

THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS IN THE LOCALIZATION OF SDGs 11 y13: MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS SUSTAINABLE

New York, 17th of May
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United Nations Headquarters
CR-7

Year 2015 was key for the global agendas on sustainable development, financing for development and climate change thanks to the approval of three fundamental and complementary milestones: the adoption of the Agenda 2030 in New York, the Action Plan Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, and the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the (SDG's) constitutes, for the first time, a universal commitment for all its signatories to adopt and implement the necessary measures to achieve them

The adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals has an ultimate purpose: to eradicate poverty and to improve the quality of life of the world's population; with the consequent need for action in each and every one of the different areas of public management. For cities all over the world, SDG 11 on achieving inclusive and sustainable cities, and number 13 on climate change, are especially relevant.

More than half of the world's population lives in urban areas nowadays, and it is expected to increase by 6.500 million people in 2050 . In absence of an impulse for transformation in the urban word, achieving sustainable development will not be possible.

Cities have a huge potential to be the engines of growth and development, but they also face major management challenges caused by rapid urbanization, by the massive arrival of new citizens, and the lack of adequate public policies to make cities sustainable and good for the environment.

For years, Europe has led the fight against climate change at global level. In particular, cities and regions have made major efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, to adapt their environment and planning, and to start thinking about new models of urban sustainability.

Local government associations have contributed enormously to these initiatives, as the Covenant of Mayors, which, among other commitments, calls for the implementation of effective measures to reduce greenhouse gases at least by 40% in 2030. All of them help local governments to be considered as essential partners to ensure that the National Agendas incorporate not only the

local perspective, but also enough resources and autonomy to tackle the challenge of global sustainability. Other example, at national level is the Spanish association of Cities for Climate, lead by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP).

The aim of this side event is to highlight **the advantages of cities networking for the localization of the SDG 11 and 13, bringing to the table specific experiences and** their achievements and difficulties in developing a , common vademecum of good practices implemented both at national and regional levels.

Questions for the debate:

- The Climate Summit for Local Leaders held in Paris in December 2015 approved the "Declaration of the City of Paris". It is now time to take action in the fight against climate change. What role should play networks municipalities to achieve the objectives of the Paris Declaration?
- Transparency and accountability will be key in the new international governance, to measure and compare the various local actions that help us meet international goals. How can we advance in the development of a common measurement system, standardized and compatible with international practice?
- From your own local responsibility, what do you think should be the role of networks of local governments in the localization of the SDG 11 and 13? What indicators should be taken into consideration?

STRUCTURE OF THE PANEL

Moderator: Mr. David Lucas, Mayor of Móstoles (Madrid) and President of the International Relations Committee of FEMP (Spain)

Welcome words: Mr. Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

Speakers:

- **Mr. Juan Espadas**, Mayor of Seville and President of the Spanish Association of Cities for Climate (Spain).
- **Mrs. Souad Zaïdi**, Deputy Mayor of Rabat (Morocco)
- **Mr. Hubert Julien Leferriere**, Mayor of the 9th District of Lyon and Vice president of Grand Lyon Habitat (France)
- **Mr. Mauricio Rodas**, Mayor of Quito (Ecuador) and Co-president of UCLG.
- **Mrs. Jacqueline Moustache Belle**, Mayor of Victoria and President of the Association of Districts of Victoria (Seychelles) , Co-President of UCLG
- **Mr. Geoffrey Makhubo**, Deputy Mayor for Finance, Johannesburg Municipality (South Africa)

Closing remarks: Permanent Representation of Spain to the United Nations.



Interpretation: English/Spanish