



Going Glocal - Experiences of SDG Localization for Multilevel and Multi- Regional Partnerships

Tuesday 5th November, 09:00-10:30

Voices from Cities Room C

Summary

The world has not ceased from being exposed to natural crises, political conflicts, and growing inequalities. With only 12% of the SDGs on track, we must strengthen our efforts to rescue the SDGs since they provide a comprehensive framework for addressing various interconnected challenges.

To do so, an integrated approach is needed. Rooted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs, there are transformative entry points – transitions – that can have catalytic and multiplier effects across the SDGs. Each of the six transitions holds a local dimension, and the extent of their success is directly linked to the work and core mandate of local and regional governments.

Localization, therefore, emerges as a crucial process in accelerating the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda and the transitions.

Complementing this endeavour, multilevel governance has emerged as a catalytic force for SDG localization, offering a distinct lens on policymaking processes centred on cohesive leadership, vertical coherence, and horizontal coordination for improved service delivery - by and among all spheres of governance.



Multilevel governance systems vary from country to country. Notably, the Finnish experience stands out as a globally recognized good practice, now inspiring other local and national governments to engage in the same processes. In Finland, multilevel governance has been strengthened through the process of connecting the country's VNR with VLRs and is currently engaged in the Nordic VSR – connecting the global processes with local initiatives, fostering the global perspective. This has resulted in enhanced cooperation between different levels of governance, which in turn has yielded an increase of support to cities in terms of financial resources, as well as more effective legal frameworks to localize the SDGs.

Simultaneously, Finland has embarked on a Twinning Project between the city of Tampere and the city of Mwanza in Tanzania which resulted in the first VLR of Tanzania, and an entry point for further work on SDG Localization and enhancement of multilevel governance. Other Finnish cities are currently engaging in the similar peer-exchange processes, finding innovative ways to build capacities on SDG implementation.

By facilitating cross-regional knowledge exchange, local and national governments from different parts of the world, with different contexts, can learn from one another, creating a dialogue-driven and two-way process cooperation that can significantly enhance the achievement of sustainable development.

This event aims to present the SDG localization experience from distinct places worldwide, providing an interactive platform for knowledge exchange and the sharing of best practices. It will also link with the URBACT CSG Network side event which will provide hands-on, interactive knowledge, while this one will frame the high-level discussion.

How can the SDGs and the transitions be localized? How can knowledge sharing, and best practices exchange between local and national governments be improved for SDG achievement? What are the essential characteristics of effective multilevel governance systems? How can cross-regional exchanges be enhanced? These are some of the questions that will be brought to the table, aligning with how all starts from home.

Key objectives

- To create a dynamic peer-learning exchange exercise involving different actors as well as levels of governance.



- To present the Finnish experience as well as other worldwide experiences, creating a cross-regional knowledge exchange on good practices, discussing both the problems faced and the opportunities seized, and plan for the future.
- To endorse innovative local sustainable action and foster dialogue on how to make sense of the SDGs at local level and tailor the knowledge to different contexts
- To discuss the role of VLRs as entry points for accelerating the SDGs, as well as the linkage between VLR-VNRs to enhance a multilevel governance approach.
- To encourage a discussion on how policies can be better coordinated and aligned.
- To feed into a training event putting in practice all the discussions.

Partners

Ministry of Environment of Finland
Tampere city
UN-Habitat

Language

The official language of the session is English

Agenda

Moderator: Ms Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat	
15mins	Welcoming and opening Remarks Mr. Jyri Juslen, Ministerial Adviser, Ministry of Environment, Finland Mr. Ilkka Porttikivi, Deputy Mayor, City of Tampere, Finland Mr. Sima Constantine Sima, Mayor of Mwanza, Mwanza, Tanzania
Panel discussion (55 mins)	
Two rounds of questions	
Nordic Voluntary Subnational Review	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Anne Romsaas, Chief Adviser SDG, Norway, The Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities 	



Åland Voluntary Review 2024 – Everyone Can Flourish on the Islands of Peace	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Micke Larsson, Secretary General, Development and Sustainability Council of Åland, Finland 	
Zanzibar SDG Localization strategy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rahma S. Mahfoudh, Executive Secretary of the Zanzibar Planning Commission (TBC) 	
Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development of Ghana	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Samuel Seth Passah, Director for Local Governance and Decentralisation 	
Uganda National Water and Sewerage Corporation	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Name TBC 	
15mins	Q&A Section
5 mins	Way forward: Suggesting a way to strengthening cross-continental collaboration Shipra Narang Suri