



Concept Note: Side Event at the UN Social Forum 2023

Event Title:

Unlocking Sustainable Futures: Local Governments and Communities Leading the Way

Date:

November 3, 2023 (1.30 pm - 2.30 pm CET)

Venue:

UN Headquarters, Geneva

Theme:

Best Practices of Efforts taken by Local Governments and society on Achieving the SDGs, Protecting Human Rights, and Fostering Peace using technology

Background:

The United Nations Social Forum 2023 serves as a critical platform for stakeholders to engage in open dialogue and collaborative initiatives that promote social justice, sustainable development, and the protection of human rights worldwide. The theme of this year's forum, "**the contribution of science, technology and innovation to the promotion of human rights, including in the context of post-pandemic recovery.**"

Local governments and civil society are the frontlines in the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the protection of human rights. Their proximity to the challenges and opportunities within their regions allows them to design and implement innovative solutions that address the unique needs of their populations. Furthermore, local actors have a crucial role in building and sustaining peace by fostering dialogue, inclusivity, and social cohesion.

This side event titled "Unlocking Sustainable Futures: Local Governments and Communities Leading the Way" will bring local best practices and youth who have taken efforts to achieve the SDGs through the efficient use of technology to promote peace and protect human rights.

Objectives:

This side event aims to:

- Showcase and celebrate best practices and success stories from local governments and communities worldwide in their efforts to achieve the SDGs, protect human rights, and promote peace through technology.



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- Facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among local leaders, international organizations, civil society, and other stakeholders.
- Inspire and empower local governments and communities to take action in their own contexts to advance the global goals.

Agenda:

Opening Remarks and Key Note

- Welcome address by the event organizers.
- Keynote address by the Head of ITU/ UN Women Geneva.

Showcasing Best Practices

- SDG District - Kleve, Germany, presented by Yvonne Tertilt Rubo (Launch of the SDG Report)
- Youth Peace Conference - Women's Federation for World Peace International, presented by Mrs. Carolyn Handschin
- Launch of the YPC PEACE ACCORD
- Young voices : Sharing stories of Youth leadership efforts

Closing Remarks and Next Steps

- Recap of key insights and takeaways from the event.
- Closing remarks.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased awareness of the pivotal role of local governments and communities in achieving the SDGs, protecting human rights, and fostering peace using technology.
- Identification of concrete best practices and innovative approaches that can be replicated in various contexts.
- Enhanced collaboration and partnerships between local actors, international organizations, and civil society.
- The creation of a roadmap for ongoing engagement and support for local initiatives.

Target Audience: Representatives from local governments and municipalities, Community leaders and activists, United Nations agencies and international organizations, Civil society organizations, Academia and researchers, Donors and development partners.

Event Organizers:

- Equal Opportunities office, Kleve, North Rhein Westphalia, Germany
- Women's Federation for World Peace International, Geneva



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