

## **Co-creation in the localization of the SDGs**

*Citizens and local governments co-creating solutions for localizing  
the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs*

5 July 2023, 15:00 - 16:30 h CEST. Virtual meeting

[https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfuGrqDkuG9JnvzCJnX5H07tQ7PPQI\\_NL](https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMkfuGrqDkuG9JnvzCJnX5H07tQ7PPQI_NL)

*Interpretation: English, French, Spanish and Portuguese*

### **Guiding questions for the session**

- Why is it important and necessary for local and regional governments to involve citizens in the localization of the SDGs?
- What are the best practices and examples of co-creation that serve the purpose of localizing the SDGs?
- How can LRGs relate SDG localization to local and regional government policy planning?
- What multilateral and multilevel governance mechanisms foster citizen co-creation in the localization of the SDGs?
- What other actors, besides citizens, have you brought on board in the co-creation to localize the SDGs and what have these multi-stakeholder collaborative processes delivered?

### **Context**

**The 2030 Agenda is a guide for the global development programs until 2030, centering action on people, planet, and prosperity**, also seeking to strengthen universal peace and justice access. It was adopted in 2015 by the United Nations member states, who recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

To achieve its objectives, **the 2030 Agenda delineates 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with 169 targets to take bold, collaborative, and transformative steps for shifting the world onto a sustainable and resilient path**. The SDGs are integral and indivisible strategies for taking action to address a range of social needs, such as food sovereignty, access to water and sanitation, climate, gender equality, and building sustainable cities and communities.

The 2030 Agenda implies a common and universal commitment. However, understanding that each member state faces specific challenges to achieve sustainable development, each will localize its goals and take action based on its context. **Localizing the SDGs means rooting the 2030 Agenda implementation in local and regional priorities.**

When adopting the 2030 Agenda, UN member states committed to working closely with local and regional governments to implement the SDGs. Monitoring the localization strategies is also an essential step toward localizing the SDGs, in which local and regional governments are increasingly engaging with the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). These follow-up and review local mechanisms complement and enhance the progress assessment at the national level of the Voluntary National Reviews.

While SDG 11 directly calls for cities and human settlements to become safe, resilient, and sustainable" in ensuring non-poverty, gender equality, peace, and the rest of the goals, **local and regional governments play a fundamental role, being closest to the communities that have the potential to take bold and transformative action towards a more sustainable, just and resilient world.** Localizing the SDGs also entails increasing local and regional government activity and bringing the Agenda closer to the people.

Participatory and Deliberative Democracy (PDD) is the exercise of democracy beyond electing political representatives. Some of the most widespread practices of PDD are participatory budgets, citizen assemblies, participatory planning, or other exercises that **allow the co-creation, implementation, and evaluation of public policies by inhabitants.**

Citizen participation is not only the exercise of a political right but also the opportunity for policies to be more legitimate, more inclusive, and more transformative. In this sense, **PDD is an unbeatable opportunity to achieve the localization of the SDGs while giving the opportunity to co-creating an innovative governance framework** that is meaningful and practical in the lives of citizens.

In this session, organized by the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD) and the City of Rio de Janeiro with the support of United Cities and Local Governments, **we want to share examples of localizing the SDGs through citizen engagement in co-creation practices and discuss what steps to take for making the goals as achievable as possible.** As a result, we will draw some policy recommendations for local and regional governments worldwide on how to implement localization from a citizen participation approach.

This webinar is part of the preparatory activities for the **21st IOPD Conference to be held in Rio de Janeiro from November 6 to 8** with the theme "Participatory Democracy for Diverse, Inclusive and Transparent Cities.

## Agenda

**Setting the scene:** IOPD Secretariat and UCLG Secretariat on SDG localization and co-creation

**Adrià Duarte:** Coordinator of the IOPD

**Anna Calvete:** Research Officer at United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

## Mentimeter: opening a warm-up virtual debate

### Cases presentation

- **Yoff:** *Seydina Issa Laye Samb*, Mayor of Yoff
- **São Paulo:** *Gabriela Chabbouh*, Director of Training in Environmental Education and Culture of Peace - UMAPAZ
- **Euskadi:** *Asier Aranbarri*, Director of Social Innovation - General Secretary of Social Transition and Agenda 2030
- **Cuenca:** *Felipe Ochoa*, Head of Cooperation and International Relations
- **Mezitli:** *Hurrem Betul Levent Erdal*, City and Regional Planner Strategy Development Manager
- **Rio de Janeiro:** *Daniel Mancebo*, General Coordinator, Sub-Secretariat for Planning and Monitoring Results, Municipal Secretariat of Finance and Planning

## Open dialogue with participants

## Resources

- UCLG, Localizing the SDGs: a boost to monitoring & reporting: <https://gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting>
- UCLG, Learning Modules on localization: <https://learning.uclg.org/localizing-the-sdgs/>
- United Nations, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development : <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>
- United Nations, 17 Goals to Transform Our World: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/>
- ICLEI, Tackling SDG localisation sideways in Africa's cities: [https://riseafrica.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Tackling-SDG-localisation-side-ways-in-Africa%E2%80%99s-cities\\_final.pdf](https://riseafrica.iclei.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Tackling-SDG-localisation-side-ways-in-Africa%E2%80%99s-cities_final.pdf)
- Siragusa, A., Stamos, I., Bertozzi, C. and Proietti, P. (2022) The European Handbook for SDG Voluntary Local Reviews. Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2022: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC129381>
- Parnell, S., Croese, S. (2022) Localizing the SDGs in African Cities: <https://www.africancentreforcities.net/localizing-the-sdgs-in-african-cities/>