
Parallel sessions – THE GOVERNANCE OF SDGS: GLOBAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL
19th September 2017 – 10h

#1 Local Governments, Urban Cities

Nowadays, the great majority of the population of the world is urban. The trend, most of all in developing countries, will be an increase in urbanization in the following decades. Cities produce 80% of the world GDP and at the same time 70% of energetic consumption, and 70% of greenhouse gas emissions. In this context, cities and local governments have started to play a key role in the achievement of SDGs. Without them, it won't be possible to achieve a more just, sustainable and egalitarian society. It is no surprise that one of the SDGs, SDG 11 is focused exclusively on cities and sustainable communities.

We can no longer speak about local governments as simple followers or executors of the 2030 Agenda. They need to have a key role by identifying, adapting and defining specific strategies to achieve every SDG. The results need to be visible and assessable through indicators: quality health and education systems, healthy water, accessible public transportation, high quality of life, full employment, care for the environment, safe food supply chains, urban regulation, etc.

In order to achieve sustainable development, we must first achieve urban development focused on equal opportunities, access to green areas and oriented towards specific solutions for climate change. Careful planning needs to take into account available resources, stakeholders and deadlines to achieve every SDG in a scheduled, non-interrupted and sustainable way.