



2024 INTERNATIONAL
MAYORS FORUM



DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL AFFAIRS



United Cities and
Local Governments
Asia-Pacific



THE 2024 INTERNATIONAL MAYORS FORUM

Indicative

KEY MESSAGES

Grand Hyatt, Jakarta, Indonesia
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KEY MESSAGES



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Session 1

Status of Implementing the SDGs Locally:
Progress, Gaps, and Challenges



Session 1

Status of Implementing the SDGs Locally: Progress, Gaps, and Challenges

Significant local advancements in SDG 11 (sustainable cities) highlight progress in urban sustainability, but gaps such as insufficient funding and public awareness hinder broader achievements across other SDGs.

Electoral transitions present unique opportunities and challenges for sustainable development; local governments play a critical role in maintaining policy stability and integrating SDGs into new political frameworks.

Strengthening national frameworks to better support local authorities includes improving policy coherence, increasing financial transfers, and enhancing capacity-building efforts to empower local and regional governance.



Session 1

Status of Implementing the SDGs Locally: Progress, Gaps, and Challenges

Leveraging support from established national and regional localization platforms and networks) are important to support localization efforts.

Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews are important tools to support localization and can identify local contributions to SDG progress and priorities for action to achieve targets



Session 1

Status of Implementing the SDGs Locally: Progress, Gaps, and Challenges

Aligning local strategies with the Sustainable Development Goals and ensuring vertical integration between local and national governments are essential for maximizing synergies and addressing interconnected challenges effectively.

Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals requires moving beyond piecemeal and siloed development and environmental actions to strengthening multi-level governance and the capacity and resources of local government to implement inclusive integrated urban development that is informed and supported by multiple stakeholders.



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock -
Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at
Local and Regional Levels



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Local Government Finance is Development Finance. National governments should recognize that leveraging the comparative advantage of their local governments is a pathway to accelerating national development. This is imperative given the rate of urbanization and the financing gap for the required sustainable infrastructure. National balance sheets are unable to carry this burden and more should be done to build local fiscal space and financial autonomy to mobilize the required funding and financing. There is one national economy and national wealth is generated across the territory therefore there is no zero-sum game or competition between different levels of territorial governance and administration. In this context areas for improving the ecosystem for local government finance that boosts national development include:.



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Deploying fiscal transfers from central to local government as development funding in addition to recurrent funding. This could be for areas such as climate adaptation where local governments have a clear mandate and greater effectiveness. The use of expenditure trackers and budget codes can support this. Some countries have constitutional provisions or legislation in place with formulas for allocation of central fiscal expenditure across territorial and administrative divisions.



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Local governments should be supported in their efforts to raise revenue, this can be complemented by revenue sharing from central to local government. This leverages the efficiency of central tax collection but shares a portion of this revenue to local governments. Other innovations in revenue collection such as better use of assets and such as deploying of digital technology should be supported.



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Public private partnerships and city friendly investment funds should be encouraged to bridge the investment gap for sustainable infrastructure. This requires the legislative environment and the technical and legal capacity at both local and national levels to engage with private partners whilst protecting the public interest. Sectors such as transport, waste management and digital infrastructure are good candidates.



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Domestic capital markets should be mobilized to support local infrastructure investment. This has the advantage of strengthening local currencies and avoiding additional debt burden on sovereign balance sheets. There are encouraging trends in this direction and local leadership is required to increase the examples of municipal infrastructure bonds. In some cases this requires regulatory reform (for instance to create the legal autonomy required to issue a bond).



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Guarantee schemes should be developed to support local governments in mobilizing the required investment. Such schemes are important because they mitigate against the impact of local borrowing on sovereign balance sheets and because they encourage the reallocation of domestic pension funds and other capital deposits towards local infrastructure. One such guarantee scheme is currently under development.



Session 2

Breaking the Local Government Finance Gridlock - Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs at Local and Regional Levels

Taken together, this ecosystem approach to financing urban development will contribute to bridging the financing gap for the necessary investments identified during the International Mayors Forum. It is recommended that these five areas are identified and promoted at the HLFP 2024 and in the upcoming Financing for Development framework.



Session 3

Leveraging the Six Key Transitions: Investment
Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Digital
Government, Smart Cities, and Inclusion



Session 3

Leveraging the Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Digital Government, Smart Cities, and Inclusion

Digital government initiatives and smart city technologies have significantly accelerated SDG achievements by enhancing service delivery, improving governance, and ensuring better citizen engagement.

Successful cases from peri-urban and rural areas demonstrate that technology can drastically improve basic services, highlighting the importance of scalability and adaptability in tech solutions.

Digital inclusion must be prioritised to ensure that advancements in smart city and digital government initiatives do not widen existing disparities but rather benefit all community members, especially the vulnerable and marginalised.



Session 3

Leveraging the Six Key Transitions: Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Digital Government, Smart Cities, and Inclusion

There are challenges on digital governments, including limited access to high-speed internet, insufficient technical expertise and privacy and security concerns. Therefore, the digital gaps need to be minimized.

Traditional funding sources like government budget has proven over the years to be insufficient, necessitating innovative financing mechanisms and strong public-private partnerships.



Session 4

Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally
- Triple Planetary Crisis and the Just Energy
Transition



Session 4

Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Triple Planetary Crisis and the Just Energy Transition

Local efforts to address the triple planetary crisis should be supported by comprehensive national policies and frameworks that enable effective local action and ensure resource allocation is optimised for environmental sustainability.

Implementing tools that prioritise multiplier effects across the SDGs can significantly enhance efforts to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution at the local level.



Session 4

Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Triple Planetary Crisis and the Just Energy Transition

Inclusive and Just Energy Transition: Just and inclusive energy transitions are crucial; local governments must ensure that policies and investments support equitable and sustainable community benefits, focusing on the needs of marginalised groups. Ensuring a just and inclusive energy transition requires engaging communities in decision-making, providing targeted support for marginalized groups, and promoting equitable access to green jobs and clean energy technologies. National and local collaboration is essential to create sustainable and inclusive energy systems.

Developing common yet contextualized urban mitigation actions is expected to yield significant benefits for the selected airsheds, enhancing cooperation among national and subnational authorities.

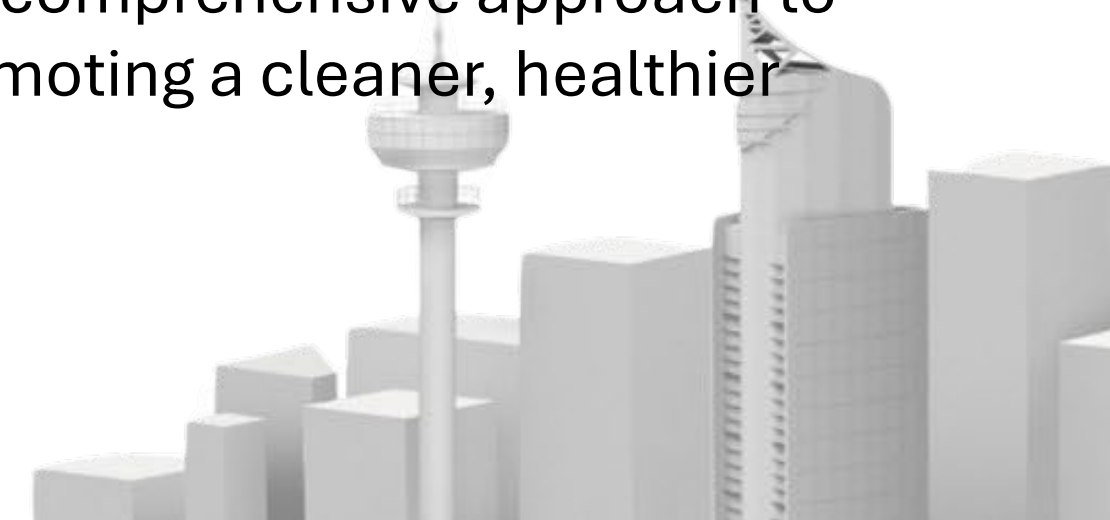


Session 4

Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Triple Planetary Crisis and the Just Energy Transition

Climate change adaptation measures should be integrated with mitigation and climate and SDG finance integrated too ensuring local tracking of results.

Innovative Waste Management for Pollution Reduction: Local governments can significantly reduce pollution and advance SDG targets through innovative waste management practices. Implementing technologies for implementation and monitoring, utilizing technologies for optimized waste collection routes, and recycling programs driven by community engagement can lead to more efficient and effective waste management systems. Collaboration with national governments and private sectors, alongside public education campaigns, ensures a comprehensive approach to tackling waste and pollution, promoting a cleaner, healthier environment for all.



Session 4

Investment Pathways to Achieve the SDGs Locally - Triple Planetary Crisis and the Just Energy Transition

Promoting circularity, local stakeholder engagement and public-private partnerships for waste management is crucial to addressing the growing waste pollution crises in many countries globally, given the significant economic, social, health and environmental impacts.



Session 5

Country Experiences Implementing Multi-Level
Governance to Achieve the SDGs



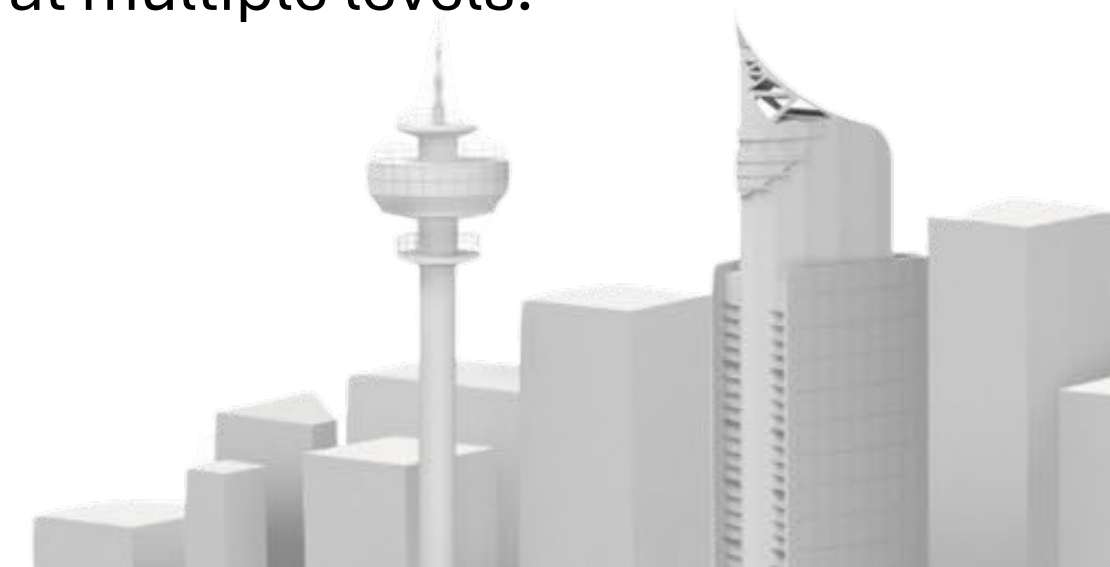
Session 5

Country Experiences Implementing Multi- Level Governance to Achieve the SDGs

Multi-level governance is enhanced by robust participatory processes such as bottom-up planning and participatory budgeting, which improve transparency and stakeholder involvement in decision-making.

Addressing complex crises like climate change through multi-level governance can leverage localised knowledge and foster cooperation across government tiers, leading to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

Tools like Indonesia's e-Musrembang process show how digital transformation can significantly enhance governance and financial management, streamlining processes and improving policy implementation at multiple levels.



Session 6

Measuring, Monitoring, and Evaluating SDG
Localization



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Measuring, Monitoring, and Evaluating SDG Localization

Overcoming challenges in data collection and monitoring at the local level is essential for accurately assessing SDG progress and guiding adaptive policy measures.

Incorporating innovative tools and technologies in local government practices can enhance capabilities for effective measurement and monitoring of SDGs, ensuring that progress is tracked and policies are evidence-based.

The outcomes from monitoring and evaluation should be strategically used to inform policy adjustments and optimise SDG strategies, facilitating continuous improvement and adaptation of local actions to meet global targets.



Session 6

Measuring, Monitoring, and Evaluating SDG Localization

Innovative Data Collection and Monitoring: Local governments must overcome challenges in collecting reliable data for SDG localization by utilizing innovative tools like GIS, mobile apps, and sensors. Building partnerships and investing in data literacy and robust management systems are crucial for accurate measurement and monitoring of progress towards SDGs.

Participatory Planning and Budgeting: Strengthening bottom-up planning and participatory budgeting practices enhances multi-level governance and empowers citizens in decision-making processes. Transparent communication and collaboration across government levels, supported by digital platforms, lead to more effective and responsive local governance, driving better SDG outcomes.



Session 6

Measuring, Monitoring, and Evaluating SDG Localization

The Local2030 Coalition, a UN platform, supports the delivery of SDGs at the local level by coordinating efforts with 14 UN entities, national governments, local and regional governments, businesses, community-based organisations, and other local actors. Local2030 aids local leaders in developing and sharing solutions, overcoming bottlenecks, and implementing strategies to advance SDGs. As a Local2030Hub, the Local2030 Island Network contributes by building technical capacities and deepening understanding of relevant themes to support innovative action. The Local2030 Hubs are crucial for raising the priority of SDG localisation within the UN system. Participants at the International Mayors Forum were encouraged to support the Local2030 Coalition and enhance engagement between local governments, Local2030 Hubs, and the UN system.



Session 7

SDG Localization Champions and Voluntary Local
Reviews Dialogue



Session 7

SDG Localization Champions and Voluntary Local Reviews Dialogue

Engagement and Collaboration: SDG Localization Champions have successfully engaged national leaders, stakeholders, including communities, private sectors, and civil society, through transparent communication and inclusive participation. Strategies like public consultations, stakeholder workshops, and cross-sector partnerships have been pivotal. These approaches not only build consensus but also ensure that diverse perspectives contribute to the VLR process, making the outcomes more comprehensive and widely supported.



Session 7

SDG Localization Champions and Voluntary Local Reviews Dialogue

Innovative Solutions to Challenges: Addressing common challenges like data scarcity and stakeholder engagement has led cities to adopt innovative solutions such as advanced data management technologies and digital platforms for community involvement, enhancing local governance capabilities.

Learning and Adaptation: Viewing VLRs as tools for continuous learning and adaptation helps cities tailor their strategies effectively. Sharing these experiences in forums promotes collective learning and supports global and local alignment in achieving SDGs.

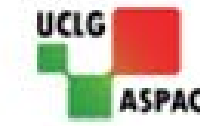




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