

# IMPLEMENTING A NEW GLOBAL AGENDA FOR CITIES

JESSICA ESPEY  
SENIOR ADVISER



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS NETWORK

- Launched in 2012 by the UN SG
- Mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for sustainable development, including the SDGs.
- Supports the implementation of the SDGs at local, national, and global scales.
- “SDSN Cities” is a global network of 125 universities and urban planning schools with expertise in sustainable urban development, with links to local and national government, proving tools and knowledge products, and incubating good practices e.g. Solutions Initiatives.



# 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT




- 10 targets, 15 indicators (available at <https://unstats.un.org/>)
- Covering housing (including slum upgrading) and basic services
- Transport systems
- City & settlement planning
- Cultural and natural heritage
- Climate change, disaster resilience and preparedness
- Environmental impact of cities
- Access to green, public spaces
- Urban-rural linkages
- Support for LDCs via local building procurement

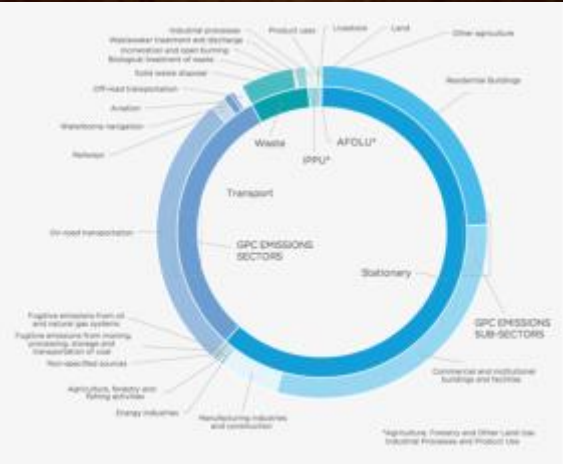


**“THE BATTLE FOR THE SDGS WILL BE WON  
OR LOST IN CITIES”  
UN SECRETARY GENERAL**

# WHAT THE “URBAN SDGS” COULD HELP DELIVER BY 2030?

- 600 million meaningful new jobs: addressing informality & better working conditions
  - Education + healthcare for all 5 billion urban residents
  - Move 1-2 billion from slums into secure housing with adequate services
  - Build resilience & addressing informality by capitalizing on the \$90 trillion urban, land use and energy economy
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# PARIS CLIMATE AGREEMENT & QUITO HABITAT III



- Limiting rise in global temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius will require:
  - Retrofitting buildings and 'building green'
  - Changing transportation systems
  - Better waste management....
- HIII further complemented SDGs and Paris commitments by:
  - Highlighting centrality of the urban dimension – with more than 55% of the global population and accounting for ¾ of energy use,
  - Putting local leaders on a global platform.
  - Agreeing new national urban policies
  - New UN arrangements.



# HOW DO YOU 'LOCALIZE' BROAD GLOBAL AGENDAS AT CITY LEVEL?

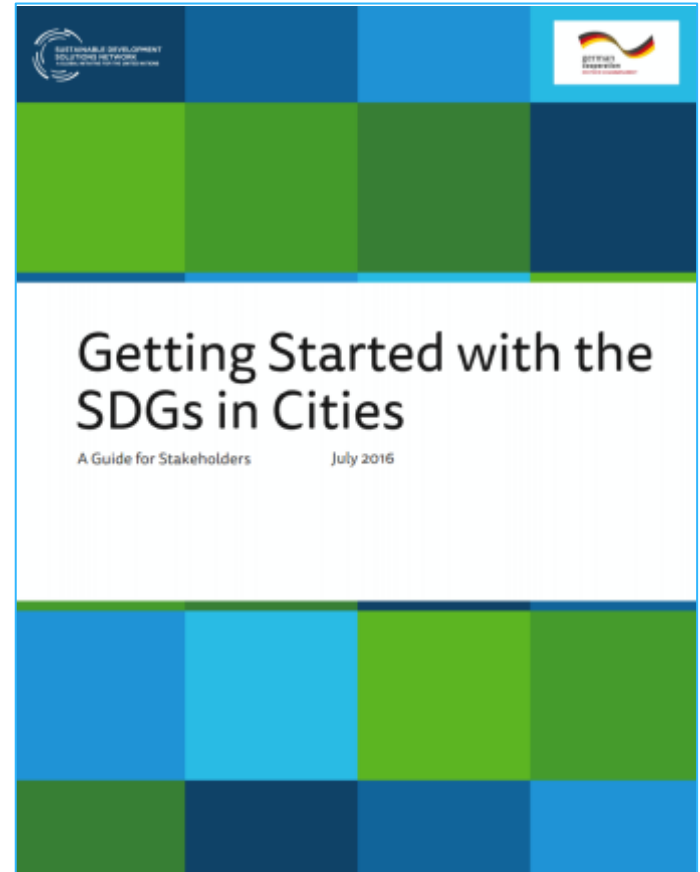
Localization refers to the process of adapting, implementing, and monitoring the SDGs (and other global commitments) at the local level.

## Four main processes:

1. Establishing an inclusive and participatory mechanism
2. Developing contextually relevant targets
3. Goal-based long-term planning - backcasting
4. Monitoring SDG progress

## Incentives?

1. Leave No One Behind
2. Leave No Place Behind
3. Access to development resources
4. A long-term SD roadmap, defined by citizens / residents



<https://sdgcities.guide/>

# USA SUSTAINABLE CITIES INITIATIVE

- Part of a broader effort to demonstrate the relevance of SDGs at the local level, for cities all over the world including the USA
  - 3 USA city partnerships: San Jose, Baltimore, NYC
  - Hinges around university and city government partnerships
  - Includes inclusive dialogues, across communities, on the relevance of the SDG process and how SDGs can be made responsive to city-level development challenges and opportunities;
  - Direct collaboration between local experts and city officials to articulate clear and compelling local goals, which resonate with existing priorities
  - And (often concurrently) identifying ways to measure and showcase goals and priorities
  - Developing recommendations on how the city's sustainability efforts align with the SDGs, and offering next steps for achievement.
  - Reports on the Baltimore and San Jose process are available at [unsdsn.org](https://unsdsn.org)
  - Book chapter on the OneNYC process forthcoming from Columbia University Press
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