2026 SDG Localisation Forum – International Mayors Forum

Swissôtel Quito, Quito, Ecuador
29 September – 1 October 2026

"Financing the Future Today: Localising the SDGs Through National-to-Local Economic Governance and the Pact for the Future"

Concept Note

I. Context

As the world continues to urbanise, the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) demands a focus on accelerating progress in cities, towns and peri-urban areas. The latest data from the United Nations shows that cities are currently home to **45 per cent** of the world's 8.2 billion people — more than double the share in 1950. By 2050, 68% of the world's population is projected to be urban with nearly 90% of the increase in urbanisation occurring in Asia and Africa.[1]

SDG localisation is the process of transforming the SDGs into reality at the local level, in coherence with national development frameworks and in line with local communities' priorities. With 65% of SDG targets linked to the work and mandates of local and regional governments, localisation is a pre-condition for their understanding, uptake, and achievement.

The role of local and regional governments has gained prominence and visibility at the international level, recognized by Member States in General Assembly resolutions and High-level Political Forum (HLPF) political declarations[2], and by the Secretary-General in his report on *Our Common Agenda* and on *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: towards a rescue plan for people and planet*.[3]

The Pact for the Future adopted in September 2024 underscores the importance of a New Urban Agenda to localise sustainable development (Action 6), climate change, and digital cooperation including in the context of cities. By seeking the integration of local and regional governments into the global governance framework, the Pact aims to leverage the unique position of local and regional governments in implementing and achieving the SDGs (Action 55).[4] Furthermore, in October 2023, the Secretary-General launched his Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments to advance coordination and collaboration, among the constituency of local and regional governments and the United Nations system, towards coherent actions aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.[5] The work of this Advisory Group informed the Pact for the Future.

Cities and towns across the globe face interlinked and growing crises as a result of conflicts, global economic uncertainty, increasing inequality, persistent poverty and hunger, unemployment, the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, and widening digital and political divides. In these times of crisis, localisation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs ensures a focus on achieving concrete results. The 2026 report on SDG progress calls for action on six key transitions where

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[1] United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2025) NB: Under internationally comparable estimates, when towns are included, 81 per cent of the global population lives in urban settlements. Under aggregated national statistical definitions, the urban share stands at 58 per cent in 2025. Projections indicate that two thirds of the world's population growth between now and 2050 will occur in cities, with most of the remainder in towns — and the rural population is expected to peak only in the 2040s.

[2] See, for example, A/RES/75/290B, para. 30 and A/RES/74/4, para. 27 (e).

[3] A/78/80-E/2023/64

[4] Action 55 of the Pact for example notes that engagement towards global challenges must involve multiple stakeholders including local authorities and includes the commitment of Member States to receive recommendations by the UN Secretary General on how engagement with local and regional authorities (83-e).

[5] Secretary-General's remarks to launch the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments, 6 October 2023, available at: Secretary-General's remarks to launch the Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments | United Nations Secretary-General.

intensified efforts could deliver transformative impact: food systems, energy access, digital transformation, education, jobs and social protection, and climate and biodiversity action.

The report notes that only 35 per cent of targets are on track or making moderate progress, while nearly half are advancing too slowly and 18 per cent have regressed. More than 800 million people continue to live in extreme poverty, while billions lack access to safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene services. Temperatures reached 1.55°C above pre-industrial levels in 2024, making it the hottest year on record. Conflicts led to nearly 50,000 deaths that same year, and forced displacement affected over 120 million people worldwide. Exchange on the success stories occurring at local level is paramount for their scaleup. To address these challenges, the 2023 SDG Summit and its Political Declaration as well as the 2025 Ministerial Declaration of the HLPF identified localisation as one of the high impact initiatives that can drive SDG progress.[6]

In 2024, the World Urban Forum (WUF) focused on Cities and Climate Action, the vulnerability of cities and urban citizens was underscored, as well as the capacity and financing gaps that cities and towns face to confront climate change.[7] Cities and other urban areas require an estimated US$4.5-5.4 trillion annually up until 2030 to invest in new or retrofitted climate-resilient infrastructure across transport, energy, water and waste, and telecommunication projects. In 2021-2022, cities only secured US$831 billion per year for climate action and very limited amounts for adaptation. It is imperative that cities become prime recipients of international financing and investments. WUF13, taking place in Baku in 2026, will spotlight the global housing crisis—affecting nearly 3 billion people—as a key driver of sustainable urban development. Under the theme "Housing the World," the Forum will explore how safe, resilient housing can advance equity, climate adaptation, and inclusive urban systems through practical, locally driven solutions.

As governments submit new Nationally Determined Contributions to deliver on the Paris Agreement, the role of cities to ensure multi-level governance and localisation of these national climate commitments is essential. Cities are on the frontline of responding to climate change and disaster risk reduction. Increasing urban density, expanding informal settlements, aging infrastructure, and climate-induced hazards such as floods, droughts, heatwaves, and earthquakes are amplifying the exposure and vulnerability of urban populations. Integrating disaster risk reduction, including nature-based solutions, into urban planning and development, including infrastructure development, is therefore essential to ensure long-term sustainability, protect investments, and minimize human and economic losses.

Investment Pathways and Multiplier effects through SDG localisation

In 2023, the United Nations Sustainable Development Group identified Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs that have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs to ensure accelerated progress. They include i) food systems; ii) energy access and affordability; iii) digital connectivity; iv) education; v) jobs and social protection; and vi) climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. A new SDG localisation benchmark has also been proposed for inclusion into UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks to measure impact through the use of the SDG Fund.

Accelerating SDG localisation through the six key transitions is already happening, but greater alignment is needed between national strategies and local realities. Improved planning from national to local level is essential to accelerate global to local progress on sustainable development.

Furthermore, the SDGs cannot be achieved without scaled-up and sustained investments in urban infrastructure and services, such as quality and affordable housing, access to quality education, sustainable public transport systems, health care services and sanitation, decent work and a safe environment, with a particular focus on the needs of the most vulnerable amid rising inequality. Investing in urban infrastructure has large multiplier effects across SDGs with infrastructure either directly or indirectly influencing the attainment of 92% of the 169 individual SDG targets.

[6] Ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2026 session of the Economic and Social Council and the 2026 high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the Council on the theme "Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science- and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind. E/2026/L.16-E/HLPF/2026/L.1

[7] World Cities Report, UN HABITAT, 2024

Cities also play a leading role in the economic development of countries and global prosperity, contributing as much as 80% to the global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).[8] As powerhouses of economic production, cities consequently account for 60-80% of global energy consumption, 70% of all resource consumption, and generate as much as 75% of the energy-related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Unsustainable patterns of consumption and production are concentrated in cities, driving climate change, environmental degradation and loss of nature and biodiversity.

An estimated 95% of urban expansion will take place in developing countries over the next decades. As urbanisation increases, it is also often accompanied by significant social and environmental challenges, such as the lack of access to adequate, affordable urban housing options, urban infrastructure and basic services for a growing number of citizens, who have to contend with rising inequality and exclusion, unemployment, food insecurity and extreme poverty.

Despite the closeness of local governments to the needs and realities of sustainable development, local authorities too often have limited financial and human resources at their disposal to fully achieve the SDGs. With an estimated gap of some US$ 4 trillion per year, the SDGs require a quantum leap in finance flows – from billions to trillions – ensuring that financing delivers results locally.[9] The 2025 SDG progress report notes that low- and middle-income countries face record-high annual debt servicing costs of US$1.4 trillion.[10] The 2025 Outcome of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development "Compromiso de Sevilla"[11] underscored the need to close the local financing gap. Some countries are making progress, aligning national budgets with SDG targets, translating them to city-level, and issuing SDG debt vehicles such as SDG Bonds to close financing gaps even at sub-national level. Greater financial resources, capacity and innovation are required through strengthened national to local coordination and multi-level governance for the 2030 Agenda.

The SDGs can only be achieved through the substantial involvement of local actors, hence the need for localizing the SDGs, where local governments and stakeholders take action to achieve SDG targets in the context of climate vulnerability, climate adaptation and building resilience. The 2026 International Mayors Forum offers an important platform to share such best practices – focusing on financing and economy planning to ensure resilient SDG localisation.

II. Goal and Objectives

The objective of the International Mayors' Forum is to provide an annual platform to local and regional governments for policy dialogue and knowledge sharing on key aspects related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Forum will profile success cases of local solutions that are accelerating progress across the six transformative SDG transitions. The Forum will also serve as a strategic opportunity for local, regional, and national governments to explore ways that can further the implementation of the outcomes of the Summit of the Future's Pact for the Future, the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in 2025, and the Paris Agreement, thereby accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Building on the outcomes of the 2025 Forum held in Toyota City, Japan - the 2026 Forum will also promote dialogue and share practical experiences on how to accelerate SDG implementation through financing and improving multi-level governance and planning for localisation in the remaining four years of the Decade of Action, particularly in the face of increasing climate vulnerability, conflicts, and disaster risks in cities and towns.

[8] World Bank, 2026. Retrieved from: https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/urbandevelopment/overview

[9] UN Sustainable Development Group. Six Transitions: Investment Pathways to Deliver the SDGs September 2023. https://unsdg.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-09/Six%20Transitions%20English.pdf#:~:text=These%20include%3A%20(1)%20food,are%20not%20a%20new%20agenda

[10] https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2026/

[11] https://financing.desa.un.org/sites/default/files/ffd4-documents/2026/Compromiso%20de%20Sevilla%20for%20action%2016%20June.pdf

The Forum will focus on accelerating local-level action through transformative entry points—referred to as the Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs—identified during the 2023 SDG Summit for their catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. These include: (1) food systems; (2) energy access and affordability; (3) digital connectivity; (4) education; (5) jobs and social protection; and (6) climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. This year's Forum will prioritize discussions on these investment pathways, with explicit attention to multi-level governance and planning to finance resilient localisation efforts.

This will include presentations of local progress through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), including from champion cities and other subnational governments presenting their 2026 VLRs.

III. Organizers

The 2026 International Mayors Forum is organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and hosted by Ecuador from 29 September-1 October 2026.

Rooted in the United Nations Charter and guided by the transformative 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN DESA upholds the development pillar of the United Nations. UN DESA brings the global community together to work towards common solutions to the world's most pressing problems. The Department also helps countries translate global commitments into national action in the economic, social and environmental spheres. Over the course of the past several years, UN DESA has supported the engagement of local government representatives at the HLPF. UN DESA also provides technical cooperation and support, including capacity development, to Member States at their invitation, working at national and regional levels with governments, civil society organizations, UN Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) and other key stakeholders to advance sustainable development and ensure that no one is left behind.

Established in 2011, UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) is part of the Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG) of UN DESA providing technical and advisory services in support of the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, especially on climate action, and environmental targets. Since 2017, UNOSD has been organizing the annual International Mayors Forum to strengthen SDG localisation and increase knowledge and commitments towards advancing the SDGs through national to local leadership.

Established in 1971, UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) is part of DSDG of UN DESA, providing policy and technical support to advance sustainable development at the regional and local levels. UNCRD actively contributes to the International Mayors Forum and supports the development of VLRs to enhance local SDG implementation. It also promotes integrated approaches through its work on Smart Cities, DRR and water, and Quality Infrastructure, drawing on lessons from flagship initiatives such as the Regional 3R and Circular Economy Forum and the EST Forum in Asia-Pacific. UN DESA is further supporting the annual International Mayors Forum through its UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), which aims to strengthen the public governance capacities of Member States in Asia and the Pacific and beyond to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN-Habitat is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable cities. UN-Habitat supports urban development projects in over 90 countries while actively advocating sustainable urban development regularly and in global events including the WUF.

The United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) in Ecuador serves as the mechanism that brings together and aligns the work of the UN system in the country under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator, the highest representative of the Secretary-General. Its structure comprises a multidisciplinary technical team—including specialists in programme coordination, strategic partnerships, development financing, communications, data, and monitoring—alongside inter-agency liaison functions, and while the RCO does not directly implement projects, its added value lies in ensuring strategic coherence, alignment, and efficiency across UN agencies, funds, and programmes operating in the country. The office leads the design, implementation, and monitoring of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF), ensuring alignment with national priorities and the 2030 Agenda, while facilitating high-level policy dialogue with the Government,

coordinating inter-agency responses to crises and emergencies, supporting resource mobilization, and strengthening partnerships with key stakeholders including local governments, the private sector, academia, and civil society; it also promotes human rights, gender equality, and sustainable development by integrating these principles across all UN system actions. In Ecuador, the RCO's work reflects distinctive national features, notably a strong emphasis on territorial coordination in response to geographic and social diversity, close collaboration with local governments and municipal associations, and inter-agency prioritization of areas such as human security, social cohesion, and violence prevention in light of recent national dynamics.

Ecuador, in its capacity as the host country of the 2026 SDG Localisation Forum – International Mayors Forum, reaffirms its commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This space is envisioned as a strategic platform for global dialogue among local governments and key stakeholders, aimed at the exchange of good practices, technical cooperation, and the analysis of the main challenges linked to development financing, within the theme of this edition: "Financing the Future Today: Localising the SDGs Through National-to-Local Economic Governance and the Pact for the Future."

In an international context that calls for accelerating the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the territorial level, Ecuador contributes an approach based on effective coordination among levels of government and on strengthening local governments as engines of development. This model makes it possible to demonstrate progress in territorial planning, social inclusion, environmental sustainability, and resilience, consolidating a public management framework that prioritizes coordination and the delivery of concrete results.

In this context, the country will ensure the necessary conditions for the optimal development of the Forum, promoting meeting spaces that foster political dialogue, the building of partnerships, and the generation of innovative solutions. In this way, the event will help position local governments as fundamental actors in implementing the 2030 Agenda, generating sustainable impacts that connect the local with the global.

IV. Target Audience

Mayors and officials from subnational government entities, as well as key ministerial representatives from developed and developing countries, including least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries. Dual delegations will be convened from key countries to engage national and local representatives in view of strengthening multi-level governance for SDG Localisation. Representatives of UN entities, Local 2030 Coalition and regional hubs, international experts and other stakeholders will also be invited to attend the Forum.

V. Outcome documents

The outcomes of the Forum 2026 will be summarised highlighting the key discussions and insights from the event. Additionally, the commitments made by participating mayors and governors will be compiled into an outcome document, outlining concrete actions and collaborative efforts to advance sustainable development and the SDGs up to 2030.

2026 SDG Localisation Forum – International Mayors Forum

Agenda

Day 1: Tuesday 29 September	
Time and Venue	**Session**
8:00 – 8:55	**Registration**
9:00 – 10:00	**Opening of the Forum** **Master of Ceremonies:** Mario Naranjo, Communications Officer, Ecuador RCO **Greetings from Master of Ceremonies** Mario Naranjo, Communications Officer, Ecuador RCO Artistic Performance **Opening remarks** • H.E. Nataly Morillo Solórzano, Minister of Government • Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations (video message) • Ms. Laura Melo, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ecuador • Ms. Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (video message) • H.E. Roberto Carlos Kury Pesantes, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility Group photo session
10:00 – 10:30	**Introductory session** • H.E. Mr. Horiuchi Toshihiko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Republic of Ecuador • H.E. Mr. Jae Hyun Shim, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of Ecuador • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head, UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) • Mr. Shigeo Murata, Head, UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), DSDG, UN DESA
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee/Tea Break**
10:45 – 12:00	**Session 1: Local Transformations, Global Evidence: Cities and Regions in the Road to the 2027 Global Sustainable Development Report** **Moderator:** Ms. Astra Bonini, DSDG, UN DESA This session will examine the role of local and regional governments to accelerate progress towards achievement of the SDGs at the local level and strategies to scale up local initiatives to a national level. **Panellists:** • Ms. Phoebe Koundouri, Co-Chair of the Independent Group of Scientists • Ms. Judith Gobin, Professor of Marine Biology and Marine Science and Policy Adviser • Ms. Milica V. Matijević, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Comparative Law

	• Mr. Lavito Bacarissa, Executive Secretary of the National Commission for the Sustainable Development Goals (CNODS), Brazil **Q&A**
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch** – *Participants will be directed to their lunch venues*
13:00 – 14:30	**Session 2: Housing Finance Resilience: How Financially Prepared Are Cities to Recover from Housing and Urban Infrastructure Losses?** **Moderators:** Ms. Adriana Plata Blanco, UN Habitat and Luis Bonilla, UNDRR This session will explore the challenges and opportunities for strengthening cities' financial resilience to potential losses and damages to housing and urban infrastructure due to natural disasters, and identify financing mechanisms that can enable faster, more sustainable, and equitable recovery. **Welcome Remarks and agenda presentation** Ms. Adriana Plata, Programme Specialist, UN Habitat **Finance and Resilience in the Current Global Context – From Risk-Informed Urban Planning and Investment Prioritization to Financial Preparedness** Mr. Luis Bonilla, UNDRR **Dialogue Panel: How Financially Prepared Are Cities to Recover from Housing and Urban Infrastructure Losses?** **Panellists:** • Mr. Rodrigo Perpétuo Regional Executive Secretary, ICLEI • Ms. Marisol Peñaloza, Acting Mayor of Cuenca, Ecuador • Mr. Jesús Gonzales Yañe, Advisor to the Mayor and Head of the General Office of Planning and Finance of Lima, Peru • Mr. Fernando Trigo, Representative of the city of Tarija, Bolivia • Ms. Maria Dolores Almeida, Public Finance Expert from Multilateral Development Organizations **Q&A** **Closing Remarks** Ms. Adriana Plata Blanco, Programme Specialist, UN Habitat
14:30 – 15:30	**Session 3: Voluntary Local Reviews as Tools for Local Planning and SDG Action** **Moderator:** Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD This session will explore how Voluntary Local Reviews can serve as practical tools for local planning, institutional coordination, monitoring and sustained SDG action. Drawing on experiences from Bogotá, Mbabane and Kuala Langgat, speakers will share concrete lessons from their VLR journeys, including challenges encountered, institutional improvements and approaches to translating review findings into policies and implementation. **Presentations:** • Ms. Ursula Ablanque, Secretary, Bogotá District Planning Secretariat, Bogotá, Colombia • Mr. Benedict Gamedze, Director, Strategy and Operations, Municipal Council of Mbabane, Mbabane, Eswatini • Mr. Amri bin Ismail, President of Kuala Langat Municipal Council **Interactive Discussion / Q&A**
15:30 – 15:45	**Coffee/Tea Break**
15:45 – 17:15	**Session 4: Mayor Policy Dialogue**

	Moderator: Ms. Cristina Argudo, Regional Deputy Director for Latin America, C40 Cities This Mayors Policy Dialogue will examine how cities can overcome financial, institutional and governance barriers to local SDG implementation. Drawing on experiences from diverse municipal contexts, speakers will share practical solutions and priority actions to strengthen territorial planning, sustainable infrastructure, affordable housing, project finance and metropolitan mobility. **Panellists:** • Mr. Adam Azim, Mayor of Malé, Maldives • Ms. Jorgelina Rolón Gomez, Mayor of Filadelfia, Paraguay • Mr. Fabián Eduardo Iza Marcillo, Mayor of Rumiñahui, Ecuador • Ms. Yuri Colorado Márquez, President of the Association of Ecuadorian Municipalities (AME) • Mr. Nicas Mawazo, Mayor of Kibaha, Tanzania **Moderated Discussion / Q&A**
17:15 – 17:30	**Wrap up by Day 1 Rapporteur** **Moderator:** Mario Naranjo, Communications Officer, Ecuador RCO
19:00 – 21:00	**Welcome Reception (*Antiguo Círculo Militar*)** *Participants are invited to take part in this special reception. Transport to and from the Swissôtel Quito will be provided.*

Day 2: Wednesday 30 September	
Time and Venue	**Session**
8:30 – 9:00	**Registration**
09:00 – 10:30	**Session 5: Protecting Development Gains: Disaster Risk Reduction and Local Resilience** **Moderator:** Mr. Shigeo Murata, Head, UNCRD, DSDG, UNDESA This session will examine how cities are responding to growing flood and water-related disaster risks through risk-informed planning, resilient infrastructure, technology and community preparedness. Speakers will share practical experiences and identify opportunities to strengthen financing, multi-level governance, international cooperation and locally led resilience. **Opening and introduction of the session objectives and lead presentation** Mr. Shigeo Murata, Head, UNCRD, DSDG, UNDESA The presentation will set the scene by highlighting recent flood and water-related disaster risks and the importance of integrated, risk-informed and locally driven approaches. **Presentations:** • Mr. Diego Fernando Peña Lopez, Deputy Director for DRR, Medellín, Colombia • Ms. Sri Mageswari Pattel, Head of Smart City Unit, Penang Island, Malaysia • Mr. Masahiro Nishikawa, Chief Representative, Office of the City of Yokohama Representative to the Americas, Japan • Ms. Maria Mercedes Abondano Escobar, Head Advisor to Office of International Cooperation, Cartagena, Colombia • Ms. Emi Takahata, Representative, JICA Ecuador Office **Moderated Discussion and Q&A**

	Discussion focusing on common lessons, opportunities for replication and scaling up, and support needed by local governments from national governments and international partners. Wrap-up by Moderator
10:30 – 10:45	**Coffee/Tea Break**
10:45 – 11:45	**Session 6: Closing the gender gap: female political leaders and women entrepreneurs as drivers of inclusive growth, women's empowerment and gender equality** **Moderator:** Ms. Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) This session will explore how women's political leadership and entrepreneurship can drive inclusive growth, women's empowerment and gender equality. Drawing on experiences from the Caribbean and Latin America, speakers will share practical approaches to overcoming structural barriers, expanding women's economic and political participation and strengthening policies, institutions and partnerships that enable women to lead and thrive. **Opening and Introductory Presentation** Ms. Mareike Eberz, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) **Presentations:** • Hon. Jahnel Nisbett, Minister of Health, Gender Affairs, Community Affairs, and Social Services, Nevis • Ms. Carolina del Valle Basualdo, National Deputy for the province of Córdoba, Argentina • Ms. Ludmila Araujo, Coordinator of the ODS Governance Center, Municipality of Vitória da Conquista, Brazil • Ms. Sonia Viveros, Director of the Afro-Ecuadorian Social and Cultural Development Foundation Azúcar, Ecuador **Interactive Discussion / Q&A** **Concluding Remarks by Moderator**
11:45 – 13:00	**Session 7: Integrated SDG implementation in Practice – Experiences of Cities on harnessing synergies and managing trade-offs** **Moderator:** Mr. Jurgen Gafke, Senior Programme Officer, DSDG, UN DESA This session will explore how cities can advance integrated SDG implementation by harnessing synergies across economic, social and environmental priorities while effectively managing trade-offs. Drawing on perspectives from local government, academia, national institutions and civil society, speakers will share practical experiences, enabling conditions and partnerships that can support systems-based approaches, strengthen multi-level governance and bring effective local initiatives to scale. **Presentations** • Ms. Milica V. Matijević, Senior Research Associate, Institute of Comparative Law • Ms. Judith Gobin, Professor of Marine Biology and Marine Science and Policy Adviser

	• Mr. Carlos Mendoza, Mayor of Sucre, Ecuador • Ms. Rosario del Pilar Diaz Garavito, Executive Director, Co facilitator, The Millennials Movement, LAC Civil Society Engagement Mechanism MeSCALC • Ms. Nonhlanhla Shongwe, Senior Economist, Ministry of Economic Planning and Development, Eswatini **Interactive Discussion / Q&A** **Wrap Up by Moderator**
13:00 – 14:30	**Lunch** *Participants will be directed to their lunch venues*
14:30 – 15:45	**Session 8: Digital innovations and multi-level governance to accelerate SDG Localisation** **Moderator:** Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD/DSDG/UN DESA This session will explore how digital innovation and inclusive multi-level governance can accelerate SDG localisation by connecting national digital strategies with local action. Drawing on experiences from Montevideo, Curridabat and Malaysia SDG Cities, speakers will share practical lessons on integrated planning and budgeting, financial transparency, evidence-based decision-making, inclusive digital public services and approaches to bridging digital divides and building public trust. **Presentations** • Ms. Paola Arjona, Senior Advisor and Focal Point for the Localisation of the 2030 Agenda, Montevideo City Government, Uruguay • Mr. Errol Andrés Solano Bolaños, Mayor of Curridabat, Costa Rica • Mr. Mohd Syafiq Bin Subri, Head of Malaysia SDG Cities, Senior Executive (Town Planner), URBANICE, Malaysia **Interactive Discussion / Q&A**
15:45 – 16:00	**Coffee/Tea Break**
16:00 – 17:00	**Session 9: Artificial Intelligence and Foresight - Building national to local capacities for Preparedness, Risk Reduction and Resilience** **Moderator:** Mr. Andrés Boeninger Sempere, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) This session will examine how artificial intelligence and foresight can help governments anticipate future challenges, manage uncertainty and strengthen resilience. Speakers will highlight practical tools and experiences that connect long-term thinking with local planning, risk-informed decision-making and coordinated action across levels of government. **Presentations:** • Mr. Silvio Barros, Mayor of Maringá, Brazil • Mr. Andrés Boeninger Sempere, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) • Mr. Marius Oosthuizen, Professor of Foresight, Future Readiness Academy • Mr. Guillermo de la Torre Sifuentes, Area Coordinator, Secretariat of Planning, Participation, and Development, Aguascalientes, Mexico **Interactive Discussion / Q&A**

17:00-17:15	**Wrap-up by Day 2 Rapporteur** **Moderator:** Mario Naranjo, Communications Officer, Ecuador RCO
Day 3: Thursday 1 October	
Time	**Session**
09:00 – 10:30	**Session 10: SDG Localisation Champions** **Moderator:** Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD This session will explore how cities can translate successful SDG localisation practices into approaches that can be adapted and replicated across different local contexts. Drawing on experiences from Yokohama, Agadir, Coronel Oviedo and San Nicolás, speakers will share proven initiatives and practical lessons on leadership, institutional ownership, planning, data and monitoring, community participation, partnerships and financing, highlighting the conditions needed to sustain and scale effective local action. **Presentations:** • Mr. Masahiro Nishikawa, Chief Representative, Office of the City of Yokohama Representative to the Americas, Yokohama, Japan • Mr. Zakaria Oulad, Vice President Urban Planning Commission of the City of Agadir and National Data Privacy Commissioner in Morocco. • Mr. Teófilo Burgos Portillo, Director of Planning and Management, Coronel Oviedo, Paraguay • Ms. Carmen Alicia Paz Rodríguez, Mayor of San Nicolás, Honduras **Interactive Discussion / Q&A**
10:30 – 11:30	**Session 11: Plenary dialogue for Outcome Document** **Moderators:** Mr. Jurgen Gafke, Senior Programme Management Officer, UN DESA and Mr. Simon Gilby, Sustainable Development Officer, UNOSD Participants will outline concrete actions and collaborative efforts to advance sustainable urban development and the SDGs
11:30 – 12:00	**Closing of the 2026 International Mayors Forum** **Master of Ceremonies:** Mario Naranjo, Communications Officer, Ecuador RCO **Closing Remarks** • H.E. Gilda Alcívar, Minister of Education • Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head, UN Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD), Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) • Mr. Shigeo Murata, Head, UN Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), DSDG, UN DESA
12:00 – 13:00	**Lunch** *Participants will be directed to their lunch venues*
15:00 – 18:00	**Site visit**