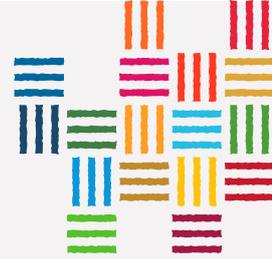# HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

# CONCEPT NOTE

*High-Level Political Forum 2024 Side Event*
*SDG Localization in Tunisia: A Pathway to Resilience and Innovation Amidst Multiple Crises*
*08 July 2024 – from 13.15PM – 14.45 PM*
*Venue: Conference room 11, UN Headquarters, NY*

# BACKGROUND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development faces unprecedented challenges due to the convergence of the current multiple crises, including the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, escalating conflicts, economic instability, and the worsening climate emergency. These crises are disproportionately affecting vulnerable communities and hindering the progress towards poverty eradication and sustainable development. In this context, local and regional governments play a critical role in developing and implementing innovative solutions that address these interconnected challenges and build resilience at the community level.
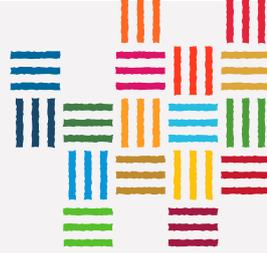
Tunisia, like many countries, is grappling with the impacts of these crises, particularly in its urban areas where the majority of the population resides. The country's vulnerability to climate change, coupled with social, economic, and political factors, exacerbates the challenges faced by cities. Recognizing the importance of local action, Tunisia has demonstrated a strong commitment to strengthening the role of local and regional governments in sustainable development. This commitment is evident in initiatives such as the development of two Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), in 2019 and 2021, the National Urban Policy (NUP) project, the publication of the Ennour Voluntary Local Review (VLR), and its involvement in the Local2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network (KSN).

The Ennour VLR, Tunisia's first report on local SDG implementation and progress, serves as a testament to the country's dedication to localizing the SDGs. It highlights the importance of multilevel partnerships and data-driven decision-making in addressing local development priorities and building resilience to multiple crises. The Local2030 KSN further reinforces this commitment by fostering collaboration between researchers, academia, and local governments to develop evidence-based solutions for sustainable urban development.

This side event aims at showcasing Tunisia's experience and approaches towards SDG Localization as well as creating a space for knowledge exchange and peer-to-peer learning, featuring other good practices from around the globe.

# OBJECTIVES OF THE SIDE EVENT:

- **SHOWCASE** Tunisia's innovative approaches to SDG localization in the face of multiple crises, highlighting the Ennour VLR as a case study.

- **DISCUSS** the role of subnational reporting, such as VLRs, in strengthening multilevel governance and accelerating progress towards the SDGs.

- **SHARE** lessons learned and best practices from Tunisia's experience in localizing the SDGs, with a focus on building resilience and promoting inclusive development.

- **EXPLORE** the potential of VLRs and other subnational reporting mechanisms to inform national policymaking and contribute to the global follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

- **FOSTER** collaboration and knowledge exchange among stakeholders involved in SDG localization, including local and national governments, international organizations, civil society, and academia.
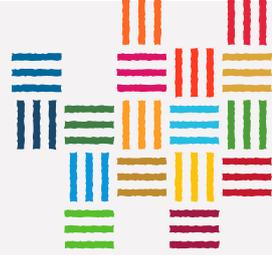
# EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

- Increased awareness of Tunisia's innovative approaches to SDG implementation and localization.
- Enhanced understanding of the role of subnational reporting in strengthening multilevel governance and accelerating SDG implementation through VLRs.
- Shared lessons learned and best practices from Tunisia's experience in localizing the SDGs.
- Strengthened collaboration among stakeholders involved in SDG localization.
- Identification of potential areas for further research and action on SDG localization in the context of multiple crises.

# FORMAT: IN PERSON AND BROADCAST

The side event will include presentations, panel discussions, and interactive Q&A sessions.
The session will be broadcasted on UN TV.

Click here
To
Watch

# AGENDA:

| TIME | TOPIC |
|------|-------|
| Moderator of the session | **Martino Miraglia,** Coordinator, SDG Localization and Local Governments Team & SDG Cities Flagship, UN-Habitat HQ |
| 13:15 PM - 13:30PM<br><br>15' | **Opening Session: Welcoming Remarks and Setting the Scene**<br>• **H.E Mr. Tarek Ladeb,** Ambassador at the Tunisian Permanent Representation to the UN in NY.<br>• **Martino Miraglia,** Coordinator, SDG Localization and Local Governments Team & SDG Cities Flagship, UN-Habitat HQ |
| 13:30 PM – 14:00 PM<br><br>30' | **First panel. Tunisia's Experience in SDG localization: The Ennour VLR**<br>• **Ridha Rokbani,** Governor of Kasserine, Tunisia Presentation of the experience of Ennour city VLR development process, key findings, and lessons learned **(10mins)**<br>**Moderated Q&A (20mins)** |
| 14:00 PM – 14:20 PM<br><br>20' | **Second panel. International experience SDG Localization and multilevel governance**<br>• **Dr. Sangeeta Singh,** Honorable Member of National Planning Commission, Nepal<br>• **Tomonori Hiroike,** Director, Ofice of the Governor for Policy Planning, Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Japan<br>• **Eveliina Kiema-Majanen,** Senior Advisor, The Association of Finnish Local Authorities, Finland |
| 14:20 PM – 14:30 PM<br><br>10' | **Closing Session:**<br>*Summary of recommendations and discussion of Discussion of next steps for strengthening SDG localization in Tunisia and beyond.*<br>• **H.E Mr. Tarek Ladeb,** Ambassador at the Tunisian Permanent Representation to the UN in NY. |