



Assises de la Coopération Décentralisée
Regions and Cities for Development
Brussels, 10-11 July 2017

WORKSHOP A on Sustainable Development Goals

*From the Global Agenda to Local Action:
Partnering to make the SDGs a reality for all*

Co-leaders

UNDP – United Nations Development Programme
ADF – Association des Départements de France
Climate Alliance

Background information

2015 was a turning point in history: the international community committed to a path-breaking and universal Sustainable Development Agenda and the Paris Agreement within the framework of the UNFCCC, which was adopted by consensus. Habitat III (Quito, 2016) has offered an opportunity to discuss the challenges and opportunities brought by rapid urbanization as well as the first efforts made in the SDG implementation process.

Without local participation, engagement and responsibility, the goals and aims set out in the international policy frameworks cannot be filled with life. The 2030 Agenda, to be truly transformative, needs to be achieved through local action and implemented at local level. Such localization process entails several challenges linked to the need for interaction between stakeholders of different nature and at all levels.

Moreover, the universality and transformative potential of the Agenda 2030 lies in the capacity of stakeholders to coordinate their action around long-term integrated strategies looking at development in all its dimensions –environmental, economic and social. This is the sense of the localization process: an opportunity to ensure coherence and convergence between actors, national and local development strategies and the 17 SDGs, and to translate in this framework the implementation of the 2030 Global Development Agenda into concrete outputs, positively impacting the life of people.

Local and Regional Authorities (LRAs) stand out as the key stakeholders to ensure the achievement of national development outcomes and global priorities, by grounding development choices in the will

Co-leaders:



of the people through popular participation and ownership. LRAs are both main development actors within their own territories and active development cooperation partners supporting sustainable development pathways in partner countries.

Channeling and framing Decentralized Cooperation initiatives, making them responsive with local priorities and consistent with national development policies is important for an effective SDGs localization. Therefore, localizing the SDGs also means enhancing the relevance, alignment and sustainability of Decentralized Cooperation across a local and a global scale. Still, several obstacles limit the process and its transformative potential.

Content

The workshop has three cornerstones: the SDGs localization process; decentralized cooperation; concrete practices and examples. The *fil rouge* connecting these cornerstones is the need for effective and innovative partnerships. We suggest to frame the workshop as a step towards the strengthening of a Global Partnership for the SDGs localization, in order to find common approaches to common challenges linked to sustainable and inclusive local development.

More than one year after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, several partners around the world have started their path towards the implementation of the SDGs. Some of them have been successful in creating appropriate strategies and in mainstreaming the SDGs in their policies and activities, other have faced major obstacles such as the lack of resources and support. The way forward is still long.

The workshop will represent an opportunity to exchange experiences among partners of local relevance, particularly looking at the challenges faced by LRAs around the globe in implementing the SDGs and at the mechanisms and strategies they have put in place to advance the process.

To support the discussion and propose a concrete way forward and follow-up, the workshop will present and lean on the experience and results of the *Toolbox for Localizing the SDGs*, a GTF-UN Habitat-UNDP led initiative aimed at gathering experiences and at providing concrete tools to raise awareness, mainstream and implement the SDGs at local level.

The main goals of our workshop are therefore to share best practices of strategies and good examples of cities and regions from the globe involved in the localization of the SDGs, to identify the main obstacles for localizing the SDGs and propose approaches to overcome them, and to put at the public and partners disposal a series of existing tools and mechanisms to facilitate the localization of the SDGs (e.g. *Toolbox for Localizing the SDGs*).

Questions

- 1) *Have the advocacy efforts done in the past years aimed at spreading the priorities of the 2030 Agenda been successful? Are the SDGs integrated by public institutions into their discourse? Which mechanisms have been put in place to make citizens informed about the SDGs?*
- 2) *Which mechanisms have you put in place or are you planning to apply to implement the SDGs? Which have been the main challenges you have encountered in implementing the SDG within your territory? To what extent have you been successful in mainstreaming the SDGs in your local development plans?*
- 3) *Which is the added value of engaging with the SDGs in your international decentralized cooperation activities? How can Decentralized Cooperation help you in the implementation of the*

SDGs in our territory? How could we (better) link decentralized cooperation with climate action and work toward a coherence of the different processes?