

### GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR 2021

Background document **Technical working session** Monday 14 December 16:00-18:30 CET

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88275450489?pwd=blpSbmF3OEZDclhQOGRHUm5PSXdOQT09

The objective of the GTF technical working session will be to discuss a first draft work plan for the GTF in 2021.

Ahead of the busy year ahead, this background document aims at introducing initial plan of the main policy priorities. Among others, 2021 should be the year where the GTF enhances its visibility on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and on other key policy issues, including migration, food systems and mobility.

It is proposed to deal with the priorities in two main blocks: for decision, and for information and reaction.

For decision:

- 1. Preparing the constituency towards the review of the New Urban Agenda (Quito+5) in 2021
- Ecological Transition: COP15 on Biodiversity, Glasgow COP26 on Climate Change, UNEA5-1 and joint representation by ICLEI and UCLG, Climate Adaptation Summit, UNCCD COP15 on Desertification
- 3. The Implementation Decade: preparing the eight SDGs to be reviewed at the HLPF

For information and reaction:

4. Food Systems, Mobility, Migration international process, Generation Equality, Accessibility and Water

#### 1. <u>Preparing the constituency towards the review of the New Urban Agenda</u> (Quito+5)

The GTF meetings held in 2020 agreed that the World Assembly and UNACLA would focus their work on the monitoring of the New Urban Agenda.

It is the opportunity to stress once again that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is intrinsically linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and that localization is a prerequisite for the success of the implementation of these agenda. Localization of the agenda relies on local governments. The challenge remains in the enabling environment for local governments to successfully implement the agenda.

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The New Urban Agenda is a critical cornerstone for the development agenda. Empowered, inclusive and resilient territories which are open and accountable to their citizens are critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and all Global Goals.

The capacity to deliver and the evolution of national and international urban policies will be critical both for the role of local governments in development but also for the space provided to the international municipal movement in development policies.

At the eve of the first reporting of member states on the New Urban Agenda to the United Nations, the Global Taskforce will need to play a critical role in monitoring the state of implementation but also in providing inputs to UNACLA and the UN Habitat. It would be good to have a dialogue on the progress on the UN Habitat Governance and Strategic Plan as well as UN Habitat Assembly Outcomes, including the role of UNACLA

#### For decision:

 $\emptyset$  It is proposed to hold a special convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments on the monitoring of the state of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, potentially around 16 October 2021 for the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Habitat III.

#### <u>UNACLA</u>

The Quito +5 policy momentum for our constituency should also be strongly linked with the activities of UNACLA in 2021.

2019 and 2020 were important years of achievements for the constituency of local and regional governments, especially on the consolidation of the strength of the World Assembly, through its high-level presence at the World Congress in Durban, and through its contributions to the Tenth World Urban Forum with unprecedented high numbers present at the World Assembly meeting in Abu Dhabi.

The meetings in Abu Dhabi also saw the start of the revitalization of UNACLA, with the confirmation of the appointment of a new Chair, the Mayor of Kazan, and the adoption of a renewed work programme for UNACLA.

2021 will be as important to keep the momentum and continue the enhancement of the ownership of the networks within both bodies, seeking for interaction between the World Assembly and UNACLA.

As agreed in our meetings earlier in 2020, it is proposed that UNACLA focuses its work plan on the monitoring of the New Urban Agenda. It is the opportunity to stress once again that the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is intrinsiquely linked to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and that localization is a prerequisite for the success of the implementation of these agenda.

#### 2. 2021: "Super Year" for Ecological Transition

#### <u>COP26 on Climate Change: raising ambition and efforts for the success of the</u> <u>Paris Agreement</u>

The LGMA Constituency, where ICLEI acts as focal point, concluded COP25 with a clear roadmap with a vision to convene the "Multilevel Action COP" at COP26 in Glasgow on 1-12 November 2021.

While agenda of global UN conferences in 2021 is still not clear, it is expected that COP26 would be maintained as a combination of physical and virtual events, which may yield in significant changes compared to previous COPs . Our roadmap includes an overview of the LGMA advocacy efforts since 1995, highlights the importance of COP26 for the success of the Paris Agreement, and defines 6 priority action areas:

- 1. Raise the climate ambition of local and regional governments
- 2. Ensure NDC vertical integration and transparency
- 3. Localize climate finance
- 4. Take a balanced approach to mitigation and adaptation
- 5. Link climate to circular economy and nature
- 6. Amplify global climate action
- 7. Climate Justice and Social Equity

Throughout 2021, the LGMA Community is expected to further develop the roadmap and reflect its vision to its activities at numerous levels, including the Race to Zero Campaign.

On the Climate Action Summit, scheduled 25 January 2021, networks engaged, included C40 and Global Resilient Cities Network, are invited to provide updates and guidance for GTF engagement

#### For decision:

Ø Building on experience in the previous COPs, the GTF will continue its actions on "Multilevel Action Agenda at COP26", through ICLEI as focal point, including a Leaders Summit and Blue Zone Multilevel Action Pavilion as part of Cities and Regions Day(s) in the Cop26 Blue Zone and Green Zone, in collaboration with the LGMA Cop26 Working Group including the Scottish Association of Local Authorities COSLA and with contributions from the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council, amongst other

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#### COP15 on Biodiversity: Shaping the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

With the postponement of COP15 to 2021, next year represents a unique opportunity and urgent necessity for nations to adopt a 'New Deal for Nature' under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) that will replace the current Strategic Plan for Biodiversity (2011-2020) and most of its' associated "Aichi targets", which came to an end in 2020.

The new global agreement is set to be adopted during the 15th Conference of Parties (COP), in Kunming, China on 17-30 May 2021. The CBD COP 15 is increasingly heralded as the "Paris Moment for Nature". To this end the COP adopted Decision 14/34 at COP 14, held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in November 2018, which called for a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent and participatory process for the preparation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

This decision urges local and subnational governments to actively engage and contribute to the process of developing a robust post-2020 global biodiversity framework in order to foster wide ownership of the framework to be agreed and strong support for its immediate implementation. The Secretariat of the CBD (SCBD) has further encouraged key actors, such as local and subnational governments, the business sector, the youth, indigenous and local communities, academia and the research sector, non-governmental organizations, to organize their own post-2020 advocacy roadmaps and events to allow for maximum collective engagement in the preparatory processes ahead of COP15.

- ICLEI and Regions4 (until 2020), on behalf of the Global Taskforce, and as a focal point, is coordinating the inputs of the constituency towards COP15. ICLEI is also the convening partner for the United Nations Decade of Ecosystem Restoration, starting in 2021. Please contact ingrid.coetzee@iclei.org for more information or any questions.

- Progress made on the Local and Subnational Advocacy for Roadmap can be seen on the website - <u>https://subnationaladvocacyfornature.org/about/</u> where all the latest statements and information is located. There are monthly webinars which we encourage all members of the broader local and subnational constituency to attend.

- One of the outcomes of the Edinburgh Process for subnational and local governments on the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, has been the **Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework -**<u>https://www.gov.scot/publications/edinburgh-declaration-on-post-2020-biodiversity-</u> <u>framework/</u>. This declaration, which has been signed by the Scottish Government and Edinburgh Process Partners, including ICLEI – Local Government for Sustainability and Regions4 Sustainable Development, will remain open for signature until COP 15 to gather the strength of the local and subnational constituency into a single voice. We encourage all members of the broader local and subnational constituency to sign this declaration.

- ICLEI, together with the City of Kunming and Yunnan Province in China, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and other partners, will convene the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summits of Local and Subnational Governments, to held as an official parallel event at the Conferences of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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- Members of the Global Taskforce are also invited to join CitiesWithNature - <u>https://citieswithnature.org/</u>, and RegionsWithNature to be launched in 2021, as

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collaborative partners. CitesWithNature is a unique partnership initiative between ICLEI, IUCN and The Nature Conservancy, which provides an online platform that connects cities and subnational governments, researchers, practitioners, partners, and urban communities to connect, learn, share, act, and inspire each other.

#### For decision:

Ø Endorse the Edinburgh Declaration and organise joint representation on behalf of the Global Taskforce at COP15 by encouraging its members to support the 7<sup>th</sup> Global Biodiversity Summits of Local and Subnational Governments.

#### **UNEA5 and GTF renewed representation**

The fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly will be held virtually from 22 to 26 February 2021, as well as February 2022. The theme of UNEA5 will be: Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and will for strengthened action to protect and restore nature and the nature-based solutions to achieve the sustainable development goals in its three complementary dimensions (social, economic and environmental).

During UNEA4, the constituency of local and regional governments organized the first Cities Summit, gathering UN-Habitat, UNEP and political representatives of the GTF. The UNEA-4 Outcome Document paid particular attention to the issues of multilevel governance coordination and local sustainable financing of urban systems, and recalled that local governments should be included in nation-tonation dialogues and that their access to funding streams from national budgets should be facilitated

Updates from UNEP indicate that UNEA5 will be split into two segments:

- 1- The first segment UNEA5-1 will be held from 22 and 26 February 2021 and will focus on UNEP budget and strategy
- 2- The second segment UNEA5-2 will be held in February 2022 with more political momentum.

#### For decision:

 ${\it \emptyset}$  It is proposed to hold the second Cities and Regions Summit in the framework of UNEA5 in 2022.

 $\emptyset$  It is proposed that the constituency be formally represented by ICLEI and UCLG towards UNEP Special Committees, after Regions4 withdrawal.

#### **COP15 of UN Convention on Combatting Desertification**

While originally planned for 2021, date and venue of this event is not clear yet. The GTF, through ICLEI as focal point to the 3 Rio Conventions, will seek for more information throughout 2021 and share with GTF members.

#### **UN Ocean Conference**

The constituency has been approached to contribute to the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14. Originally due to be held 2 - 6 June 2020 in Lisbon, Portugal but has been postponed due to 2021, dates still to be confirmed. The overarching theme of the Conference is, 'Scaling Up Ocean Action Based on Science and Innovation for the Implementation of Goal 14: Stocktaking, Partnerships and Solutions'. Co-hosted by the Governments of Portugal and Kenya, this meeting takes place three years after the first ever UN Ocean Conference.

The Conference is expected to adopt an intergovernmental declaration on science-based and innovative areas of action, along with a list of voluntary commitments, to support SDG 14 implementation.

Ø Further to a first joint webinar organized between UN DESA, the Global Taskforce and UN Special Envoy for Ocean Amb. Thomson in June 2020, the cohosts of the Conference have confirmed that the Global Taskforce could ensure representation at the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 in 2021.

 $\emptyset$  Moreover, UN DESA has confirmed its interest in organizing a joint briefing on the UN Ocean conference with UN Special Envoy for Ocean Amb. Thomson for local and regional governments in early 2021.

#### UN High-level Dialogue on Energy, 2021

The High-level Dialogue on Energy in 2021, dates still to be confirmed, will be a key moment for the constituency with regard to the Ecological Transistion agenda. The dialogue will focus on the implementation of the energy-related goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda and work towards the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Sustainable Energy for All (2014–2024).

The dialogue represents a historic moment to provide transformational action related to energy as it is the first global gathering on energy under the auspices of the General Assembly since the UN Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy held in Nairobi in 1981.

UN DESA informed that a webinar will be held on 17 December, 2020, to introduce the high-level dialogue.

 ${\it \emptyset}$  It is proposed that the Global Taskforce starts developing narrative and proposals on ways to build up for the summit.

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### 3. <u>The Implementation Decade: preparing our inputs for the eight SDGs</u> <u>being reviewed in 2021</u>

The meeting of the HLPF in 2021 will be held 6 July to 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council. This includes the three-day ministerial meeting of the forum from 13 July to 15 July 2021 as part of the high-level segment of the Council.

The theme will be "Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development".

The HLPF in 2021 will discuss Sustainable Development Goals 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships in depth. The Forum will also consider the integrated, indivisible and interlinked nature of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Moreover, it is confirmed that a 4th Local and Regional Governments Forum will be taking place within the framework of the 2021 HLPF. It is suggested to already define our policy priorities to be discussed at the LRGF.

Gearing towards the 2021 HLPF, preparations are underway for the constituency's fifth report "Towards the Localization of the SDGs" to be presented at the High Level Political Forum which will have a particular focus on responding to the multidimensional consequences of the pandemic on the advancement of all SDGs.

Beyond the introductory and concluding parts, that includes an opening statement and key highlights, an introduction and the methodology used for its preparation, we would like to propose the report be structured in four main sections:

!) Policy and enabling environment, including sections on local and regional ownership, institutional frameworks, the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, a section on "Leaving no one behind" and a section on structural issues (often focused on multilevel governance);

2) Progress on Goals and targets: with a summary of the contributions of local and regional governments for the different SDGs, illustrated with key examples of local policies and actions for the SDGs assessed.

3) Means of implementation (financing, harnessing technology and innovation, capacity building, data and indicators issues)

As regards the first section, it is proposed to base the knowledge from in-depth analysis the involvement of local and regional governments and their associations in the in the reporting process in 2021: based on the analysis of the Voluntary National Reviews published in June every year, as well as on the 2021 survey on Localization of the SDGs first-hand information from local and regional governments and their national and regional

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associations, in order to assess their involvement and participation in the reporting process, both nationally and globally. It should also include analysis of the institutional enabling environment of local and regional governments in reporting countries.

For the second section, the report will collect updated analysis of innovative policies and practices in different regions to catalyse transformative trends related to local and regional governments responsibilities for the achievement of the different SDGs. When possible, sections include general indicators (often UN sources), as well as key challenged faced by local and regional governments to act, to make progress and up-scale local actions.

Taking in consideration the recommendation of UNDESA for 2021 HLPF, it is proposed to pay particular attention to the impact of COVID 19 pandemic on the SDGs and what kind of measures have been undertaken to "build back better", so the recovery is more sustainable and greener. Therefore, SDG 3 (health) will have a central focus, while the report should also assess the impact of COVID 19 on the other SDGs assessed this year; particularly on poverty (SDG1), jobs (SDG 8) and inequalities (SDG10), as well as to climate change and resilience (SDGs 13 and 12).

To develop the report and particularly section 2, we will need the mobilisation of all GTF networks. For SDG 13, for example, it should include information, supported by verifiable data, on the contribution of local and regional governments to mitigation and adaptation to climate change, illustrated by innovative policies and practices that integrate climate actions in the recovery plans.

#### For decision:

 $\emptyset$  Define policy priorities for the 4<sup>th</sup> Local and Regional Governments Forum, together with UNDESA, UN-Habitat and UNDP.

 $\phi$  Confirm interest in providing inputs for the GTF Annual Report to the HLPF

### Follow-up on Local2030, UN75, U20 and UNSG Policy Brief on COVID-19 in Urban World in 2021

It is proposed to continue the GTF's engagement on the next steps of Local2030, UN75 follow-up, U20 and UNSG Policy Brief on COVID-19 in Urban World throughout 2021.

#### <u>4. Other key UN policy moments for 2021: Food Security, Mobility,</u> <u>Migration, Generation Equality and Accessibility</u>

## Our approach on Democratic Access to Food: UN Food Systems Summit, September 2021

As a part of the Decade of Action for the SDGs, the United Nations Secretary-General is convening a Food Systems Summit in September 2021 aimed at empowering people to leverage food systems as accelerators of progress to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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The Summit is supported by a high-level Advisory Committee that provides strategic guidance; a Scientific Group that will ensure the robustness of the Summit's science; a UN Task Force that will facilitate cooperation across the UN system; and a Champions Network that will mobilize a large and diverse group of stakeholders in every region of the world to call for a transformation of the world's food systems.

In addition, five Action Tracks will bring together stakeholders from a wide range of backgrounds to explore how key levers of change – such as governance, finance, data, innovation, gender, and youth engagement – can be mobilized to help to meet the Summit's objectives.

The members of the Action Tracks include farmers, scientists, and youth leaders, as well as representatives from the worlds of business, government and civil society.

 ${\it \emptyset}$  It is proposed that the Global Taskforce starts developing language and proposals on democratic access to food

 $\emptyset$  It is suggested that we approach the High-Level Advisory Committee to confirm our interest to contribute to the Summit in the Governance and/or other identified Levers of Change.

#### Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference, date TBC

The Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, originally scheduled in May 2020, should take place in 2021 in Beijing (date to be confirmed).

It should provide an opportunity to focus attention on the opportunities, challenges and solutions towards achieving sustainable transport objectives. It will follow up on the first Global Sustainable Transport Conference, held in 2016 in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and is expected to indicate a way forward for sustainable transport to help achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The focus of the conference will be on sustainable urban mobility and looking at its relationship with nature and the climate emergency as well as socio-economic aspects of mobility such as its relationship with access to opportunity and accessibility.

## $\emptyset$ It is proposed that the Global Taskforce starts to develop a roadmap on events and relevant advocacy moments in the build up to the conference.

## Involving the Global Taskforce in the Migration international process: state of play, SG report, UN Migration Network

Our constituency has gained momentum and voice in the process of development of *The Global Compact for Migration (GCM)*, adopted in December 2018 in Marrakech. The compact recognizes the role of local and regional governments in the global governance of migration and opens a window for exchange with other spheres of government and other global processes.

The GCM acknowledges the relevance and contributions of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD), a State-led informal process of multi-stakeholder dialogue launched in 2007 where local governments formally participate since 2018 through the

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Mayoral Mechanism (MM), steered jointly by UCLG, the International Organization on Migration (IOM) and the Mayors Migration Council (MMC). The MM creates opportunities for cities to influence the GFMD discussions and provides them with opportunities for peer learning and partnerships.

The Steering Committee of the Mayoral Mechanism works to open spaces for LRGs influence in the GFMD, GCM and GCR processes and to give visibility to local action in the implementation of these agendas through the Call to Local Action on Migration.

The Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular Migration (GCM) was adopted in Marrakech December 2018 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The GCM is the first-ever negotiated global agreement on a common approach to international migration. It is a non-binding agreement, aiming to better manage migration at local, national, regional and global levels, including reducing the risks and vulnerabilities migrants and refugees face. Building on Human Rights values, it remains a voluntary commitment which will depend on the willingness of governments and the creation of accountability mechanisms that member-states would need to report to.

Our constituency is represented in the Core Working Groups 2.1 and 2.2 of the UN Migration Network through UCLG, in charge of developing guidance for UN and countrylevel implementation of the GCM in 15 GCM Champion Countries. Through this involvement, we are committed to make sure that the local and regional levels are included in the implementation process and will seek to ensure meaningful contributions from local constituencies in Champion Countries.

Two years after the GCM endorsement, the UN SG has submitted to the General Assembly a mid-term follow-up report of GCM implementation ahead of the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), the primary intergovernmental global platform for UN Member States to discuss and share progress on the implementation of all aspects of the GCM, including as it relates to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, to be convened every four years starting in 2022.

The UN SG Report "From Promise to Action: The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration", acknowledges the contributions of the Mayors Mechanism of the GFMD in accelerating GCM implementation through the Call for Local Action, stresses the key role of LRGs and calls for their meaningful inclusion in the implementation of GCM through a whole-of-government approach.

This report, together with the outcomes of the Regional Migration Review Fora (RMRF) to be held between 2020-2021 with the participation of LRGs, will inform **the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022,** where States and stakeholders will present voluntary reviews. Through its work in the MM and the UN Migration Network, our constituency fosters LRGs influence in the process and the inclusion of the local level in National Strategy Plans for GCM implementation.

Ø It is proposed that the Global Taskforce starts defining its presence and contribution to the Compact and towards the IMRF as well as planning and strategy development around the regionalization of the MM's engagement.

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# High-level Meeting organized by the President of the UN General Assembly on Water and Sanitation

Within the context of COVID-19, the President of the UN General Assembly is set to organize a high-level meeting in the first half of 2021, dates to be confirmed, on water and sanitation. The objective of this meeting will be to discuss the role of water and sanitation in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic and building momentum for implementation of SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation).

### An Equitable Decade of Action: Commitment to Reducing Inequalities and Human Rights Based Approach accelerated by a mainstream and transversal approach to Accessibility

The New Urban Agenda highlights the importance of Accessibility to its implementation and Accessibility was part of the key outcomes mentioned the Kuala Lumpur Declaration towards the success of the Agenda during the World Urban Forum 9

Universal Accessibility is an accelerator in the Decade of Action for equitable, resilient and diverse development. We would suggest to take a transversal approach in policy recommendations to formulate and forge around the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate agenda.

The Sustainable Development Goals defines key indicators around accessibility which are recognized throughout and important to the implementation of specific targets within in the Goals, such as 11 and 17.

It is proposed to start brainstorming on the GTF potential involvement in the Human Rights Mechanisms of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), including the UN Conference of States Parties for the CRPD and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the localization of this legal framework as part of the broader agenda of the GTF for an inclusive New Urban Agenda, localization of the SDGs and social equity in climate action.



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