The localization of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

Survey on the role of local and regional governments

and their associations

Please submit it by 01/04/2023

We encourage you to submit the survey through the online form: <http://survey.uclg.org>. If this is not possible, please send the survey to: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org).

! This survey is only addressed to:

- Local and regional governments (LRGs)

- Non-European associations of local governments (LGAs)

If you represent a European LGA, please download the corresponding file at <http://survey.uclg.org>.



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| Name of your organization:  Country:  Your name:  Your job title:  E-mail address: |

Welcome to the survey on the role of local and regional governments and their associations in the localization of the SDGs!

Realizing the Decade of Action and delivery of the SDGs

This survey aims to contribute to assessing the progress made by local and regional governments in the implementation of the United Nations’ [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/21252030%20Agenda%20for%20Sustainable%20Development%20web.pdf) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the subnational level. Its aim is to help local and regional governments, their associations and their networks, both regional and global (UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments), develop and present the joint report ‘Towards the localization of the SDGs’ to the United Nations in the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023. Since 2017, six reports by the Global Taskforce have been presented to the HLPF, the central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (you can find them [here](https://www.gold.uclg.org/report/localizing-sdgs-boost-monitoring-reporting)).

In 2023, the HLPF is asking to assess the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures that have been taken to accelerate the full implementation of the SDGs. The HLPF is going to review the progress made towards SDG 11 – “Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”. This SDG refers in particular to many of the main responsibilities of local and regional governments, related to the delivery of basic services and housing (SDG 11.1), public transport (SDG 11.2), urban planning and management (SDG 11.3), the protection of our culture and natural heritage (SDG 11.4), urban resilience to disasters (SDG 11.5 and 11.b), waste management and air pollution (SDG 11.6) and public and green urban space (SDG 11.7). It will also ascertain to what extent the 2030 Agenda has supported local and regional governments and their associations in their recovery and development plans.

The survey is addressed to all local and regional governments (LRGs) and their associations (LGAs) across all countries of the world and, especially, in those 40 countries that have committed to submit their national reviews to the HLPF in 2023 (see the list [here](https://hlpf.un.org/countries?f%5B0%5D=year%3A2023)).

In red, you will find indications to follow depending on whether you are an LRG or LGA, European or non-European and whether your country is reporting this year to the HLPF or not.

Should you need any support when answering the survey, please contact: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org).

Please complete this survey by 1 April 2023.

Acronyms and vocabulary explanation:

LGA = local government association

LRG = local and regional government

Organization = refers to LGAs, LRGs, inter-municipal and supra-municipal institutions (e.g. metropolitan authorities)

VNR = Voluntary National Review

VLR = Voluntary Local Review

VSR = Voluntary Subnational Review

HLPF = High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development of the United Nations

Section I. Awareness raising and commitment to the SDGs

1. AWARENESS RAISING:

Seven years after the adoption of the SDGs, how do you evaluate the progress made in the knowledge of the SDGs within your organization?

Please select only one option

⃝ Limited progress: Very few individuals in the organization are familiar with the SDGs or are aware of their relevance

⃝ Medium progress: The majority of our staff is aware of and refers to the SDGs, but they are not high in our work priorities

⃝ Important progress: The SDGs are well known in our organization and used as an important reference in our strategies

⃝ I don’t know

1. COMMITMENT:

Has your organization made progress in its strategy or plans for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

Please select only one option

⃝ No commitment: The organization has not adopted any plan or strategy related to the implementation of the SDGs

⃝ Limited progress: The organization has adopted a strategy or an action plan but its implementation is still at an early stage

⃝ Important progress: The strategy or the action plan is in an advanced stage or has even been updated to expand its objectives

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

# Section II. National context: involvement of your organization in national reporting and coordination mechanisms

Countries reporting to the 2023 HLPF through a Voluntary National Review:

*\* indicates that the country is presenting its VNR for the 2nd (\*) or 3rd (\*\*) time.*

Europe (12): Belgium\*, Bosnia and Herzegovina\*, Croatia\*, France\*, Iceland\*, Ireland\*, Liechtenstein\*, Lithuania\*, Poland\*, Portugal\*, Romania\*, Slovakia\*

ASPAC (7): Brunei\*, Cambodia\*, Fiji\*, Maldives\*, Singapore\*, Timor Leste\*, Vietnam\*

Africa (7): Burkina Faso\*, Central African Republic\*, Comoros\*, Democratic Republic of the Congo\*, Rwanda\*, Tanzania\*,Zambia\*

MEWA (4): Bahrain\*, Kuwait\*, Saudi Arabia\*, Syrian Arab Republic\*

Eurasia (4): Mongolia\*, Tajikistan\*, Turkmenistan\*, Uzbekistan\*

LAC (3): Chile\*\*, Guyana\*, Venezuela\*

NORAM (3): Barbados\*, Canada\*, Saint Kitts and Nevis

*If your country is not in this list of countries reporting in 2023, please skip Question 4, Question 5 and Box 1 and continue with Question 6.*

1. INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPORTING PROCESS IN 2023:

As your country is reporting to the HLPF, how is your organization being invited to contribute to the development of the Voluntary National Review (VNR)?

You can pick more than one option

⃝ No participation at all

⃝ Very limited contribution: By participating in occasional meetings, with limited room to contribute to the actual report

⃝ Limited contribution: By answering a survey or questionnaire

⃝ Moderate contribution: By attending bilateral meetings with the reporting unit (in charge of the reporting) to discuss the report (e.g. between your organization, local elected officials and the reporting unit)

⃝ Active contribution: By presenting your own contribution to the report (e.g. about what local and regional governments are doing to implement the SDGs, etc.)

⃝ Very active contribution: Direct participation in the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

1. EVOLUTION OF YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE REPORTING PROCESS:

All countries reporting in 2023 (except for Saint Kitts and Nevis) have already reported to the HLPF in previous years. Has your organization experienced any change (progress, setback…) in the modality of participation in the production of the VNR?

Please select only one option

⃝ Same tasks as previous years

⃝ Stronger involvement: Please describe in Box 1, below

⃝ Weaker involvement: Please describe in Box 1, below

⃝ I don’t know

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| Box 1. Tell us more!   * *Do you consider that your participation in the reporting process has been adequate?* * *Have your contributions been taken into consideration in the report?* * *If you feel there has been any progress (or setback), please explain why.* |

1. INVOLVEMENT IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS FOR SDGs:

Has your organization or any representative of LRGs been involved in the institutional mechanisms put in place by the national government to coordinate SDG implementation? How?

In most countries, national governments have either created specific institutional mechanisms (e.g., high-level commissions, inter-ministerial/inter-agency committees, etc.) or strengthened existing ones (often including national councils for sustainable development or national planning institutions) to improve coordination and follow-up for the implementation of the SDGs. Many of these mechanisms have a multi-stakeholder composition.

Please select only one option

⃝ No involvement at all

⃝ Through ad-hoc consultations, in few or punctual meetings, but not as a permanent member

⃝ Regular participation, but at consultative level (no decision-making power)

⃝ Regular participation in the decision-making process as an equal partner (right to vote, for instance)

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: …………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..

1. EVOLUTION OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF YOUR LGA/LRG IN THE NATIONAL COORDINATION MECHANISMS:

Has your organization experienced any change (progress, setback…) in its involvement in the national coordination mechanisms for the implementation and follow-up of the SDGs?

Please select only one option

⃝ We have never participated in the national coordination mechanisms

⃝ No evolution experienced, the involvement has not changed during the past years

⃝ We have been more involved: Please describe in Box 2, below

⃝ We have been less involved: Please describe in Box 2, below

⃝ I don’t know

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| Box 2. Tell us more!   * *Is there a clear vertical cooperation between the national government and the LRGs? If yes, can you explain how it works? If not, why not?* * *Has your involvement (whether direct or indirect) in the national coordination institutions/mechanisms had any impact on the dialogue and cooperation between the national government and LRGs? If yes, how?* * *Has it had an influence on the horizontal cooperation between LRGs themselves (regions, provinces and municipalities)? If so, how?* |

# Section III. Local actions for SDG localization & recovery policies

1. GENERAL AWARENESS-RAISING ACTIVITIES FOR THE SDGs:

Has your organization promoted or actively participated in concrete activities to raise awareness and disseminate the SDGs among the population and local stakeholders (including your LRG members, if you are an LGA) during the past years?

Please select only one option

⃝ We have not promoted or participated in such activities at all

⃝ Limited action

⃝ Mild/average mobilization

⃝ Strong and regular actions

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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| Box 3. Tell us more!   * *Please provide more information on the SDG awareness-raising actions developed in your territory (communications, conferences, events, joint declarations, festivals, awards, SDG champions, training…).* * *What was your role (organizer, funder, support…)?* * *Who were the main stakeholders involved (civil society, private sector, academia, trade unions, cooperatives and other institutions, your LRG members, international institutions – e.g. UN Global Compact, other UN or EU agencies, etc.)?* * *What results have you achieved through these actions?* |

*If you are an LGA, please continue with Question 9 and Box 4. If you are an LRG, please go to Questions 11, 11.1 and Box 6. Questions 12 to 15 should be answered by both LGAs and LRGs.*

1. NATIONAL RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE PLANS & SDG 11 ON SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND TERRITORIES

What are the main actions that your LGA has implemented or is planning to implement in order to promote the localization of the SDGs and accelerate the recovery from the pandemic and the crisis? The next edition of the HLPF will continue to assess the recovery process from the COVID-19 pandemic and its links with the SDGs to “build back better” so that recovery is more sustainable, just and green.

You can pick more than one option

⃝ Informing: Provision to LRGs with information and facilitate access to informational resources on recovery

⃝ Promoting: Collection and compilation of LRG initiatives to promote and accelerate recovery and SDGs

⃝ Active promotion: International collaboration and/or participation in international events for the exchange of experiences, development of joint advocacy actions, etc.

⃝ Advocating: Advocacy to rally financial support for LRGs

⃝ Capacity building: Capacity building of LRG members, support through peer learning, provision of partnerships and awards, provision of technical assistance and support (e.g. technological equipment, face masks, vaccination processes in place, etc.)

⃝ Active contribution: Representation of the views and interests of LRGs within the national coordination mechanism for recovery responses or through other formal or informal channels (e.g. through dialogue, collaboration, consultations, interpersonal relations, etc.)

⃝ Direct support: Direct role in the provision of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery plans at national level (e.g. distribution of national funds amongst LRGs, distribution of centrally-bought equipment amongst LRGs, identification of necessary investments, etc.)

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

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| Box 4. Tell us more!   * *Your national government may have adopted a national recovery and resilience plan and financial package. How do they contribute to achieving SDG 11? What is your role in it?* * *And, conversely, how do your efforts towards the implementation of SDG 11 contribute to recovering from the crisis?* |

*Thank you for your answers! If you are an LGA, please go to Question 12 to continue the survey.*

*The following Question 11 and Box 6 are addressed only to LRGs.*

1. MOVING TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SDGs:

Has your LRG made progress in integrating the SDGs into local plans, strategies and policies?

You can select more than one option

⃝ No progress at all

⃝ Prioritization of SDGs: SDGs were analyzed and compared with local plans and policies, and some of them were prioritized

⃝ Planning and policy alignment: Some (or all) SDGs and targets have been integrated into local plans and policies with concrete results to be achieved

⃝ Budget alignment: Some (or all) SDGs and targets have been integrated in local budgets, with the concrete allocation of resources for implementation

⃝ Concrete programs and projects defined and currently implemented to move toward the achievement of the SDGs.

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

11.1 What are the main priorities on sustainable cities and communities, public services and infrastructure that your LRG has decided to focus on?

You can select more than one option

⃝ SDG 6. Clean water and sanitation

⃝ SDG 7. Affordable and clean energy

⃝ SDG 9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure

⃝ SDG 11.1. Housing and basic services

⃝ SDG 11.2. Transport and mobility

⃝ SDG 11.3. Urban planning

⃝ SDG 11.4. Cultural heritage

⃝ SDG 11.5. Urban resilience

⃝ SDG 11.6. Air quality & waste management

⃝ SDG 11.7. Public space

⃝ SDG 11.a. Urban and peri-urban linkages

*Please use the Annex to provide more details on the specific policies, programmes corresponding to the goals and targets you have prioritized.*

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| Box 6. Tell us more!   * *Your national government may have adopted a national recovery and resilience plan and financial package. How do they contribute to achieving SDG 11? What is your role in it?* * *And, conversely, how do your efforts towards the implementation of SDG 11 contribute to recovering from the crisis?* |

*The following questions are to be answered both by LGAs and LRGs.*

1. MONITORING AND INDICATORS:

Has your organization developed indicators or a mechanism to monitor the progress made in the achievement of the different SDGs and their targets in your territory?

You can select only one option

⃝ Yes

⃝ No

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….

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| Box 7. Tell us more!     * *Have you created a new indicator system aligned with the SDGs? Have you adapted an existing one? Are you using sets of indicators such as the UN-Habitat Global Urban Monitoring Framework or the European Commission’s JRC Handbook for VLRs? How have you prioritized some indicators over others?* * *Are you working with other stakeholders (national government, academia, other LRGs/LGAs, international partners…)? Who is in charge of what role and activity?* * *Concerning the data you use, who is in charge of generating, collecting and/or analyzing it?* * *What is the most relevant/innovative aspect of your indicator system? What would you emphasize?* |

# Section IV. Main challenges and opportunities to move towards accelerated actions for sustainable development

1. CHALLENGES:

What do you think are the main challenges LRGs face in working towards the achievement of the SDGs and other global agendas?

Please select up to 3 options that you consider are the most relevant

⃝ Limited access to information

⃝ Limited support from national governments (in terms of administrative and financial support, capacity building, human resources…)

⃝ Limited coordination across levels of governments (e.g. overlapping of responsibilities, difficult coordination between national and local plans, etc.)

⃝ Limited local interest and/or awareness (e.g. local governments do not understand the SDGs or do not find them relevant, or they perceive the SDGs to be a new burden, not well adapted to the local priorities)

⃝ Inadequate human resources or weak capacities (e.g. for planning, data collection and management, project design, etc.)

⃝ Insufficient financial resources (other than national subsidies) in general

⃝ Too high complexity to access funding (e.g. fragmented sources of funding)

⃝ Limited participation of local non-governmental stakeholders

⃝ Difficulties to develop an SDG monitoring system due to lack of available local data or capacities

⃝ SDGs overshadowed by COVID-19 crisis recovery

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify:

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1. OPPORTUNITIES:

What do you think are the main benefits for LRGs that stem from working towards the achievement of the SDGs and other global agendas?

Please select up to 3 options that you consider are the most relevant

⃝ Wider access to information

⃝ Mobilizing additional support from national governments (in terms of administrative and financial support, capacity building, human resources…)

⃝ Enhanced multi-level coordination

⃝ Enhanced involvement of the national/central government in SDG coordination

⃝ Increased local interest and/or awareness: e.g. local governments better understand the SDGs or find them (more) relevant; they do not perceive the SDGs as a burden (anymore), SDGs are adapted to the local priorities

⃝ More human resources or better capacities

⃝ Additional financial resources (e.g. to support investments in basic services and local development)

⃝ Legal and institutional reforms to empower local and regional governments (e.g. for the localization of the SDGs and the recovery from the pandemic)

⃝ Improved planning mechanisms at local level to integrate the SDGs and promote recovery

⃝ Enhanced participation of local non-governmental stakeholders

⃝ Improved SDG monitoring systems and/or reporting mechanisms thanks to available local data, etc.

⃝ Use of the SDGs as the roadmap to respond to the COVID-19 crisis

⃝ Increased visibility of local actions

⃝ I don’t know

⃝ Other, please specify:

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# THANK YOU!

Please go to the annex and help us collect more detailed information on LRG/LGA action for SDG localization and the recovery from COVID-19 pandemic. For any questions, please contact: [gold@uclg.org](mailto:gold@uclg.org).

# ANNEX: LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES TO LOCALIZE THE SDGs

The HLPF 2023 edition will focus on SDGs 6 (water and sanitation for all), 7 (sustainable and modern energy for all), 9 (resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation), 11 (inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements) and 17 (partnerships).

Use the table below to share your most impactful initiatives on the previous SDGs (as a priority) and any other! Tell us how they contribute to a just, green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic as well.

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| Name of the initiative | Description of the initiative  (goals, process, SDGs it contributes to, results, impact, lessons learnt) | Web sources |
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