



## GLOBAL TASKFORCE

OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

FOR **POST-2015** DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

TOWARDS **HABITAT III**

# All SDGs are Local: Towards an Action Agenda in Habitat III

## LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS CELEBRATE THE NEW DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

NEW YORK 27 SEPTEMBER

**We, Mayors, Presidents of regional governments and representatives of our associations gathered in New York, celebrate the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the acknowledgement of the role that cities and sub-national governments need to play in all its dimensions, particularly Goal 11 and Goal 16.**

**Recalling** the statements of the Global Taskforce from 2012 to 2015, in particular our joint statement with all Major Groups on the need for stand-alone goal on sustainable urbanization, the recommendations of the Global Consultation on Localization, our work together under the Urban Campaign, and the Lyon Declaration on Climate and Territories,

**We want to share with you, the citizens we serve, the international community, our partners and our governments, the following commitments and convictions:**

### **Territories are where livelihoods are guaranteed**

We emphasize that cities and territories are where women and men, girls and boys, live, where they work to create their livelihoods and where dreams are made. They are where poverty and inequalities are tackled, where health and education services are provided, where ecosystems are protected, and human rights must be guaranteed.

### **The achievement of all SDGs requires local action**

We, local and regional leaders the world round, are convinced that, by giving specific attention to the localization of all goals, particularly to sustainable urbanization in SDG 11 and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions under SGG 16, the new agenda is triggering the type of transformation in our joint action that will lead to the world we want.

All the SDGs have a local dimension that is essential to their achievement. We, as political leaders, with a direct mandate from citizens, have a responsibility to contribute to the achievement of all of the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda is a product of unprecedented global consultation and dialogue, in which local and regional governments have actively participated. Acknowledging the vital role of local and regional governments in the achievement of the Agenda will enable us to mobilize local stakeholders and to create new partnerships, based on a common understanding of our shared humanity.

Local governments and their associations need to be strengthened to engage in the implementation process, both in the definition and implementation. All local governments need to have the means and the capacity to improve administration,

anticipate demands, plan and implement solutions. Peer-to-peer review among local governments has proven to be a very effective way of achieving strengthened local governments. The challenges faced are universal and need to be addressed together by all territories big and small and in all countries, including small island developing states (SIDS).

### **Citizens in the driver's seat**

We will need to ensure that citizens are involved in the decisions that affect their future. "Effective, accountable and transparent institutions" and "responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels" require a clear institutional framework, reinforced management and planning capacities, participatory mechanisms and regular financial negotiations between all levels of government and local communities to define priorities and move to action. Subsidiarity must be promoted as a vehicle to strengthen democracy and territorial cohesion in strong partnership with civil society and other stakeholders, including the private sector.

### **No success without a fairer distribution of resources and investment**

We know that massive public and private investments will be necessary to improve resilient infrastructures and access to basic services in cities and territories, address inequalities, support local economies, promote culture as driver of development, cope with the impact of climate change, and build the cities that will host 2.5 billion new urban residents over the next three decades, mostly in developing countries. The "city must be able to better finance the city" through the mobilization of endogenous resources and improved access to financing. ***This includes the need for all residents, including local and international businesses paying their fair share of national and local taxes.*** This includes ***also*** access for local governments to new financing mechanisms, in partnership with private sector and local communities. However, public financing will continue to play a critical role in financing basic services and infrastructures, particularly in less developed countries. This implies ***finally as well*** a fairer distribution of national resources between territories and a better targeting of ODA to support basic services in less developed countries.

We accordingly welcome the commitment to scaling up international cooperation to strengthen capacities of municipalities and other local authorities and the strong focus on sub-national financing mechanism in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, which forms the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We look forward to governments, at national and international level, giving concrete effect to this commitment.

### **Solidarity, dignity and peace**

We believe the 2030 Agenda should enable individuals to live and be what they choose, and encourage them to be mindful of the consequences of their actions and their responsibility towards the commons. This will only be possible if we bridge the distance between citizens and their governments, building ***trust between people and government, through a*** dialogue that leads to tolerance, understanding and sustainable peace.

Citizens understand that the cities and territories they live in do not exist in isolation, but are influenced by global phenomena, particularly environmental challenges. There is a new understanding of citizenship with a strong global dimension that links our destinies and needs to be anchored locally. Constructing societies based on cultural diversity, solidarity, equality and accountability from the bottom up will be a guarantee of resilience and sustainability. It will help us face humanitarian crises that will need to be addressed all over the world if the sustainable development goals are to be met.

## From goals to actions; localizing the agenda

We need to transform the 2030 Agendas into policies and concrete actions at local level. We will tirelessly work to improve the management of our territories, and we will continue innovating and learning from one another. This will also be critical in the follow-up and review process to the 2030 Agenda, and the envisaged review of progress at sub-national level. We will bring the lessons we have learned to the Climate Negotiations in COP 21 and to the Habitat III Conference in Quito, through the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

## The Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments

We, the inheritors of the hundred-year-old international municipal movement, created by and for local governments, are organizing the Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments in 2016. The Assembly will build on the capacity of cities with longstanding international traditions of decentralized cooperation, and on the independent national, continental and global associations of local governments. The Assembly will be organized through our democratic structures of representation and will be a joined-up platform where local voices can be transmitted and where recommendations and decisions will be made on relevant global agendas.

## New partnerships with local leadership

We call for the national governments, international institutions, the academic world and our development partners, to join us and to foster new partnerships with local political leaders and civil society in decision-making.

**We, local and regional government leaders gathered in New York today, are fully committed to the success of the 2030 Agenda and , call for a new Global Governance Architecture under a renewed United Nations System with enhanced participation of stakeholders in general, and the recognition of local and regional governments as governmental stakeholders in particular.**

