

## Local Authorities Major Group,

Gathered within the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments.

### HLPF 2022 Sectoral Position Paper – Executive Summary

1. **In the midst of current interconnected crises, the importance of local and regional governments as providers and protectors of their communities has never been clearer.** Essential services like health and education should be strengthened, through local and regional sustainable policymaking, to guarantee a world for all.
2. **The role of local and regional governments in education as hubs of learning and innovation is critical to accessible, safe and supporting environments** which foster equality and opportunity.
3. **Fostering gender equality and the participation of local feminist women leaders in decision-making is core to the democratic process** and to enabling governance with empathy, responding to communities' diverse needs and aspirations. Involving vulnerable groups in governance, in particular older persons, migrants and persons with disabilities, will contribute to territories that work for all.
4. **Achieving the SDGs depends on localization processes that consider big and intermediary cities, towns, and regions and territories, which are essential to alternative models of production and consumption** and achieving a green, resilient and inclusive world.
5. **Climate action must be reinforced by changes in relationship with our ecosystems:** through a change in economic models based on circular economy principles and a shift towards caring systems, through culture as our motor for social cohesion and sustainable development.
6. **City and region diplomacy is the transformative diplomacy that local and regional governments bring to the table in times of crisis.** Decentralized cooperation is integral to enhance our ability to achieve the SDGs and transform our systems.
7. **The issues that the New Urban Agenda addresses are as necessary as they were in 2016, and should be at the heart of our efforts.** Housing, healthcare, and public services are the work of local and regional governments, and critical to achieving the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator of other universal development agendas.
8. **Local and regional governments reiterate their commitment to fostering the development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSR) with full support of local and regional governments and their associations,** promoting ownership, increasing local and regional government participation in national coordination mechanisms, and the achievement of the SDGs.
9. Ahead of the review of SDG14 and the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030, **we highlight the crucial role of multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration to strengthen science-policy interface,** and the need to strengthen capacities of local and regional governments in building sustainable management models.

10. **To secure adequate financing and revenue streams for better planning and investment to achieve the SDGs, fiscal architecture needs to be rethought to empower local and regional governments.**
11. **We call for a renewed, more inclusive, multilateral system based on ownership, co-creation, strategic partnerships in priority sectors, and peace in which local and regional governments are fully engaged. We call for a strong international community and updated UN system that reflects current contexts, engaging local and regional governments and their associations in all stages of decision-making processes to achieve the global agendas and increase transparency and accountability.**