

Webinar 5 on Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Background

Engaging subnational governments and local communities in the design, implementation and monitoring of public policies fosters inclusive and participatory implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To effectively decentralize and bring government to the people, public sector capabilities at subnational levels and steps to ensure the financial stability of subnational authorities must be promoted. Decentralization outcomes also depend on the quality of multi-level governance mechanisms in pursuit of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to the challenges of sustainable development.

UN DESA has developed 5 strategy guidance notes to operationalize the principle of subsidiarity, one of the principles of effective governance for sustainable development developed by the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA). Subsidiarity is based on the principle that to promote government that is responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people, central authorities should perform only those tasks which cannot be performed effectively at a more intermediate or local level. CEPA has identified five commonly used strategies for promoting subsidiarity, namely: (1) fiscal federalism and decentralization; (2) strengthening urban governance; (3) strengthening municipal finance and local finance systems; (4) enhancement of local capacity for prevention, adaptation and mitigation of external shocks; and (5) multilevel governance.

The guidance notes argue that localization of the SDGs is not limited to integrating the global goals in local development plans but extends to strengthening decentralization, urban governance and local finance systems, and requires subnational authorities to be capable of effectively preventing and responding to external shocks. The benefits of decentralizing appropriate public sector functions and finances to subnational levels of government, and attention to multi-level governance arrangements are also covered. The guidance notes, available [here](#), include information on how governments can both assess the current status and measure progress to ensure that governance systems address long-term challenges.

Objectives

- Provide a platform to share knowledge and guidance on how to promote inclusiveness and subsidiarity for sustainable development.
- Identify major challenges and opportunities for the localization of the SDGs.
- Increase understanding and awareness of the competencies and skills needed to apply the principle of subsidiarity with an emphasis on institutions at all levels.



- Highlight peer learning opportunities and research networks in specific practice areas.

Guiding questions:

1. What are some of the strategies and policies required to more effectively localize the SDGs?
2. How can resources be allocated to support local governments and stakeholders in implementing SDG targets and initiatives?
3. How can we ensure alignment between national development plans and localized SDG strategies to maximize effectiveness and coherence?
4. What mechanisms are being established to ensure active participation and representation of local communities in the localization process?
5. How can challenges related to capacity building, data availability and monitoring mechanisms at the local level be addressed?

