

# SDGs SOLUTIONS TO RETHINK THE CITY

High Level  
Political Forum  
2022

6th July  
7.30 – 9.00am  
New York Time



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## VENICE CITY SOLUTIONS 2030 RECOMMENDATIONS TO 2022 HLPF

SDG are powerful for LRG action, for their roadmap for a new model of city that can take into account the priorities and the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic brought in our communities.

We have less than 10 years left to 2030, and we need to improve and accelerate our efforts to achieve the SDG.

Initiatives as Venice City Solutions 2030 should be taken in better account in the HLPF as expression of process of exchange between many different stakeholders.

This year at HLPF we want to stress the link between local services providers and the international Agenda.



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Here some recommendations from the 4th edition of Venice City Solutions 2030.

### **1. To enhance the Universality of the 2030 Agenda**

No one alone has the solutions and the pandemic made visible how we are inter-connected. What we need to do is to identify together the critical factors and the critical actors, to take into account the importance of changing our approach to the critical issues.

We should define the Global critical aspects at Local level:

- working on same essentials issues both at local and global level;
- guaranteeing always the principle of justice, mostly for the most vulnerable citizens;
- guaranteeing for all the right to the cities;
- focusing the public services on caring for people.

Our tools to link the local dimension with the Global Agenda are Localizing SDG, VLR, VSR: they show concretely the impact of local activities at global level.

### **2. To enhance the Partnership principle**

To rethink the city through the SDGs, we need to use an intersectoral approach: not specific policies for specific sectors, but the SDG interconnection for an holistic approach.

We should rely on the partnership principle of SDG 17 to leave no one behind: a partnership cannot be just bilateral as public/private, but should include all the stakeholders representation every time and for every kind of decision that should be adopted in the city (National Government, Local government, Private sector, Third sector, NGOs, Academia, CSO should always share the decisions).

A new model of development at the city level requires a full application of SDG 17 and a cultural change in the concept of full participation, even for issues that apparently do not seem to affect all the actors.

### **3. To include Actors that need to be listened better**

To shape the cities through SDG we need to include better in the decision-making sphere:

- vulnerable citizens, to make them express the need of diversity in the city;
- young people, which ideas should be listened better because we have an intergenerational responsibility;
- women, because the city needs to have their transversal feminist perspective;
- scientist and researchers, because we need their scientific approach to face the global challenges at city level.

We can achieve this target working closely with civil society movements, integrating already existing civil society platforms in the strategic political life of the cities and adopting a new social model that includes all the actors.

### **4. Flip the script of our SDG strategy at local level in three steps**

To rethink the city through the SDG we need to:

- enlarge citizens' participation to the city strategy;
- to rebuilt the trust with the citizens excluded from the political life of the city;
- to learn to listen more and better the actors' point of view on strategies at city level.

We should Flip the script to change the narrative at city level:

to amplify our message on sustainability, to communicate SDG better to citizens, to collect their narrative on our SDG strategy.

### **5. Local is the answer for global challenges**

To rethink the city through the SDG we know the importance of the Mayors:

- to provide access to all the citizens to the city life;
- to guarantee to include everyone in the decision making sphere;
- to be capable to adopt the holistic approach to sustainability at local level (compared to difficulties of the National level).

Existing tools at local level to reshape the city can be:

- the application of the Proximity principle, revitalizing the sense of a real community based on equality and solidarity as pillars of sustainable development;
- empowering the Local4Action Hubs, the SDG laboratories at local level where local ideas are transformed into concrete actions that can be replicated at global level to accelerate the socio-economic and environmental development of the 2030 Agenda.

We claim direct funds for SDG at local level to face the global challenges.