The Future of Transparency and Open Government

Co-creating open, inclusive, transparent and sustainable development at local and regional level
Local4Action Track

Date and time: Thursday 14th November, 9:00
Room: 2C
Duration: 90 minutes
Lead organiser: Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government of UCLG
Co-organiser: Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)
Format: Global Conversation **/** Panel discussion

CONCEPT NOTE

Summary

The 2030 Agenda calls for stronger, accountable and capable local and regional governments and institutions and for a renewed governance model that involves citizens and strengthens trust in the local public sector as cornerstones, not only for public service provision, but for the overall democratic system to work. Therefore, the localization process of the 2030 Agenda needs of an approach where dialogue and complementary actions between public sector and civil society are constructive and regular and where trust among them is strong and stable. As citizens increasingly demand greater transparency and accountability, and new mechanisms of dialogue with local public administrations; the sound engagement of civil society in the delivery of the SDGs has become a prerequisite for the 2030 Agenda to be successfully achieved, as confirmed both in the last SDG Summit and in the Local and Regional Government Forum celebrated in September 2019.

To respond to these demands, local and regional leaders are adopting open government as a new governance model since it favours transparency and access to public information, promotes the traceability of political decisions, involves citizens in the cycle of public policies and encourages joint work between citizens and public administrations. Bearing in mind that the local sphere is the closest to citizens, local governments are natural spaces for the development of open government practices as the driving force and accelerator of the 2030 Agenda.

UCLG has advance on its work towards this line of action fostering the capacities of its constituency to build transparent, accountable and inclusive territories and to promote mechanisms for the engagement of citizens in the co-creation of sustainable development solutions. Therefore, it has made transparency and open government strategic priorities on its mandate. Nevertheless, further work needs to be done to amplify the message and to highlight the key role of these topics in the successful delivery of the 2030 Agenda at local and regional level.

Objectives

The session will foster a dialogue between representatives of local and regional governments and other actors on transparency and open government as a driver to

accelerate the achievement of the SDGs at territorial level presenting different experiences from different places of the world and showcasing collaboration among local actors to deliver the agenda under the Open Government Principles (transparency, access to information, participatory decision-making, citizen engagement, accountability, innovation and the prevention and fight against corruption).

Specific objectives:

- Promote transparency and open government as drivers and accelerators of the 2030 Agenda at local level.

- Explore new approaches and showcase local and regional stories to deepen open government reforms and dialogue between government, civil society, and other actors to advance in the localization of the SDGs.

- Foster the development of a UCLG strategy on transparency and open government (SDG16+) and reinforce the work done through the Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government.

Impact of the session

Contributions done during the session will be used document and include discussions and recommendations in a future Transparency and Open Government line of action within UCLG to build a more connected space for Open Government practitioners in the UCLG community.

Link to the 2030 Agenda's implementation

The adoption of the 2030 Agenda represented a big opportunity for local and regional governments with the recognition of the need of local leadership to achieve Sustainable Development (SDG11), the need for building, reaffirming and strengthening alliances and partnerships in the territories (SDG17) and the need for peaceful, just and inclusive institutions and societies (SDG16).

Specifically, the promotion of inclusive, responsive and effective institutions at all levels and of the principles of transparency, access to information, participatory decision-making, citizen engagement, accountability, innovation and the prevention and fight against corruption recognized on **SDG16** are an integral part of the Open Government approach. Therefore, open government offers a new platform to support local governments to implement the 2030 Agenda as it entails co-creating cities and territories with communities, in bulging new relationships with the citizens, exploring joint and innovative solutions with citizens and private sector, fostering open data creation, among others.

In consequence, open government and SDG16 have become essential to the achievement of 2030 Agenda as a whole, as the sustainable agenda will not be achieved without fair, accountable, transparent and inclusive institutions at all levels. The multiplier nature of SDG16 has transformed it in **SDG16+** as being considered a key accelerator across other goals and targets and as its implementation will imply

and foster the consolidation of multilevel and multi-actor governance mechanisms and stronger democracy.

SDG16+, and therefore the open government approach, is being considered as the best approach by which local and regional governments can design, implement and monitor the achievement of the SDGs strategies or the other development agendas and as a mechanism to foster their own participation in the national strategies.

Adopting open government formulas (SDG16) will definitely empower local governments actions (SDG11) to design, co-create and implement sustainable development solutions rooted in sound participatory and collaborative processes and alliances (SDG17) that include all actors involved and needed to accelerate the delivery of the 2030 Agenda, strengthen democracy and leave no one and no place behind.

Description of the session

The session is an interactive discussion between different local and regional representatives and other actors involved in transparency and open government initiatives at local level from different regions of the world to discuss the importance of transparency, accountability, citizen participation and innovation (Open Government Principles) for the successful deployment of the 2030 localization process. During the session, different public officials and actors will share their processes and generate a space for exchange on lessons learned, areas for improvement, challenges and recommendations.

This discussion will highlight local experiences showcasing collaboration among actors to deliver the Agenda under the open government principles and will also engage virtual and present audience members' knowledge on the topic, allowing attendees to participate and collaborate. The session will bring local leaders together to share local knowledge and foster awareness and action to build a more connected space for open government practitioners in the UCLG community.

Panelists:

- **Mr. Mohamed Saadieh,** President of Union of Municipalities of Dannieh (Lebanon) and President of UCLG MEWA.

- **Mr. Carlos Martinez Mínguez,** Vice- President for Europe of UCLG and Mayor of Soria

- **Ms. Elise Henriette Mboula,** Mayor of Nkongsamba 3, Vice-President of REFELA for Central Africa

- **Ms. Sofia Moschin,** Italian Youth Delegate of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe

- **Mr. Hubert Julien-Laferrière**, Member of Parliament (France) and President of the French Alliance of Territories

- **Ms. María Julia Reyna,** Secretary for IR and Integration of Santa Fe, Representative of Forum of the Regions of UCLG.

- **Mr. Mukelani Dimba**, Envoy for the Open Government Partnership, Head of Development, International School for Transparency

Moderator: Juana López Pagán, Coordinator of the Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government of UCLG and Director of International Affairs & European Projects of the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP)

Note: The Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Government of UCLG is a platform to support peer learning, networking, awareness and capacity development on open governance at local level and to promote the role of LRG in practices of transparency, participation and accountability for the achievement of sustainable territories. Led by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) with the support of the Open Government Partnership and UN-Habitat, it is constituted by a group of local governments and networks interested in advancing on joint solutions, learning opportunities, collaborations and public policy exchange on open government issues at local level.

Local Action For and By the People