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*Shaping Fair Cities:  
Integrating the 2030 Agenda within local policies  
in times of great migration and refugee flows*

A Toolkit



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## Introduction

**The Beginning.** To investigate the citizens' opinion and knowledge about the SDGs, migration, gender equality, climate change, and the role their city should play for sustainable development, a survey was run between July and September 2018 among the twelve partners of the "Shaping Fair Cities" (SFC) project in the EU (Forlì, Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy; Vejle in Denmark; Patras in Greece; Alicante in Spain; Iasi in Romania; Split in Croatia; and Poznań in Poland) and in two co-applicant partner countries (Scutari in Albania; and Pemba in Mozambique).

This survey showed that ensuring health and well-being for all (Goal 3), and guaranteeing universal, equal access to drinking water, to adequate hygienic systems and sanitary facilities (Goal 6) were the number one priority in most municipalities, immediately followed by eliminating all forms of poverty (Goal 1), hunger and malnutrition (Goal 2).

Conversely, the protection of the environment and the urgency to find adaptation and mitigation solutions to climate change did not represent a high priority for the interviewees.

Surprisingly, whereas most of the interviewees appeared to agree on the importance of guaranteeing gender equality through the promotion of a culture of equal opportunities and empowerment policies, the fight against gender violence was the worst ranked objective overall. Contrasting views were also outlined in the realm of migration and integration policies as well as regarding the impact that climate change can have on them.

While European citizens showed very poor knowledge of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, most of interviewees in Mozambique had heard about them. Most interviewees considered that being informed about SDGs was important and that the national and local governments should play a part in developing them.

With regard to the initial confidence with which the interviewees deal with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, the survey highlighted many gaps, both of theoretical and practical concern.

For instance, sustainable development is still felt as an unclear concept by policy/decision makers, relevant stakeholders and also by the general public. Regarding the connections between migration and gender, the gap is almost total. This means that several societies have not yet endorsed the concepts of gender equality and the difference between gender and sex, thus more efforts have to be made for the audience to become acquainted with these terms as well as with those related to migration. Indeed, the awareness of the different forms of international protection in the EU (refugee status and subsidiary protection) and the inherent status they provide, is very low. The difference

between these and other instruments to ensure temporary protection (i.e. temporary protection, humanitarian permit) is not gathered. This paves the way to the use (and abuse sometimes) of misleading terms, such as economic migrant, illegal migrant etc.

The main barriers to the integration of migrants, particularly women, in the receiving societies - as highlighted by the survey - concern the language (where the most common languages are not known by the local community and information and services are provided in the national language only); the national origin of the foreigners that may limit their employability; similarly, race and ethnicity can be further obstacles to the integration of foreigners. In this respect, some States, like Poland, stated that they are “*virtually ethnically homogeneous*” and that they should not receive migrants. This argument was dismissed by the Court of Justice of the European Union (C-643/15 and C-647/15, Slovakia and Hungary v. Council, 6.9.2017). Likewise, migrants’ religion and culture is deemed to negatively affect their inclusion in the host community.

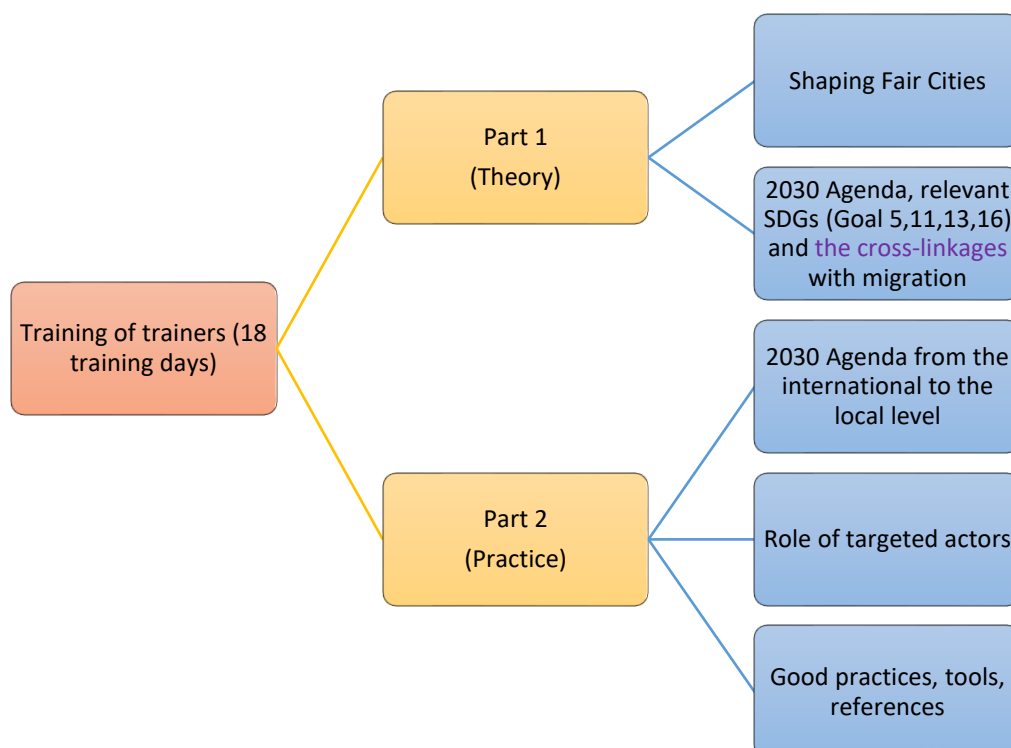
**The Aim.** This Toolkit seeks to fill the gaps identified in the survey by the SFC’s partners, providing an exhaustive description of both the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and showing their interlinked nature. It lays down a set of guidelines, tools, and advice for those who are actively involved in their implementation at the local level, such as local authorities, trade associations and trade unionists, operators, volunteers, activists, representatives of non-profit organizations, citizens, decision-makers, researchers, officials of voluntary service centers and networks, and other relevant stakeholders. It aims at raising citizens’ and practitioners’ awareness of the SDGs as well as at improving their knowledge of the opportunities and implications of the 2030 Agenda to ultimately increase their potential as key multiplier actors for the local implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. It empowers beneficiaries with both theoretical and practical support, by outlining examples of good local practices and models to implement projects and policies in line with the SDGs. Moreover, this Toolkit is meant to be the main tool for the development of other activities included in WS2, namely International Training of Trainers (A2.2), the National trainings (A2.3) and the University Summer/Winter Schools (A2.5).

**The Structure.** This Toolkit is organized in two main parts, Theory and Practice, that together provide the participants in the “Training of Trainers” pilot event with the necessary theoretical basis and practical tools to widely share the contents of the 2030 Agenda in their countries. The first part will set out the nature, the scope, and the core principles of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs with special

educational activities on those SDGs identified as priorities by the SFC project, namely migration, climate change, gender, and their intersections. This operation is necessary in order to level out the knowledge of the beneficiaries, providing them with the same level of expertise. Great attention will also be devoted to the actors involved, the interlinkages among SDGs, the progress made and the additional efforts that are required. At the same time, an initial explanation of these elements - supported by data, infographics and useful reading material - will be provided together with a first overview of the involvement of regional and local institutions in integrating these international goals at their domestic level.

The second more practical and pedagogic part aims at providing the audience with the tools of the trade, enriching their background with concrete techniques, inspiring approaches and good practices to implement SDG 5, 11, 13, and 16 respectively in their own territories. The lessons will go therefore hand in hand with practical training exercises, teamwork activities and the presentation of successful local initiatives to implement the Agenda. The scheme below shows the possible structure of the training days.

SCHEME 1: “Training of trainers: An Overview”



## Part 1: Theory

### The SFC Project

The Shaping Fair Cities (SFC) project reflects and promotes the commitments that States unanimously undertook in 2015 with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda. The project focuses on the role that cities and sub-national governments need to play in achieving the SDGs, in particular Goal 11 (making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and Goal 16 (promoting peaceful and inclusive societies). The SFC project aims at raising awareness in the territory of the State partners, i.e. 8 EU countries and 2 EU partner countries, as well as proactively involving a broad range of relevant development actors in the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda, among which local policy makers, decision-makers, citizens, civil servants and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), trade unionists, journalists, volunteers, the private sector, and any other relevant stakeholder. In times of great migration and refugee flows, the project primarily seeks to enhance migration governance responses at the local level, by implementing a series of adequate and inclusive tools to release the full potential of migration and of migrants as agents of sustainable development. In promoting a well-managed and well-structured local governance of migration, great emphasis is given to embedding a gender approach (Goal 5) in local migration policies, as well as to implementing actions to combat climate change adverse impacts (Goal 13) on local communities and vulnerable groups, including migrants. Addressing these challenges in a comprehensive, inclusive and human rights-based manner is essential to achieve both Goal 11 and 16.

*Thanks to the SFC project, 14 Local Authorities – 4 Regional Governments, 8 EU Municipalities and 2 EU partners Municipalities - for a total urban population of 3.697.600 people, have adopted an action plan for implementing, communicating and monitoring SDGs at local level with special reference to SDGs 5, 11, 13 and 16 with a special focus on migration and gender.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://progeu.regione.emilia-romagna.it/en/faircities>, emphasis added



## The SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

2015 was a central year for sustainable development, marked by four important international conferences and notable outcomes (the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction adopted the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030; the Third International Conference on Financing for Development adopted the Addis Ababa Action Agenda; the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference adopted the Paris Climate Agreement; 193 Heads of State and Government at the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development on 25 September 2015) that defined the elements of a new global development framework aimed at increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities, reducing and containing the adverse effects of climate change, as well as paving the way to greater sustainability.

### What is sustainable development?

Sustainable development has been defined as “*development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs*”<sup>2</sup>. Traditionally, this has meant pursuing sustainable development across its three dimensions: economic, environmental, and social. However, broader interpretations of the concept entail ensuring human well-being and dignity, gender equality and social justice, upholding human rights principles, widening freedoms and promoting peace<sup>3</sup>. Sustainable development thus requires efforts to achieving an inclusive, sustainable and resilient future for people and the planet.

Sustainable development is not a goal that can be achieved with isolated actions and ad hoc plans. Sustainable development concerns each individual on this Earth, each environment and site, and all the other elements. It concerns physical and psychological well-being and health. That is why the 2030 Agenda calls for the active engagement of each State, in each sector, and of each development actor, from the single individual to the biggest entity.

### Why is migration important to sustainable development?

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes for the first time the contribution that migration can bring to sustainable development in all its dimensions. Migration is in fact a cross-

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<sup>2</sup> 1987 World Commission on Environment and Development report, A/42/427, p.43

<sup>3</sup> UN Women, Gender Equality and Sustainable Development: A Pathways Approach, Discussion Paper No. 13, July 2016

cutting issue, relevant to all of the SDGs and most of their targets. Adequate migration governance and policies allow migration to release its full potential and bring significant development benefits to both countries of origin and of destination. Migrants promote trade and investment, they bring innovation, skills and knowledge to their countries of origin and destination. Migrant workers fill both labour market gaps, stimulating the economies of the receiving countries that in turn create more jobs and generate more tax revenue, and demographic gaps in old societies. They remit a great amount to their home countries, allowing for education, healthcare, and small economic activities there. Migrants and local communities can be part of a great exchange of values, experiences and skills, increasing tolerance and cultural diversity. Empowering migrants to fulfil their own development potential is an aim set forth both in the 2030 Agenda, in the 2016 New York Declaration and in the GCM<sup>4</sup>.

#### Why is climate change important to sustainable development?

Climate change is already affecting the environment as a whole, peace, security, public health, food and water security, and migration; putting the people's life and livelihood at serious risk. As the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres recently affirmed, climate change will make further progress toward a better future impossible, rolling back to an unwanted future.

If limited and well-managed, counteractions on climate change will lead to sustainable development, as climate mitigation and adaptation strategies address also other components of sustainable development.

#### Why is gender important to sustainable development?

All too often, sustainable development is still seen primarily in terms of environmental sustainability, a narrow vision of what the concept really represents. *"Gender equality is not just the concern of half of the world's population; it is a human right, a concern for us all, because no society can develop – economically, politically, or socially – when half of its population is marginalized"*<sup>5</sup>. If everybody has the right to enjoy the benefits of sustainable development, it is first necessary to put an end to discrimination and inequality within and among individuals. Women are among those most exposed

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<sup>4</sup> To assess whether your territory has effectively explored the interlinkages between migration and development, please refer to: Working Group: Recognizing the interlinkages between migration and development

<sup>5</sup> Idem

to the adverse impacts of unsustainable practices and climate change, because they often have no independent income, fair employment or access to equal opportunities. They are often among the most vulnerable because of gender-based barriers that leave them further behind. No development, let alone fully sustainable development, is possible as long as discrepancies between men and women persist.

### What is the 2030 Agenda?

The 2030 Agenda *“is a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It also seeks to strengthen universal peace in larger freedom”*<sup>6</sup>. These words entail a commitment to globally achieve sustainable development by 2030, ensuring that no one is left behind. Although the Agenda is not legally binding, all signatory countries have the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Agenda in a concrete spirit of collaborative partnership and global solidarity, thus establishing an appropriate national framework, duly enriched with sustainable development policies and programs that will successfully achieve the SDGs by 2030. In their own words, in fact, States adopted *“a historic decision on a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Goals and targets”*.

The 2030 Agenda itself consists of 4 sections: 1) A political Declaration; 2) A set of 17 sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets (reflecting five critical areas: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership); 3) Means of Implementation for every SDG; 4) A framework for follow up and review of the Agenda.

### Where does the Agenda come from?

This new global framework to redirect humanity towards a sustainable path was developed following the 2012 UN Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro followed by a two-year consultation process involving UN Member States, national surveys engaging millions of people and thousands of actors from all over the world.

In September 2000, at the UN Millennium Summit, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the first ever agreed global strategy with quantifiable targets, in

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<sup>6</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, A/RES/70/1, preamble

which they committed to achieving within the next fifteen years 8 revolutionary goals which guided global action on the reduction of extreme poverty in its multiple dimensions:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

The SDGs are built on, and replace, the MDGs for the period 2015-2030. The differences between the MDGs and the SDGs are of notable importance. First of all, while the SDGs maintain the focus on poverty reduction, they embrace a comprehensive development approach that considers both people and the planet in their different aspects. With 169 targets, the 17 SDGs are broader in scope, cover more ground than the MDGs, and put greater emphasis on the means of implementation. Indeed, the mobilization of financial resources, capacity-building and technology, together with reliable data and strong institutions are a core feature of the 2030 Agenda. Secondly, each country is implementing them. Many critics, in fact, argued that many States chose to implement just a bunch of the MDGs, thus boycotting the equal and fair fulfillment of the targets at global level. The territorial application of the MDGs was severely questioned as they were only applied to countries of the global South. The attempt of the developed world to impose itself on the developing world was again at the center of the debate. The SDGs, on the contrary, refer to all countries without exceptions. An element confirming this approach is embedded in the Agenda itself, namely in its universality.

#### The 2030 Agenda: Universal, human rights-based, and inclusive

The 2030 Agenda is universal, meaning that it refers to each country and to each individual. Thus, it aims at achieving sustainable development for everyone, with benefits and opportunities for all. The feature of “universality” is therefore embedded in the principle of not leaving anyone behind. This principle concerns the equal distribution of development gains across all territories and demographic

groups. This goes hand in hand with other features, namely cooperation and solidarity, and with another important principle already used in several international environmental arrangements, i.e. the principle of common but differentiated responsibility. This means that countries that have disproportionately contributed to environmental degradation must take greater responsibility, make more efforts, and sustain higher costs to protect the planet. In supporting the achievement of the 17 SDGs, the Agenda endorses and promotes a strong human rights-based approach. Just think about the achievement of gender equality, the eradication of extreme poverty, access to basic services, education etc. All these targets represent the practical implementation of human rights' provisions.

### Where is the 2030 Agenda going?

The 2019 UNSTAT Report on SDGs progress<sup>7</sup> shows that since 2015 progress has been made by governments in some critical areas, however more efforts are still required to achieve good results in other challenging areas. For instance, the Report highlights the positive outcomes obtained in reducing extreme poverty and child mortality, as well as the overall increased access to electricity and immunization. Commitments towards climate change, environmental protection and sustainable urban growth are being implemented through the promotion of local policies and the signature of international agreements (i.e. the Paris Agreement). On the other hand, "*monumental challenges remain*"<sup>8</sup>. The biggest and more urgent among these is the worsening of climate change and the increasingly adverse impacts on territories and communities. Sea level and temperatures are still rising, global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C in the next decades, the number of extreme weather disasters are increasing, coastal erosion is advancing, one million plant and animal species are at serious risk of extinction. Consequences will be devastating for the most vulnerable people and for the globe itself. Inequality among and within countries is far from being reduced. Poverty, hunger and disease continue to be a worrisome reality in the poorest and most vulnerable groups of people and countries, and women in all parts of the world continue to face structural disadvantages and discrimination.

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<sup>7</sup> UNSTAT, The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019, available at <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Idem, p. 3

## SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**5.1** End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

**5.2** Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

**5.3** Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation

**5.4** Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate

**5.5** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life

**5.6** Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

### *\*Means of Implementation\**

**5.a** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws

**5.b** Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women

**5.c** Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels

### Quick Data

- *Progress toward gender equality in the MDGs period (2000-2015) was highly uneven and failed to address and measure inequalities based on income, race, ethnicity and geographical location*

- Globally, **750 million** women and girls have married before the age of 18 and at least **200 million** women and girls in 30 countries have undergone female genital mutilation. In Africa and the Middle East, where this practice is more common, **1 in 3** girls aged 15-19 have experienced some form of female genital mutilation/cutting.
- In 18 countries, husbands can legally prevent their wives from working; in 39 countries, daughters and sons do not have equal inheritance rights; and 49 countries lack laws protecting women from domestic violence.
- **One in five** women and girls, including 19% of women and girls aged 15 to 49, has experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner with the last 12 months. In a lifetime, the percentage increases up to 35% for the same issue. Yet, **49 countries** have no laws that specifically protect women from such violence.
- While women have made important inroads into political office across the world, their representation in national parliaments is only **23.7%**, which is still far from equality.
- The gender pay gap stands at 23 per cent globally and, without decisive action, it will take another **68 years** to achieve equal pay
- Only 52% of women who are either married or in a partnership are free to make their own decisions about sexual relations, contraceptive use and health care

Source: UN Women, Turning promises into action, 2018, p. 14 and p.28. Emphasis added

## [An Overview of the main features](#)

### What is “gender”?

According to UN Women<sup>9</sup>, the term “gender” refers to the socially constructed characteristics and opportunities associated with both men and women, at their different stages of growth, as well as the relationships of and between groups of women and men. The notion of gender varies across cultures, regions and in the course of time. It is applicable to other cross-cutting variables such as race, political status, age, ethnicity, and it “determines what is expected, allowed and valued in a woman or a man in a given context. In most societies there are differences and inequalities between

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<sup>9</sup> UN Women, Important Concepts Underlying Gender Mainstreaming, available at: <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/conceptsanddefinitions.htm>

women and men in responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken, access to and control over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities". In other words, "gender includes the expectations held about the characteristics, attitudes and likely behaviours of both women and men (femininity and masculinity)"<sup>10</sup>. In using the term "gender" to shed light on women's subordination as something that has been socially (not biologically) constructed, UNESCO clearly explains the roots of the concept.

### What is "gender equality"?

As gender equally addresses men and women, the concept of "gender equality" concerns the rights, responsibilities and opportunities that males and females must be both and equally entitled to, regardless of their sex. Gender equality means that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men should be considered, bearing in mind their biological diversity. *"Equality between women and men is seen both as a human rights issue and as a precondition for, and indicator of, sustainable people-centred development"*<sup>11</sup>.

### What is "women's empowerment"?

Women's empowerment concerns the control that women gain over their own lives. It is about women's self-confidence; their right to determine choices on their own; their right to have access to opportunities (education, training, professional activities) and resources; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to end gender discrimination, nationally and internationally. Institutions including international cooperation agencies can support processes to foster self-empowerment of individuals or groups.

### What are women's human rights?

At the international level, the Charter of the United Nations, the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the two 1966 International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and

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<sup>10</sup> UNESCO's Gender Mainstreaming Implementation Framework, Baseline definitions of key concepts and terms, April 2003

<sup>11</sup> *Idem*, p.1



Cultural Rights, the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, all explicitly condemn sex and gender discrimination, and declare that women are entitled to the same human rights as men, in light of their universality.

Beyond these international human rights treaties, also regional human rights arrangements protect and promote the common and equal enjoyment of human rights. Among these, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms as well as the Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence adopted in 2011 in Istanbul, all consider gender equality as a priority issue and condemn any kind of discrimination and violence against women<sup>12</sup>.

In addition, both the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women have clearly stated that women's right to health includes their sexual and reproductive health. This means that States have obligations to respect, protect and fulfil the rights related to women's sexual and reproductive health, that are also related to multiple human rights, such as the right to life, the right to be free from torture, the right to health, the right to privacy, the right to education and the prohibition of discrimination<sup>13</sup>.

### *What international arrangements are at the basis of SDG 5?*

- The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, an essential arrangement for gender equality and women's empowerment that includes a gender-based approach in tackling the main challenges of that time (environment, poverty, employment etc.)
- The 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), a crucial document that highlights women's rights, and tackles gender-based discrimination

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<sup>12</sup> For an in-depth analysis of international and regional women's human rights standards, please see OHCHR, Women's Rights are Human Rights, Geneva, 2014

<sup>13</sup> *Idem*, p.50

- The 2014 Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) seeks to prevent violence, abuse and harassment against women, protect the victims and prosecute the perpetrators

### *What is it about and why is it important to achieve?*

According to UN Women, gender inequality still persists in global societies. In fact, even if some indicators are performing well, such as the significant decline in the prevalence of female genital mutilation and early marriage, others are still worrisome. UN Women reports that more efforts are needed especially in practices and behaviours at the core of gender inequality, for instance legal discrimination, unfair social norms and attitudes, decision-making on sexual and reproductive issues and low political participation.

At EU level, even if the EU28 composite indicator for SDG 5 shows an increasing trend from 2010 and 2017, this seems to be mainly due to the improvement of two targets, i.e. “Seats held by women in national parliaments and governments” and “Positions held by women in senior management positions”<sup>14</sup>.

The 2030 Agenda shows to be well and fully aware of this state of affairs. Therefore, its commitment to SDG 5 is consistent, comprehensive and determined to address the current challenges to gender equality. Thus, it is by no means accidental that the Goal strongly recalls the Beijing Declaration and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Also UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres clearly showed the importance of achieving gender equality not only as a core value of the 2030 Agenda, but also as a catalyst for sustainable development for all, declaring that *“Human rights and gender equality are core principles of this bold agenda, underpinning our efforts to prevent conflict, overcome divisions and address the root causes of inequality, instability and injustice”*<sup>15</sup>.

Advancing gender equality is indeed essential to all areas of sustainable development, from reducing poverty to promoting health, education, and fostering economic growth. Providing the other half of the world population with equal opportunities and equal access to education, work, and

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<sup>14</sup> ASVIS, Monitoring SDGs at EU level with composite indicators, May 2018, p.25

<sup>15</sup> UN Women, Turning Promises Into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 2018, p.2

representation in all sectorial decision-making processes will fuel sustainable development in all its four dimensions (economic, political, environmental, and social) worldwide. Indeed, gender equality and women empowerment will contribute to simultaneously achieve all the other Goals of the 2030 Agenda.

Finally, the achievement of SDG5 is important to local governments for political representation and democracy. In fact, women's political inclusion in local governments can lead to concrete positive results. First of all, they can challenge gender stereotypes, discriminatory attitudes and speeches from the inside. Second of all, women leaders can promote gender equality policies and practices, paying attention to successfully implemented initiatives. They have the concrete opportunity to analyse the current gender situation within a municipality, understanding its gaps and filling them with adequate gender-sensitive solutions. Moreover, recently, sad examples of bad policies regarding women's reproductive health and rights as well as their sexual freedom have been implemented by a decision-making body entirely composed of men. It is of utmost importance that women and girls are represented by female representatives when it comes to issues of crucial importance for their lives, future, and health. A balanced decision-making body, representative of both men and women, will produce more transparent outcomes and will provide adequate answers to the citizens' needs. Local governments, along with national authorities, have the responsibility to protect women's rights and freedoms. They are also responsible for the implementation of legal and policy frameworks to prevent, protect and prosecute violence against women and girls. Finally, fostering their political participation in politics and in programmes that will economically empower women is part of their duties.

### *Interlinkages with other SDGs*

Since gender equality represents a driver of sustainable development in all its dimensions, the 2030 Agenda cannot be fulfilled without achieving gender equality, a fundamental component all across the 17 SDGs<sup>16</sup>. For instance, full and productive women's employment not only helps alleviate poverty (**SDG 1**) but also promotes better nutrition, health and education standards for women and girls (**SDGs 2, 3 and 4**). Ensuring healthy lives and well-being to people of all ages (SDG 3) is not possible without eradicating all forms of violence against women (Target 5.2), since the latter impact

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<sup>16</sup> For a meticulous analysis of all 17 SDGs from a gender perspective and for related infographics, please see Chapter 3 of *Turning Promises into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Women

on women's physical and psychological integrity and also put them at risk of contracting HIV due to sexual harassment.

UN Women warns of the huge disparities among States in achieving gender equality across SDGs. Among these, great emphasis is given to rooted social and structural barriers to girls' education (SDG 3), employment (**SDG 8**) and knowledge creation (**SDG 9**). UN Women shares worrisome predictions for the near future, claiming that *"Unless progress on gender equality is accelerated, the global community will not only fail to achieve SDG 5, it will also forgo the catalytic effect that gender equality can have for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda more broadly"*<sup>17</sup>.

### *Working Group on Gender*

What is gender according to you? What are the origins of gender inequality? What sectors are at risk of gender inequality? -> participation in decision-making; Gender and labour; Sexual and reproductive health and rights; Gender in community dynamics (decision-making, governance, childcare, education, conflict resolution, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation); Are there adequate housing services and structures to host victims of trafficking and exploited women?

UNESCO: Examples of learning approaches and methods for SDG 5 "Gender Equality"

- Organizing events to celebrate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (November 25)
- Invite speakers who have experienced violence based on gender identity or sexual orientation
- Spend a day working in traditional women's or men's work (swap work)
- Explore how natural hazards and disasters affect women, girls, men and boys differently
- Develop an enquiry-based project: "What is the difference between equality and equity and how does it apply to the world of work?"

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<sup>17</sup> Idem, p. 73

## SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**11.1** By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

**11.2** By 2030, provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, persons with disabilities and older persons

**11.3** By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

**11.4** Strengthen efforts to protect and safeguard the world's cultural and natural heritage

**11.5** By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations

**11.6** By 2030, reduce the adverse per capita environmental impact of cities, including by paying special attention to air quality and municipal and other waste management

**11.7** By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities

### *\*Means of Implementation\**

**11.a** Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning

**11.b** By 2020, substantially increase the number of cities and human settlements adopting and implementing integrated policies and plans towards inclusion, resource efficiency, mitigation and adaptation to climate change, resilience to disasters, and develop and implement, in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, holistic disaster risk management at all levels

**11.c** Support least developed countries, including through financial and technical assistance, in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilizing local materials

## Quick Data

- *Today, over 100 million people are homeless and 881 million people live in slums*
- *More than two thirds of the world's population live in cities where income inequalities have increased since 1980<sup>18</sup>*
- *Women living under the poverty line, especially those living in slums, tend to concentrate in low-wage, low-skilled and often home-based jobs in the informal sectors. Because they also face unique barriers in accessing health and other services, they are denied the advantages generally seen in urban living*
- *Slums affect women disproportionately also because they are on average poorer than men: three fifths of the world's one billion poorest people are women and girls*

Source: United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III Issue Papers, United Nations, 2017

## An Overview of the main features

### *What international arrangements are at the basis of SDG 11?*

- The 2016 New Urban Agenda recognizes the link between urbanization and development, and lays out standards and principles for the sustainable planning, construction, development, management, and improvement of urban areas
- Sendai disaster risk reduction framework, aims at the reduction of disaster risk and losses with greater emphasis on risk management and resilience

### *What is it about and why is it important to achieve?*

In an increasingly urban world, where over half of the global population now lives in cities, some of the world's greatest development challenges have been taken up by the urbanization processes. On the other hand, this also offers major opportunities for advancing sustainable development. SDG 11 recognizes the central role of cities, calling for cities and human settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

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<sup>18</sup> UN-Habitat "Concept paper for the World Urban Forum 7" (Nairobi, UN-Habitat, 2013). Available from <http://wuf7.unhabitat.org/wuf7theme>

As outlined in the UN Habitat III Conference, **urbanization** fosters efficiency and social inclusiveness<sup>19</sup>. It reduces discriminatory attitudes and practices, increases gender equality (SDG 5), ensures access to public services and safety to all inhabitants. For example, the 2016 Habitat III Issue Paper 1 titled “Inclusive Cities” confirms that urbanization plays a great role in improving **gender equality** and in meeting women’s and girls’ needs. Inclusive cities attract cultural diversity, which is a prominent feature in dismantling stereotypes, discriminatory speeches and attitudes against **migrants** and women as well, thereby reducing the associated violence. What is more, cities offer considerable opportunities for social mobilization and freedom of expression, which draw attention to marginalized and vulnerable groups, including women.

On the other hand, however, cities can negatively affect minority groups and vulnerable people (migrants, women, elders, people with disabilities), worsening their life and future. Issue Paper 1 concretely shows some of the main critical issues characterizing modern urban cities and the potential subsequent damages to their inhabitants:

*“Gender, ethnicity and religion, physical ability, youth and age, migration and employment status (i.e., for informal workers) are all clear determining factors in the capacity of individuals and groups to access the full benefits of urbanization, or often to limit their access. Unequal outcomes within urban areas are reinforced by exclusion in opportunity. In complex urban systems, such outcomes and opportunities are tightly interlinked and interactive, strongly reinforcing one another”<sup>20</sup>.*

Unequal access to job opportunities and social barriers clearly lead to unequal job distribution and, in turn, to economic inequalities, which are strictly linked to what has been defined as “*urban and rural apartheid*”<sup>21</sup>, the spatial segregation between the rich city centre and the poor peripheries or rural areas. Extremely high rent prices lead to gentrification. If this is true for **women** belonging to vulnerable groups, the disadvantages are even greater when it comes to gender-based discriminations. Regular and irregular **migrant workers** often experience unstable, underpaid and informal jobs, usually exacerbated by other abuses and deprivations. Disadvantageous economic and housing conditions for them mean being exposed to discriminatory and racial attacks, to

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<sup>19</sup> United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III Issue Papers, New York: United Nations, 2017, p. 18

<sup>20</sup> *Idem*, p. 19

<sup>21</sup> Report of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing to the General Assembly, A/63/275

criminalization and environmental threats, as well as to limited access to basic services (i.e. clean water and sanitation, health care, education, healthy and safe environment). The 2030 Agenda is thus aware of the crucial importance of adequate housing that underlies both the principle of “leaving no one behind” and of the “Right to the City”. Similarly, target 11.7 refers to the provision of safe, inclusive public spaces which need to be planned through a gender-based perspective in order to decrease women’s sexual harassment in many public places.

An innovative aspect of the 2030 Agenda in comparison to the MDGs is the introduction, in SDG 11.4, of a precise and explicit reference to the need to protect the world’s **cultural and natural heritage**. It has been noted that cultural aspects play a fundamental part in the overall achievement of the 2030 goals<sup>22</sup>.

### Good Practice: Cultural and Natural Heritage in Regensburg

The city of **Regensburg** (Germany) was the leading partner for the coordination and development of the EU HerO Project <sup>23</sup>, as well as in adopting and successfully completing UNESCO’s World Heritage Management Plans<sup>24</sup> to include cultural heritage in urban planning, housing, economic development, and tourism through the active participation of municipal and state authorities, as well as different local associations and interested citizens organized in working groups. Their proposals for actions were assessed and integrated in the Management Plan by the municipality, thus showing fruitful joint collaboration between the local authorities and the citizens. The city of Regensburg is a perfect example of the positive results that a municipality can achieve by comprehensively integrating the protection of heritage in its actions.

If well-managed, the safeguarding of cultural heritage in urban landscapes brings to: a) economic benefits, in terms of new local businesses and economic growth through the renovation and revitalisation of historic sites and old buildings, as well as in terms of jobs creation and attractiveness for highly-skilled workers; b) social and cultural benefits by making the city centre a place for cultural and creative activities and by providing a new sense of local identity to the inhabitants; c)

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<sup>22</sup> United Cities and Local Governments, Towards the localisation of the SDGs, 2<sup>nd</sup> report, 2018

<sup>23</sup> European Union & URBACT, HerO Guidebook, The Road to Success’ Integrated Management of Historic Towns, April 2011 available at [https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/hero\\_guidebook\\_final\\_01.pdf](https://urbact.eu/sites/default/files/hero_guidebook_final_01.pdf)

<sup>24</sup> City of Regensburg Planning and Building Division, World Heritage-Management Plan for the Old Town of Regensburg with Stadtamhof, available at <https://www.regensburg.de/welterbe/en/projects/completed-projects/management-plan>



environmental benefits, since the maintenance and reuse of the historic sites contribute to both reducing further land exploitation and construction material consumption.

The fifth target is a key factor for this publication as it seeks to address the economic and human losses caused by an increasing number of urban disasters through multiple actions implemented both by local authorities as well as by public and private stakeholders. In the following sections, the role of local and regional authorities as well as of the general public will be deeply illustrated with good practices, recommendations for the future and guidelines. The governance of waste, the implementation of the 3R approach (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and the environmental impact of cities still constitute a challenge both for the developed and the developing world and stronger efforts should be made at all levels in order to achieve target 11.6.

The **UN 2016 Guideline for local stakeholders** indicates the following as the major contributions that the achievement of SDG 11 will bring to cities and human settlements in general:

- Educate leaders and the public, and focus political attention on urgent urban challenges and future opportunities,
- Mobilize and empower all urban actors around practical problem-solving, so that they may work collectively towards common objectives,
- Address the specific challenges of urban poverty and access to cost-effective infrastructure and housing, with cross-cutting benefits across a range of SDGs,
- Promote integrated and innovative infrastructure design and service delivery, using technology-driven and energy-efficient solutions,
- Promote land-use planning and efficient spatial concentration, while bringing a territorial approach to the SDGs,
- Ensure urban resilience to climate change and disaster risk reduction,
- Give urban and local governments a place at the table to influence decision-making in achieving sustainable development<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> UN Sustainable Development Solution Network, *Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities: A Guide for Stakeholders*, July 2016, p. 15

### *Interlinkages with other SDGs*

SDG 11 on sustainable cities has targets that are independent of all other goals. For example, adequate housing influences, and is influenced by, poverty reduction (SDG 1), access to basic services - such as waste collection (SDG 11.6), clean water and sanitation (SDG 6), and electricity (SDG 7) – and health (SDG 3). In turn, these have an impact on the overall health of the population.

The 2018 report of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) states that the cultural and natural heritage of cities is interrelated with poverty reduction (SDG 1), employment (SDG 8)<sup>26</sup> and women's empowerment.

The document illustrates the fruitful example of the Shire of **Yarra Ranges** (Australia), that provided economic and job opportunities to local artists, improving tourism and creative business, as well as the good practice implemented by the city of **Pekalongan**<sup>27</sup> (Indonesia), that boosted **youth** and **women's** social and economic empowerment opportunities through cultural policies. Indonesian batik is a special traditional hand-crafted textile, whose use and production have been passed down through entire generations. The motifs used to decorate it usually represent the culture, the history and the social status of local communities. Pekalongan is also known as "Batik City" as the production of batik has led its economy for decades, becoming part of the local identity of the inhabitants. To keep the batik culture alive, the city has promoted educational programs in schools to spread the culture and the creation of batik; it has sponsored an ad hoc museum to attract both young inhabitants and tourists; and developed training programs to empower women and enhance their economic independence through the production and commerce of batik.

Further, SDG 3.9, SDG 12.4 and SDG 12.5 all mention the need to efficiently manage air pollution and to enhance the governance of waste, since they also have a negative impact on **climate change** (SDG 13) and energy (SDG 7.3).

As mentioned above, public and green spaces play a fundamental role in fostering gender equality (SDG 5), in mitigating climate change (SDG 13), and in contributing to alleviate the risks of natural hazards (SDG 11.5) to public health (SDG 3).

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<sup>26</sup> United Cities and Local Governments, Towards the localisation of the SDGs, p. 64

<sup>27</sup> UNESCO, Education and training in Indonesian batik intangible cultural heritage in Pekalongan, Indonesia, 2013

## *Working Group on sustainable cities*

The audience is divided into small groups of 3/4 people each, and they are given the case of a partner city with issues in achieving SDG 11 (waste collection problems/poor housing services etc). Each group is provided with data (population – citizen and foreigners – budget, income etc) and they are asked to suggest ideas/solutions to the city problem.

They can also take inspiration from possible options already in place. The aim is for them to choose the best solution that could solve the partner city issue and motivate their choice

## SDG13: Climate Action

**13.1** Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries

**13.2** Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning

**13.3** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning

### *\*Means of Implementation\**

**13.A** Implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020 from all sources to address the needs of developing countries in the context of meaningful mitigation actions and transparency on implementation and fully operationalize the Green Climate Fund through its capitalization as soon as possible

**13.B** Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities

## Quick Data

- From 1880 to 2012, average **global temperature increased by 0.85°C**. For each 1 degree of temperature increase, grain yields decline by about 5%. **At global level, maize, wheat and other major crops have experienced significant yield reductions of 40 megatons per year between 1981 and 2002 due to a warmer climate.**
- **Oceans** have warmed up, the amounts of snow and ice have diminished and the sea level has risen. From 1901 to 2010, the global average sea level rose by 19 cm as oceans expanded due to warming and ice melting. The Arctic sea ice extent has shrunk in all subsequent decades since 1979, with 1.07 million km<sup>2</sup> of ice loss every decade
- Given the current concentrations and on-going emissions of greenhouse gases, it is likely that by the end of this century, the increase in global temperature will exceed **1.5°C** compared to the years from 1850 to 1900 for all but one scenario
- Global emissions of carbon dioxide (**CO<sub>2</sub>**) have increased by almost **50%** since 1990
- Emissions grew more quickly between 2000 and 2010 than in each of the three previous decades
- Limiting global warming to 1.5°C rather than 2°C could reduce the number of people exposed to climate risks and vulnerable to poverty by **62 to 457 million**
- Today **twice as many people are displaced by weather-related natural disasters as by conflict and violence**<sup>28</sup>

Source: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

## An overview of the main features

Climate change has been defined as “a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to other natural climate variability that has been observed over comparable time periods”<sup>29</sup>. Today, the increasing occurrence of environmental and climate change disasters seriously affects the life and safety of individuals, communities and entire populations around the world, endangering people’s

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<sup>28</sup> Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC), 2016 Global Report on Internal Displacement, Geneva, 2016

<sup>29</sup> United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, 1992

survival. In order to undertake urgent actions to combat climate change and its impacts, it is necessary to mitigate the effects of climate change, to implement adaptation strategies and relocation plans, and to endorse resilience programmes.

### What is mitigation?

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) <sup>30</sup> defines mitigation as those human interventions that *“help to reduce the rate or magnitude of climate change by reducing human-generated greenhouse gas emissions or land use practices that contribute to climate change, such as deforestation”*. Cities as well as states are responsible for global warming and climate change because of the deforestation activities, greenhouses gas emissions, air, water and soil pollution, environmental crimes and other unlawful actions. Renewable energy programs, eco-friendly programs, and substitution of fossil fuels are examples of climate change mitigation measures.

### What is adaptation?

Adaptation is *“the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects”*<sup>31</sup>. Adaptation to climate change thus includes any activity that reduces the negative impacts of climate change (reactive action) and/or takes advantage of new potential opportunities (anticipatory action). Both anticipatory and reactive adaptation strategies can be planned, for example, through policy decisions, or be spontaneously implemented. The ability of systems, institutions, humans and other organisms to adapt to climate change is called *“adaptive capacity”*.

According to the 2018 IPCC Report<sup>32</sup>, adaptation pathways produce positive results when they include people’s values, when they take advantage of inclusive, participatory and deliberative processes, and when they are achieved through redistributive measures to avoid dependencies, disproportionate power structures, and social inequalities.

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<sup>30</sup> IPCC, Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Annex II: Glossary, 2014, pp. 117-130

<sup>31</sup> Ibidem

<sup>32</sup> IPCC Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C, Chapter 5: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities, 2018

Mitigation and adaptation strategies often go hand in hand, as they tackle different aspects of climate change at the same time. Indeed, together they form a comprehensive climate change response strategy that will enhance communities' resilience to climate impacts while working to avoid even worse future effects.

### *What international arrangements are at the basis of SDG 13?*

- The 1994 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the hallmark of environmental protection and climate change limitation
- The 2016 Paris agreement, a bold commitment by all countries to limit global warming to 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial levels
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, aims at the substantial reduction of disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods and health and in the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets of persons, businesses, communities and countries

### *What is it about and why is it important to achieve?*

Even if the Millennium Development Goals produced positive outcomes in reducing poverty and hunger and improving water security<sup>33</sup>, they did not succeed in reducing disparities within and across countries, addressing key environmental concerns, and increasing human rights. Critics argue that inadequate policy responses and economic interests led to the rise of greenhouse gas emissions, damaging further the environment and the climate<sup>34</sup>.

It is with high confidence that the IPCC predicts that *“Without societal transformation and rapid implementation of ambitious greenhouse gas reduction measures, pathways to limiting warming to 1.5°C and achieving sustainable development will be exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to achieve”*. Climate change exacerbates disparities already in place between populations, cities, developed and developing regions, impacting even more on vulnerable groups disadvantaged by gender, age, race, status, caste, indigeneity and disability.

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<sup>33</sup> United Nations, The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015, New York, 2015

<sup>34</sup> Janetos, Malone, Mastrangelo, Hardee, de Bremond, Linking climate change and development goals: framing, integrating, and measuring, 2012

The IPCC Fifth Assessment Report<sup>35</sup> together with consistent literature on the matter shows that climate change is worsening poverty and inequalities<sup>36</sup>, putting the livelihood of entire populations at risk, because of the uneven impact it has on food production and water security, health, economic losses and other components of sustainable development.

### *Interlinkages with other SDGs*

Limiting climate change and a further rise in temperatures would make it easier to alleviate poverty (SDG 1) and hunger (SDG 2), to promote good health standards (SDG 3), water and sanitation (SDG 6), and to improve cities and ecosystems (SDGs 14 and 15)<sup>37</sup>. Promoting the participation of civil society groups and vulnerable groups (such as women, indigenous communities etc.) would increase synergies with SDGs 5 (gender equality), 10 (reducing inequalities) and 16 (inclusive societies).

### *Working Group on Climate Change*

Watch the video and discuss about the content.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=128&v=VNe-jBVij-g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=128&v=VNe-jBVij-g)

(Secretary-General António Guterres calls for global action on climate change)

Do you agree with the Secretary-General? Do you also think that governments have refused to take on responsible actions to curb climate change effects? What is your territory doing to promote the use of renewable energies? Do you know the level of CO2 emissions in your municipality?

SDG 16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

#### 16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

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<sup>35</sup> IPCC, Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, 2014

<sup>36</sup> Olsson, Livelihoods and Poverty. In: Climate Change 2014: Impacts, Adaptation, and Vulnerability, 2014

<sup>37</sup> IPCC Special Report, Global Warming of 1.5°C, Chapter 5: Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities, 2018, p. 447

- 16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- 16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- 16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- 16.5. Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- 16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- 16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

\*means of implementation\*

- 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

### Quick Data

- *Men made up around 80% of the overall homicide victims, but women accounted for the majority (64%) of murder victims in cases of intimate partner/family-related homicides. **For intimate partner homicides only, the share of female victims was even higher at 82%***
- *In 2018, the number of people fleeing war, persecution and conflict exceeded **70 million**, the highest level that the UNHCR has seen in almost 70 years*
- *From an average of 150 detected **trafficking victims** per country in 2010, the number increased to **254** in 2016. Globally, adult women represented nearly half of the detected victims, and girls accounted for about 23%*
- *50% of the world's children experience violence every year.*
- *Every 5 minutes, somewhere in the world, a child is killed by violence*
- *1 in 10 children is **sexually abused** before the age of 18.*



- *9 in 10 children live in countries where **corporal punishment** is not fully prohibited, leaving 732 million children without legal protection.*
- *Murder rates among **human rights defenders**, journalists and trade unionists are rising. In 2018, 358 men and 39 women were killed*
- ***Corruption**, bribery, theft and tax evasion cost some US \$1.26 trillion for developing countries per year. Among the institutions most affected by corruption are the **judiciary and police***

Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Statistics Division

### [An Overview of the main features](#)

Governance issues were slightly mentioned in the Millennium Declaration, and no specific MDG was designed to focus attention and resources on this vital area. By contrast, great relevance is given to peace in the 2030 Agenda, turning out to be one of the five pillars on which it is grounded, in recognition of the critical need for governments to ensure safety and security to their citizens. Goal 16 reflects and is reflected in all the other SDGs, since institutions are indispensable to develop, promote, and implement the targets and the aims of the Agenda. A clear commitment to human rights, peace, justice, accountability and transparency is evident throughout the SDG 16 targets.

### *What international arrangements are at the basis of SDG 16?*

- The United Nations Convention against Corruption, the only legally binding universal anti-corruption instrument to comprehensively tackle the issue
- The Addis Ababa Action Agenda, a new global framework for financing sustainable development that seeks to align financing flows and policies with the social, environmental and economic priorities for greater sustainability.
- The 1990 United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the most complete statement of children's rights ever produced and the most widely-ratified international human rights treaty in history<sup>38</sup>
- The 2003 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime, the main international instrument in the fight against transnational organized crime

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<sup>38</sup> UNICEF website, <https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/>

- The 2003 Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Persons (or Palermo Protocol), the first global legally binding instrument with an agreed definition on trafficking in persons

### *What is it about and why is it important to achieve?*

SDG 16 is at the core of the 2030 Agenda, of sustainable development - and beyond international binding and non-binding arrangements - of our future. It encompasses justice, peace, and the core principles on which peaceful and fair societies should be based.

Stopping the fear of being assaulted or harassed in our cities is a priority that needs more efforts to be achieved. Governments have the duty to ensure their people's physical security, protect their human rights and fundamental freedoms. **Child abuses** are a deep wound of our times. Tremendous crimes such as child sex trafficking, child labour, and corporal punishment mentioned in the SDGs are derived from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Optional Protocol on Trafficking in Persons. **Migrant children** are especially vulnerable; extremely vulnerable if they are born along the migratory routes, where general conditions are horribly precarious, exacerbated even more if they experience the risk of detention. There are 50 million migrant children and half of the world's refugees are children. Urgent measures should thus be implemented to ensure their safety. Addressing global violations of childrens' rights requires strict domestic laws, cross-jurisdiction collaboration and law enforcement. Strengthening law and **justice** institutions and addressing discrimination play a main role in Goal 16 as well as combating **corruption** at all levels and in all sectors while promoting enhanced **transparency** and accountability.

Ensuring an effective, fair and accessible judicial system is a cornerstone of a democratic society, it protects people's right and freedoms, it keeps people safe and addresses criminal and civil wrongdoing. Target 16.4 strongly recalls the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three Protocols on the **Trafficking in Persons**, the **Smuggling of Migrants** and the Manufacturing of and Trafficking in **Firearms**<sup>39</sup>. The voice of civil society organizations, citizens and vulnerable groups should be more integrated into all decision-making processes in order to increase participation and coherence between people's needs and policy outcomes.

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<sup>39</sup> It also reflects commitments in Chapter 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and commitments from the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. For details, please see TAP Network, Goal 16 – An Advocacy Toolkit

## *Interlinkages with other SDGs*

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities)

16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all).

16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 1 (poverty alleviation), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all)

16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

SDG Interlinkages: All other SDGs

16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

SDG Interlinkages: All other SDGs.

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 1 (poverty alleviation), Goal 2 (zero hunger & food security), Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 13 (combat climate change), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 3 (good health & well-being), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities)

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 9 (sustainable infrastructure & innovation), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities)

16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

SDG Interlinkages: Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (sustainable economic growth & decent work for all), Goal 10 (reduce inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities & communities), Goal 17 (means of implementation & global partnerships)

### *Working Group on fair cities*

Has your territory taken steps to increase migrants' and refugees' awareness of and access to a) the services available to them; and b) their rights?

Services could include:

- Access to services such as health, education, justice regardless of status
- Gender-based violence prevention and response services
- Information services, e.g. migrant resource centres
- Language training
- Services for victims of human trafficking
- Specialised post-arrival orientation services
- Specialised pre-departure services

If NOT, why? What measures would help overcome this?

If YES, have these steps resulted in any concrete actions/initiatives, and, if so, could the effectiveness and reach of such initiatives be improved (e.g. by being evaluated) and how could this be achieved?

## Migration: Direct and indirect connections to the SDGs

Migrants represent approximately 3% of the world's population, but they produce more than 9% of global GDP. Migrants often bring significant benefits to their new communities in the form of skills, demographic trends, investment, and cultural diversity, proving that migration is an important resource for development in the host countries. However, if migration is poorly managed, migrants can also negatively affect development and be affected by it as well.

For the first time, a global development agenda recognizes migration as a core development consideration. The 2030 Agenda refers to all populations and recognizes migrant women, men and children both as a vulnerable group and as agents of development.

The UN Resolution on Sustainable Development clearly states:

*“We recognize the positive contribution of migrants for inclusive growth and sustainable development. We also recognize that international migration is a multi-dimensional reality of major relevance for the development of countries of origin, transit and destination, which requires coherent and comprehensive responses. We will cooperate internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants regardless of migration status, of refugees and of displaced persons. Such cooperation should also strengthen the resilience of communities hosting refugees, particularly in developing countries. We underline the right of migrants to return to their country of citizenship, and recall that States must ensure that their returning nationals are duly received”*

### *Migrants or Refugees? Essential definitions<sup>40</sup>*

There is no universally agreed definition of “migrants”. For its part, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) defines a migrant as “any person who is moving or has moved across an international

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<sup>40</sup> UNHCR has rightly noted that stateless persons are not mentioned either in the 2030 Agenda or under any SDGs, please see UNHCR and the 2030 Agenda - Sustainable Development Goals, 2017. Since the focus of this work is primarily on migrants, the numerous documents provided by IOM, specifically involving migration, seem to be more appropriate to serve the purpose of this Toolkit

*border or within a State away from his/her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is"*<sup>41</sup>. UNHCR's definition of migrants looks more at the reasons causing departure: *"migrant describes any person who moves, usually across an international border, to join family members already abroad, to search for a livelihood, to escape a natural disaster, or for a range of other purposes"*<sup>42</sup>.

Beyond the regional broader and narrower definitions of who a refugee is, the point of reference in international refugee law is the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, where Article 1(A)2 defines a refugee as *"A person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it"*.

The Agenda promotes an overall reconsideration of migration as well as of the deep-rooted classifications that have traditionally characterized human mobility. Indeed, in underscoring universality as a key feature, the 2030 Agenda moves away from the well-known categorization of countries of origin, transit and destination to rather embrace a more holistic view, where each State takes on its responsibilities towards safe, orderly, and regular migration in a spirit of shared responsibility and global partnership. In this sense, the 2030 Agenda promotes an international governance of migration, going beyond single jurisdictions and national arrangements. What is more, the principle of "leaving no one behind" and the interrelated inclusivity of the Agenda also help depict a new image of migration, where the often fixed definitions of internal/external, regular/irregular, voluntary/forced migration seem to lose their meaning in favour of the urgent need to reach every individual wherever they are, regardless their status, nationality, race etc. Indeed, the Agenda does not refer to either migrants or refugees as such, but rather to people, communities, and vulnerable groups in general, among whom men, women, and child refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants are mentioned as vulnerable people deserving particular attention and assistance, and whose needs should be addressed.

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<sup>41</sup> IOM website, <https://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms>; see also Migration and the 2030 Agenda: A Guide for Practitioners, 2018

<sup>42</sup> UNHCR, Emergency Book, Migrant Definition, available at <https://emergency.unhcr.org/entry/44937/migrant-definition>

In looking jointly to migration and the SDGs, IOM further explains that this alternative interpretation of migration “[...] can also help move the migration and development agenda away from focusing solely on how migrant women and men can contribute to countries of origin, and towards a more holistic view that acknowledges migration as a multi-faceted reality that can make a positive contribution to development outcomes”<sup>43</sup>.

The migration-SDG direct and transversal connections throughout the Agenda thus entail integrating migration across multiple governance sectors. By strengthening coherence between migration and development at all levels, not only development policies can improve migration outcomes, but also migration policies can improve development outcomes. It is worth noting that, on the other hand, inadequate development policies and related initiatives - such as the dramatic effects of globalization, the industrialization of the market, and uncontrolled urbanization – can lead to migration or displacement<sup>44</sup>.

The inclusion of migration in the SDGs opens up to other significant opportunities and challenges for the years to come, among which demonstrating the multi-dimensional nature of migration and its relevance for both developed and developing countries. Assuming a human rights-based approach in migration governance helps put migrants and their needs at the centre of the debate and is an effective way to enable them to contribute to development.

As in the case of a needed comprehensive inclusion and promotion of gender equality and a proactive involvement of local entities in the implementation of the Agenda, many SDG targets can only be fully achieved if migration and migrants are considered. This further shows the equal importance of all SDGs and their inherent intersections to the point that neglecting one of them could undermine the progress and efforts made for the achievement of other SDGs.

**The 2018 IOM’s guide for SDG practitioners** highlights both the direct and indirect interlinkages between migration and all the other 17 SDGs and related targets<sup>45</sup>.

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<sup>43</sup> IOM 2018, p. 14

<sup>44</sup> IOM, Global Compact Thematic Paper, The Contributions of Migrants and Migration to Development- Strengthening the Linkages, p. 3

<sup>45</sup> For the detailed explanation of all direct interconnections between migration and the SDGs, please see IOM 2018, p. 22-31; and United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, “Integrating migration into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, Population Facts No. 2015/5, December 2015, available at [www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20155.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20155.pdf)

## Direct interlinkages between migration and SDGs

Migration is explicitly addressed when it comes to fostering education (**SDG 4**), in particular at target 4B regarding the need to increase international student mobility and to promote higher education through scholarships to be released to developing and less developed countries. In this way, cultural exchanges would be encouraged, as well as training, educational and work skills that would help increase the knowledge and skills transfer of migrants.

Serious crimes such as human trafficking, sexual and labour exploitation and violence – all too often linked with both regular and irregular migration and mobility - are widely addressed in SDG 5 (gender equality) and 16 (justice, peace, institutions), since eliminating all forms of violence and torture against women, girls, and children is indispensable to reach those Goals. Approaching these crimes through a gender-sensitive, inclusive, and multi-sectoral lens could help better understand the needs and the vulnerability of the victims. Ending human trafficking requires addressing the root causes that lead to it. Human trafficking, in fact, mostly hits poor and vulnerable people, especially women, girls and children, seeking new opportunities outside their country of origin or of habitual residence. It commonly occurs along (ir)regular migratory routes, both by land and by sea, with the often active involvement of criminal networks and mafia organizations, and takes different forms: sexual exploitation, labour exploitation, organ trafficking, and slavery are the most commonly known. Overall, the SDGs renew national and global commitments to combating all forms of human trafficking and to protecting the victims of trafficking.

In particular, progress towards eradicating poverty (**SDG 1**), improving gender equality (SDG 5), promoting decent work (SDG 8), providing access to justice for all (SDG 16), and facilitating safe and regular migration through target **10.7**, would help curb human trafficking in all its forms. In fact, eradicating forced labour, putting an end to modern slavery and human trafficking and securing the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour are essential steps to also achieve **SDG 8**. Moreover, Target 8.8 explicitly points out the importance to protect labour rights, in full compliance with international standards, with emphasis on migrant workers. In informal employment, migrants can often face vulnerable situations and discrimination. A lack of social protection tends to increase vulnerabilities, and can put migrants at higher risk of poverty and marginalization, in particular **women migrants**. In this regard, the 2030 Agenda recognizes that increasing numbers of migrant workers are female and underlines the need to protect migrant



domestic workers (**target 5.4**). Working in a largely informal and unregulated sector puts women migrant workers at risk of labour exploitation, violence, and abuses. The SDGs thus acknowledge the dynamic interplay between employment, inequality, gender and migration.

*Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies (SDG 10.7)*

Target 7 under **SDG 10** (reduce inequality within and among countries) already contains what have become the key features of more recent arrangements such as the Global Compact for Migration (GCM). The need to reach an orderly, safe and regular migration has been a key focus for the international community since the 2030 Agenda and has encouraged international actors to advance it further through an effective governance of migration implemented at the global, regional, national and sub-national levels. Implementing planned and well-managed migration policies involves a broad range of actors and sectors, from protecting migrants' rights to assisting their voluntary return, from ensuring regular access to public services (healthcare, jobs and educational opportunities, courts etc.) to addressing the vulnerabilities of migrants, displaced persons and refugees by developing sustainable and durable solutions for their integration in the host communities. Examples of specific coherent migration policies to be implemented at the national level contained in the 2030 Agenda include:

- Target 1.3 Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable
- Target 5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Target 8.8 Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment
- Means of Implementation 16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> IOM, Global Compact Thematic Paper, The Contributions of Migrants and Migration to Development- Strengthening the Linkages, p. 2

### *What does a safe, regular and orderly migration entail?*

To have a common understanding of what we are talking about when it comes to safe, regular and orderly migration, IOM has provided useful guidelines to broadly define terms for which, similarly to the definition of “migrant”, an internationally agreed definition is still missing<sup>47</sup>.

Orderly migration is seen as *“the movement of a person from his or her usual place of residence to a new place of residence, in keeping with the laws and regulations governing exit of the country of origin and travel, transit and entry into the host country”*<sup>48</sup>.

Regular migration is defined as *“migration that occurs through recognized, authorized channels”*<sup>49</sup>. Sometimes journalists, media, and politicians do not refer to regular and irregular migration when they refer to the fact that the entry into a country has not been authorized, preferring to use “legal” and “illegal” migration and migrants. These terms are however ambiguous and it is widely recommended to stick to the regular/irregular distinction, since the actions and movements of a person can be deemed as illegal, not the persons themselves.

There is no common definition of safe migration either and it is quite difficult to identify. In fact, a migrant’s situation can change from safe to unsafe throughout the various phases of their migratory process, regardless of the regularity of their status. Safe migration is a dynamic concept that encompasses the well-being of and risk reduction for migrants.

### *What do planned and well-managed migration policies entail?*

To achieve safe, orderly, and regular migration, a well-structured and human rights-based governance of migration has to be implemented. It has to conform to internationally agreed standards, and yet be flexible enough to reflect national features and related migratory patterns.

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<sup>47</sup> For an interesting overview of the appearance and use of the expression “safe, orderly, and regular migration”, please see IOM, Facilitation of Safe, Regular and Orderly Migration. Global Compact Thematic Paper, Geneva, available at [www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our\\_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Facilitation-of-Safe-Orderly-and-Regular-Migration.pdf](http://www.iom.int/sites/default/files/our_work/ODG/GCM/IOM-Thematic-Paper-Facilitation-of-Safe-Orderly-and-Regular-Migration.pdf)

<sup>48</sup> IOM website, [www.iom.int/key-migration-terms](http://www.iom.int/key-migration-terms)

<sup>49</sup> IOM, Glossary on Migration, 2nd ed., 2011

**IOM's Migration Governance Framework (MiGOF)**<sup>50</sup> is the first and only internationally agreed framework for detailed migratory policies to be implemented also at the sub-national level. It aims at enhancing migration governance by the States through well-planned and managed policies and principles. According to IOM, adopting a “whole-of-government” approach – i.e. measures that ensure alignment between national departments and subnational authorities in key policy areas (trade, industry, social cohesion, health and education) – is essential to the purpose.

Another means of implementation foreseen by the 2030 Agenda is **Target 10.C** which calls for reducing, by 2030, to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances as well as eliminating remittance corridors with costs higher than 5% to release the full potential of remittance to both the community of departure and of arrival as well as to increase the transparency and legality of the payments. Moreover, high remittance transactions unevenly affect **migrant women**, as they often send smaller amounts of money than migrant men, though more regularly<sup>51</sup>.

There is considerable lack of quality and quantity of data on certain migration topics, which makes it difficult to create coherent and evidence-based policies in these areas. For example, reliable data are lacking on migrants' contribution to the economic growth of host countries. Numbers and trends of undocumented and irregular migrant flows are generally not accurate and poorly gathered. This makes large numbers of migrants statistically invisible and makes it hard to even think about adequate solutions to manage these phenomena. Further examples of data gaps that leave blind spots in migration governance, management, and integration include the impact of climate change on vulnerable populations, the political and economic empowerment of migrant women, disaggregated data by both gender and migration status, migratory movements to and from rural areas, the modalities and numbers of both voluntary return and removal. **Target 17.18** urgently calls to increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data by 2020, disaggregated by income, gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts.

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<sup>50</sup> IOM, Migration Governance Framework, Migration Governance Framework: The essential elements for facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people through planned and well-managed migration policies, C/106/40 Council 106th Session, 2015

<sup>51</sup> IOM 2018, p. 29












## Indirect interlinkages between migration and SDGs



It is possible to link migration to every Goal of the 2030 Agenda. The following schematic table created by IOM usefully sums up the main cross-cutting connections among the 17 SDGs.

TABLE 1: Cross-cutting connections between migration and SDGs<sup>52</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> Idem, p. 32-34

<b>Poverty and Growth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Migrants should be included in implementation of all poverty targets</li> <li>→ Migration should be seen as a mechanism to boost poverty-reduction efforts and growth for different countries</li> </ul>	1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.A, 1.B, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 10.1	  
<b>Social Protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Migrants should have access to and be included in social protection coverage and policies</li> <li>→ Migrant domestic workers should be afforded social protection</li> </ul>	1.3, 5.4, 10.4	  
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Migrants should be included in universal health coverage and all health targets</li> <li>→ The distribution of the global health workforce should be improved</li> <li>→ Understanding migration is crucial to strengthen health emergency preparedness, develop inclusive health policies and enhance access to migrant-sensitive health services</li> <li>→ The health of migrants will improve through progress in many other targets</li> <li>→ Improving the health of migrants is a fundamental precondition to work, be productive and contribute to society, contributing to other targets</li> </ul>	3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.7, 3.8, 3.B, 3.C, 3.D, 5.6, 8.7, 8.8, 10.7, 10.C	   
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Migrant children should be included in education targets</li> <li>→ Manage the global demand and supply for labour migration by improved matching of skills</li> <li>→ Education of migrants will improve through progress in other targets, including cheaper remittances, and safe and orderly migration</li> </ul>	4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 10.7, 10C	 

<b>Citizenship, Rule of Law and Inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Expanding legal identity will directly help reduce statelessness, help create pathways out of irregular migration, and protect the legal rights of migrants</li> <li>→ Expanding legal identity will indirectly help foster migrants' inclusion, improve their access to basic services, and help counter human trafficking and organized crime</li> <li>→ Strengthening rule of law will help migrants in many ways, such as by improving access to justice and addressing migrant detention, and addressing potential drivers of displacement</li> </ul>	10.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.7, 16.9, 16.B	 
<b>Diaspora and Partnerships for Development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Including migration and migrants in development partnerships</li> </ul>	8.9, 9.2, 12.B, 17.3, 17.5, 17.13, 17.16, 17.17, 17.18	   

<b>Gender</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Protection of migrant domestic workers</li> <li>→ Address gender-related vulnerabilities of migration</li> <li>→ Help women use migration to help empower themselves</li> <li>→ Inclusive progress in other targets will address potential negative and discriminatory migration drivers for women</li> </ul>	5.2; 5.3, 5.4, 5.A, 5.C	
<b>Children</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Combating child trafficking and child labour</li> <li>→ Migrant children should be included in child poverty and education targets</li> <li>→ Inclusive progress in other targets, such as on safe and orderly migration, health, justice and others, will improve child migrant protection</li> </ul>	1.2, 4.2, 4.5, 4.A, 5.1, 5.2, 8.7, 10.7, 16.2, 16.3	
<b>Cities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Working towards building inclusive cities, such as by expanding affordable housing, will benefit migrants; their needs should be considered in implementation of relevant targets</li> <li>→ Foster participatory urban planning to include migrants</li> <li>→ Migrants should be included in all targets relating to urban disaster risk reduction (DRR) and disaster risk management (DRM)</li> </ul>	11.1, 11.3, 11.B, 11.C	
<b>Climate Change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Migrants should be included in all targets relating to disaster risk reduction and management, including on early warning systems</li> <li>→ Migration should be recognized as a potential climate change adaptation (CCA) strategy and way to build resilience</li> <li>→ Education and awareness-raising efforts on climate change should include the mobility dimensions of climate change</li> </ul>	1.5, 10.7, 11.5, 13.1, 13.3	

For the purposes of this work, particularly relevant is the link between migration and gender; migration and sustainable, fair cities; migration and climate change. These specific linkages are therefore further examined below.

## Migration & Gender

More women are migrating independently than before, a trend that is sometimes defined as “*the feminization of migration*”<sup>53</sup>. Nevertheless, migrant women are often victims of a double discrimination since they may face gender-based violence<sup>54</sup> and/or gender-specific barriers to their mobility, which may result in increased use of irregular migration channels, involving a higher risk of being sexually exploited or trafficked. Suffice it to recall that women and girls account for **71% of all trafficked victims** detected globally<sup>55</sup>, and females represent **96% of sexual exploitation victims**. As rightly set forth by IOM, “*These differentiated vulnerabilities are often not recognized in migration governance; therefore, it is important to address the different needs of migrant women, men, girls and boys in migration policy and programming going forward. This requires extensively assessing gender-related inequalities and vulnerabilities associated with migration*”<sup>56</sup>.

Along the routes, migrant women and girls face risks of human rights violations, gender-based violence, oppression and discrimination. In its June 2016 report, the **European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights** noted that there is “*increasing evidence that gender-based violence is a major issue for migrant women and girls*”.

On the other hand, migrant women are often the first to proactively react to crises and play a pivotal role in community sustainment and rebuilding. Migration can be a source of empowerment for women, and in turn a source of development. Migration can offer access to education and careers or to better employment opportunities, thus allowing women to earn higher incomes. It can open possibilities for acquiring or improving skills and knowledge, in turn elevating social and economic status and participation. For instance, UN Women has shown that migrant women send a higher part of their salary than migrant men to finance education, health, and community development<sup>57</sup>. The SDGs recognize that protecting migrant women’s rights will enhance their potential to become agents

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<sup>53</sup> IOM 2018, p. 40

<sup>54</sup> European Commission, 2017 Report on equality between women and men in the EU, 2017. In this EU Report, at p. 36, gender-based violence is defined as “*violence that is directed against a person because of his or her gender (including gender identity/expression) or that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately. It can be physical, sexual, economic and/or psychological and includes violence in close relationships as well as street violence. It threatens the well-being, health, physical integrity, dignity and often the life of victims*”

<sup>55</sup> Ibidem. It is however even worthier of note that judicial measures and policy actions to identify and register trafficked persons as such as well as to provide them with documents, protection and assistance have not been undertaken and implemented everywhere yet, thus the statistics do not reflect the real number of total victims of human trafficking

<sup>56</sup> Ibidem

<sup>57</sup> UN Women, Women in Migration, Bridging Paper issued during the Global Forum on Migration & Development Civil Society Days, 12-13 October 2015, p. 6

of development and support women's empowerment and entrepreneurship through the protection of migrant women's rights and the reduction of remittance fees, thus enabling them to build relevant skills for their economic and social independence, and fostering their economic and political inclusion.

The SDGs thus promote a set of policy recommendations to make sure that the positive aspects of migration are catalysed, and the negative ones reduced for all migrants including migrant women.

### *Migration & sustainable, fair cities*

Migration has become an increasingly urban phenomenon for a threefold reason: 1) internal migrants are keener to move from rural to urban areas; 2) migrant workers are likely to move to cities seeking for job opportunities; 3) displaced persons are increasingly concentrated in urban areas<sup>58</sup>. According to IOM's statistics, **every day approx. 120,000 people migrate to cities** in the Asia-Pacific region alone<sup>59</sup> due to one or more push and pull factors, including poverty, vulnerability, food and water insecurity, unemployment, access to health services and education, conflict, political instability, environmental degradation and the impacts of climate change.

As a result, cities are key actors in managing migration, promoting migrants' integration and realising their potential as agents for sustainable development. In fact, local authorities often manage education, health care, housing and social services for migrants, as well as documentation and/or legal identification processes. If housing services are poorly implemented, migrants are at risk of spatial segregation, which prevents their integration and exacerbates the risk of marginalization and criminalization. Without adequate information and assistance, migrants may also face linguistic, legal, social and administrative barriers to social protection, limiting their access to housing, employment and basic services. These risks are addressed in SDG 11.

The means of implementation set forth in SDG 11 (Targets 11.B and 11.C in particular) encourage cities to adopt policies on disaster risk reduction and management in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. Even if migration due to environmental and climate threats is still

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<sup>58</sup> Lucci, Mansour-Ille, Easton-Calabria, Cummings, 2016 Sustainable cities: internal migration, jobs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Overseas Development Institute, 2016

<sup>59</sup> IOM 2018, p. 43



underestimated, **today the likelihood of being displaced by a disaster is 60% higher than it was four decades ago**<sup>60</sup>, especially in urban landscapes. Indeed, weak urban governance and planning together with urban management are linked to higher displacement rates. For instance, the use of cheap construction materials, the construction of sites on dangerous soil (at risk of earthquakes, floods, volcanic explosions etc.), and of unlawful new buildings can result in more displacements.

As migrants are often affected by urban hazards, they need to be included in disaster risk management practices, climate change policies, as well as into land management, urban and natural resource planning.

**Target 16.9** calls for States to provide legal identity for all. This directly addresses statelessness, and allows migrants to apply for citizenship or residence permissions and to get access to the same rights that other citizens have. Attempts to prevent migrants from applying for residence permits or citizenship can hamper migrants' integration and undermine their sense of belonging to the local and national communities. To make **Target 16.7** effective, migrants should be widely included in all aspects of decision-making and participatory processes. **Target 16.B** commits States to "promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development", which is also a key aspect for migrant inclusion and integration.

### *Migration & Climate Change*

Beyond the above, the Agenda 2030 recognizes that the adverse impacts of climate change and environmental degradation represent a serious threat to development. Since climate and environmental changes are also a cause of forced migration<sup>61</sup>, local adaption and mitigation strategies should be implemented to avoid this consequence as much as possible. It is moreover essential that migrants' needs and vulnerabilities are considered in prevention, preparedness and resilience actions to consistently link local initiatives to those at the upper levels. If the interlinkages between climate change and migration are not taken into account, local actions are likely to cost more in the long term and be less effective. **Target 13.3** aims to improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. As said before, migrants should be included specifically in education and awareness-raising since they often live in unsafe spots.

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<sup>60</sup> Idem, p. 44

<sup>61</sup> Idem, p. 45

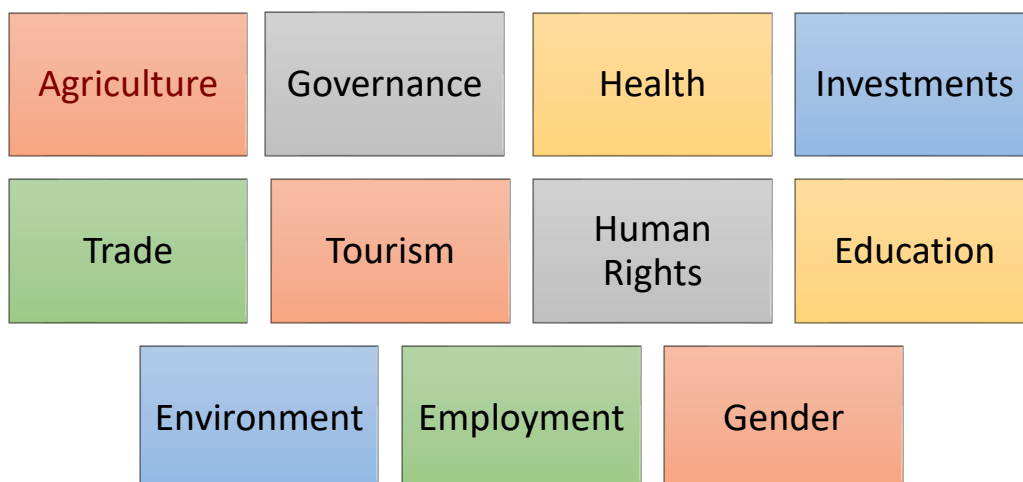
**Gender** is among those variables that cause uneven differences in adapting to climate change and in the subsequent vulnerability caused by climate effects. There is high agreement that integrating gender into climate change research helps recognise overlapping and interconnected systems of power<sup>62</sup>.

Women play a significant role in agriculture, food security and rural economies globally, as they account for around 43% of the agricultural labour force in developing countries, but only less than 5% of landowners. Women's strong involvement in agriculture and a gender-based approach would bring considerable benefits to climate change adaptation plans.

*Working Group: Recognizing the interlinkages between migration and development*

Does the local or regional development plan of your municipality recognise and integrate the linkages between migration and development?<sup>63</sup>

Depending on contextual relevance, links could be made to:



If NOT, what is it that inhibits migration from being incorporated and what steps could be taken to address this?

<sup>62</sup> IPCC, Risk management and decision making in relation to 1 sustainable development, August 2019, p. 66

<sup>63</sup> IOM migration policy planning, p. 74

If YES, to what extent have the migration related components of this plan been implemented?

## Part 2: Practice

### The 2030 Agenda from the international to the local level<sup>64</sup>

The 2030 Agenda sets out global, international goals that, to be achieved and successfully implemented, inevitably need to be translated at all levels to reach all people wherever they are. Local and regional authorities thus play an indispensable role in implementing the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs<sup>65</sup>.

*“As much as 65 percent of the SDG agenda may not be fully achieved without the involvement of urban and local actors. Given their critical role, local governments cannot be mere implementers of a global or national SDG agenda, but must be partners in co-creating and defining policy and programmatic responses, and in the implementation and monitoring of progress against the goals and targets”<sup>66</sup>*

Localization empowers local stakeholders and is aimed at addressing local communities’ needs and interests. It is described as *“the process of defining, implementing and monitoring strategies at the local level for achieving global, national, and sub-national sustainable development goals and targets”*. Specifically, it includes the *“process of taking into account sub-national contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using indicators to measure and monitor progress”<sup>67</sup>*.

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<sup>64</sup> For a comprehensive list of SDGs relevant to local governments, please see UCLG, The Sustainable Development Goals-What Local Governments Need to Know, available at <http://bit.ly/1U8mgXc>. For additional information on localization, please refer to UN-Habitat, Global Taskforce & UNDP, Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Dialogues on Implementation, also available at <http://bit.ly/1ZJvdEX>

<sup>65</sup> Recommendations to the European Commission by the subgroup on “SDGs at local and regional level” of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform on the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the EU, 8 June 2018

<sup>66</sup> UN Sustainable Development Solution Network, Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities: A Guide for Stakeholders, July 2016, p. 15

<sup>67</sup> United Cities and Local Governments, Towards the localisation of the SDGs, p. 16

Localizing the 2030 Agenda also means to move away from the traditional top-down approach, in order to concretely take into account territories and their peoples' priorities at all levels, and to put their needs at the centre of inclusive, responsive, sustainable development policies. Participation therefore requires that policy decisions and plans are shared and that all relevant local actors are involved in the decision-making process, from the development to the implementation and monitoring phases.

While localization originally mainly meant the local implementation of goals by sub-national actors, the concept today includes the direct responsibilities that local and regional governments have towards the achievement of the SDGs. This makes sub-national authorities and policy makers crucial partners for the overall success of the Agenda 2030. The implementation of Agenda 2030 is in fact a global multi-stakeholder process and all levels of government are responsible for the achievement of the SDGs. However, it is undoubtedly true that national governments have more means, capacities and resources to plan, prioritize, and finance the implementation of the Agenda. An important principle regarding the question of responsibility is **subsidiarity**: problems should be solved as close to the people as possible. Local actors should therefore be at the frontline in developing policies, strategies, and plans to adequately address people's and territories' priorities and needs. This requires strong local capacity building and governance, as well as strong political engagement. At the same time, implementing the Agenda at the local level requires the mobilization of all actors in society, to improve the quality of life for all citizens.

Local governments can, however, play the aforesaid crucial role they have in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda only if well-equipped and supported by their national governments. Cities' output can in fact be limited by an incredible number of constraints. For instance, limited political and fiscal power, low level of institutional capacity and/or of robust multi-level support and cooperation, as well as the inability to attract private and civil society partners all undermine cities' efforts. National support is needed to encourage local involvement. National governments should therefore enable institutional frameworks, with adequate incentives for local actors.

Local bodies are key actors in implementing all SDGs and their targets. They can significantly contribute to achieving universal access to basic services (housing, water and sanitation, healthcare); they can promote adequate and equal job opportunities while pursuing SDG targets, for instance in fostering mitigation, adaptation, and risk reduction strategies towards climate change.

## Group 1: Tools of the Trade for Local Policy Makers

The 2030 Agenda relies on a sound human rights-based approach and on the principle of “leaving no one behind”. This means that efforts, resources, and outcomes involved in the implementation of the Agenda should be equally distributed across local territories (urban and rural areas, city centres and peripheries) and groups, according to their specific needs and identified priorities. This equal distribution will generate considerable incentives at local level in terms of economic growth and development. For instance, the SDGs help increase prosperity, promote social inclusion, respond to climate changes and improve environmental sustainability in the municipality.

The municipality will gain new partners and increase its national and international network. Locally pursued, the SDGs offer concrete opportunities not only to improve the quality of life for inhabitants, but also to make cities more attractive for investments in new businesses. Working with SDGs also provides new investment opportunities for the funding of municipal activities connected with SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Implementing the SDGs makes the municipality a more attractive place to live, to invest and to start new businesses. The overall image of the municipality will thus improve.

### Relevant actors mapping for the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda

The 2016 UN Guidelines for stakeholders provide the reasons for conducting both an institutional and a stakeholder analysis before initiating any new planning and management measure. Institutions are the ones that will pursue and implement the planned initiatives, therefore their nature of either existing and potentially new institutions, or frameworks for institutional collaboration and joint decision-making, should be established<sup>68</sup>. Stakeholder analysis<sup>69</sup> focuses on individual motivation/interest of a single actor and/or on collective interest. A stakeholder analysis is notably useful to understand who will influence local measures for sustainable development and who will be influenced by them, and how intensely.

#### Table 1. Relevant actors in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>68</sup> For further readings on the institutional analysis, please see World Bank, Tools for Institutional, Political, and Social Analysis of Policy Reform: A Sourcebook for Development Practitioners, 2007; World Bank, Institutional Perception Mapping,

<sup>69</sup> For further readings on the stakeholder analysis, please see Manchester Metropolitan University, Stakeholder Analysis Toolkit

<sup>70</sup> Table 2: Key stakeholders in local and regional governance, in Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities, p. 24

Stakeholder groups	Role in furthering local SDG implementation
Local authorities	Local authorities include local governments and councils, councilors, public sector institutions, parastatal agencies, and other government bodies working in local development. They are the primary drivers of SDG localization in cities and human settlements.
National and regional governments	National and regional governments frame legislation and regulations that define sectoral policies, and development priorities. Local authorities are also dependent on budgetary and program support from higher levels of government to effectively fulfil their mandates.
Parliamentarians	Parliamentarians represent the concerns of their constituencies in national and regional governments. They are important partners in facilitating legislation that responds to local needs, and supporting the allocation of funds for development projects within their territories.
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs)	Under the NGO and CSO umbrella are a wide variety of organizations ranging from local neighbourhood organizations to international NGOs. As SDG partners, NGOs and CSOs can bring alternate development models to achieve specific social targets, provide sectoral knowledge, support bottom-up approaches to implementation and monitoring, act as watchdogs of government and private sector accountability, and in some cases, represent excluded communities, localities, and concerns (environment, climate change) in policy-making and programmatic planning.
Businesses and industry	Stakeholders include local and multi-national corporations, businesses, industries and manufacturers, CEOs and other business leaders, cooperatives, and trade unions. There are numerous opportunities for collaboration between business and government in SDG implementation, for employment generation, social protection of labor, technological innovations, social entrepreneurship, corporate social responsibility, and philanthropic donations
Universities	Universities and higher education institutions can provide long-term independent technical assistance for SDG localization (14), and can even be potential hosts of localization processes in cities and settlements. They are centers of research and development, incubators of innovative

	technologies, cutting-edge data and policy analysis, and educators of the current and future generation of leaders. The SDSN is a global knowledge network comprising leading sustainable development thinkers and practitioners, many of whom are affiliated to universities that work in close partnership with the network
Professionals	These include architects, surveyors, urban planners, geographers and lawyers, economists and statisticians, sociologists and engineers, and other practitioners with technical skills that can enable non-partisan participation and help to mainstream sustainable practices into their areas of planning and practice.
Faith-based institutions	Faith-based institutions play an important role in fostering communities, and are often active stakeholders in community development initiatives. They have wide spheres of influence over hard-to-reach populations, and can greatly popularize the cause of sustainable development.
Financial Institutions	Local, regional and global financial institutions, especially housing, infrastructure development banks, are crucial partners in providing start-up capital and long-term, low-interest loans for largescale infrastructure and development projects, as well as to provide support in terms of follow-up investment to pilot projects.
International organizations	These include the United Nations system, and other international organizations (IOs), which lead development processes globally. IOs can bring tremendous technical capacity and support for SDG localization to motivated cities and human settlements
City networks	City networks such as ICLEI, UCLG, and C40, facilitate city-to-city learning, help undertake pilot projects, and provide operational and technical support, and guidance for SDG implementation to member cities.

Generally speaking, there are several ways to invite stakeholders to engage in local initiatives to support and pursue the SDGs. Firstly, it is of utmost importance that all relevant actors fully understand the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs to gain all their support and to attract their attention.

General **advocacy tools to advertise** the 2030 Agenda at local level include:



- Translate global goals in local terms and adapt them to local issues. Where goals such as the eradication of absolute poverty or clean water and sanitation have been already fully achieved, they can be adapted to the local context. For instance, emphasis can be conveyed and projects can be developed to eradicate homelessness, to ameliorate education, and to promote scholarships for low-income families, or to decrease water pollution in urban and rural areas
- Deliver targeted messages for different stakeholders to meet their specific, directly linked interests, priorities and benefits
- Use media and social networks to widen communication. Provide updated information on SDGs on your municipal website and use SDGs icons in your municipal homepage. Online media – such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram - provide an effective and efficacious means of communication that has the potential to attract almost everyone, including the **youngest**. If no internet access is available, or to integrate online communication campaign, public meetings and brochures at government offices are different channels to reach excluded audiences
- Facilitate opportunities for citizen engagement on policy issues through public consultation, quantitative and qualitative analysis, and debates
- Emphasize the role of each specific actor on the basis of its capacities and abilities. For instance, researchers, professionals and universities can contribute to provide data, statistics, sharing the results of a conducted survey, and interpret the outcomes. Trade unionists can share their experience on employment and unemployment, gender equality gaps in the market and job recruitment, and the risk of rights violation in the leading economic sectors of a municipality
- An alternative method to catch the attention of the wide public is to disseminate posters and labels in strategic places in the city. For instance, a brief explanation of what the municipality is doing to implement green public spaces in line with the Agenda can be placed in parks and green areas; or the text of SDG 8 (decent work) can be affixed on the trade unions' main entrance. This simple approach can be used for each goal and helps disseminating the message and the aim of global SDGs at the local level
- Teachers play a great role in sharing the importance of SDGs in schools to their students through presentations and school trips

- To reach the most vulnerable groups, for instance illiterates or migrants, great use of images, radio programs, and translation in different languages should be made. For instance, the Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG) <sup>71</sup> has shared online a useful list of simple actions that both local authorities and non-governmental partners can implement to make SDGs as visible as possible to everyone. Some examples include SDGs badges, images, educational trainings and games.
- Distribute SDGs material for everyday use<sup>72</sup>

*Good practices: Overcoming the digital divide for maximum participation<sup>73</sup>*

In **Liberia**, a radio call-in program, **Know Your Law Makers**, was developed by the Centre for Promotion of Democracy with support from UNDP and broadcast by UNMIL, the official radio station of the United Nations in Liberia. The aim was to involve people directly in governance processes by facilitating a constructive dialogue between them and their elected representatives and government officials. Key aspects of supporting the initiative included: i) the development of the radio program; (ii) mediated interaction between local people and government officials via radio phone-in programs; and (iii) support to local listening groups.

In the **Philippines**, the **CALL 2015 project** was developed in the context of MDG localization to promote transparent and accountable governance processes. The initiative created citizens-government face-to-face dialogue, enhanced effective participation in local governance processes, and institutionalized accountability mechanisms to enhance local transparency while combating corruption. To achieve this aim, an MDG Integrity Circle was developed in each city involved. The Circle was formed by a variety of local stakeholders such as civil society organizations' representatives, academic institutions, NGO activists, and especially local women<sup>74</sup>.

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<sup>71</sup> Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), SDGs in Your Municipality, 50 Practical Awareness- Raising Examples

<sup>72</sup> 50 initiatives; Giz, Agenda 2030 in my municipality, A handbook for practitioners for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), February 2019, pp. 22-25

<sup>73</sup> UN Guidelines, Box 7, p. 29

<sup>74</sup> For further reading, please see UNDP, Communication for Development Strengthening the effectiveness of the United Nations, 2011, p. 63-68

## Governance, Leadership, and Integration for SDGs localization

A clear governance structure should be established at the start of SDGs localization, so that the relevant institutions and stakeholders are involved in the process from the very beginning, aware of their roles and responsibilities.

Effective governance for SDGs localization can be:

- Implemented through **high-level political leadership**. If supported by high-level political leaders, i.e. the mayor and municipal council members, planned programs and initiatives have a greater chance of being leveraged, prioritized and equipped with adequate resources for implementation. Leadership, both politically and administratively, is in fact a core requisite for the success of the SDG implementation.
  - ➔ Some local governments have formalised this leadership. For example, the mayor of the city of **Lommel** (Belgium) is officially responsible for the implementation and observance of the SDGs. On the other hand, **Rheden** (The Netherlands) has appointed 17 employees as SDG ambassadors. Their role is to promote sustainable development and SDGs through their daily work, ensuring that policy decisions make the greatest possible contribution to the SDG of their competence<sup>75</sup>
- Embedded in **local governance** structures and coordinated. Key municipal sectors such as planning, energy, water and sanitation, and waste management, are often governed separately. Inter-sectoral dialogue and communication can promote better coordination. For instance, those city administrations that have departments of sustainability could coordinate their actions to take the lead on SDG governance.
- Fostered by high **accountability** of public institutions and stakeholders in delivering SDG targets
- Enhanced by an **integrated approach** to sustainable development that emphasizes the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. A method as such, compared to the traditional compartmentalized organizational approach, has several benefits. In particular, it encourages coordination between departments and public institutions, stimulating mutually beneficial decision-making and minimizing trade-offs. Integrated local

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<sup>75</sup> VVSG, Inspiration Guide: Integrating the SDGs into your Multi-Annual Policy Plan, pp. 7-8

governance includes also vertical and horizontal coordination. The former concerns coordination with national and regional governments that will promote improved resource allocation based on knowledge of local needs and development gaps. The latter is about coordination across departments/ministries to optimize resource utilization and aim for mutually beneficial outcomes. Horizontal and vertical policy integration is vital to shaping the development of any territory and guiding action at the political level. The territorial coordination between local governments is necessary to improve development linkages within the region to reduce territorial inequalities, protect ecological systems, and improve economic productivity in the region as a whole.

The need for an integrated, coordinated approach is testified by the slow progress so far made in urban planning. Even if integrated vertical and horizontal coordination are essential, they represent considerable challenges. In upper middle-income countries, planning coordination and integration generally work quite well. However, coordination between local, regional and national levels remains a difficult exercise everywhere despite the different modalities that have been promoted in recent decades. While shared planning, comprehensive dialogue and joint financial responsibilities seem to be at the forefront for the future of national-local cooperation in **Western Europe**, in **Eastern Europe** the transition from the old regimes to new democratic States has confused roles and responsibilities, limiting the State's ability to control or coordinate with the private sector. In most countries, vertical coordination is further fragmented by an intermediate level of regional institutions involved in planning.

#### *Working Group: Ensuring Coordination mechanisms*

Is there a mechanism or structure for coordinating responses to migration and displacement issues?<sup>76</sup>

E.g.:

- between different departments within your territory (horizontal, between different departments or offices within the same unit)
- between your territory and other localities in the country (e.g. sister city, twinning arrangement, etc.)

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<sup>76</sup> IOM migration policy planning p. 46

- between different levels of government (vertical, between local, regional and national governments)

### *Good Practice: The City-Countryside Reciprocity Contracts in France<sup>77</sup>*

In 2015, the French national government launched a bottom-up pilot program to enhance partnership between cities and their surrounding countryside in areas of common concern such as employment, the environment and local services. The rationale behind this was to fill the gap between urban and rural areas in vital local sectors, as well as to increase the competitiveness and attraction of small sites. Each selected city underwent dynamic discussions to find priority areas for both the city and its countryside and coordinated their actions to find practical solutions that were feasible and adequate for both parties. The project clustered rural development actors by linking rural and urban competences, in turn bringing added value to this synergy.

### *Recommendations*

- To facilitate participatory urban planning (SDG 11) and promote integrated urban and territorial approaches, the urban and territorial planning legal framework needs to be revised and updated.
- Among these adjustments, the role of CSOs should be highlighted and underlined since these actors are able to promote bottom-up and participatory planning in contexts where decentralization and local democratization is partial and/or weak.
- Reliable local data to inform and monitor planning should also be developed
- Horizontal integration by means of coordination of different municipal departments and stakeholders should be promoted

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<sup>77</sup> To know more about the French initiatives, please see: European Network for Rural Development, Reciprocity Contract: France, available at [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg\\_smart-villages\\_case-study\\_fr.pdf](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg_smart-villages_case-study_fr.pdf); Cosqueric, SMART VILLAGES Contrat de réciprocité Brest Métropole / Pays du Centre Ouest Bretagne, Brussels 26 October 2017, available at [https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg1-smart-villages\\_reciprocity\\_contracts\\_cosqueric.pdf](https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/sites/enrd/files/tg1-smart-villages_reciprocity_contracts_cosqueric.pdf)

## Four steps to implement the 2030 Agenda at the local level

The UN General Assembly Resolution on the 2030 Agenda clearly states that partnerships and collaboration should be implemented by all relevant actors, at all levels and sectors, to fulfil sustainable development: *“governments and public institutions will also work closely on implementation with regional and local authorities, sub-regional institutions, international institutions, academia, philanthropic organizations, volunteer groups and others”*<sup>78</sup>.

Multi-level governance, also referred to as “whole-of-government” or “whole society” approach, is essential to integrate local and regional governments with national policies and strategies, to connect them coherently to then be able to set up responsive policies to the identified priorities. This requires enhanced dialogue, participation and cooperation between administrations, as well as between public and civil society actors, the private sector, workers’ organizations, and academia at national, regional and local levels.

The **2016 UN Guidelines for local stakeholders** outline the main steps to implement the 2030 Agenda at the sub-national level, bearing in mind all the elements and steps specified above:

**Step 1: Initiate an inclusive and participatory process**, which includes raising awareness of the nature, purpose and incentives of the SDGs at local level, setting the scene for multi-stakeholder discussion and involvement, and prioritizing sustainable development through strong political leadership and integrated governance arrangements, as said above. A successful implementation needs public support and engagement as well as a long-term commitment.

The former UN General-Secretary Ban Ki-moon has emphasized that the SDGs are the *“People’s Agenda”*<sup>79</sup>, thus giving notable relevance to the work done by local authorities in the field. An inclusive and participatory process in the development, implementation, and monitoring of the SDGs at the local level may bring significant benefits, such as:

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<sup>78</sup> UN General Assembly Resolution, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, 25 September 2015, A/RES/70/1, par. 45

<sup>79</sup> United Nations, Consensus Reached on New Sustainable Development Agenda to be adopted by World Leaders in September. Importantly, in 2012, Ban Ki-moon launched the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) to provide relevant actors with global scientific and technological expertise with practical problem solving. The SDSN is now supporting the implementation of the goals at local, national, and global scales, by raising awareness of the SDGs and by promoting local partnerships. The SDSN Thematic Network for Sustainable Cities, in particular, advanced the Campaign for an Urban Sustainable Development Goal.

- Strengthened capacity of both local governments and citizens for more participatory governance in the implementation process

➔ **EXAMPLE: Brazil and the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**

In collaboration with the GIZ project “Sustainable Development of Metropolitan Regions”, local NGOs and authorities as well as with UN-HABITAT and national institutions, the SDSN Rio Sustainable Cities Initiative is working with local, metropolitan, and national stakeholders to explore feasible solutions for local and regional implementation of the SDGs, with special focus on SDG 11, as well as to examine how to start monitoring their progress in the metropolitan regions of Brazil by means of inclusive dialogue, metropolitan cooperation, and comparative analysis<sup>80</sup>.

- Enhanced partnership with different actors, which in turn facilitates the convergence of efforts and provides more expertise from different perspectives. Partnership also improves funding opportunities and technical capacities
- Greater inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups, which increases their sense of belonging to the local community, as well as the representation of their needs and interests at the local level

**Step 2: Set the local SDG agenda<sup>81</sup>.** To give effect to the global 2030 Agenda, cities need to adapt the international SDGs into an ambitious yet realistic local agenda. This means that local implementation should respond to the specific needs felt by the local community as well as to the priorities set out by local institutions. It has to be related to the local context, and be harmoniously coordinated with activities implemented at the regional and national level. To this end, the local SDG agenda needs to be drawn up by local authorities, civil society organizations, universities, urban networks and other relevant stakeholders to help set the local SDG agenda<sup>82</sup>. To be successfully achieved, local priorities should be translated into strategic targets.

For example, if the identified priority is to support the integration of migrants in the local community (SDG 11), tangible, strategic targets to address this priority could be:

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<sup>80</sup> SDSN, Getting Started with the SDGs in Cities A Guide for Stakeholders, p. 33

<sup>81</sup> To set up a local agenda, the role of employees and authorities in charge of the implementation of the Agenda must be fully aware of the nature, aims, means of implementation, and implications of the 2030 Agenda.

<sup>82</sup> For guidelines on how a brainstorming meeting across public and private actors can be organized, please see GIZ, Agenda in my municipality, p. 28

Target 1 – increasing and strengthening the Municipal Centres for Immigration, providing them with adequate resources and useful information materials on the rights, duties, responsibilities and opportunities for migrants.

Target 2 – organizing social events to mix up the communities of migrants and local communities

Target 3 – offering language, educational, and professional courses to young and adult migrants

To define local SDG targets, the UN Guidelines suggest answering the following two main questions:

1) how to select the targets; and 2) at what level to set them.

SDG targets should be selected if:

- They are relevant to the territory, feasible, and realistically achievable given the local services, local capacities, and available financial and human resources.
- If they are part of the political manifesto of the ruling party or part of the coalition agreement, targets are more likely to be achieved since they are typically already supported
- There are development gaps, and urgent measures are needed to reverse the trend. The prioritization of targets should be evidence-based, for example proven by city development reports, policy briefs, consultancy reports, and should be in line with the public's opinion. It is likely that individual municipal goals find reference in several SDGs, and vice versa.

### *Good Practice: Fostering Inclusion through SDGs*

The 2018 **Regional Conference on social inclusion and (re-)integration through SDGs**, held in **Slovenia** with the participation of governmental and non-governmental actors, shows how some targets can be achieved by local authorities either by simply extending existing municipal tasks, or by undertaking new specific actions<sup>83</sup>. For instance:

- ➔ to increase **gender equality** the following was suggested: implementing concrete measures to balance the gender pay gap; further training more women in management positions; supporting paternity leave and enabling part-time management jobs; extending afternoon care in schools and during holidays; offering

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<sup>83</sup> GIZ, Agenda 2030 in my municipality, A handbook for practitioners for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), February 2019, pp. 53-55



and promoting empowerment programs and workshops for girls and women with and without a migration background

- ➔ to build strong [institutions](#) the following was suggested: providing intercultural and interdisciplinary training in the administration to raise awareness of complex and interlinked societal, economic and environmental challenges; promoting more transparent public budget; organizing mandatory anti-corruption training for administration, local government, and related staff.

The outcomes of the conference were tangible, since concrete actions have been taken by municipalities in line with SDG achievement. For instance, education and information on [anti-trafficking](#) legislation was promoted in Elbasan, Durres and Korca (Albania)<sup>84</sup>.

Other typical examples of fruitful inclusive participation among relevant development actors include:

- the Dialogues for Future initiated by the rural municipality of **Scharnstein** (Austria) where discussion between citizens, politicians and experts productively led to proposals for the implementation of the SDGs. These were presented to randomly selected citizens (elderly, migrants, and youth included) and, after collecting all the inputs, projects were identified and public “forums” were organised to supervise their implementation. A “Citizens Council” was also established with the responsibility to regularly evaluate the projects and elaborate proposals for the following year.
- CSOs addressing the needs of specific vulnerable groups (e.g. Sanctuary Cities and Refuge-Cities to welcome refugees and asylum seekers). These are a means of strengthening social cohesion and solidarity but also of guaranteeing the protection of human rights

#### *Working Group: Raising awareness towards SDGs<sup>85</sup>*

Participants are divided in small groups. Each participant in each group receives 5 post-its. They write down one word or concept that pops into their mind when they think about sustainability in the context of their municipality. The following questions may provide some direction:

- How is sustainability expressed in your internal organisation? And in your external services?

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<sup>84</sup> Idem, p. 56

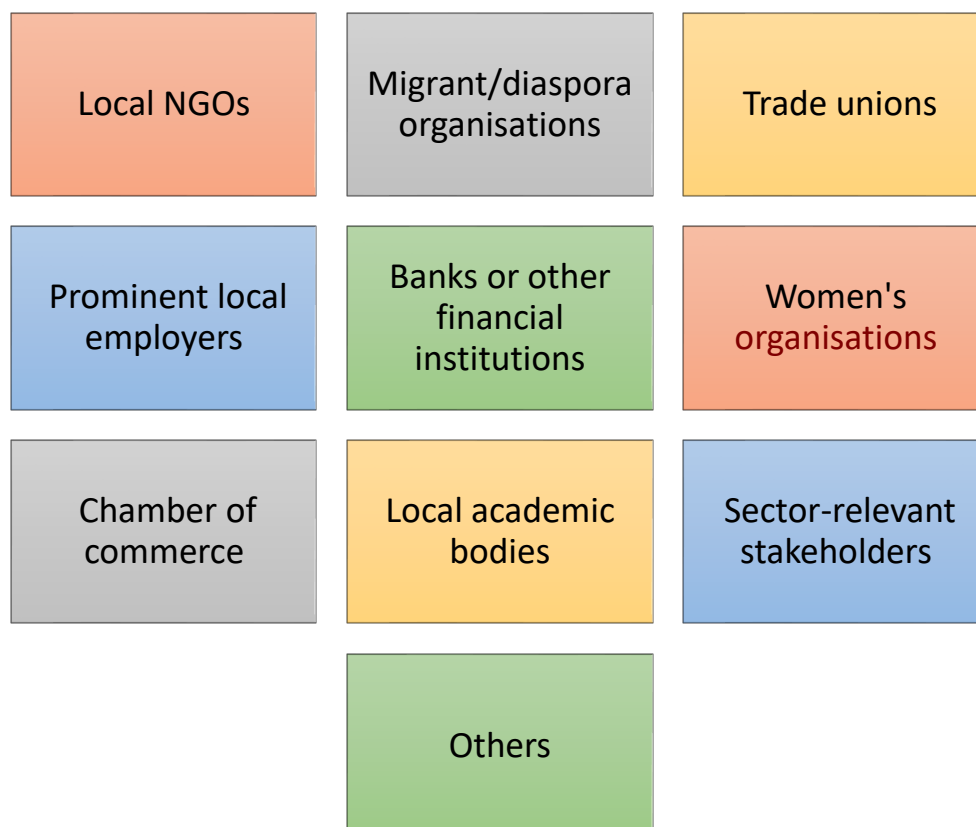
<sup>85</sup> The exercise was adapted from VVSG, Inspiration Guide: Integrating SDGs into your Multi-Annual Policy Plan, p. 13

- What is your goal? What do you want your municipality to look like in 2030? And what is it that must change to achieve this?
- What is your municipality doing, and what is the added value of this? What would you like to focus more on?
- What does your municipality stand for? What are your core values? What do you believe in?

Discuss the result with the group. Which SDGs have most words? What are the main measures put in place by your municipality to achieve those SDGs? Are they similar? What SDGs have the least words and why?

*Working Group: Stakeholders involvement in local migration policies*

Does your municipality engage the following actors before/during/after the development, implementation and evaluation processes of a migration-related policy<sup>86</sup>?



<sup>86</sup> IOM migration in policy planning, p. 42

If NOT, why? What concrete steps could be taken to extend stakeholder involvement?

If YES, what is it that enables this broad commitment? In which sectors does this multi-stakeholder approach work more efficiently? What steps could be taken to improve engagement?

### Review existing policies and plans

MDG experiences have shown that countries are more likely to make progress on international development goals where they already have similar targets or priorities in place. States and cities share the same tendency<sup>87</sup>. A helpful starting point is therefore to scan existing policies in the realm of MDGs, adapting them to the new goals and targets, by making adequate adjustments and gain support for these initiatives already in place, especially if available financial resources are low. Attention should be given to any blind spots or, conversely, to finding potential synergies and potential links to other local or even national goals. Useful examples provided by the UN Guidelines include:

- National urban policy frameworks and ongoing nationally-funded initiatives that define the development priorities and mandates of urban and local areas
- Municipal/council plans and urban development plans that are likely to have budgetary support for the outlined projects and initiatives
- Environmental policies, climate change action plans, and sustainable development plans exist in many cities, and align closely with specific SDG objectives
- Sectoral or departmental plans and strategies provide an overview of the key development priorities within each sector
- Detailed project reports and draft planning documents can be sourced for projects that were shelved due to budgetary or capacity constraints<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>87</sup> Sarwar, Moizza Binat, National MDG Implementation: Lessons for the SDG era, Overseas Development Institute, 2015, quoted in UN Guidelines for local stakeholders, p. 34

<sup>88</sup> Un Guidelines for local stakeholders, p. 35

After reviewing the existing policies, the next step for the implementation of SDGs at local level consists of carrying out a baseline<sup>89</sup> assessment to identify development gaps, useful adjustments to be made, and the amount of resources needed to reach the prospected result. The baseline should ideally be set on a limited range of indicators that include the core elements of the SDGs, and reflect the three-dimensions of sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental dimension)<sup>90</sup>. Statistical sources such as national censuses, socio-economic surveys, administrative records, NGO and CSO surveys can also be used to draw the baseline. The baseline assessment<sup>91</sup> can be done independently by local authorities, as well as in coordination with other sub-national governments and non-governmental partners (universities, international organizations, and NGOs, volunteers).

**Step 3: Plan for SDG implementation.** Implementing the local Agenda to be achieved by 2030 will require a multi-annual policy plan, showing long-term objectives from multi-sectoral perspectives, supported by adequate implementation capacity and financial resources, and multi-stakeholder partnerships. To this end, the UN guidelines for local stakeholders identify some key elements to be present in SDGs implementation planning:

- Policy coherence, defined by the OECD as *“the systematic promotion of mutually reinforcing policy actions across government departments and agencies creating synergies towards achieving the agreed objectives”*. At the local level, this implies balancing social, economic and environmental considerations and managing trade-offs to ensure that progress in achieving one target does not result in setbacks for other targets. For urban and metropolitan governments, the coherence of territorial policies will also be important, as the development needs of cities must be balanced with those of the surrounding areas.
- Multi-sectoral planning. It helps identify the transversal and crosscutting issues across targets and SDGs, such as migration and climate change, which require achieving coordinated action and dialogue across a number of different sectors

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<sup>89</sup> “A ‘baseline’ refers to measurements of key conditions or indicators before a process, program, or project begins, from which change and progress can be assessed”, *ibidem*

<sup>90</sup> For guidelines on selecting quick, baseline indicators, please see the SDSN National SDG Guide, available at <https://sdg.guide/>

<sup>91</sup> For an excellent explanation of the use and purposes of a baseline assessment with a step by step description on how to create it, please see UN Guidelines for local stakeholders, p. 41. For an example of a baseline assessment, please see Annex 2: Baseline for the 2016-19 Strategic engagement and monitoring of indicators with latest available data, in European Commission, 2017 Report on equality between women and men in the EU Justice and Consumers, p. 63

- Policy-making that, in the sphere of localization, should consistently monitor the progress of the implemented policies and frameworks to assess their impact on territories and population; adapt and adjust targets and aims on the basis of evaluation and gained outcomes; always keep updated on new available technologies; balance short-term priorities against long-term development objectives.
- Constant internal and external communication and sharing

VVSG, GIZ and other bodies affirm that the development of the local agenda also represents an excellent opportunity to **get employees involved in the SDG implementation** in your municipality<sup>92</sup>.

This requires employees to be familiar with the SDGs, something that you can achieve through SDG introduction workshops for local authorities (such as the mayor and the municipal council), employees and the entire staff, then specifying on which SDGs you are focusing your efforts, which priorities you want to address and how. It is important to show that SDGs are embedded in your everyday activities and highlight the links between your development local policies and the SDGs. To this end, constant and regular communication through newsletter, emails, and meetings is important to keep employees updated about municipal and international strategies, and progress. Special events and trainings for in-depth analysis of the SDGs also serve the purpose.

Furthermore, you can establish an SDG working committee with employees from different departments (e.g. cooperation, environment, public services, communication, etc.) to help write the SDG story of your municipality.

For instance, on the occasion of the Global Goals Week (16-23 September 2017), the municipality of Elbasan (**Albania**) and the UN Agencies in Albania organized a week of raising action, awareness and accountability among CSOs, youth, and Municipal Council Members for sustainable development through public events and the delivering of additional lessons in public schools. The “Elbasan 2030” meeting served as a platform to exchange ideas, create partnerships, engage communities, build public support and drive actions for the achievement of the SDGs at local level<sup>93</sup>, with a particular focus on **SDG 5**, whose contents involved around one hundred secondary school students to speak about concrete actions to create equal opportunities for women and men.

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<sup>92</sup> VVSG, INSPIRATION GUIDE: INTEGRATING THE SDGS INTO YOUR MULTI-ANNUAL POLICY PLAN, pp. 9-11; GIZ, Agenda 2030 in my municipality, A handbook for practitioners for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), February 2019

<sup>93</sup> GIZ, Agenda 2030 in my municipality, p. 36

SDG targets need effective financial management and additional financial resources to be effectively implemented. Local governments committed to SDG localization need to mobilize innovative financing mechanisms and incorporate financial planning as an integral aspect of all action plans.

To do so, there are three main categories of revenue streams that local governments can use: 1) national government transfers, 2) own-source revenues, and 3) private (non-government) and international sources. Financial planning and financing mechanisms strongly depend on the ability of local governments to maintain a stable local environment, and to manage public finances effectively. To this end, local governments can rely on the needs assessment, a tool that cities can use to calculate the costs of implementing the SDGs. Importantly, it helps assess any additional resources and funding needed to achieve the SDG targets from the current baseline level. To begin with, a detailed needs assessment should be conducted at the program level by city staff. Those local governments that seek to attract funding from diverse sources may consider conducting a broad assessment of the total additional costs to achieve local SDG targets over the 2016-2030 time-horizon. In countries where local governments are primarily dependent on intergovernmental transfers, an additional needs assessment may be used to demand increased budgetary allocations from higher governments. Needs assessments will show not only the costs of interventions to achieve SDGs, but also the costs of operations and maintenance, depreciation, capacity development, cooperation and coordination mechanisms, monitoring systems, and the additional operating and marginal costs for attaining universal coverage of services and systems.

**Step 4: Monitor and evaluate SDG progress.** Monitoring is about the systematic collection of data on specified indicators to track progress, while evaluating means using the collected data to review the development policies as well as to identify the impact and efficiency of the completed projects. The main challenge for most local governments will be to equip themselves with local monitoring and evaluation systems that are affordable yet reliable.

To effectively monitor and evaluate SDG outcome and progress, three are the essential components that need to be adequately developed:

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<sup>94</sup> UN guidelines, p. 49; Investment Needs to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals: Understanding the Billions and Trillions (<http://unsdsn.org/>)

- Program performance information: Departments and/or local administrations should provide data on the performance of specific programs or interventions.
- City statistics: These are social, economic, demographic, spatial, and environmental statistics that are disaggregated at the level of the city or settlement. They can be obtained from national censuses and surveys, as well as departmental surveys and administrative data.
- Evaluations: To allow external actors (such as researchers and consultants) to evaluate the progress made by local authorities, the submission of local data and sources should be authorized on a regular basis

Monitoring and evaluation frameworks have the advantage of:

- Providing a comprehensive and precise scenario for crucial policy decisions, including decisions on how to best allocate resources.
- Enhancing the accountability of local authorities. Indeed, many development partners such as private actors and international organizations require monitoring and evaluation as a pre-condition for providing their support
- Promoting transparency and responsiveness. Sharing data on a broad basis increases public trust and confidence in the local government. Moreover, it provides researchers, professionals, and citizens with the opportunities to develop meticulous research, policy recommendations, and tools that can directly strengthen local governance.

### *Good Practices in Mobilizing Local and Regional Authorities for the Implementation of SDGs: Valencia (Spain)*

In 2015, the Regional Government of Valencia was among the first in Europe to adopt the SDGs as a point of reference and to launch its own SDG strategies. The city in fact developed a multi-stakeholder partnership at regional level - with the active involvement of Valencian CSOs, universities, NGOs and the private sector - and developed an inter-departmental mechanism to promote the “whole-of-government” SDG approach<sup>95</sup>. It established new official bodies to monitor the consistency of policies

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<sup>95</sup> For further details on the initiatives, please see Generalitat Valenciana & UNDP, The Region of Valencia and the local implementation of the SDGs: A region committed to Cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, May 2016, available at <https://www.localizingthesdgs.org/library/202/The-Region-of-Valencia-and-the-local-implementation-of-the-SDGs-A-region-committed-to-Cooperation-and-the-2030-Agenda-for-Sustainable-Development.pdf>; Generalitat Valenciana, La Agenda 2030 – Hoja de ruta para ciudades y pueblos de la Comunitat Valenciana available at

between the different Government Departments (Consellerías), and promoted actions to both raise awareness among citizens and train policy makers for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. In 2016, twelve out of sixteen cities of the regional government signed the Alliance of Cities, which saw the proactive participation of both the academia and NGOs, with the aim of generating fruitful vertical and horizontal cooperation and to raise awareness among the public.

To share information on the SDGs, stimulate interest and encourage broad commitment, a number of meaningful initiatives have been promoted, including but not limited to<sup>96</sup>:

- Online training on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda for public employees to provide a comprehensive framework for the 2030 Agenda and how to apply them in public programmes and policy
- Education and research on the SDGs from the Public Valencian Universities, along with the creation of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on the challenges for university and academic staff
- Partnerships between the public administration, the private sector and civil society. Several actions have been envisaged: the creation of a High Level Advisory Council of the Generalitat of Valencia and an Interdepartmental Commission, together with the Alliance of Cities, the Alliance of the Valencian public universities, and Public-Private Sector Partnerships

*Good Practices in Mobilizing Local and Regional Authorities for the Implementation of SDGs: Potenza (Italy)*

In 2013, the Province of Potenza approved a Territorial Coordination Plan (TCP) to provide guidelines and support to the local actors (including communities, private sector and municipalities) in correct land planning and use, as well as to support and promote actions to develop communities' resilience to be taken into account also in urban planning. Importantly, the Plan sees the involvement of local actors, the private sector and the community as a fundamental part in the resilience implementation

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[http://www.transparencia.gva.es/documents/162282364/163926803/ODS\\_+versi%C3%B3n+web\\_CAST.pdf/6ba878ab-fd5a-48d1-94fc-d92f467412bd](http://www.transparencia.gva.es/documents/162282364/163926803/ODS_+versi%C3%B3n+web_CAST.pdf/6ba878ab-fd5a-48d1-94fc-d92f467412bd); and Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia, THE 2030 AGENDA: TRANSFORM CATALONIA, IMPROVE THE WORLD, REPORT 3/2016, Barcelona, 27 September 2016, available at [http://ods.cat/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CADS-Report\\_3\\_2016\\_The-2030-Agenda\\_Transform-Catalonia\\_Improve-the-World.pdf](http://ods.cat/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/CADS-Report_3_2016_The-2030-Agenda_Transform-Catalonia_Improve-the-World.pdf)

<sup>96</sup> Generalitat Valenciana & UNDP, The Region of Valencia and the local implementation of the SDGs: A region committed to Cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, May 2016, p. 8-10



processes. An important section of the TCP is also dedicated to disaster risk reduction - through risk assessment analysis - and to the mitigation activities to be performed.

Similarly to the rest of Italy, Potenza remains potentially exposed to all the major natural and anthropic risks with serious likely damages to the community, among which: seismic risk, hydrogeological risk, forest fires, coastal erosion, climate change, desertification and land degradation, soil sealing. The TCP included different levels of implementation. At the institutional level, the role the Province plays in coordinating the planning activities at urban level in the regional context was duly considered. At the same time, the economic, cultural, social, and environmental benefits that all interested actors would gain through the adoption of risk reduction measures in light of the SDGs were well illustrated<sup>97</sup>.

### Setting up relevant bodies

Local and regional authorities can be involved in the development process of the 2030 Agenda through the establishment of a **new consultative council** or technical committees that advise central government. This is already in place in several countries, among which Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Benin, Mexico, which have either created or assigned responsibilities to inter-ministerial committees or National Councils for Sustainable Development<sup>98</sup>. If bodies for sustainable development already exist (such as the **Council for Sustainable Development** in the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Moldova, Montenegro and Switzerland; Greece's Economic and Social Committee; and Poland's Joint Central Government and Local Government Committee<sup>99</sup>), local and regional authorities' participation together with relevant stakeholders' involvement would bring significant benefits to their actions.

UCLG also suggests organizing specific coordination and follow-up meetings on the progress of SDGs on a regular basis involving national and sub-national authorities.

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<sup>97</sup> UNISDR, Implementation of the "Resilience of Communities" Policy in Land Use Planning on the Provincial Territory of Potenza, January 2014, p. 16-17

<sup>98</sup> UCLG, Towards the localization of the SDGs, p. 29

<sup>99</sup> *Ibidem*

### *Good Practice: consultative immigrant bodies in Italy*

In Italy, several regions and municipalities have created consultative immigrant bodies to give voice to migrants who do not have the right to vote, but who still represent part of the social community. Among these, in the **Bolzano** Autonomous Province, all adult third country nationals who are regularly present in its territory but cannot vote, are entitled to a *de facto* right to participate and speak at municipal council meetings. The council of immigrants can therefore influence local policy decision-making and it has also a role in supporting integration projects and initiatives<sup>100</sup>.

### *Integrating SDGs in local election Manifestos*

In order to ensure sustainable policy decisions and plans, it is important that local political parties include the vision of sustainable development in their manifestos and electoral programs. The explicit mention and integration of SDGs in local political campaigns could have several noteworthy effects. First of all, it would represent a first, strong signal of political awareness of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda that in turn would attract the attention of local voters and inhabitants, since the political debate in public meetings and in the media would also concern the purposes of the global SDGs and their role in local affairs. Second, introducing the SDGs in political manifestos would also make political campaigns and speeches definitely more consistent and responsive to the real needs of the local community. Indeed, given the nature, the content and the aims of the 17 goals, they would move the political debate away from mere propaganda and demagogic/populist speeches, to focus more on the real, current issues that are felt at the local level as much as at the global level, with different features. This, in turn, would also connect local communities with global communities, as small municipalities in the two opposite sides of the world can still share the same difficulties, even though with different patterns and levels of intensity. This would make people feel closer to each other, and enhance their sense of solidarity and empathy not only for other populations in the world, but also for individual migrants and foreigners living in their municipalities. Third, political beliefs, values and aims totally contrasting the views contained in the 2030 Agenda would probably reveal their downsides and may be not valued anymore as pursuable policies.

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<sup>100</sup> IOM, migration in policy planning, p. 44-45; further information available at [comune.bolzano.it](http://comune.bolzano.it)

To begin with, it is essential to start from one of the following options<sup>101</sup>:

Option 1: The party manifesto is still undone and you want to use the SDGs as a starting point.

If so:

- ➔ Step 1: Evaluating existing policies and their outcomes
- ➔ Step 2: What you could improve
- ➔ Step 3: What needs you want to prioritize

Option 2: The key themes of your party manifesto have already been determined and you want to link/adapt these to all or part of the SDGs

If so:

- ➔ Step 1: Establish the link between the identified political aims and the SDGs or the five dimensions of sustainable development. As a reminder:
  - Social (people): SDG 1-5
  - Ecological (planet): SDG 6 + 12-15
  - Prosperity/Economy (prosperity): SDG 7-11
  - Peace, safety and strong public services/good governance (peace): SDG 16
  - Partnerships: SDG 17
- ➔ Step 2: Develop sustainable actions for each political theme in your party manifesto to indicate how you intend to make your contribution to this theme. Explore what actions your party is willing to implement.

Option 3: The themes of your party manifesto have already been determined and you want to link these to the 5 pillars of sustainable development (people, planet, prosperity, as well as peace and partnerships).

If so:

- ➔ Step 1: Relate each political topic with one or more dimensions of sustainable development

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<sup>101</sup> Taken from VVSG, Recommendations to integrate the SDGs in your political manifesto, pp. 3-4, March 2018

- ➔ Step 2: Think about the connections between your political goals and the 5 pillars of sustainable development, then find coordinated actions that can promote both.

To mainstream your intention in the political manifesto, the VVSG has thought of a draft text to declare your party's engagement in implementing the SDGs at the local level:

*"The <citizens of the municipality of x> do not live on an island: what happens on the other side of the world is becoming more and more real to us and vice versa. Just think about the impact of climate change, migration or companies that resettle in low-wage countries. But the interconnectedness of our municipality with the rest of the world also offers opportunities. Such as more and more contacts through social media, cultural enrichment or new markets for our products. This global connectedness brings both opportunities and challenges.*

*<Party x> considers the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations as the perfect framework to respond to the challenges of today and tomorrow. The UN uses 17 goals to strive towards a sustainable world in 2030. In this inclusive and universal development agenda, development is inextricably linked to respect for our planet and its inhabitants.*

*All 17 goals relate to local powers and cannot be achieved without the efforts of cities and municipalities. The challenges present themselves at a local level, including in <the municipality of x>, and solutions can also be found here. The municipality is the level of government closest to the people and knows best what is going on and needed. <Party x> recognises the needs and wishes of the <citizens of the municipality of x> and wants to address these by placing them in the broader framework of sustainable development.*

*<Party x> wants <the municipality of x> to adopt an exemplary role. This is why our party has also signed the "Global Goals, Local Focus" declaration, based on which <the municipality of x> commits to contribute to the SDGs. The SDGs are a great opportunity for <the municipality of x> to work together with its citizens, companies and associations on a better, sustainable future for all <citizens of the municipality x> and the generations that succeed them. In the spirit of the sustainable development goals, the party manifesto you are reading has been structured around the following priorities/key words:*

- Sustainability*
- Accessible/quality services*
- Involvement/participation*

- *Youth and seniors*
- *Good governance/finance*
- ...<sup>102</sup>

### Practical suggestions of participatory inclusion tools

By using the SDGs as a framework for your political manifesto and other participation initiatives, you raise awareness among citizens about the importance of the 2030 Agenda and simultaneously get inspired by the expertise of your community to jointly look for practical solutions to local challenges. What is more, **citizens' active participation** ensures that all citizens are included and heard and this also expresses one of the core values of the SDGs: To leave no one behind.

You can ask a group of 8-10 people from different backgrounds what projects the municipality has carried out in recent years that they consider positive and try to correlate those projects with one or more SDGs, then what projects and actions they are satisfied with and what their expectations for the future are.

Participatory instruments through planning and budgeting are another way to foster engagement between citizens and local institutions in all regions. At a global scale, more than **9,000 cities** and local governments are participating in the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) to undertake actions on climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as on sustainable energy.

You can also develop and run a **youth** action project on sustainable cities and communities in which you invite **older generations** to talk about how the settlement has changed over time. To support their descriptions you can use art and literature.

To increase young people's and adults' sensitivity toward green spaces, you can build a **community garden**. First, map the area to note where there is good use of public open space, areas where the needs of the community are addressed, green spaces, etc. This may also help identify the areas that need to be improved, such as areas most exposed to natural hazards.

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<sup>102</sup> VVSG, recommendation, p. 17

## Recommendations and planning tools

### *How to implement a Local Gender Action Plan*

Bodies such as the Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy<sup>103</sup> (ICLD) and the Observatory of the European Charter for Equality of Women and Men in Local Life<sup>104</sup> (hereinafter, the Observatory) consider a Local Gender Action Plan as a prominent tool to implement SDG 5 at the local level. It provides solutions to those specific challenges felt at the local level, giving different answers depending on the priority issues and needs felt in each municipality. The actions undertaken will therefore reflect the needs of local women. The Observatory, managed by the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, has promoted a rich and detailed Toolkit for local authorities and decision-makers on how to create a Local Action Plan for gender equality.

The first step is to conduct a **survey** on the state of affairs in your local/regional area from a gender perspective. This means that the survey should provide information on the percentage of men and women in your municipality, their nationalities, their jobs, unemployment rates etc. The survey will show both the interests and needs of men and women, as well as the gaps and challenges.

The Observatory's website<sup>105</sup> provides a useful example on which information should be gathered and in which field:

Examples of fields of competencies	Examples of information to be collected
The political role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number of women and men elected</li><li>• number of women and men holding office (Deputy mayors, members of executives, etc.)</li></ul>
The employer role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number of women and men employed in different roles</li><li>• pay of women and men in those different roles</li><li>• number of complaints of sexual harassment</li></ul>
The service delivery role	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• number of women and men using specific services</li><li>• number of women and men satisfied with services provided</li></ul>

<sup>103</sup> ICLD, A toolbox for Local Governments to implement SDG#5 on Gender Equality, Policy Brief 3, October 2018

<sup>104</sup> All information available here: <http://www.charter-equality.eu/>

<sup>105</sup> <http://www.charter-equality.eu/the-action-plan-step-by-step/definir-un-plan-daction-en.html>, accessed on August, 6, 2019

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>resources allocated to women's and men's activities (e.g. sport/health promotion)</li> </ul>
Planning and sustainable development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>users of public transport by gender</li> <li>rates of women and men in poverty</li> </ul>

In this phase it is also crucial to **consult** with a wide range of relevant actors working closely to the issue (elected representatives of your authority, employees and trade unions, local NGOs, as well as existing and potential service users) to explore what they think is needed in your municipality to achieve gender equality, what the main gaps and priorities are and how to address them, to then add this information to the conducted survey. To gain a comprehensive picture on the matter, it is useful to be informed of past policies and actions undertaken in your municipality (how they were implemented, who were the targeted beneficiaries, which priorities were identified, how they were addressed, and the outcomes) as well as to be informed on similar actions that neighbour municipalities may have undertaken and on the methods used.

After targeting the main priorities, it will be time to **draft** the Local Action Plan setting out the main goals to be achieved in the next few years. The Observatory suggests creating a heterogeneous team of experts in the field of gender equality to be involved together with administrative staff and political representatives from all main services involved in the implementation of the actions and external representatives from the civil society.

Timely monitoring and **evaluation** are crucial to the success of the Action Plan, as well as publishing and conducting regular reports on the progress made, while revising your plan according to the evolving social context. At this stage, the Local Action Plan should include the aims, the targeted priorities, the means of implementation, both the human and the financial resource requirements, and a proposed timetable.

In many cases, the implemented actions fail to reach their goals because both the beneficiaries, the general public and the authorities who should implement them do not know that they exist. Therefore, mainstreaming your actions is crucial to this end. The Observatory suggests the following:

- Make all elected members and employees aware of the plan by taking it to the highest body of the authority
- Publish it on the web site or other regular communication with the electorate
- Send it to those who have taken part in the earlier consultation processes
- Inform local NGOs and media
- Offer to attend meetings with local organisations etc. to discuss the equality action plan

Furthermore, institutional mechanisms for gender equality are a guarantee that the content of SDG5 will be comprehensively integrated in local programmes and services, rather than appear only in ad hoc projects. According to ICLD, the success of gender equality policies thus depends on advocacy and institutional tools, such as: awareness raising, gender mainstreaming, political will, adequate funding, and knowledge among institutional and organisational partners<sup>106</sup>.

### *How to make local gender actions more effective*

#### **Integrating gender mainstreaming**

Gender mainstreaming was established in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, and two years later in the ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions. This is a strategy which consists in integrating a gender perspective in all policies, areas of interest, and at all levels in order to achieve gender equality. The idea behind it is to curb the feeling that gender is just an empty component that must be added to a project for it to be acceptable. On the contrary, all phases of a project (policy development, research, advocacy, development, implementation and monitoring), actions and budgets must consider their impact on women and men from the beginning to the evaluation<sup>107</sup>.

For instance, **Vienna** has been working on gender mainstreaming since 2000 to “*better meet the needs and demands of all its citizens and thereby improve quality of public services*”<sup>108</sup>, through a comprehensive gender-based approach. The city introduced gender perspective in urban planning as

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<sup>106</sup> ICLD, p.6

<sup>107</sup> For a wide list of successful gender mainstreaming examples implemented at the local level, please refer to the Observatory’s website

<sup>108</sup> *Idem*



well as in its budget proposals to better understand who benefits more from their policies and how to meet women's particular needs. For example, the city has improved public lighting in its districts in order to ensure more security and safety for women, pedestrians and cyclists in general. Installing cameras and increasing the presence of police officers in particular areas have proved to be successful and simple actions to avoid violence against women. The Austrian capital further concentrated its efforts also in raising awareness (i.e. "Vienna sees it differently" campaign) and education initiatives to share knowledge on gender issues to make people and children more sensitive toward gender equality and to combat gender stereotypes.

### Proceeding through the "3R method"

The 3R method was developed in Sweden in the '90s to facilitate the implementation of gender mainstreaming in municipalities. The approach is about analysing an activity on the basis of the 3 R's: Representation, Resources and Realia.

The first two R's involve gathering statistics that are necessary to complete the analysis and that will serve as a basis for discussion on how to achieve the third R.

- Representation: to analyse gender distribution at all levels of the activity and in all decision-making processes, including examining statistics on the representation of women and men at all levels
- Resources: to analyse how the resources of the activity are distributed between women and men and how they are used by women and men
- Realia: to reflect upon the reasons why the representation and resource distribution ended up this way, bearing in mind the conclusions reached in step 1 and step 2

This type of study makes it possible to discover the division of power between women and men and the ways in which gender affects the character and the organization of an activity. By revealing information on existing inequalities, this method helps to put in a context and structure the gender mainstreaming work and provides a general analytical framework for starting a gender mainstreaming process.

## Using gender Budgeting

Gender Budgeting is a way to apply gender mainstreaming to the budgetary process. In other words, it includes a gender perspective in all the phases of a budgetary process in order to promote gender equality. Gender budgeting is essential to assess the existence of an adequate correlation between local budget expenditures and gender equality aims. It helps analyse whether available resources are also used for reaching gender equality, by investigating their impacts on men and women.

## Implementing gender statistics

Gender statistics provide reliable information on the real conditions of life, rights and opportunities of women and men. By showing the impact of government's policies on their lives, these data enable decision-makers to revise inadequate instruments, promote new strategies and support favourable changes

## Good Practices

### *Enhancing the political role of women: The case of the Emilia Romagna Region (Italy)*

To give effect to the European Charter for Equality, and in particular to promote gender equality while eradicating gender discrimination – both cornerstones of SDG 5 - the Emilia Romagna Region approved L.G. 6/2014, which also contains Gender Budgeting guidelines, to the benefit of both men and women of the regional territory with a specific focus on elected representatives, employees, and staff administration. The contents transversally address the main sectors in which women are usually victims of discrimination, from the employment sector, to representation and social media. In 2016 the Gender Budgeting guidelines endorsed the “human development” approach to evaluate regional policies, the well-being of women, and the impact of public policies on them<sup>109</sup>.

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<sup>109</sup> AICCRE, Compilation of good practices in Italy's municipalities and regions, 2018, available at [https://www.charter-equality.eu/exemple-de-bonnes-pratiques/compilation-of-good-practices-in-italys-municipalities-and-regions.html?ref\\_id=156](https://www.charter-equality.eu/exemple-de-bonnes-pratiques/compilation-of-good-practices-in-italys-municipalities-and-regions.html?ref_id=156)

## *Gender mainstreaming in migration and asylum policies: The case of Sweden*

Through the Swedish Migration Agency's Action Plan for Gender Mainstreaming 2016-2018, gender is mainstreamed in all aspects of the Swedish migration and asylum policies. According to this plan, the time spent waiting for asylum should not be wasted, rather used to strengthen an individual's prospects of establishing themselves. Among the relevant aspects of early gender-sensitive integration policies, the Public Employment Service in Sweden provides asylum seekers and refugees with access to its "Introduction Programme", that encourages refugees and asylum seekers to take advantage of the offered possibilities in education, vocational training, language courses and meaningful occupation. These actions complemented with social partners engagement have since 2015 resulted in fruitful access to the labour market in a number of economic sectors, such as hotels and restaurants, as well as the health care sector. Specific initiatives have also been devised to encourage the private sector to contribute to the integration of refugees through employment opportunities. An emblematic example is the "100 club'-Sweden Together initiative", where Swedish municipalities offer asylum seekers compulsory civic orientation courses<sup>110</sup>.

## How to include migration in local development planning

The impacts of migration are most strongly felt at subnational level<sup>111</sup>. In particular, local authorities are in charge of migrants' integration, social and legal protection as well as health—through the delivery of services and opportunities, while local populations and relevant actors fuel their inclusion and sense of belonging in the receiving communities. Vertical and horizontal cooperation is essential to maximise the benefits of migration and migrants in local communities.

According to IOM, the process of mainstreaming migration into local development planning includes four stages<sup>112</sup>:

1. situation analysis (obtaining and assessing data);
2. policy formulation (identification of strategic goals and migration priorities).

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<sup>110</sup> European Commission, 2017 Report on equality between women and men in the EU, p. 19

<sup>111</sup> IOM, Global Compact Thematic Paper, p. 4-5

<sup>112</sup> Ibidem

At this stage, priorities and areas of interests for governance implementation should be identified. These priorities should be in line with SDG commitments and reflect local migratory patterns. Areas of concern for policy implementation often relate to climate change and disaster risk reduction, poverty reduction, national employment policy, trade and investment, social protection and rights

3. programmatic planning (developing strategies and plans of actions).

To this end, inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms involving relevant national ministries and subnational authorities are needed to identify and ensure alignment of policy priorities. The participation of local stakeholders and the civil society can empower migration governance planning, strengthen social cohesion, and bring about considerable benefits and resources

4. implementation, including monitoring and evaluation.

The **New Urban Agenda** gives concrete and helpful guidelines on how to integrate migration into the strategic planning and management of cities through a strong use of the human rights-based approach which is remindful of the key principle of “leaving no one behind”.

*“The challenge is to make cities and territories a common good and implement new ways of guaranteeing human rights and participatory democracy towards economic redistribution, cultural recognition and political representation of all citizens”<sup>113</sup>*

As noted in the 2016 UN-Habitat World Cities Report, too many cities today fail to promote sustainable space for all, meaning not just physical space, but also the civic, socio-economic and cultural dimensions related to collective space. As already said, the SDGs recognize migrants as a vulnerable group and many initiatives have already been put into practice to add migration to the list of local priorities.

The 2015 **Mediterranean City2City Migration** (MC2CM) Project, for example, brings together experts and cities to enhance the governance of migration by local governments within their competencies and capacities. Partner cities of the Project are Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangiers, Tunis, Turin and Vienna. Through peer-to-peer learning and dialogue, these cities are now increasing their

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<sup>113</sup> UCLG, Towards the Localization of the SDGs, p. 96

engagement with local stakeholders to face urban challenges related to migration such as intercultural dialogue and the provision of basic services to migrants, and support both migrants and host communities in sustainable development strategies.

### How to adapt to climate change at local level?

To help city-planners and policy makers facing the challenge of developing and implementing their climate change adaptation initiatives, UN Habitat<sup>114</sup> created a guide with four main pillars on how planning themes should be:

- Strategic. Whatever the type of planning, all of it is ultimately about making the best decision possible with the resources available.
- Values-based. Beyond city priorities and strategies, good planning incorporates local community values. This approach has the benefit of producing coherent policy outcomes on account of the needs and priorities felt by the local community
- Participatory. A plan for climate change which is inclusive and involves relevant stakeholders as well as non-governmental actors proves to be far more coordinated and obtains greater consensus among the actors involved. They respond coherently to local community interests and values.
- Integrated. Climate change policies, programmes and projects are often more effective and achievable if comprehensively integrated in already existing city plans, strategies and processes.

It is important to note that generally *“good city planning practices are, by their nature, also climate smart planning practices. This is because most climate change planning actions are consistent with planners’ responsibilities”*<sup>115</sup>. Indeed, local authorities are in charge of:

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<sup>114</sup> UN Habitat, Cities and Climate Change Initiative Tool Series, Planning for Climate Change, A Strategic, Values-based Approach for Urban Planners, 2014, p. 11

<sup>115</sup> Idem, p. 19

- Minimizing the risk of disasters or natural hazards and improving response capacities for disasters, especially weather and climate-related events
- Improving the quality of infrastructure for storm water management, waste management, access to safe drinking water
- Protecting ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas in and around towns and cities

Moreover, local and regional authorities are often responsible for the development and implementation of policies that have the greatest impact on climate change, including areas such as air quality; transportation; energy and energy efficiency; the built environment; natural lands; technology innovation, development, and transfer; and others that have direct implications for greenhouse gas emission levels.

*Good Practice: the Under2 Memorandum of Understanding in the Emilia Romagna Region*

The Under2 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is a climate agreement for subnational governments. Each signatory state, regional government and city commits to limiting the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to 80 to 95 percent below 1990 levels or to less than 2 annual metric tons per capita by 2050, thus keeping global warming under 2°C by the end of this century. The Emilia Romagna Region has seriously taken its commitments toward climate change mitigation and has promoted significant initiatives and policy plans to limit regional greenhouse emissions, especially in transport, electricity and heating<sup>116</sup>. Importantly, the Region has to a large extent promoted cooperation and partnership with non-governmental stakeholders and CSOs to improve local sustainable development solutions as well as to foster academic research into these topics, involving:

- Synergies between local actions and regional planning
- Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) and Sustainable Energy and Climate Action Plan (SECAP)
- Citizen Participation and Partnerships for Sustainable Development
- Smart city development
- Local Sector Regulation & Administrative simplification
- Local citizen empowerment involving companies and families

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<sup>116</sup> <https://www.under2coalition.org/sites/default/files/emilia-romagna-appendix.pdf>

- Schools and Universities
- Information & awareness raising among companies and citizens
- Improving the skills and qualifications of workers in the field of renewable energy development, energy technologies, industry etc. and changing the qualification needs in jobs for renewable energies by upgrading the Qualifications Framework - Green Job Initiative: Tapping into the job creation potential of the green economy
- Creation of high competencies through companies and the Regional High-Technology Network (Master, PhD, Academy)

The city of Bologna, capital of the Emilia Romagna Region, is particularly active in tackling climate change and natural disasters. Indeed, it has recently re-signed the **Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy** and approved the Bologna Local Urban Environment Adaptation Plan for a Resilient City (BLUEAP)<sup>117</sup>, i.e. a strategy to curb the effects of climate change (especially floods, heatwaves, and drought) in the city.

To create the Adaptation Plan, the city benefited from a specific climate analysis, outlining priority areas and major vulnerabilities; high participation of stakeholders and citizens through public events, workshops, quantitative and qualitative analysis; and awareness campaigns to then be able to:

- Develop the Local Adaptation Strategy to Climate Change and a Local Climate Profile
- Feature 10 pilot stakeholder engagement actions
- Increase awareness amongst citizens, businesses, stakeholders and local authorities of risks associated with climate change;
- Reduce water consumption, with increased use of rainwater harvesting
- Develop 13 good practices for green and blue areas
- Provide guidance to similarly sized cities who want to develop their own climate change adaptation strategy.

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<sup>117</sup> <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/BLUEAP.pdf>

## Group 2: Tools of the Trade for CSOs and other non-governmental actors

*“CSOs can be defined to include all non-market and non-state organizations outside of the family in which people organize themselves to pursue shared interests in the public domain. Examples include community-based organizations and village associations, environmental groups, women’s rights groups, farmers’ associations, faith-based organizations, labour unions, co-operatives, professional associations, chambers of commerce, independent research institutes and the not-for-profit media. CSOs are voluntary organizations with governance and direction coming from citizens or constituency members, without significant government-controlled participation or representation”<sup>118</sup>*

The inclusion of CSOs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is imperative, not only because they are needed for the process to be inclusive and holistic, but also because these actors play crucial roles as agents of accountability, advocacy, and service and data delivery.

In her article, Suzanne Nazal<sup>119</sup>, Senior Social Development Officer at the Asian Development Blog, outlines some of main contributions **CSOs** can bring to the implementation of SDGs.

First, CSOs often complement or substantially sustain governments in their development actions. In some cases, they reach marginalized people and territories left behind by local and national authorities through community-based programs and assistance, alleviating people’s urgent needs. Nazal mentions the international NGO **World Vision**, which has been engaging to build a bridge to sustain the poorest and most vulnerable households in Armenia to overcome the extreme poverty line by means of a step-by-step, multi-sectoral approach.

Second, in some developed and developing countries, institutional capacity is not strong enough to allow the adequate implementation of the 2030 Agenda either at the national or local level, data and statistics are not sufficiently precise, and the monitoring and evaluation system lacks sufficient resources. On the one hand, CSOs in the field can contribute to both localizing the SDGs and acting as pressure groups calling for policies and programs to be released. They can influence governments to adopt better approaches to meet people’s needs. On the other hand, they contribute to

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<sup>118</sup> Advisory Group on CSOs and Aid Effectiveness, Civil Society and Aid Effectiveness Synthesis of Findings and Recommendations, 2008;

<sup>119</sup> Nazal, 5 ways CSOs can help advance the SDGs, Asian development Blog, September 2018, access on August 11, 2019



monitoring progress. For instance, the Georgian **Institute for Development of Freedom of Information** has played a fundamental role in institutionalizing an accurate web-based system of indicators to monitor the nationalization of the global goals in the country as well as the progress made.

Third, generally CSOs work closely to local communities, groups, and local actors through direct engagement in the field. Thus, they can provide a very useful connection between local people and their governments, making their voice heard at the top.

Fourth, CSOs can promote the improvement of existing public services without asking for further government expenditure. In fact, they act through the “co-production” approach, a method which stimulates citizen-centric, collaborative governance and citizen’s ownership of the public services available in their cities. CSOs therefore help citizens become actively engaged in their society and politics.

Fourth, **women’s** role and capacity in CSOs promote an overall sense of trust, an important feature toward SDGs achievement. After the damages caused by the tsunami in the Maldives in 2004, the Women’s Development Committees’ actions not only helped promote **climate resilience** and adaptation, but also increase climate risks awareness.

CSOs are therefore essential for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of all SDGs. Letting them play their role at all levels is crucial to achieve those “peaceful and inclusive societies” enshrined in SDG 16.

The implementation of the principle of “leaving no one behind” is one of the main functions of both governmental and non-governmental actors, thus including CSOs, trade unionists and associations. Since the latter groups are often closer to vulnerable and marginalized groups than local authorities are, **in order to represent the voice of the most disadvantaged** members of society, CSOs as well as trade unionists and trade associations should commit to:

- **Listen carefully** to people. This requires CSOs to be proactive in gathering information and interacting with communities by gaining their trust. It is crucial to create opportunities for dialogues, spaces and platforms for exchanging ideas with these groups in order build community awareness and develop strong relationships.

- **Translate** the voices of the poorest and most marginalised into strong arguments to be faced by the local government. The SDGs represent a globally legitimate frame of reference for CSOs, which can introduce issues into policy dialogues.
- **Develop relationships** or partnerships with the local government as a whole, and in particular, with the departments, actors or institutions especially involved in finding solutions to tackle an issue.
- Adopt a **human rights-based approach**. Raising awareness on whose rights have been breached in development processes is crucial to revise policies and their targets.
- Build bridges, collaboration and **partnerships** with other CSOs that interact with these groups. This represents a significant opportunity to strengthen their role of safeguarding people’s rights by critically examining government policies and bringing to Court cases of human rights violations, abuses, bad conduct, discriminatory policies, among others.
- Be regularly involved in **training** and advocacy processes<sup>120</sup>

As explained in the Introduction of this work, governments are required to be accountable, a three-fold concept which entails responsibility, answerability, and enforceability. Non-governmental bodies, CSOs as well as human rights activists and journalists, should be at the frontline to ensure and monitor the accountability of national and sub-national governments. To do so, they must be integrated into discussion forums, development and planning processes both at the national and local levels. According to the Democracy Development Programme and scholars, *“One of the failures of the MDGs was the exclusion of civil society from the planning and formulation of goal-setting processes and development strategies in the beginning”*<sup>121</sup>. The creation of institutional spaces that facilitate meaningful CSO participation is critical in this regard.

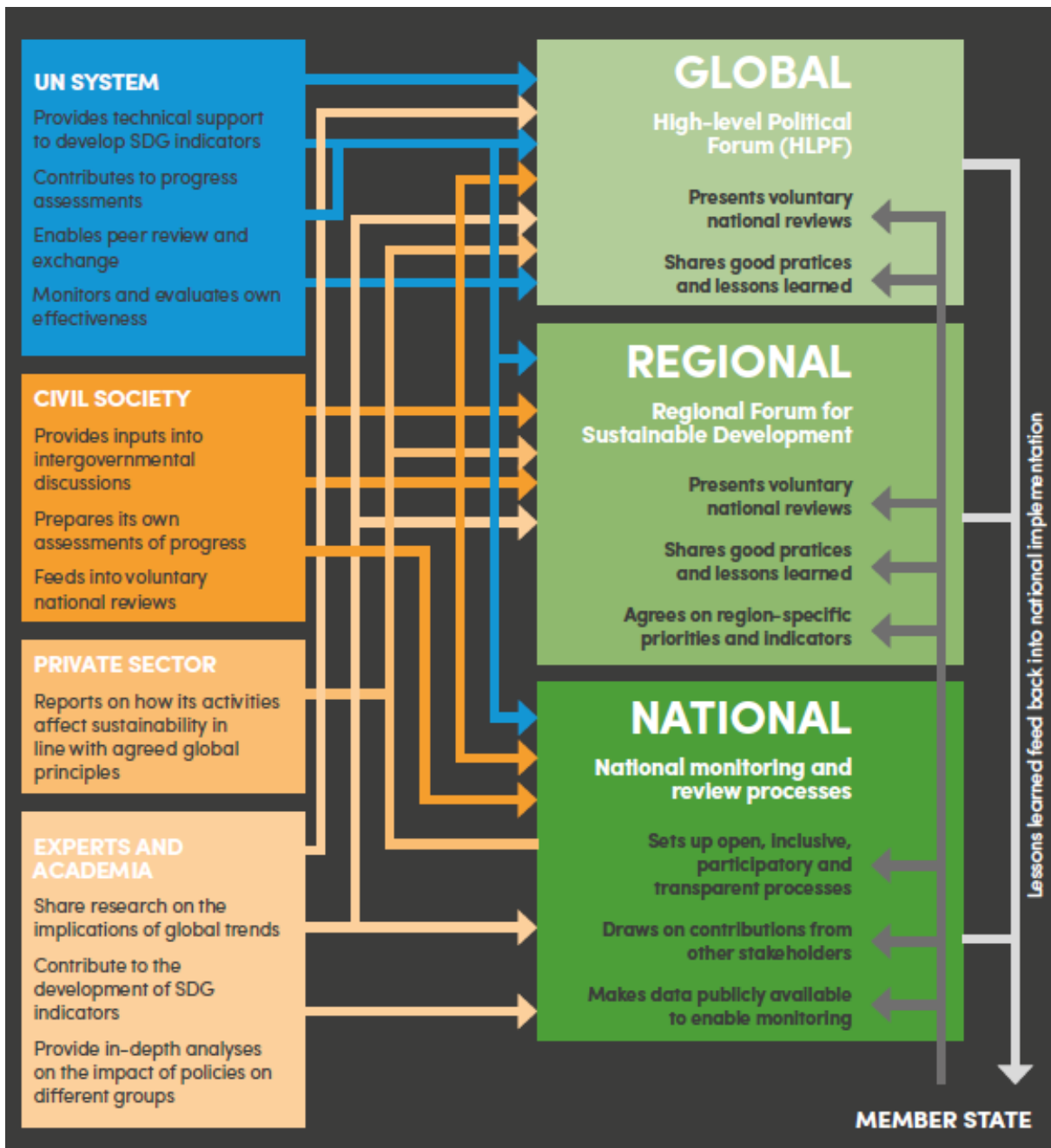
The scheme<sup>122</sup> below mainstreamed by UN Women successfully sums up the multiple interconnections and roles played by single relevant development actors.

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<sup>120</sup> Democracy Development Programme, The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals, Position paper, March 2016, p. 4-5

<sup>121</sup> Idem, p. 6. This statement is further underpinned by several scholars quoted in the document, such as Simelane, T. and Chiroro, B, Beyond the Millennium Development Goals: What can Africa expect?, Africa Institute of South Africa, Briefing No. 84, 2014; Sachs, J.D., From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals, Lancet, 370: 2,206–211, 2012

<sup>122</sup> UN Women, Turning Promises into Action, Figure 1.1 “FOLLOW UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA”, p. 34



### Adopting a social contract for development

To make their governments fully accountable, CSOs and citizens should also try to establish social contracts with them on the implementation of identified development gaps and priorities. In some cases, local governments have publicly engaged with citizens in stipulating a charter where these priorities are explicitly identified and addressed. Policy description and aims are provided together with data, indicators, and financial resources. In doing so, local governments have endorsed various

CSO-driven initiatives to promote local accountability, such as: participatory budgeting and public expenditure tracking, and citizen report cards<sup>123</sup>.

For example, local communities in **Tanzania**, with support from Norwegian Church Aid, monitored how their governments spent resources, tracked whether expenditures on water and sanitation were received by the intended beneficiaries and highlighted instances where this was happening ineffectively. In addition, they elected committees that requested explanations from relevant government departments and officials, which resulted in a more responsive and accountable government.

#### Good Practice: Valencian comprehensive implementation of the SDGs<sup>124</sup>

As mentioned above, the government of Valencia has successfully and considerably promoted the local implementation of the 2030 Agenda through a three-channel action: 1) provide information; 2) raise awareness; 3) actions.

In all these three steps, the city of Valencia has collaboratively worked with all relevant development actors. In particular, the participation of **NGOs** and **CSOs** has been crucial to the process of promoting policy coherence with the SDGs, as well as for reformulating strategy and cooperation projects. One of the aims was also to promote an active advocacy role for local NGOs. In particular, they collaborated in the evolving process of the Alliance of Cities. In addition to local NGOs, the objective was also to involve **trade unionists**, starting with organising a forum on SDG 8, and providing tools and information to the most widely represented unions. In the making of this strategy, the academia played a key role in building knowledge about the priority areas linked to the new Agenda. The aim was to involve universities and make them jointly responsible for progression towards the SDGs. This has been achieved through several activities, namely: developing 5 lines and teams of investigation, in which 5 universities are participating, working on each of the 5 Ps (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership); producing informative guides; and developing training activities envisaged for the university's summer school.

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<sup>123</sup> Democracy Development Programme, The Roles of Civil Society in Localising the Sustainable Development Goals, Position paper, March 2016, p. 6

<sup>124</sup> The Region of Valencia and the local implementation of the SDGs: A region committed to Cooperation and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, May 2016, p. 10

## *Recommendations*

To enhance CSO engagement on the SDGs and encourage non-governmental actors to fulfil the various roles discussed earlier, they should:

- Not miss the opportunity to ask for funding related to development programmes and proposals, which could improve their importance at the national and international level, enable partnerships and, most importantly, widen their range of action to include as many vulnerable people as possible.
- Collectively, actively and widely engage with their communities to cover all different groups under their umbrella, so that they could raise vulnerable people's voice and issues.
- Develop coordinated, fruitful partnerships with other CSOs as well as with governments, the private sector and all other relevant actors to share best practices and other information relevant for the implementation of SDGs.

## *Working Group: Enhancing social cohesion*

Did you/your organization etc. help increase awareness of migrants' contributions to local development and social cohesion in general?<sup>125</sup>

Have you, for instance, ever thought about organising cultural events and anti-discrimination initiatives, or planning open-house events or community days at migrant centres or asylum seeker centres?

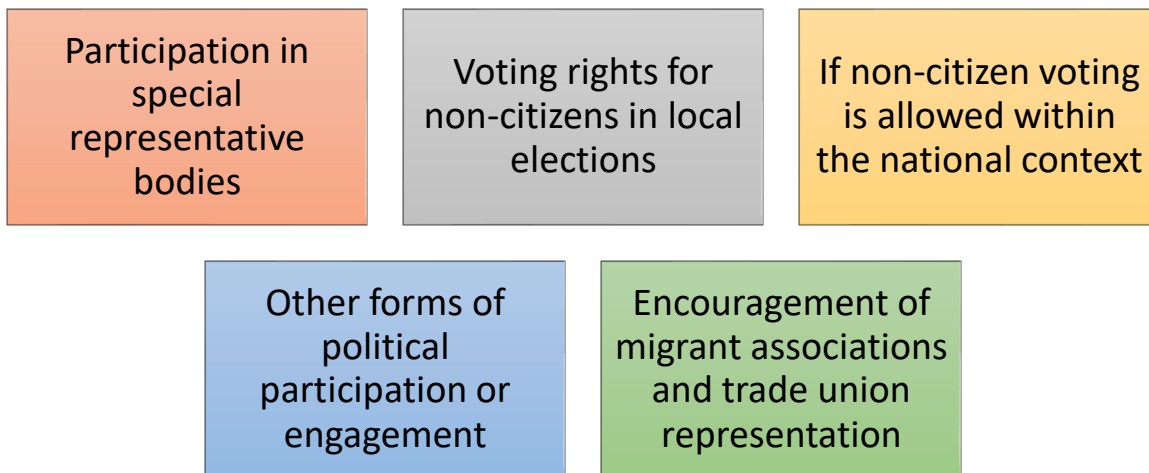
## *Working Group: Civil engagement for migrants*

Does your territory offer any opportunities for civic engagement for migrants and displaced persons?<sup>126</sup>

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<sup>125</sup> IOM migration policy planning p. 64

<sup>126</sup> IOM migration in policy planning, p. 44



If NOT, why? What can you do to promote them?

If YES, how efficiently? And in which sectors?

[Further list of good practices for the local implementation of SDGs](#)

### **Awareness, education and training**

A. PuntoEuropa.eu. PuntoEuropa was established in 1999 in Forlì following an agreement signed by the University of Bologna, the Municipality of Forlì and the Province of Forlì-Cesena. PuntoEuropa is part of the European information network of the European Community and its mission is providing information on the European Union to the local community of the Province of Forlì-Cesena. It mainly serves as an interface between the EU, the local authorities and the civil society, so as to make the EU's functioning and impact more visible and transparent. For sure, PuntoEuropa deals with a number of topics connected to SD in the EU and is at the forefront in many activities concerning the integration of people with a migration background in the reference territory. Workshops and publications on those subjects are provided on a regular basis to reach the largest possible number of people. Besides offering assistance, spreading knowledge and raising awareness, PuntoEuropa also performs services entailing participation and training. For example, PuntoEuropa is responsible for

training programs for teachers; it also fosters university students' background, as they are ultimately involved in teaching activities for students of primary and secondary schools.

B. UNIBO Department of Political Science ("UNIBO DPS"). The UNIBO Department of Political Science is encouraging the development of synergies and new approaches to offer education and training opportunities on topical subjects connected to SD. Some courses are already available, while others are under preparation. However, they share some important characteristics. First, they intend to change the way those topics are generally taught. For example, as for migratory phenomena, a broader perspective is offered which includes their historical, social, (geo)political, legal and economic dimensions. Second, they do not have the mere function of providing more thematic contents to the audience; rather, they put forward new methodologies and focus on new skills to better equip potential operators and professionals. Going back to migration phenomena, given the increased number of migrants in urban areas and particularly women migrants, new patterns were envisaged to better answer such increasingly widespread needs. Furthermore, the UNIBO DPS implements teaching activities in secondary schools of the Bologna province. Young students are provided with interactive classes on the EU; challenges related to SD are discussed in the hope that a sense of belonging and future civic engagement can be achieved.

C. German National Action Plan on Education for Sustainable Development. This initiative was promoted by the German national government but it was further developed and implemented by the civil society. A large number of recommended measure for promoting SD education were proposed in order to raise awareness in a more efficient way.

D. Immigropoly. It is an online game created by the University of Pécs to inform young people on immigration and integration issues. In particular, the game is intended to make the audience aware of the causes of forced migration and the living conditions of migrants in the home and host countries.

E. Centro Metra. MeTRa is a research centre of the University of Bologna (Forlì campus) which operates in the fields of gender and intercultural studies, translation and interpretation. It has collaborated with the municipality of Forlì for the development of several projects to raise awareness on gender issues among civil society and students of different ages and nationalities.

F. Un secco no, associazione di promozione sociale. This association collaborates with the municipality of Forlì to contrast gender discrimination, through cultural activities and education in the schools.

### **Cooperation models**

A. “100 Resilient Cities” (Rockefeller Foundation, <http://www.100resilientcities.org>). The municipality of Vejle is part of 100 Resilient Cities, which comprises “external” cooperation models, as cities of different States are involved. 100 Resilient Cities was established to offer, among other things, “financial and logistical guidance for establishing an innovative new position in city government, a Chief Resilience Officer (CRO), who will lead the city’s resilience efforts; technical support to develop a holistic resilience strategy that reflects each city’s distinct needs; access to an innovative platform of private sector and NGO services to support strategy development and implementation; and inclusion in the 100 Resilient Cities Network to share knowledge and best practices with other member cities”.

B. “Multiannual and Annual Cooperation Programme of the City of Poznań with Non-governmental Organizations”. The municipality of Poznań launched a cooperation program based on internal cooperation mechanisms. This program is mainly implemented by local NGOs and focuses also on actions for the integration of foreigners (providing information, legal assistance, language practice opportunities, cultural initiatives). Reportedly there are also other entities that carry out anti-discrimination and anti-exclusion activities.

C. Statistic Denmark. A broad partnership involving subjects of different nature was set up and developed by Statistic Denmark in order to collect and assess relevant data on SDGs. The work of the platform has been bringing positive results in terms of the number, type and quality of data. This partnership now provides data on hundreds of global indicators to the UN global monitoring mechanism.

D. Estonian Coalition for Sustainable Development. A Coalition for Sustainable Development was created in Estonia with a view to joining non-governmental organizations, private sector enterprises



and public bodies. The Coalition carries out many activities tending to foster the transition towards SD. In particular, the Coalition contributes to raising awareness, giving inputs to policy makers, monitoring ongoing trends and enhancing cooperation.

E. Futuro en Común (FeC). It is a Spanish cross-sectoral dialogue platform enhancing the social and environmental dimensions of SD. Around 50 organizations dealing with multiple topics work together in view of the implementation of Agenda 2030. In particular, FeC seeks to raise awareness on certain aspects of SD and to propose policy strategies.

F. Finnish Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. A successful example comes from Finland. It was reported that in 2016, the Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs organized national meetings involving all key stakeholders (e.g. managing authorities, other authorities and external stakeholders). Those meetings led to the creation of thorough synergies and the establishment of a coordination group at national level. In this way, relevant stakeholders can now meet regularly to coordinate with one another in order to share useful information and better achieve common goals.

### **Assistance to migrants**

A. "ArtsTogether". ArtsTogether is a 2-year project co-funded under the AMIF program of the EU. It was developed by a consortium of partners from Greece, Italy, Austria, Belgium and the UK. The project promotes an integrated approach for education purposes. At the heart of it is the assistance to migrant children in early childcare and primary education. Thanks to ArtsTogether, beneficiaries receive a comprehensive support tending to eliminate the educational disadvantages and cultural barriers. To reach the ultimate goal, the project partners are elaborating a brand-new curriculum characterized by a strong artistic dimension; indeed, art is meant to be a tool to overcome linguistic and cultural barriers to integration.

B. Centro aggregativo Mandalà. This center is based in Forlì and has been in operation since 2017. It was promoted by local authorities and organizations working on the ground (religious organizations and NGOs). Centro aggregativo Mandalà is a social gathering space where asylum seekers hosted in Forlì can meet. However, the idea behind the project is that beneficiaries can spend

time also with the locals (the center promotes cultural and artistic initiatives), in order to facilitate the integration of the former within the hosting community.

C. “PoznańHub”. It is an organization created by a group of foreigners and Poles working together with the support of the local community. It is a manifestation of the multilateral and inclusive approach mentioned above. The goal of PoznańHub is to make progress in terms of foreigners’ integration into the Polish community, especially by enabling the knowledge of local culture.

D. InFusion. This project will be operational until March 2020, it is run by a partnership led by the CRESCER Association (Lisboa). The general mission of InFusion is to create local instruments and synergies that will take advantage of existing resources and ensure sustainability. At the heart of the project is a platform designed to enable the process of integration of foreigners within the local community, by means of a multilevel approach. The project is focused on the areas of health, education, and employability.

E. Magdas Hotel - Refugee integration through hospitality training. The Magdas Social Business (subsidiary of Caritas, Vienna) is run by refugees and tourism professionals. In this multicultural environment, refugees are offered training and employment in the hospitality sector. The purpose of the initiative is to facilitate refugees integration in the local community by strengthening their employability.

F. Occupied Palestinian Territory: Culture and Development. This program supports the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan by providing Palestinian institutions, organizations and professionals with the skills and tools necessary to better understand, access, enjoy, protect and profitably manage their rich and diverse cultural heritage.

G. Trama di Terre. Trama di Terre is a feminist association, with both natives and people of migrant origin. The main purpose of the association is to assert women’s rights through grassroots work together with women of different cultural and linguistic backgrounds. The association provides a range of advice and support services to women, such as: an Intercultural Centre, including a School of Italian language for foreign women and a Women's Library; an Anti-violence Centre and a shelter;

a Housing Service for women in need; a Housing Project addressed to refugees and asylum seeking women. In addition, the association implements research activities about current issues of relevance to women in the context of migration, is partner of several open projects and cooperates with European Women's Associations. In relation to intercultural integration and refugees support, the association implemented several regional, national and EU projects.

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IOM, *Global Compact Thematic Paper, The Contributions of Migrants and Migration to Development-Strengthening the Linkages*

IOM, *Global Compact Thematic Paper: migrants and migration policy in the context of the adverse effects of climate change and environmental degradation*

IPCC, 7 August 2019. *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change, Desertification, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Food Security, and Greenhouse gas fluxes in Terrestrial Ecosystems,*

IPCC, *Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities*

Overseas Development Institute, September 2018. *Migration and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*

TAP Network, *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*

UCLG, 2018. *Towards the localization of the SDGs*

UCLG, *The Sustainable Development Goals: What local governments need to know*

UN Women, 2018. *Turning Promises Into Action: Gender Equality in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*

UNESCO, 2017. *Education for Sustainable Development Goals: Learning Objectives*

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 2014. *Planning for Climate Change: A strategic, value-based approach for urban planners.*

United Nations, *Important Concepts underlying Gender Mainstreaming*

VVSG, *Integrating SDGs in local election manifestos*

VVSG, *Integrating the SDGs into your context analysis: how to start?*

VVSG, *SDGs in your municipality: 50 Practical Awareness-Raising Examples*

#### Explanatory videos

UN – What is sustainable development? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=masQeEG5FX4>

UN Association of Norway and UNICEF Norway – What is sustainable development? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7V8oF14GYMY> (for the youngest)

ODI – Migration & development <https://www.odi.org/opinion/10450-video-infographic-migration-and-2030-agenda>

UN - From MDGs to SDGs [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5\\_hLuEui6ww](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_hLuEui6ww)

SDG Fund - From MDGs fund to SDGs fund <https://www.sdgfund.org/mdgs-sdgs>

UN - Four years into the 2030 Agenda, the world is getting ready to assess efforts to achieve the SDGs  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kIFC0kr3YD0>

UNSTATS - Overview of the 2019 UNSTATS Report on SDGs progress  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/overview/>

UN Women - The facts about gender equality and the Sustainable Development Goals  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K-oc4GOoWOI>

Falköpings kommun - Integrating new Swedes - Tommy and Ibrahim (English subtitles)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG0LfMpjGVA&list=PL62TBmka8HQXofDNsg07eTzmi9Xeqoj\\_f](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG0LfMpjGVA&list=PL62TBmka8HQXofDNsg07eTzmi9Xeqoj_f)

Further readings

## 1. Useful links to EU and UN acts

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/global-topics/sustainable-development-goals/eu-approach-sustainable-development\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/international-strategies/global-topics/sustainable-development-goals/eu-approach-sustainable-development_en)

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eussd/index.htm>

<http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/policy-making/sustainable-development/>

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/eu-regional-and-urban-development/topics/cities-and-urban-development/priority-themes/inclusion-migrants-and-refugees-cities\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/eu-regional-and-urban-development/topics/cities-and-urban-development/priority-themes/inclusion-migrants-and-refugees-cities_en)

<https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/integration-practices>

<https://ec.europa.eu/migrant-integration/country/stories>

<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/resources/documents>

## 2. Technical documents

3rd Global Mayoral Fora, Joint Migration and Development Initiative Policy Brief, Migrants' Integration as a Pre-requisite for Development: The Role of Cities, September 2016 available at [http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/jmdi\\_policy\\_brief\\_migrants\\_integration\\_as\\_a\\_pre-requisite\\_for\\_development\\_role\\_of\\_the\\_cities.pdf](http://www.migration4development.org/sites/default/files/jmdi_policy_brief_migrants_integration_as_a_pre-requisite_for_development_role_of_the_cities.pdf)

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