

Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs

A joint global initiative of MASE and UN-Habitat

The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs is a global initiative led by the Italian Ministry of Environment and Energy Security (MASE) jointly with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

The Partnership Platform is a collaborative and operational initiative supporting countries and territories worldwide to advance the localization of the SDGs. It does so by promoting enabling environments for multilevel and multistakeholder implementation of the 2030 Agenda, while offering a convening space for exchanges between country-level initiatives and with similar initiatives and frameworks at global level.

The initiative will work on three levels – local, national and global, aiming at:

- **Mainstreaming multilevel governance and Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD)** into SDG localization processes, including SDG Cities.
- **Providing direct support to partner countries to create SDG Localization Country Frameworks:** multilevel enabling environments ensuring coherence between national sustainable development policies and local programs, plans and actions.
- **Providing direct support to city partners through a holistic SDG localization process** anchored on SDG Cities and aimed at identifying projects and initiatives with the highest social and environmental impact at the local level.
- **Engaging partners and facilitating mutual learning** on existing gaps, challenges, tools, and practices to craft and test common approaches to common issues – at all levels.

Local and National Level

The operationalization of the Partnership Platform will kick-start with a piloting phase of two years (2024-2026).

The objective of the Partners Platform's work at the national and local levels is to create **SDG Localization Country Frameworks** that will help mainstream policy coherence for sustainable development and create enabling environments **supporting cities and territories to advance SDG implementation**, also through the SDG Cities approach. Specific learning, training and exchange activities will accompany the work at national and local level. Ultimately, through the Platform's support, partner countries and cities will identify projects with the highest potential for social and environmental impact at the local level, including sport initiatives.

During the initial piloting phase, local-level activities are also expected to support the effective use impact of Italian environmental cooperation resources.

Following the piloting phase, and depending on the effective composition of the Partnership Platform membership and the priorities emerging from the global-level discussion, implementation will be extended to other countries and cities.

The Partnership Platform will articulate its work at the country level with the **UN Resident Coordinator and Country Teams and with relevant environmental and development cooperation**

partners – bilateral and multilateral, to maximize its impact and the overall effectiveness of environmental and development cooperation.

Global level

At the global level, the processes and results produced by the Partnership Platform will both contribute to and in turn further amplified by the Local2030 Coalition, the UN-system wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda.

Building on UN-Habitat's network and the Italian system of stakeholders, the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs will promote wider exchanges among interested partners, particularly within the G7 and complementary and ongoing global initiatives including the G20 Platform on Intermediary Cities and SDGs Localization, the Sports and Sustainable Urban Development Initiative, and the OECD Territorial Approach to SDGs.

The aim of the Partnership Platform's work at the global level, in articulation with the Local2030 Coalition, is to:

- Contribute to the **definition of a shared approach** on how to support SDGs localization by integrating multilevel governance and PCSD approaches, and in parallel, elevate the lessons learned and practices generated at the local/country levels.
- **Facilitate dialogue and learning between partners** – local, national, and global.
- **Contribute to the global dialogue on the SDGs and localization** with new knowledge, tools, practices, and innovations.

Among the possible activities, the Partnership Platform will coordinate and implement:

- **Thematic dialogues, expert group meetings, and workshops** related to SDG Localization, including an annual high-level workshop at the margins of the High-Level Political Forum (or another event of interest jointly defined by MASE and UN-Habitat).
- **Peer learning exchanges, twinning processes, and capacity-building training.**
- **An online knowledge repository** for projects, evidence, lessons learned, tools, and experiences available to everyone to facilitate access to knowledge and support technical work at the country level. The repository will also facilitate identifying funding opportunities, such as project calls or grants to which countries and cities could apply.

Membership

Membership in the Partnership Platform is open to a diverse range of stakeholders. Members can join in various capacities, including:

- **Strategic Partners:** Engage in high-level discussions on SDG localization and contribute with strategic advice and in identifying opportunities to scale up the platform's activities.
- **Implementing and Knowledge Partners:** Contribute with technical expertise, resources, and active participation in workshops, peer learning exercises, and dialogues.
- **Financing Partners:** Provide financial support for the platform's operations and specific initiatives, enabling the platform to expand its impact and extend activities to new regions.