CONCEPT NOTE

SDG Local Solutions

TOPIC

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The session aims to explore, through the exchange of concrete local and regional experiences from the Barcelona Provincial Government and the Municipal Government of Montevideo, the transformations introduced by the process of appropriation, localization and territorialization of UN global Agendas such as the 2030 Agenda in their own strategies, governance structures, planning practices, the redefinition of policy priorities, as well as in the delivery of local public services.

Local and regional governments understand territorialization not as a merely technical process, but as a political and institutional one. They emerge as key actors in the achievement of global agendas with concrete actions and impactful results. Within this framework, proximity-based public services are consolidating as essential responses to international challenges.

The localization of international agendas has encouraged the adoption of new governance mechanisms and highlighted the need to strengthen information systems through the collection of more disaggregated and context-sensitive social and economic data.

Finally, the webinar will focus on concrete examples on how the UN global agendas have transformed local policies and improved public service delivery.

The webinar will explore the role of local and regional governments as transformative actors that promote data-driven policy adoption, new forms of inclusive, multilevel and multistakeholder governance, more oriented to concrete results. It will also explore new local new planning tools, and how these have contributed to strengthening accountability, participation, and transparency.

OBJETIVES

- Analyse the role of local and regional governments as transformative actors in the localization of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the challenges they face and potential solutions and forms of support, providing concrete experiences on how these global agendas have become local actions.

- Identify experiences and tools developed by local and regional governments to improve the planning, management and monitoring of public policies and local services because of the in the involvement, discussion, adoption and territorialization of UN global agendas.

CASE STUDIES

Barcelona Provincial Government

The Barcelona Provincial Government has made the 2030 Agenda its own strategic framework, both within the institution and in its support to the 311 municipalities of the province. Through its Strategy 2030 Service, it adopted the Strategic Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda 2021-2030 (EstratègiA2030) to guide its own policies and governance. It also created planning, budgeting and monitoring tools for municipalities: localized SDG targets, a guide to align local budgets with the SDGs, and VISOR2030, a multidimensional indicator system that tracks each municipality's contribution to the 17 SDGs. These tools come with technical advice, funding for local 2030 agendas and dedicated support for municipalities of up to 5,000 inhabitants. Together with its Voluntary Local Review and regular public reporting, this approach has made SDG localization a political and institutional process that strengthens data-driven decision-making, accountability and the delivery of services close to people across the whole territory.

Municipality of Montevideo

The city of Montevideo created inLAB as a public innovation mechanism of the, developed by the Public Innovation Management Office to institutionalize innovation across all organizational levels; through open calls, multidisciplinary teams of staff from diverse departments and hierarchical levels engage in a five-day intensive innovation cycle—covering problem reframing, stakeholder mapping, ideation, prototyping, and preliminary validation—supported by technical mentorship, digital fabrication, geomatics, smart technologies, and methodological guidance, which has already generated 13 strategic prototypes moving toward institutional implementation and accelerated the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into concrete, citizen-centred public solutions tailored to Montevideo.

SPEAKERS

MARIA GARCIA BRUGADA

Head of the Strategy 2030 Service at the Presidency Services Directorate, Presidency Area, of the Barcelona Provincial Government (Diputació de Barcelona). She holds a degree in Sociology, specializing in Political Sociology, a postgraduate degree in Local Government from the University of Barcelona and a Master's in Citizen Participation and Sustainable Development from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She has over 20 years of public-sector experience and has held several senior management positions. Her work focuses on three areas: the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs as a strategic framework for public action; public sector innovation and transformation; and knowledge generation and strategic reflection on public policy challenges, grounded in data and evidence. Through these areas, she promotes projects and spaces for reflection to understand the changes and challenges facing public administrations, strengthen their capacity to innovate and transform, and improve data- and knowledge-driven decision-making.

ANDREA APOLARO LEMO

Public Innovation Manager at the Intendencia de Montevideo. She holds a Master's in Social Psychology, is a graduate of the Innovation Track programme, and researches open innovation and the commons. She has over 20 years of experience leading public transformation, service design and citizen innovation projects in local governments.

MODERATOR

NAIARA COSTA

Naiara Costa is Chief of the Outreach and Partnerships Unit in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals at UN DESA. She leads stakeholder engagement, partnerships and outreach for SDG-related intergovernmental processes and major UN conferences, advancing inclusive participation and evidence-based contributions to sustainable development.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How has the municipality integrated the SDGs into the planning, implementation and monitoring of its public policies and local services?
- How are the SDGs reflected in the municipality's planning instruments (development plan, sectoral strategies, budget)?
- What mechanisms, if any, are used to monitor progress (indicators, data systems, reporting cycles)?
- What concrete changes has SDG localization produced in the way the municipality designs and delivers public services? Please describe what worked differently before and after, and how you know.
- Please describe one or two flagship initiatives that illustrate how the municipality is addressing a global challenge locally. For each, include: the problem it responded to, who was involved, what results or data you can share, and what proved difficult.
- What have been the main obstacles in this process, and what capacities or support does the municipality still need?

AGENDA

5 min	Introduction by Diana Lopez Caramazana, Advisor, cities and local governments, UNDP.
10 min	Moderator's introduction to the session.
15 min	First experience, followed by a question from the second experience.
15 min	Second experience, followed by a question from first experience.
12 min	Questions and answers from the audience.
3 min	Closing and conclusions by the moderator.

Organized by UNDP in the framework of its work with cities and local governments, this series of webinars generate a conversation between cities to highlight local solutions to implement Agenda 2030. The lessons learnt will be shared globally through UNDP's SDG Local Action networks, webpage https://sdglocalaction.org/ and YouTube channel https://www.youtube.com/@sdglocalaction8192