Title: Unlocking the Potential of Multilevel-governance for SDG Localization in Asia-Pacific

Data and Time: 12:45-13:45 hours on Thursday, 24 April 2025

Venue: UNCC CR-3

Mode of side event: Hybrid (in-person and virtual)

Expected number of onsite participants: 250

Co-organizers/partners:

Ministry Of Foreign Affairs – Royal Thai Government, UN-Habitat, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub, CityNet, UN ESCAP

Description, strategic value and expected outcome of the event.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the essential role of local action and governance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This side event will bring together national and local governments from the Asia Pacific to share and discuss experiences of multi-level collaboration to support local sustainable development. As local governments are on the front lines of meeting goals set by national governments and responding to a myriad of challenges, they are putting together innovative policies that can be adopted in similar contexts through open knowledge-sharing activities and case study replication exercises. Effective methods of monitoring and reporting on the progress of SDGs implementation will be presented, highlighting cities' efforts in localizing the global agendas. Participants will hear directly from government officials about their experience in producing SDG Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and national government approaches to integrate these experiences within the national reporting processes such as the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Finally, the event aims to share insights and best practices in translating the SDGs into local action, by offering guidance on urban governance priorities and innovative local solutions for sustainable and inclusive city development.

This side event will examine the following key guiding questions:

1. How can national governments strengthen provincial and local governments in advancing SDG reporting and localization, and link global and national goals to local actions? What are good approaches to integrating VLR and VSR within the countries' VNR?
2. How can national and local governments collaborate with communities, local actors, and stakeholders in localizing the SDGs? What are the challenges and successful practices in engaging with the grassroots communities and the private sector in the localization process?
3. How can we unlock the catalytic role of urban governance to support the development of sustainable and inclusive cities and the practical localization of the SDGs?

By bringing together a diverse panel of speakers, this event aims to highlight SDG localization practices across Asia and the Pacific. It will shed light on how SDGs, along with their targets and indicators, can serve not only as a framework for monitoring and reporting progress but also as a valuable tool for long-term planning and implementing actions at the local level. By the end of the session, participants will gain insights into best practices for an inclusive approach to multi-level urban governance, ensuring cohesive government leadership and strong engagement from civil society, communities, and grassroots organizations.

Description

Cities in the Asia Pacific region are on the front lines of a myriad of social, economic, and environmental challenges. The session asks how cities can simultaneously develop multifaceted approaches to meet pending SDG targets and unlock innovative strategies for governance. The session will foster city networking and cooperation for increased learning and experience transfer across the region, fostering dialogue on collaborative solutions that ensure countries and cities in Asia and the Pacific are better equipped to respond to future challenges. Aligned with the theme of this 81st Commission Session, this side event will bring together representatives from global, national, and local governments and organizations, to exchange insights, best practices, and challenges in SDG implementation. The event aims to provide practical tools to drive local action in accordance with global agendas, highlighting the importance of strong multi-level governance for the effective localization of the SDGs.

Side Event Agenda

Agenda Item	Speakers/Discussants	12:45-13:45
Event Introduction	Moderator: UN Habitat	5 min 12:45-12:50
Opening Remarks	CityNet and UNDP	5 min 12:50-12:55
Keynote: Unlocking the potential of Urban Governance in the Asia Pacific	Arup (speaker name to be defined)	10 min 12:55-13:05
Panel Discussion on National and Local Government Action on SDG Localization and Multi-level Governance	National and Local Government Representatives from: ● Thailand ● Malaysia ● Fiji ● Philippines ● Nepal	35 min (~5 min each) 13:05 – 13:45
Closing remarks	UN-Habitat	5 min 13:40 – 13:45