

Action Report of the GTF technical working meeting 14 December 2020

The Global Taskforce met for a technical working session, on 14 December 16.00-19.00 and agreed to develop joint narrative in the different policy areas, to synchronise work and align priorities for 2021 in view of the Annual Meeting of the GTF, due to take place around 16 February 2021.

This Report aims at highlighting the main points FOR ACTION.

New Urban Agenda

2021 will be the first year of the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. In this regard, the group received a presentation by UN-Habitat on the Urban Agenda Platform, which is intended to act as a platform for co-creating and systematizing the report and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, as well as a one-stop location for all information related to its implementation.

Reporting points for Action:

Ø It is proposed to hold a special convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments on the monitoring of the state of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, either in October 2021 or early in 2022.

Ø It is also proposed to strongly link the agenda of UNACLA with the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Ecological Transition and Sustainability

The working session of the Global Taskforce also addressed the topic of the Ecological Transition. 2021 is set to be a pivotal year for the agendas on climate and biodiversity, with the celebration of COP26 on climate change, COP15 on biodiversity, UNEA-5, and the Race to Zero. Members of the Global Taskforce exchanged on their plans and preparatory activities towards the key advocacy events on the climate and resilience agenda to ensure alignment and synchronization of action.

Participants argued for the need to transform our interlocution with national governments, with the UN system, and with other stakeholders and exchanged on what the constituency can do to act decisively and offer political leadership around this topic. The idea of carrying out joint narrative on issues such as the ecological transition was underlined as important to help strengthen our political position towards the United Nations.

Reporting points for Action:



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Ø It is proposed to continue promoting a “Multilevel Action Agenda at COP26”, with ICLEI acting as the focal point, including a Leaders Summit and a Blue Zone Multilevel Action Pavilion as part of Cities and Regions Day(s) in the Cop26 Blue Zone and Green Zone, in collaboration with the LGMA Cop26 Working Group . It is proposed to include the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) and contributions from the Scottish Government and Glasgow City Council, amongst others.

Ø It is proposed to endorse the Edinburgh Declaration and organise joint representation on behalf of the Global Taskforce at COP15 by encouraging its members to support the 7th Global Biodiversity Summits of Local and Subnational Governments.

Ø It is also proposed to hold the second Cities and Regions Summit in the framework of UNEA-5 in 2022.

Ø It is proposed that the constituency be formally represented by ICLEI and UCLG towards UNEP Special Committees, after the withdrawal of Regions4.

Ø It is proposed to continue advancing on the Global Taskforce’s representation at the High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 in 2021.

Ø Finally, UN DESA has confirmed its interest in organizing a joint briefing on the UN Ocean conference for local and regional governments in early 2021 with the presence of UN Special Envoy for the Ocean, Amb. Thomson.

The Implementation Decade: preparing our inputs the 2021 HLPF

UNDESA laid the groundwork towards the 2021 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which will be focused on COVID-19 recovery and resilience. Our constituency’s contribution, the fourth Local and Regional Governments’ Forum, is set to take place in the framework of the HLPF, and will provide an opportunity to bring local public service provision, financing for the SDGs, and the local and regional contributions to the SDGs in review, as well as to present the fifth report from our constituency to the HLPF on the role of LRGs in the recovery.

It is proposed to structure the report around three main sections:

- 1) Policy and enabling environment, including sections on local and regional ownership, institutional frameworks, the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, a section on “Leaving no one behind” and a section on structural issues (often focused on multilevel governance);
- 2) Progress on Goals and targets: with a summary of the contributions of local and regional governments for the different SDGs, illustrated with key examples of local policies and actions for the SDGs assessed.



3) Means of implementation (financing, harnessing technology and innovation, capacity building, data and indicators issues)

Reporting points for Action:

Ø It is proposed that the Global Taskforce starts to define and identify policy priorities and expected outcomes for the 4th Local and Regional Governments Forum taking place within the framework of the 2021 HLPF.

Ø It is also proposed that an in-depth working session be organized by the Global Taskforce to start to define and identify priorities and contributions to the GTF Annual Report to the HLPF on Localization.

Other key UN policy moments for 2021: Food Security, Mobility, Migration, Generation Equality and Accessibility

The session came to an end by highlighting items that will be an important part of our agenda for the coming year. Food systems, migration, and gender equality, which had been high on our agenda took the stage.

Mobility and the Second United Nations Global Sustainable Transport Conference

Another key agenda point that was brought to the attention of the group is related to mobility and a key moment for the constituency next year on the topic is the Second UN Global Sustainable Transport Conference, originally scheduled in May 2020, now taking place in 2021 in Beijing (exact dates to be confirmed).

The conference will act as a milestone for the constituency to build advocacy around mobility both in the run up and after the summit given its focus on sustainable urban mobility and its ties to nature and the climate emergency as well as socio-economic aspects of mobility such as its relationship with access to opportunity and accessibility.

Reporting points for Action:

Ø It is proposed by the constituency to support the mobility agenda as a key part of the work towards 2021

Ø It is proposed that the Global Taskforce starts to develop a roadmap on events and relevant advocacy moments in the build-up to the conference.

Food systems:

Introduced by the FAO, the presentation on food systems argued how cities can contribute to healthier, more equal, and more sustainable food systems through helping consumers take decisions, and how the decade of acceleration needs to spur communities to transform food systems to achieve the SDGs. Two key moments taking



place this year in this regard are the UN Food Systems Summit in September, 2021 in New York and the Nutrition4Growth summit in December, 2021 Tokyo, two summits that the FAO stressed were important in having local and regional governments involved.

Members of the Global Taskforce agreed on how timely it was to introduce the topic as a key item in the agenda, since COVID-19 has demonstrated that we are often taking our food systems for granted.

Reporting points for action:

Ø It is proposed by the constituency to support the food agenda as a key part of the work towards 2021, as well as to support and play a catalysing role at the dialogues in the Food Systems summit and the Nutrition4Growth summit

Ø It is proposed to explore possibilities to organise a dialogue in the context of food systems.

Migration

With regard to migration, another key agenda for the GTF in 2021, participants of the meeting argued for the need to transform the narrative around migration, in particular, in view of the impact that COVID-19 has been having on human mobility. Members were invited to join the global campaign to be launched by on Migrants Day, 18 December, by a multi-stakeholder working group co-Chaired by Canada, Ecuador and the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum for Migration and Development.

In this regard, the importance of having a seat at the table in migration governance was stressed as key, especially in light of the Regional Migration Review Fora (RMRF) to be held between 2020-2021 with the participation of LRGs which will inform the International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) in 2022. It was also recalled that next HLPF will be a relevant opportunity to report progress on the Global Compact on Migration, since this agenda is directly linked to the attainment of Goal 10, which will be reviewed next year.

Finally, the group was informed that the Mayors Migration Council, which is part of the Mayors Mechanism steering committee with UCLG and the IOM, has officially expressed its interest in joining the GTF to widen the agenda on migration. In this context, it was recalled that the Mayors Mechanism is acknowledged for its contributions to the GFMD in accelerating GCM implementation in the UN SG Report "From Promise to Action: The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration".

Reporting point for action:

Ø It is proposed by the constituency to support the migration agenda as a key part of the work towards 2021

Ø It is proposed by the constituency to consider the expression of interest from the Mayors Migration Council in joining the Global Taskforce.

Gender and Generation Equality:

UN-Women presented to the constituency and argued how COVID-19 is affecting women, and how the recovery plans are gender-blind, but that there is also an opportunity to enhance coordination and mobilization and enhance our connectivity to bring about gender equality.

Member networks of the GTF called to be more vocal about engaging in conversations in gender equality, especially considering the pandemic.

Reporting points for action:

Ø It is proposed to contribute as constituency to the dialogues around the Action Coalitions.

Ø It is also proposed to use the opportunity of the forum in Mexico to deepen the blueprints and mobilise commitments from actors to deliver gender equality.

The session wrapped up with participants agreeing on the importance of strengthening the narrative of the joint constituency, as well as importance of working together to address all of the topics in our joint agenda, and agreed to carry out follow up meetings on items such as communication before the Annual Meeting as a means to enter 2021 with a renewed agenda.