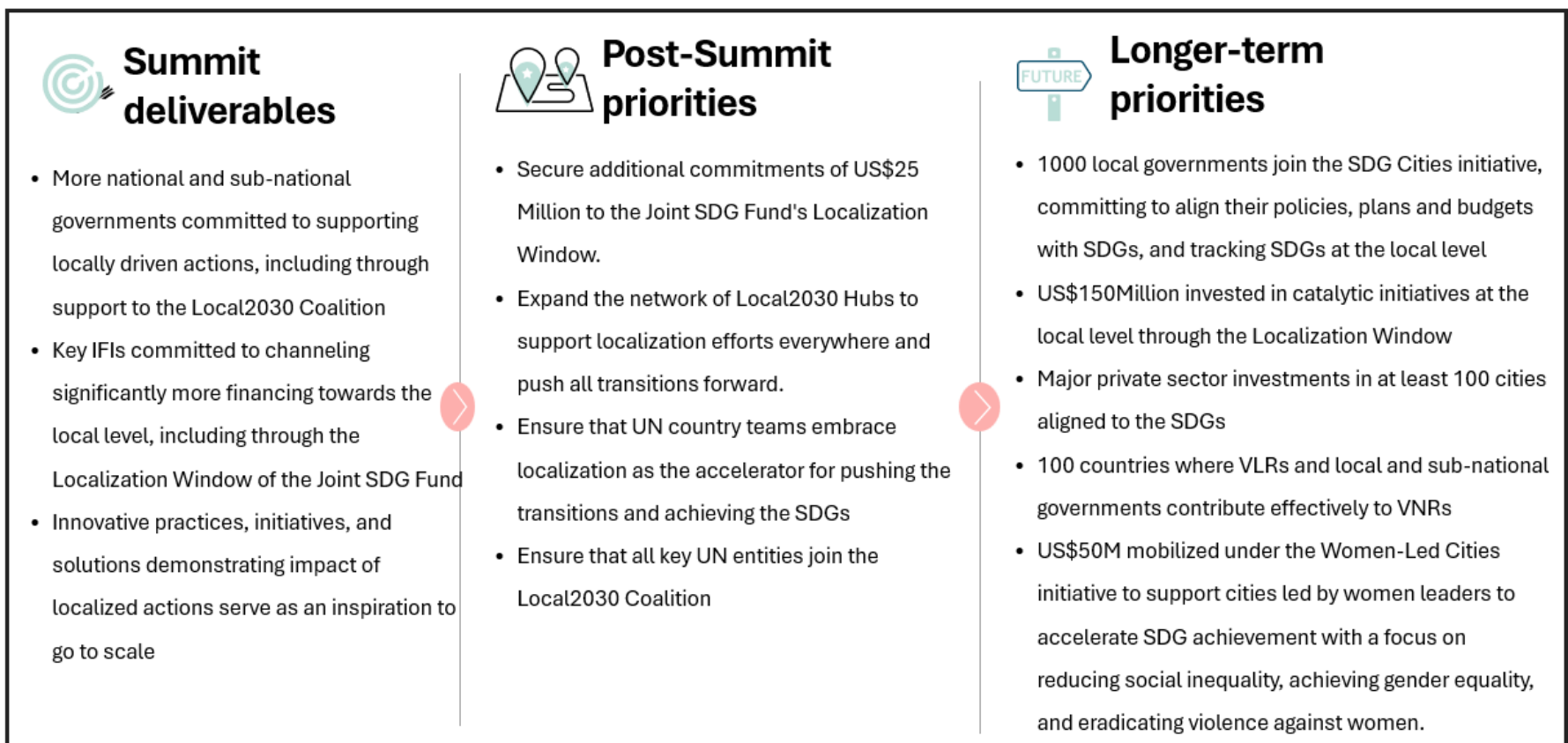
ACTION



High Impact Initiative (HII) on Localization

The Local2030 Coalition was chosen as one of 12 HIIs led by UN-System entities that showcase select programmatic offerings and initiatives to support Member States' efforts towards just development transitions and SDG achievement. To this end, the Local2030 Coalition Co-chairs and the Secretariat worked closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the Boston Consulting Group to shape the HII on localization.

A group of partners joined forces to support the HII on SDG Localization: 13 UN entities (UN-Habitat, UNDP, FAO, ESCAP, IOM, UN DESA, UNECE, UNEP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, WHO, Joint SDG Fund), members of the Steering Committee (Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments, the Government of Italy and the Host of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat - Government of Spain, Basque Government and the city of Bilbao) and Local2030 Hubs (Hawai'i Green Growth and Liverpool 2030Hub, Paraná Hub, and Local2030 Knowledge Hub). The HII on Localization outlines the agreed short-, medium- and long-term targets:



SDG Localization Window and Call for Seed Funding Proposals on SDG Localization

The Local2030 Coalition and the Joint SDG Fund have joined forces to launch the SDG Localization Window.

By rapidly mobilizing and disbursing funding to UN Country Teams across the globe, the Window aims to push for a collective UN System response to accelerating SDG Localization, particularly in vulnerable countries across the globe.

A call for seed funding was launched in 2023, marking the preparatory phase for the development of the Localization Window.

Call for Seed Fund Proposals on SDG Localization

The call, totalling up to USD 4 million and funded by the Spanish Government, was intended to fund catalytic joint programmes demonstrating the role of SDG localization in accelerating the 2030 Agenda achievement. 27 countries were invited to submit proposals through the UN Resident Coordinator System. These proposals were reviewed by three experts (2 UN and 1 non-UN) and endorsed by the Joint SDG Fund Technical Operational Steering Committee on the 20th of September 2024. However, the Strategy Advisory Group (SAG) of the Joint SDG Fund agreed on a new strategic approach to fully align the Fund with the six SDG transitions and emphasise localization as a pivotal driver of the transitions. As a result, the SDG Localization Window narrative is being revised, and the call for seed funding proposals will be revamped in 2024.

MONITORING



In 2023, the Local2030 Coalition advocated for the inclusion of local and subnational governments in preparing voluntary national reports or existing national reporting mechanisms during various high-level events that were organized by or included the participation of the Coalition. In 2024, the Coalition aims to strengthen this work further by bringing the UN System together to monitor and report SDG localization, reinforcing the link between VLRs and VNRs on SDGs. Monitoring has also been included as a pillar of the HII on Localization, with dedicated targets to drive its achievement.

GOVERNANCE



The 2023 Work Plan

The 2023 Work Plan aimed to better design the Coalition's governance structure, operationalize its secretariat, launch the HII and call for seed funding proposals, mobilize resources, and integrate SDG localization in high-level discussions. The SC unanimously endorsed the 2023 Work Plan in April 2023.

Operationalization of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat

Following the acceptance of the whole-of-government proposal made by Spain's administrations and the ceremony to celebrate the opening of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat office in Bilbao, which took place on October 31st, 2022, the Local2030 Coalition concentrated its effort in 2023 on operationalizing the Secretariat office in Bilbao. The Bilbao office aims to energize the work of the Local2030 Coalition and further advance the localization of the SDGs within the UN system and at the territorial and local levels. Its partnership with the Government of Spain, the Basque Government, the Bilbao City Council, and the BBK Foundation is maximizing the transformative impact of the Coalition and strengthening its strategic and catalytic capacities.

An important milestone took place on the 6th of July, 2023, when the International Administrative Agreement (IAA) was signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain and UN-Habitat as the lead of the Secretariat. The IAA established the terms of the administrative, financial, and programmatic provisions for the office of the Secretariat of the Local2030 Coalition in Bilbao, totalling 9 million euros and an in-kind contribution of 1 million euros for the premises of the Bilbao office. A second Inter-Administrative Agreement was signed on the 1st of December, 2023, between the General Administration of the Kingdom of Spain, the General Administration of the Autonomous Community of the Basque Country, the Bilbao City Council, and the BBK Foundation to state the commitments acquired by all parties included in the proposal for Bilbao's candidacy to host the headquarters of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat. Following the signature of the agreements, the first tranche of funds was received by the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat in early December 2023.

Moving forward, an agreement needs to be signed with the Basque Government to allow the use of premises in Bilbao. The terms of this agreement have been agreed upon by the Basque Government, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of the Kingdom of Spain and UN-Habitat, which is currently being revised by the legal department of the Basque Government.

Resource Mobilization

In 2023, the Local2030 Coalition engaged potential donors that are championing SDG localization to support the Coalition, its Secretariat, and its activities:

- **Local2030 Knowledge Hub (Government of Italy):**

The Agreement with the Government of Italy to establish a Local2030 Knowledge Hub was signed in the first quarter of 2023, and 1 million euros were received in July 2023. Coordinated by UN-Habitat, in partnership with CeSPI ETS and with the support of the Government of Italy, the Hub aims to connect academia with policy-making processes to inform SDG-related strategic planning, policy, and reporting.

Partnerships

The Local2030 Coalition has discussed new partnerships with bilateral donors, philanthropies, universities, local government networks, and NGOs during 2023, including:

- **USAID**

Bimonthly calls were established with USAID, resulting in the commitment to join forces to develop good practices and guidelines for local actors to access SDG financing, engage in high-level events, the potential signature of an MoU to advance SDG localization, and the opportunity to collaborate with World Food Programme innovation hub to launch of an innovation challenge focused on SDG Localization.

- **Government of Egypt**

The Government of Egypt, through the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, is currently working with UN-Habitat, UNDP, and the Local2030 Coalition to present a proposal to launch a Local2030 Hub in Cairo to accelerate the localization of SDGs locally, nationally, and regionally in Africa.

- **Additional partnerships opportunities**

The Local2030 Coalition also met with Simon Fraser University and Fundación Avina to explore synergies. Both agreed to participate as speakers in the Local2030 Coalition side event at COP28: "Multilevel governance for climate, food, and biodiversity action". The Coalition also met with Basque Universities to explore partnership opportunities in the 2030 Agenda & SDG Postgraduate Degree framework, the Peruvian Network of Rural and Urban Local Governments, Peace Direct, the Movement for Community-led Development, among others.

To learn more about the Local2030 Coalition and be part of our platform and network, please visit our website:



<https://www.local2030.org/>

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