Cities for Sustainability Governance

# UN-HABITAT

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# United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Urbanization and human settlements
Mandate on planning

Urbanization for reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty

Works in over 90 countries

## UN-Habitat's priorities

SDG Localization

Housing

Climate Change

Urban Recovery

**Resolution on Localizing the SDGs** adopted by Member States during the second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly

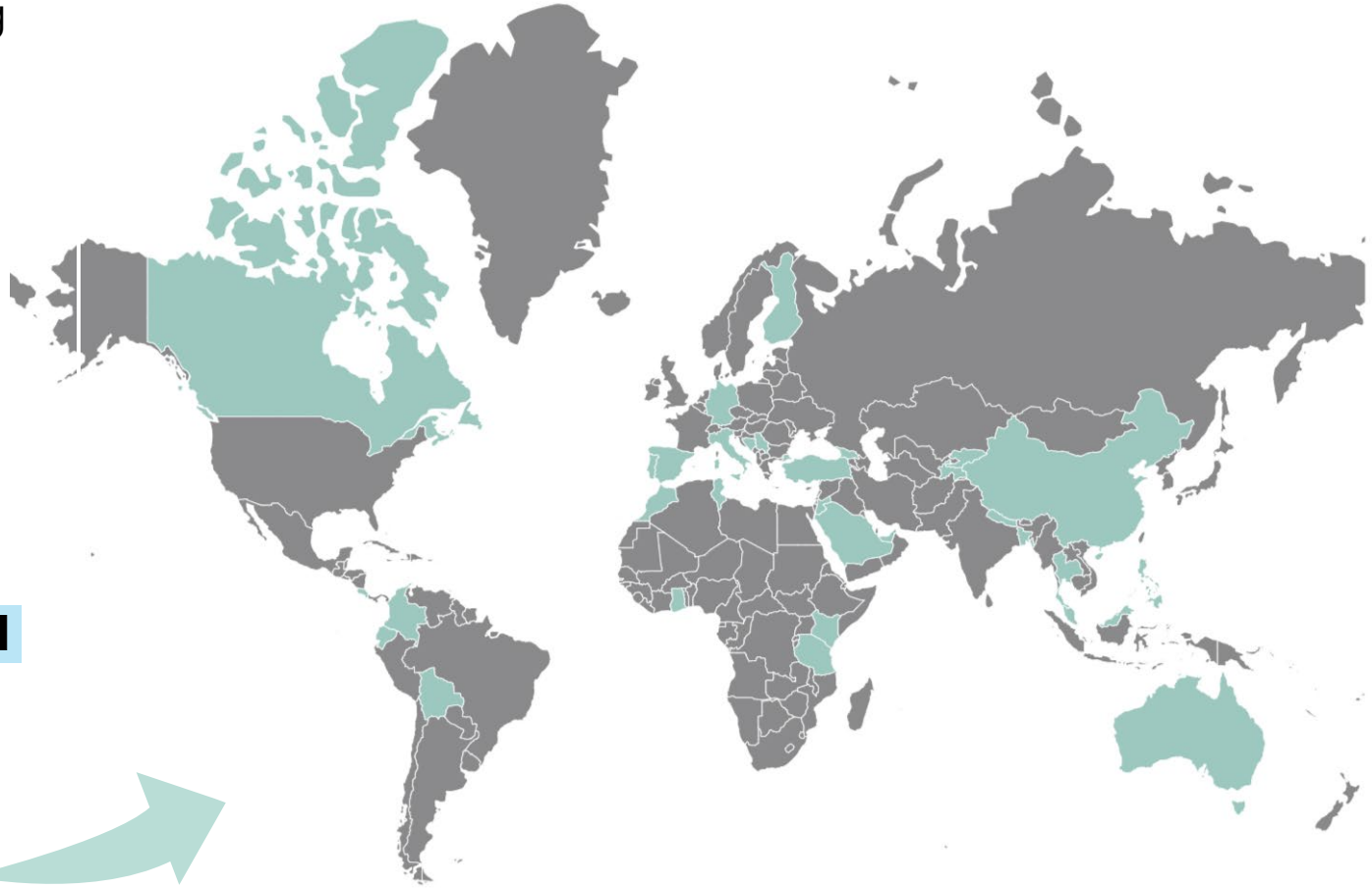
# UN-Habitat's SDG Localization and Local Governments Team

Coordinates **UN-Habitat's corporate work on SDG localization**, including the SDG Cities Flagship Programme

Provides **technical support and guidance** to UN-Habitat Regional and Country Offices as well as to a wide variety of partners worldwide on how to advance SDG localization processes.

Coordinates the agency's corporate and political **engagement with local and regional governments and their associations**.

Coordinates a **global portfolio** of projects and programmes



# UN-Habitat Approach to SDG Localization

UN-HABITAT

LOCALIZING THE SDGs

SDG Cities Global Initiative

MLG MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

Political engagement with the **local and regional governments' constituency**

LOCAL 2030 LOCALIZING THE SDGS

**Political Declaration**

SDG SUMMIT 2023

**Resolution on Localizing the SDGs**

UNITED NATIONS HABITAT ASSEMBLY
5 to 9 June 2023
#UNHA2

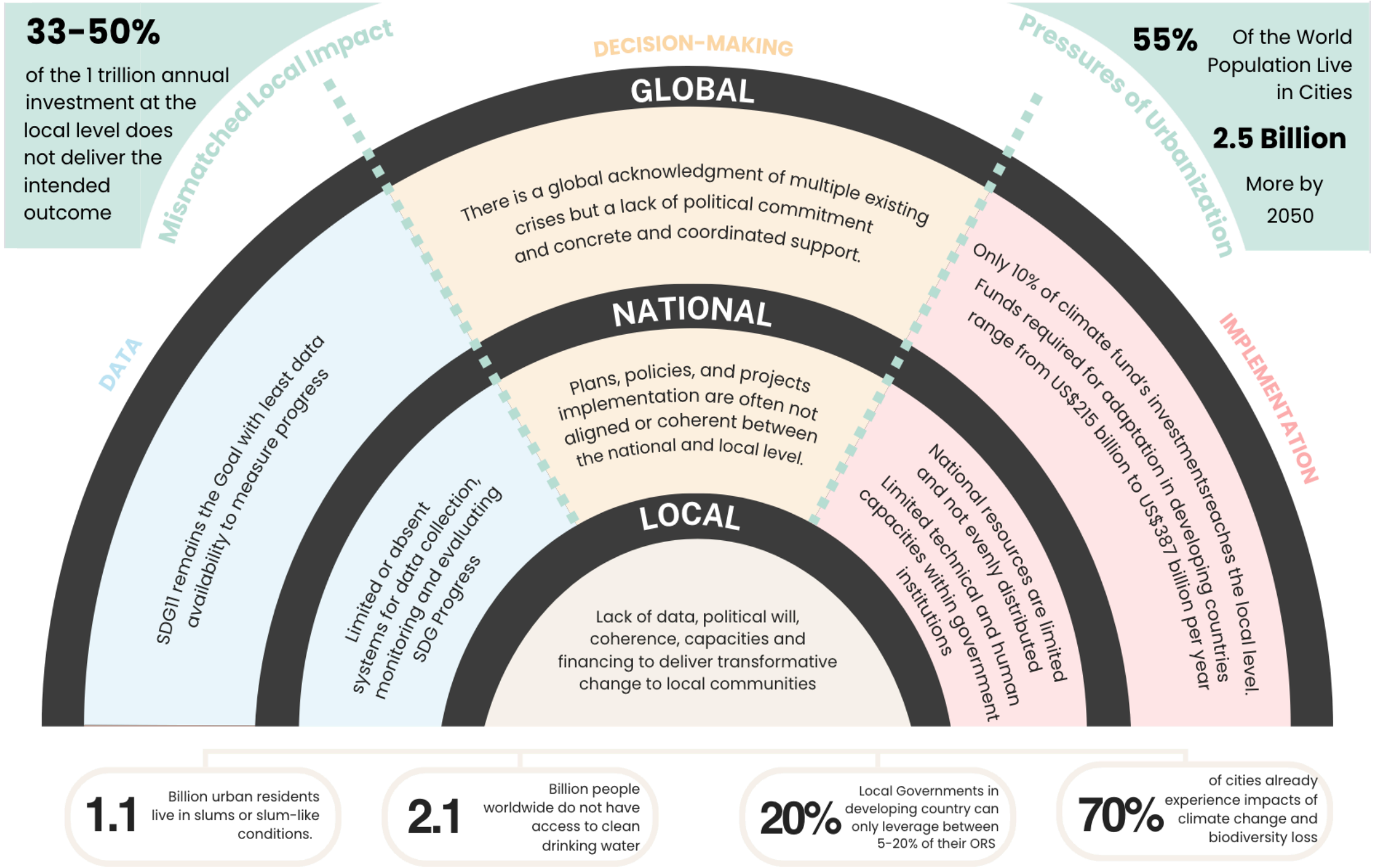
**Secretary-General Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments**

EU 23
SPANISH PRESIDENCY
COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

LOCAL 2030
LOCALIZING THE SDGS

In September 2023, during the SDG Summit, Member States agreed to work toward **six key Transitions** to accelerate sustainable development progress. These include **climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.**

**Localization is acknowledged as a key approach to delivering on the Transitions** and hence achieving the SDGs – at all levels


33-50%
of the 1 trillion annual investment at the local level does not deliver the intended outcome
Mismatched Local Impact
DECISION-MAKING
Pressures of Urbanization
55% Of the World Population Live in Cities
2.5 Billion
More by 2050
GLOBAL
There is a global acknowledgment of multiple existing crises but a lack of political commitment and concrete and coordinated support.
NATIONAL
Plans, policies, and projects implementation are often not aligned or coherent between the national and local level.
LOCAL
Lack of data, political will, coherence, capacities and financing to deliver transformative change to local communities
DATA
SDG11 remains the Goal with least data availability to measure progress
Limited or absent systems for data collection, monitoring and evaluating SDG Progress
National resources are limited and not evenly distributed
Limited technical and human capacities within government institutions
IMPLEMENTATION
Only 10% of climate fund's investmentsreaches the local level.
Funds required for adaptation in developing countries range from US$215 billion to US$387 billion per year
1.1 Billion urban residents live in slums or slum-like conditions.
2.1 Billion people worldwide do not have access to clean drinking water
20% Local Governments in developing country can only leverage between 5-20% of their ORS
70% of cities already experience impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss

**To address these challenges, we need to understand...**

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

## ...what are the main functions of a city?

**Infrastructure**
Urban Mobility;
Public Basic Services (Housing; Health; Education; Waste)
Communication (Internet and telecommunication)
Recreational amenities (parks, sports and cultural facilities)

**Economy**
Municipal Finance
Employment and Business Development
Innovation in various sectors

**Community Development and Participation**
Civic involvement in decision-making processes
Volunteering and citizen initiatives
Culture and religion

**Inclusivity and Social Equity**
Programs for marginalized communities
Accessibility for people with disabilities
Safety

**Resilience and Disaster Preparedness**
Emergency response plans
Infrastructure resilience against natural disasters
Climate change adaptation measures

**Technology and Innovation**
Smart city initiatives (Data analytics, digital services)
Innovation hubs and technology clusters

**Environment and Biodiversity**
Sustainable urban planning
Biodiversity conservation efforts

## ...what makes cities function?

1. **National Urban Policies**
Local-National and Multistakeholder Partnerships

2. **Urban Legislation and Regulation**
Sound institutions and mechanisms
Coherence for social inclusion

3. **Urban planning and design**
Optimizing the spatial dimension of the urban form

4. **Local economy and municipal finance**
Effective, innovative, sustainable, and inclusive finance

5. **Local implementation**
Integration of sustainability and inclusivity for ensuring LNOB in city planning and governance

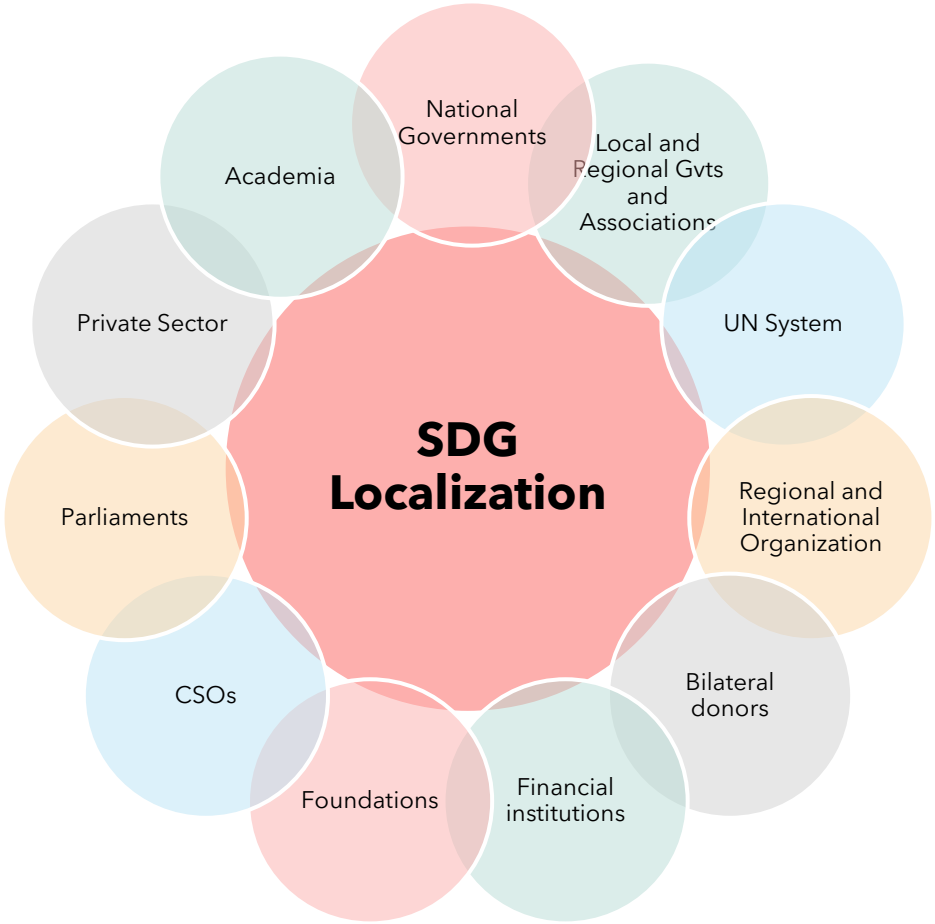
# SDG Localization as a Paradigm Shift

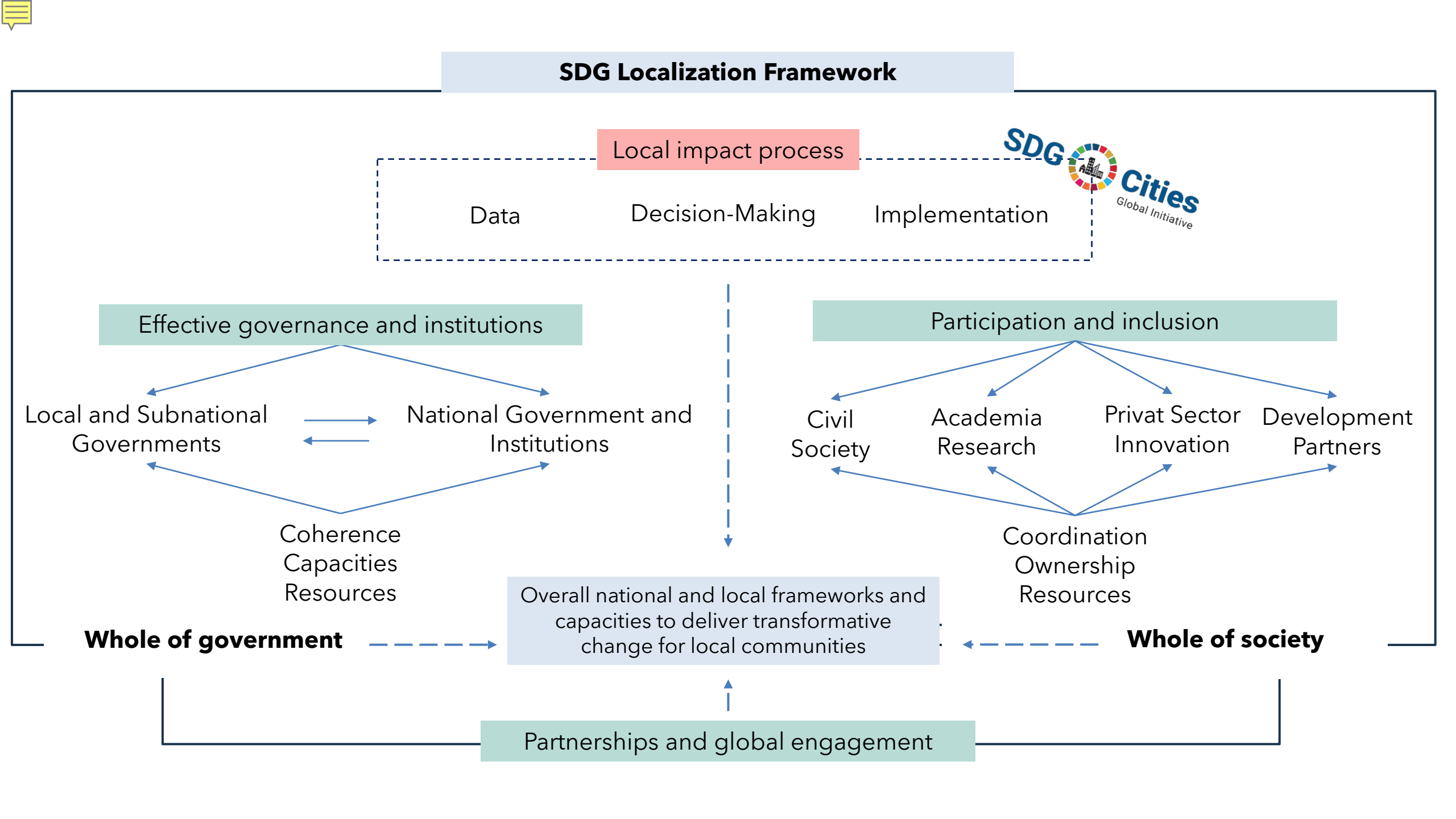
**SDG Localization is a paradigm shift** aimed at transforming governance systems and development frameworks – global, national and local.

Localizing means **placing communities and their quality of life at the center of development.** It focuses on addressing existing development gaps – at all levels – to **transform the SDGs into reality**.

The localization approach is anchored on **coordination, coherence and partnerships across levels, stakeholders and sectors.** It is rooted in **three principles**:

- Ownership and institutional anchoring
- Whole-of-Government
- Whole-of-Society



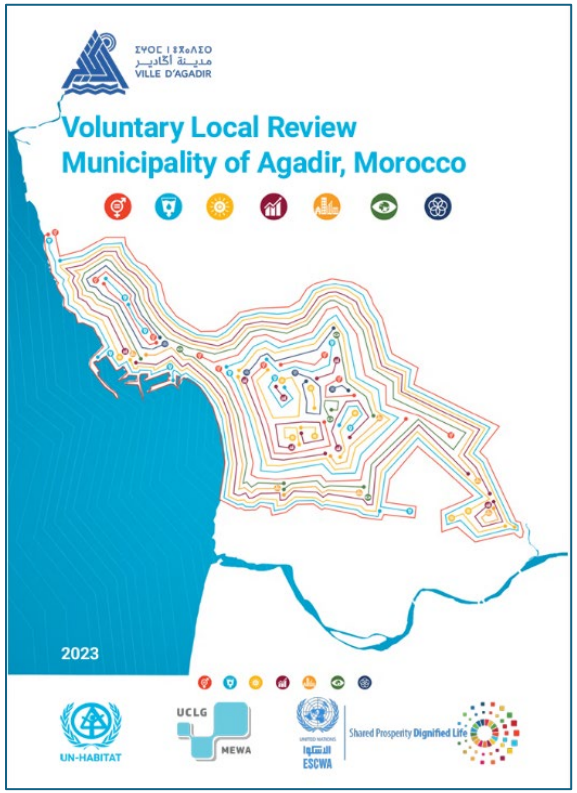

SDG Localization Framework
Local impact process
Data
Decision-Making
Implementation
SDG Cities
Global Initiative
Effective governance and institutions
Local and Subnational Governments
National Government and Institutions
Coherence
Capacities
Resources
Participation and inclusion
Civil Society
Academia Research
Privat Sector Innovation
Development Partners
Coordination
Ownership
Resources
Overall national and local frameworks and capacities to deliver transformative change for local communities
Whole of government
Whole of society
Partnerships and global engagement

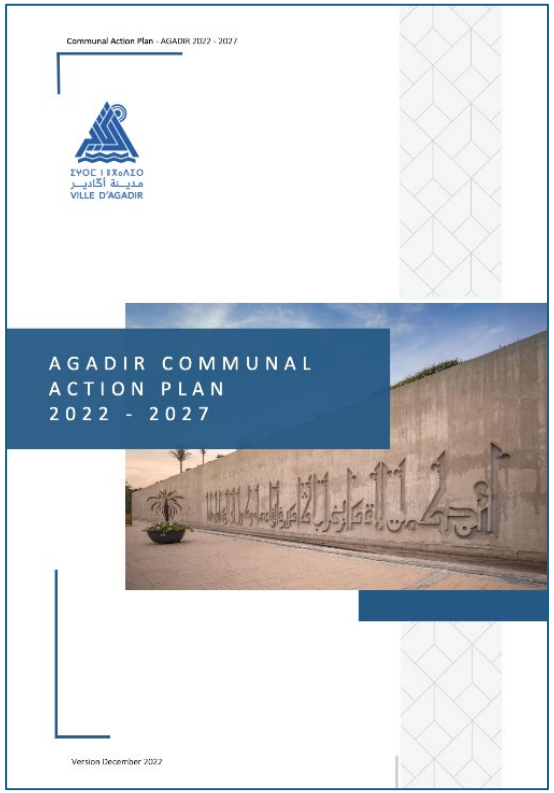
# How does SDG Localization look like?

| Data innovation | Awareness Raising | Planning and mainstreaming | Participation and inclusion | Budgeting and finance |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nakuru (Kenya)<br><br>The VLR development has been transformed into a digital format. The VLR Task Force has developed a VLR Dashboard that will serve as a living VLR that can be continuously updated. | Bulawayo, (Zimbabwe)<br><br>Conducted awareness-raising workshops for municipal staff and CSOs on gender issues, guided by the city's gender policy (SDG 5). | Agadir (Morocco)<br><br>Integration of its Strategic Plan (PAC-Communal Action Plan) and the VLR, showcasing a synchronized and synergistic approach to urban planning. | Ennour (Tunisia)<br><br>Provides a particular look into the principle of Leaving no one behind, analyzing SDG challenges from the lenses of the communities (taking into account all the marginalized communities: elderly, youth, people with disabilities, migrants and women). | Brussels (Belgium)<br><br>Created a Social Impact bond to achieve the goals related to fighting unemployment (SDG 8)<br><br>Gothenburg (Sweden)<br><br>Issued a green bond of 70 million euros to achieve climate resilience objectives in line with SDG 13 and 11.6 |

| Policy making | Monitoring | Innovative partnerships | Multilevel Governance |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Para' (Brazil)<br><br>The Government of Para' instituted the State Policy on Climate Change of Para, in 2020, integrating a juridical legal set of plans being implemented by the state government and contributing to achieving SDG 11.b. It supported 52 municipalities in risk and disaster prevention actions. | Niš (Serbia)<br><br>Establishment of a dedicated monitoring unit within the City administration. Which enables efficient coordination in developing Niš's VLR while also creating the potential to enhance the local government's capacity, ensuring the sustainability and recurrence of the VLR process in the future. | Mwanza (Tanzania) and Tampere (Finland)<br><br>Kickstarted a twinning project to cooperate in the production of Mwanza's first Voluntary Local Review (VLR), to advance together towards the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and beyond. | Argentina<br><br>In 2015 created a dedicated National inter-ministerial body based on an intersectoral approach. At the subnational level, the province of Cordoba is supporting several municipalities to develop local SDGs plans through a collaborative process among levels of governance. |

# Action-oriented VLR: the case of Agadir, Morocco




- Integration of the Strategic Plan and the VLR: Synchronized and synergistic approach to urban planning.
- Ensures Agadir's urban planning remains coherent, responsive, and aligned with national, regional, and local objectives as well as the 2030 Agenda

***The Strategic Plan (PAC) 2017-2022 served as an important source for the VLR development whereas the latter was pivotal for the new 2022-2027 PAC.***

# SDG Cities: Brisbane, Australia

- Strategic and coordinated efforts to implement the SDGs at the local level
- Creation of an Action-Oriented VLR that is translated into strategic actions to create a more sustainable and resilient Brisbane

***"Our practical approach towards sustainability was not just about cutting waste and emissions but cutting costs for residents and making our city better for future generations"***
(Brisbane Mayor, Adrian Schrinner, 2023)

The Green Bridges Programme initiated by the Council supports pedestrian and cycling mobility and better connects the inner city with peripheral neighborhoods, fostering more sustainable and active modes of transport. This can improve not only the health of the environment but also that of the population.

**Theme:** *It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities.*

**Dialogues**

- Housing our future
- Cities and the climate crisis
- Stronger together
- Financing localization and localizing finance
- Putting people first in a digital age
- The loss of home

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# Thank you!

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