Local Authorities Major Group Written Inputs for the Zero Draft of the Review of ECOSOC/HLPF process

A. Economic and Social Council

To make use of the impetus of the SDG Summit 2023 as well as the preparatory process of the Summit of the Future to strengthen ECOSOC and accelerate coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:

 Further reference should be made to the entry points of the 2024 GSDR, including the localization of the SDGs, as key to strenghtening ECOSOC's coordinated implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

To ensure better engagement, interaction and follow-up to harness the Council's and ECOSOC system's full potential:

- ECOSOC can ensure better engagement, interaction and follow-up to harness the Council's and ECOSOC system's full potential by establishing a stronger, meaningful link between special ECOSOC events led by other actors taking place within the framework of ECOSOC's various forums, such as the HLPF's Local and Regional Governments Forum facilitated by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. The Local and Regional Government's Forum under ECOSOC, which would fall under the category of informal ECOSOC meetings but could obtain an intergovernmental approval for its formal position and arrangements in the ECOSOC calendar, comparable to the Youth Forum.
- This formalization of the Local and Regional Governments Forum's would also allow for a special status under ECOSOC to be conferred to local and regional governments, with acknowledgement as a specific and differentiated constituency beyond the current major group and other stakeholders category. This is necessary to fully recognize the role local and regional governments have in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

B. HLPF

For the review of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, mobilizing the forum to achieve maximum progress on the SDGs can be achieved:

- By formalizing special events led by other actors such as the Local and Regional Governments Forum of the HLPF, the HLPF could be strengthened to achieve maximum progress on the SDGs by ensuring these special forums are part and parcel of ECOSOC's entire work plan, starting much before the HLPF.
- By defining a concrete and formal space to present, follow up and review
 Voluntary Local Review and Voluntary Subnational Reviews within the HLPF
 process as they contribute to revamping local-national relations for sustainable
 development, they strengthen the ownership of the SDGs at the local and
 regional levels, and they foster a whole-of-society approach from the ground up.

Regarding the annual themes for ECOSOC and the HLPF for 2025-2027:

- It is recommended that the themes build on the SDG Rescue Plan taking into account the importance of multilevel governance and multi-stakeholder coordination needed to achieve the SDGs in review for each year.
- For the year 2026, in which SDG 11 is in review, it is essential that a reference to "local" and "regional" be included within the theme to ensure that the role that local and regional governments and sustainable urbanization plays in the achievement of all SDGs is fully reflected.