



# GLOBAL TASKFORCE

OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS  
FOR **POST-2015** DEVELOPMENT AGENDA  
TOWARDS **HABITAT III**

## **Intergovernmental Negotiations on Post-2015 Agenda and SDGs March session on Goals and Targets**

**Statement delivered by Emilia Saiz, Deputy Secretary General of UCLG  
on behalf of the LAMG and the GTF on 25 March 2015.**

Excellencies, Dear Co-Facilitators, Colleagues,

Today, half the world's seven billion people live in cities or urbanized territories and by 2050, the urban share will be up to two-thirds of the world's population. Cities are already the primary engines of economic growth and development. Yet, cities and their surrounding territories are home to extreme deprivation and environmental degradation.

We have already shared with you the opportunities and challenges that we believe urbanization conveys as well as our vision that a sound sustainable urban and territorial development will accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs. **In that regard, the Local Authorities constituency and partners are glad that an urban goal is included - SDG 11: "Make Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable".**

Pursuant to this, local and subnational governments have been invited to work on **the "Localization" or integration of territorial dimension of the SDGs** – and to look at the implementation of the goals at the local and subnational level by all actors, particularly by local and subnational governments as they have exclusive and shared responsibilities, for example on service provision in many areas related to the SDGs and the safeguard of the common good.

The implementation, monitoring and assessment of the post-2015 agenda should rely on the widely urged Data Revolution, which is based on the **disaggregation of data by territories**, and focused on the most vulnerable groups and individuals, ensuring no one will be left behind. The collection and analysis of territorially disaggregated data will make it possible to assess inequalities within countries and redirect efforts towards prosperity, and thus inform better decision-making and resource allocation at all levels, as well as enable communities and civil society organisations to hold their governments transparent and accountable.

In regards to the global indicator framework, we emphasize the technical report by the UN Statistical Commission, on the need for a coherent and comprehensive system and the recognition that " territorial/spatial disaggregation is fundamental for most of the indicators. In particular, the use of geospatial information for the development of some of the indicators (for instance in the case of cities) was stressed. In this context, the need to increase the utilization of data at the lowest geographical sub-national level was highlighted – as it was also a recommendation by the IEAG report on the Data Revolution. "

Indeed we must take into account existing local and subnational institutions and statistical frameworks, which are relevant for attaining efficiency and reducing costs.

**We therefore welcome the outcomes of the Sendai World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction which refers to empowerment of local authorities and local communities** to reduce disaster risk, including through resources, incentives and decision-making responsibilities, as appropriate (para 19f.)

We thank the co-facilitators for the effort to review the targets and we encourage them to maintaining the maximum of quantified targets to ensure proper measurement of progress.

The need to keep the territorial balance of economic, social, cultural and environmental SDG targets across **the rural-urban continuum is central and will require empowered local and subnational governments working in partnership with other key stakeholders.**

**Territorial dimension is a powerful enabler to achieving all Sustainable Development Goals and targets**, and local and subnational governments are keen to play a more active role in the definition, implementation and follow-up of the transformational post-2015 development agenda. **Hence, we urge nations to ensure, concrete mechanisms and modalities to enable a true collaboration and coordination of all levels of governments beyond the concrete outcomes of the UN Post2015 Summit, also permeating other relevant global processes, in particular disaster risk reduction, climate change, financing for development and HABITAT-III.**