THE KEY ROLE OF CITIES AND REGIONS FOR THE 2030 AGENDA

Stefano Marta Coordinator, Territorial Approach to SDGs Programme Cities, Urban Policies and Sustainable Development Division Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

1st International Forum on SDGs for Regional Revitalization 13 February, Tokyo





The world is increasingly **urbanising**

(share of world population living in cities)

Metropolitan areas represent around **60% of GDP** & **59% of employment** in the OECD area (2016), and drive **51% of GDP growth** (2000-2016).



4.9. Contribution of metropolitan areas to annual GDP per capita growth

70% 🌆

2050



- 4.6. GDP and employment in metropolitan areas as a % of the national values, 2016
- 36%

50%

2009

1970

Challenges and opportunities in cities



50% + of the global population live in **cities (70%** by 2050)



50% of global waste production



55% increase of water demand by 2050



from **60% to 80%** of greenhouse gas emissions



USD **6.3 trillion** per year will be needed for **global investment in energy, transport, water and telecoms**

Employment: 50 000 jobs in the Île-de-France through CE

> Economic growth:
> 4.5 trillion dollars potential for economic growth by 2030 for CE

Environment: Decreased pollution;

increased share of **recyclable**

resources;

reduced consumption raw materials, water, land, energy



- Universality of the agenda
- Leaving no one behind is a shared responsibility
- ▶ 65% of 169 targets will not be reached without engagement of LRGs
- Subnational governments responsible for almost 60% of total public investment in 2016 in OECD area and for almost 40% worldwide;
- > SDG11 on cities is central, but we need a **territorial lens for all SDGs**;
- > SDGs are a means to promote **policy coherence**
- > A Territorial Approach helps to **prioritize**, **plan and budget**



City of Kitakyushu, Japan: findings

- The city turned one of its main problems (pollution) into a **strength** an economy based on green industries, renewable energy.
- Challenges: population decline, population ageing and lack of job opportunities for youth
- Vision "Fostering a trusted Green Growth City with true wealth and prosperity, contributing to the world", **supported by national government: 3 pillars** and 17 specific measures based on **6 priority SDGs**
- 2030 Agenda: an opportunity to address challenges by promoting synergies between the environmental SDGs (strengths) and the social SDGs (weaknesses).
- Some economic sectors connected to the environmental dimension, such as ecotourism, culture could offer some job opportunities to youth and promote social cohesion.



Province of Córdoba, Argentina: findings

- From **well-being to SDGs**: 2030 Agenda to expand the well-being indicators and to develop the **Vision 2030 for the province**
- **Private sector** is very active, but lacks a common platform to coordinate the ongoing efforts
- **Challenges for civil society**: institutionalisation of the process towards 2030 and communication with citizens.
- **SDGs Matrix**: focus on the social SDGs and linkages with economic and environment



Region of Southern Denmark: findings

- **SDGs as a business opportunity**: companies are trying to integrate the SDGs into their core business, beyond CSR;
- Need for more data and statistics to localise the SDGs: collaboration agreement between region and statistic Denmark, but many indicator at local level are still missing;
- **Role of municipalities on the SDGs**: checklist to verify that their activity are in line with the sustainability goals, as a tool to engage citizens and the private sector as well as to motivate public employees
- Role of the schools on the SDGs: 12 Danish High Schools are working together to include more competences on SDGs
- SDGs as a tool to shape the next Regional Development Strategy for Growth and Development of Southern Denmark based on the concept of quality of life





City of Bonn, Germany: findings

- Bonn from an administrative capital to a business and UN pole on climate
- **Sustainability Strategy supported by BMZ -** based on **6 priority areas:** i) Participation and Gender, ii) Labor and Economy, iii) Global Responsibility and One World, iv) Mobility, v) Climate and Energy, and vi) Natural Resources and Environment
- SDGs as a tool to **promote systemic measurement** at various levels of government
- SDGs as a tool to **engage the private sector**
- SDGs as a tool to address the key challenges for the city:
 - 1. Mobility (highly motorised traffic);
 - 2. Affordable housing vs green spaces manage trade offs;
 - 3. Lack of coordination with the upper levels of governmer
 - 4. Implementation of concept;
 - 5. Private sector engagement

Governance for the SDGs strategy



Region of Flanders, Belgium: findings

- Vision 2050 for Flanders (March 2016) subscribes the 17 SDGs;
- Focus 2030 translation of the SDGs into Flemish goals for 2030 (provisional agreement to a set of 49 objectives in March 2018) and choosing indicators (work ongoing)
- New **participatory governance model** to achieve the SDGs, with two key partners: VVSG and the Union of the Flemish Provinces
- **SDGs provide a framework** for enhanced strategic alignment between federal, regional, provincial and municipal level
- The SDGs could also help as a **budgeting tool** for implementing the government's Focus 2030 strategy
- Key role of **big and small municipalities** for a bottom up approach to SDGs



SDGs go local: Creating ownership among the LRGs

MAP OF LRG PARTICIPATION IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESSES FOR THE VNRs



LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS' PARTICIPATION IN THE PREPARATION OF THE VNRs7

	2016		2017		2018		TOTAL (Repeated countries excluded)	
Total countries	22		43		47		99*	
Consulted	11	50%	17	40%	23	53%	45	45%
Weak consultation	4	18%	10	23%	4	9%	17	17%
Not consulted	7	32%	15	35%	10	23%	30	30%
No Local Governments ⁸			1		6		7	7%
No information ⁹					4		4**	

⁷ Explanation of the categories: 1) Consulted: LRGs through their representative LGAs or a representative delegation of elected officers were invited to participate in the consultation (conferences, surveys, meetings); 2) Weak consultation: only isolated representatives and neither LGAs nor a representative delegation participated in meetings, or LGAs were invited to a presentation of the VNR (once finalized); 3) Not consultat: no invitation or involvement in the consultation process was issued, even if LGAs were informed.

⁸ Countries with no local self-governments: Monaco (2017), Bahrain, Lao PDR, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Sudan. ⁹ No information (until 22 June 2018): Bahamas, Hungary, Namibia, Republic of Congo.

Sources: Surveys answered by LRGs and VNRs.

In total, 112 countries reported between 2016 and 2018 (22 in 2016, 43 in 2017 and 47 in 2018). The final total (99 countries) records all countries once even though some have reported twice (9), or three times (1).

** Countries with no information (4) are not accounted in the total

Source: Global TaskForce Report, 2018 National and sub-national governments on the way towards localization.

Moving forward: Opportunities and Challenges

- SDGs as a tool to address concrete local issues
- Measuring progress is a key priority, but a comparable localised indicator framework is still missing
- Cities and regions are starting including the SDGs into their development plans, but the transformative element of the 2030 Agenda is not there yet
- LRGs are creating mechanisms to address the SDGs holistically, but vertical coordination needs to be improved
- SDGs as a tool to institutionalise processes with civil society and citizens towards 2030
- SDGs tool to develop regional development vision/strategies towards 2030
- Great potential to use the SDGs as a means to involve the private sector in public policies and use public funds to leverage private investments
- Private sector actively trying to include SDGs in the core business (e.g insurance and soap companies) and go beyond CSR, but we are not there yet
- > Need for **platforms** to coordinate the efforts of the private sector, in particular SMEs
- Schools as a key actors to raise awareness on the 2030 Agenda

OECD Programme July 2018 – December 2019

Measuring

- A tailored, consensual and localised indicator framework
- Harmonised and comparable OECD territorial statistics for SDGs
- Common OECD/EU definition of « city » and « region »

Learning

- Analyse & discuss local SDGs stories/evolving practices
- Draw lessons in terms of incentives, processes, outcomes
- Pilot-test the indicator framework in different contexts

Sharing

- Peer Peer-to-peer dialogue between cities, regions and national government
- Twinning during field trips and missions
- Engagement of umbrella/city networks and stakeholder groups

Policy Recommendations

