



# LOCALISING THE SDGs

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEBATE

Presentation by  
Jochen Mattern (Coordinator of Development Partners' Network on  
Decentralisation and Local Governance)

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and Local Governance Systems In the Asia-Pacific:  
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## THE **Post-2015** DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: PROCESS

2011: Busan



2012: Rio+20

- Busan Global Partnership for Development Cooperation

*“Parliaments and local governments play critical roles in linking citizens with government”  
(Art. 21)”*

- Rio+20: The Future We Want

*“The UN is working with governments, civil society and other partners to shape an **ambitious sustainable development framework** to meet the needs of both people and planet, providing economic transformation and opportunity to lift people out of **poverty**, advancing **social justice** and protecting the **environment**”*



## THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA: PROCESS

### 2015: Financing for Development

- Addis Ababa Action Agenda

*“We therefore commit to scaling up international cooperation to strengthen capacities of municipalities and other local authorities. [...] We will strive to support local governments in their efforts to mobilize revenues as appropriate.” (Art. 34)*



### 2015: SDGs

- 17 Sustainable Development Goals, 169 Indicators...

*... [which are] action-oriented, global in nature, and universally applicable”*,



## POST-2015 AND THE LOCAL LEVEL

- First policy process to be informed by a comprehensive global dialogue
- 2013: issues and areas („what“)
- 2014: means of implementation („how“ and „who“)
- Synthesis report by Secretary General:
  - „ Long-term decarbonization of our economies; access to energy, water and food; and sustainable agriculture, industry, infrastructure or transport will ultimately be achieved through the same investments at the project level. In addition, it will be important to consider that **many of the investments to achieve the SDGs will take place at the sub-national level and led by local authorities.**“ (Art. 94)



Source: Synthesis Report of the Secretary-General  
On the Post-2015 Agenda, Secretary General



## POST-2015 AND THE LOCAL LEVEL: WHY DLG MATTERS

- DLG is
  - crucial for sustainable development;
  - assures equal and adequate service delivery and participation
  - Essential for transparency & accountability
  
- Subnational governments and actors are:
  - closer to the people
  - able to adapt national and regional strategies into local priorities.



## POST-2015 AND THE LOCAL LEVEL

- High Level Panel (2013): *„the most pressing issue is not rural versus urban but how to foster a local, geographic approach to the post-2015 agenda“*
- 1 out of 6 dialogues on implementation („Localizing the Post-2015 Development Agenda)
- Turin Communiqué





## Turin Communiqué

- Local and regional governments are essential for promoting inclusive sustainable development within their territories
- LG creates ownership, commitment and accountability
- For a successful SDG-implementation, a multi-level and multi-stakeholder approach is needed to respond to local contexts, needs and concerns

→ **Sustainable Development Goals**

**25.-27. Sept. 2015**



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) AND THE LOCAL LEVEL

9

- Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

10

- Reduce inequality **within** and among countries

11

- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

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**



## The way ahead: Opportunities at the Local Level

- Consensus: Local and regional governments should play a crucial role in implementing and monitoring (most) proposed goals
- Provide smart targets and indicators to measure its impact at territorial level
- Propose strategies and tools to facilitate an efficient involvement of LRGs in the implementation process
- Approaches for local development: sustainable financing mechanism, institutional and operational capacities, resource allocation, territorial development approaches

→ Development of indicator framework by Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs)

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

## a) Dimensions to be measured:

- Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative

## b) Proposed indicators:

Proposed indicators	Possible alternative indicators	Comments (Linkages, disaggregation, and sources)
<p>1. Voter turnout (%) in national and local elections</p> <div data-bbox="59 711 739 886" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><b>Example of Indicator by UCLG (2014): How to Localize Targets and Indicators</b></p> </div>		<p>Linkages: N/A.                      Disaggregation by: N/A.                      Sources: potentially increasing coverage of IDEA Voter Turnout data to cover local elections.                      Limitations: Data not readily available. While some regional datasets may be available, e.g. African elections database, standard procedures for data collection and reporting need to be ensured for cross-country comparability.</p>
<p>2. Number of countries with legislation that promote citizen participatory mechanisms within local governments</p>	<p>Participatory budget process</p>	<p>Linkages: N/A.                      Disaggregation by: N/A.                      Sources: TBD (Proposed in UNHABITAT Urban Indicators).                      Limitations: Data not readily available.</p>

Comments: Note that these targets are difficult to operationalise and as a result indicators rely on subjective information (some of which is not readily available in a standardised form across countries). Another possible indicator of inclusive institutions is the proportion of seats held by women in local councils. It has been excluded from here as it is already under Goal 5. Indicators on participation in planning and budgeting (e.g. public audit, social audits, public hearings) could be considered, but data availability an issue.



## FURTHER READINGS

- DeLoG/Urban Institute (2015): [“Localizing Public Services and Development: The Local Public Sector’s Role in Achieving Development Goals in Health and Education.”](#) Bonn
- ODI (2012): [Localising Aid: can using local actors strengthen them?](#)
- ODI (2014): [Localizing Post-2015 – What does it mean in practice?](#)
- ODI (2014): [Establishing a workable follow-up and review process for the Sustainable Development Goals](#)
- 2015: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development
- UCLG (2014): [How to localize targets and indicators of the Post- 2015 agenda](#)



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OUR  
ACTIVITIES  
PLEASE CONTACT**

Jochen Mattern  
DeLoG Secretariat  
Bonn, Germany  
[www.delog.org](http://www.delog.org)