

**ITEM-42 CCL 28/05/19 – COUNCIL REPRESENTATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM JULY 2019 (DISTRIBUTED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)**

**REPORT BY: STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**  
**CONTACT: DIRECTOR STRATEGY AND ENGAGEMENT**

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**PURPOSE**

To seek Council approval that the Lord Mayor represent the City of Newcastle at the United Nations' (UN) High-Level Political Forum in New York.

**RECOMMENDATION**

That Council:

- 1 Accepts the invitation to participate in the framework of the 2019 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN Headquarters in New York.
- 2 Nominates the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor as the City of Newcastle's representative at the HLPF.

**KEY ISSUES**

- 3 As a United Nations City, the City of Newcastle has again been invited to participate at the prestigious international United Nations (UN) High-Level Political Forum in New York.
- 4 The High-level Political Forum is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- 5 In June 2018 Council incorporated The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its updated Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (CSP).
- 6 The CSP provides the basis for ongoing alignment of Council's decision-making processes, strategies and activities with the aspirations of the Newcastle community. It directly contributes to achieving Open and Collaborative Leadership.
- 7 The strategies in the CSP will assist in shaping the strategic framework for Council's operations through development of Council's four-year Delivery Program and one-year Operational Plan and other key strategic documents.
- 8 Adopting the SDGs into the CSP followed a partnership agreement between the United Nations' Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the University of Newcastle (UoN) and the City of Newcastle (CN) to establish an

International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) in the city of Newcastle.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 9 Payment of expenses and provision of facilities policy sets out Councillors' annual budget to participate in events such as the proposed. That is approximately:
  - Airfares x 1 - current estimate is \$3,700 - \$5,000AUD per person return
  - Accommodation x 1 current estimate \$1,500 - \$2,000AUD - four nights
  - Meals and Incidentals x 1 - current estimate \$1,000AUD per person.

## **COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT**

- 10 In June 2018, City of Newcastle's updated the Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan to incorporate the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), following a partnership agreement between the United Nations' Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), the University of Newcastle (UoN) and the City of Newcastle (CN) to establish an International Training Centre for Authorities and Leaders (CIFAL) in the city of Newcastle.

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/IMPLICATIONS**

- 11 In September 2015, Australia was one of 193 countries, to commit to the SDGs. These goals were developed by the United Nations to provide a global roadmap for all countries to work toward a better world for current and future generations. Newcastle is a United Nations City, with a CIFAL research institute at the University of Newcastle. Council has adopted the SDGs and New Urban Agenda as cornerstones for our planning. All stakeholders, including governments, civil society and the private sector, are expected to contribute to the realisation of these goals.
- 12 The establishment of the United Nations' High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) was mandated in 2012 by the outcome document of the United Nations' Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), "The Future We Want". The format and organisational aspects of the Forum are outlined in General Assembly resolution 67/290.
- 13 The Forum meets annually under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council for eight days, including a three-day ministerial segment and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government under the auspices of the General Assembly for two days.
- 14 The Forum's first meeting was held on 24 September 2013. It replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development, which had met annually since 1993.
- 15 The HLPF is the main United Nations' platform on sustainable development and it has a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level. General Assembly resolution 70/299 provides further guidance on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

16 The Forum adopts intergovernmental negotiated political declarations.

17 As part of its follow-up and review mechanisms, the 2030 Agenda encourages member states to “conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels, which are country-led and country-driven” (paragraph 79). These national reviews are expected to serve as a basis for the regular reviews by the HLPF. As stipulated in paragraph 84 of the 2030 Agenda, regular reviews by the HLPF are to be voluntary, state-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries, and shall provide a platform for partnerships, including through the participation of major groups and other relevant stakeholders.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT AND MITIGATION**

18 There are no obvious risks in participating in the program and study tour. There are some risks associated with not participating in terms of lost opportunity.

## **RELATED PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

19 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 1 May 2018 Council endorsed to place the draft Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (Revised 2018) on public exhibition for 28 days.

20 In June 2018, City of Newcastle’s updated Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan incorporated the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the first time.

21 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 25 July 2017 Council resolved to support participate in the United Nations Global Compact Cities Program – Australian Cities Partnership Program.

22 At the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 13 October 2016 Council resolved to participate in the UN Conference 'Habitat III' in Quito, Ecuador. Cr Osborne attended as the Lord Mayor's delegate, and then Manager Strategic Planning Services, as the Interim Chief Executive Officer's delegate.

## **CONSULTATION**

23 The CSP was placed on public exhibition for 28 days from 3 May 2018 to 30 May 2018, in accordance with the Local Government Act (1993) and the adopted Community Engagement Strategy for the Newcastle 2030 CSP. An engagement webpage was set up to enable downloading of the relevant documents and receive submissions. The engagement webpage was showcased on all Library public access computers.

## **BACKGROUND**

- 24 Each Local Government Area in NSW must have a CSP that has been developed and endorsed by the Council. A CSP identifies the main priorities and aspirations for the future of the LGA covering a period of at least 10 years from when the plan is endorsed.
- 25 The CSP is a core element in Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. The requirement for Councils to develop the processes and elements within the IP&R Framework is contained in clause 402 of the NSW Local Government Act 1993. Council's inaugural Newcastle 2030 Community Strategic Plan (2011) and the associated community engagement strategy were acknowledged by the Division of Local Government as best practice and promoted for use as leading examples to other Councils.
- 26 Council has received a request from Newcastle's CIFAL Centre inviting the Lord Mayor and the City of Newcastle to participate in the United Nations High Level Political Forum in New York In July 2019.
- 27 The High-level Political Forum is the UN's central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

## **OPTIONS**

### **Option 1**

- 28 The recommendation as at Paragraph 1 and 2. This is the recommended option.

### **Option 2**

- 29 That City of Newcastle declines the UN's invitation to participate in the 2019 High-level Political Forum. This is not the recommended option.

## REFERENCES

## ATTACHMENTS

**Attachment A:** [Newcastle 2030: Community Strategic Plan](#)

**Attachment B:** UNITAR and SDGs UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) 2019 Concept Note

**Attachment C:** Email from CIFAL Newcastle Director, Ms Temitope Egbelakin notifying the Lord Mayor of the invitation to participate.

**Attachment D:** Draft programme - [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2173510052019\\_HLPF\\_and\\_HLS\\_Programme\\_FINAL\\_for\\_posting\\_w\\_VNR\\_countries.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2173510052019_HLPF_and_HLS_Programme_FINAL_for_posting_w_VNR_countries.pdf)

**Attachment E:** Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld/publication>



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# Localizing the 2030 Agenda: Implementation of the SDGs at Subnational and Local Level

UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

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**INTERNAL DRAFT**

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Monday, 15 July, 2019  
15:00 – 18:00

Conference Room 8  
United Nations Headquarters, New York

## Background

The High-level Political Forum (HLPF), convened under the United Nations Economic and Social Council, is the main United Nations platform on sustainable development. It plays a central role in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the global level.

The 2019 HLPF will be held from Tuesday, 9 July to Thursday, 18 July at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, on the theme of "*Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality*".

The following Goals will be reviewed in depth:

- **Goal 4.** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
- **Goal 8.** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
- **Goal 10.** Reduce inequality within and among countries
- **Goal 13.** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- **Goal 16.** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
- **Goal 17.** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

## Overall Goal

The SDG Learning, Training, and Practice workshops aim to advance:

- Knowledge and skills acquisition
- Networking
- Sharing experiences and peer to peer collaboration
- Learning about practical actions and best practices
- Capacity building
- Practical policy integration and coherence.



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## Objectives of the workshop on “Localizing the 2030 Agenda”

The workshop aims to achieve the following key objectives:

- Showcase local practical solutions and best practices that contribute to advancing the SDGs, while providing an opportunity for peer-to-peer collaboration;
- Raise the visibility of the CIFAL Global Network as a provider of innovative training on key areas related to sustainable development, and as a hub for the exchange of knowledge;
- Promote CIFAL training activities, in order to increase the number of beneficiaries and potential partners.

### About the workshop

The workshop will bring together the expertise of UNITAR’s International Training Centres for Authorities and Leaders (CIFALs). The CIFAL Global Network comprises 18 training centres affiliated to UNITAR, each specialized in providing innovative training throughout the world, and serving as a hub for the exchange of knowledge amongst government officials, academic institutions, the private sector, and civil society.

The workshop will consist of a moderated panel discussion with experts, government officials, and private sector leaders and practitioners, who will present various perspectives on the actions local governments can take to advance the SDGs. Special emphasis will be placed on SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, 16, and 17.

Speakers, listed below, will also provide local best-practice recommendations for other local governments to consider and replicate

#### Panel discussion:

##### Inaugural remarks

- Mr. Nikhil Seth, United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR (10’)

##### Keynote Address

- Mr. Carlos Roberto Massa Júnior, Governor, State of Paraná, Federative Republic of Brazil (10’)

##### Panelists

- Mr. Tom Meeuws, Vice Mayor of Antwerp, Belgium (10’)
- Mr. Francisco de la Torre, Mayor of Malaga, Spain (10’)
- Mr. Jorge Yunda, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador (10’)
- Ms. Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Australia (10’)
- Dr. Deisi Kusztra, President, World Family Organization, France (10’)
- Dr. Rhonda Lenton, President, University of York, Canada (10’)
- Dr. Edna Co, Director, CIFAL Philippines; University of the Philippines (10’)
- Dr. Mpilo Ngubane, Director, CIFAL Durban, South Africa; Chief, eThekweni Municipal Academy (10’)
- Ing. Pedro Ceja, Chief Executive Officer, Horeb, Mexico (10’)
- Ing. Martín Goerling, Executive Director, Entidad Binacional Yacyretá (EBY), Argentina (10’)
- Other CIFAL Directors



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**Moderator:** Mr. Alex Mejia, Director, Division for People and Social, UNITAR

## Learning Objectives

At the end of the workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify available learning resources;
- Locate best practices and urban solutions that help advance the SDGs;
- Recognize opportunities for collaboration with peers.

## Audience

The target audience includes representatives from Permanent Missions to the UN in New York, academic institutions, private sector entities, and other stakeholders interested in local sustainable development.

## Contacts

UNITAR:

- Ms. Jessica Haney | [jessica.haney@unitar.org](mailto:jessica.haney@unitar.org)
- Mr. Vladimir Proano | [vladimir.proano@unitar.org](mailto:vladimir.proano@unitar.org)

**Attachment C**

**From:** Temitope Egbelakin  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 23, 2019 16:31  
**To:** Christine Field  
**Subject:** FW: Event with the CGN [on 15 July](#) during the HLPF in New York

Hi Christine,  
Greetings from CIFAL Newcastle!  
UNITAR and the World Family Organization (WFO) will be hosting the event "The SDGs at the Local Level: Learning, Training, and Practice Workshop" [on 15 July 2019](#) in the framework of the 2019 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Ms. Nuatali Nelmes, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Australia has been invited as a panellist to this event. The event will be inaugurated by our ASG and Executive Director Nikhil Seth and the Governor of the State of Parana, Brazil. The format of the event will be a Panel discussion in English. Find attached the concept note.

Kindly let me know as soon as you can if she is interested and available to attend the event.

Kind regards,  
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**Temitope Egbelakin** | Director, CIFAL Newcastle

Associate Professor, Construction Mgt. /Disaster Resilience  
School of Architecture and Built Environment (SABE)  
Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment

W: [newcastle.edu.au/profile/Temitope-Egbelakin](http://newcastle.edu.au/profile/Temitope-Egbelakin)  
ID: [Scopus](#); [Goggle Scholar](#); [ResearchGate](#); [ORICD](#)

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