



HOW UCLG CONTRIBUTES TO THE SDGs

Fostering the
accomplishment of
the 2030 Agenda from
the bottom up



**ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2015, 193 WORLD LEADERS
COMMITTED TO 17 WORLD GOALS TO ACHIEVE
3 EXTRAORDINARY THINGS IN THE NEXT 15 YEARS:
ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY, COMBAT INEQUALITY
AND INJUSTICE AND SOLVE CLIMATE CHANGE.**

**LOCAL LEADERS ARE WORKING HARD ALL WORLD
AROUND TO MAKE THE GLOBAL GOALS A REALITY
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THESE
THREE THINGS FOR ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.**

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1

LEADING A MOVEMENT OF LOCAL LEADERS FOR DEVELOPMENT AND SOLIDARITY

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve. We strive to amplify the united voice of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.

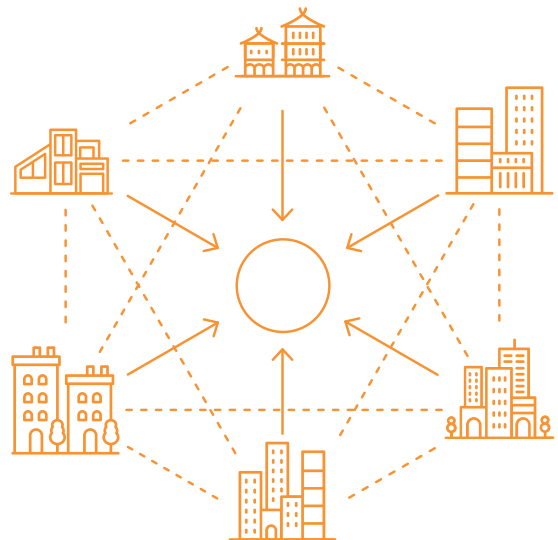
The adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent an unprecedented milestone and are a feat to be proud of, as well as a defining moment of what we can do when we collaborate. They further represent a bold step forward from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), being more universal in their approach.

There has been a silent constructive tsunami taking place ever since the Agenda was adopted. United Cities and Local Governments is at the very heart of this tsunami, promoting, fostering and supporting local action to achieve the SDGs. Local governments are not only taking ownership of the agenda but are also moving towards its implementation at the local level and, more often than not, doing so without the means they need to face such a crucial task.

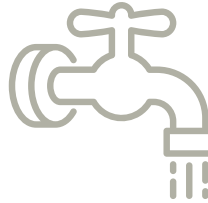
Many cities, provinces and regions around the world are revising their strategic plans, aligning them with the SDGs and launching innovative initiatives. They are organizing awareness-raising workshops to share the new agenda with the population. They are training trainers in order to understand the link between what they do and what the 2030 Agenda provides.

This is why we believe that localization (taking into account local realities and communities throughout the process of implementing the SDGs) is such a key issue for local and global development alike.

United Cities and Local Governments and its members are thoroughly committed to achieving the SDGs, and we are certain that such an ambitious Agenda cannot, and will not, be achieved without the involvement of local and regional governments at all levels. **This is why we actively supported the inclusion of SDG 11 in the 2030 Agenda; the only goal to have a sub-national focus. Its inclusion represents an unprecedented recognition of the role of local governments in the international development agenda.**



SDG 11
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



2

CARRYING THE TORCH FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES AROUND THE WORLD

Local and regional governments have a big say in the achievement and shaping of the services that are underlying in most of the 17 SDGs. SDG 11, however, is spearheading some of the key issues that will need to be addressed if we want no one to be left behind.

Linking SDG 11 to the urban and territorial dimensions of the other 16 Goals will be an essential part of the localization of the SDGs and is, thus, a crucial part of our work towards achieving the 2030 Agenda, which has been cross-cutting all of our work areas. In order to successfully achieve SDG

11, localization calls for collaboration between different spheres of government, including the national and international spheres.

Local agendas have an immediate effect on cities, which is why we strive to link the global and local spheres, and the reason why we cannot give up on our quest towards making sure that cities have a voice on how the global agendas are shaped and implemented.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We are ensuring that local and regional governments have this say by securing a seat for them at the global tables, which means a greater voice and influence for and by the citizens we represent.



SDG 11
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



BRINGING LOCAL VIEWS TO THE GLOBAL STAGE

UCLG is a founding partner of the **Local 2030 Network**, a multi-stakeholder hub led by the United Nations Secretary-General's Executive Office to **accelerate the implementation of the SDGs**, as well as a long-standing partner of the Localizing the SDGs Toolkit developed with UNDP and UN-Habitat.

Local and regional government networks are also essential in developing partnerships with other organizations that can effectively ensure the achievement of SDGs, which is why we are committed to continue facilitating the **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments** as a consultation mechanism that allows local and regional government organizations to follow the international processes.

UCLG also facilitates the convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, which is the political gathering behind the Local and Regional Governments' Forum, co-organized with UN-Habitat, UN-DESA, and our partners of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, at the 2018 High-Level Political Forum.



ENSURING LOCALIZATION THROUGH STRONG LOCAL FINANCE

For localization to take place effectively, local and regional governments need adequate financing. This sort of financing already exists, but it needs to be supported by an enabling environment in order for local and regional governments to profit from it, especially in low-income countries.

OUR HOPES

- To bring forward the shared vision of local and regional governments to the decision-making level
- To foster the acceleration of the global agendas through localization and the joint implementation of the agendas

WAVES OF ACTION

UCLG is a network of networks with structures and representation in different parts of the world. With four Policy Councils, four committees, two permanent working groups, six communities of practice and three fora, we aim to synchronize thousands of local and regional actions at the global level.



MIGRATION

We strive to change the narrative around global migration at the local level, as well as to highlight the opportunities that migration brings to local communities. UCLG has closely followed-up on the Zero Draft of the Global Compact on Migration, and included suggestions on how to improve on the presence of local and regional governments in the final document, and has developed the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration project (MC2CM).

MC2CM is a laboratory that holds peers learning sessions on issues related to migration governance, and is starting its second phase in 2018, centred on monitoring the actions implemented by cities in terms of migration governance.

In the spirit of focusing on the implementation of the global agendas and showcasing the work being carried out by the network, UCLG is fostering synergies between the actions of its members in the form of **Waves of Action**, which focus on a shared policy priority and find synergies on actions relating to our Strategic Priorities. For the 2017-2018 period, we are developing two waves of action:



HOUSING

Under the motto “Housing is a right, not a commodity”, the Wave of Action on Housing aims to defend the right to housing in the framework of the Right to the City, as well as an essential part for sustainable development.

An important part of our focus has been to give support to #TheShift campaign, which aims to shift the view of housing from a commodity to a human right. The Mayor of Barcelona, Ada Colau, is presenting the Barcelona Manifesto on Housing at the HLPF, a key element which represents our work, and that of our members, on housing.

3 MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GLOBAL AGENDAS



WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Our very own **Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD)** is developing a framework for monitoring and reporting activities on the new global development agendas and the implementation of the Global Goals.

Our presence at the High-Level Political Forum does not only amount to developing the Local and Regional Governments' Forum. UCLG is the drafting force behind the **Annual Report of LRGs** on SDG implementation, **which showcases the initiatives undertaken at the local level.**

The report aims to provide a regular assessment of the role and involvement of local and regional governments and their associations in the reporting processes of the SDGs at the national level, the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) that are submitted to the HLPF sessions by member states.

OUR HOPES

- To foster the integration of references on local government actions in the VNRs
- To promote the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator of the localization and achievement of the SDGs, contributing to the links between the different agendas

GOLD
Global Observatory
on Local Democracy
and Decentralization

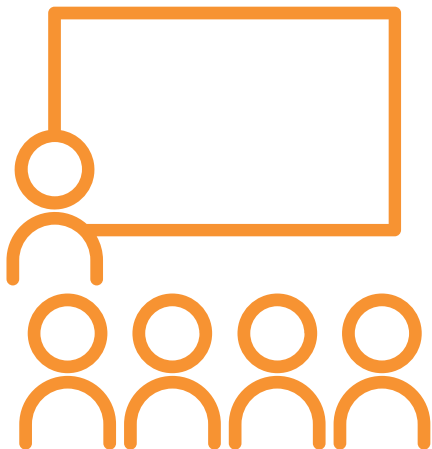
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A UCLG TRAIN OF TRAINERS (TOT) TO LOCALIZE THE GLOBAL GOALS

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

We are raising awareness among city and association staffers about the SDGs, and fostering exchanges on local practices. We provide tools to ensure that those trainers can keep bringing the message on localization forward.

So far, the ToT has travelled to 15 countries across four continents, and organized nearly 30 individual events, fostering a global learning network that takes action in the localization process. It continues to gather momentum with more and more municipalities getting on board with the global effort to localize the SDGs.



OUR HOPES

- To foster political will to commit to the global agendas
- To raise awareness about the links between the local and global agendas by implementing them at the local level
- To promote solidarity and exchange through peer-to-peer, decentralized cooperation and action learning
- To build both the knowledge and capacities of local and regional governments to implement the 2030 Agenda



OUR TOOLS

We train trainers via the Learning Modules developed with UNDP and UN-Habitat. They are conceived as guidelines for UCLG members in the localization process and, at the same time, as an open format, which can be adapted to different local realities and are also enriched and enlarged by these experiences.

Visit www.localizingthesdgs.org to find all relevant information on localization.

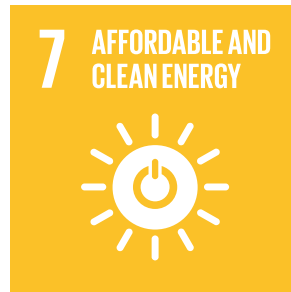
5 THE SDGs IN REVIEW...

We know that the High-Level Political Forum brings to review not just the eminently urban SDG 11, but also SDGs 6, 7, 12, and 15. Here is a sneak peek of the events and the work being done by UCLG in order to contribute to their achievement.., as well as our commitment to contribute to gender equality at all levels.



SDG 6 ENSURE AVAILABILITY AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF WATER AND SANITATION FOR ALL

Safe and clean water and sanitation are human rights, essential for attaining decent living conditions. Local and regional governments and their networks have proven to be committed players in managing water and sanitation, especially in events such as the **World Water Forum**. UCLG played a key role in mobilizing members and co-organizing the **International Conference of Local and Regional Authorities**, which launched the Brasilia Call to Action on Water and Sanitation, putting forward 5 recommendations to stakeholders.



SDG 7 ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL

Right now, cities account for 70% of global energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. Local and regional governments play an important part in shifting the current energy mix to one which is both more sustainable and affordable. UCLG is one of the founders of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), a climate-focused initiative with over 7,000 local government signatories, who commit to taking action on mitigation and access to sustainable energy.

SDG 5 ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS

UCLG has a long-standing record on gender equality and works tirelessly in order to make SDG 5 a reality, especially with regard to ensuring their participation at all levels of the decision-making process. One of the main efforts of the constituency towards achieving SDG 5 has been the development of the #BeCounted Campaign. Kick-started in 2017, #BeCounted aims to bring the lack of

representation of women in local and regional governments into the limelight, and advocates for women councillors to be counted in order to know where we stand on the representation of women, and how to improve it. The actions of the #BeCounted campaign include an online campaign calling for women councillors to be counted, as well as a collaborative piece from leading women mayors published in some of the most influential European press.

#BeCounted
100% 



SDG 12 ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS

Greenhouse gas emissions from cities often are a direct result of their consumption patterns. Many local and regional governments are taking action in order to ensure that the consumption patterns of their communities become more sustainable. Through initiatives such as the Urban 20 Joint Statement, supported by constituencies such as C40 and UCLG, mayors from the G-20 countries are calling on their national leaders to end fossil-fuel subsidies by 2020.



SDG 15 PROTECT, RESTORE AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE USE OF TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS

The urban expansion will take a toll on natural resources at the global scale. Shifting towards planning for more sustainable urban growth is becoming more and more necessary. Through collaborating with the UN Convention on Combatting Desertification (UNCCD), the networks of local and regional governments have been able to address and develop initiatives to fight towards a more sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.



6

ENHANCING OUR PARTNERSHIPS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SDGs

Since Habitat III, we have taken a commitment to enhance our partnerships. Cooperation and solidarity have been at the heart of our movement ever since its inception, and following these principles is key for us to continue to contribute to the communities we represent.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Here are some of the main partnerships we have embarked on:



Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. Facilitated by UCLG, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments brings together all of the major international networks of local and regional governments to undertake joint advocacy work relating to global policy processes. It is the convener of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.



The **Strategic Partnership with the European Union** has been essential to strengthen ties with the different parts of the network. The legacy of this partnership has been increased visibility for local and regional governments, and has led to the consolidation of the Global Taskforce (facilitated by UCLG) as well as its recognition as a key representative of the constituency.



Our strategic partnership with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), with the goal of developing the Local 4 Action Hub, aims to facilitate visibility of the integrated efforts of our strategy, and turn the 2030 Agenda into local actions in order to fully achieve the localization of the Global Goals.

Beyond these three strategic partnerships, we have also developed partnerships with various organizations:

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

UCLG, as a member of Cities Alliance, has developed many initiatives in collaboration with this global partnership. One of the most recent ones is the “Know Your City” Initiative, which aims to tackle urban planning in urban areas where information on development is scarce (such as in informal settlements), has enabled cities to lead the conversation on access to data.



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Our partnerships with UN AGENCIES such as UNDP (the United Nations’ global development network) and UN-Habitat (the United Nations Agency for human settlements) have allowed us to develop tools such as the Localizing the SDGs Toolkit, which are proving to be key in aiding local and regional governments carry out the localization process. We are also working closely with other agencies such as the United Nations’ Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR), UNACLA, UNDESA, and UN Water.



UCLG is a founding member of the General Assembly of Partners (GAP), a multi-stakeholder partnership platform that convenes more than 1,100 unique organizations with over 58,000 networks working on sustainable urban development.

LOCAL 2030

UCLG is one of the co-founders of the Local 2030 Platform, which supports the on-the-ground delivery of the SDGs, and acts as a convergence point between local actors, national governments and the United Nations system. During this edition of the HLPF, The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and Local 2030 will co-host the Local2030: Local Action for Global Commitments Special Event on July 17 to explore the challenges and opportunities local leaders face with respect to implementing the SDGs.

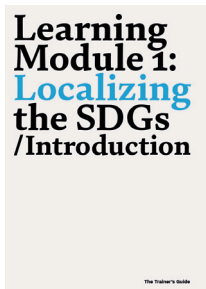
Our partnerships do not end there: Currently, we are engaged in partnerships with organizations as diverse as:

The International Association of Public Transport (UITP), and the Global Covenant of Mayors, of which we are a founding member, as well as with civil society organizations such as Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and Public Services International (PSI), and even the network of universities, Columbus.

We are also working to enhance our collaboration with organizations such as Connective City, IS Global and the International Solid Waste Association (ISWA), as well as with the private sector, where we already are involved in corporate partnerships with IBM, the water management company AGBAR, and GDF Suez., all of which help us enhance our joint action.

OUR TOOLS

Our tools to contribute to the localization process.



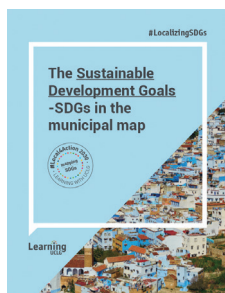
Learning Module 1:
Localizing the SDGs



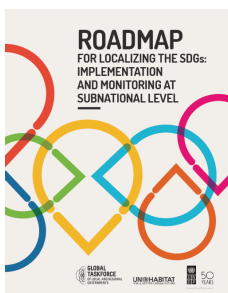
National and Subnational
Governments on the way towards
the Localization of the SDGs (2)



Monitoring the Global Agenda in
Municipalities: the Mandala Tool



The Sustainable Development
Goals in the Municipal Map



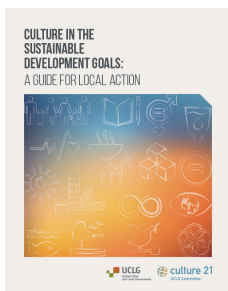
Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs:
Implementation and monitoring
at subnational level
(Developed by the Global Taskforce,
in partnership with UN-habitat)



Videos: Learning about the SDGs
www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkdNeWWJXUoCK1i7xuCXmo4rlwmd4sN7R



National and Subnational
Governments on the way towards
the Localization of the SDGs (1)



Culture in the SDGs:
A guide for local action

-
- SDG 1 NO POVERTY**
-
- SDG 2 ZERO HUNGER**
-
- SDG 3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING**
-
- SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION**
-
- SDG 5 GENDER EQUALITY**
-
- SDG 6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION**
-
- SDG 7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY**
-
- SDG 8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**
-
- SDG 9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**
-
- SDG 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES**
-
- SDG 11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**
-
- SDG 12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION**
-
- SDG 13 CLIMATE ACTION**
-
- SDG 14 LIFE BELOW WATER**
-
- SDG 15 LIFE ON LAND**
-
- SDG 16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**
-
- SDG 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS**





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