



# SEVILLE COMMITMENT

*Local leadership, global transformation*

## Seville Commitment

### Cementing a Local-Global movement to Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals

On 25-27 February 2019, representatives from national, regional, and local governments, local and regional government associations, civil society, academia, private sector and the United Nations came together in Seville, Spain to review progress and lessons learned of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and chart new pathways to accelerate and scale up action at the local level. The event was convened by the Governments of Spain, Ecuador and Cape Verde in collaboration with Local 2030.

Participants at the event discussed multiple aspects of localising the SDGs, including:

- the necessity of national frameworks that empower local actors to develop and lead their own SDG strategies;
- the relevance of mobilizing a broad, multi-level coalition around locally-owned goals;
- the importance of reinforcing and/or establishing accountable, multi-stakeholder and effective local institutional frameworks to facilitate sustainable development;
- the importance of inclusive and participatory processes at local level;
- the value of reinforcing integrated territorial development approaches outlined in the New Urban Agenda as a vehicle to accelerate sustainable development;
- the importance of addressing fragility and crises to achieve resilient territories;
- the transformative role of responsible businesses, community-based organizations and multi-stakeholder partnerships at the local level to ensure a people-centered and planet-sensitive localization of the SDGs;
- the recognition that the implementation of the 2030 agenda requires, to be successful, a structural change of our models of development at local, sub-national, national, regional and global levels;
- the importance of youth mobilization and engagement for effective SDG localization;
- the need to ensure availability of sufficient resources and capacities at the local level, including through public and private investment, local government own-source revenues, and South-South and triangular development cooperation; and
- the significance of reinforcing sub-national systems for innovative data, monitoring and reviewing SDG implementation at the local levels.

**We, participants at the High-level Dialogue that took place at this event, appreciative of the spirit of constructive dialogue we had in Seville and reaffirming our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, converged on a broad range of issues. We welcome Spain's collaboration with the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments on convening this High-Level Dialogue. We:**

Welcome the work of the Steering Committee of this event, whose work was indispensable to bringing together the broad coalition of SDG localization champions that attended the event. Steering Committee members included: Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, Economic Commission for Africa, Economic Commission for Europe, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, International Peace Institute, shift7, Sustainable Development Solutions Network, UN Capital Development Fund, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UN Development Programme, UN Foundation, UN Global Compact, and UN-Habitat.

Agree that effective localization is essential for the achievement of the SDGs – underscoring that the 2030 Agenda and its implementation need to be fully owned and shaped by local and regional governments and their inhabitants as well as other local actors, such as businesses, community-based organizations, and research institutions to make the 2030 Agenda a reality and leave no one and no place behind.

Celebrate the significant localization process already taking place globally and welcome the coordinated and coherent support from the UN System to local, regional and national governments to localizing the SDGs.

Acknowledge that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is a multilevel and multi-stakeholder process that requires a new institutional approach, with inclusive dialogue and a strong complementarity and cooperation among the different spheres of government – local, subnational, national, regional and global – and with the communities they serve and represent.

Emphasise that, at all levels, the SDGs need bold transformative leadership, citizen participation, inclusive governance institutional frameworks, ownership of the SDGs and sustainable development strategies and policies adapted to the wide diversity of local, regional and national contexts.

Highlight the importance of ensuring a gender perspective in the localization of the SDGs as recognition of the crucial role of women in the successful implementation of the local 2030 agenda.

Emphasise the need to explicitly consider heritage, culture and indigenous knowledge as fundamental aspects to be considered to achieve sustainable local development.

Underscore that localization of the SDG is essential to enhance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a bottom-up process, where ownership at the subnational and community level is needed, as well as transparent and open governments and mutual accountability, and that the SDGs can offer an integrated framework for local and territorial development.

Acknowledge that engaging consistent and systematically with all stakeholders in long term implementation of the SDG in the local context is essential, and in particular: awareness

raising to enhance citizens' ownership of the SDGs, capacity development on this new paradigm involving all actors, engagement in multi-stakeholder policy dialogue processes, cementing long-term local SDGs strategies based on broad consensus, implementation of multi stakeholder partnerships and mobilizing mid and long-term investments connected to long-term local SDG strategies.

Recognise the vibrant and diverse multi-actor ecosystems that are boldly pursuing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the subnational and local levels as well as bringing the local voices and perspectives to the international level to shape global discussions. These actors include, first and foremost, local and subnational governments and their organizations at the national, regional and global levels. National governments and regional organizations, as well as the United Nations, are committed to support and amplify this process enabling actors at all levels to work cooperatively and facilitating policy dialogue.

**We, participants at the High-level Dialogue, correspondingly:**

**Commit** to build and cement this local-global movement to accelerate and scale up the localisation of the SDGs, and support efforts to mainstream it in the work of the United Nations, businesses, civil society, academia, and innovators, with the participation of all people living in the territories of the world.

**Commit** to place local governments and their populations, local businesses, grassroots organizations, and other local actors at the centre of SDG policy development, implementation, and follow-up and review.

**Commit** to promote territorial and rural-urban cohesion, sustainable cities and rural areas, through cross-sectoral, integrated approaches to sustainable local and territorial development, as well as inclusive multi-level governance arrangements, localised data systems and data disaggregation.

**Commit** to foster adequate financial instruments and resources to support the localisation processes.

**Commit** to enhance multi-stakeholder and multi-level policy dialogue to generate local 2030 agendas adapted to local contexts, fostering local and territorial SDG strategies and policy coherence; strengthen the capacities, resources, technologies, innovation and data necessary for long term transformations.

**Commit** to promote multilevel, permanent and institutionalized dialogue between national and subnational governments and their associations to support the effective implementation of the 2030 agenda at the subnational level.

**Commit** to energise decentralised development cooperation as a modality to support the implementation of local 2030 agendas, while embedding localization of SDGs into mainstream development cooperation policies.

**Follow-up**

We encourage Local 2030 to serve as a global catalyst of this emerging movement. We encourage UN Member States and all actors to facilitate the participation of institutions championing SDG localization at regional fora on sustainable development and the High Level

Political Forum, including through the scale-up of Voluntary Local Reviews and the continuation of the Local and Regional Governments' Forum convened in July 2018.

We are committed to championing the Local 2030 Agenda at the SDG Summit in September 2019 and to present and further promote this Seville Commitment on that occasion.

We call on the Financing for Development Forum that will be held in April 2019 to support the mobilization of the necessary resources to support local SDG implementation efforts.

Building on the success of this event, we aim to convene such high level gatherings on SDG localization on a biennial basis.

Finally, we thank the wonderful City of Seville for kindly hosting this High-Level Event, and hope that this occasion has laid the foundations for a long-term process to cement this local-global movement and foster a Local 2030 Agenda.

Sevilla, Spain

27<sup>th</sup> February 2019