



United Nations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs



2022 UN DESA-KRILA Forum on “Promoting Innovative Local Governance for Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals & Building an Inclusive and Resilient Society in the Post-COVID-19 Era”

Co-organized by

United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)
Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG)
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)
&
Korea Research Institute for Local Administration (KRILA)

In collaboration with

Jeollabuk-do, Republic of Korea

With support from

Jeonbuk Center for Creative Economy & Innovation

**09:00-14:00 Seoul (KST), GMT+9
6 September 2022**

Via Zoom

I. Background

Local governments play a pivotal role in accelerating the implementation of the far-reaching Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across economic, social, and environmental sectors, especially considering that 65 percent of the total SDG targets have to be delivered by local authorities and actors¹. The 5th Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda organized during the 2022 United Nations High-level Political Forum (HLPF) also underscored the important role of local governments in implementing the SDGs at the local level.² Local governments are also at the forefront of recovering the lives and well-being of citizens from the COVID-19 pandemic and building local resilience in the post-COVID-19 era. However, they are confronted with a multitude of challenges in the process of recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and building an inclusive and resilient society in the post-COVID-19 era. With less than a decade left until 2030, the progress toward achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “in grave jeopardy due to multiple, cascading and intersecting crises”, as revealed by the UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022³. The significant repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic have reversed the development progress achieved over the past years. Moreover, the impact of the climate crisis as well as the current food and energy crisis are further exacerbating the plight of citizens and affecting the resilience of local communities, especially with disproportionate impact inflicted on those who are marginalized and in vulnerable situations.

Addressing such cascading and intertwined challenges and crises, accelerating SDG implementation, as well as building an inclusive and resilient society all call for innovation in local governance. As local governments alone cannot address the far-reaching and complex challenges, it is critical that local governments engage and collaborate with various stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society organizations, academia, experts, and local communities, among others. Multi-stakeholder

¹ OECD (2019). Achieving the SDGs in cities and regions. Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/about/impact/achievingthesdgsincitiesandregions.htm>

² <https://sdgs.un.org/events/fifthLRGF-2022HLPFSpecial>

³ United Nations (2022). The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022, p. 3.

engagement allows local government to tap into the resources, skills, and ideas of those diverse stakeholders and forge innovative solutions to various local challenges. It is particularly essential to include people in vulnerable situations in local governance through participatory policy processes to address their special vulnerabilities and demands. By promoting inclusive governance with engagement and participation of people in vulnerable situations, local government can foster human-centered policies and services and ensure that no one is left behind.

Particularly, it is critical to foster Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs) at the local level. Effective and strategic PPPPs can contribute to addressing the financial, technical, and human resource gaps of local governments. In this regard, it is important to establish institutionalized mechanisms and platforms for PPPPs among local stakeholders.

Another very important dimension in promoting innovative local governance is harnessing ICT and digital tools and promoting digital transformation. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the pace of digital transformation has accelerated, and the way which local government provides services and interacts with citizens has become increasingly digitalized. ICT and digital technologies can enable local government to provide local services in a more effective and inclusive manner to all citizens, including those who are marginalized and in vulnerable situations. ICT and digital technologies also play an important role in promoting inclusive and participatory local governance by fostering e-participation, from e-information sharing to e-consultation and e-decision-making, as well as in enhancing local resilience and promoting digital economy at the local level.

Against this background, UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), an integral part of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), and the Korea Research Institute for Local Administration (KRILA), in collaboration with the Jeonbuk Provincial Government of the Republic of Korea and with support from the Jeonbuk Center for Creative Economy & Innovation, are co-organizing a Forum on “Promoting Innovative Local Governance for Accelerating the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals & Building an Inclusive and Resilient Society in the Post-COVID-19 Era”. The objective of this Forum is to share various approaches, strategies, and good practices in promoting innovative local governance for accelerating SDG implementation at the local level and building an inclusive and resilient local society in the post-COVID-19 era.

II. Objectives

- 1) Discuss how to promote innovative governance at the local level for accelerating SDG implementation and building an inclusive and resilient society in the post-COVID-19 era;
- 2) Exchange innovative approaches, strategies, and experiences and promote peer-to-peer learning among different countries and stakeholders, in particular dimensions of i) accelerating digital transformation for public service innovation and revitalization of local economy, ii) promoting social inclusion and leaving no one behind; and iii) addressing climate change and building resilience through PPPP;
- 3) Provide policy recommendations for fostering innovative local governance; and
- 4) Facilitate partnership among participants.

III. Structure & Format

The virtual Forum is composed of three thematic sessions. Each thematic session will include: thematic presentations, a moderated panel discussion, and an interactive Q&A discussion with participants.

The event will be organized using video conferencing tools such as Zoom.

English-Korean simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

IV. Thematic Focus

The themes of the three thematic sessions are aligned with those of the Handbook Series on “Innovative Local Governance for the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals”, which is under development by DPIDG/UNPOG and KRILA jointly.

Session 1: Accelerating Digital Transformation for Public Service Innovation and Revitalization of Local Economy

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for transformation through enhanced creativity and innovation in public service at the local level of governance and public administration. Also, the significant repercussions of the pandemic on the economy, particularly on jobs and loss of income, require a more proactive role of local governments in revitalizing the local economy in the post-COVID-19 era.

Leveraging digital technologies and platforms has been at the center of the COVID-19 response and recovery due to an exponential demand for digital services and so-called “non-contact industries”. Digitalization has fundamentally changed the way local governments operate, deliver public services, and interact with local constituents. Considering the intertwined challenges coupled with the diminished fiscal space due to the loss of tax revenues of local governments, it is pressing to accelerate digital transformation in local governance for implementing the SDGs at the local level and forge ahead with building an inclusive and resilient society in the post-COVID-19 era.

ICT and digital technologies can contribute to providing effective, tailored, and inclusive local services to all and facilitating e-participation of various stakeholders in policy processes. Digital technologies also can strengthen risk-informed governance by allowing local governments to prevent and rapidly respond to various risks and disasters, especially with real-time data and information which enables making evidence-based decisions and early crisis predictions.

Accelerating digital transformation in local governance, especially strengthening local digital government platforms by opening government data and widening civic space, can strengthen accountability and transparency and enhance public trust in local governments. The accelerated pace of digital transformation in local governance can provide local citizens with better insights about government challenges and priorities, so the local society could be more motivated to co-create and co-design local public services and innovative solutions to specific contextual situations. This will eventually lead to partnership building between local government and other stakeholders.

This Session will examine the role of ICT and digital technologies for promoting SDG implementation at the local level and building an inclusive and resilient local society in the era of the New Normal, with a particular focus on public service innovation and revitalization of local economy. It will discuss how to accelerate digital transformation at the local level by introducing diverse approaches, strategies, and experiences.

Session 2: Promoting Social Inclusion & Leaving No One Behind in Local Governance

People in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, older persons, persons with disabilities, refugees and migrants, and indigenous peoples, often confront barriers in accessing to public service and fully participating in local governance processes. These vulnerable people have also been disproportionately affected by the impact of climate change, COVID-19 pandemic, energy and food crises, conflicts, as well as other challenges. Local governments play a particularly critical role in promoting social inclusion of people in vulnerable situations and ensuring leaving no one behind in realizing the 2030 Agenda. Due to the proximity to citizens, local governments are at the forefront of identifying the dynamically evolving vulnerabilities and special needs and demands of the vulnerable populations on the ground, as well as delivering essential public services and engaging them in policy processes.

Effectively addressing the special vulnerabilities and needs of vulnerable groups and building inclusive local societies requires people-centered and innovative approaches and strategies. It calls for a paradigm shift from governance-as-usual to innovative local governance with people at its center and inclusive public service delivery particularly by harnessing innovation, ICT and digital government, and partnerships at the local level. Local government officials and other relevant local stakeholders also need to be equipped with new mindsets, capacities and skills for promoting social inclusion.

This Session will examine challenges which local governments confront with in promoting social inclusion of people in vulnerable situations at the local level and discuss various innovative approaches, strategies, and good practices of people-centered and inclusive governance toward building an inclusive local society and ensuring leaving no one behind at the local level.

Session 3: Addressing Climate Change and Building Resilience at the Local Level through Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs)

Addressing climate crisis and building resilience is one of the most urgent priorities of many local governments, as cities and local communities are prone to the impact of climate change and disaster risks. Implementing climate adaptation and mitigation measures and policies for disaster risk reduction and resilience building at the local level is key to accelerating SDG implementation and building a resilient society. Considering the far-reaching impact of climate change and disaster risks, addressing climate risks and building resilience necessitate strenuous efforts from not just local government but also other stakeholders, especially the private sector and local communities. It particularly requires sustained investment in resilient infrastructure. The widening financing gaps and the complexity to address climate change all call for mobilizing the resources and soliciting collective wisdom from the whole society for innovative solutions. Moreover, monitoring and evaluating the climate actions also needs partnerships with diverse stakeholders through various channels, including by harnessing social media data, satellite imagery from private companies, and citizen-generated data.

In this context, strengthening Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs) is critical for addressing climate change and building resilience at the local level in an effective and inclusive manner. PPPPs allow effective harnessing of resources, skills, and ideas from the society for forging innovative local measures and inclusive and people-centered approaches to climate action and building resilience.

This Session will highlight the importance of PPPPs and how promoting PPPPs can contribute to effective and inclusive addressing of climate change and building resilience at the local level. It will introduce innovative cases of PPPPs and discuss policy implications for local government and other relevant stakeholders.

V. Target audience

Target audience include national and local government officials, as well as representatives and experts from research institutes, academia, civil society organizations, private sector, and regional and international organizations both in the Republic of Korea and abroad. The Forum is also open to the public upon registration.

VI. Co-organizers

UN DESA holds up the development pillar of the UN Secretariat and works to promote the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UN DESA promotes capacity development as a link between global and regional processes and development at the country level. The mandate of DPIDG is to assist the Member States in fostering effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, innovative and citizen centered public governance, administration and services for sustainable development. United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), as an integral part of UN DESA/DPIDG, is mandated to address the strengthening of the capacities of public administration in Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Africa to translate the SDGs and other internationally agreed goals into institutional arrangements, strategies and programmes at country level.

KRILA is the cornerstone of local autonomy and decentralization in Korea. It carries out research projects that lead the local autonomous development such as local autonomy and policy, revitalization of local economy and development of future regions. KRILA also provides a long-term viable vision for local autonomy and autonomous decentralization and generous support for the major challenges of local administration.

VII. Draft Agenda

| Time (Korea Time, GMT+9) | Agenda |
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| 09:00-09:30 (30 mins) | <p>Opening Session</p> <p>Overall Moderator: Mr. Jae-hee Park, Director, Center for Administrative System Research, KRILA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Kyu Chang Ko, Head of UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), DPIDG/UN DESA (5 mins) - Mr. Iljae Kim, President, Korea Research Institute for Local Administration (KRILA) (5 mins) - Mr. Kim Kwan-Young, Governor of Jeollabuk-do (5 mins) ■ Keynote Speech <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Alex Brillantes Jr, Secretary-General, Eastern Regional Organization for Public Administration (EROPA); Professor, National College of Public Administration and Governance, University of the Philippines (10 mins) ■ Group photo |
| 09:30-10:45 (75 mins) | <p>Session 1: Accelerating Digital Transformation for Public Service Innovation and Revitalization of Local Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderator: Dr. Pan Suk Kim, Commission Member, International Civil Service Commission (ICSC), UN ■ Presentation 1 (15 mins): Ms. Kyung-eun Lee, Director, Center for Local Information, KRILA ■ Presentation 2 (15 mins): Mr. Deniz Susar, Governance and Public Administration Officer, Digital Government Branch, DPIDG/UN DESA ■ Presentation 3 (15 mins): Prof. Lei Zheng, Professor, School of International Relations and Public Affairs & Director, Lab for Digital and Mobile Governance, Fudan University, China ■ Moderated discussion (15 mins) ■ Q&A (15 mins) |
| 10:45-11:00 (15 mins) | <p>Break</p> |
| 11:00-12:20 (80 mins) | <p>Session 2: Promoting Social Inclusion & Leaving No One Behind in Local Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderator: Ms. Mi Kyoung Park, Governance and Public Governance Officer, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA ■ Presentation 1 (15 mins): Dr. Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi, Secretary-General, UCLG ASPAC ■ Presentation 2 (15 mins): Dr. Michelle L. Oren, Head of Urban Futures Lab, BIU Center for Smart Cities, Graduate School of Business Administration, Bar-Ilan University, Israel ■ Presentation 3 (15 mins): Mr. Young-Mo Hwang, Research Fellow, Jeonbuk Institute |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Presentation 4 (10 mins): Ms. Natalia Bayona, Director of Innovation, Education and Investments, World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) ■ Moderated discussion (15 mins) ■ Q&A (10 mins) |
| 12:20-12:30 (10 mins) | Break |
| 12:30-13:45 (75 mins) | <p>Session 3: Addressing Climate Change and Building Resilience at the Local Level through Public-Private-People Partnerships (PPPPs)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Moderator: Ms. Mi Kyoung Park, Governance and Public Governance Officer, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA ■ Presentation 1 (15 mins): Ms. Ana Thorlund, Governance and Public Administration Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA ■ Presentation 2 (15 mins): Mr. Aslam Alam, Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute for Information Literacy and Sustainable Development (BIILSD) ■ Presentation 3 (20 mins): Ms. Soo Young Lee, Investment Development Team Leader, Jeonbuk Center for Creative Economy & Innovation (10 mins) & Ms. Seonju Choi, Assessment Expert, K-ESG Assessment Center (10 mins) ■ Moderated discussion (15 mins) ■ Q&A (10 mins) |
| 13:45-14:00 (15 mins) | <p>Closing Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Closing Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Kyu Chang Ko, Head of UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), DPIDG/UN DESA (5 mins) - Mr. Iljae Kim, President, Korea Research Institute for Local Administration (KRILA) (5 mins) |

VIII. Contact

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG

Ms. Mi Kyoung Park
 Governance and Public Administration Officer
 UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
mikyoung.park@un.org

KRILA

Ms. Yeon-in Lee
 Communication and Cooperation Officer
lyi@krila.re.kr

Jeonbuk Provincial Government

Mr. Yong Jun Park
 Coordinator, Division of International Affairs
pyj15380@korea.kr

Jeonbuk Center for Creative Economy & Innovation

Ms. Soo Young Lee
 Investment Development Team Leader
culturm@hanmail.net