



SUSTAINABLE CITIES DIALOGUE

URBAN GOVERNANCE
AT THE CORE OF THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 11

Strasbourg, France, 24-25 May 2018

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Contribution to the first assessment of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and to the First Forum of Local and Regional Governments at the 2018 High Level Political Forum (New York)

OUTCOMES OF THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES BETWEEN MAYORS AND MINISTERS

hosted by the UCLG Policy Councils in the framework of the Executive Bureau

Strasbourg, 24-25 May 2018



CITIES AND REGIONS are ideally positioned to make catalytic changes and to transform the global agendas into concrete actions: they are places where people live, where poverty is tackled, where prosperity is generated and where women and youth are empowered. Being closest to the people, local governments are key policy-makers, ensuring among others, that affordable housing, public spaces, access to basic services for all, and that cities are climate resilient through adapted and innovative solutions.

The Sustainable Cities Dialogue in Strasbourg showed how local governments are already taking ownership of the global agendas, organizing awareness-raising activities and implementing Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development by engaging all local stakeholders from the grass-roots and up. We have heard the commitment of national governments to work with communities, the private sector and to establish mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation with other levels of governments towards the achievement of sustainable cities.

The challenges of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development are complex and they cannot be faced alone. The Sustainable Cities Dialogue in Strasbourg was precisely organized to facilitate and encourage mayors and ministers to find joint solutions. This report reflects the richness and plurality of voices and perspectives from different continents, cities, places and levels of government in implementing Sustainable Development Goal 11. It brings attention to the kind of collaboration needed across all levels of governance to achieve our common agenda. UN-Habitat, together with its key partner United Cities and Local Governments, is proud to bring these lessons learned to the United Nations High Level Political Forum in New York in July 2018, and in particular to the first Local and Regional Government Forum being hosted during this Forum.

Multilevel, inclusive and innovative governance can unlock the potential of urban areas and territories, and to leave no one behind. Urban governance is the string that holds all SDG 11 targets together, while multilevel and multi-stakeholder partnerships, nurture the urban dimensions of Sustainable Development Goals. We need to ensure that dialogue amongst the different spheres of government happens in a constructive, coordinated and long-term way. For this, the New Urban Agenda provides a clear path, and invites us to renew the institutional and governance structures to make them the driver of sustainable urban development and to transform our cities into livable, intelligent and sustainable places. The New Urban Agenda can also help us localize the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as a unique opportunity to increase local democratic governance and to achieve together this vital plan for the people and the planet.

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Maimunah Mohd Sharif

United Nations Under-Secretary-
General and Executive Director,
UN-Habitat

STRASBOURG hosted the Sustainable Cities Dialogue, in conjunction with the Executive Bureau of United Cities and Local Governments. We are delighted that our Executive Bureau welcomed and opened spaces of dialogue for representatives of local, regional and national governments and partners, reflecting our readiness to open, think and act together.

In the same spirit of collaboration between United Cities and Local Governments and the United Nations, we jointly present in this report the conclusions of the Dialogue, as a contribution to the assessment of the Sustainable Development Goal 11 during the 2018 High Level Political Forum.

For Mayors and Governors, Sustainable Development Goal 11 and all other urban-related objectives are our everyday life. We govern, plan, develop, manage our territories to make them safe, inclusive, resilient and sustainable for our citizens. Therefore, we believe that the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, taking into account local realities and communities throughout the process of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, is a key issue for local, national and global development alike, and the only way in which the global agendas can be implemented and effectively brought to life. The localization of the Sustainable Development Goals requires for the alignment of the global goals with national and local development policies, and their implementation at the local level requires renewed efforts both from national and subnational spheres of government.

Dialogue with national institutions needs to grow at all levels. The involvement of local and regional governments in the global agendas is increasing and improving, and the Sustainable Cities Dialogue was to opportunity to take unprecedented steps towards this much-needed structural dialogue with the national spheres in a global context. For United Cities and Local Governments and the Global Taskforce of local and regional governments, bringing these constructive inputs to the global discussion is one more contribution to our commitment to sustainable development and to achieve, together, a better future for our communities.



Mpho Parks Tau

President of United Cities and Local Governments, President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), South Africa

Strasbourg.eu

Roland Ries

Mayor of Strasbourg, France, Co-president of United Cities and Local Governments

1

The participants of the Sustainable Cities Dialogue reaffirmed that an enabling political, legal, institutional and financial framework is needed for the achievement of SDG 11 and the urban-related dimension of the 2030 Agenda. **URBAN GOVERNANCE** is the cornerstone of effective and sustainable implementation of SDG 11 and the link between the urban targets.

2

Exchanges showed the on-going efforts for intergovernmental work and horizontal coordination at the national level as well as the local commitments and initiatives. Implementing the urban dimension of the SDGs represents an opportunity to **REACTIVATE THE VERTICAL AND MULTILEVEL DIALOGUE** and to work for more integration and policy support.

3

SDG 11 speaks of issues that are decentralized to local and regional governments in many countries of the world. **POLITICAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND FISCAL DECENTRALIZATION** is crucial to strengthen territories, to improve service delivery and boost local democracy. The instrumental nature of local **SELF-GOVERNMENT** has to be placed at the heart of the cooperation between all spheres of government to leave no one behind.

4

A **TERRITORIAL APPROACH**, marked by institutional and inter-sectorial cooperation is needed. Planning goes beyond developing instruments: it should

consider the national and local political economy and enhance urban functionality through an integrated and multi-sectorial approach. It means transitioning from sector programmes to area focused policies and supporting the socio-economic and human fabric that makes cities liveable and give them their identity.

5

The missing link between planning and implementation is often **FINANCING**. Given the needs and the increasingly complex issues to be addressed, all levels of governments have to innovate, to encourage the localization of finance and the use of mixed solutions, and to engage further with the private sector.

6

Cities are a collective good and their sustainability rely on a **SOCIAL CONTRACT** with the citizenship and the protection of **THE COMMONS**, through the mediation of interests between all levels of government. Accountability, **TRANSPARENCY** and open government are the foundation of this renewed social contract, enabling the effective democratization of cities.

7

The inclusion of all segment of societies - public, private, civil society, informal sector - as stakeholders and beneficiaries is essential. All actors must be considered in urban governance processes, to enhance local economic development, safety, social cohesion and prosperity. It is intrinsically linked to **PARTICIPATION AND BOTTOM-UP PROCESSES** where citizens have a voice in the urbanization trajectories to accommodate their needs and the diversity of urban uses.

8

Leaders can embrace a **RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH** in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs to change the narrative for a collective right to live in inclusive and fair cities, ensuring opportunities for all and the elimination of discriminations.

9

Urban crisis are multi-faceted and require de facto a multilevel and multi-stakeholder response. The interconnected nature of SDG 11, the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework and the Paris Climate agreement, offers a unique opportunity for collective local and global action towards risk reduction and enhanced **RESILIENCE**.

10

SDG 11 and 2030 Agenda are, in principle, to be understood as integrated into the ordinary planning and political processes. **EMBEDDING PRINCIPLES** and targets into national frameworks is on-going but yet to be achieved. There are sectorial and alignment initiatives from front runners local and regional governments. However, this dynamic has to be strengthened and deepened at all levels to turn the global goals into concrete outcomes.

11

MOBILIZING CAPACITIES to drive inclusive and localized approach is essential. Local governments associations are key actors to facilitate the multilevel dialogue and they are also promoters and providers of capacity development, fostering ownership and peer-to-peer learning.

12

The urban dimension of the SDGs constitute an unprecedented opportunity to generate **PLACE-BASED AND DISAGGREGATED DATA**. A seamless and frequent dialogue - beyond mere consultation- between national statistic systems, local governments and 'data producers' (incl. communities) is increasingly needed. Local and regional governments have to be fully empowered throughout all the monitoring and reporting processes, by building local capacities and involving their associations in the VNR preparations.

13

The **NEW URBAN AGENDA** makes explicit the underlying governance dimensions of the implementation of SDG 11. Although there is no one-size-fits-all approach to collaboration between tiers of governments, **LOCALIZING THE SDGs** was recognized by participants as an effective response. This political, institutional and operational approach implies more networked systems of governance and an increased iterative and multidimensional dialogue; it bridges the SDGs and the NUA implementation and puts the citizens at the centre of the development.

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- 2.2.** Development and alignment of national policies, strategies and plans for the SDGs and the NUA implementation
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- 2.4.** Monitoring urban SDGs demands increased capacities and trust between all levels of governments
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01

INTRODUCTION

The Sustainable Cities Dialogue was co-organized by UN-Habitat and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) within the framework of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) and the Global Taskforce of local and regional governments. It took place in Strasbourg, France on May 24 and 25th 2018, in the European Parliament, at the invitation of Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg, Co-President of UCLG and Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat. It was organized in conjunction with UCLG Executive Bureau and gathered over 350 participants from more than 25 countries, including 70 local elected officials, Ministers, more than 40 national government officials and a range of international partners.

INTRODUCTION

Country vision and implementation

Ministers and Mayors dialogues

Right to the City

(SDG 11.1, 11.2)

Opportunities for all

(SDG 11.3, 11.4, 11.7, 5)

Multilevel governance

(SDG 11.3, 11.a, 17)

Resilient cities

(SDG 11.5, 11.6, 11.b, 11.c, 7, 12)

The Dialogue was organized with a threefold objective:

- to facilitate multilevel dialogue between national and local governments;
- to exchange experiences, solutions, challenges on various dimensions of sustainable cities;
- to prepare a joint local-national contribution for the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) and in particular for the Local and Regional Governments Forum (July 2018, New York, USA).

Methodology of the Dialogue

The Dialogue started with the presentations of national governments delegations of their vision, challenges and progresses on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11), enabling them to share with peers and partners their coordination mechanisms and strategies.

It was followed by four high-level thematic dialogues between national and local governments, hosted by the UCLG Policy councils and covering key aspects of inclusive, safe, sustainable and resilient cities.

It concluded on a high-level Dialogue on Linking the Global Goals and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Contribution to the assessment of Goal 11 and scope of the report

The Dialogue sessions aimed at paving the way towards the HLPF where SDG 11 is under review for the first time. This report documents the discussions that took place in Strasbourg and is brought to HLPF, responding to Article 47 of the 2030 Agenda: *“governments have the primary responsibility for follow-up and review, at the national, regional and global levels, in relation to the progress made in implementing the Goals and targets”*, complemented by Article 89: *“The high-level political forum will support participation in follow-up and*

review processes by the major groups and other relevant stakeholders in line with resolution 67/290. We call upon those actors to report on their contribution to the implementation of the Agenda.”

The report is based on meeting proceedings, participants’ presentations and responses to a questionnaire sent to national governments’ focal points. It does not constitute an official reporting mechanism, nor an analysis of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)¹ but rather a qualitative contribution to highlight the crucial importance of urban governance for the successful delivery of the Agenda 2030.

Why a focus on urban governance?

Goal 11 centers on a pledge to *“make cities and human settlement inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”*. The urban dimension of Agenda 2030 is not only limited to SDG 11 and it relates to other goals, such as SDG 16 (effective institutions), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 9 (infrastructure), SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 1 (poverty eradication) or SDG 8 (decent work), among others. The challenge of the 2030 Agenda is wide, and needs the implication of many sectors of government and society. Albeit local governments are on the front line to ensure urban management, urban responsibilities are shared with different government departments (urban development, infrastructure, transportation, interior, presidency, etc.) and often are scattered among municipalities, provinces, counties, regions and metropolitan areas.

To achieve sustainable cities and communities, enhancing political, legal and institutional frameworks as well as financial support at the local level is needed. These are not always explicit in SDG 11 targets, yet necessary for their implementation. **Implementing the urban dimension of the SDGs represents an opportunity to renew dialogue, establish new governance mechanisms, to create the right conditions to unlock the potential of cities**, ensuring that both public and private finance is channeled in

¹ Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>) is already the subject of UCLG publications (annual series “National and sub-national governments on the way towards localization”) and the UN <https://unhabitat.org/sdg-11-synthesis-report-2018-on-cities-and-communities/>



“If we want to have a chance of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, we need to get our cities right. If we want to get our cities right, they need the necessary enabling environment. We need to recognize governance as one of the drivers of sustainable urban development. The co-creation of solutions is the only way if we are to succeed with this vital plan for humanity and planet”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

ways that contribute towards sustainable urban development.

It is actually the NUA that addresses ways in which cities are planned, designed, managed, governed and financed to achieve sustainable development; it is an accelerator of the achievement of the urban dimension of the SDGs.

Within this context, the report of the Sustainable Cities Dialogue specifically addresses urban governance as the bedrock for SDG 11 implementation, and more generally for all the urban-related SDGs, showing the linkages with the New Urban Agenda and illustrated by experiences and examples of the meeting participants.

02

NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE SDG 11

NATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND ACTIONS TO ACHIEVE SDG 11

Ministers and national governments representatives presented their respective strategies and policies, mechanisms of dialogues and way forward for the implementation and monitoring of SDG 11 and the articulation with the NUA. The session gathered representatives from Ministries of Interior, housing, public works, planning, regional and local development, and local government, showing the range of ministerial departments involved in sustainability and cities. Dialogue and coordination implications are even more necessary that 65% of the SDGs targets are devolved to territorial governments (OECD). Hence, it is crucial to look at how all levels of government are sharing information and increasing resources and capacities to unlock the potential of urban areas and territories. **Emphasizing the “WHO” and the “HOW” of implementation means looking at the urban governance question.**

“A dialogue like the one taking place today, between local, regional and national spheres of government is a significant step forward which must be celebrated. The involvement of local and regional governments in the global agendas needs to increase and improve, to make the lives of our people and communities more sustainable”

Mpho Parks Tau
President of UCLG

MPHO PARKS TAU
UCLG PRESIDENT

BARCELONA



ECUADOR IDENTIFIED FOUR CORE CHALLENGES THAT, TO A VARYING DEGREE AND EXTENT, ARE USUALLY FACED BY ALL GOVERNMENTS:

ARTICULATION

Multi actor	Multi level	National: sectorial plans, ministries	Local: institutions, civil society
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CAPACITIES

Urban and territorial planning	Management of sustainable development	Oversight of programmes execution
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LOCAL FINANCING

Dependence to the central level	Lack of leveraging effect of taxes	Local self- government
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TERRITORIAL DATA

Lack of information and adequate scale (population, land, networks, risks)	Lack of technical capacities	Lack of financing
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2.1

INSTITUTIONAL AND COORDINATION MECHANISMS TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 11

Most of the countries have established – or are planning to establish – an intergovernmental body (committee, council, working groups, etc.) to follow-up on the implementation and to ensure intersectoral coordination at the national level.

In **Algeria**, an inter-ministerial committee, coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gathers 22 ministerial departments and national bodies concerned by the SDGs (Council of the Nation; National People's Assembly, National Economic and Social Council; National Statistical Office). This committee identifies the priorities of the SDGs with targets and indicators, the level of integration of the SDGs with the sectorial strategies; and prepares the action plans and the evaluations.

In **Azerbaijan**, the National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (established in December 2016) comprises of deputy Ministers of relevant departments and is chaired by the Vice Prime Minister. It is now finalizing the national priorities.

In **Palestine**, the Prime Minister office established a multi-disciplinary SDGs national team comprised of key government, private, academia and civic institutions, as a steering body to monitor the SDGs. Each SDG team is supported by a relevant UN agency. A specific working group has been established under the Statistical Bureau to measure and support localizing the SDGs indicators. The Ministry of local government and the Ministry of Housing and public works, in partnership with UN-Habitat, work on the implementation of SDG 11.

The **South African** government operates within an established system of intergovernmental relations. It faces the challenge of building sufficient capacity to mobilize more strongly at local government level on SDG

implementation. At this juncture, the government is still focusing on primary institutional measures to embed SDG monitoring within the government and will later open space for a broader dialogue with stakeholders.

In some cases, the coordination mechanisms are planned but yet to be operational. In **Zambia**, the Government is in the process of forming a subcommittee to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. It is relying so far on coordination mechanisms such as the National Development Coordinating Committee, Cluster Advisory Groups, Provincial Development Coordinating Committees and District Development Coordinating Committees.

In **Cameroon**, the government is planning a national coordination ensured by the Minister of Economy and Spatial Planning and the UN Resident Coordinator, assisted by a dedicated Technical Secretariat and the National Institute of Statistics. Each of the concerned ministerial departments will be responsible for the operationalization of the SDGs through its sectoral strategy and its Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Monitoring Committee. At the regional level, the mechanism will be based on the Regional Public Investment Monitoring Committees (multi actor). At the local level, the system will rely on the Communal Development Plans and the Municipal Technical Monitoring Committees of Public Investment chaired by the Mayors.

Europe is a unique case of regional integration, and the targets of Agenda 2030 are already closely linked to the ten priorities of the European Commission and the Europe 2020 strategy.

In the **Czech Republic**, the Ministry of Environment is the main institution responsible for general implementation of the SDGs. The Council on Sustainable Development, a coordination and discussion platform chaired by the Minister of Environment, gathers ministries, trade unions, regions and municipalities, private sector, academic institutions, NGOs, Parliament. The Ministry of Regional Development is the main institution in charge of SDG 11.

Croatia has established in January 2018 an intergovernmental National Council for Sustainable Development² chaired by the Prime Minister, whose role is to follow,

analyze, and coordinate the implementation of the SDGs and to deliver suggestions on how to improve that process. The Council is empowered to include representatives of other institutions and experts. The Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning is in charge for implementation of SDG 11 and an informal working group for SDG 11 has been established as a continuation of the one that prepared Croatia's contribution to Habitat III.

An inter-ministerial Working Group for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda was established in **Serbia** in 2015, with 26 institutions represented.³

In **Spain**, the implementation of the SDGs is comprehended as a national policy. In 2017, a high-level group was created, made up of almost all the ministries and assisted by a permanent group of technicians. It works and coordinates all sectoral and transversal policies and strategies related to SDGs, and they have identified "leverage policies" that can impact several SDGs, of which is the Spanish Urban Agenda (among other national policies such as the Poverty Reduction Plan, the Digital Territorial Strategy, the draft law on Climate change and energy transition).

In **Switzerland**, the Agenda 2030 Executive Committee (at the level of State Secretaries and Directors) is the steering and coordinating body. It is jointly led by the Federal Office of Spatial Planning – with domestic focus – and the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – with international focus. An advisory group composed of non-state actors (private sector, civil society and science community) has also identified what it considers to be Switzerland's priority challenges.

² Chaired by the Prime Minister and includes members of the Cabinet, representative from the Office of the President of the Republic, as well as heads of the Government's Office for Human Rights and National Minorities, Government's Office for Civil Sector, Government's Office for Gender Equality and the Croatian Bureau of Statistics.

³ 17 ministries, Office for cooperation with Civil Society, Office for Kosovo, Coordination Body for Gender Equality, Statistical Office, Secretariat for Public Policies, Commissariat for Refugees and Migration, Office for Human and Minority Rights, Office for Public Investments, Team for Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction.

*** Demonstrated efforts for intergovernmental work and horizontal coordination at the national level;**

*** The 2030 Agenda is, in principle, not to be understood as an additional task, but rather to be integrated into the ordinary planning and political processes.**



— All levels of governments
have reaffirmed their
commitment to implement and
achieve the SDGs —



The session gathered representatives from Ministries of Interior, housing, public works, planning, regional and local development, and local government, showing the range of ministerial departments.

2.2

DEVELOPMENT AND ALIGNMENT OF NATIONAL POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PLANS FOR THE SDGS AND THE NUA IMPLEMENTATION

Governments use a plurality of instruments to operationalize SDG 11.

EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT – AND OFTEN COMBINED – APPROACHES TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 11

Mainstreaming of principles in reglementary and legal frameworks

Stocktaking, gap analysis and prioritization exercise

National Urban Agenda, National Urban Policy

Sectorial plans (housing, waste, etc.) and related instruments

Localization strategy

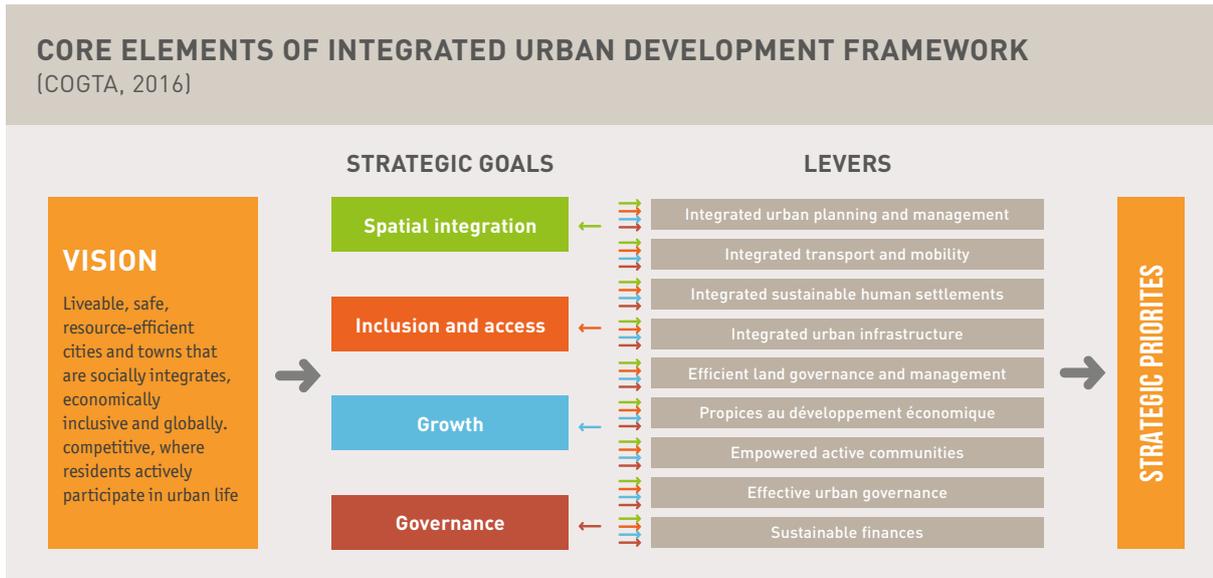
Two principles of the sustainable agenda are guiding the Thai government in its national policy development: people centered development and well-balanced economy. Priority sectors are placed on the national agenda, such as flood management or waste management (dispose where originated, reduce and recycle, community participation). Thailand is reviewing laws and regulation and integrating principles of the NUA into national and local plans.

Azerbaijan Strategic Growth Roadmap for sustainable development is the overarching policy. Examples of sectorial policies implemented to achieved SDG 11 targets are: renovation and improvement of housing and living conditions, especially for the one million internally displaced people, a new Agency for affordable housing, issuance of 46 city plans by the State Committee on urban planning and architecture, the development of six regional plans of economic regions, a new transport agency in charge of public transport and road safety, among others.

In **Myanmar**, in spite of the lack of funding and the need for increased technical assistance, the government has initiated a series of policies and initiatives such as: a National Housing policy, the slum mapping of Yangon, a National Urban Diagnosis (in cooperation with UN-Habitat), the establishment of an Urban and Regional Development Planning Law, a National and a Regional urban system plan, the setup of a NUP framework, preparation of urban development concept plans for 100+ cities, the establishment of an Urban and Research Development Centre, among others.

Vision 2030 of the **South African** government directly relates to implementation of the SDGs, and for SDG 11 it is pursued through the implementation of the National Urban Policy called Integrated Urban Development Framework (IUDF, adopted in 2016). The IUDF has a short-term Implementation Plan that involves directly the Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Authorities (COGTA, Coordinator), of Human Settlements, National Treasury, Departments of Transport, Energy, Water and Sanitation. The current IUDF Implementation Plan is under review to ensure that the NUA, SDG 11 and other priority SDG are aligned therein. COGTA will later work with its partners to revisit the indicators and develop new urban and SDG indicators.

In **Cameroon**, Agenda 2030 is seen as an opportunity to achieve the 2035 Vision and the 2010-2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment. For SDG 11, the government has prioritized 3 targets (11.1, 11.2, 11.4)



and recognizes that the 10 targets are under the transferred competencies to the local governments. The operationalization is foreseen through a Support Programme for the Localization of the SDGs, that will address in particular access to technical and financial means by local governments.

The government of **Zambia** has developed the Seventh National Development Plan (7NDP) for the period 2017 – 2021 and it has been aligned to SDGs.⁴ It is currently implementing the Urban and Regional Planning Act No. 3 (2015) and is preparing a National Urban Policy, an integrated local strategy for strengthening of rural settlements, the alignment of SDG 11 under Lusaka comprehensive master plan, among others. Challenges remain, such as the absence of strategy for slums and urban renewal, the absence of strategic investment for affordable and social housing and the need to increase private sector participation in housing development, just to name of few related to target 11.1.

In **Algeria**, the Minister presented the implementation of SDG 11 around 7 axes: concerted strategy for urban renewal and sustainable urban planning, social housing programmes, modernization of major transport infrastructures, development of logistic platforms, equitable repartition of water, preservation of cultural and natural capital, elaboration of a national

strategy for prevention and risk reduction, implementation of a national programme on renewable energy. These strategic objectives aim to ensure stability, social cohesion and improvement of the living conditions of the citizens.

The **Palestinian** national policy agenda 2017 -2022 considers the Global Goals and strives to align sectorial strategies and priorities. An assessment of the current condition of the SDGs is planned for 2018. For SDG 11, a Palestinian Urban National Forum took place in October 2017 under the leadership of the Ministry of Local Government and a specific implementation plan for the localization of the NUA and SDG 11 has been agreed between the same Ministry and UN-Habitat.

In **Ecuador**, the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) has developed and promotes the execution of the National Development Plan 2017-2021 (NDP). It includes a National Territorial Strategy that is the result of consultation with other levels of governments and citizens' contributions. The institutions responsible for the achievement of the NDP goals report their progress to SENPLADES. The alignment of NDP goals with each of the SDGs targets is under development, with the support of UNDP, and a strategy to collect the contributions of stakeholders is planned. The Ministry of Urban Development and Housing has

⁴ The rapid integrated assessment study showed that 75 % of the 101 SDG targets are fully aligned to 7NDP while 11 % of the 101 SDG targets are partially aligned and 14 % of the 101 SDG targets are not aligned.

“The National Urban Agenda seeks to promote and strengthen the quality of life in the territories. We work for equitable, sustainable, productive cities and for the recovery of the public, focusing on fulfilling the real function of governance in society and introducing citizen participation”

Oscar Chicaiza Nuñez
Ministry of Urban Development and Housing, Ecuador

initiated the process of formulating a National Urban Agenda, as a mechanism of urban governance in the cities and a basis for the planning process of the Decentralized Autonomous Governments. There are also specific programmes, such as the Sustainable Intermediary Cities Programme (with GIZ), supporting the implementation of the Urban Agenda, the creation of urban lab,⁵ knowledge, and participation of the society.

In **France**, urban development policies (“better life in cities”) are articulated around four pillars: (i) responsible and committed actors: local governments are the first actors of sustainable development; they can count on a diverse and very dense fabric of local actors, professionals and associations; (ii) an integrated planning system at all scales of territories with instruments taking into account the SDGs (in particular for habitat, energy, mobility); (iii) proven operational tools (public planning agencies, social housing corporation, urban transport authorities, etc.); (iv) shared schemes to stimulate the co-production of cities, although progress are still needed in terms of housing, disadvantaged areas, consumption of natural and agricultural

space, air quality, safety of women in public spaces and transport, among others.

The Strategic framework “**Czech Republic 2030**” was adopted in 2017 and completed by the Czech Housing Policy Concept until 2020 (2016), Principles of Urban Policy (2017), the Spatial Development Policy and the State Environmental Policy. A comprehensive document linking together the implementation of the SDGs, the NUA and the Geneva UN Charter on Sustainable Housing was issued on October 2017.

In **Croatia**, the implementation of SDGs is ensured through national policies and programmes developed by different levels of government. Two key documents were adopted in 2017 for the implementation of SDG 11, namely the Spatial development strategy and the Regional Development Strategy (until 2020). Croatia also participated in the development of the Urban Agenda for EU.

The government of **Serbia** adopted in January 2018 a commitment to start the elaboration of National Strategy for Sustainable and Integrated Urban

⁵ Urban Laboratories are defined as a multi-actor space, public-private, open and linked to existing spaces for citizenship, and aim to enrich local public policies. Four Urban Laboratories have been established: 1. Cuenca (Sustainable Mobility and Energy Efficiency); 2. Portoviejo (resilience, risk management and adaptation to climate change); 3. Loja (Integral Improvement of neighbourhoods, security and public spaces); 4. Lago Agrio (urban-rural linkages and food security)

⁶ It indicates that among the chosen 86 indicators 40 show a positive trend, 13 show no significant evolution, 15 show a negative trend, while for 21 no assessment was possible.

⁷ Examples of policies and instruments within which SDG 11 is being addressed: Wohnungspolitik Bund, Raumplanungsgesetz, Raumkonzept Schweiz, Agglomerationspolitik 2016+, Natur- und Heimatschutzgesetz, etc.

⁸ For more examples of local initiatives, visit www.localizingthesdgs.org

BOX 1. 12 PRINCIPLES OF GOOD DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE, COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1. Participation, Representation, Fair Conduct of Elections
2. Responsiveness
3. Efficiency and Effectiveness
4. Openness and Transparency
5. Rule of Law
6. Ethical Conduct
7. Competence and Capacity
8. Innovation and Openness to Change
9. Sustainability and Long-term Orientation
10. Sound Financial Management
11. Human Rights, Cultural Diversity and Social Cohesion
12. Accountability

The 12 principles are declined into instruments for the use of local governments.

Learn more on the Center of Expertise for Local Government Reform www.coe.int/good-governance/

“We want the National Urban Agenda to be born and based on consensus. Only this will allow a voluntary application of this strategic framework. The Urban Agenda offers a decalogue of principles within a range of almost 100 lines of action that all address urban development in a more sustainable manner. Each institution, whether local or regional, each administration or company, can choose the ones that correspond to their capabilities”

Angela de la Cruz
Ministry of Public Works, Spain

Development until 2030. This National Urban Policy will be developed in accordance with the NUA, as the main policy to implement SDG 11 and indicators will be harmonized with SDGs.

Switzerland has concluded a comprehensive stocktaking exercise on all SDGs and targets⁶ and has identified areas where efforts at national and international level are needed (for example SDG 12, 5 or 17). While the SDGs are already anchored in many legal frameworks as well as important sectoral policies,⁷ the Sustainable Development Strategy will pick up on the challenges and gaps identified for all 17 SDGs and link them to the sectoral policy instruments. The strategy will be reviewed every 4 years.

In **Austria**, the NUA is seen as a way to implement SDG 11. Some local initiatives are on-going:⁸ for example, the public budget

management in the Styrian Government is now interlinked with Agenda 2030 and it forms the basis for a multi-stakeholder process within all departments. In Vienna, the city decided to implement the SDGs through its Smart City Framework Strategy and implementation will start in June 2019.

In a decentralized state such as **Spain**, with 17 autonomous regions and more than 8,100 municipalities with broad functional and financial autonomy, working with the three levels of governments is going to be essential in order to reach a shared Spanish National Urban Agenda. On these grounds, a working group formed by the Ministry of Public Works, local governments and civil society, academia, the third sector, the private sector and professionals is discussing urban planning related topics. The process serves to strengthen the legal framework, financing, dissemination and transfer of knowledge.

The **European Union** level has already the Urban Agenda for the EU adopted in 2016 as its political agenda and a multilevel governance mechanism whose main objective is to involve cities in the full policy cycle of EU funding and legislation. It specifically responds to SDG 10 and 11 and the NUA. Cohesion policy is one of the key policies contributing to the implementation of the SDGs within the EU, leveraging around 500 billion euros over the 2014-2020 period.

* **An enabling political, legal, institutional, financial framework is needed for the achievement of SDG 11 and the urban-related dimension of the 2030 Agenda;**

* **Interlinkages and trade-offs between the goals and targets require a new way of thinking and working process;**

* **Embedding principles and targets into actual frameworks is on-going but yet to be achieved.**

SCHEMATIC REPRESENTATION OF THE DEPTH OF NATIONAL- LOCAL DIALOGUE FOR THE SDGS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING



2.3

COORDINATION MECHANISMS WITH TERRITORIAL GOVERNMENTS

The level and the depth of dialogue between national governments and subnational governments cover an extensive range of situations, depending on the political economy of the country, the maturity of political and fiscal decentralization, local capacities and a culture of participation and bottom-up actions. Within a same country, it can also vary depending on the sectors, policies and actors.

In **Algeria**, different stakeholders (local government, civil society, economic sector) were convened for a National City Day (February 2018). Consultation mechanisms are established within inter-ministerial groups working on local development, fight against poverty, clean energy, environmental protection, urbanization, climate change, etc.

In Switzerland, the federal, cantonal and communal levels are already implementing the 2030 Agenda, taking into account current obligations, competencies and established task-sharing. For the coordination of federal and cantonal policies, the existing dialogue with the cantons will be intensified. The dialogue with and support of the cities and the municipalities is ensured through the Swiss Association of Towns and the Swiss Association of Municipalities.

In Serbia, the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities (national association of local governments) is regularly organizing capacity building related to SDGs and particularly SDG 11. Local information systems on spatial development will be established and they will provide data for SDG 11 indicators monitoring.

In **Palestine**, a work plan has been elaborated to integrate local governments, through: awareness

“The SDGs are a development opportunity for our country and are localizable. SDG 11 is a lever to intensify urban policy and housing and decentralization. We now have to improve the articulation between the national government and local governments to operationalize the implementation”

Tsimi Landry Ngonu
Ministry of Decentralization and local development, Cameroon

and advocacy, integration of the SDGs in the local “Strategic Development and Investment Plans”, development of pilots, monitoring by the Ministry of Finance and Planning of allocated budgets to local and central authorities under each relevant SDG, including SDG 11. The partnership with the Association of Palestinian Local Authorities is yet to be activated.

In **Cameroon**, a study conducted by the International Association of Francophone Mayors (October 2017) highlighted the limits of the National Document for Contextualization and Prioritization of the SDGs in Cameroon. The newly established Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development wishes to establish the Support Programme on the localization of the SDGs as a specific coordination mechanism with local governments and their association “Communes and United Cities of Cameroon” to implement and monitor the SDGs.

The President of **South Africa** directed the Department of COGTA in February 2018 to prepare a comprehensive

Institutional Framework for the IUDF implementation across and within government, and with stakeholders. This framework will have a specific focus on the role of local government in the management of urbanization, and of SDG 11. The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the South Africa Cities Network are active throughout all the process. In addition, it is to be noted that South Africa is one of the few countries where organized local government (SALGA) is represented in Parliament and on all major governmental structures where local government interests are being dealt with.

According to the **Holy See** the development and sustenance of a city does not require merely a financial and physical investment, but a humble and daily commitment and concern for those who need the most – i.e., what is defined as a “human investment”. As such, the role of good politics may rediscover, in caring for the good of the polis, of the city, its original purpose and a possible source of regeneration.

⁹. The government plan contextualized 53% of targets and prioritized 27% out of a total of 169 targets, and the reality of the decentralization was not completely considered.

¹⁰. In the NUA, capacity development is considered as a “multifaceted approach” to “formulate, implement, enhance, manage, monitor and evaluate public policies”. All the occurrences to capacity development are specifically, or among other levels of governments, referring to local governments: para 15c, 81, 90, 102, 117, 129, 147, 148, 149, 151, 152, 159, 163.

*** Local governments associations are key actors to facilitate the dialogue between the national and the territorial levels. They are also promoters and providers of capacity development (NUA, para 149).¹⁰**

*** Fostering multilevel dialogue and networking initiatives contribute to the local democracy and to overcome silo-ed thinking for a transformational impact.**

2.4

MONITORING URBAN SDGS DEMANDS INCREASED CAPACITIES AND TRUST BETWEEN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENTS

For **Ecuador**, there is a need to raise the information from the perspective of the citizen. The government is putting in place a system of more than 100 indicators that will related to the SDGs and the multidimensional urban agenda. A Monitoring Platform includes a database with the indicator series, graphs and approved methodological sheets.¹¹ An observatory is also planned, composed by all the actors. The SENDAPLES and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Human Mobility are generating the instruments for the preparation and presentation of the VNR where the contributions of non-state actors and other levels of governments will be included.

In **Myanmar**, monitoring of Target 11.5 for example, exemplifies the need to establish clear channels of communication to generate disaggregated and place-based data. It involves the Ministries of Home Affairs, of Planning and finance, of Transport and communication, of Construction, of Natural Resources and Environmental conservation, of Electricity and Energy, of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the local governments.

In **Serbia** and Spain, governments are working to make the current monitoring system of national plans complementary to the monitoring of SDG 11. Agenda 2030 is very ambitious. Spain, for example, is progressively building an urban information system, sourcing from official statistics and collecting information from or other sources such as the Vulnerability observatory.

In **Switzerland**, the Federal Statistical Office coordinates the transfer of the data from the concerned federal offices to the UN and the monitoring of the SDGs is ensured by the MONET indicator system

that was adapted and expanded for the 2030 Agenda.¹² The indicators are published online and regularly updated.

Since 2015, Statistics **South Africa** has been working with partners to develop localized indicators for the SDGs. The first SDGs baseline report (2017) covers 98 of the 156 indicators, and as capacity increases, more indicators will be monitored and reported on. COGTA is working closely with many sectors, Statistics South Africa and National Treasury Department of Human Settlements, local governments, National Disaster Management Centre located in COGTA, etc. to determine an overall process of integrating new urban indicators, inclusive of SDG 11. Ongoing engagements are also being held with the South African National Space Agency, to facilitate spatial monitoring of land use, settlement patterns and segregated space.

- * **National statistical systems need to dialogue and coordinate with local governments and service providers to collect information at the city level, which is the unit of analysis for SDG 11.**
- * **A formalized coordination mechanism involving 'data producers' at all levels (including the community level), with clear mandate and specified role is also required. It goes beyond mere consultation.**
- * **Local and regional governments have to be fully empowered throughout all the monitoring and reporting processes, by building local capacities, involving their associations in the VNR preparation and continuously exchanging between local and national levels to reflect accurately the actual progresses and challenges.**

¹¹. <http://app.sni.gob.ec/web/menu/>

¹². <https://www.bfs.admin.ch/bfs/en/home/statistics/sustainable-development/monet.html>

Urban governance is about managing institutional relationships, powers and interests. In this regard, **planning, implementing and monitoring urban-related SDGs need to be based on renewed urban governance processes, focused on coordination, trust and partnerships.** Urban governance is the string that holds all targets together.

"Agenda 2030 is defining goals. For urbanization, we have the New Urban Agenda as an implementing agenda, that has to be understood as an accelerator of Agenda 2030. The New Urban Agenda is the result of a process has been reflecting the needs of the local governments. There is no need to reinvent the wheel, we have to localize the agenda. Territorial and comprehensive approach will be one of "the key to achieve the targets"

Nicolas Gharbi
European Commission



2.5

UNDERLYING URBAN GOVERNANCE ELEMENTS OF THE SDG 11 TARGETS

11.1.

Adequate, safe, affordable housing and basic services, and slum upgrading

Promote an enabling national framework and policies for the Right to housing; use the subsidiarity principle to guide policy coherence across all levels of governments, incl. for land use management; foster community empowerment incl. in informal settlements, and partnerships with grassroots organizations; enhance collaboration with public entities for the provision of basic services; ensure predictable financial transfers and ability to raise and manage local revenues for service delivery.

11.2.

Safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport for all

Develop a decentralized framework; improve coordination between transport and planning departments; ensure clear and accountable contractual relationships between local governments and service providers; encourage multimodal transport system and regulation of formal/informal modalities; support mixed land use and localized financing instruments; boost smart solutions and innovation for policy implementation.

11.3.

Capacity for participatory inclusive and integrated planning and management

Promote an intergovernmental framework that empowers and incentivizes subnational governments; place local governments as interface of collaborative systems with all segments of the society; shape organizational and institutional processes enabling participatory territorial decision-making and management to bridge the planning-financing-implementation gap; enable flexible and networked forms of governance and planning; foster collaborative plans for capacity development.

11.4.

Cultural and natural heritage

Culture as a collective good: ensure investment at all levels of governments and resources dedicated to the commons; develop cultural policies that strengthen citizen participation, responsibility and stimulate decent jobs, and a balance between tradition and local innovation; use the protection of tangible and intangible heritage to activate coalitions and local mobilization and drive bottom-up processes.

11.5.

Disaster risk reduction and resilience

Promote awareness raising and citizens' involvement as a bottom-up process to build resilience at all levels; enhance interconnected systems and strategies across territories, institutions, sectors and actors; integrate DRR dimension in territorial development plans and budgets; develop clear institutional responsibilities and channels to catalyze public, private, national, international finance towards DRR; comply with the Sendai Framework and make use of the checklist "10 Essential for Making a City Resilient" (MRC campaign).



11.6. Environmental impact of cities, air quality and waste management

Support decentralized decision-making for waste management, with policy and regulatory coherence between national and subnational levels; consider small scale and informal sector and workers and foster balanced private-public partnership and relationship with business; develop accountable revenue management and transparent procurement; enhance dialogue between departments and policy consistency between planning, transport and energy to tackle air quality.

11.7. Universal access to safe, inclusive, accessible and green public spaces

Promote local creativity and a non-discriminatory approach to contribute to community life, identity and sense of ownership, via partnerships with civil society; enhance the capacities of subnational governments to implement multi-functional areas and promote multi-cultural society: diversity as the basis of an inclusive social contract; strengthen municipal capacities to manage public space as a municipal asset to generate socio-economic value and sustainable livelihoods.

11.a. Urban, peri-urban, rural linkages and national and regional development planning

Encourage National urban policies as a collaborative and coordination planning framework; foster multi-actor dialogue on sustainable use of land and resources along the rural-urban continuum, incl. for food security; enhance metropolitan governance and strengthen intermediary cities and systems of cities; focus on functional territories, horizontal cooperation and inter-municipal cooperation; develop joint financial responsibilities and transparent resource allocation across territories towards equity and spatial integration.

11.b. Mitigation and adaptation to climate change and holistic disaster risk management

Develop multilevel dialogue to plan and govern territories and ecosystems for climate action; develop locally informed risk reduction strategies, and involve citizens in climate plans and awareness raising; secure budget for adaptation and mitigation, incl. resilient infrastructure; enhance partnerships with transdisciplinary scientific community and civil society; enhance policy coherence for integrated climate action plans and strengthen capacities to leverage climate finance, in line with the Sendai Framework and Paris Climate agreement.

11.c. Sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials (LDCs)

Support participatory and culturally sensitive solutions; enhance partnerships with community, civil society and local businesses to build resilience and ownership; promote local value chains and local economic development, incl. integrating informal circuits and solidarity economy; foster local innovation, exchange of experiences; support technical assistance via peer to peer and decentralized cooperation.

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES BETWEEN MAYORS AND MINISTERS ON INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES

UCLG Policy Councils¹³ opened spaces for debate and hosted four high-level dialogues between Ministers and Mayors. Representatives of local, regional and national governments exchanged on their respective situations and identified priorities to achieve the universal goals underpinning the 2030 Agenda. The two-day discussions underlined the need to strengthen multilevel governance approaches and to increase capacities at all levels of government. It further called for local and regional governments to embrace the global agenda as their own and enrich its implementation with local experiences and vision.

¹³ <https://www.uclg.org/en/policy-councils/>



3.1

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND INCLUSIVE TERRITORIES



The 'Right to the City' is at the heart of urban territorial governance. Growing inequalities create new forms of poverty and exclusion. In their daily tasks, local and regional governments face the responsibility of tackling socio-spatial exclusion and promoting social justice, integrating migrants, preventing discrimination and urban violence, and protecting social rights to ensure prosperity and well-being. Policies and strategies to ensure urban development in more democratic and inclusive ways, include support to inclusive housing policies – fostering the 'Right to Housing' –, universal access to basic services, work with communities to upgrade slums and foster the social production of habitat. In these efforts, cooperation with national governments is indispensable, to ensure enabling legal and regulatory frameworks and to support local policy-making and implementation.



Abdoulaye Thimbo
Mayor of Pikine,
Senegal

Ramon Mestre
Mayor of Cordoba,
Argentina, President of
Mercociudades

Laura Pérez Castaño
Councilor for
International Relations,
Barcelona, Spain

**Eleftherios
Papagiannakis**
Vice-Mayor of Athens,
Greece

Angela de la Cruz
Deputy Director for
Urban planning,
Ministry of Public
works, Spain

Oscar Chicaiza Nuñez
Ministry of Urban
development and
housing, Ecuador

Migration and universality of rights

In **Athens**, Greece, the municipality has been operating outside the scope of its competencies to deal with the influx of refugees. In a complex context where Greece is facing financial crisis and austere measures, Athens foreseen it as a truly political choice, beyond a humanitarian issue, and embraced it as a management crisis. The municipal team also addressed the challenge of convincing citizens to defend human rights in migration. Athens has now a local plan and a strategy for the integration of refugees and is collaborating with Barcelona and Amsterdam to have a more global vision, calling the national governments and the European level to engage in this global discussion.

In **Cordoba**, Argentina the Mayor Ramón Mestre presented the tradition of its city to welcome newcomers and young, notably at the University. He shared examples of current local integration work such as:

- 2600 organizations working in the socio-cultural space, to enhance networking and supportive social and neighborhood environment;
- A mobile Civil Registry to reach all citizens, including those living remotely;
- An agreement signed with the Consulate to integrate, train and welcome Syrian, Lebanese and now the Venezuelan migrants at the University for their insertion

Echoing to these cases, the Spanish situation exemplified the fact that in a country where regions have a strong autonomy (exclusive competencies), making multilevel coordination a challenge but essential in the daily work. All actors have a role and must be able to act, especially regarding the European and Spanish Urban Agendas. Measures to renovate, rehabilitate and to avoid gentrification are part of the national commitments to guarantee the Right to housing, and the central government has to work with local and regional governments in reinforced multi-level mechanisms to ensure the Right to the city

— **Diversity is an opportunity to build and live better.** Coexistence, solidarity and living-together are the cornerstone of inclusive and prosperous cities. It relies on active and progressive action at the local level, and enabling policies at the national level.

"The refugee situation is a political issue. We need to change the narrative from a migration problematic and a humanitarian crisis to a local and global management question"

Eleftherios Papagiannakis
Athens, Greece

Right to housing

People living in adequate homes have better health and higher chances to improve their human capital and seize the opportunities available in urban contexts. Through the Right to housing, citizens can access to other rights (health, education, etc.). Barcelona is facing gentrification, touristic massification, and to fight poverty, it defends housing as right and not a commodity.

Barcelona is mobilizing alliances for a Declaration on Cities for Adequate Housing to propose concrete actions, among which:

- More powers devolved to cities to better regulate real estate markets;
- More funds to improve cities public housing stocks;
- More tools to co-produce public-private community-driven alternative housing;
- An urban planning that combines adequate housing with quality, inclusive and sustainable neighborhoods
- A municipal cooperation in residential strategies

Ecuador has enshrined the Right to the city in its Constitution. Beyond its role of setting up a normative framework, the national government fosters territorial development to permit the concrete implementation of this right. For this, the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in Ecuador is working at:

- Developing a registry of public land;
- Involving, educating the citizens: it visualizes citizenship as a full-fledged actor;
- Proposing negotiation mechanisms with the private sector that has to be necessarily involved for a realistic implementation of the Right to the city.

City of **Pikine**, Senegal, exemplified the cooperation between national and local levels. To address informal housing of the 2.2 million inhabitants of the periphery city that has continuously attracted migrants, a programme was implemented to relocate part of the insecure and very precarious plots. The national government supported the relocation process and made available its services to build the new sites and improve the citizens' quality of life.

“The Right to housing has to contemplate the set of rights that are inserted in the environment in which the house is located, otherwise it would go against the Right to the city”

Oscar Valentino Chicaiza Nuñez
Ministry of Urban Development
and Housing, Ecuador

Access to adequate housing contributes to various economic, social and cultural aspects of development for individuals, households and communities.

Promoting inclusive housing solutions for integrated, diverse, compact and sustainable cities contributes to foster equal opportunities. Access to land is crucial to make the right to the city a reality.



Relation with global
agendas:
SDG 11.1

**NUA. Housing and slum
upgrading:** para 31-33, 46,
105-112;

Basic services:
29, 34, 36, 50, 54, 55, 65,
66, 70, 71, 73-75, 85, 88,
91, 99, 113-122, 141

Human rights: para 11-13,
26, 28, 57, 126, 155, 158.

- * **Changing the narrative for a collective right to live in inclusive and fair cities, ensuring inclusion and participation of all and the elimination of discrimination is a real challenge.**
- * **Opportunities exist, such as embracing a rights-based approach in the implementation and monitoring process of the SDGs.**
- * **Cities can be ahead of national action for integration and local governments can tackle issues related to the universal dimension of human rights. Further recognition is still needed at the global level to mainstream the Right to the City.**
- * **Where capacity and resources are scarce, the complementary action of the national and local governments is needed to implement change, by looking together at the best policy compromise to serve the interest of the citizenship, in particular the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.**



Cooperation at all levels for the RIGHT TO THE CITY and right to housing can MAKE CITIES and human settlements INCLUSIVE, safe, resilient and sustainable

3.2

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, CULTURE AND CITY DIPLOMACY



Leaders debated on how to protect the core values of culture, citizens' participation, how to foster cooperation through capacity development, and to promote solidarity and peace as the bases for sustainable development.



Monica Fein
Mayor of Rosario,
Argentina, Vice-
President of UCLG for
Latin America

**Eduardo Vasquez
Martin**
Secretary for Culture,
Mexico City, Mexico

Luzette Kroon
Mayor of Waterland,
The Netherlands

**Célestine Ketcha
Courtés**
Mayor of Bagangté,
Cameroon, Vice-
president of UCLG
standing committee
on gender equality

**Carlos Martinez
Minguez**
Mayor of Soria, Spain,
Vice-President of
UCLG for Europe

**Xabier Iñigo
Ochandiano Martínez**
Municipal Councillor,
Bilbao, Spain

Walid Abu Alhalawa
Advisor to the
Minister, Ministry of
Local Government,
Palestine

**Thipparat
Noppaladarom**
Ministry of Social
Development and
Human Security,
Thailand

Paul Massen
Open Government
Partnership

Gender equality, the opportunity for SDG achievement

In several occasions, leaders recalled that the local level action will impact the national level only when women will have a recognized, valued and equal place in social, political and economic life of the cities. Celestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of **Bagangté**, Cameroon, advocated for the “zebra lists” that alternate men and women in municipal list of councilors, to avoid women at the bottom of the lists and to see them eliminated in case of sharing of seats.

In **Rosario**, Argentina, the Mayor Monica Fein explained how in a 1 million habitants’ city, concentrating 80% of the population of the region, policies need a strong social integration component to face increasing inequalities, including giving opportunities to micro enterprises, social economy activities and promoting women participation.

Peaceful societies and people-oriented policies

Ensuring peaceful societies is at stake when two third of the world population live in contexts of the rise of intolerance. Luzette Kroon, Mayor of Waterland, the Netherlands, presented the **UCLG Peace Prize**,¹⁴ designed to create a culture of peace at the local level and to give more visibility to the role of local governments in conflict prevention. Peace needs all other SDGs to be a reality, in particular SDG16 *“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”*.

In **Thailand**, the 20-year national strategy 2016-2036 is developed on a framework based on “no-one left behind” and people is placed at the center of sustainable development. The government acknowledges the need to support local governments and communities. For example, for the implementation of the National Housing plan, the Ministry works with more than 300 municipalities to help them develop a city housing development plan and to develop a sense of belonging.

— **SDG 11 is inextricably linked to SDG 5 achievement.** There will not be democratic process without public policy that translate into women empowerment and gender equality

“Rosario has a strong social planning component in all urban planning policies and gender equality is high in our local priorities”

Monica Fein
Mayor of Rosario, Argentina

“ Mayors have no choice but to dialogue everyday with their neighbors to coordinate and manage basic public services”

Walid Abu Alhalawa
Ministry of Local Government, Palestine

— Whether in small communities, conflict or post-conflict situations, in rapidly expanding territories, a common trend is the necessity to ensure basic services as the key element for cohesion and prosperity. This can be achieved by giving to all, women, youth, children, elderly, disabled people, the opportunity to contribute to urban and democratic life: **the multiplier effects of participation can boost local economic life, restore the social fabric and empower citizenship.**

¹⁴ www.peaceprize.uclg.org/en The municipality of Kauswagan, Philippines won the first UCLG Peace Prize for the project “from arms to farms”. The call for the second Peace Prize will be opened in 2018.

A logic of dialogue at the core of transparent and open government

For Carlos Martinez Minguéz, Mayor of Soria, Spain there is a need to interiorize transparency as a public policy and open government requires the commitment of all levels of government.

This was backed by Paul Massen from the **Open Government Partnership**, arguing that in contexts of a lack of understanding and trust between the citizens and their governments, looking at the quality of the dialogue opens new ways of governance. A logic of dialogue, action and oversight is a powerful way to restore the social contract. For example, the “eyes and ears project” in Kaduna, Nigeria, gave the possibility to citizens to look at the municipal budget and the government response. It resulted in an increase of schools and clinics construction, blacklisted corrupted private companies and had a spin up effect with the reduction of maternal health challenges.

— **Open government can help achieving the SDGs: it means transforming the administrative culture, educating citizenship and renewing the notion of democracy** National policies and legislation supporting participatory planning mechanisms and renewed cooperation between all levels of governments can help addressing the democratic deficit at local and national levels.

“We must go beyond transparency and work on the promotion of open government as a driver that accelerate the achievement of the SDGs”

Carlos Martinez Minguéz
Mayor of Soria and Vice-president for Europe of UCLG

Culture, a vehicle for cohesion and respect for diversity

Eduardo Vázquez Martín, **Mexico City** explained how much the cultural dimension is needed to rebuild the social fabric impacted by displacement and urban violence. Culture is implemented as an integral and a non-exclusive policy that recognizes diversity, and foster coexistence, dialogue and peace. In this regard, Agenda 21 Culture¹⁵ is very useful to help stakeholders promoting cultural rights at the local level.

In **Bilbao**, Spain, Xabier Íñigo presented the Fair Saturday, a bottom-up project implemented together with a network of 110 other participant cities: every last Saturday of November, the day following Black Friday, thousands of artists and cultural organizations get together in a unique festival and support social causes.

— **Culture is a way to build more inclusive and democratic societies.** Cultural heritage provides urban identity, aids urban social cohesion, shapes the urban space, encourages participation, and acts as a tool for local urban development.

¹⁵ www.agenda21culture.net/home



Relation with global agendas:

SDG 5, 16, 11.4, 11.7

NUA. Gender: 5, 13, 15, 26, 32, 35, 40, 57, 77, 92, 100, 101, 114, 151

Research and capacity development: 90, 101, 102, 129, 147-152, 155, 157-160

Inclusiveness: 28, 29, 31-42, 86, 90, 92, 104, 126

Transparency: 15b, 86, 91, 136, 138, 151

- * **Inclusion of all segment of societies as stakeholders and beneficiaries is necessary** for the successful implementation of the SDGs. All actors must be considered in urban governance processes, to enhance local economic development, safety, social cohesion and equality, improved health and well-being, city attractiveness, and prosperity.
- * **The attainment of these progresses requires deliberate actions of leaders, city managers, and national governments** by providing an adequate legal and financial framework for cities to fully develop their cultural potential, to promote inhabitants' creativity and to design healthy and productive urban ecosystems.
- * **Open government is no more optional for the effective democratization of cities** and to achieve the transformational Global Goals at all levels.



Partnerships for PEACE, CULTURE and OPEN GOVERNMENT can MAKE CITIES and human settlements inclusive, SAFE, resilient and sustainable

3.3

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON TERRITORIAL MULTI-LEVEL GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING



Leaders reflected on the need to build governance capabilities, implement effective partnerships with multiple stakeholders, and ensure accountable and transparent governance to achieve SDG 11. The dialogue focused on the territorial approach to development, including national urban policies and how to strengthen subnational and public financing systems.



Yamandú Orsi
Mayor of Canelones,
Uruguay

Nina Moreno,
Mayor of Aranjuez, Spain

Mohammed Sefiani
Mayor of Chefchaouen,
Morocco, Chair of UCLG
forum on intermediary
cities

Rev. Mpho Moraukgomo
President of BALA,
Botswana

Sandra MomĐiloviĐ
Ministry of construction
and physical planning,
Croatia

Ngono Landry Tsimi
Ministry of
decentralization and local
development, Cameroon

Structural dialogue for vertical and horizontal cooperation

Dialogue mechanisms between national, regional and local levels are key to ensure horizontal and vertical communication. In **Croatia**, a National Council for Sustainable Development makes recommendations on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is chaired by the Prime minister, gathers members of the Cabinets, of the office of the President and includes stakeholders such as the Croatian City Association and Croatian County Association. The Spatial Development Strategy approved in 2017 contains a list of public bodies that have to participate and public debate is made obligatory.

Yamandú Orsi, Mayor of **Canelones**, shared a historical perspective of Uruguay's independence, arguing that the development process has always been through a tension between the local and the national. In 2010, the word "municipality" and "mayor" appeared with a new law on decentralization and citizens' participation. The learning process is on-going and dialogue between the city and the department, and between the municipalities and the central government is key to turn a political decision into benefits for the citizens. The law on territorial planning obliges subnational governments to plan; also, political actors had to find mechanisms to adapt, through 'management compromises' and the set-up of a Congress of Presidents of Departments.

This kind of long term mechanisms were praised by Gilberto Perre, Executive Secretary of National Front of Mayors in **Brazil**: often, local leaders have to deal with emergencies ("*a dor da ora*") but are missing structural dialogue with other levels of governments. Mayors of Brazilian cities have prepared a document calling for the reinforcement of permanent multilevel dialogue mechanisms, and sent it to all political candidates of the Presidential election in Brazil.

"Today all municipalities and regions have their physical plan. After the war in 1995, we had no choice but to cooperate and to innovate to rebuild the system all together"

Sandra Momčilović
**Ministry of Construction
 and Physical Planning, Croatia**

The implementation of the SDGs is an opportunity to establish or to reinforce multilevel dialogue mechanisms, that are applicable to every policies and strategies, beyond SDG 11. There will always be matters to discuss between political actors to reach a balanced territorial development, social and economic progress; it can be dealt with open dialogue and a logic of compromise between different spheres of governments. **The strengthening of territorial and local powers is concomitant of sustainable development pathway.**

Sustainable financing

Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of **Chefchaouen** Morocco, recalled participants that there is a need to triple financing to achieve the SDGs, Paris Climate Agreement and NUA. In this context, local governments who are the closest to the citizens have to innovate, share experiences and cooperate.

“To finance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, we need to start from the local and explore our own resources and then discuss with the State, international funds, private partners and civil society”

Mohamed Sefiani

Mayor of Chefchaouen Morocco

In **Cameroon**, local development financing and the implementation of SDG 11 is operationalized via i) national transfers in the framework of the decentralization policy; ii) a law on local development tax; iii) the FEICOM, a specialized branch of the administration that mutualizes local taxes and redistributes to municipalities after equalization. Local and regional governments can also count on partnerships and decentralized cooperation.

— Financing the implementation of Agenda 2030 requires the increased commitments and implication of all actors. **Innovation at the local level and mixed solutions are crucial to start implementing concrete actions on the ground.** National governments are putting in place more structural support and can get inspiration from partners and other countries.

Partnerships and participation

Nina Moreno, Mayor of **Aranjuez**, Spain (70,000 inhabitants) presented the dual challenges she faces daily: i) even if an issue is under the responsibility of another administration (natural disaster, heating

in class rooms, etc.), citizens will refer to the Mayor as their first door to public leadership; ii) resources are insufficient to address all competencies of the municipality. As a response, she proposes to embrace further Open government to better communicate with the citizens and to increase the partnerships through inter-municipal cooperation (*mancomunidades*). Cooperation with other governments and with networks is essential, all administrations are de facto involved and efficient service delivery rely on the implementation of coordinated sectoral action plans.

Two other partnerships examples were presented: Marcelo Cabrera, Mayor of **Cuenca**, Ecuador, ambitions to transform its city into a more sustainable, socially cohesive and competitive city. For this, he uses an integral urban intervention approach, the action plan is defined with the participation of citizens and all actions are linked to the 17 SDGs. The municipality also involves 21 rural settlements through local assemblies, so that they can determine their strategies and local plans. Frederic Vallier, Secretary General of the **Council of European Municipalities and Regions** (CEMR), informed that the European Parliament has adopted a report recognizing CEMR and Eurocities as key partners that have to be systematically consulted. **Partnership is the key of the subnational influence on national and international policies.**



Relation with global agendas:

SDG 11.a, 11.3, 17, Addis Ababa Action Agenda W(para 34)

NUA. Multilevel and decentralized policy framework: 15, 47, 81, 85, 87-91, 105, 130, 134, 135

National urban policies and frameworks: 15, 21, 26, 29, 35, 49, 81, 103, 123, 130, 135, 149;

Regulations: 15, 21, 35, 76, 77, 81, 86, 91, 104, 111;

Financing: 14, 15, 43, 45, 47, 60, 107, 118, 119, 130-134, 136-143, 145, 152

- * **Multi-level governance and collaboration between all spheres of government is key to achieve the SDGs and to leave no one behind. Multilevel is not only local-national dialogue: it is also the cooperation between territorial governments (provinces, municipality, rural towns, etc.) towards a harmonious regional development and planning that enhances urban functionality and offers tangible connections and benefits across territories.**
- * **Implementation of SDG 11 goes beyond planning and physical implementation. It is intrinsically linked to the 'soft', yet primordial aspects of consultation, participation, bottom-up processes. Increasingly, governments are changing the notion of territory from a 'physical and architectural space' to a more living and human concept, where citizens have a say in the urbanization trajectories to accommodate their needs and the diversity of urban uses.**
- * **Given the volume of financing needed and the increasingly complex issues to be addressed, all levels of governments have to engage into capacity development and innovation.**



Effective multilevel COOPERATION and financing mechanisms can MAKE CITIES and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and SUSTAINABLE

3.4

HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE CITIES CAPABLE OF FACING CRISIS



Leaders discussed how to strengthen disaster risk governance, invest in resilience, and enhance disaster preparedness. The exchanges focused on opportunities and responses to emerging crises in urban areas and for urban communities to have the capacities to address risks and mitigate the impacts of crises, both man-made and natural. The dialogue, organized in the framework of the Talanoa Dialogue,¹⁶ also approached environmental policies to improve sustainability and resilience in urban settlements and responsible consumption and production.

¹⁶ <https://talanoadialogue.com/>



Paco Tojas
Mayor of Las Cabezas de San Juan, Spain, Co-chair of UCLG Local economic and social development Committee

Janine Aoun
Mayor of Furn El Chebbak, Lebanon

Ronan Dantec
Senator, President of Climate Chance, France

Roland Ries
Mayor of Strasbourg, France, Co-President of UCLG

Nasembena Hadja Touré
Mayor of Oudienne, Ivory Coast

Siniša Trkulja
Adviser, Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure, Serbia
Corine Lepage
Former Minister of Environment, France, former MEP

Marco Monteiros
UN Convention to Combat Desertification

Yücel Yılmaz
Mayor of Karesi, Turkey

Mohamed Ali Al Mutawa
Director, Ministry of housing, Oman

Local economic development and rural urban linkages, key to social and economic resilience

Local economic development has the potential to capacitate institutions, to empower civil society and to generate social responsibility of companies. It can be sustainable and participatory if it involves local governments, civil society and private sector, innovation centres, etc. Paco Toajas, Mayor of **Las Cabezas de San Juan**, Spain, emphasized the fact that this approach has a truly territorial focus: for example, in Andalusia the articulation between the local and the regional level has been positive: it has enabled managing 763 cities from 5,000 to 1 million inhabitants, covering 20% of Spain's territory while also fostering a balanced territorial development.

Rural communities and smaller towns can also contribute to a more locally-oriented system of cities, as exemplified by the Mayor of **Oudienne**, Ivory Coast and Mr Montoiros (UNCCD). There are resilient links between urban and rural, in terms of climate, financial transaction, food production and consumption, reinvestment in basic local infrastructures, sharing of knowledge. Maintaining those linkages is a key driver of sustainable development and must be a priority of national governments.

Local resilience for urban crisis

In **Karesi**, Turkey, the city is in the front line to deal with an increased number of refugees and the related increase of rents, waste, and demand for water and transport. In cooperation with the national government, the municipality has opened new schools and clinics, 100,000 refugees have benefitted from social projects and more than 50,000 housing units are under construction.

Janine Aoun, Mayor of **Furn El Chebbak** in Lebanon shared similar experiences showing that resilience starts from the ground. Lebanese people have learnt from crisis and instability: from 2011,

"Local development is a process from communities to transform their environment and the quality of life of residents, it is the implementation of local initiatives"

Nasseneba Touré
Mayor of Oudienne, Ivory Coast

" Social assistance and language learning are of vital importance. For integration to be possible, we need long-term policies that integrate local, national and regional levels"

Yücel Yılmaz
Mayor of Karesi, Turkey

the country has welcomed more than 1.2 million displaced people, on top of Palestinian refugees. Schools have welcomed students (doubling classes) and the Committee of Mayors is very involved to ensure basic services delivery.

The Global Alliance for urban crisis¹⁷ was introduced by UN-Habitat: it works as a global multidisciplinary and collaborative community of practice. The City of **Genève**, Switzerland, highlighted the need to work towards an agreement between local governments and the humanitarian sector to strengthen local capacities, mobilize resources and encourage practical exchanges.

¹⁷ <http://www.urbancrises.org/>

Environment and pollution, structurally cross-boundaries and cross-sectorial

Addressing environmental protection and pollution necessarily requires cooperation across territories and administrations. In this regard, Siniša Trkulja, adviser at the Ministry of construction transport and infrastructure, **Serbia**, proposed to change perspective, placing the national level as an intermediary governance level between international - EU (transnational) – national – regional – local levels. He also highlighted that the Ministry necessarily cooperates with local governments for data collection (e.g. waste management, target 11.6).

In **Oman**, Vision Oman 2030 is a strategic plan with high consideration on climate change and Ministries are cooperating to work on renewable energy, town planning with alternative mobility options (open spaces, cycling, etc.). To leave no one behind, governments and urban managers need to invest in smart and green integrated transport systems that are inclusive, safe, accessible and affordable. Mohamed Ali Al Mutawa from the Ministry of Housing acknowledged the need to increasingly work with the local level and the private sector, with more systematic exchanges and articulation of cross sectorial policies.

“The national government is conveying a logic of partnerships and has a coordination role, to raise awareness and build capacities, as well as to preserve a balance between innovation and tradition”

Siniša Trkulja
Ministry of construction,
transport and Infrastructure, Serbia

Climate change and resilience

During the COP21 summit (2015), the role of local and regional governments was effectively recognized in the chapter on territorial action but the action is yet to effectively concretize. Ronan Dantec, President of Climate Chance¹⁸ argued that we are today at a turning point of global governance between international, national and territorial levels. In this regard, the Talanoa Dialogues are crucial as they offer an official integrated place for local and regional governments and non-state actors, to talk at the same level with States. Many cities are frontrunners and develop new alternatives to reduce their environmental impact. A change of paradigm is needed to reverse the current climate trends and a multi-sectoral approach is required with long-term and proven policies, involving relevant sectors such as transport, housing, energy and industry.

Echoing to this call, Corinne Lepage introduced the **Universal Declaration of Humankind Rights**.¹⁹ The text was born during the preparation of COP21 and responds to the need to protect the commons. The Declaration is complementary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (focusing on the integrity of human being) and it can be adopted by States, regions, cities, universities, NGOs, private companies, etc.

¹⁸ <https://www.climate-chance.org/>

¹⁹ <http://droitshumanite.fr/DU/?lang=en>



Relation with global agendas

SDG 11.5, 11.6, 11.b, 8, 13, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Climate Agreement

NUA. Risk reduction

29, 30, 64, 65, 76-78, 80, 101 144;

Climate change: 6, 10, 13-16, 26, 35, 58, 63, 64, 67, 77, 79, 80, 101, 115, 143, 144

- * **Resilience is built at the local level. Urban crisis are multi-faceted by nature and require de facto a multi-stakeholders' response.**
- * **Urban policies have to provide a structure to the process of spatial transformation, population dynamics and economic development to cover the entire scope of the urban – rural continuum.**
- * **The interconnected nature of SDG 11 and the 2015-2030 Sendai Framework offers a unique opportunity for collective local and global action towards risk reduction and enhanced resilience.**
- * **The strong connection between Nationally Determined Contributions and SDG 11 is also crucial for achieving the 2030 Agenda and the success of the Paris Climate agreement, making the two initiatives inter-dependent.**
- * **The localization of the SDGs means “putting democratic flesh and substance on the bones of the SDGs” (R. Dantec).**



Capacities to manage spatial, social and institutional INTERCONNECTEDNESS can MAKE CITIES and human settlements inclusive, safe, RESILIENT and sustainable

04

LINKING THE GLOBAL GOALS AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION



UNACLA
UNITED NATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF LOCAL AUTHORITIES

This session was organized under the auspices of UNACLA, gathering representatives from local governments, networks of cities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of decentralization, European Parliament, Council of Europe, United Nations.





“We are the first generation that can end poverty, but last that can put an end to climate change”

Greg Munro
Secretary General of
Commonwealth Local
Government Forum

“We have one planet. We do not have an alternative, and we need to look after its health and its future. We cannot give up, we must innovate”

Roland Ries
Mayor of Strasbourg and
Co-president of UCLG

“This building represents democracy, it is your home”

Daniela Senk
European Parliament



“The associations of local and regional governments have a key role to play in bringing municipalities towards the SDGs agenda, creating awareness, developing methods of implementation, facilitating partnerships that provide innovative solutions”

Stefano Bonaccini
President of Emilia-Romagna, Italy,
President of the CEMR

“The commitment of local and regional governments on climate is undeniable. Climate policies can only be implemented involving local governments”

Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda
Mayor of Libreville, Gabon, UCLG
Vice-President for Africa

“Localizing the SDGs” is not a catch phrase; it is essential. We mean providing a better and happier life and giving people a voice. And, for this, the New Urban Agenda provides a clear path. It invites us to renew our governance and our institutions to lead sustainable urban development”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director,
UN-Habitat

“It is important to implement the SDGs by involving everyone. The French government wishes to enhance the localization of SDGs”

Christine Moro
Delegate for the external
action of local authorities,
France

“Let’s work together at our “urbanité”, which means the good quality of relationship in French, through more solidarity and positive leadership at all levels.”

Gudrun Mosler-Törnström
President of the Congress
of Local and Regional
Authorities of the Council of
Europe



“The SDGs are an evolution in the universal consciousness. The New Urban Agenda is the proof that we are increasingly talking about the citizens”

Ngono Tsimi Landry
Ministry of Decentralization
and Local Development, Cameroon

“We have debated the education of children as a great topic. This is not just a topic for the present, but for the future”

Yasutomo Suzuki
Mayor of Hamamatsu, Japan

Dialogue between spheres of governments for the localization of the SDGs

This session was organized under the auspices of UNACLA, gathering representatives from local governments, networks of cities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of decentralization, European Parliament, Council of Europe, United Nations. They reiterated the importance of multi-level dialogue and cooperation between different spheres of governments; each institution came with its mandate, priorities, constituencies, yet in a **collective spirit to be part of the solution and to advance together for the protection of the commons**.

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat recalled that national governments have the responsibility to achieve the SDGs. They have the power to convene all stakeholders and to promote their implementation. Their presence in Strasbourg proves that they understand that new forms of dialogue and governance are needed.

Local and national governments representatives agreed on **the necessity to consolidate and strengthen the breadth and the depth of the dialogue between all levels of governments**. They recognized the complementary and essential action of local and regional governments for the achievement of the SDGs. The localization of SDGs was called by all participants as the only possible way to succeed, it is the actual point of convergence between the SDGs and the NUA.

Christine Moro, Ambassador, Delegate for External Action of Local Authorities, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France presented the localization of the SDGs both as a national objective to reach a shared vision and reporting (local governments participate in the VNR preparations) and an international cooperation objective, valuing peer to peer partnerships. A multidimensional and iterative approach - between local and national levels, among subnational governments via their associations, among the ministerial departments (Foreign Affairs, Environment, Cities, Interior, etc.)- is indispensable to design

and implement strategies for sustainable cities. Landry Tsimi Ngono of the Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development, Cameroon, agreed that local governments are one of the most appropriate scale to bring international solidarity into concrete outcomes.

Regional initiatives and political commitments were also presented. The African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development²⁰ (2014) was introduced by Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda, Mayor of Libreville, Gabon, who also invited participants to join forces in the upcoming Climate Chance summit (Abidjan) and Africités (Marrackech). In Europe, the ambition of the Congress of Local Authorities of the Council of Europe as presented by its President Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, is to defend and to develop local governance. The European Urban Charter (1992), and the Manifesto for a new urbanity (2008)²¹ call for a new model of urban governance that involves the citizens in policy-making, innovates and builds sustainable and cohesive towns.

— Cities are a collective good and their sustainability rely on a social contract with the citizenship and the protection of the commons, through the mediation of interests between all levels of government.

Urban governance is the foundational link enabling joint implementation of the global agendas

Governance includes dealing with individuals, institutions, processes, powers and political engagement. Local and regional governments do not work in isolation, they have a political and (often) elected mandate from their citizens to

²⁰. <https://au.int/en/treaties/african-charter-values-and-principles-decentralisation-local-governance-and-local>

²¹. <http://www.congress-intercultural.eu/en/initiative/23-european-urban-charter-i-and-ii-manifesto-for-a-new-urbanity--1992--2008-.html>

take decisions in the city and territories: they are firstly accountable to them. Whatever the size of the cities, they also depend on interactions with their central governments, that largely determine legal and financial frameworks. They relate with the private sector to invest and contract out basic services as well as a wide array of local actors (civil society, community groups) and peers. Local governments and cities are also impacted by external environment such as climate change, conflicts, migration, social tensions, economic and financial crisis. This complexity is the reason why it is so important for local governments to rely on governance structures able to withstand the many unexpected things that can happen in urban areas.

Although complex, context-dependent, evolutive and hardly measurable, this is also the reason why it **positions urban governance, institutional structures and capacities as the cornerstone of effective and sustainable implementation of SDG 11**, and global agendas at large. Leaders and partners have to look carefully at some overarching questions to be able to determine the best strategies to implement the SDGs: how are decisions taken in cities towards the implementation of SDGs? To what extent are local and regional governments able to implement and deliver decisions? Which actors (governmental and non-governmental) are involved in urban management and how do they relate with each other?

The SDGs as an opportunity for multi-level governance

A new approach marked by institutional and inter-sectorial cooperation is needed, where the dialogue and complementary actions between the local, regional and national level are constant and constructive and where the interaction between the public, private sector and civil society is seamless and frequent. Linking the SDG 11 up with the urban and local dimensions of the other 16 goals is essential, within the new logic established by the SDGs, a new integrated

and multi-sectorial approach that tries to take development out of silos. The SDGs constitutes also an unprecedented opportunity to generate territorial data.

The NUA an action framework for transformational impact

The NUA contributes to the effective implementation of SDG 11 and the localization of Agenda 2030: as a governance-oriented agenda, it recalls the importance of decentralized institutional, fiscal and political framework as one of the conditions for inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban development. The first paragraph under the chapter “Effective implementation” is crystal clear:

81. We recognize that *the realization of the transformative commitments set out in the New Urban Agenda will require enabling policy frameworks at the national, subnational and local levels, integrated by participatory planning and management of urban spatial development, and effective means of implementation, complemented by international cooperation as well as efforts in capacity development, including the sharing of best practices, policies and programmes among governments at all levels.*

Urban governance is mentioned as one of the “drivers of change” in the NUA and there is a full section directly related to “building the urban governance structures: establishing a supportive framework”. It also lays the ground for **strong and capable local governments as key levers to ensure inclusive and sustainable urban development, with accountable urban governance systems and balanced multi-stakeholder involvement**. They are actually at the forefront to operate the four fundamental drivers of change, namely urban policy, urban governance, urban planning and local financing. (NUA, para 15c).

Linkages

The following figure presents the linkages between the recommendations on urban governance-related aspects set by the NUA, the role of local and regional governments and the SDGs.

The NUA calls for an enabling governance framework urban ...

Strong multi-level institutional frameworks	Decentralization, based on the subsidiarity principle	Predictable financial resources and fair repartition of resources	Trust, transparency and accountability to citizens	Culture of participation and equity	Capacity development and partnerships	Empowerment of citizens and women, civic engagement
Para 29, 87, 90	Para 85, 89	Para 130 -135	Para 91, 136, 138, 151, 153	Para 13(b), 26, 48	Para 221, 81, 146, 149, 154	Para 42, 92, 148

... that supports the roles of local and regional governments

To govern institutions within multi-stakeholder and multilevel governance partnerships	To raise revenues and to manage budgets	To promote integrated and participatory urban policies (incl. land)	To coordinate the provision of basic services and resilient infrastructure	To lead in climate action and respond to DRR issues	To foster local economic development and culture	To play an interface role for inclusion and stakeholder engagement	To contribute to the definition and review of the NUA (incl. provision of data)
Para 91, 21, 87	Para 130, 134, 135, 138, 139	Para15 (b), 35, 88, 117, 104, 96, 86	Para 29, 75, 77, 105, 116	Para 79 143, 101	Para 47, 48, 38	Para 28, 42, 92	Para 8, 128, 158, 162, 163, 169



... and contributes to the achievement of SDG 11 and urban related dimension of the SDGs



Localizing the 2030 Agenda to enhance urban governance as a bridge between the NUA and the SDGs

There is a gap between the recognition of governance as key for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and its translation into operational frameworks. To respond to this gap, “**localizing the SDGs**” is a political, strategic and operational approach that addresses the structural institutional dialogue and enables the articulation between the NUA and the SDGs²². This process needs to happen together with the citizen and in close cooperation with the national governments and local stakeholders. There are five areas where the localizing approach is of relevance to galvanize a fruitful and continued dialogue between stakeholders and to better coordinate national, regional and local development plans and strategies to leave no one behind, as presented below.

1. Decentralized and multilevel institutional frameworks

- Decentralized policy that assigns the adequate responsibilities and financial resources to the proper delivery actors
- Design and implementation of a National Urban Policy as a collaborative and multiscalar framework
- Alignment of national and local priorities with the SDGs

2. Democratic and inclusive engagement of citizens

- Sustained dialogue mechanisms with civil society for SDGs implementation, including informal sector and grass root organizations
- Open government, participatory and inclusive processes to foster local democracy
- Focus on women equality and empowerment for SDGs local implementation

3. Enhanced human and financial resources

- Localize financing, improve access to direct financing sources and enable endogenous revenue generation
- Reinforce managing capacities and enhance capacity development
- Support local government associations for peer learning and negotiating with the national level.

4. Integrated and balanced territorial policy-making

- Urban and territorial participatory planning, engaging private and professionals
- Territorial approach for intermediary cities and metropolitan development
- Local implementation as driving force of climate action and resilience building

5. Voice and representation of local governments in global processes

- Engage in global discussions as a recognized constituency (Global Taskforce, World Assembly of local and regional governments)
- Engage with national governments in monitoring and reporting (VNR, NDC, etc.)
- Engage with international partners' networks (mobility, slums, women, informal workers, etc.) involved in the SDGs

Five key dimensions of localizing the SDGs to improve urban governance at the core of urban related SDGs and the NUA implementation

²² www.localizingthesdgs.org

SDG 11 TARGETS

11.1

By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

11.2

By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

11.3

By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

11.4

Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

11.5

By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

11.6

By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

11.7

By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

11.a

Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

11.b

By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

11.c

Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

THURSDAY 24 MAY

09.00 - 12.00 **COUNTRY IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG 11 “MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE, SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE”**

Presentation of national reports by representatives of central governments and partners

Introduction

Welcome words

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat

Mpho Parks Tau, President of United Cities and Local Governments, President of the South African Association of Local Governments, South Africa

ASIA

THAILAND - **Nadhavit Snidvongs**, Vice-Minister for Interior, Thailand

AZERBAIJAN - **Gunel Malikova**, Deputy head of department of Economics and Estimation norms, State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture

LATIN AMERICA

ECUADOR - **Oscar Valentino Chicaiza Nunez**, Specialist of housing regulation and territorial coordination, Ministry of Urban Development and Housing

AFRICA

CAMEROON - **Ngono Tsimi Landry**, Inspector General, Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development

ZAMBIA - **Danny Zulu**, Head Planning and Information Department, Ministry of Local Government

ARAB STATES

ALGERIA - **Abdelwahid Temmar**, Minister of Housing, urban planning and cities

OMAN - **Hamad Bin Asoud Al Gharibi**, Ministry of Housing

EUROPE

AUSTRIA - **Gerhard Jandl**, Ambassador, Permanent representation of Austria to the Council of Europe

CZECH REPUBLIC - **Radka Štorková**, Ministerial Counsellor, Ministry of Regional Development

CROATIA - **Ines Androić Brajčić**, Head of Sector, Ministry of Construction and Physical Planning

SERBIA - **Siniša Trkulja**, Adviser, Sector for Spatial and Urban Planning, Ministry of construction, transport and infrastructure

SPAIN - **Angela de la Cruz Mera**, Deputy Director for Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works

SWITZERLAND - **Riccarda Caprez**, Senior policy advisor, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

EUROPEAN UNION - **Nicolas Gharbi**, Policy coordinator Global Urban policy, Directorate General for Regional and urban policy, European Commission

PALESTINE - **Walid Abu Alhalawa**, Advisor to the Minister, Ministry of local government

HOLY SEE - **Paolo Rudelli**, Permanent Observer, Mission of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

COUNCIL OF EUROPE - **Daniel Popescu**, Head of Democratic Governance Department, Centre of Expertise of the Council of Europe

Closing

FRANCE - **Yves-Laurent Sapoval**, Senior Advisor, Ministry for territorial cohesion

13.30 – 15.00 **HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN MAYORS AND MINISTERS HOSTED BY THE UCLG POLICY COUNCIL ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND INCLUSIVE TERRITORIES**

Remarks by the chair

Laura Perez Castaño, Councilor for International Relations and for Gender Equality – LGBTI, City of Barcelona, Spain

Eleftherios Papagiannakis, Vice-Mayor for Migrants, Refugees and Municipal Decentralization, Athens, Greece

Ramon Mestre, Mayor of Córdoba, Argentina

Angela de la Cruz Mera, Deputy Director for Urban Planning, Ministry of Public Works, Spain

Abdoulaye Thimbo, Mayor of Pikine, Senegal

Oscar Valentino Chicaiza Nunez, Ministry of Urban development and housing, Ecuador

Round of questions

Final remarks by the Chair

15.30 – 17.00 **HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN MAYORS AND MINISTERS HOSTED BY THE UCLG POLICY COUNCIL ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, CULTURE AND CITY DIPLOMACY**

Remarks by the co-chairs

Monica Fein, Mayor of Rosario, Argentina

Eduardo Vázquez, Secretary of Culture of Mexico City, Co-Chair of the UCLG Committee on Culture, Mexico

Célestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of Bangangté, Cameroon, President of REFELA, Vice-Chair of the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality

Walid Abu Alhalawa, Advisor to the Minister of local government, Palestine

Luzette Kroon, Mayor of Waterland, Netherlands

Carlos Martínez Mínguez, Mayor of Soria, Spain, Vice-President of UCLG for Europe

Paul Maassen, Chief Country Support, Open Government Partnership

Thipparat Noppaladaron, Advisor, Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Thailand

Xabier Iñigo Ochandiano Martínez, Councillor for Economic Development, Bilbao, Spain

Round of questions

Final remarks by the co-chairs

Official reception

Place du château, Palais Rohan. Organized by the city of Strasbourg

FRIDAY 25 MAY

09.00 – 10.30 **HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN MAYORS AND MINISTERS HOSTED BY THE UCLG POLICY COUNCIL ON MULTI LEVEL GOVERNANCE**

Remarks by the Co-chairs

Rev. Mpho Moraukgomo, President of BALA, Botswana

Mohammed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco, Chair of UCLG forum on intermediary cities

Yamandú Orsi, Mayor of Canelones, Uruguay
 Nina Moreno, Mayor of Aranjuez, Spain
 Sandra Momčilović, Ministry of construction and physical planning, Croatia
 Ngonu Landry Tsimi, Ministry of decentralization and local development,
 Cameroon

Round of questions

Final remarks by the co-chairs

11.00 – 12.30 **HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE BETWEEN MAYORS AND MINISTERS HOSTED BY THE UCLG POLICY COUNCIL ON RESILIENCE**

Remarks by the Chair

Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg, President of Cités Unies France,
 Co-President of UCLG, Co-Chair of the UCLG Mobility Community of Practice
 Paco Toajas, Mayor of Las Cabezas de San Juan, Spain, Co-Chair of the UCLG
 Local Economic and Social Development Committee
 Siniša Trkulja, Adviser, Ministry of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure,
 Serbia
 Ronan Dantec, Senator, President of Climate Chance, France
 Nasembena Hadja Touré, Mayor of Oudienne, Ivory Coast
 Corine Lepage, Former Minister of Environment, France, former MEP
 Yücel Yılmaz, Mayor of Karesi, Turkey
 Janine Aoun, Mayor of Furn El Chebbak, Lebanon
 Marco Monteiros, NGO and Civil Society Liaison Officer, United Nations
 Convention to Combat Desertification
 Mohammed Ali Al Mutawa, Director, Ministry of Housing, Oman

Round of questions

Final remarks by the Chair

12.30 – 13.30 **HIGH LEVEL DIALOGUE - LINKING THE GLOBAL GOALS WITH THE NEW URBAN AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION**
A session organized in partnership with UNACLA

Part 1 – Welcome and setting the scene

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Executive Director of UN-Habitat
 Roland Ries, Mayor of Strasbourg, France and Co-president of UCLG
 Greg Munro, Secretary General of Commonwealth Local Government Forum
 Daniela Senk, European Parliament

Part 2 – The challenge of urban governance – A contribution from Mayors and Ministers across the world

Christine Moro, Delegate for the external action of local authorities, Ministry of
 Foreign Affairs, France
 Yasutomo Suzuki, Mayor of Hamamtsu, Japan
 Ngonu Tsimi Landry, Ministry of Decentralization and Local Development,
 Cameroon
 Rose Christiane Ossouka Raponda, Mayor of Libreville, Gabon, UCLG Vice-
 President for Africa
 Gudrun Mosler-Törnström, President of the Congress of Local and Regional
 Authorities of the Council of Europe
 Stefano Bonaccini, President of Emilia-Romagna, Italy, President of the Council
 of European Municipalities and Provinces

Lunch

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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KOITA, Lamine. District of Abidjan

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LICK ĐEHODOVÁ, Jana. Urban policy officer, Ministry of Regional Development

ECUADOR

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LANDRY Posso, Noël. Advisor to the Mayor of Libreville

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WOLTER Andreas. Vice-Mayor of Cologne

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OTA Haranobu. International Relations, City of Hamamatsu

MOROCCO

SEFIANI, Mohamed. Mayor of Chefchaouen

OMAN

AL MUTAWA, Mohmamed Ali Mohammed. Director General, Ministry of Housing

AL GHARIBI, Hamad Masoud. Director of planning and survey, Ministry of Housing

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GEORGE, Xolile. CEO of the South Africa Local Governments Association (SALGA)

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THONGCHAI Roachanakanan. Expert in architectural planning,

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SUWANNAWORN, Sureeporn. Director, Technical Cooperation Division. Housing Development Studies Department National Housing Authority

TURKEY

YILMAZ Yücel. Mayor of Karesi

ZAMBIA

ZULU, Danny. Head – Planning and Information Department, Ministry of Local Government
Holy see (observer)

RUDELLI, Paolo. Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

ITARUMA, John Baptist. Deputy Permanent Observer, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

FANTUCCHIO, Tiziana. Intern, Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the Council of Europe

UNITED NATIONS

MOHD SHARIF, Maimunah. Executive Director, UN-Habitat

DECORTE, Filiep. Deputy Director, NY Liaison office, UN-Habitat

LOPEZ CARAMAZANA, Diana. Head, Local Government and Decentralization Unit, UN-Habitat

PERUCCA Fabienne. Urban governance advisor, UN-Habitat

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GILL, Amita. Local Governance specialist, United Nations Development Programme

EUROPEAN UNION

GHARBI, Nicolas. Policy coordinator, Global urban policy, DG REGIO, European Commission

BLOOMBERG PHILANTHROPIES

ANDERSON, James. Director of Government innovation

COMMONWEALTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT FORUM

MUNRO, Greg. Secretary General

COUNCIL OF EUROPE

MOSLER-TÖRNSTRÖM, Gudrun. President, Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

TATARENKO, Alina. Head of the Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform

POPESCU, Daniel. Head of Democratic Governance Department

CHATZIPETROU, Aikaterini. Project Assistant, Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform

PIFERI, Claudia. Project officer, Centre of Expertise for Local Government Reform

D'ALESSANDRO, Ivana. Head of the Intercultural Cities Unit

NETWORK OF UCLG (UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS)

SAIZ, Emilia. Secretary General, UCLG

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RAMÍREZ, Guillem. Policy Officer, UCLG

ACRONYMS

Agenda 2030

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

COGTA

Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Authorities (South Africa)

DRR

Disaster Risk Reduction

EU

European Union

HLPF

High Level Political Forum

IUDF

Integrated Urban Development Framework

LG

Local government

NDC

Nationally Determined Contribution

NUA

New Urban Agenda

NUP

National Urban Policy

SDG 11

Sustainable Development Goal 11

SENDAPLES

National Secretariat for Planning and Development (Secretaría Nacional de Planificación y Desarrollo, Ecuador)

UCLG

United Cities and Local Governments

UNACLA

United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities

UN-Habitat

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

VNR

Voluntary National Review

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In the framework of:



With the support of:

