



**UNECE**

## Localising the SDGs: Making societies resilient for the times ahead

Network event at the World Urban Forum in Katowice  
City of Ghent and United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE

**Thursday 30 June 2022, 12:15–13:45 CET**

**Multifunction Hall Room 8**

**Language: English – Format: in-person**

<https://wuf.unhabitat.org/event/localizing-sdgs-making-societies-resilient-times-ahead>

**No-one-size-fits-all regarding localising the SDGs. A diversity of speakers will inspire you with their practices, opportunities and obstacles to take joint action in favour of a sustainable future for everyone. You are invited to share your experiences, and to co-create possibilities to implementing the SDGs in specific local contexts.**

Following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, national governments are developing Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) to assess their progress in **implementing the 2030 Agenda**. These reviews show that progress in transforming the globe into future proof societies, is most effectively realised through implementing the SDGs together with all stakeholders -from national and regional to local governments, and citizens. **To bring about lasting behavioural changes and making societies resilient for the times ahead, wide cooperation is key.**

**A number of cities have already documented their contribution towards the SDGs through Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), often exhibiting the effectiveness of multi-level governance.** However, many cities are not (yet) measuring their progress in implementing the SDGs, although they are taking initiatives, for example in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This global health crisis illustrates sharply and painfully the importance of a holistic and integrated approach to sustainable ecosystems. Only by integrating the social, economic and environmental dimensions of sustainability societies can be and remain resilient to such global challenges. Moreover, the crisis urges leaders at all levels and in all sectors to take joint actions for a sustainable and resilient common future. Hence, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, its consequences and responses will be the starting point for the discussions during this event. **The diversity of local approaches to localising the SDGs is a given and will be put central to discuss the importance of taking local actions and the added value of reporting.**

## Speakers

- ✓ Ms Astrid De Bruycker (vice-mayor city of Ghent)
- ✓ Ms Daryna Mendela (City manager of Lviv) & Victoria Furhalo (Manager of Centers for adult education in Lviv)
- ✓ Ms Sharon Dijksma (mayor of Utrecht)
- ✓ Ms Shipra Suri (Chief of Branch, Programme, Global Solutions Division at the UN-Habitat)
- ✓ Ms Gulnara Roll (Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)

## Objectives

- Demonstrating how Multi-level governance (MLG) is the most effective and efficient way forward to make societies resilient for the future
- Providing tools to localize the SDGs and integrate them into local policy planning, such as VLRs and trainings
- Optimizing mutual learning by giving the floor to participants to share their knowledge, experiences and challenges to colleagues operating in both similar and different contexts
- Stimulating innovative solutions by facilitating the co-creation of possibilities to develop sustainable ecosystems

## Check this out!

- ✓ Localising the SDGs in 20 seconds: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qen4Kz0EJog>
- ✓ How will your city look like in 2030? <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/363051>
- ✓ Localizing the SDGs and the role of SDG Voluntary Local Reviews in Eastern and Southeast Europe: <https://unece.org/info/Housing-and-Land-Management/events/363560>
- ✓ City of Ghent policy towards localising the SDGs: [https://stad.gent/en/city-governance-organisation/city-policy/ghents-sustainable-development-goals#SDG\\_reports](https://stad.gent/en/city-governance-organisation/city-policy/ghents-sustainable-development-goals#SDG_reports)
- ✓ City of Ghent SDG Voices campaign: <https://sdgactionawards.org/sdg-voices/>
- ✓ Guidelines for the Development of Voluntary Local Reviews in the ECE Region <https://unece.org/housing-and-land-management/publications/VRL%20guidelines-ece%20region>
- ✓ UNECE Regional Action Plan 2030 <https://unece.org/housing/regional-action-plan-2030>

## Agenda

<b>12:15</b>	<b>Opening and welcome</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Anja Van den Durpel, City of Ghent (moderator)</li><li>✓ Gulnara Roll, Regional Adviser, Forest, Land and Housing the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, Geneva, Switzerland</li></ul>
<b>12:20</b>	<b>City presentations on localising the SDGs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ City of Utrecht (The Netherlands): Ms Sharon Dijksma (mayor of Utrecht)</li><li>✓ City of Lviv (Ukraine): Ms Daryna Mendela (City manager of Lviv) &amp; Victoria Furhalo (Manager of Centers for adult education in Lviv)</li><li>✓ City of Ghent (Belgium): Ms Astrid De Bruycker (vice-mayor city of Ghent)</li></ul>
<b>12:35</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
<b>12:45</b>	<b>Reflections from United Nations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Ms Shipra Suri (Chief of Branch, Programme, Global Solutions Division at the UN-Habitat)</li><li>✓ Ms Gulnara Roll (Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)</li></ul>
<b>12:55</b>	<b>Introduction of Voluntary Local Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Q&amp;A</li><li>✓ Ms Gulnara Roll (Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)</li><li>✓ Ms Shipra Suri (Chief of Branch, Programme, Global Solutions Division at the UN-Habitat)</li></ul>
<b>13:05</b>	<b>City motivations and experiences with measuring and reporting about localising the SDGs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ City of Utrecht (The Netherlands): Ms Sharon Dijksma (mayor of Utrecht)</li><li>✓ City of Lviv (Ukraine): Ms Daryna Mendela (City manager of Lviv) &amp; Victoria Furhalo (Manager of Centers for adult education in Lviv)</li><li>City of Ghent (Belgium): Ms Astrid De Bruycker (vice-mayor city of Ghent)</li></ul>
<b>13:25</b>	<b>Tools for measuring progress on localising the SDGs and Voluntary Local Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Ms Shipra Suri (Chief of Branch, Programme, Global Solutions Division at the UN-Habitat)</li><li>✓ Ms Gulnara Roll (Regional Adviser, Forests, Land and Housing Division at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe)</li></ul>
<b>13:35</b>	<b>Q&amp;A</b>