
UN HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM 2021

Side event on “Accelerating Local Action”

8 July 2021 – 15:00-16:30 CEST

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ACTIONS



8 July 2021, 15:00-16:30 CEST

Session on “Accelerating Local action”

Organized by UCLG and UN-Desa, within the framework of HLPF21


Brief Description:

Within the framework of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, this event organized by United Cities and Local Governments, in collaboration with UN DESA, aims to promote the UN’s acceleration actions initiative to promote the achievement of the SDGs and present the contributions and acceleration actions of Local and Regional Governments through the UCLG Local4Action HUBs initiative.

In this context, and focusing on the post-COVID era, UCLG has been concretizing specific work lines **for the 2030 Agenda’s implementation to empower recovery efforts**: enhancing the implementation means of the constituency of Local and Regional Governments through the UCLG Local4Action HUBs initiative fostering different scenarios:

- **Building back/forward better: showcasing and synchronizing local practices and initiatives on sustainability as a leverage for SDG acceleration.**
From fostering gender equality, climate action, culture, education and nature based solutions to the defense of public services, the co-creation of local values and roadmaps towards sustainability with the aim of building partnerships, the experiences gathered by the current UCLG Local4Action HUBs initiatives are addressing challenges and solutions to accelerate the transformations and commitments needed to foster recovery.
- **Innovation as a key driver in the post-COVID for local and regional government acceleration commitments towards the 2030 Agenda.**
Cities and regions are pivots of creativity and innovation. In the contexts of recovery, this transformational power inherent to the local arena have brought key contributions to better understand the pressing challenges and come up with key solutions to face the crisis and guarantee an inclusive recovery focusing in widening rights, building a strong social fabric and bridging economic and ecological gaps to help address and achieve sustainable development. The Local4Action Hub initiative by UCLG is fostering spaces to exchange and up-scale this innovation.
- **An equality driven movement - Leaving no one and no place behind: working hand in hand with Least Developed Countries Membership**

UCLG and the constituency of Local and Regional governments is convinced that the 2030 Agenda is a key framework for the transformation required for the COVID-19 aftermath, and most importantly to ensure an equitable recovery. As the only way to achieve a sustainable recovery that leaves no-one and no territory behind is to foster the principles of equity and solidarity. Through the Local4Action HUBs initiative, UCLG wants to visualize existing initiatives, provide them with an international profile and when necessary to facilitate seed financial support or international expertise. The objective is to seek enhanced participation of UCLG membership from Least Developed Countries (LDC), as defined by the United Nations (UN) in order to complement, enhance and empower the solutions and partnerships promoted by local governments.



Draft Program: (90 minutes)

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| 20 min | Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carola Gunnarson, Mayor of Sala and Vice-Presidente of UCLG• Elkin Velasquez, Regional Director of UN-Habitat for Latino-America and Caribbean• Emilia Saiz, Secretary General of UCLG |
| 35 min | Local4Action HUBs and the Recovery: Equality & Solidarity, an equality driven movement Showcasing and synchronizing local practices and initiatives on sustainability as leverage for SDG acceleration Accelerating from Madrid, Spain Santiago Saura , Councilor for International Affairs, Madrid SDG 3/13 - <i>Local4Action HUB Madrid</i> Accelerating from Xi'an, China WEI Xueyong , Deputy Division Chief of International Exchange and Cooperation of Xi'an Jiaotong University, SDG 4,5,8 and 17- <i>Local4Action HUB Xian</i> Accelerating from Cuenca, Ecuador Fabian Ledesme , Councilor of Cuenca SDG 17 - <i>Local4Action HUB Cuenca</i> Johannes Krassnitzer , Coordinator of the UNDP ART initiative Violet Shivutse , Governing Council Chair, Huairou Commission |
| 25 mn | Reactions Nicholas You , Executive Director, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation Carla Rey , Secretary General AICCRE Jacqueline Moustache Belle , UCLG Africa Manuel Redaño , Executive Director FAMSI Ines Madariaga , GAP Vice President |
| 10 min | Closing |

