

## MEETING ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATIONS' INVOLVEMENT IN THE LOCALIZATION OF THE SDGs

### Contributions to the GOLD Report and to the HLPF Report

#### Survey on the role and involvement of Local and Regional Governments and their associations in the SDGs localization

As part of the efforts to support bottom-up monitoring and reporting on the Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the other agendas, UCLG has developed and disseminated a **Survey on the role and involvement of Local and Regional Governments and their associations** to be completed by members and partners with first hand valuable information.

Launched since 2017, this survey aims to help LRGs prepare an annual reporting to the UN regional commissions and to the reporting cycle at UN High-Level Political Forum, organized in July of each year. Likewise, it is expected to support national associations and LRGs in developing their own report, and so contribute to national debates and assess their involvement in the implementation and reporting processes of the SDGs.

**Main results:** 101 LRGs and their association from 61 countries responded to the survey. Twenty-eight of these are reporting to the 2018 HLPF. In Europe a total of 47 answers were collected through a joint initiative with CEMR/Platforma.

The 2018 questionnaire included **eight questions** divided in **3 sections** to analyze (see annex):

- the national context for SDG implementation (3 questions),
- the LRG involvement in the I SDG implementation process (3 questions),
- the impact of the SDG localization process on institutional context and resources (2 questions).

|   | 2016 |     | 2017 |     | 2018 |     | Total<br>(Repeated countries excluded) |     |
|---|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|--|-----|
| <b>Total countries</b>                  | 22   |     | 43   |     | 47   |     | 99                                     |     |
| <b>Consulted</b>                        | 11   | 50% | 17   | 40% | 23   | 53% | 45                                     | 45% |
| <b>Weak consultation</b>                | 4    | 18% | 10   | 23% | 4    | 9%  | 17                                     | 17% |
| <b>Not consulted</b>                    | 7    | 32% | 15   | 35% | 10   | 23% | 30                                     | 30% |
| <b>No Local Governments<sup>1</sup></b> |      |     | 1    |     | 6    |     | 7                                      | 7%  |
| <b>No information<sup>2</sup></b>       |      |     |      |     | 4    |     | 4                                      |     |

*Extracted from GTF 2018, Towards the localization of the SDGs, Local and regional governments' 2<sup>nd</sup> report to the HLPF.*

The **4<sup>th</sup> section**, optional, was proposed as a way to briefly collect examples of LRG-driven initiatives to implement the SDGs and the other Global Agendas at the subnational level. As in previous years, UCLG will engage its members and partner to update and complete the 2019 version of the questionnaire until May 2019 to collect first-hand information to feed in the upcoming GOLD V Report on the Localization of the Global Agendas.

<sup>1</sup> Countries with no Local self-governments: Monaco (2017), Bahrain, Lao PDR, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates

<sup>2</sup> No information: Bahamas, Hungary, Namibia, Republic of Congo.

## Collect good practices from LGAs and LRGs to contribute to the HLPF Report:

In the framework of the GOLD V Report, UCLG is collecting compelling experiences and initiatives from local and regional governments and their associations on Localizing the Global Agendas, to report on **how local and regional governments are contributing to the localization of the SDGs and the other global agendas** (e.g., the Paris Agreement of Climate Change, the New Urban Agenda or the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction). Findings presented to the HLPF show that awareness on the agendas is progressing in each region. Yet, in all regions awareness and pro-activeness is still limited to a group of front-runners.

Notwithstanding, many local and regional governments are concretely contributing to the implementation of the SDGs, as many of the SDGs are part of their daily activities (e.g., *access to education, health, water and sanitation, sustainable waste management, promotion of public transport for all, adequate housing for all groups, slum upgrading, gender equality, participative urban planning, disaster risk prevention, environment impact of urban areas, air pollution and climate-change mitigation and adaptation, among others*).

Therefore, UCLG proposed two initiatives:

- In August 2018 a **simple and accessible template was disseminated** to allow local and regional governments and their associations to describe the actions' most relevant features on a specific domain and details on whether the initiative aims to ensure inclusive participation of local stakeholders.

| NAME OF LRG | MAIN DOMAIN OF INNOVATIVE LOCAL POLICIES   | PARTICIPATION   | SOURCES   |
|-------------|--|---|---|
|             | Describe the actions' most relevant features in a few sentences.<br>Please specify, whenever possible, whether the initiative is explicitly linked to the SDGs or any other global goal or agenda. | Does the action or policy promote involvement of local stakeholders?<br>If yes, in what domain (institutional, financial, cooperation, etc.)? | Please add any website or reference to the info, including a Contact Person (e-mail, position, institution) |

- A desk-based **systematic and regular collection of case studies and good practices** in flagship reports on the implementation of the global agendas at local and regional levels. This qualitative information has been classified by region and by topic to highlight the role of LRGs in the achievement of specific SDGs or any other global goal.

| NAME OF LRG | MAIN ACTOR   | RELATED SDGs   | TOPIC | PROJECT                                    | IMPACTS   | SOURCES   |
|-------------|--|--|-------|--|---|---|
|             | Specify who are the main actors involved in the project implementation | Can it be linked to several SDGs or other global goals |       | Describe the initiative and its objectives | Describe the social, economic, environmental and cultural repercussions | Add any website, award, publication, or reference to the info |

### Questions for debate:

- How can LRGs and their associations get more involved in this process to provide valuable information on what they are doing at local and regional levels? What methodology should UCLG adopt to systematize its data collection on local and regional practices and initiatives?
- How can the Survey be improved for the coming year to provide a more qualitative assessment of LGAs' involvement in the reporting process to the HLPF? Are there any issues that should be integrated in the 2019 survey? Should Section 4 be mandatory or remain optional? How can CEMR and UCLG's surveys be articulated better?

**ANNEX – Questionnaire for the Survey**

**1 National context for the implementation of the SDGs**

- 1.1 What is your national government doing for the implementation of the SDGs? Has it adopted a national policy or strategy to support the SDGs?
- 1.2 Has your national government created any mechanisms to coordinate and ensure the follow-up of SDG implementation (e.g., a high-level committee, a Sustainable Development Council, etc.)? Are local and regional governments associated to these follow-up mechanisms?
- 1.3 If your country is going to report to the UN-HLPF in 2019, what is your knowledge of the reporting process (i.e., your country's Voluntary National Review)? Is your institution being involved in the reporting process?  
If your country reported to the UN in the previous years, what were the outcomes and what has been the follow-up of the reporting process following the event?  
If your country has not reported yet, do you know when it plans to do so?

**2 Local and Regional Governments' (LRGs) involvement in the implementation of the SDGs**

- 2.1 Is your institution promoting any activities to support both the dissemination of information about the SDGs and their implementation at local level ("localization")?
- 2.2 Are LRGs being informed about the SDGs? Are they being progressively involved in the implementation of the SDGs?
- 2.3 Are you aware of whether local governments are developing any monitoring processes and/or indicators related with the implementation of the SDGs at the local level? Do your association or any other organizations provide support to members for the reporting process?

**3 What do LRGs need to support the 'Localization' of the SDGs? Impact of the SDGs on LRGs' institutional context and resources**

- 3.1 Is the SDG process at large having any impact on local governments' institutional context and, specifically, on the relationship between national and subnational governments?
- 3.2 What would LRGs and your organization need, in order to support the "localization" of the SDGs?

**4 Countries reporting in 2019**

- 5 **AFRICA** (18): Argelia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad, Congo (Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Eswatini (Swaziland), Ghana, Lesotho, Mauritania, Mauritius, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia,
- 6 **ASPAC** (11): Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Nauru, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Philippines, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Vanuatu
- 7 **EU** (8): Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, France, Iceland, Israel, Lichtenstein, Serbia, UK
- 8 **Eurasia** (4): Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan
- 9 **LAC** (5): Brazil, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guyana.
- 10 **MEWA** (4): Iraq, Kwait, Oman, Turkey
- 11 **NORAM** (1): Santa Lucia