



## Act local to go global

— SHANGHAI, CHINA —

## CONCEPT NOTE

### ROUNDTABLE 1

17:30 – 19:00 *Beijing Time*

12:30 – 14:00 *Nairobi Time*

10:30 – 12:30 *Central European Time*

## Guiding Local Action to Go Global

### Background

In September 2019, the UN Secretary-General called on all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action to deliver the promises of the SDGs by 2030. In many ways, achieving the SDGs is directly linked to the capacity of local and regional governments to ensure access to basic services that underpin the quality of life. Research shows how the current pandemic has set back parts of the progress made on the 2030 Agenda and made the delivery of services more difficult. Moreover, COVID-19 has demonstrated the crucial role local and regional governments play, taking powerful decisions in exceptional circumstances.

'Localizing' is seen not merely as a technical or predefined process, but as a process that is sensitive to local opportunities, priorities, and ideas. It goes beyond adjusting global goals to the local level and calls for co-creating solutions through the generation of genuine partnerships, resulting in more inclusive, needs-driven, local-level responses to global challenges and objectives. Ultimately, localizing means enabling local governments and communities to be the catalysts of change to support the achievement of the global goals.

As we move forward, strategic decisions need to be carefully designed to determine the way cities and regions continue to respond to the pandemic around the world and how they plan to reconstruct and improve their communities. The New Urban Agenda, which functions as an accelerator of the SDGs, emphasizes the need to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and

sustainable. Thus, it raises awareness of the need for and importance of generating localized actions at the local level. Similarly, it aims to prepare all urban stakeholders on the global level to better understand and apply the propositions for the localization of the SDGs and generate synergies with other agendas, such as the Paris Agreement and the National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Since the recognition of the importance of localizing the SDGs to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a set of processes from monitoring to evaluating, reporting, and planning have been developed and applied in cities. This roundtable will present approaches to work towards SDG localization and discuss challenges and opportunities, as well as the way forward in long-term strategies.

### Objectives

- To offer an open exchange between different partners on mechanisms to implement SDG localization and mainstream the SDGs.
- To better understand the distinct approaches and mechanisms to localize the SDGs.
- To exchange on available tools to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs through localization.
- To share and hear from best examples of SDG localization that can be extrapolated and tailored to different contexts.

## Expected Results

- The acceleration of SDG implementation in cities and territories among stakeholders and constituencies is promoted.
- The UN-Habitat approach towards localizing the SDGs is explained and highlighted.

## Guiding Questions

- What is the value added and challenges for cities and organizations working in urban environments to make use of the SDGs as a guiding framework?
- What are the main mechanisms and key tools used at the local level to mainstream the SDGs in cities and organizations working in urban environments?
- Please share your particular experience(s) from your city and organization.
- How can local government organizations promote effective approaches to mainstream SDG localization?

## Moderator:

- **Mr. Bruno Dercon**, Officer-in-Charge, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

## Panelists:

1. **Mr. Dyfed Aubrey**, Senior Human Settlements Officer and Lead, SDG Cities, UN-Habitat
2. **Mr. Ville Tajaamaa**, Project Manager - VLR protocol & SDG work, City of Espoo, Finland
3. **Mr. Togo Ushida**, Executive Director, Japan Office, ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
4. **Ms. Marjolijn Versteegden**, Global Solution Director Net Zero Facilities & Sustainable Communities, Arcadis, The Netherlands
5. **Mr. Nicolas Gharbi**, Principal Advisor, City Diplomacy and International affairs, Madrid, Spain
6. **Dr. Shi Nan**, Vice President and Secretary General of the Urban Planning Society of China

### Note to the speakers:

- Speakers will be provided with the link to join the session a few days in advance. The link will be opened one hour before the beginning of the roundtable in order to test the connection.
- Please provide a bio of yourself (200 words)
- Please provide a short narrative on the topic of your specific contribution (maximum 200 words)
- *(optional)* You may want to provide a powerpoint presentation (maximum 5 slides) prior to the event
- Please share the above with [Damien.Thibon@un.org](mailto:Damien.Thibon@un.org) before 26 October 2022.