



**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AT LOCAL  
LEVEL: THE CASE OF URLA MUNICIPALITY**

**SİBEL UYAR**

Master's Thesis

Graduate School  
İzmir University of Economics  
İzmir  
2021

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AT LOCAL  
LEVEL: THE CASE OF URLA MUNICIPALITY**

**SİBEL UYAR**

A Thesis Submitted to

The Graduate School of Izmir University of Economics  
Master's Program in Political Sciences and International Relations

Izmir

2021

## ABSTRACT

### THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONSSUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AT LOCAL LEVEL: THE CASE OF URLA MUNICIPALITY

Uyar, Sibel

Master's Program in Political Science and International Relations

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Filiz Başkan

July, 2021

This thesis analyzes the historical development of the studies leading to the determination of the *Agenda 2030* Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the United Nations in 2015. The thesis examines the development of strategies and policies at the national and local levels at the point of implementation of Global Goals, and considers in particular the legal level, with a final report evaluating the practices of the municipality of Urla in Turkey by the UCLG MEWA organization. Considering the importance of initiating development at the local level, and the advantages that the city has, it was seen that the goals were achieved more quickly and were more feasible, and although goals have been set globally, the main way to achieve these goals is to “think globally and act locally”. Therefore, this thesis proposed that strengthened local governments could become international actors.

Keywords: Glocalization, Sustainable Development Goals, Local Governments, Urla, Municipality

## ÖZET

### BİRLEŞMİŞ MİLLETLER SÜRDÜRÜLEBİLİR KALKINMA HEDEFLERİNİN YEREL DÜZEYDE UYGULANMASI: URLA BELEDİYESİ ÖRNEĞİ

Uyar, Sibel

Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Yüksek Lisans Programı

Tez Danışmanı: Prof. Dr. Filiz Başkan

Temmuz, 2021

Bu çalışmada, Birleşmiş Milletler tarafından 2015 yılında kabul edilen Gündem 2030 Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedeflerinin belirlenmesine neden olan çalışmaların tarihsel gelişimi incelenmiştir. Küresel hedeflerin uygulanma noktasında ulusal ve yerel düzeyde strateji ve politikaların geliştirilmesi, yasal düzlemde ele alınması gerekliliği öne sürülmüş ve UCLG MEWA tarafından Türkiye özelinde Urla Belediyesinin uygulamaları hakkında hazırladığı rapor incelenmiştir. Kalkınmanın yerelde başlamasının önemi ve şehirlerin sahip olduğu avantajlar dikkate alındığında hedeflerin daha hızlı, uygulanabilir olduğu ve her ne kadar küresel hedefler belirlenmiş olsa da hedeflere ulaşmanın asıl yolunun “küresel düşünüp, yerel hareket etmekten geçtiği vurgulanmıştır. Bu nedenle bu tezde güçlendirilmiş yerel yönetimlerin uluslararası aktörler haline gelebileceği sonucuna varılmıştır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri, Yerel Yönetimler, Urla, Belediye

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. Dr. Filiz Başkan for her continuous support and understanding. Her patience, motivation, and immense knowledge helped me take this research to a higher level, and clarify my thoughts. .

At the same time, I owe a debt of gratitude to my colleague Deniz Bircan, who encouraged me to apply for a master's degree in this field and was always by my side supporting my education. All the employees of Urla Municipality were also very supportive.

I would like to express here a special thanks to Firdaus Oussidhoum Urban & Development Strategist UCLG Expert, and Salim Korkmaz for the report. This report, used as a source in this thesis, was related to the workshop that was part of the the program “I-Cities 2030”, aimed at preparing and assisting the Intermediary Cities to implement and think “Global Agendas” for the planet sustainability. This was conducted within the frame of the dynamic worked out by the UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities, for sensitizing on SDG's and Global Agendas and monitoring the actions of the Urla Municipality in the frame of the sustainability recommendations given by the UN.

I would like to thank my son Baran Nebi Uyar, my husband Gunay Uyar, my mother Serpil, and my whole family for their valuable support and love throughout the writing process of this thesis and my life in general.

Moreover, I would like to thank my youngest friends Almina, Mert, and Ezgi, for their help and general knowledge on writing reports, throughout the writing of this thesis.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to my father, Ali. I dedicate this thesis to my father, who left us last year. I am who I am today thanks to my father. My aspiration in life was always to be the pride of the family. I am thankful for my father's presence in my life, I couldn't be the person I am today without his existence.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	iii
ÖZET.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	viii
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
CHAPTER 2: GLOBALIZATION, LOCALIZATION, GLOCALIZATION.....	4
2.1. <i>Globalization</i> .....	5
2.1.1. <i>Hyperglobalists</i> .....	7
2.1.2. <i>Skeptics</i> .....	8
2.1.3. <i>Transformationalists</i> .....	10
2.2. <i>Localization</i> .....	10
2.3. <i>Glocalization</i> .....	12
2.4. <i>Glocalization and its Impact on Nation-State</i> .....	17
CHAPTER 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....	19
3.1. <i>Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)</i> .....	20
3.2. <i>Sustainable Development Goals</i> .....	22
3.3. <i>Glocalization and SDGs</i> .....	30
CHAPTER 4: UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG).....	32
4.1. <i>The role of Local Governments Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals</i> .....	34
4.2. <i>MEWA and UMT</i> .....	49
CHAPTER 5: THE CASE OF URLA MUNICIPALITY.....	52
5.1. <i>Comparison of Urla Municipality and Seferihisar Municipality</i> .....	75
CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION.....	77
REFERENCES.....	81

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Short Term Actions .....	64
Table 2. Medium-term Actions .....	64
Table 3. Long Term Actions .....	65
Table 4. Project and Activity .....	66
Table 5. Project-Activity Details.....	70
Table 6. SDGs and Repetitions .....	74



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. A unified framework.....	22
Figure 2. Differences between MDGs and SDGs .....	23
Figure 3. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals.....	24





## CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Humanity is currently faced with a variety of global and national challenges that can impact the environment in which we live and have serious consequences. Although all these problems are global, their solutions need to be implemented at the local level. Along with the globalization process, the role previously played by the nation-state is increasing being taken on by strengthened local governments. The most important cause is the developing information technologies and communication networks.

It is worth underlining the significance of the notion of sustainable development at global level. This is important in view of the need for various global objectives to manage the globalization process. In this context, we need to emphasize the essential role of global organizations like the United Nations (UN). The UN was established in the aftermath of the Second World War, with the mission of helping to rebuild the devastated continent of Europe. The UN describes itself as

*“A global organization that aims to ensure justice and security, economic development and social equality for all countries internationally”* (Nations, 2021).

The problems facing our world are very complex and multidimensional, and should be solved through a holistic approach, along with the development of effective solution strategies at the global level. The UN has emerged as a leader of the international development agenda over the years. The global perception of development has shifted, and countries have now agreed on sustainable development, encouraging stability and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and environmental security.

Under the leadership of the UN, sustainable development strategies at the global level have grown. Taking a holistic approach, the idea of sustainable development can be realized not only at economic level, but also ecologically and socially. The SDGs have gained importance because of the growing urgency of sustainable development for the entire world. The '2030 Agenda' is the first time in human history that the nations of the world have agreed a comprehensive vision for the future of our society on planet Earth, with specific goals and objectives. On 25

September 2015, at a UN Summit attended by over 150 Heads of State, the 2030 Agenda was formally adopted. It encompasses the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, accompanied by 169 clear objectives (several targets under each Goal). The 2030 Agenda also provides suggestions for nations on how to proceed with the meeting of the targets. UN exerted its influence, resulting in the formation of a new actor, namely Local Authorities. While it would also be unreasonable to claim that the UN system is facing a certain amount of 'destabilization', it is true that it is increasingly open to greater involvement by actors other than central governments, i.e., by transnational actors. Indeed, transnational organizations composed of local authorities have played an increasingly important role, leading to greater recognition within the UN framework for those international actors who do not belong to the club of central governments.

This thesis aims at examining the local implementations of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which were designed deal with the international challenges, and were based on the philosophy of "Think global, act locally". With this aim in mind, as a case study, I selected the Urla Municipality of which I was the Mayor between 2014 and 2019, during which time I committed to the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, there is a need for both top-down and bottom-up approaches for achieving SDGs (Jiménez-Aceituno, et al., 2019). Accordingly, to be able to achieve sustainable development, the states/cities must start from the bottom (locally) and move upwards. In other words, achieving global goals necessitates the cooperation of the local governments. In this thesis, we address the following questions: What is the role of local governments in achieving SDGs? Which SDGs are targeted by Urla Municipality? What activities and projects of Urla Municipality are linked to SDGs? The key research question is whether municipalities, acting in alignment with SDGs in the context of Glocalization theory, can become an international actor applying the concept of "think global, act local". The example of Urla Municipality is used to illustrate this effort.

This study is designed as a qualitative case study. The analysis of the case study involves a mixed methodology, including secondary data through comprehensive literature, and primary data collected by the UN, United Cities Local Government (UCLG), United Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), and my observation during my mayoralty.

This thesis includes four main chapters. The first chapter covers a theoretical framework based on the discussion of the concepts of globalization and glocalization. In this section, first of all, the theoretical distinction between localization and globalization is emphasized. This is followed by an explanation of the theoretical background of glocalization theory in the context of localization and its relations with globalization. providing a theoretical perspective for the entire study.

The second chapter focuses on the foundation of the UN as a global organization, the UN Millennium Development Goals aimed to deal with severe global social and economic problems, and the SDGs. In addition, there is a detailed examination of the role of local governments described at the level of the UN and intergovernmental negotiations.

The third chapter covers the establishment of UCLG as the world's largest organization of local and regional governments. This includes discussion of the activities of UCLG concerning the localization of SGDs, the role of its section MEWA, Turkey's efforts regarding the achievement of the SDGs, and the role of UMT in coordination with the local governments.

The fourth chapter discusses the implementation of SDGs by Urla Municipality. After a description of the activities carried out by of Urla Municipality in achieving the SDGs, there is a discussion of the results of the workshop organized by the UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum and UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Working Group in Urla to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. In the conclusion part, the thesis is summarized, and the case study is concluded.

## **CHAPTER 2: GLOBALIZATION, LOCALIZATION, GLOCALIZATION**

In this chapter, the concepts of globalization and localization are explained sociologically, culturally, economically, and politically. This section provides the theoretical background, and extends to the Glocalization process. In this context, changes are related to the concept of localization, together with the new dynamics of change in the world, as a result of the globalization process, and in this context, the emerging changes regarding the new roles and functions of the state. The concept of localization is seen as a product of the concept of globalization. Considering this result, political services, especially the changes at the local level, are carried out by local governments, which are among the service providers that are closest to people, and in this processes the use of an environmentalist policy has become common in the world in general. (Hsu, 2020)

Globalization is a very important process, and it is envisaged as the change in the understanding of the nation-state, involving the shrinking of the public sector and public administration in political terms, and correspondingly, increasing the effectiveness of non-governmental organizations and civil society. As a result of this, globalization works together with localization to achieve these goals, including the process within itself. In this context, localization emerges as the most important instrument to achieve the aim of creating stability and sustainability in the globalization process. While this localization and globalization has rapidly emerged as a key process, it has taken place in the form of organizing into new policies with localization policies. In this context, the strengthening of local governments has been encouraged to ensure that democracy and social development can function in a stable, regular, balanced, and normal way in world politics (Spark, 2000).

In this context, development studies have led to a new common understanding, and a new approach has been taken to globalization and localization policies. In this thesis, the commonality of the concepts of localization and globalization will be examined through the example of Urla, and the glocalization process is discussed based on this theoretical infrastructure.

To define globalization from a broad perspective implies making sense of the rapid change that the world has undergone since the 19th century, and the way in

which western hegemony and liberal ideas have made their impact on the world. The Western World created and universalized these concepts by using their power and influence over time. In this context, the Western world preferred to distinguish all problems as either intra-Western or non-Western. Eventually, dominant Western Society became the pioneer of progress, covering the whole world, and combined with the efforts of non-Western societies to seek new politics. With the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the USA and the West-Centered New Order was thus established within the framework of globalization. In this period, new opportunities and conditions emerged in the West, and some suggestions for taking advantage of these new situations were made (Mann, 1996).

## ***2.1. Globalization***

The history of Globalization dates to the Second World War; the economic, cultural, and social phenomena that emerged during the subsequent Cold War period constitute the historicity of Globalization. However, the globalization process became a true phenomenon with the end of the rivalry between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States, when the Soviet bloc became integrated into an increasingly globalized world. In addition to this process, the disintegration and end of the Soviet Union caused the balance and dissolution of these two poles that dominated the world, and the disintegrating group, the Soviet bloc, succumbed to globalization. In this context, as the historical process explains, globalization emerges as an inevitable process. One side of the Cold War supported globalization and liberal theories, and the other side socialism and centralized empowerment. It is seen in today's world that the former Soviet bloc countries have had to accept globalization to the fullest, with very few remaining socialist countries opposing globalization. However, as claimed by many diverse theories, globalization is experienced and lived as a phenomenon that cannot be opposed today. As this research points out in later chapters, globalization has even changed within itself (Spark, 2000).

In the history of globalization, there have been some important turning points. These key developments have been cumulative. It would be appropriate to classify these key developments in terms of economic developments, ideological developments, and the development of technology, which combined to ensure the

success of the concept of globalization. Economic developments and ideological developments can be explored together, emphasizing the important economic relations between the blocs respectively aligned with the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. The Eastern bloc was closed, and the centrally-controlled economies could not protect their economic interests against the pro-globalization western liberal countries. As a second factor, in line with ideological developments, the world's cultural, political, and economic ideology came to be dominated by the liberal system of thought that emerged under the leadership of USA and England after the 1980s. Thus, socialist and radical views have disappeared under the influence of globalization. Finally, to examine the technological developments, with the spread of television, the rapid development of the media, vehicles, and the transportation sector, including aircraft, cars, railways, the world has taken on a much more integrated structure. In this context, technology should be considered among the factors that make up globalization, such as economic and ideological developments. Understanding its history is important in understanding globalization conceptually (Alasuutari, 2000).

Conceptually, globalization draws excessive attention to two important aspects, despite the inconsistent aspects in its definition. One of these two important aspects is the concept of the global village implying the rapid spread of communication and transportation materials, spreading all over the world. This concept can be easily understood, and is useful in the sense that it shrinks the world to a village, and everyone is affected at one point. The second important definition of globalization is based on the identification of global village which is a definition of globalization's internal opponents. It is argued that some western capitalist circles created and defended this system of thought and their supporters are striving to maintain this conceptual system as a system that supports their self-interests (Alasuutari, 2000).

With these insights, both negative and positive, globalization emerges as a multifaceted and complex concept applicable to many different areas, as well as the fields of technological development, theoretical understanding of international relations, modernization theory, and change strategies. Like the concept of globalization, the concept of globality can be understood as a reflection of this broad usage. Globalism, in this context is interpreted in both positive and negative ways, variously emphasizing the disruption of the integrity of modern nation-states and

nation-based societies, the interruption of national integrity, the creation of a new set of power and competition relations, conflict, and adaptation in the national and international context. In a more positive light, it can be expressed as the creation of supranational actors, providing new identities, recreating new social spaces, situations, processes (Paquin, 2002).

As a result, in short, the concept of globalization can be perceived not only as a method and process that needs to be understood from the bottom up, but also as a downward process, with the creation of new pressures towards local autonomy.

Along with all these features, the concept of globalization emphasizes that the nation-state remains small, and it refers to the features of the nation-state, which mean that it is unable to solve the emerging bigger problems. In this context, the nation-state has indeed been found to be insufficient. Currently, with globalization, there is a situation in which municipalities globally outperformed the nation-state. Globalization implies that in addition to the nation-state being relatively small in the wider context; it is also too large to solve smaller-scale problems. In this context, globalization is the process of restructuring of the nation-state, and has transformed itself and created new processes and concepts, such as localization and glocalization (Paquin, 2002). Before discussing the process of localization, it is necessary to summarize the three conceptualizations of globalization: the hyperglobalist thesis, the skeptical thesis, and the transformationalist thesis.

### ***2.1.1. Hyperglobalists***

Scholars who support hyperglobalist theory point optimistically to the effects of globalization which started in the early 1990s and continued until the early 21st century. The optimistic change experienced in this initial period, and in the following years when its effect increased rapidly, was strongly supported and defended by the founders of the theory. People who have adopted this current of thought have perceived the dimensions of globalization as economic, global, and political, such as those who adopt other currents of thought (Zhou, 2011).

According to hyperglobalists, globalization is regarded as an achievement, rather than an inevitable process. Globalization is accelerating through factors that accelerate change, through technological development such as social media, television, and the internet, and the benefits of this are its speed (Zhou, 2011). The

scope of hyper-globalization can be seen by examining the views of its supporters. These academics think that the globalization process, which takes place so rapidly that it may cause some harm in the short term, and is inevitable, can be perceived as a process that aims to extend to the whole of the nation-state. In this context, it can be said that there is an endless conflict between the concept perceived as hyper-globalization and the nation-state. Thus, hyper-globalization may be considered a concept that multinational corporations have promoted and supported to overcome the borders of the nation-state. Multinational states may aim to defeat the nation-state to develop and increase their monetary policies and relations of interest. In this context, when the perception of globalization is hyper-globalization, it can be seen as a game played by a particular interest group. In this context, hyperglobalists seem to believe that preventing globalization is tantamount to aiming at the impossible. What they desire is that the process of globalization is conducted in a way that does not harm the nation-state's sovereignty rights and sovereignty concept. However, they argue that globalization is an inevitable process, and sooner or later societies and nation-states will come to an end. In this optimistic view of globalization, this irreversible process has already started, and perhaps it is close to ending. It is certain that nation-states will become weaker and may gain locality based on glocalization. At this point, it is important to consider the views of globalists who transcend hyperglobalist ideas (Zhou, 2011).

### ***2.1.2. Skeptics***

The skeptical scholars on globalization have argued that the effects and side effects of globalization on society are overlapping and contextual, and can produce dynamic and positive/negative consequences. However, these scholars believe in particular that the negative effects of globalization outweigh the positive effects. Ralph Dahrendorf, among the most important global skeptics in history, argues that a threat emerged because of inter-communal and globally accelerating individualism, and the resulting inter-communal and inter-individual competition. In line with this threat, first societies, and nation-states, then individuals are in danger. This process leads to people who, as rational actors, are greedy, ambitious, and in some cases, dishonest. The most conceptual aspect that can be thought of in the context of the rational thought paradox is that this rationality creates a conflict of interest and poses



a danger to societies. Although there is an increase in the total value, the effect on individuals can be devastating (Menne, 2017).

In the ongoing process of globalization, conflicts between classes are seen as another potential threat. The main reason for this is that the inter-communal interaction emerging in the context of globalization will be a hypothetical conflict that can be examined in terms of domination. In this context, it is argued that superior societies will dominate weaker societies through manipulation, and as a result, bring about a more authoritarian age. While this authoritarianism harms weaker societies and individuals, it gives power to those who hold and wield authority. This situation is described as threatening by skeptic socialists. They argue that globalization will eventually lead to a gap between human beings in the society, and perhaps, in the single-community, single-state world, the prosperous top tenth will dominate the weaker nine-tenths (Ozekin, 2019).

According to the skeptic views, the concept of globalization will cease to be a danger only when nation-states and intra-national solidarities are established. However, it is not known what level of consolidation will be sufficient because each society contains sub-communities within itself, and each merger also creates a conflict of interest. These scholars disagreed with the hyperglobalists on the role of nation states, criticizing their belief in the continual weakening of central governments (Zhou, 2011).

As a result, they have doubts over the economic, political, and cultural consequences of globalization, and they consider that the process of globalization is exaggerated. They argued that global trade in the 19th century was relatively greater than today without resulting in any process of global domination. On the contrary, after the 19th century, the World War II emphasized the role of nation-states, and as the role of countries became more dominant, liberal values declined. They acknowledge that, with the end of the World War II, the world advanced towards a liberal order reaching a peak at the end of the Cold War. However, skeptics' defense is that that globalization is a process, and should not be exaggerated, as hyperglobalists do (Zhou, 2011).

### ***2.1.3. Transformationalists***

As the most recent of the globalization theorists, transformationalists acknowledge the effects of globalization and its impact on governments and people. According to this system of thought, there is no global or local conflict between nation-states, non-governmental organizations, and people. Contrary to skeptics, it can be said that this innovative idea is more contemporary than others, as it does not create conflict within the framework of globalization.

Transformationalists preferred not to exaggerate the consequences and effects of globalization. For them, nation-states did not come to an end, as hyperglobalists predicted, but rather, a peaceful process continued, strengthening the municipalities and their integration with nation-states. However, municipalities and governments do not always come to an agreement in theory, resulting sometimes in a cold war or peaceful conflicts (Menne, 2017).

In addition, transformationalists do not hesitate to emphasize the possibility of mitigation of the negative effects of globalization. They do not see the flow of culture as a single dynamic process flowing from west to east, or regard globalization as a process in which the West dominates the East. Instead, people glocalize by incorporating the progressive aspects of western culture, adapting them to their specific needs and local-cultural policies (Zhou, 2011).

Transformationalists did not produce arguments about the future of globalization. In this context, they differed fundamentally from the other two theses. They believed that a globalized 19th century may not have existed, and even if it did, this does not necessarily have significance for the present (Menne, 2017).

## ***2.2. Localization***

After examining the concept of globalization, it is extremely important to explore the concept of localization in the context of this study, and on the road to glocalization. In its classical definition, decentralization can be understood as defining the process of delegation of authority, starting from the top to the bottom, within the nation-state, following the usual understanding of political-administrative systems. The concept of decentralization in today's globalization period can be understood as the transfer of authority from the central organization to the provincial

organization, or to a sub-unit at each political organization level, or in addition, from the social field to the private field. It is maintained that the world is no longer a structure monopolized by nation-states; instead, local governments increasingly have a say in the political field. In addition to local governments, extremely important roles are played by local non-governmental organizations, local companies, global companies, and local governance (Hsu, 2020).

Localization should be understood as a phenomenon that preserves its structure and effectiveness in international and national political circles in today's world agenda. Participation, pluralism, and majoritarianism at the local level, and the autonomy these bring, with this particular local policy, signal a new understanding of the state of the new century. The concept of localization is emphasized and accepted at almost all areas of the world. Localization policies are designed eliminate the negative conditions created by globalization and to create a more democratic approach to management. In addition, the understanding of localization shows softness and flexibility as opposed to the standardizing and centralizing tendencies of the globalization process. This flexibility allows a limit to be placed on the rights and powers of the nation-state. This limit has been created not only with supranational organizations, but also with local organizations outside of the central government. As a result, some of the previously unlimited duties and powers of the nation-state have been transferred to supranational institutions, but beyond globalization, these infinite powers have been shared at the local level, via localization. In this context, no nation-state has unlimited powers within its territorial integrity. In addition to limits on powers, its rights and duties are also limited; this new concept of authority emerging at the local level can now be understood in terms of localization (Spark, 2000).

Many factors are responsible for this occurrence, and can be grouped within the following three categories: the functionality of the ideological central administration, globalization, and political reasons. The dominant liberal understanding in today's world can be understood among the ideological reasons. One of the basic principles of liberalism is limiting the central government. The existence of such a basic principle in liberal thought, a major political idea shaping today's world, is a cause of localization. In addition, some of the main issues related to the functionality of the central administration stem from its powerlessness. As mentioned before, the central administration lacks the power to intervene within its

territory. Finally, globalization, the most important reason, has brought a rapid increase in transferring power to local governments throughout the world. In other words, globalization has brought changes in global needs and responsibilities regarding local and regional development, and this has increased the importance of local factors and investments, boosting localization at almost every level (Alasuutari, 2000). Globalization has affected localization, which is on its opposite axis, to remove its difficulties and to neutralize itself. In this sense, it should be said briefly that localization is the neutralization of globalization (Hsu, 2020).

### ***2.3. Glocalization***

The West has never considered giving up on world domination. However, firmly consolidating the balance, one of their strategies is to create and turning the world around. In this context, Eastern Societies, which have become impoverished in every sense over time, will also become impoverished in terms of political and sociological theories, and will be close to becoming an identity-less state. This can be seen as one of the sophisticated strategies of the West. The most important of these modernization developments emphasized universality, aimed at integration with the West (Paquin, 2002).

Modernity met with the non-Western world in such an environment of thoughts. This meeting with non-Western diffusion emerged as a product of the globalization process. Briefly put, the integration of globalization enabled the transfer of ideas from progressive societies to poorer societies. Through this transfer, the young members of the poorer society discovered the future and development and in the excitement of meeting an identity superior to their own, led them to reject their own identity. These events point to the extinction process of eastern culture. In such a new order, it was seen as very important to ensure balance, and there were no more discussions on this issue. As a result, holistic explanations of the leadership of the West were discouraged, and holistic theorists were treated with suspicion (Ozekin, 2019).

As a result, in this context, the subject of globalization, as the subject of sociological topic, necessitated the redefinition of the changes and transformations that emerged when examined from the context of global-local interaction. In the case of non-Western societies, the problem is now the sensitivity to define new pursuits

for a new order, to overcome conceptual problems that create danger in the context of globalization. This situation has given birth to a new way of thinking, and formed the basis of globalization by blending the global and the local. This period, epitomized by the slogan "think globally, act locally", offers the potential for the golden age of globalization and perhaps its Renaissance (Paquin, 2002).

In this context, the process experienced in the last thirty years reveals the potential for the future. As one of the most debated concepts in today's world, a new definition has been put forward with globalization. Discussions are increasing focusing on a new, more positive definition of globalization. It is seen as a process, and prominent social scientists want societies to overcome their doubts about this. However, the process itself is suspected of being western-oriented. This process, which is seen as extremely important for the finalization of the current conditions and the integration of non-Western societies, can also be seen in a negative light, as an indication that these societies are gradually losing their sphere of influence. In conclusion, it can be emphasized that this process shows us is that the West sees the East merely as an actor that follows it, i.e., Eastern Societies have acquired a passive status in the eyes of the West (Mann, 1996).

It was necessary to examine the deficiencies of globalization process so that we can understand the criticisms of globalization. The definition of non-Western societies by the West can also be considered useful in this regard. Non-Western societies see modernization and development as an extension of Western domination, and see themselves as excluded in the partnership process. Today, this superiority has spread not only in the political field, but also in the fields such as economic, cultural, and military, areas in which the West has emphasized its superiority in the globalization process. As a result, supporters of globalization must accept this superiority of the West (Mann, 1996).

When focusing on the globalization process, most of the traditions have been changing in the west. In this context, the perception of deconstruction emerges in the non-Western world, as the construction process of the global community meant the rejection of local communities. In this sense, local politics and local culture became less important with globalization. Meanwhile, Western countries became more united, and have maintained peaceful economic relations without the use of weapons, without war. Western states believe that this integration will spread to the non-Western World with globalization. However, as we shall see, this can be considered

wrong in a relative sense. Nevertheless, it is true that, the interdependence that emerged with globalization has led to an increase in the cooperation of states in the new global economic policy. This process also emphasizes that problems which cannot be solved by individual nation-states can be solved via globalization. Among these problems are environmental pollution, international terrorism and nuclear armament, and global warming, for which Western-backed, centralized global organizations have been established (Zhou, 2011).

Despite globalization, an important criticism is that the capitalist production system bringing the integration of the world's key players has resulted in economic relations reaching a global crisis level. Thus, an economic crisis that occurs in any part of the world can spread to other parts of the world, affecting millions of people. As a result, any mismanagement of the economic system in any part of the world affects the whole system. First, its bankruptcy reflects negatively on most areas of the world, especially on societies. Western states try to convey these pessimistic possible scenarios via certain statistics and documents. In this context, hunger, abuse, and mostly negativity emerging in non-Western societies are emphasized in the region. As a result, the exploitation of child and women workers which occurred in Western cities in the past can occur in today's conditions in non-Western societies with globalization, as these countries try to catch up with the Western world. Globalization therefore results in child workers being denied their human rights. In addition, it has been revealed that children are employed for low wages in some parts of the world, and in a sense, they are hostages due to their families' inability to pay high interest on their debts (Alasuutari, 2000).

As a result, to overcome the problems created by globalization, a radical restructuring process has occurred in many parts of the world today, in the process of integration of many social institutions. Investigation of the reasons for the emergence of inequalities in many fields, from the distribution of economic income, to its shaping in the working life, from politics to foreign policy and ethnic problems, revealed the need for changes. In this context, local policies have gained importance, underlining that globalization needs a new agenda. To give an example, new initiatives are being initiated in at communication, described as one of the most important dimensions of globalization; the communication sector has grown, and the internet has become the most important pillar of globalization (Paquin, 2002).

As one of the most important problems created by globalization, the Internet has become an expensive tool and is considered a luxury for some, but is also a necessity. This contradiction has damaged the integration between Western and non-Western societies. A new inequality has arisen, rich and foreign language-speaking segments of society have easy access to the Internet content, much of which is in English. In this sense, it should be said that the internet as a resource has become a tool by which Western societies dominate people who speak English. Among the consequences of globalization are the increase in the number of personnel working part-time temporarily in business life, a decrease in job security, and disruption of social harmony (Ozekin, 2019).

In conclusion, shortly, globalization is a process that has consequences in terms of causing alienation and differentiation in societies. The negative impact on the settlement occurs because globalization makes people the same in some senses, but different in others. It alienates people in the sense that globalization has destroyed local culture, but also, with the increase in new media outlets like the internet, people cannot understand each other, despite speaking the same language. Accordingly, people may dress in certain clothing styles, live in similar buildings, and watch similar TV shows, but nevertheless, cannot really communicate with each other. As a result, globalization has led to the disappearance of age-old cultures and the members of this culture to become unrecognizable. As a result, the most important question that arises with globalization process is why we should reject our own culture. What is the real reason for the disappearance of cultures, while globalization is seen as a positive process that should bring benefits? (Waters, 2013)

In this context, together with the negative effects and negative thoughts that it has created, it is argued that the concepts of local and global today do not have any absolute meaning on their own. It is emphasized that the negative effects of globalization can be prevented as long as global policies are supported by local policies, thus avoiding conflict and dilemma between the local and global. Instead of this confrontational dilemma, an emerging concept of the global permits a wide range of possibilities from the local level to the universal level, and in this sense, a mixture of both concepts. The concept of decaying in fact offers the opportunity for the bridge between local politics and international politics from the widest perspective. In this context, the extent to which the most important problems in the world are related to locality and globality is explained by the concept of

globalization. With the concept of globalization, it is emphasized that the local should be global, and that the global should be affected by the local. From this perspective, social scientists such as Robertson, Ritzer, and Canclini have emphasized with their foresight that the global and the local are concepts that should be perceived as working together. (Zhou, 2011)

As a result, globalization has included and taken into account the criticism of the globalization process, and has started to prevent the problems created by western integration. Accordingly, globalization has defined itself in the light of these criticisms, and paved a way for more peaceful and healthier progress under Western control. In this context, the process that weakened the nation-state, impoverished non-Western segments, and made cultural policies was redefined with globalization. This process aims to eliminate the destruction caused by Western society, and attaches importance to the preservation of new identities. This fundamental approach is that the local and global are organisms that must interact with each other for a peaceful transformation and development movement for globalization, as well as continual integration. On the one hand, global economic policies make societies more welcoming to foreigners; on the other hand, local policies maintain these societies' integration with these foreigners. This process is not exactly a process aimed at preserving cultures for their own benefit. Conservation can be perceived as a positive reflection, but this is not the only manifestation of globalization; an important motive for this concept is the integration of non-Western backward societies with the West, and the spread of global policies. A newly developed concept, as a successor to globalization, will need to maintain both global and local policies. In this context, the destructive aspects of globalization will be eliminated, and local policies and identities will be protected. Undoubtedly, municipalities and cities are important in this process. Globalization will both try to destroy the nation-state, and also preserve it, although under the leadership of municipalities and cities. In this context, municipalities can sometimes dominate the nation-state, be their supporter, their product, and their protector, but at the same time, be subject to their legal system (Ozekin, 2019).



#### ***2.4. Glocalization and its Impact on Nation-State***

The glocalization process has strong effects on the nation-state, as the successor of the globalization process. In theory, after the nation-state was firmly established in the 19th century, globalization reached its peak in the 20th century in line with the technological, liberal economic, and liberal political conditions that followed the Cold War and it seemed that the nation-state would never disappear (Mann, 1996).

However, history is unpredictable, and dialectical philosophy produces a synthesis of thesis and antithesis, it is seen that the nation-state disappears under the strict control of globalization, and that localization, which emerges in its place, tries to destroy the nation-state, with the same logic (Mann, 1996). As just said, the nation-state could not address global problems, had difficulty in following global technology, and hesitated to create a common denominator in solving big problems. Thus, it was understood that it is equally difficult for the nation-state to scale down in local politics as it is to enlarge it. In this context, while the nation-state has a very narrow perspective on globalization, it has a much wider perspective on localization. In this context, localization and globalization have emerged as two conflicting ideas (Ohmae, 1995).

What emerges here is not that the nation-state, which we can place as perhaps in the centre of the two views, adheres to its old features, and maintains all its characteristic features. The nation-state is a dynamic concept and has already minimized its role in the globalization environment, along with many minimalist ideas. Likewise, in a world where the role of the nation-state could not be minimized, municipalities could not become stronger politically and economically. The nation-state, which has become, and continues to be minimal, due to globalization, has been forced to grant autonomy to its municipalities. With this process, the concept of localization emerged, and some of its supporters predicted that it would rival globalization (Ohmae, 1995).

Indeed, as stated before, localization and globalization are opposite concepts, and their contradictions have paved the way for their overlap. The point where these two fundamentally opposite concepts overlap is that they are both modern, and perhaps, post-modern. The role of the nation-state had to be interpreted within these two concepts, which now emphasize that the inevitable restriction of the role of the

nation-state. In this context, while globalization suggested that the role of the nation-state should be transferred to global politics, localization suggested that the dominance of the nation-state in the political arena should be transferred to local policies. As a result, it was important to strengthen both global and local politics (Ohmae, 1995).

In addition, localization, and globalization, in the sense of the declining role of the nation-state, were found to have a common denominator, despite their contradictory meanings. This denominator has benefited smaller-scale local administrations under the leadership of municipalities locally, compared to nation-states, and larger-scale global administrations compared to nation-states on a global scale. The role of the nation-state is restricted in the concept of glocalization, which emerged through induction, along with the emphasis on both the concepts of localization and globalization. It has not been possible to attach theoretical importance either locally or globally to various types of local governments and municipalities, on the one hand, and various types of global administrations and international organizations, on the other. In this context, the nation-state has not been accepted as being as small as it should be, or as comprehensive and large as it should be (Ohmae, 1995).

As a result, the process we live in today can be called glocalization. With a process strengthening locals on the one hand, and the global on the other, the nation-state may resort to confrontation in order to maintain its power. This generally occurs in third world countries; in developed Western European countries, the transfer of power in local politics has taken place peacefully. In this context, the concept of localization of glocalization is peacefully constructed. The glocalization aspect has already been fulfilled in Western Europe, under the leadership of the European Union, which is a supranational concept and community. In this context, it would be correct to say that this happened at this time with the peaceful transfer of authority in Europe and this example was considered to be the driving force of world history and political agenda, both sociologically and theoretically (Mann, 1996).

## CHAPTER 3: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Due to the devastating effects of the Second World War, the United Nations (UN) was established with the main mission of "maintaining international peace and security." There are three other purposes of the UN: to develop friendly relations between nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, to provide a ground for international cooperation in international problems regarding the economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues, and to be center for coordinating the actions of nations to achieve common purposes (Gareis and Varwick, 2003). The UN's first mission in the aftermath of WWII was helping rebuild the ravaged continent of Europe.

Before examining the SDGs, the focus of the thesis, we need to elaborate on the concept of sustainable development. The existing conceptions of 'progress,' 'growth,' and 'development' were being questioned by the 1970s. Earlier, in the 1960s, the attitude was positive, and it was expected that, because of global economic expansion, the poor world's development concerns would be rapidly overcome. The optimism, however, evaporated throughout the 1970s. At the beginning of the 1980s, the UN introduced the notion of sustainable development, and one of its commissions, the World Commission on Environment and Development (WCED), known as the Brundtland Commission, submitted a report called "Our common future", which focused primarily on the needs and interests of humans and global equity for future generations in 1987. The report expressed the idea that social fairness, economic progress, and environmental preservation may all be achieved at the same time. The Brundtland Commission's definition of sustainable development is still commonly used: "Sustainable development is the development that meets current demands without jeopardizing future generations' ability to meet their own needs" (WCED 1987, p. 43). Over time, however, perceptions of development shifted, and countries now agree that sustainable development – which promotes prosperity and economic opportunity, greater social well-being, and environmental protection—is universally the best path forward for improving people's lives (Du Pisani, 2006, p. 85).

The historical process of change from the idea basis to the Social Action Plan is covered in this section, as is the concept and understanding of sustainable

development. Taking a holistic approach, the concept of sustainable development should be realized, not only in an economic sense, but also ecologically and socially. During the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992, the UN attempted to assist governments in rethinking economic development and discovering solutions to harming the earth and depleting its natural resources.

The two-week "Earth Summit" was the culmination of a process of planning, education, and negotiations involving all UN Member States. It culminated in the adoption of Agenda 21, an official global consensus on development and environmental cooperation intended to reflect an international consensus to support and supplement national strategies and plans for sustainable development. It encourages all countries to work together to improve, conserve, and better manage ecosystems, as well as take shared responsibility for the future. The Earth Summit resulted in the adoption of 27 principles aimed at fostering equitable partnerships and development through collaboration among states, social actors, and individuals. The underlying idea was that states should act in a spirit of global partnership to conserve, protect and restore the integrity of the Earth's ecosystem.

### **3.1. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**

Following the Millennium Summit in 2000, the largest meeting of world leaders to that point, the UN members adopted the Millennium Declaration that "contained a statement of values, principles, and objectives for the international agenda for the twenty-first century" (UN, 2021). All UN member nations agreed on the value of quantifiable, time-bound targets in addressing the challenges of the new century. These goals were arranged into eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in 2001. The MDGs were proposed following the Declaration, which pledged nations to carry out global cooperation to alleviate extreme poverty, and put forth a series of eight time-bound targets with a 2015 deadline (MDGs). The MDGs were the first framework based on clearly-defined collaboration between developed and poor countries (Mc Arthur, 2013, p. 154). The eight MDGs are:

1. Make extreme poverty and hunger a thing of the past.
2. Ensure universal elementary education.
3. Advance gender equality and women's empowerment
4. Lower child mortality

5. Improve maternal health
6. Fight with AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure long-term environmental stability
8. Form a worldwide development alliance

At the end of this period in 2015, in Millennium Development Goals 2015, the UN listed the achievements concerning these eight MDGs as follows (UN, 2021):

1. Over a billion people have been rescued from terrible poverty (since 1990)
2. Primary school enrollment increased from 83% to 90%
3. Almost two-thirds of developing countries achieved gender parity in primary education.
4. The death rate of children has decreased by more than half (since 1990)
5. The global maternal mortality ratio has decreased by nearly half
6. Infections with HIV/AIDS decreased by about 40%. (Since 2000)
7. The number of people who have gained access to improved drinking water increased from 2.3 billion to 4.2 billion since 1990
8. Official development assistance from developed to developing countries increased by 66%.

The achievements of the MDGs have provided valuable lessons and experiences; however, the task remains unfinished for many around the world. We must strive further to abolish hunger, achieve full gender equality, improve health care, and enroll every child in secondary education (United Nations Development Program, 2021) Gender equality and environmental sustainability are two concerns addressed in the MDG framework (Agyeman, 2020). The education aim is to finish elementary school, regardless of concerns about learning quality and secondary school enrollment levels (Du Pisiani, 2007). However, the MDGs also contribute to increased global awareness, political responsibility, enhanced measurements, social feedback, and public pressure (Sachs, 2012). For millions of people, however, the task is incomplete regarding the mission of ending hunger, attaining full gender equality, improving health care, and enrolling every child in school. Now is the time to put the globe on a more sustainable course. (United Nations Development Program, 2021) Thus, twenty years after the adoption of Agenda 21, the UN brought organizations and governments together to agree on a range of effective actions to reduce poverty while creating quality jobs at the United Nations Conference on

Sustainable Development, Rio+20, in 2012. It is also an opportunity to eradicate poverty, combat environmental degradation, and build a bridge to the future by encouraging renewable energy and boosting existing resources. Rio+20 highlighted seven priority areas: decent jobs, energy, sustainable cities, food security and sustainable agriculture, water, oceans, and disaster readiness (United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 2021). In this conference, member states decided to formulate sustainable development goals beyond the MDG period in 2015, and proposed a unified framework of MDGs and SDGs, as is seen in Figure 1.

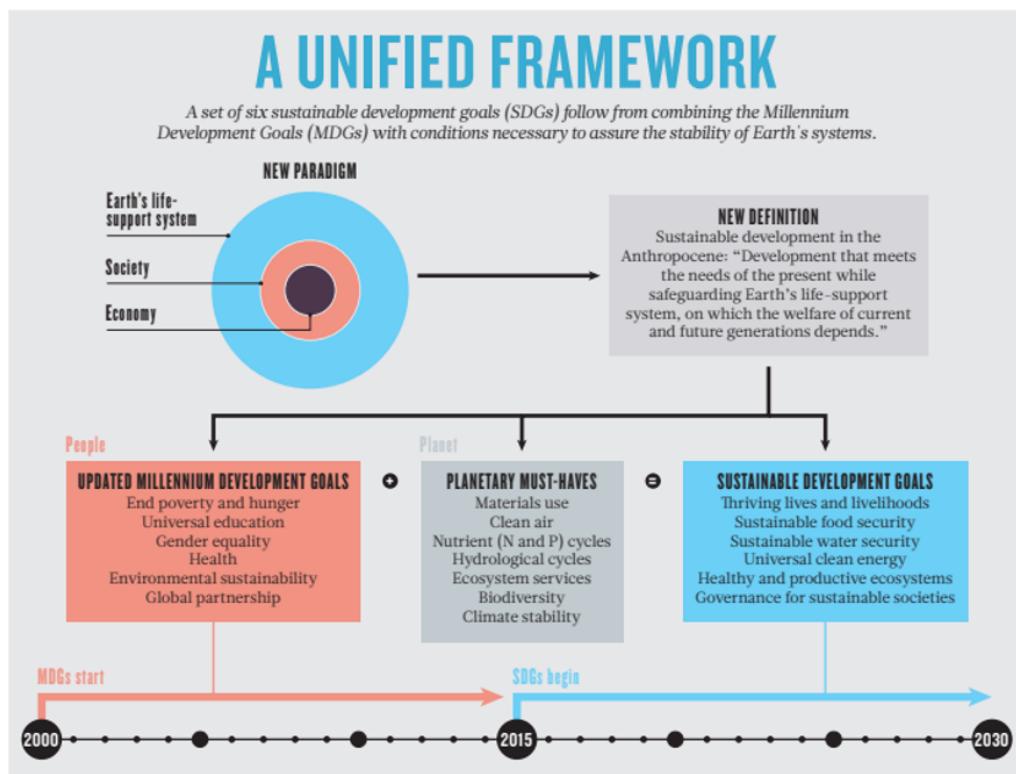


Figure 1. A unified framework (Source: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, 2021)

### 3.2. Sustainable Development Goals

The 2030 Agenda, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 specific targets, was formally adopted in 2015. Governments, corporations, communities, and education all have a part to play and it is likely to necessitate the involvement of every person. The 2030 Agenda also offers guidelines for how countries should go about achieving the goals. For the UN, the 2030 Agenda marks

the first time in human history that the states of the world have agreed on a complex vision, with clear goals and targets, for the development of our modernization on planet Earth.(Watanabe, 2020).

Before examining the SDGs, it is essential to discuss their differences with MDGs.

The MDGs were an agenda that focused on developing countries, addressing challenges faced by developing countries, as is seen in Table 2. Many of the issues faced in developing countries are issues experienced worldwide. . On the other hand, the SDGs are a universal agenda, both domestic and international. While the MDGs were focused on a specific set of 8 goals, 21 targets and were underpinned with 60 indicators –, the SDGs are more wide-ranging and universal, containing 17 goals, 169 targets, and 230 indicators.

	MDGs	SDGs
<b>GENERAL FOCUS</b>	DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	GLOBAL: DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
<b>INDICATOR COVERAGE</b>	8 / 21 / 60 <small>GOALS TARGETS INDICATORS</small>	17 / 169 / 230 <small>GOALS TARGETS INDICATORS</small>
<b>LEVEL OF DISAGGREGATION</b>	NATIONAL	LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND
<b>FINANCING</b>	LARGELY BILATERAL FINANCING	DOMESTIC AND LOCAL RESOURCES, NEW FINANCIAL SOURCES AND MODELS

Figure 2. Differences between MDGs and SDGs (Source: Background of the Sustainable Development Goals, 2021)

The SDGs were designed to create a more comprehensive picture of sustainable development, and to be rooted in a few fundamental principles that were not included in the previous agendas.

The 4 Principles are:

1. Integration – it recognizes the systemic nature of our world and the interconnectedness between various domains of society

2. Universality – it applies as much to the richest countries as it does to the poorest, it applies equally to every single country, no matter what their situation or context
3. Inclusive engaging all sectors of society
4. Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) – this comes from a key lesson learned from the MDGs, while there was progress in some countries, others fell even further behind. The 2030 agenda and the SDGs focus on how to reach those furthest behind so that the progress can be assured to be helping the most vulnerable (countries or groups within countries).

The SDGs constitute a significant change from the MDGs, not only in the number of goals and targets, but also in their purpose, conceptualization, and the political process leading to their development (Fukuda-Parr, 2016). Because of the growing urgency of global sustainable development, the SDGs concept has fast gained traction. Sustainable development embraces the so-called triple bottom line approach to human wellbeing, however, definitions of this differ. Almost all of the world's societies agree on the need to achieve a balance of economic growth, environmental sustainability, and social inclusiveness, although the specific goals vary internationally, between and within cultures (Sachs, 2012).



Figure 3. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (Source: Sustainable Development Goals, 2021)

**Below, the 17 SDGs will be explained.**



### **Goal 1: No poverty**

Poverty in all forms must be eradicated throughout the world.

This is still one of humanity's most difficult problems. Many individuals around the world continue to struggle to meet their most basic human requirements. The SDGs are a bold pledge to abolish poverty in all forms and dimensions by 2030.

### **Goal 2: Zero hunger**

The aim is to end hunger, attain full security, increase nutrition, and promote long-term agricultural sustainability.

Sadly, in many nations, acute hunger and malnutrition continue to be major roadblocks to progress. The SDGs aim to eliminate all kinds of hunger and malnutrition by 2030, ensuring that all, especially children, have access to adequate and nutritious food throughout the year.

### **Goal 3: Good health and well-being**

The goal is to ensure that people of all ages have a happy and healthy life. For long-term development, good health and well-being are critical.

The intricacy and interconnection of the two are reflected in the 2030 Agenda. However, the globe is falling short of the SDGs relating to health. Both within and between countries, progress has been unequal. There remains an enormous disparity between the countries with the shortest and longest life expectancies. Multisectoral, rights-based and gender-sensitive approaches are essential to addressing inequalities and to ensuring good health for all.

### **Goal 4: Quality education**

The aim is to ensure that all students receive a high-quality education that is inclusive and equitable, and that lifelong learning opportunities are available to all.

Since 2000, there has been significant progress toward the goal of universal primary education. High levels of poverty, armed conflicts, and other emergencies has made progress difficult in some emerging regions. Children from the poorest households are more likely to be out of school than those of the richest households. This SDG ensures that all girls and boys have access to free primary and secondary schooling by 2030.

### **Goal 5: Gender equality**

To achieve gender equality, all women and girls must be empowered.

UNDP has made gender equality a priority in its operations and has made significant progress over the last 20 years. In comparison to 15 years ago, there are more girls in school currently, and gender parity in elementary education has been achieved in most regions, with some exceptions.

### **Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation**

The goal is to assure universal access to water and sanitation, as well as long-term management.

More than 40% of people are affected by water scarcity, many countries are suffering water stress, and drought and desertification are becoming more prevalent. At least one in every four people are predicted to face periodic water shortages by 2050. By 2030, this SDG will ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable water. Investing in infrastructures is essential for providing sanitation facilities, and encouraging hygiene can help protect and restore water-related ecosystems.

### **Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy**

The aim is to ensure that everyone has access to energy that is affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern.

To meet SDG 7 by 2030, it is essential to invest in solar, wind, and thermal power, improve energy productivity, and ensure that everyone has access to energy. In all countries, expanding infrastructure and improving technologies

to deliver clean and more efficient energy would boost growth while also benefiting the environment.

### **Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth**

The goal is to promote sustained inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all.

The number of workers living in extreme poverty has declined over time. However, as the global economy recovers from the financial crisis of 2008, we are experiencing slower growth, expanding inequality, and a shortage of jobs to keep up with a growing labor force. By stimulating job creation, the SDGs support long-term economic growth, increased productivity, and technological innovation. Measures are being taken to eradicate forced labor, slavery, and human trafficking. With these targets in mind, the goal is to achieve full and productive employment, and decent work, for all women and men by 2030.

### **Goal 9: Industry, innovation, and infrastructure**

The aim is to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation.

Infrastructure investment and innovation are two of the most important drivers of economic growth and development. Technological advancement is also essential for finding long-term solutions to economic and environmental problems, such as creating new jobs and increasing energy efficiency. Sustainable development can be facilitated by promoting sustainable industries and investing in scientific research and innovation. More than 4 billion people still lack Internet access, with 90% of who are in developing countries.

### **Goal 10: Reduced inequalities**

The goal is to end all forms of inequality everywhere.

The inequality of income has risen almost everywhere in the world, but it is lower in Europe and higher in the Middle East. Inequality of income necessitates global solutions. This entails bettering the regulation and oversight of

financial markets and institutions, as well as encouraging development aid and foreign direct investment to areas with the highest need. Facilitating the safe migration and mobility of people is also key to bridging the widening divide.

### **Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities**

The aim is to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

To achieve sustainable development, we must change the way we design and manage urban spaces. This entails creating job and business possibilities, secure and affordable housing, and resilient communities and economies. To fulfill this SDG, we must also invest in public transportation, create green public spaces, and improve participatory and inclusive urban planning and administration.

### **Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production**

The goal is to ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns.

We must lessen our environmental impact by changing production and consumption patterns. To fulfill this SDG, it is necessary to improve management of natural resources use as well as the disposal of toxic waste and pollutants. Efforts to recycle and minimize waste will be critical in moving toward more sustainable consumption patterns by 2030.

### **Goal 13: Climate action**

By controlling emissions and fostering renewable energy production, the aim is to take immediate action to address climate change and its effects. Climate change is already making a significant impact on all countries.

### **Goal 14: Life below Water**

The goal is to conserve and sustainably use the oceans seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

Marine pollution is at an all-time high, with an average of 13,000 pieces of plastic waste recorded every square kilometer of water. The SDGs seek to manage and conserve marine and coastal ecosystems while also addressing the effects of ocean acidification. Improving the protection and long-term use of ocean-based resources through international law can also assist to alleviate some of the problems related to seas.

### **Goal 15: Life on land**

The aim is to protect, restore, and promote the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, to sustainably manage forests, to prevent desertification, and to halt and reverse territory degradation and biodiversity loss.

To ensure global food and water security, immediate action is needed to limit the loss of natural habitats and biodiversity, which are part of our shared heritage.

### **Goal 16: Peace, justice, and strong institutions**

The goal is to ensure long-term development, promote peaceful and inclusive societies, ensure universal access to justice, and construct effective, responsible, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

By 2030, the SDGs aim to eliminate all forms of violence and work with governments and communities to end conflict and insecurity. Important aspects of this process are encouraging the rule of law and human rights, decreasing the flow of illicit armaments, and improving developing nations' involvement in global governance organization.

### **Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals**

The aim is to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The SDGs can only be realized with strong global partnerships and cooperation. It is very important to find suitable partners – so that both parties can benefit equally. The objectives are to strengthen North-South and South-South

collaboration by assisting national strategies to meet all objectives. Promoting international trade and assisting poorer nations in increasing their exports are all important steps toward building a global, rule-based, and equitable trading system that benefits all.

### **3.3. *Glocalization and SDGs***

In a sense, the SDGS can also be called global goals. The main reason for this is that it was initiated and implemented by a supranational and international structure, the United Nations.

These goals are essentially a global joint action plan, aiming to eradicate poverty globally, protect and strengthen our planet, and encourage humanity to live in peace and prosperity. The framework of these plans underlines the importance of both global and local powers in the solution of problems that are both local and global, such as poverty.. In addition, it must be accepted as an undeniable fact that localization needs the contributions of globalization for the local implementation of these sustainable development goals. In this context, it should be said that the SDGs, which are global, really need both global cooperation and the consolidation of local decision-makers and institutions (Zhou, 2011). In this context, those who put forward the conceptual idea of glocalization did so in the belief that they could benefit from localization activities to reduce poverty on some parts of the African continent, and that these efforts could be transferred to the development of Western European countries in a global context. In this sense, the solution process in the SDGs should be local, but the understanding should be global. At the very beginning, the concept of "Think global, act local" was emphasized in our thought on glocalization, and this concept will be the driving force of the future. In this context, the SDGs should be perceived globally, but supported and sustained by local implementations. Sustainable development goals should be achieved with the richer nations' economic support for supranational structures and the support that these supranational structures will transfer to local organizations in areas of need (Kawakubo, 2020).

Within the scope of the SDGs, some objectives may not be implemented locally, if their goals are perceived as completely global, and the subject of localization is sought in these goals. The most important of these is undoubtedly the issue of global warming. Some scholars have argued that global warming is

essentially a global problem, and that local practices cannot contribute in this regard. However, those who advocate the idea of glocalization have emphasized that these global problems can be solved by transferring the support from the nation-state to supranational organizations to local institutions such as municipalities, as we have just emphasized. In this context, it has been considered very reasonable to use local administrations to support action for a completely global issue at the local level; such issues include greenhouse gas use gas absorption, and incentive policies. In this context, it is argued that the overlapping of local practices with global problems is an indicator of the legitimacy and usefulness of the glocalization conceptual analysis (Ozekin, 2019).

As a result, the SDGs are a global understanding that need both global and local policies. It can be considered as an expression of the glocalization conceptual analysis. It is financed and managed together with a formation under the umbrella of the UN, which is a supranational structure with a global outlook. In addition, the UN is compulsorily funded by nation-states. It is generally recognized that the UN is worthy of financing, and it continues to support local forces for the solution of problems because leading global formations such as the UN understand that the local management of certain global problems cannot be influenced globally. These global problems are buried deep in the local, and it is local governments that are best placed to intervene. Local governments should also be aware of the importance of the glocalization process, i.e., some problems cannot be solved with globalization alone; some issues are global and need to be studied on a global basis, and supported at the local level. In this context, both the local and global power of the SDGs and glocalization were emphasized. In this sense, in a global context, these goals should be achieved by 2030, and local and global should always be intertwined to achieve this goal (Kawakubo, 2020).

## **CHAPTER 4: UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (UCLG)**

As mentioned above, all 193 UN member states unanimously adopted the SDSs, a comprehensive set of 17 goals and 169 targets aimed at reducing poverty and advancing health and well-being for all in 2015 (UN, 2015). In the case of the SDGs, a global agency, the UN, has determined specific goals that named countries ought to attempt to acquire. Before examining the activities and projects of the Urla Municipality regarding the SDGs, we need to discuss the importance of local governments in general regarding their contributions in achieving the SDGs at the local level. In this context, it is essential to analyze the role of the world's largest organization of local and regional governments, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), established in 2004. As a global network of cities, local, regional, and metropolitan governments, and their associations, UCLG is dedicated to representing, defending, and amplifying the voices of local and regional governments so that no one or place is left behind. Through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), the mechanism through which the local and regional governments' constituency deliberates and agrees on its political voice on the international agenda, UCLG could become a part of the complete body of global local and regional governments.

UCLG emerged as a global organization to guide local and regional governments and prepare them for achieving global targets. That's why, we can claim that UCLG has the task of combining localization and globalization processes. Through such an international framework, local governments will be able to reach their goals more easily, and to follow the regional projections of global problems. The motto of "Think globally, act locally" could be successful only with this understanding. In this sense, UCLG aims at providing an opportunity for municipalities to make collaboration with each other to be able deal with international challenges. UCLG clearly refers to the SDGs among the targets it has determined in its framework. It believed that global problems can be resolved locally.

Members of UCLG are dedicated to actively participating in a new global partnership comprising international organizations, national governments, civil society, and the commercial sector, as well as local and regional governments. They



will continue to use global venues to debate the possibilities of local action to promote development, and to urge for a legal and financial framework that would allow all local and regional governments to play their part in achieving this ambitious, integrated, and universal goal. The involvement of local governments in implementing the agenda, on the other hand, goes far beyond SDG 11. All SDGs have targets that are relevant to the daily operations of local and regional governments, either directly or indirectly. Local governments should not be thought of as merely carrying out the national agenda; they are policymakers, change agents, and the government level best positioned to connect global aims to local communities. The UN's primary partner regarding the localization of the SDGs is GTF, led by UCLG. With the help of its partners, the UN established an online platform called Local 2030, where partners can share tools, experiences, new solutions, and guidelines to support SDG localization. In addition, in 2014 UCGL prepared a report entitled, "The Sustainable Development Goals: What Local Governments Need to Know" to clarify how each of the 17 SDGs relates to the daily work of local and regional governments (UN Foundation, 2021). Since 2017, UCGL has prepared annual reports on the stage of the implementation of SDGs at the local level.

Although it is difficult to debate local government's involvement at the UN intergovernmental level, it can be acknowledged in the following ways.

- The need for disaggregated data should be emphasized to track inequality within countries.
- The importance of local governments in achieving the SDGs can be recognized and stressed, as can the reality that local governments that must provide basic services in high-need areas require enough capacity and resources.
- Local government capacity-building programs might be part of a new global collaboration for goal implementation, monitoring, and finance.
- Individual countries must ultimately determine what "localizing" means when considering the execution of a new set of goals, which may include coordination across different levels of government (Lucci, P.2015).

Local governments have a very important role in implementing sustainable development goals; as well as SDG 11, all remaining targets are evaluated within the duties and responsibilities of local governments. In the next section, there is a description of the applications that can be implemented for particular targets. The UN has made SDG definitions, international, regional, but has left countries to decide for themselves the applications on a national and local scale. Every year, practice, observation, and reporting is evaluated both by the United Nations and UCLG summits, and examples of good practice are also presented as models with their impact all over the world. The local implementation by Urla Municipality, which is the subject of this thesis, was presented as a model city to the world at the UCLG summit held in Morocco on July 5-7, 2018.

Below are 17 Sustainable Development Goals, the role of local governments in achieving these goals, and for each goal, the relevant targets for local governments will be explained, based on the above-mentioned report of UCLG which lists the relevant targets in achieving each SDGs for local governments.

#### ***4.1. The role of Local Governments Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals***

The sources used in this section are the Official United Nations Website, and additionally, the sites where the SDGs are explained, such as <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>.

**SDG 01:** This objective expects to end destitution through raising the earnings of the least fortunate, but at the same time, tied in with security for all and guaranteeing access to fundamental administrations.

This first objective takes a multi-dimensional perspective on destitution and subsequently requires numerous planned reactions. Local governments are in the best situation to distinguish individuals living in destitution and unacceptable conditions on the ground, and to target assets and administrations to help escape from these.

Some significant focuses for neighborhood governments are lessening the extent of men, women, and children of any age living in poverty; guaranteeing that all people, particularly the poor, have equal rights to monetary assets, fundamental administrations, proprietorship, and control; assembling the whole range of the poor and decreasing their exposure to environment-related events and other financial,

social, natural shocks and catastrophe; lastly, eliminating destitution for all individuals everywhere. (UN Foundation, 2021)

**SDG 02:** This objective is tied in with ending hunger and ensuring that all can engage in a guaranteed, nutritious eating regimen, throughout the year.

The administration of normal assets in country regions, particularly land and water for neighborhood and local governments, supports food security for the encompassing domain. In metropolitan regions, neighborhood governments should guarantee that individuals can buy and cook safe, clean, adequate nutritious food. Metropolitan planning can assume a significant part in decreasing waste and increasing food security by increasing food-related vehicles and capacity, access to clean water, and sanitation. Local governments can utilize medical care administrations and schools to recognize and reverse young people's lack of healthy sustenance.

Pertinent focuses for local governments include reducing hunger and guaranteeing access by all individuals to safe, nutritious, and adequate food; eliminating lack of healthy sustenance in the entirety of its structures, improving the farming efficiency; and guaranteeing supportable food creation that is appropriate for biological systems, that recognize limits with regards to environmental change, extreme climate, dry seasons, flooding, and various natural disasters, and that further develop land and soil quality. (UN Foundation, 2021)

**SDG 03:** This objective is tied in with guaranteeing stable lives and advancing prosperity for people of all ages.

The provision of clean water and sanitation is crucial for bringing down the mortality of infants, children, and in childbirth. Neighborhood governments in metropolitan regions should be especially careful, as youth mortality is deteriorating in numerous nations. Neighborhood governments can address this by ghetto improvement programs and by expanding access to fundamental service for the metropolitan poor. HIV/AIDs are progressively being perceived as a neighborhood administration issue. Metropolitan regions are frequently the nexus for the spread of HIV/AIDS because of their high population density, role as transportation hubs, and concentrations of illness.

Local governments can assume a significant part in recognizing neighborhood needs, mainstreaming HIV/AIDS treatment across divisions, and organizing avoidance and reaction activities. Numerous local governments provide instruction, data and resources to forestall HIV/AIDS. Local governments can design city planning and public transport to lessen air contamination, encourage healthy lifestyles, and traffic safety. Neighborhood governments can reduce deaths brought about by water and soil contamination through regular monitoring and ecological protection..

The relevant targets for local governments are:

3.1 reduce the worldwide maternal mortality proportion to under 70 for every 100,000 live births

3.2 end preventable deaths of new-born and under-five year olds

3.3 end the plagues of bits of help??., tuberculosis, jungle fever, and overlooked tropical illnesses and fight hepatitis, water-borne sicknesses, and other transmittable infections

3.6 by 2020 reduce worldwide deaths and injuries from car crashes

3.7 guarantee widespread access to sexual and regenerative medical care facilities, including for family planning, data and instruction, and various concepts of wellbeing into public systems and projects

3.9 by 2030 seriously decrease the number of deaths and ill nesses from dangerous synthetic compounds and air, water, and soil contamination and pollution. (UN Foundation,, 2021)

**SDG04:**This objective is tied in with guaranteeing comprehensive, fair quality training and advanced deep-rooted learning for all. All in all, it is related to assisting individuals with reflection, learning, and reaching aspirations.

Local governments are set to identify and handle the obstructions to class participation in our networks. They can coordinate specialized and professional preparing programs into neighborhood financial advancement techniques, ensuring preparation is appropriate to work market openings into account. Neighborhood governments are especially very well positioned to contact helpless and overlooked people and networks, and to provide schooling and preparion that addresses their issues.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

4.1 guarantee that all young women and men have access to completely free, impartial, and quality essential and optional training, leading to important and powerful learning outcomes

4.2 guarantees that all young women and men can access quality youth development, care, and training so they are prepared for basic schooling

4.3 guarantee equal access for all women and men to adequate quality, specialized, professional, tertiary instruction, including college

4.4 by 2030, increment by x% the number of youth and grown-ups who have necessary skills, including specialized and professional skills, for business, quality jobs, and business ventures

4.5 eliminate gender inconsistencies in schooling and guarantee equal access to all degrees of instruction and professional preparation for the discriminated incorporating people with disabilities, indigenous groups, and vulnerable youngsters

4.7 guarantee all students procure information and abilities expected to advance practical opportunities, including among others, through training for employment opportunities and manageable ways of life, human rights, sexual orientation equality, advancement of a culture of harmony and peacefulness, world citizenship, and enthusiasm for social diversity and of commitment to reasonable turn of events

4.8 build and redesign training offices that are child-friendly, sensitive to disability, and sexual orientation, and give safe, peaceful, comprehensive, and comprehensive learning conditions for all. (Sustainable Development Goals, 2021)

**SDG05:** This objective is tied in with accomplishing sex equity, ending violence against and victimization of women and young women, and ensuring they have equal freedoms in all everyday issues.

Neighborhood governments can act as a model for sexual orientation balance, and the strengthening of women through non-oppressive support to residents, and reasonable work training. Neighborhood governments are at the forefront of recognizing and preventing brutality and violence against women. City planning (especially the creation and maintenance of public spaces) and neighborhood policing are both fundamental instruments in these issues. Neighborhood governments likewise have a task to carry out in offering types of assistance to women affected by violence. Local and governments and rural districts

can recognize and remove hindrances to women's equal rights regarding land control and proprietorship.

Getting more women into their preferred work at the local level is the main concern of women's rights, both as an objective by its own doing, and because neighborhood legislative issues are regularly the initial step to local and public office. Female forerunners in Local government can challenge sexual orientation generalizations, and set a guide to young women. Local governments can standardize sexual orientation correspondence across all spaces of their work to remove the various obstructions to women's rights.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

5.1 end all types of oppression for all women and young women everywhere

5.2 eliminate all types of violence against all women and young women in public and private circles, including dealing with sexual and physical abuse

5.3 eliminate every single unsafe practice, like early and constrained marriage, and female genital mutilations

5.4 perceive and value neglected consideration and housework through the arrangement of public administrations, framework and social assurance strategies, and the promotion of shared obligation inside the family as appropriate

5.5 guarantees women' full and viable support and equal freedoms for the initiative at all degrees of dynamic in political, monetary, and public life

5.6 An attempt changes to give women equal rights to financial assets, just as access to possession and authority over land and different types of property, monetary administrations, legacy, and normal assets as per public laws life

5.7 C embrace strong approaches and enforceable enactment for the advancement of sexual orientation uniformity, and the support of young women at all levels. (UN Foundation, 2021)

**SDG 06:** This objective is tied in with guaranteeing accessibility and practical administration of water and hygiene for all so all can access clean drinking water and latrines.

The difficulties included can differ tremendously at the sub-public level, especially among metropolitan and rural regions. In metropolitan regions, the fundamental test is frequently an absence of access to essential services in informal settlements, or excessive costs and an absence of price control of water from private

sellers. In provincial regions, water might be free, however, it might include long excursions to and from the source and might be polluted.

Local governments have a duty to carry out further developing water quality through ecological protection measures and sustainable waste service. Coordinated water assets the executives require level participation in planning and natural strategy among districts and locales across borders.??Local governments are clearly positioned to help participatory administration of water and sanitation via networks, including ghetto tenants.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

6.1 accomplish all-inclusive and even-handed access to safe and reasonable drinking water for all.

6.2 accomplish access to sufficient and fair hygiene and cleanliness for all, and end open latrines, considering the requirements of women and young women and the vulnerable.

6.3 further develop water quality by decreasing contamination, preventing or limiting the discharge of dangerous synthetics and materials, reducing the amount of untreated wastewater, and expanding the reuse and safe reuse of water by x% [to be decided] all around the world.

6.4 significantly increasing water-use effectiveness across all areas and guaranteeing easy access and supply of freshwater to address water shortages, and considerably lessen the number of individuals experiencing water shortages.

6.5 carry out incorporated water assets at all levels, including through transboundary collaboration as appropriate.

6.6 by 2020 securing and reestablishing water-related environments, including mountains, woods, wetlands, streams, springs, and lakes.

6.b helping and strengthening the cooperation of Local networks for further developing water and hygiene SDG06 related MDG, guarantee ecological sustainability, guarantee accessibility and economical administration of water and hygiene for all. (UN Foundation, 2021)

**SDG 07:** This objective is guaranteeing access to adequate, dependable, feasible, and present-day energy for all.

Local governments can increase to energy productivity by putting resources into energy efficient structures and environmentally-friendly fuel sources in public

institutions (government workplaces, schools, and so on) and by bringing sustainability standards into our acquisition repertoire. Such drives can have the additional benefit of lessening public heating costs through such efforts. In urban areas, Localvehicles, and metropolitan planning strategies, similar to 'smart city' advancements, can greatly affect energy efficiency and fossil fuel byproducts.

The pertinent focus for neighborhood governments by 2030 are:

7.1 guarantee widespread access to adequate, dependable, and modern energy administrations

7.2 increment considerably the portion of environmentally-friendly power in the worldwide energy blend

7.3 double the worldwide pace of progress in energy efficiency

**SDG 08:** This objective is tied in with advancing supported, comprehensive, and sustainable monetary development, full and useful business, and fair work for all. As such, SDG 08 is tied in with making fair work and monetary freedoms for all.

Neighborhood governments can recognize youngsters in danger of child labor to guarantee they go to school. We can likewise work in an organization within the informal sector to work on their functioning conditions and social insurance, and to empower formalization where suitable.

Neighborhood governments can be exemplary in providing safe working conditions, and in ensuring fair compensation. We can likewise incorporate these practices as a feature of our acquisition measures when working with the private and third sectors.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

8.3 advance planning approaches that help useful exercises??, good work creation, business ventures, imagination and development, and support formalization and development of very small, small and and medium-sized undertakings including through access to monetary administrations

8.5 by 2030, accomplish full and useful business and dignified work for all women and men, including for youngsters and people with disabilities, and equal compensation for work of equal worth

8.6 by 2020 considerably diminish the extent of youth not in work, schooling, or training



8.7 take quick and compelling measures to get the preclusion and disposal of the most harmful types of child labor, annihilate forced labor, and by 2025 end child labor in the entirety of its structures, including enlistment and utilization of child soldiers

8.8 ensure work rights and freedom from any dangerous working conditions, all things considered, including migrant laborers, especially women transients, and those in problematic business

8.9 by 2030 devise and carry out strategies to advance the travel industry to create jobs, advance local culture and products

**SDG 09:** This objective is tied in with building a strong foundation, advancing comprehensive and economical industrialization, and cultivating development so all have the framework needed to interface with the rest of the world (UN Foundation, 2021).

Provincial and metropolitan governments are especially significant in creating and establishing a framework to serve metropolitan regions and to connect them with their encompassing regions. Neighborhood governments can incorporate the advancement of small-scale industry and new businesses in their local monetary improvement procedures, considering local assets, needs, and markets. We can recognize gaps in access to ICT and the web in our networks, and find ways to connect them, especially through planned public spaces like libraries.

Important focuses for neighborhood governments are:

9.1 foster quality, dependable, manageable, and strong foundations, including local and trans-line framework, to help financial events and prosperity, with attention to reasonable and fair access for all

9.3 increase the access of small-scale, modern and different ventures, especially in non-industrial nations, to monetary services including adequate credit and their integration into supply chains and markets

9. C Significantly increase access to ICT and endeavor to give all-inclusive and adequate access to the web in LDCs by 2020

**SDG 10:** This objective is tied in with lessening imbalance within and among nations.

Neighborhood governments are fundamental for the decrease of disparity inside nations. It will be indispensable to channeling assets to neighborhood governments in the most deprived regions, and to improve our abilities to distinguish and reduce neediness and alienation. Neighborhood governments have a specific task to carry out in political consideration at the Local level. We can advance the cooperation of minority and customarily underrepresented groups in open interviews, and in representing chosen offices.

Neighborhood governments can carry out accepted procedures as far as correspondence and non-segregation in our institutions and activities, just as following these principles in our acquisition of labor and products. We likewise must offer public services in a non-prejudicial manner. Neighborhood governments can choose reformist Local tax collection for monetary strategy, and devote Local financial plans to boosting the business opportunities and pay of the least fortunate families in our networks.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

10.1 by 2030 accomplish and support pay increase of the base 40% of the populace at a rate higher than the public norm

10.2 by 2030 engage and advance the social, financial, and political incorporation of all adults, , regardless of sex, disability, race, nationality, origin, religion or monetary or another status

10.3 guarantee equal freedom and lessen imbalances, including through disposing of prejudicial laws, arrangements, and practices and advancing suitable plans , strategies, and activities in such a manner

10.4 receive strategies, particularly financial, pay, and social assurance approaches and reasonably accomplish greater fairness

10.7 work with methodical, protected, normal, and mindful relocation and versatility of individuals, including through the execution of plans and oversee movement strategies

**SDG 11:**This objective is tied in with making urban areas and human settlements comprehensive, protected, versatile and manageable, and placing urban areas at the core of economic advancement in an urbanizing world.

This objective directly addresses chairmen and regional authorities to assume our part in the Post-2015 Agenda. The fast urbanization of numerous urban

communities in the worldwide south has led to the development of ghettos. Regional authorities should foster key metropolitan plans to forestall their development and work with ghetto tenants to further improve conditions and offer essential types of assistance where ghettos as of now exist. Access to reasonable accommodation is likewise an issue in a significant number of the most economically advanced urban areas on the planet; regional authorities should control land and real estate markets to ensure the option of accommodation to their least fortunate inhabitants

Regional authorities have a duty regarding advancing the utilization of public vehicles in metropolitan regions to further develop street security and reduce accidents. We must give residents protected, green public spaces, such as parks, squares, and gardens.

With regards to fast worldwide urbanization, participatory metropolitan planning is a higher priority than at any time in recent memory to forestall endless suburbia, tackle isolation, and lessen fossil fuel pollution in urban areas. Sustainable waste administration, with an emphasis on reuse and reusing, is additionally essential to decrease urban communities' ecological effect.

Urban areas, especially coastal urban areas, are now confronting the effect of environmental change. Fundamentally, Local governments should act to alleviate the impacts of environmental change and to protect the most helpless in our networks from the impacts of cataclysmic events. Finally, we recognize that no city is an island. Metropolitan governments should help our country and territorial partners to ensure that urban communities work in concordance with the provincial regions on which they depend for food and normal assets. (UN Foundation, 2021)

The relevant targets for local governments are:

11.1 by 2030, guarantee access for all to satisfactory, safe, and reasonable accommodation and fundamental services, and redesign ghettos

11.2 by 2030 give access to safe, reasonable, accessible, and sustainable vehicle frameworks for all, further developing street wellbeing, prominently by extending public transport, with exceptional consideration regarding the necessities of the vulnerable, women, youngsters, people with handicaps and older people

11.3 by 2030 upgrade comprehensive and sustainable urbanization and capacities with regards to participatory, coordinated, and economic human settlement planning and executives in all nations

11.4 increase endeavors to ensure and protect the world's social legacy

11.5 by 2030 fundamentally lessen the number of deaths and the quantity of life and abatement by  $y\%$  the financial loss comparative with gross domestic product brought about by catastrophes, including water-related disasters, with the emphasis on protecting poor people and the vulnerable

11.6 by 2030, decrease the per capita negative ecological effects of urban areas, considering air quality, city waste, and other waste services

11.7 by 2030, give general access to safe, comprehensive, and available, green, and public spaces, especially for women and youngsters, older people, and people with disabilities

11.a help positive monetary, social, and ecological connections between metropolitan, peri-metropolitan, and country regions by improving public and territorial planning

11.b by 2020, increase by  $x\%$  the number of urban areas and human settlements receiving and initiating coordinated planning and plans towards incorporation, asset effectiveness, moderation and transformation to environmental change, resistance to catastrophes, and create and carry out following the approaching Hyogo system comprehensive debacle at all levels

11.c help least developed nations, including through monetary and specialized help, for adequate and resilient structures using local materials

**SDG 12:** This objective is tied in with diminishing our effect in the world by creating and consuming only what we need.

Local and local governments can uphold short supply chains, in this way lessening transport and fossil fuel byproducts, through the land the board, framework, metropolitan planning, schooling, and preparing, and public business sectors. We have a specific job to carry out in encouraging the sustainable utilization and creation of energy and water, which we can do utilizing a wide assortment of instruments, from metropolitan planning to the utilization of square unit components. As shoppers of labor and products, neighborhood and local governments can set up measures that consider waste and fossil fuel byproducts from expected suppliers. As the degree of government nearest to individuals, we raise residents' consciousness of the significance of sustainable creation and utilization and provide them with the information to raise their awareness.

Local governments ought to be key accomplices in creating and carrying out apparatuses to screen the effect of the travel industry, and in attempting to ensure the travel industry creates jobs creates jobs and advances neighborhood culture, while restricting waste and fossil fuel byproducts. (UN Foundation, 2021)

The relevant targets for local governments are:

12.2 by 2030 accomplish feasible administration and effective utilization of normal assets

12.3 by 2030 divide for each capita worldwide food waste at the retail and customer level, and diminish food waste along creation and supply chains including post-gather waste

12.4 by 2020 accomplish naturally solid administration of synthetic substances and all losses for the duration of their life cycle, as per concurred global structures, and essentially diminish their release into air, water and soil to limit their effects on human wellbeing and the climate

12.5 by 2030, lessen waste through counteraction, decrease, reusing, and reuse

12.7 advance practices that are sustainable as per public approaches and needs

12.8 By 2030 guarantees that individuals wherever have the applicable data and mindfulness for sustainable turn of events, and ways of life in harmony with nature

12.b create and execute instruments to screen sustainable advancement impacts for the travel industry which creates jobs, advances neighborhood culture and products

**SDG 13:** This objective is tied in with making an earnest move to battle environmental change and its effects on eliminating the impacts of warming.

Local governments, particularly in urban areas, are regularly on the sharp edge of managing the impacts of environmental change. It is indispensable that our abilities to manage environment-related dangers and cataclysmic events are reinforced, so we can secure our networks, especially for the most powerless. It is fundamental that neighborhood governments, especially in the weakest urban communities, coordinate environmental change transformation and relief into

metropolitan and local planning to lessen the outflows of our urban communities and increase their resilience to ecological shocks.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

13.1 reinforce flexibility and resilience to environment-related perils and cataclysmic events in all nations

13.3 further develop training, awareness raising, and the human and institutional limit on environmental change alleviation, transformation, sway decrease, and early warning

13.b advance systems for raising capacities with regards to viable environmental change related planning and the board, in LDCs, remembering equality for women, youth, neighborhood, and overlooked networks

**SDG 14:** This objective is tied in with ensuring our coasts and seas.

Nonetheless, securing our seas and coasts is not only the obligation of coastal urban areas. Any metropolitan activity inside watersheds can influence the seas, like the release of sewage or mechanical waste into streams.

Around the world, 66% of the sewage from metropolitan regions is released untreated into lakes, waterways, and waterfront waters. Metropolitan disinfection and strong waste administration are fundamental for lessening beach front zone contamination, as is a coordinated effort among districts and at the provincial level. Coastal urban communities should create and carry out planning and building guidelines to forestall development in unacceptable spaces of the coast. (UN Foundation, 2021)

The relevant targets for local governments are:

14.1 by 2025 forestall and essentially decrease marine contamination, all things considered, especially from land-based activities, including marine flotsam and jetsam, and related contamination

14.2 by 2020 economically oversee and secure marine and coastal environments to avoid unwanted effects, including by fortifying their resilience and make a move for their reclamation, to accomplish clean seas

14.5 by 2020 something like 10% of beach front and marine regions, steady with public and global law and in light of best accessible logical data (not clear)

14.b give access to small scale fishermen to marine assets and markets SDG

15: This objective is tied in with ensuring our normal assets and natural life.

**SDG 15:** This objective is tied with protecting our natural resources.

Local governments' job as specialist co-ops (particularly of water, hygiene, and strong waste administration), combined with our capacity to boost social change in our networks, places us in an exceptional situation to secure regular assets and natural surroundings.

We are in a unique situation to plan the organizations with the private area and networks that are important at the local level for the assignment of coordinated water assets. Local area-based investment and the board, worked with by local governments, is an integral asset to stop biodiversity destruction and forestall elimination.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

15.1 by 2020 guarantee protection, reclamation, and sustainable utilization of earthly and inland freshwater environments and their administrations, specifically backwoods, wetlands, mountains, and dry lands, following commitments under peaceful accords

15.2 by 2020, advance the execution of economical administration of a wide range of forests, stop deforestation, and reestablish debased forests, and increase afforestation and reforestation by x% internationally

15.5 make an earnest and critical move to lessen destruction of regular living space, stop the decrease of biodiversity, and by 2020 secure and forestall the elimination of endangered species

15.9 by 2020, incorporate environments and biodiversity into public and Local planning, advancement cycles and destitution decrease methodologies, and records

15.b activate altogether assets from all sources and at all levels to back reasonable woodland the executives and give sufficient motivations to agricultural nations to progress sustainable woodland, including for preservation and reforestation

**SDG 16:** This objective is tied in with advancing quiet and comprehensive social orders for the practical turn of events, giving access to equity to all, and building powerful, responsible, and comprehensive foundations at all levels.

Approaches neighborhood governments are more successful and responsible to our residents. This expects us to handle defilement and increase access to data.

For quite a long time, Local governments have driven the way in exploring different avenues regarding new types of participatory dynamic, for example, participatory planning. This objective approaches us to increase these endeavors and become considerably more receptive to our networks, ensuring no gathering is prohibited. In an undeniably urbanizing world, diminishing brutality in metropolitan regions will be progressively significant in the mission for worldwide harmony and security. (UN Foundation, 2021)

The relevant targets for local governments are:

16.1 fundamentally decrease all types of violence and related demise rates all over

16.5 significantly diminish defilement and pay off in the entirety of its structures

16.6 foster viable, responsible, and straightforward foundations at all levels

16.7 guarantee responsive, comprehensive, participatory, and agent dynamic at all levels

16.10 guarantee community to data and ensure key opportunities, as per public enactment and peaceful accords

**SDG17:** This objective is tied in with cooperating at a worldwide level to accomplish the SDGs and make the Post-2015 Agenda a reality.

Neighborhood duty and income age should have their influence in financing practical turn of events. It is at the neighborhood level that intelligible arrangements can be created to address the numerous difficulties of destitution decrease and practical turn of events. Local governments are in the best situation to empower and work with organizations between open bodies, the private area, and common society in our networks.

Dependable Local information will be a fundamental apparatus to screen sub-public varieties in progress and in focusing on assets to ensure that nobody is abandoned.

The relevant targets for local governments are:

17.1 fortify homegrown asset activation, including through worldwide help to agricultural nations to work on the homegrown limit concerning burden and other income assortments

17.14 upgrade strategy rationality for the economical turn of events



17.16 upgrade the worldwide association for feasible advancement supplemented by shed partner organizations that assemble and offer information, ability, advances, and monetary assets to help the accomplishment of economic improvement objectives in all nations, especially agricultural nations

17.17 support and advance compelling public, public-private, and common society associations, expanding on the experience and resourcing methodologies of organizations

17.18 by 2020, improve limit building backing to non-industrial nations, including for LDCS and SIDS, to increase essentially the accessibility of top-caliber, opportune and solid information disaggregated by pay, sexual orientation, age, race, identity, transient status, inability, geographic area, and different attributes important in public settings. (UN Foundation, 2021)

17.19 by 2030 expand on existing drives to foster estimations of progress on economic improvement that supplement GDP and backing factual limit working in non-industrial nations

#### **4.2. MEWA and UMT**

UCLG World Organization has a decentralized design, working in 9 (7+2) world districts, specifically Africa, Asia, and the Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East, and West Asia (UCLG-MEWA), Latin America and North America, just as the Metropolitan Section and UCLG Forum of Regions. Local sections set their approaches independently, and direct their own undertakings. In other words, the sections of UCLG develop their policies and conduct their affairs, while offering administrative support within the geographical region agreed upon by them. They also promote the strategies and activities agreed by the World Organization's governing bodies and play a role in strategy, programming, and administration. (UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

With the globalization process, the power of local governments in the international arena is increasing. Local government units of different countries can use this power through international organizations. Since this will lead to the erosion of the nation-state, healthy relations with international organizations need to be planned and maintained (Akman, 2019). The local governments of Turkey are the

members of the section Middle East, and West Asia organization (UCLG-MEWA, 2021). Its headquarters is located in Turkey. (Akman, 2019)

The participation of local and regional governments (LRGs) in the achievement of the SDGs is a key challenge in the Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) region. Turkey was the principal MEWA nation to present a Voluntary National Review Report (VNR) first in 2016, and then in 2019. 2nd Report of 2019 demonstrates the status of progress concerning the SDGs. Turkey favors initiating and checking SDGs with an all-encompassing methodology, by incorporating them into National Development Plans (NDPs). The SDGs were incorporated into the 11<sup>th</sup> NDP, which covers the period between 2019 and 2023. Since the UN Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio in 1992, Turkey has adopted the idea of manageable advancement in its NDPs, which signifies the highest level of the political framework.

The Presidency of Strategy and Budget under the President's Office is responsible for preparing both the NDPs and the VNRs. The Presidency is collaborating with local governments, public institutions, NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector while monitoring and reporting the progress of Turkey concerning the SDGs.

Like other countries, in Turkey, achieving the SDGs necessitates creative practices and arrangements, including particularly the foundation of multilateral organizations and expansion of financial resources. Thus, there is a need to gain the support of NGOs, the private sector, local actors, and global financial institutions accompanied by public resources (Wright, 2018).

However, financial resources are not enough to achieve the SDGs. Achieving the SDGs requires awareness and involvement of public institutions, the private sector, the NGOs, and academia. For this reason, the government of Turkey aimed at the widest participation concerning the achievement of the SDGs. In this context, it can be claimed that the local governments have an essential role in the implementation of the SDGs, since they are offering services directly to the citizens. Even though the activities of the local governments are related to the SDG 11, “the remit of local administrations includes a range of targets under various goals including education, healthcare, urban infrastructure services, climate change, and eradication of poverty.” (UN, 2021)

In Turkey, the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) is responsible for coordinating the local governments. UMT put forward the link between the project of the local governments and the SDGs. It was proposed that projects linked to SDG 3, SDG 6, SDG 10, and SDG 11 are instrumental regarding the localization of the SDGs. Yet, UMT also initiates some projects related to SDG 4, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 13, SDG 16, and SDG 17. In addition, UMT has made efforts to create awareness concerning the SDGs through booklets and posters. (Wright, 2018)

Regarding the localization of the SDGs, we need to mention that few individual municipalities associated their five-year strategic plans with the SDGs. Another problem related to the localization of the SDGs, for UMT, is that SDG implementation by municipalities is not being facilitated by access to international or other funding sources (Wright, 2018).

Despite these problems in terms of implementation of the SDGs at the local level, the activities of the local governments of Turkey are in line with the SDGs. They are meeting the needs of social, economic, and environmental needs of citizens, such as “clean water and sanitation services, waste collection and disposal, organization of economic life at the local level, transportation, healthcare services, and education” (2nd VNR). Thus, local governments are playing a significant role concerning the implementation of SDGs. Further, they are focusing on broadening their activities in this direction, with an attention to the significance of sustainable development.

Although achieving sustainable development goals is considered from a financial point of view, awareness is the main factor in achieving the goals. With this in mind, I attended the Peninsula Strategic Planning as a Urla Municipality council membership during the period 2009-2014; in this way, I developed the awareness of how important it was that local governments should implement the concept of sustainable development, and why this is important from the local level to international and national levels, on a global scale. In the next chapter, we will examine the activities of Urla Municipality between 2014 and 2019 concerning the implementation of the SDGs at the local level.

## CHAPTER 5: THE CASE OF URLA MUNICIPALITY

Recently, cities have become more visible in the democratic debate. The city is also one of the first social groupings open to all outsiders, unlike the village or the clan, causing evident dynamic effects. Cities have always promoted meeting, sharing, and innovation (Martin-Vaz, 2017, p. 15).

Since UCLG represents all forms of local government, cities are categorized by size and structure to form common and differentiated approaches:

1. Regions, towns, and small municipalities
2. Intermediary cities
3. Peripheral and metropolitan cities

Each category is distinct and faces different challenges. Not only do cities differ in size between and within the categories, but each city is also a unique complex phenomenon with its own economic, environmental, and social processes and structures, set in and built upon a particular cultural context and historical background. When approaching problems at a local level it is important to fully consider the contextual, structural, institutional, and human resource conditions so that local authorities can successfully implement the SDGs. According to the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs should be implemented based on transparency, inclusiveness, and participation (Saner et al., 2017). Local governments need to cooperate with local partners such as NGOs, the private sector, and other local governments for the implementation of the SDGs. In addition, the citizens must feel that their voices will be heard, and this makes implementations transparent.

In Urla, categorized as an intermediary city by UCLG, these important principles were used for the implementation of the SDGs. The increasing agglomeration of metropolitan cities means that, there are now a growing number of connecting cities, between rural areas and major cities, defined as intermediary cities,.

The activities of local governments are directly related to the well-being of citizens. There is a positive correlation between well-being of citizens and local competencies. That's why, local governments are the first actors in providing services to the people concerning the challenges that they experience in their daily lives. As local governments are closest to the people, they are the institution responsible for taking precautions according to their territory's needs. Therefore,

there is no single solution to problems, and every city should deal with these challenges according to its unique structure.

Local governments should address various social groups seeking different social treatment and actions. Competences refer to responsibilities and powers formally bestowed by law, but local governments, as enablers of society's needs, have only limited resources while the citizens' demands are limitless. The quality of public services at the local level also shows the quality of government at all levels. Therefore, diversity of political cooperation and dialogue is essential. There should be a flexible and coordinated system at all levels of government starting from the local level. The support of the political leadership is known to be crucial to responsive, reflective, and accountable local government, and successful cooperation is virtually impossible without it (Walsh et al., 2008).

As mayor of Urla, an intermediary city, I was aware that it is impossible to achieve sustainable development without balancing local needs with resources. Cities are the main actors for sustainable development, therefore ensuring a balance across the region is important. The continuity of the eco-responsible system in Urla is the major goal of the municipality. An integrated approach to city management make cities more resilient to challenges. The well-being of citizens and all forms of living should be prioritized. We believe that Urla's authentic way of life and unique character with its assets and potential on the same ecosystem should be protected and developed, and to this end, many projects were carried out together with the elected city council. In this way, all stakeholders living in Urla were involved in the decision-making processes, as well as included in the management with an understanding of transparency and accountability. The historical and cultural heritage was transferred to future generations by restoration and renovation projects. Since agriculture is one of Urla's most important assets, priority was given to the villages' values. Efforts have been made to ensure reverse migration. We prioritized rural development with the support of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality.

**The main agricultural support provided in Urla are as follows:**

1. Distribution of bees, hives, and necessary equipment within the scope of the project to encourage the production of honey and other alternative products in the region,

2. Distribution of Chios sheep and breeding coaches at the end of regular training within the scope of the Chios Sheep Breeding and dissemination project,
3. Distribution of storage cases within the scope of manufacturer support work,
4. Agricultural machinery support to the Urla District Chamber of Agriculture to support farmers who cannot buy the agricultural tools and machines they need due to the use of common machinery in agriculture, limited business size, and lack of capital,
5. Both project and 10% equity support to Urla Bademler and Kuşcular cooperatives aiming to present projects to apply for support from Izmir Development Agency:
  - Floor arrangement, vegetable market construction, landscaping, staff support, promotion support were provided to the Kuşcular cooperative;
  - landscaping, floor landscaping, olive oil plant landscaping, and canopy construction are provided by the Bademler cooperative.
6. As part of the project to promote new products and systems in the region in vegetable growing activities, producers were provided with 16200 tomatoes, peppers and aubergine, 23 kg red onion, 59000 red lettuce and purple cauliflower, beans and black bean seeds,
7. Distribution of 33005 fruit saplings (pear, quince, almond, Mulberry, apple, plum, apricot, cherry, peach, cherry, olive) between 2009-2016 within the scope of the project to overcome problems in fruit production and develop alternative production systems,
8. 470 soil analyses were conducted in Urla within the scope of the project of growing the appropriate crop for the soil and identifying the soil on farms,
9. Distributed 33 specially designed market stalls to Urla farmers so that producers with limited opportunities can sell their natural products in the village squares, instead of taking them to a market,
  - Kuşcular village, two market constructions
  - Kadiovacık village, producer market,
10. Barbaros village of Urla was given training in basic principles of organic agriculture, organic fruit and vegetable growing, fertilization, care operations, disease, and pest control, and eco-market subjects.. Analysis results of soil samples taken from the lands of those participating in the training, followed by fertilization according to their products,, with practical as well as technical support for each product were provided to 20 new producers.

11. In 2016, Strawberry Fields were created with 3 female producers for the first time in Urla, to make use of fragmented agricultural land, and experiment with different varieties in the region. 20 thousand strawberry seedlings were planted.

12. The number of strawberry producers receiving support in 2017-2018 increased to 28. 25 seedling supports were provided so those producers could produce on a 1-acre area, as well as mulching machines, and mulching nylon. In the plantings that started in October 2017, we supported the farmers in everything from field preparation to agricultural support.

13. In 2018-2019, the number of supports increased to 43. With 15 new producers, the plantings beginning in October 2018 provided everything from field preparation to agricultural support.

14. To benefit from unused agricultural land and try different varieties in the region, Urla also created asparagus demonstration areas with 4 producers for the first time in spring 2018. Asparagus seedlings and soil were provided after the necessary preparations and analyzing the farmers' soil.

15. Training was given to Urla's Farmers by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality agricultural engineers and Aegean University academics on cooperative production of kopanisti (traditional cheese), other cheese, vegetables, and fruit, organic agriculture, good agriculture, hygiene, outdoor marketing, early olives, medical plants, and ornamental plants.

16. A gene map of Palm Olives (*Hurma zeytin*) was extracted. Experts from the Department of the Microbiology of the Izmir Institute of Advanced Technology provided the gene map of Palm Olives, and it was possible to add a very special variety of Palm olives to the olive variety of the Aegean region, and to obtain the geographical indication of Palm olives. Geographical Indication studies are ongoing.

The Urla Municipality was concerned with agricultural development. For its products to be more efficient and better quality, training was given to the farmers and especially to rural women. In addition, to develop cooperatives and increase a sense of unity in the countryside, cooperatives training was given. To increase rural development and preserve existing traditions, training was conducted on home boarding and rural tourism.

Because of the importance to agricultural development, the producer markets were established so that producers in Urla can sell their products on-site without intermediaries. This involved establishing producer markets in Iskele, Torossian,

Kadıovacık and Kuşçular village squares. Kuşçular Cooperative cold air facility was provided for the market place. Producer stalls were constructed in the villages of Urla so that farmers could increase earnings by marketing their products without intermediaries.

The Urla Municipality organized some festivals that would support the farmers' production and thus, avoid the need to sell their land. These festivals were organized to promote Urla's values, highlight local products, and stimulate rural tourism. Along with these festivals, Urla developed brands, without losing its rural identity. Thanks to traditional festivals, farmers of Urla started to produce high-value agricultural products. It is believed that every festival leaves permanent contributions to development.

In 2015, the first international Urla Artichoke Festival was organized by Izmir Metropolitan Municipality, Urla Municipality, Izmir University of Economics, and the Réseau Délice World Gourmet Cities Association. For five years, the festival attracted increasing attention from producers and consumers due to the recognition of the city, rural development, and the growing gastronomic tourism industry.

Artichoke brand value was achieved. Meetings were held with all stakeholders, decisions were made and implemented. Urla Gum Artichoke was given a geographical indication and introduced to the world. Urla's artichoke producer's revenue increased by 275%. In 2018, artichoke production reached 35 million units. All the citizens of Urla, including women and students, and particularly, farmers, benefited from the festivals. In addition, the rich culinary culture of Urla came to the fore. Efforts were made to ensure reverse migration. Every year, the Gastronomy Tourism Summit was held in combination with the artichoke festival.

In the Kuşçular neighborhood, a "Multi-Purpose Cold Storage" facility was established to increase the agricultural production capacity in the region. This project of Kuşçular Village Agricultural Development Cooperative was supported by Urla Municipality. It was entitled to a grant from the IDA, in which Urla Municipality was participating as a partner and member of the advisory board. During the installation of the cold air facility, the assigned personnel made the necessary correspondence between Izmir Metropolitan Municipality (IMM) and IDA, and official procedural work was accelerated. Urla Municipality directorate was responsible for landscaping of the building, marketplace, groundwork, licensing, training, and Hall allocation for farmers.



Urla Municipality provided the necessary training on good agricultural practices and ecological production and development projects for the farmers, supporting them at every stage of production.

Within the framework, farmer visits to Urla Municipality aimed at providing technical assistance and consultancy for the product within the district boundaries related to agricultural services on the ground by carrying out the necessary infrastructure, research and project work to meet farmers specific needs. It also wanted to prepare educational programs, with the support of universities, about products grown within the borders of Urla district, and providing farmers with new technologies, and information about the conservation and sustainability of environmentally-sensitive natural resources. In addition, increasing the diversity of agricultural products by providing alternative crop cultivation training to increase the standard of living in the Urla district was another target of Urla Municipality.

Urla Municipality visited Headmen in order to ensure that the inventory of agricultural areas in the Urla district is carried out and updated annually; to provide planning, development, support, supervision, and coordination of tasks in agricultural production areas; and too provide information, educational services, and organizing events for farmers by the Directorate of Headman affairs, regarding the production process aimed at the development of agriculture within the municipal borders.

### **Management by Gender Perspective**

As a citizen of Turkey who signed the “European Charter for equality of men and women in local life”, and the first female mayor of the municipality, established in 1866, I found that the values and norms set out in the Charter are very important for our strategic planning. They are also in perfect harmony with the values of the founder of the Republic of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Many projects are implemented at the local level and for promoting women’s participation in social life. The main objective was good governance, which should address gender equality, social inclusion, safety, and security of women in all aspects of life. It is impossible to achieve sustainable development without considering the values and specific security needs of women and girls. Article 21 of the European Charter for Equality states that every woman and man should be safe and secure in the private or public domain, and the different needs of men and women should be

addressed to eliminate unsafe and insecure places. Articles 22 and 23 are also crucial from the security perspective. However, to sustain safe public domains for women, local governments need to consider the structure of the society. A region can be managed by gender perspective through:

1. Allocating the budget (Resources)
2. Labour force
3. Empowering women's civil society organizations
4. Considering gender perspective in every aspect of municipal services including infrastructure, parks, and urban planning
5. Maintaining the sustainability of the eco-responsible system
6. Setting an example not only for women, but also for men
7. Changing the way women are perceived, making women more visible

Equality between men and women is a fundamental right. Women's empowerment can be achieved through using and respecting the existing ecosystem, culture, and history of the territory. The gender perspective is multidimensional, and with single intervention, it is a way of thinking which should be applied all aspects of life, not only projects specifically for women or aimed at positive discrimination (Sibel Uyar, 2016)

In addition, even talking about gender perspective, the understanding is coming from male-dominated approaches. The meaning and definition of a gender perspective is limited to women educations, without involving men. It is important to find a way of understanding gender, again it is impossible to talk about gender equality if still women are excluded from certain levels at the society, such as being a mayor. To gain the position of mayor, women need to work at least twice as much as men, and receive at least twice as much criticism as men.

We had to focus on the strengths of our territories with the understanding of gender equality, it was not possible in the short-term but it was possible to change perspective in the long run by making women visible in every aspect of the society: women should be empowered economically, socially and culturally. It necessitates collective work; in Urla women and men worked hand in hand to achieve this aim. It was believed that working in harmony with men is essential; without the cooperation of men, one leg of the table would be missing.

This did not mean that there was no positive discrimination. Firstly, the Women and Family Services Directorate was established. Turkey's 2nd VNR report 2019 focuses on the "Gender-Sensitive Planning and Budgeting in Turkey" Project to create awareness and ownership among politicians and bureaucrats on public policies, plans, programs, and budget processes for promoting gender equality in central and local governments; to enhance institutional capacities and ensure sustainability. Gender Response Budget was prepared to ensure equality between men and women in budget allocation. Moreover, Women's organizations were supported.

The foundation of women cooperative was established for empowering women both economically and socially. Vocational education centers provide vocational training to equip women with income-generating vocational skills for women who wanted to improve themselves. In addition, women who participate in these programs are advised on various services such as civil marriage, scholarships, and aid in kind.

As it is mentioned, agriculture is one of Urla's most important assets. Women were encouraged to use these assets effectively, for example, by planting agricultural products with high market values, and by municipal work to encourage them to be involved in society. To ensure women's active participation in the economy and increase their employment, training was provided on how to use information technologies and the internet safely and with awareness. In addition, "Digital Literacy" training programs were organized in collaboration with the private sector to ensure the effective use of opportunities and resources provided by digital technologies. Having examined the priorities of Urla Municipality between 2014 and 2019, we can discuss the activities of the municipality regarding the achievement of SDGs. We can propose that Urla Municipality concentrated mainly on SDGs 3, 5, and 11.

### **Activities of Urla Municipality to Achieve the SDGs 3**

Urla Municipality Sports Club was established. Young athletes can receive training in various branches such as football, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, golf, gymnastics, and basketball for the disabled. Courses, Summer Schools opened. In the district centers open to all children in our neighborhoods, there were courses such as

chess, mind games, hobbies, arts, sports, English, mathematics, and after-school studies, thus contributing significantly to the children's mental and physical development. Athletics Track and Football Field were renewed; the physical conditions of the stadium were improved. Artificial Grass was laid, changing rooms were renovated, and FIFA standards applied.

### **Activities of Urla Municipality to Achieve the SDG 5**

Above we have examined the Urla Municipality's position on the gender issue, now we can list its activities to achieve SDG 5 Gender Equality. These activities are as follows:

- Women were positively discriminated, to overcome gender inequality.
- Directorate of Women and Family Services was established.
- The Producer Women's Cooperative was established.
- 9 district centers were opened throughout the district, vocational education; entrepreneurship courses were given to women: About 3000 women were given vocational training, entrepreneurship, and leadership and special interest courses.
- Gender-sensitive budget prepared.
- A nursery was opened for the children of our municipal staff.
- Markets were opened for female producers.

### **Activities of Urla Municipality to Achieve the SDG 11**

The activities listed below are directly related to SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, which seeks to make cities and human settlements inclusive, secure, resilient, and sustainable, and to place cities at the center of sustainable development in an urbanizing world. Our main goal was to create sustainability based on an authentic lifestyle and all its assets (people, animals, green spaces, heritage, culture, and lifestyle), and allowing people to live with dignity.

Horizontal structuring was preserved in Urla, and the number of green areas and parks increased. Beach areas were renewed to enable residents of Urla to benefit from the sea. Urla Municipal Conservatory was established, thus enabling

disadvantaged groups to engage with art and receive training in any branch of art regardless of their age and social status. Renovation projects. For the first time in Turkey, the State Theatre stage was opened in a regional district

### **Urla Municipality's partnerships between International Institutions:**

As an individual member of UCLG MEWA, Urla was focused on effectively contributing to a worldwide association, which existed alongside global foundations, public governments, common society, the private sector, and, obviously, Local, and territorial governments. Furthermore, it continued to utilizing global stages to support the capability of Local activity to drive improvement, and to call for appropriate legal and monetary systems to help all neighborhood and local governments in contributing to the accomplishment of this goal-oriented, coordinated, and all-inclusive plan.(Local 2030, 2021)

Urla Municipality became a member of the (European Council of Municipalities and Regions) political committee. It was nominated for CEMR in the 2018 European Woman Awards organized by the International Women's Movement and the European Women's Lobby. It signed the European Charter of Equality between Men and Women in Local Life. It was selected to participate in the World Women's Forum of United Cities and Local Governments World Organization on behalf of the Middle East and West Asia region. This gave it the right to evaluate the decisions and management of the World organization in the context of gender equality.

It organized the Sustainable Development Goals Action Plan Workshop. In line with the results, the management model of Urla Municipality led to it being defined as an Eco-responsible city, and it was chosen as the coordinator city municipality, to share their experiences as an example to other municipalities. It participated in world forums, in which the case of Urla Municipality and its implementations were described to a wider audience.

In order to have comprehensive account of the activities of Urla Municipality regarding the achievement of SDGs, we will evaluate the results of the Urla's workshop on Sensitizing and Monitoring the 2030 Agenda Implementation organized by UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum and the UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Working Group from the 15th-18th of March 2018 at the Urla Municipality.

UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities has the mission of monitoring the actions of the Intermediary Cities concerning the implementation of the SDGs, and has organized workshops that aim at demonstrating how Cities should carry out implementations. In addition, local Best Practices and solutions from the grounds are presented at the World Forum of Intermediary Cities.

Urla Municipality gave an expression of interest in organizing a workshop together with the UCLG Forum of Intermediary Cities, to increase its understanding of the implementation of the SDGs and mapping of the activities of Urla Municipality. The workshop report was presented at the World Forum of Intermediary Cities in Chefchaouen, Morocco on 5-7 July 2018, as illustrations of local best practices and solutions.

Before discussing the results of the workshop, it is important to give information about the objectives, expected results, and the target and working group of the workshop.

**The objectives of this workshop were:**

- Training on Global Agendas, especially SDGs, and revealing how to simultaneously think “implementation” and “resilience”
- Monitoring: an instrument to report the progress of the actions & advancement, and how to use the instrument to monitor them
- Mapping the actions of the municipalities for the current term
- Generating a new kind of dialogue between all the stakeholders in the development of the city: understanding more clearly what needs to be done.

**Expected Results & Outcomes were:**

- Classification – Envisioning the current state of the city:
  - Determining a classification of the actions through the criteria of sustainability & the SDGs, and orientation of the targets of the city actions
  - Creating a Mapping of the municipal actions on the city/territory
- Instrument for Dialogue:
  - Creating a simple instrument and tool that will allow communication with their citizenship and/or urban actors & partners on:

The actions are driven,

The vision of the city,

The implementation driven

- Having a simple instrument that will allow monitoring of the municipality actions and their progress

- Common Vision through urban expertise:

Identifying the most relevant development axis for a “Urla 2030”, on which the city can determine its strategy to ‘stay’ and ‘think resilient’

The target and working group were:

- Local administrators in the municipality : manager, technical team, urban planning department, project department, etc.

- Locally elected people: mainly from Urla, although the municipality is free to invite elected persons from the cities around Urla, which is recommended ,in view of the urban structure around the city

- Local civil society representatives

- Other representatives & urban actors invited by the municipality, in connection with the cultural, social, economic, or environmental spheres, , or human development.

## **The results of the workshop**

The analysis showed that most projects were approached with an integrated vision. Each one had different components and dimensions. 127 actions of Urla Municipality were analyzed during the workshop through 3 instruments:

1. The capitals of sustainability
2. The Sustainable Development Goals
3. The urban repartition of these actions through the Mapping methodology

### **1. Through the Capitals of sustainability**

As a reminder: The analysis was structured around the 5 capitals of sustainability: economic, social, cultural, environmental, and human. It aimed to determine which capital was impacted by each action.

### Analysis of short-term actions:

Table 1. Short Term Actions (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

Short Term Actions				
ECONOMIC	SOCIAL	CULTURAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	HUMAN
7	18	13	22	41

Human capital appears at the heart of the responsibility of the actions. The notion of responsibility is again shown, enhancing the “life” empowerment as the primary concern in generating actions and policies. Social & Culture & Environmental are linked and balanced in the relevance of the activities. This balance shows how the actions link these 3 dimensions, illustrating the integrated action and/or integrated approach. Economic appears not to be the primary concern when approaching the empowerment of the territory in short term. This means that the initial meaning attributed to the actions is not economically driven.

### Analysis of medium-term actions:

Table 2. Medium-term Actions (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

Medium-term Actions				
ECONOMIC	SOCIAL	CULTURAL	ENVIRONMETAL	HUMAN
18	21	5	5	12

Social & economic appear to be the target aimed at: the actions target humanitarian goals providing a social recognition and identity, as well as economic results, and the social and economic are linked, strengthening social cohesion. Cultural & Environmental are already ‘unfolding’ through the short-term actions, allowing them to become the “subjects” of the social and economic activities. In



relation to human capital, it is stated that the meaning of this responsibility has been already raised, and is being developed.

**Analysis of long-term actions:**

Table 3. Long Term Actions (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

Long term Actions				
ECONOMIC	SOCIAL	CULTURAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	HUMAN
9	3	1	2	0

The economic aspect appears because of the short and medium-term actions. It has been the focal target since the beginning, but it is natural empowerment that began with/through human empowerment: having a social identity through environmental and cultural focused oriented actions can be referred to as building the territorial Local Economic Development (LED). Social & Cultural & Environmental are Foundations to build upon the LED: memory & heritage, social cohesion, and sustainability

The result displayed above highlighted the specific SDGs that were impacted by the different actions as follow:

Short term actions: SDG: 3 – 5 – 8 – 10 – 12

Medium term actions: SDG: 11 - 13 – 15 - 14

Long term actions: SDG: 8 - 10 - 1

Later, each participant completed a note of the actions, identifying which SDG was addressed through the action. This tab was only answered by the participants, and brought the following results:

Table 4. Project and Activity (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

NO	PROJECT-ACTIVITY	SDGs
1.	Neighborhood Houses	4
2.	Producer Women's Market	1
3.	Women's Initiative Production and Business Cooperative	5
4.	Vocational Courses for Women	5
5.	Artistic, cultural and sports courses for children	3
6.	Courses for Disabled Citizens	4 et 10
7.	Children's Playroom	3
8.	Restoration of Hersekzade Ahmet Pasha Bath	11
9.	Samut Baba Tomb and Landscaping Construction Work	11
10.	Arditi Mansion Restoration	11
11.	Malgaca-Arasta Region Street Rehabilitation	11
12.	Uzbek Bath Restoration	11
13.	Baliklioiva Recreation Area	11
14.	Pier Sand Sea	11
15.	Mini Square- Park Kave	11
16.	Zeytinalani Cultural Center	11
17.	Children's Nursing Home	3
18.	Renovation of Urla Stadium	11
19.	Özgür Özmen Park	11
20.	Tarık Akan Park	11
21.	Iskele Center and Coastal Landscaping Project (Tanju Okan Park, Iskele Outdoor Sports Hall)	11
22.	Pier Marketplace	8
23.	Denizli Indoor Sports Hall	11
24.	Community Center (Morteks)	3 et 11
25.	Sira Mahallesi Park	11
26.	Sadi Usta Park	11
27.	1050 Street Park	11
28.	BeyazevlerPark	11
29.	12 Eylül ÇamlıkPark	11
30.	Postane Sokak ve Zafer CaddesiStreet Rehabilitation Work Ist Stage	11
31.	DenizliMahallesiSemteviand landscaping work (Kocadere)	11
32.	KamanlıKulliyeYahşibey Turkish Bath and FountainRestoration Work	11
33.	Rehabilitation of Tabaklar Creek and Surrounding Streets	11
34.	8 Wooden Scaffolding Works	11

Table 4. Project and Activity (Continued)

35.	Construction Site Building	11
36.	544 Evler Sports Facility Construction Work	3
37.	Solar Park Construction Work	11
38.	Uzbek Square Arrangement Construction Work	11
39.	Pier Fishing Shelter Landscaping Work	11 et 14
40.	Uzbek Coastal Arrangement	11
41.	City Council Building renovation work	11
42.	Municipal Service Building construction work	11
43.	Strawberry Production	1 et 12
44.	Producer Markets in Villages	12
45.	Soil analysis	15
46.	Festivals for Agricultural Development	8
47.	Asparagus Production	12
48.	Dog Rehabilitation and Grooming Center Renovation	11 et 15 et 17
49.	8 parks are planned	11
50.	95,354 plants were planted throughout the district	13
51.	25 automatic irrigation systems were installed for stray animals	11
52.	Amount of Domestic Waste Collected 33,590 tons	6 et 11
53.	Recycled collected waste 4,000 tons	6 et 11 et 12 et 15
54.	Total amount of glass bottles 3,000 tons	6 et 11 et 12 et 15
55.	Amount of Waste Oil Collected 3 tons	15
56.	Amount of Waste Battery Collected 850 kg	6
57.	Plant production in greenhouse 21,748 units	11
58.	District-wide Germinated Area 7.701 m2	11
59.	Afforestation throughout the District 523 units	11
60.	Pruning 1290 pieces	11
61.	Establishment of Automatic Irrigation System 22 units	17
62.	Catering agent service	6 et 11
63.	Beach Cleaning	11
64.	School and Mosque cleaning	11
65.	İŞKUR service	11
66.	Beach arrangement	4
67.	Asphalting of Roads	2 et 3 et 8 et 11 et 12 et 17
68.	Municipal Conservatory	11
69.	Seed Exchange Festival	11
70.	New road construction	11
71.	Parquet laying	11
72.	Border Laying	11
73.	Paving	11
74.	Paint Jobs	11
75.	Electrical work	11
76.	Assembly Works	11

Table 4. Project and Activity (Continued)

77.	Repairs and renovations	<b>11</b>
78.	Welding works	<b>11</b>
79.	Carpenter works	<b>11</b>
80.	Maintenance and repair of service tools	<b>11</b>
81.	Maintaining existing parks	<b>11</b>
82.	Social Market	<b>1</b>
83.	Courses for all age groups	<b>3</b>
84.	Women Advisory and Solidarity	<b>5</b>
85.	Urla's Sprouts	<b>3</b>
86.	Necati Cumali Commemoration	<b>11 et 17</b>
87.	Martyr Fethi Sekin Enduro Races	<b>3</b>
88.	Streetball Tournament	<b>3</b>
89.	Tanju Okan Anmave Sailing Races	<b>3 et 11 et 17</b>
90.	Kite festival	<b>3</b>
91.	Samut Father Memorial	<b>3 et 11</b>
92.	World OliveDay	<b>3 et 11 et 12</b>
93.	Klazomenai Orienteering Championship	<b>3</b>
94.	Necati Cumali Memorial and Culture House	<b>11</b>
95.	Ataturk Cultural Center	<b>11</b>
96.	Photo Art House	<b>11</b>
97.	Education for women	<b>5</b>
98.	Organizing events	<b>3</b>
99.	Rehabilitation of stray animals	<b>11 et 15</b>
100.	Ensuring peace and well-being	<b>16</b>
01.	Renewal of the municipality website	
102.	Use of internal and external software, hardware and internet	<b>3 et 9 et 11 et 17</b>
103.	Oriented applications	<b>4 et 9</b>
104.	Performing purchasing services effectively	<b>12</b>
105.	Legal protection of the rights and interests of the administration	<b>17</b>
106.	Control of land and structures	<b>16</b>
107.	Licensing and Progress Affairs	<b>17</b>
108.	Detection of illegal structures	<b>16</b>
109.	Execution of personnel pay and personal affairs	<b>8</b>
110.	Training planning and realization	<b>4</b>
111.	Cash assistance in kind to disadvantaged groups	<b>10</b>
112.	Written and visual press works	<b>4</b>
113.	InstitutionPerformance Program	-
114.	Institution Activity Report	-
115.	Institutional Strategic Plan	-
116.	Institution Public Internal Control Standards Action Plan	-
117.	Accrual and Collections	-
118.	Budgeting	-
119.	Accountants	<b>8</b>
120.	Pre-Financial Control Affairs	-
121.	size settings	-
122.	Mukhtar Information System	-
123.	Numbering Works	-
124.	Map application activities	-
125.	Zoning activities	-
126.	Workplace Licensing	-

Table 4. Project and Activity (Continued)

127.	Marriage services	-
------	-------------------	---

It can be seen from the table that some actions taken by the Municipality of Urla in certain years are visibly related to the SDGs. It should not be forgotten that the effects of the problems due to globalization have spread to other areas, and therefore the solutions have become related to each other. In this context, it is natural to observe that a solution action can serve more than one purpose. The achievement of the determined targets by the Actions of the Municipalities, when considered from the point of view of glocalization today, continue to affect not only the solutions related to those targets.

Table 5. Project-Activity Details (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

NO	PROJECT-ACTIVITY	YEARS	Completion (%)	ECONOMIC	SOCIAL	CULTURAL	ENVIRONMENTAL	HUMAN
1.	District Centers*	2014	100	3	2			1
2.	Productive Women Market	2014	100	2			3	1
3.	Women Entrepreneurship Production and Management Cooperative	2014	100	1	2			
4.	Vocational courses for women	2014	100					1
5.	Art, culture and sports courses for children	2014	100		2			1
6.	Courses for disabled people	2014	100		2			1
7.	Community based children game rooms	2015	100		2			1
8.	Hersekzade Ahmet Paşa Turkish Bath restoration	2016	100	2		1		
9.	Samut Baba Tomb restoration and landscape project	2016	100		2	1		
10.	Arditi Mansion (Restoration is under construction)	2017	60		2	1		
11.	Malgaca - Arasta area protection improvement of streets	2015	50	2	3	1		
12.	Restoration of Özbek Turkish Bath	2018	10					
13.	Balıklıova Village Recreation area	2017	100		2		1	
14.	Iskele Sand Beach	2016	100	2			1	

Table 6. Project-Activity Details (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021) (Continued)

15.	Mini-square	2017	100	2	1			
16.	Culture Center in Zeytinaları District	2016	100			1		
17.	Child day care center	2017	70	3	2			1
18.	Renovation of Urla Stadium	2017	100		1			
19.	Özgür Özmen Park	2017	100				1	
20.	Tarık Akan Park	2017	100				1	
21.	Tanju Okan Park ( Iskele District and coastal arrangement )	2017	20	3	2	1		
22.	Iskele district marketplace	2017	10	1				
23.	Denizli District Indoor Sports Hall	2017	10		2			1
24.	Community Center Building	2017	10		2			1
25.	SıraMahallesi Park	2017	100		2			1
26.	Sadi Usta Park	2017	100		2			1
27.	1050 Street Park	2017	100		2			1
28.	Beyazevler Park	2017	100		2			1
29.	12 Eylül Çamlık Park	2017	100		2			1
30.	Postane Street Zafer Road, Street, and Frontal Improvement Construction Work 1.Stage	2016	100	2		1		
31.	Denizli District Center and Enviromental Arrangement (Kocadere)	2017	10	2	1			

Table 7. Project-Activity Details (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021) (Continued)

32.	Restoration of Kamanlı Islamic Ottoman Social Complex, Yahşibey Turkish bath and water fountain	2017	10			1		2
33.	Improvement of Tabaklar Stream and Streets and Environment	2018	10			2	1	
34.	8 Wooden Pier Construction Work	2017	35		2			1
35.	Field Office Construction Work	2018	10				1	2
36.	544 Evler District Spor Complex	2018	10	2			1	
37.	Solar Park	2019	0				1	
38.	Özbek Square Arrangement Construction Work	2018	10		1			
39.	Iskele Fishing Port and Environmental Arrangement	2018	10		1		2	
40.	Özbek Coastal Arrangement	2017	25		1		2	
41.	City Council Building Renovation	2018	70			1		
42.	Construction of Municipality building	2019	0					1
43.	Strawberry Plantation Project	2017	100	1	2		3	
44.	Producer markets in villages	2014	70	1			2	
45.	Soil Analysis	2014	60				1	2
46.	Festivals for agricultural development**	2014	100	1	1	1	1	1
47.	Asparagus plantation project	2017	10	1	2			
48.	Renovation of dog shelter / health center	2017	100		1			2



Table 8. Project-Activity Details (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021) (Continued)

49.	8 new parks planning to open	2018	0		1			
50.	95.354 plants are planted	2017	100		2		1	
51.	25 automatic water places for street animals	2017	100		1			2
52.	Collected domestic waste: 33.590 ton	2017	100	3			1	2
53.	Collected packaging waste: 4.000 ton	2017	100	3			1	2
54.	Collected glass waste: 3.000 ton	2017	100	3			1	2
55.	Collected waste oil: 3 ton	2017	100	3			1	2
56.	Collected waste batteries: 850 kg	2017	100	3			1	2
57.	Plant Productions 21.748 pcs.	2017	100	1		3	2	
58.	Grassed Fields 7.701 m2	2017	100	2			1	
59.	Forestation 523 pcs.	2017	100	2			1	
60.	Tree Trimming 1290 pcs.	2017	100				1	2
61.	Automatic Turf Irrigation System 22 pcs.	2017	100	2			1	
62.	Catering Services	2017	100		3	2		1
63.	Cleaning of Coasts	2017	100	3			1	2
64.	General Cleaning of Schools and Mosques	2017	100				2	1
65.	İŞKUR (Employment ) Department	2014	100	2				1
66.	Coastal Arrangement	2017	100					
67.	Asphalting Roads	2017	100					1

It was observed that, for many actions, the opinions converged, which demonstrates the value of citizens' opinions in analyzing the SDGs. Their opinion collective rather than 'personal' in most of the cases, which implies that the selected SDG was a real value for citizens, and an added value for the action of the municipality. Thus, when considering the SDGs, the governance should take into account the view of the civil society and actors of the territory in defining and justifying the targeted SDG. Policies can reorient or adjust through this ownership from citizens of the SDGs.

The result is as follows:

For the actions of Urla Municipality, the SDGs were prioritized as follows, from most relevant to least relevant: SDG 11, SDG 3, SDG 17, SDG 12, SDG 15, SDG 8 & 4, SDG 5, SDG 16 & 1, SDG 9 & 10

Table 9. SDGs and Repetitions (Source: UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

<b>SDG</b>	<b>Number of times repeated</b>
1	3
2	1
3	16
4	6
5	4
6	3
7	0
8	6
9	2
10	2
11	69
12	8
13	1
14	1
15	7
16	3
17	9

As expected, SDG 11 is first: it is directly linked to the city, and its design, sustainability resilience, safety, and sense of community. SDG 3 has been identified in the classification phase as a top goal in the short term. However, the priority of SDGs 3 & 17 show the significance given by the city to territorial actors “working together” to make actions sustainable in the medium and long term. Creating partnerships to build the city and its development is key for Urla, its future, and its citizens. It shows the sense of cohesion, and the capacity to build upon this social cohesion, making it the prime target when working to develop the city.

All these actions of Urla Municipality, which contributed to the achievement of SDGs to varying degrees, reveals the commitment to the sense of building the city through human empowerment. The actions of the Municipality contribute to Urla’s potential for improving the environment. In addition, the rural side is emphasized by this display across the territory, bringing benefits from the potential of the countryside, and strengthening this potential. Bringing people together around the projects contributes to human empowerment at the local level. In order to have comparative perspective, we will compare Urla Municipality and Seferihisar Municipality in the next section.

### ***5.1. Comparison of Urla Municipality and Seferihisar Municipality***

Seferihisar Municipality pointed to SDG 11 with a rate of 25.3%, emphasized SDG 12 with a rate of 10.9% and supported SDG 16 with a rate of 9.5%. Urla Municipality has maintained an active role in a narrow framework compared to its actions. The actions of Seferihisar Municipality were generally carried out within the scope of sub-targets such as restoration of places of worship, author's house workshops, village theaters, local food days, international festivals. The actions taken in this context are similar to those of Urla Municipality. Compared to the goals emphasized in Seferihisar Municipality, SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 11 were emphasized by Urla Municipality. As mentioned above, short-term actions of Urla Municipality were related to SDGs 3, 5, 8, 10, 12; medium term actions of the municipality were related to SDGs 11, 13, 15, 14; its long-term actions were related to SDGs 8, 10, 1. Therefore, we can propose that Urla Municipality had a wider perspective regarding the achievement of the SDGs. (UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

Seferihisar Municipality concentrated on SDG 12 which is not adopted by other municipalities. While Sustainable Agricultural Development ranks first for Seferihisar Municipality, the Economic and Social Area, which is SDG 11, is extremely important for Urla Municipality. While SDG 11 was emphasized 69 times in Urla Municipality. Both Seferihisar Municipality and Urla Municipality paid special attention to the sustainability of agriculture instead of industrialization. However, it has been observed that Seferihisar Municipality may be weaker than Urla Municipality in industry branches. In this context, we can state that while Urla Municipality has repeatedly emphasized SDG 11, Seferihisar Municipality has emphasized SDG 12. As a result, Seferihisar Municipality has taken a leading position regarding the achievement of SDG 12. (UCLG-MEWA, 2021)

SDG 16 was another important target of Seferihisar Municipality, where it is possible to see 8 actions. Although Urla Municipality does not emphasize SDG 16 that much, it is possible to see 3 actions. On the other hand, SDG 3 was emphasized 16 times in Urla Municipality. While the emphasis of Seferihisar Municipality was on SDGs 12 and 11, the emphasis of Urla Municipality was on SDGs 3, 11 and 17. In this context, it can be proposed that while there was a concentration on SDG 11 in both municipalities, Urla Municipality tripled Seferihisar Municipality in this area. As a result, it can be stated that both municipalities are acting as international actors since they are trying to achieve the global SDGs at local level.

## CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION

In this thesis, the existence of serious problems faced by humanity has been pointed out, and it was determined that these problems emerged from global and national challenges. These problems interact at the global and local levels, causing global and local effects, such as global financial crisis, environmental pollution, international terrorism and nuclear armament, and global warming. Although all these problems are global, their solutions need to be addressed locally. With the globalization process, the concept of nation-state has been replaced by strengthened local government. In this context, the problems faced by humanity must be perceived and solved locally, and there is a need of strengthening local governments. Here, the most important action task falls to municipalities, and their local implementations. Many of these tasks have been defined by the United Nations as Sustainable Development Goals.

In this context, it is important to emphasize the importance of SDGs created at the global level. These goals are needed because the objectives defined with the globalization process must be carried out by international organizations such as the United Nations. The UN, established after the Second World War, recommends holistic approaches in solving new problems together in the post-Cold War globalization period. The SDGs, determined accordingly, were designed to create local stabilization and economic opportunity, provide greater social well-being, and create environmental security

In the changing and developing world political scene, nation-states cannot be considered as a stand-alone actor in realizing these goals. With the developing conditions caused by urbanization, in addition to the globalization process, municipalities also have important duties in achieving sustainable development goals. In the comprehensive vision known as the 2030 Agenda, the future of world society and of our planet are determined within this transformation of power and duty. In this context, local authorities have been defined as a newly emerging actor by the UN. In this context, greater importance has been given to the power of local authorities as transnational actors, relative to the central government. Therefore, local authorities have been seen as an important tool in monitoring and solving the local manifestations of international problems parallel to intensification of globalization process.

This thesis aimed to investigate the local implementations of the specified SDGs. These local implementations have been followed by local authorities in line with the slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally". The local authority determined as the case of this thesis was Urla Municipality. In the thesis, I have examined Urla Municipality as the case study concerning the implementation of the SDGs during the period 2014-2019, when I assumed the Mayoralty of Urla Municipality. It is known that both bottom-up and top-down methods are required for the implementation of SDGs. Accordingly, to achieve these global and local goals, cities and states must also move upwards. This indicates the process of cooperation between local governments and central governments in achieving global goals. Moreover, this cooperation in practice can be seen as one of the most important consequences of glocalization process.

In this thesis, answers to the following research questions have been sought both in theoretical terms, and in the practical implementations of Urla Municipality: What is the role of local governments in achieving SDGs? Which SDGs are targeted by Urla Municipality? What activities and projects of Urla Municipality are linked to SDGs? The key research question is whether municipalities, acting in alignment with SDGs in the context of Glocalization theory, can become an international actor applying the concept of "think global, act local".

Methodologically, this study was defined as a qualitative case study. The case analysis involved a comprehensive literature review and secondary literature review. Sources and mostly primary data collection centers used in this context include United Nations Official Sites, United Cities Local Government (UCLG), United Municipalities of Turkey (UMT), and my observations during my mayoralty.

This thesis consists of four main chapters designed to allow a better understanding of the subject, divided according to theoretical, historical, and applied approaches. In this context, the introduction part provides an entrance to the subject, emphasizing the particular case. In this section, the importance of the subject, and its place in the global world were explained.

In the first chapter, the theoretical framework was emphasized. In this context, the distinction between globalization and localization was investigated, the theories were explained along with a discussion of the views of the theoretical advocates and followers. Accordingly, in this sense, the conflict between globalization and localization was shown as thesis and antithesis. Then the background of the

glocalization theory was explained as the blending of the localization and globalization process, which occurs when central governments lose their power after the globalization process. In this context, while thinking globally is a process that goes beyond localization, acting locally in solving global problems has transcended globalization, and as a result, the theory of glocalization has emerged. As a result, this chapter contained explanations of the perspective of the glocalization theory and provided the theoretical background of the implementation process for the SDGs of the Urla Case.

In the second chapter, the UN, an international organization in which has the goal of initiating both global and local applications, was considered as a global organization. In this section, it was explained that the UN Millennium Development Goals emphasize global social and economic problems. Also emphasized was the content of SDGs and their analysis in the context of glocalization. Finally, in this chapter, the role of local authorities was defined, and reference was made to the intergovernmental negotiations sponsored by the UN in this context.

In the third chapter, the establishment process of UCLG and the effects of this process were discussed. Accordingly, there was an explanation of the UCLG, the world's largest local and regional organization in the context of glocalization theories, and its importance for the solution of global problems. Accordingly, in this chapter, the localization of SGDs and UCLG were linked, and the roles of MEWA in this context were discussed. In addition, Turkey's successful efforts in realizing SGDs were highlighted, and its role in UMT was discussed in the context of local government coordination.

In the fourth chapter, the implementation of SDGs by Urla Municipality was discussed. Accordingly, the examination of the reports, and the analysis focused on matching actions with SDGs were provided. In this context, firstly the activities of Urla Municipality to achieve the SDGs are listed. Accordingly, the results of the workshop were analyzed by UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum and the UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Working Group in Urla, followed by a discussion of the result of the workshop organized by the UCLG Intermediary Cities Forum and UCLG-MEWA Intermediary Cities Working Group in Urla to monitor the implementation of the SDGs. And finally, in the concluding chapter, the study was summarized, and the findings were briefly presented again. Thus, the investigation of the case study was completed. As a result, it is claimed that the analysis of Urla

Municipality in relation to the implementation of global SDGs revealed the significance of the local governments that have been turned into international actors parallel to the intensification of glocalization process.





## REFERENCES

- A.Cohen, S. (1999) “Cairo-plus-five” review is finding political will strong, but funds lacking, The Guttmacher Report, Vol. 2(2), pp. 5-8
- Agyeman, J. (2020) *Local Environment and the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, Local Environment, Vol. 25(5), pp. 336-337.
- Akman, Ç. (2017) *Türkiye’de Yerel Yönetimlerin Uluslararası Kuruluşlara Üyelikleri Üzerine Bir Değerlendirme*, Süleyman Demirel Üniversitesi İktisadi ve İdari Bilimler Fakültesi Dergisi, Vol. 22(2), pp. 485-510.
- Akman, Ç. (2019) *Dünya Birleşmiş Kentler ve Yerel Yönetimler, Orta Doğu ve Batı Asya Teşkilatına (UCLG-MEWA) Üyelikler Üzerinden Bir Araştırma*, Manas Sosyal Araştırmalar Dergisi, Vol. 8(1), pp. 1221-1242.
- Boli, J. and Thomas, G. M. (1999) *Constructing World Culture. International Nongovernmental Organizations*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Stanford: Stanford University Press.
- Carlnaes, W., Risse, Th. and Simmons, B. (2002) *Transnational Actors and World Politics*. in: (eds.), pp. 255-273. Handbook of International Relations, London.
- Clark, H. (2017) *What Will it Take to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals?* [Online]. Journal of International Affairs, pp. 53-59. Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/44842600> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- Dator, J., Pratt, D. and Seo, Y. (2006) *What Is Globalization? Fairness, Globalization, and Public Institutions: East Asia and Beyond*, pp. 13-18. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press.
- Di Porto, E. and Paty, S. (2018) *Cooperation among Local Governments to Deliver Public Services*, Politics & Policy, Vol.46(5), pp. 790-820.
- Esselink, B. (2000) *A practical guide to localization*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Amsterdam: J. Benjamins Publishers.
- Gareis, S. and Varwick, J. (2003) *The United Nations*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, pp. 128-183
- How Glocalization Works* [Online]. (2021) Available at: <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/g/glocalization.asp> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- Jacobus, A. Du Pisani. (2007) *Environmental Essay, Sustainable development – historical roots of the concept*, school for Social and Government Studies, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa, Vol. 3(2), pp. 83-96.

- Jeffrey, D. and Sachs, J. (2012). *From Millennium Development Goals to Sustainable Development Goals* [Online]. Available at: [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(12\)60685-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(12)60685-0/fulltext) (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- Jiménez-Aceituno, A., Peterson, G., Norström, A., Wong, G. and Downing, A. (2019) *Local lens for SDG implementation: lessons from bottom-up approaches in Africa*, Sustainability Science, Vol. 15(3), pp. 729-743.
- Klein, H. (2004) *Understanding WSIS: An Institutional Analysis of the UN World Summit on the Information Society*. Information Technologies & International Development, Vol. 1(3-4), pp. 3-13.
- Kumar, S., Kumar, N. and Vivekadhish, S. (2016) *Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Addressing Unfinished Agenda and Strengthening Sustainable Development and Partnership*, Indiana J Community Med, Vol. 41(1), pp. 1-4.
- Marcel, M. (1988) *Sociologies des relations internationales*, L'Église catholique et les relations internationales. 1st edition. Edited by Paris Dalloz. France.
- Martins Vaz, D. and Reis, L. (2017) *From city-states to global cities: the role of cities in global governance*. E-journal of International Relations, Vol. 8(2), pp. 13-28.
- Milledge, S., Macqueen, D., Reeves, J. and Mayers, J. (2014) *International Institute for Environment and Development* [Online]. (Rep.). Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep01589> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- Nations, U., (2021) *United Nations Peace, dignity and equality on a healthy planet* [Online]. United Nations. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/> (Accessed: 10 September 2021).
- Politics.co.uk. (2021) *UK Local government structure -All you need to know* [Online]. Available at: <https://www.politics.co.uk/reference/local-government-structure/> (Accessed: 7 September 2021).
- Ritzer, G. (2003) *Rethinking Globalization: Glocalization / Globalization and Something/Nothing* [Online]. Sociological Theory, Vol. 21(3), pp. 193-209. Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3108635> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- Robertson, R. (1992) *Globalization: Social Theory and Global Culture*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. London.

- Robertson, R. (1994) *Globalization or glocalization*. The Journal of International Communication, Vol. 1(1), pp. 33–52.
- Rozhenkova, V., Allmang, S., StephanieL, Franken, D. and Heymann, J. (2019) *The role of comparative city policy data in assessing progress toward the urban SDG targets*. Cities, Vol. 95(1), pp. 94-122.
- Schwab, C., Bouckaert, G. and Kuhlmann, S. (Eds.). (2017) *The Future of Local Government in Europe: Lessons from Research and Practice in 31 Countries* [Online]. Baden-Baden, Germany: Nomos Verlags gesellschaftmbH. Available at: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctv941qjd> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- Söylemez, A. (2018) *A Comparison For Assessing Organizational Capacity Ability At Municipalities In Turkey (Case Of Istanbul and Ankara Metropolitan Municipalities)*, Social sciences studies journal, Vol. 4(20), pp. 2969-2973.
- Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. (2021) *United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Online]. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/rio20> (Accessed: 9 September 2021).
- UCLG. (2018) *Monitoring Implementation in the frame of the Global Agendas*, Urla Workshop & Report Firdaous Oussidhoum – Urban & Development Strategist - UCLG Expert, First World Forum Intermediary Cities, 5-7 July 2018.
- UCLG-MEWA (2021) *Mapping Workshop in Urla, an Outstanding Brand Intermediary City in Turkey* [Online] Available at: <http://uclg-mewa.org/mapping-workshop-in-urula-an-outstanding-brand-%C4%B1intermediary-city-in-turkey/> (Accessed: 10 September 2021).
- UCLG-MEWA, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri Türkiye Haritalandırması Pilot Projesi. [Online]. Available at: <http://uclg-mewa.org/surdurulebilir-kalkinma-hedefleri-turkiye-haritalandirmas%C4%B1-pilot-projesi/> (Accessed: 7 September 2021).
- UCLG-MEWA. (2021) *Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Hedefleri Türkiye Haritalandırması Pilot Projesi* [Online]. Available at: <http://uclg-mewa.org/surdurulebilir-kalkinma-hedefleri-turkiye-haritalandirmas%C4%B1-pilot-projesi/> (Accessed: 7 September 2021).
- UN FOUNDATION (2021) *The Sustainable Development Goals: What local governments need to know*. [Online]. Available at: <https://www.local2030.org/library/view/40> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).

- UN. (2021) *The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015* [Online]. Available at: [https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015\\_MDG\\_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- UN. (2021) *United Nations Conferences, Meetings, and Events* [Online]. Available at: [https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/millennium\\_summit.shtml](https://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/millennium_summit.shtml) (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- UN. (2021) *United Nations/Peace, dignity, and equality on a healthy planet* [Online]. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/> (Accessed: 7 September 2021).
- UN. (2021) *Voluntary National Reviews: Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform* [Online]. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/> (Accessed: 25 July 2021).
- W. McArthur, J. (2013) *Own the goals: What the Millennium Development Goals Have Accomplished*, Vol. 92(2), pp. 154-162.
- Walsh, P., Mc Gregor-Lowndes, M. and Newton, C.J. (2008) *Shared services: Lessons from the public and private sectors for the non-profit sector*, The Australian Journal of Public Administration, Vol. 67(2), pp. 200-212.
- Watanabe, M. (2020) *The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*, Bioscience, Vol. 70(3), pp. 205-212.
- Willets, P. (1996) *The Conscience of the World. The Influence of Non Governmental organizations in the U.N. System*. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Washington: The Brookings Institution.
- Wright, C. (2018) *Sustainable-Development-through-Local-Action Report Prepared For The United Cities And Local Government Capacity And Institution Building Working Group By Dr. Localising the sustainable development goals (SDGs) The role of Local Government in context PS Reddy* [Online]. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey\\_VNR\\_110719.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/23862Turkey_VNR_110719.pdf) (Accessed: 25 July 2021).