**GTF contributions to UNDP Strategic Plan consultation for 2022-2025**

1. *What do you think are critical long term, future shifts that are transforming how we think about development?*

* A world predominantly urban with cities transformed into key places where sustainable development challenges must be tackled.
* Demographic changes with greater mobility and increased population in developing countries alongside growing proportions of older persons globally leading to social, economic and environmental challenges.
* The necessary move to a post-growth economy: shifting towards sustainable production and consumption patterns with goods and services produced with lower environmental impact and tackling the systemic inequalities. This based on fair and sustainable economies and advanced human wellbeing, moving beyond GDP.
* Digital revolution, its challenges and threats as well as its potential to bring new sustainable development solutions.
* Climate change and the increased demand for natural resources, energy and food.
* Multi-level and multi-stakeholder partnerships and its power to transform the prospects for sustainable development.
* Foster intergenerational dialogue to explore alternatives for sustainable development.
* Protection of the common and basic needs and access to public services for all.
* Fair, sustainable and free societies that respect the environment and guarantee rights
* A relation of proximity with citizens with political systems to foster solidarity and trust
* Localisation is the keyword. And localisation goes hand in hand with the cultural dimension of development. We need more research on the way local cultures are catalysers of development. With "culture" we mean: heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge. The narrative "culture is the fourth pillar / dimension of development" needs more support and it perhaps should become "culture is the first dimension of sustainable development"
* **Development should strongly rely on local and regional governments and their associations, at all phases of development process**. Local governments are at the forefront of promoting the development of their territories and managing this process through local and regional policies they adopt, which makes them the ideal hub to transversally plan and implement territorial development. They are day-to-day actors and are most capable of understanding the dynamics and needs of their constituencies, as well as providing them with essential public services and sustainable policies, as well as innovation centers. Because of their proximity to citizens, they are ideally placed to implement development plans tailored to their territories.
* **Essential to ensure a full seat of Local and Regional Governments at the Decision-Making Table** such as UNDP

1. *In that future, what role should organizations like UNDP play?*

* **Greater role of support and promotion of local and regional governments: UNDP should use its position itself on the ground as coordinator to support and promote the role of local and regional governments as key policy makers to and implementers of development plans**. Local and regional governments are often side-lined in decision-making and in the implementation of development plans despite the fact that they have expertise and knowledge on the state of play and needs of their territories, particularly through the data they possess, which would facilitate the delivery of actions. 65% of the 17 SDGs of the 2030 Agenda have a territorial component and need to be implemented at local level, in order to be successful. UNDP can play an important role in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, by working closer with local and regional governments and promoting the localisation of the SDGs.
* **Territorial approach to development and decentralised cooperation** should be recognised as one of essential means to mainstream the 2030 Agenda in international development cooperation
* **Provide knowledge and information** on the sustainable development situation at global, regional, national and regional/local level so priorities in policy-making can be made according to and effectively address the needs and further support knowledge and experiences exchange between relevant development actors in contributing to sustainable development.
* Continue collaboration with other UN entities and local and regional governments which action intersects with the UNDP work on the **localisation of the SDGs**.
* Build partnerships with relevant actors, notably local and regional governments, and engage them in the design and implementation of UNDP strategy.
* Further promote UNDP Art’s programmes supporting local governments, decentralisation, **localization,** and the recognition of local and regional governments as international actors
* Involvement of UNDP to further explore the connection culture - development

1. *What outcome should UNDP achieve to make an impact in this future?*

* Support sustainable development pathways through building capacities of key development stakeholders, including local and regional governments, and including or through national associations of local and regional governments
* Support effective engagement of key stakeholders, notably local and regional governments and their associations, at all stages of the programmes or projects, in the design and implementation of sustainable development strategies and programmes at global, regional and national level, namely in the SDGs follow up and review, through mechanisms that supports the on-the-ground delivery of the SDGs.
* Promotion of good practices and horizontal cooperation in the implementation of development plans and policies in co-creation with local and regional governments: these good practices could be replicated and help all local actors in the particular country, especially through facilitation by the national association of local governments, and around the world to take action for development. With the support of UNDP, each local government could then develop a development policy that promotes the implementation of sustainable development objectives.
* Develop innovative financing mechanisms and tools to enable access to resources at local and regional level to develop urban actions
* UNDP could base its work on human-rights based development, and place unexplored rights at the centre (including cultural rights, environmental rights and digital rights)
* Ongoing efforts towards gender equality, including women leadership and gender mainstreaming in public policies at all levels