

## **4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) (Seville, Spain, 30 June - 3 July 2025)**

### **Concept Note**

#### **“Experts Roundtable Discussion on Local Financing for the SDGs – Taking stock and paving the road after FfD4”**

**Time:** 2 July, 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM

**Venue:** Sala Santo Tomas, Seville City Hall, Seville, Spain, [Nueva Square, 1, 41001, Sevilla](#)

**Language:** English only

**Contact:** This is a closed-door roundtable. If you wish to attend, please reach out to [marie.hartmann@un.org](mailto:marie.hartmann@un.org)

### **Context**

Local and regional governments (LRGs) are critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with over 60 per cent of targets and 70 per cent of climate solutions depending on their leadership. However, many local governments remain chronically underfunded, constrained by limited fiscal autonomy, unpredictable transfers, and restricted access to diverse financing instruments.

The FfD4 draft Outcome Document clearly states the importance of subnational government actions as follows: “... (n) We will strengthen subnational finance where appropriate by enhancing local authorities’ technical, technological and human resource capacities; diversifying revenue and financing sources, including the development of municipal bond markets as applicable; and promoting stable and transparent intergovernmental financial transfer systems and equalization mechanisms; o) We will support national and local governments to prioritize and strengthen their policies, strategies, and practices to implement effective infrastructure asset development and management over the lifecycle of assets and mobilize revenues as appropriate.”

The FFD4 Conference will place a strong emphasis on involving subnational governments. Experts, policymakers, and development partners will come together to explore practical ways to improve how local and regional governments access funding and reshape local financing systems.

The “Experts Roundtable Discussion on Local Financing for the SDGs” organized by the Local2030 Coalition, builds on experiences and achievements of its members, including on new innovative approaches, such as, the “Integrated Local Financing Frameworks” (ILFFs) (See Local2030 Working Group 2 [Brief](#)). This roundtable which will be organized as the FFD4 Side Event, will spotlight concrete examples and policy pathways to empower local governments with the tools, partnerships, and capital they need to accelerate sustainable development on the ground.

### **About Local2030 Coalition**

Local2030 is a platform of 13 UN-entities dedicated to supporting the localization and the on-the-ground delivery of the six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) transitions. It serves as a convergence point for local and regional governments, national governments, businesses, community-based organizations, and the United Nations system. Working Group 2 on local finance is co-led by UNDP, UNICEF and UNEP and focuses on enhancing financial mechanisms to support the localization of the Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs). One of the key activities of this working group is the "Road to Seville" initiative, which aims to promote localized financing solutions through multi-stakeholder dialogues and consultations. Against this background, the working group has published a brief "[Local Finance is Development Finance](#)" to advocate for local financing solutions such as the Integrated Local Financial Frameworks and other mechanisms.

As a dedicated UN-wide platform, Local2030 supports acceleration of the SDG localization through strengthening partnerships and developing tools and instruments which allow to overcome the barriers preventing investments and scaling up finance at the local level.

Current challenges to scaling up access to finance for subnational governments include:

1. **Limited fiscal autonomy and unreliable fiscal transfers**, which prevent LRGs from planning and implementing long-term sustainable investments.
2. **Capacity constraints** that limit the ability to mobilize own-source revenues (OSR) and manage programmatic, results-oriented budgets.
3. **Technical and regulatory hurdles** that restrict access to private, blended, or international financing options.

In order to discuss how to overcome these barriers, the Local2030 Coalition invite partners and stakeholders to participate in a roundtable on local financing solutions at FfD4. The session is expected to deliberate on and formulate answers to the following questions:

1. How can we use the momentum FfD4 is giving to local and regional governments and amplify the messaging and local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the way to [Second World Summit for Social Development](#), COP30, UNEA-7 Cities and Regions Summit? What can these commitments unlock, and how can we make sure LRGs are not just implementers, but co-creators and financiers of sustainable development?
2. What reforms are needed in intergovernmental fiscal transfer systems to enhance predictability, equity, and alignment with local SDG priorities?
3. What practical steps can national and international stakeholders take to help enable and complement the efforts of local and regional governments to strengthen fiscal autonomy and improve own-source revenue mobilization?
4. How can development finance institutions, the private sector, and capital markets be effectively engaged to support local priorities, particularly through innovative instruments such as green bonds, sukuks, and guarantee funds?
5. How can Integrated Local Financing Frameworks (ILFFs) be scaled up and institutionalized to mobilize and align diverse public and private financing at the subnational level?

Based on the roundtable discussion, a report will be developed with a compilation of best practices and solutions on localized finance.

## Organizers

The Roundtable is organized by the Local2030 Coalition, including its member agencies UNEP, UNDP, UNHABITAT, and UNICEF; as well as partner organizations, including C40 Cities; Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA); Urban SDG Finance Commission.

**Attendees/Speakers:**

UN Habitat; UNEP; UNDP; UrbanShift partners; UNICEF; C40; CCFLA; Local Champions; ICLEI; WOFI – OECD; UCLG; SDG Urban Finance Commission; representatives of international financial institutions (EBRD; CAF, AfDB), representatives of national, local and regional governments.

**Draft Agenda**

Moderation: Local2030 – Francine **Melchiorretto** to moderate

| <b>Time (a.m. CET)</b> | <b>Session Segments</b>                                         | <b>Speakers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:30 –9:35             | <b>Introduction, roundtable objectives and expected results</b> | <i>Gulnara Roll, Head of Cities Unit, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); and Co-Chair of the Local2030 Working Group 2 on local finance.</i><br><br>Sebastien Vauzelle                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 9:35 – 10:05           | <b>Local Leaders’ interventions</b>                             | <i>5mn for each speaker</i><br><br><b><i>Ms. Paola Pabon, Governor of Pichincha, Ecuador</i></b><br><br><b><i>Mr. Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morcco</i></b><br><br><b><i>Mr. Ghana Shyam Giri, Mayor of Chandragiri, Nepal</i></b><br><br><b><i>Mr. Peter Anyang’ Nyong’o, Governor, Kisumu County, Kenya</i></b><br><br><b><i>Ms. Ani ahmad, Mayor, Ampang Jaya, Malaysia</i></b><br><br><b><i>Mr. Silvio Barros, Mayor , Maringa, Brazil</i></b> |

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| 10:05-10:15   | <b>Comments from national governments</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p><i>5mn for each speaker</i></p> <p><b>Ms. Anamaria de Aragão Costa Martins, General Coordinator for Cooperation and Sustainability at the Executive Secretariat of the Ministry of Cities,</b></p> <p><b>Ms. Marta Pedrajas, Deputy Assistant Director General for Sustainable Development Policies, Spain Ministry of foreign Affairs</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 10:15 – 10:55 | <p><b>Deep dive on Technical Tools or Mechanism for Localizing Finance</b></p> <p>Each speaker will present 1 instrument to unlock localized financing. Speakers will touch upon the need to scale them up, and where they have been used already: best practice and obstacles.</p> <p>The instrument will be developed in the mapping and attached to the outcome report of the session.</p> | <p><i>5mn for each speaker</i></p> <p><b>Tim Strawson, UNDP – Integrated Local Financial Frameworks (ILFFs)</b></p> <p><b>Avril Bundale UN-Habitat (own-source revenue generation project)</b></p> <p><b>Marie Hartmann, Cities and Sub-national Governments Advocacy &amp; Coordination, UNEP</b></p> <p><b>Kirstiina Yang, CCFLA on urban/local mainstreaming into country platforms</b></p> <p><b>SDG Urban Finance Commission (Green City Guarantee Fund)</b></p> <p><b>Luis Saenz, C40, Urban Finance Roadmap</b></p> <p><b>Natalia Salazar, ICLEI, Innovative Financing Department</b></p> |

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|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <b>Henrique Henrique Evers,<br/>Urban Development<br/>Manager, WRI</b>                                                                     |
| 10:55 –<br>11:25 | <b>Q&amp;A and discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How can we <b>join forces to use the momentum FfD4 is giving to local and regional governments and amplify the messaging and local implementation</b> of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the way to <a href="#">Second World Summit for Social Development</a>, COP30, UNEA-7 Cities and Regions Summit?</li> <li>- <u>How can national and international stakeholders help enable and complement the efforts of local and regional governments to strengthen fiscal autonomy and improve own-source revenue mobilization?</u> How can <b>development finance institutions, the private sector, and capital markets be effectively engaged</b> to support local priorities, particularly through innovative instruments such as green bonds, sukuks, and guarantee funds?</li> </ul> | <b>Moderator:</b> <i>Wilson Prichard<br/>Associate Professor, Research<br/>Director, International Center<br/>for Tax and Development:</i> |
| 11:25 –<br>11:30 | <b>Next steps and Official closing</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Jordi Llopart, Co-Chair,<br>Local2030 Working Group 2                                                                                      |