# The localisation of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

## Survey on the role of
## local and regional governments' and their associations



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| **Name of your organisation (municipality, region, other local government, national association of local and regional governments, etc.):** |
| **Your name:** |
| **Your job title:** |
| **Name of department or unit within the organisation:** |
| **E-mail address:** |
| **Telephone and/or Skype address:** |

**Please fill and send back this survey OR complete it online before April 20, 2020. If you choose to fill the survey, please send it back to: gold@uclg.org**

**INTRODUCTION – Realising the decade of Action and delivery of the SDGs**

Several major documents have been adopted over the past few years in the framework of the United Nations to lead global development policy (SDGs, Climate Change Agenda, New Urban Agenda, etc). This survey specifically refers to the **2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** at the local level.

The survey aims to assist the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments in the realization of **the report** on local and regional governments' role in the localization of the SDGs. This information will be shared at the forthcoming High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) – i.e. the United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – in July 2020, in New York.

Many SDGs cover activities that are part of the daily work of local and regional governments (education, health, water and sanitation, waste management, public transport, housing, sustainable environment, among many others). While they may even be unaware of it, many local and regional governments have in fact been taking action to implement the SDGs for years. The aim of the survey is to support local and regional governments and their associations and networks to share knowledge, develop their own reporting methods and contribute to national debates.

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The survey is especially important for the local and regional governments of those **51 countries that have already committed to submit their national reviews to the HLPF in 2020**:

**Africa (17):** Benin, Burundi, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Seychelles, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
**Asia-Pacific (9):** Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Micronesia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands**.**
**Eurasia (5):** Armenia, Kyrgyz Republic, Russia Federation, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.
**Europe (8):** Austria, Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Moldova (Republic of), North Macedonia, Slovenia
**Latin America and Caribbean (9):** Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Panama, Peru
**MEWA (1):** Syrian Arab Republic
**North America (2):** Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

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This list, alongside that of the 142 countries that have already reported from 2016 to 2019, is available on the HLPF webpage: **https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf**.

The survey includes **24 closed questions and 3 open-question boxes, and one table,** divided in **four sections**:

1.  Awareness of the Global Agendas (2 questions)

2.  National context for SDG implementation and monitoring (8 questions and 2 boxes)

3.  Actions of local and regional governments and their associations to accelerate SDG implementation and monitoring processes (12 questions and 1 box)

4.  National Urban policies and the New Urban Agenda (2 questions)

5.  A table, at the end, to compile local initiatives for localizing the SDGs

Instructions are provided for each question whenever necessary. There are mainly multiple choices questions: you can always pick more than one option. Should you need any support when answering the Survey, please contact: **gold @uclg.org**.

Responses from previous surveys are collected and analysed in the series of local and regional governments' reports, *Towards the localization of the SDGs*. . For Europe, results from previous surveys have also been analysed in 2 editions of CEMR-PLATFORMA studies (**How local and regional government associations bring the SDGs to life**)

## I. Awareness in your organisation

**1. How familiar with the SDGs would you say your organisation is?**

○ Very few individuals in the organisation are familiar with the SDGs
○ Many have heard about the SDGs, but are not aware about their relevance
○ The majority of our staff is aware and makes reference to the SDGs, but it is not high in our work priorities
○ The SDGs are well known in our organisation and used as an important reference in our strategies

**2. The coordination of SDG-related work is performed by:**

○ The international department
○ The environment department
○ The direction of the organisation
○ An interdepartmental SDG team, working group or taskforce
○ A coordinating officer in charge of SDGs
○ Several or all departments deal with SDGs
○ Other, please specify: _____

## II. National context for SDG implementation and monitoring

**II.A:** *What is your national government (federal/regional if relevant) doing for the implementation of the SDGs?*

**3. Is there a national framework, strategy, national development plan or roadmap (any official, general, and national document) to implement the SDGs and the other global agendas in your country (even if your country has not reported/will not report to the UN)?**

Yes ○     No ○     **(if not, go to question 5)**

3.1 If yes, please specify the year of adoption: ……………………………………………………

3.2 If relevant, please specify the year of last update: ……………………………………………………

3.3 If possible, please give the name or the link to this document(s): ……………………………………………………………………

3.4 Does the framework/strategy/national development plan/ roadmap mention the need to support local and regional governments for implementation at local levels?

Yes ○     No ○

**4. How has your organisation been consulted by your central/federal government for the design, implementation or monitoring of these national strategies?**

○ It has not been consulted at all
○ In the preliminary / design phase of the strategy
○ Throughout its implementation
○ In the monitoring phase of the strategy
○ Through ad-hoc consultations
○ Other, please specify: ……………………………………………….

**5. If your country reported to the HLPF in previous years (2016-2019) through a Voluntary National Review (VNR), was your organisation invited to contribute?**

Yes ◯                    No ◯    **(if not, go to question 6)**

5.1 If **yes**, was your organisation invited to contribute to the report:

◯ In the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process (strong involvement)

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

◯ By attending bilateral meetings (e.g., between your organisation/elected officials and the reporting unit) (strong/moderate involvement)

◯ By participating in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report (moderate involvement)

◯ By answering a survey or questionnaire (moderate involvement)

◯ By participating in occasional informative workshops, with limited room to contribute to the actual report (weak involvement)

◯ By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalised (weak involvement)

◯ Other: _____

**6. If your country is reporting to the HLPF in 2020, is your organisation involved in the national reporting process for 2020?** (i.e., *Voluntary National Reviews*)

Yes ◯      No ◯ **(if not, go to question 7)**

6.1. If **yes**, how was your organisation invited to contribute?

◯ In the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process (strong involvement)

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

◯ By attending bilateral meetings (e.g., between your organisation/elected officials and the reporting unit) (strong/moderate involvement)

◯ By participating in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report (moderate involvement)

◯ By answering a survey or questionnaire (moderate involvement)

◯ By participating in occasional informative workshops, with limited room to contribute to the actual report (weak involvement)

◯ By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalised (weak involvement)

◯ Other: _____

**7. If your country does not report to the HLPF in 2020, is your government preparing any annual progress report on the implementation of the SDGs?**

Yes ◯     No ◯   **(if not, go to question 8)**

**7.1**. If **yes**, has your organisation been invited to contribute to such report?

Yes ◯     No ◯

**7.2** If **yes,** how has your organisation contributed to the report?

◯ In the reporting unit appointed by the national government as well as in the drafting process (strong involvement)

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

◯ By attending bilateral meetings (e.g., between your organisation/elected officials and the reporting unit) (strong/moderate involvement)

◯ By participating in national/regional conferences or workshops to debate the report (moderate involvement)

◯ By answering a survey or questionnaire (moderate/ weak involvement)

◯ By participating in occasional informative workshops, with limited room to contribute to the actual report (weak involvement)

◯ By being invited to the presentation of the VNR once this was finalized (weak involvement)

◯ Other: _____

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*Box 1. General comments to section* "**National context for SDG implementation and monitoring**"
*Do you consider that your participation in the reporting process was adequate? Were your contributions taken into consideration in the Voluntary National Review or in the national report?*
*Please add any other information you would like to share.*
*[use all the space you may need]*

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**II.C:** *Involvement of local and regional governments in national coordination or follow-up mechanisms on the SDGs, and their impact on institutional context*

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

In some cases, these units are also involved in the preparation of the reports to the HLPF, but sometimes they are not. Between 2016 and 2019, local and regional governments have been invited – to a varying degree – to participate in these institutional mechanisms in 47 countries over a total 142 countries that reported to the UN (e.g., full or consultative status, participation in technical commissions, etc.).

**8. Has your national government put in place any institutional mechanism to ensure coordination on and follow-up of SDG implementation?**

Yes ◯　　No ◯ **(if not, go to question 11)**

**8.1.** If yes, what kind of mechanisms exist? [reminder: you can select more than one]

◯ High level commission at inter-ministerial level or involving only national institutions and agencies
◯ High level commission with multi-stakeholder participation (e.g. National Council for Sustainable Development)
◯ National contact point on SDGs (such as a national ambassador for the SDGs, for example)
◯ Multi-stakeholders working group on SDGs
◯ Technical commissions with multi-stakeholder's involvement at consultative level (associated to national mechanisms)
◯ Regular consultations
◯ Ad-hoc consultations
◯ Informal meetings with national government
◯ No mechanism has been put in place
◯ Other (please specify): ……..

**9. How has your association or any representative of local and regional governments been invited or associated to such mechanism?**

◯ Not at all
◯ Through ad-hoc consultations (in few or punctual meetings, but not as a permanent member)
◯ Regular participation, but at consultative level
◯ Regular participation, as equal partner
◯ Other: please specify: ……………………….

**10. In your opinion, have these coordination mechanisms had any impact on the dialogue or the relations between the different levels of governments (multilevel governance / governance in partnership)?**

Yes ◯　　No ◯ (See box 2)

*Box 2. Evolution of the cooperation with local and regional governments* *Please provide more information – if available – on coordination mechanisms, the role of local and regional governments. Did SDGs coordination mechanisms and policies have had any impact on the dialogue and cooperation between the national government and with local and regional governments? And between subnational governments themselves (regions, provinces and municipalities, and between municipalities)? Please explain or give some examples. [Use all the space you may need]*

## III.  Actions by LRGs and their associations to support SDG implementation and monitoring

**III.A:** *Awareness-raising, commitments and actions developed by local and regional governments and their associations*

**11. Has your organisation adopted specific policy documents on the implementation of the SDGs or the other global agendas?**

◯ None
◯ Political Statements or Declarations (general statement)
◯ Strategies, policy paper (advanced commitment)
◯ Action plans or roadmaps (implementation / action stage)
◯ Other: please specify……………………………………….

**12. Has your organisation promoted activities to support SDG implementation and dissemination among local and regional governments during the past year (2019-2020)?**

◯ Not at all
◯ Awareness rising campaigns (long-term activities)
◯ Conferences (one-time event)
◯ Communication (share of information)
◯ Trainings and/or capacity building workshops
◯ Technical assistance to support the implementation of the SDGs (e.g. alignment of SDGs and local plans)
◯ Others: please specify ………………………………

**13. Do you collaborate with other organisations of local stakeholders for the promotion of the SDGs?**

Yes ◯      No ◯   **(if not, go to question 14)**

**13.1. If yes, please mention some of the following stakeholders:**

◯ Civil society organisations / NGOs
◯ Private sector
◯ Schools, universities
◯ Professional or trade unions

◯ Others: please specify …………………………………

14. **Do you know about any other initiatives in your country to inform or support local governments about the SDGs and other global agendas?**

Yes ◯  No ◯  **(if not, go to question 15)**

**14.1.** If **yes**, please provide more information about this initiative or an online link………………………

**14.2** If yes, have these initiatives been promoted by:

◯ The national government
◯ International organisations or donors
◯ International or national local and regional governments' organisations or networks
◯ Private sector
◯ Academia
◯ NGOs or foundations
◯ I don't know
◯ Other: _____

**III.B:** *Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the SDGs at local level*

15. **Do you know of any initiatives of local and regional governments to monitor and report on the implementation of the SDGs?** E.g. some local and regional governments are developing Voluntary Local Reviews or specific reports (sustainable local or regional reports).

Yes ◯  No ◯

If yes, please provide more information about this initiative or an online link……………….

16. **Are you using national indicators to monitor the SDGs? Or have you defined local indicators?**

Yes ◯  No ◯

17. **Is there any initiative in your country to develop local indicators to monitor the SDGs and/or disaggregate data collection?**

Yes ◯  No ◯

If yes, please provide more information about this initiative or an online link……………….

18. **Is your organisation interested to work on specific indicators and/or initiatives to monitor the implementation of the SDGs at local level?**

Yes ◯  No ◯

19. **Is your organisation working on indicators with partners or international peers?**

Yes ◯  No ◯

**III.C:** *Moving towards accelerated action to achieve sustainable development*

20. **What do you think are the main challenges local and regional governments face in working towards the achievement of the SDGs and the other global agendas?**

Please **select** no more than **3 or 4 options**:

◯ Limited access to information

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

◯ Limited coordination across levels of governments

◯ Limited local interest and/or awareness (e.g. local governments don't understand the SDGs or find them not relevant; or they perceive the SDGs as a new burden, not adapted to the local priorities)

◯ Inadequate human resources or weak capacities

◯ Insufficient financial resources (other than national subsidies)

◯ Need for legal and institutional reforms to empower local and regional governments

◯ Other (such as lack of disaggregated and available data, etc…): _____

21. **What do you think are the main opportunities local and regional governments enjoy in working towards the achievement of the SDGs and the other global agendas?**

Please **select** no more than **3 or 4 options and rank them by relevance from 1 (most important) to 5 (least important)**:

◯ Wider access to information

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

◯ Enhanced coordination across levels of governments

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

◯ More human resources or better capacities

◯ Additional financial resources

◯ Legal and institutional reforms empowering local and regional governments

◯ Other (such as collection of disaggregated and availability of data, etc…): _____

22. **Is there any initiative or project being developed to support either the alignment of local development plans with the SDGs or the local implementation of the SDGs?**
Yes ◯      No ◯   (If yes, please describe the initiative in Box 3 Below

> ***Box 3. Actions to Accelerate the localization of the SDGs.*** *Please give some examples of **initiatives you are implementing or good practices of other local or regional governments in your country** (e.g. alignment of local plans with the SDGs, main programmes and projects that contribute to the implementation of any of the SDGs, new forms of cooperation between different levels of government to implement the SDGs). Please mention:*
>   1. *the <u>name of the project</u>,*
>   2. *the <u>organisation in charge</u> of the implementation*
>   3. *one or two sentences describing the action(s)*
>   4. *a <u>link or a contact to collect more information</u>.*
>
> ***<u>Use the table annexed at the end of the survey</u>*** *to provide a brief list of local and regional governments in your country that are taking actions to support SDG implementation*

## IV.    COMPLEMENTARY QUESTION ON NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES (NUP)

UN Habitat, OECD and Cities Alliance have launched a consultation on the progress of National Urban Policies as a lever to implement the New Urban Agenda and the SDG 11. A National Urban Policy (NUP) is defined as "a coherent set of policies and decisions led by the national government (or at regional level in Federal countries) to promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term". In general, NUPs, is associated with a deliberate process with the aim of coordinating and rallying various actors, including local governments, to create a common vision and goal. NUPs could be a national strategy or policy, or a package that bring together different policies to build a more coherent and sustainable urban policies.

**NUP 1)** Does your country have, or is in the process of developing National Urban Policies or Strategies?

Yes ◯        No ◯    ◯Do not know

**NUP 2)** Do local and regional governments contribute or are engaged into the NUP process?

Yes ◯        No ◯

If yes,  how?

| Process stage | Level of engagement/contribution of LRGs | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Low | Moderate | Extensive |
| In Feasibility analysis (discussion and initial framing of challenges and opportunities of urbanization, and the expectations for the NUP) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| In Diagnosis (data collection and analysis) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| In Formulation (Drafting and reviewing of the NUP ) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| In Implementation (implementing projects, supporting dissemination, and capacity development) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| In Monitoring and evaluation | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

*A low level of engagement would therefore mean that local governments were either not involved at all, or simply provided general information without any opportunity to comment.

**A moderate level of attention refers to some consultation on the process of definition and elaboration, with the possibility of providing some input. This would for instance mean that local governments were included in consultations and given the opportunity to weigh in on pre-determined options.

***An extensive level of engagement entails a determining influence on the resulting definitions by local governments. This means that local governments not only provided feedback but entered into a veritable dialogue with the government, and co-defined opportunities, problems and options. This could also entail a level of veto power or necessary consent on the final determinations.

# THANK YOU!

**ANNEX WITH LIST OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS INITIATIVES TO LOCALIZE THE SDGS**

| Name of city, local or regional government/ association of local and regional governments | BRIEFLY DESCRIBE THE POLICIES AND/OR PROJECTS (one or two sentences) | SOURCES Whenever possible, mention any internet resources or references – either relevant or providing direct access to information |
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