

Joint Statement of Local Governments to the 8th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Agenda Item 3: Linking national, regional, and global dimensions of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Strengthening follow-up and review to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Namaste! Greetings from Nepal.

I am Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha, Mayor of Dhulikhel, President of United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC) and also President of Municipalities Association of Nepal (MuAN).

Thank you for the opportunity to take the floor. I speak on behalf of the organised constituency of local authorities represented by the Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body (APLG).

From our discussions in the past 2 days, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic is a threat to our achievement of the SDGs. At the same time, recovery efforts can help accelerate progress towards the goals. Digitalisation and climate action have been emphasised as means for acceleration and not as an end in themselves.

In order to strengthen follow-up and review to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, local governments call for 3 key actions.

First is the effective decentralisation with vertical and horizontal integration across all levels of government. This is the key to ensure cohesion of policies and its implementation to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.

Second is the integration and contextualisation of SDGs in planning through localisation.

Third and last is to recognise and support the voluntary local review (VLR) and voluntary subnational review (VSR) as bottom-up approaches that will provide reality-grounded information to the voluntary national reviews (VNRs). We thank UNESCAP and the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanisation (PPSU) for developing the Regional Guidelines on VLR.

APLG members, including UCLG regional offices (UCLG ASPAC, MEWA, and Eurasia), C40, Metropolis, ICLEI, Citynet, and CLGF, are committed to the localisation of the SDGs. Several initiatives on addressing the SDGs have been made. UCLG ASPAC, with support of the European Union, has been implementing the localisation of SDGs in Indonesia and Pakistan.

The 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without local governments. However, we cannot do it alone. Local governments are committed and ready to work with national governments, UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations, civic society and other stakeholders for a sustainable and resilient Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you.

Asia-Pacific Local Government Coordinating Body

Members:



Partners:

