



HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Multilevel Governance

*Accelerating Progress Towards the
SDGs and Post Pandemic Recovery*

Friday July 8, 2022

16:00-18:00 EAT / 15:00-17:00 CEST / 09:00-11:00 EST

[Registration link](#)



UNITED NATIONS
SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE



BROOKINGS





DESCRIPTION OF THE SESSION

The 2030 Agenda is the result of an intergovernmental process that involved stakeholders from all sectors of society and was endorsed by the UN Member States. It acknowledges that no national government *alone* can achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. **Therefore, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and of its underlying principle of “leaving no one behind” also relies on enhanced collaboration among all spheres of governments and across stakeholders.**

A bottom-up approach to implementing the SDGs requires and reinforces the adoption of integrated multilevel governance mechanisms. In fact, the SDGs offer ample opportunities for local governments to strengthen their influence by reshaping the local-national dialogue between different levels of government.

The centrality of multilevel governance for SDG localization is accentuated in the post Covid19 pandemic era. There are critical links between the achievement of the SDGs and recovering from the pandemic, and both have strong local dimensions.

Since the pandemic affects urban neighborhoods, communities, and groups in cities differently, recovering from its impacts requires a granular, localized understanding of cities and territories. At the same time, the local scale can often be more appropriate to unpack the complexity of synergies and trade-offs between different dimensions of the SDGs. 65 per cent of the SDG targets are directly related to the mandate and mission of local and regional governments.

Multilevel governance provides a new lens on policymaking processes. By empowering local and regional governments and local stakeholders, national governments will be able to enhance their implementation capacities to transform policies and strategies into action at the local level. Likewise, by grounding national development and recovery strategies on communities’ needs and priorities, governments will be able to better address the consequences of the pandemic. National frameworks facilitating multilevel coordination, policy coherence and (re)distribution of resources are the key to advance on the implementation of the SDGs and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

To support these processes, UN-Habitat and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), with the support of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), have joined hands to develop cutting-edge knowledge and resources on multilevel governance for SDG localization. The partnership counts on the close collaboration of key institutions such as ARCO (Action Research for CO-development), United Cities Local Governments, LSE Cities and Brookings Institution.

This session seeks to be a space for peer-learning as well as political engagement on the ways local, regional, and national governments can work together to foster multilevel collaboration for the achievement of the SDGs. The session will also include the presentation of five case studies (Argentina, Ghana, Italy, Jordan and the Philippines) to dig deeper into real-world practices, deriving practical implications and take-overs from their experience as “living labs”.

The session is organised on the occasion of the 2022 edition of the High-Level Political Forum and will see the participation of representatives of UN-Habitat, GIZ and BMZ (tbc), along with speakers from the

main knowledge partners (ARCO, UCLG, LSE Cities and Brookings Institution), the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC), and partner countries to present their experience.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SESSION



- Bringing together key international experts on multilevel governance and strengthening collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders.
- Convening a shared space for high-level political discussion and creating greater engagement and validation of the relevance of the discourse surrounding multi-level governance.
- Scaling up the debate on multilevel cooperation and offering a set of tools and recommendations to speakers and participants to transform inputs into practitioners' realities.
- Identifying gaps and challenges, as well as solutions, based on the findings of the research shared among proponents of multilevel governance.
- Fostering peer-learning and capacity building by sharing best practices and lessons learned that could be scaled-up, tailored and replicated at all levels and in different geographies.
- Creating momentum for multilevel governance at the HLPF 2022 and facilitating the formation of a community of practice.

These expected outcomes are stated under the assumption of a target audience consisting of multilevel governance practitioners, local and regional government representatives, academia, representatives from the civil society and any other relevant partners working on multilevel governance.



AGENDA

Event facilitator: Martino Miraglia, Human Settlements Officer, SDG Localization and Local Governments, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat

15 minutes

Opening

- Shipra Narang-Suri, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat
- Dr. Alexander Kleibrink, Deputy Head of Department on Sustainable Urban Development, BMZ

10 minutes	<p>Multilevel Governance for SDG localization <i>Presentation of key findings of global research on multilevel governance for SDG localization</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ARCO – Action Research for Co-Development
60 minutes	<p>Deep Dive on Multilevel Governance <i>Each virtual room is focused on a particular component of the multilevel governance approach. Discussion is based on the findings of the global research and on the presentation of practical case studies.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room 1: Vertical integration <i>Facilitator: United Cities Local Governments</i> <i>Case Study: Italy</i> • Room 2: Horizontal integration <i>Facilitator: London School of Economics</i> <i>Case Study: Amman, Jordan</i> • Room 3: Stakeholder engagement <i>Facilitator: Brookings Institution</i> <i>Case Study: Córdoba, Argentina</i> <p>Structure of the rooms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by the facilitator (5 min) • Case study presentation (15 min) • Discussion (35 min) • Wrap up (5min)
25 minutes	<p>Joint presentation of BMZ toolkit for recovering back better and localizing the SDGs <i>Multilevel Governance online platform and UNSSC SDG localization course</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN-Habitat • United Nations System Staff College • GIZ
10 minutes	<p>Wrap up and closing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Jafar Javan, Director of the United Nations System Staff College