# Appendix A. Q-sorting statements and their ranks across the three perspectives

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| **No.** | **Statement** | **Pers.1** | **Z-score 1** | **Pers.2** | **Z-score 2** | **Pers.3** | **Z-score 3** |
|  |  | Rank |  | Rank |  | Rank |  |
| 1 | It is important to have community members organising actions at the grassroots level | 22 | 0.13 | 27 | 0 | 13 | 0.83 |
| 2 | Local governments should have an engagement platform where the community can provide feedback on SDGs-related issues | 9 | 0.86 | 36 | -0.75 | 26 | -0.04 |
| 3 | Local SDGs actions should be integrated with existing community programs | 32 | -0.21 | 19 | 0.4 | 2 | 1.67 |
| 4 | Public engagements about the SDGs need to target various groups (e.g., youth, culturally diverse groups) | 29 | -0.09 | 16 | 0.64 | 1 | 1.7 |
| 5 | Different perspectives about the best way to achieve local SDGs priorities should be encouraged | 7 | 0.93 | 12 | 0.89 | 4 | 1.48 |
| 6 | Having a prolonged debate about a sustainability issue hinders progress in achieving local SDGs | 39 | -0.59 | 7 | 1.04 | 35 | -0.43 |
| 7 | Many people don't understand the scale and the pace needed for meaningful SDGs progress | 12 | 0.65 | 22 | 0.25 | 8 | 1.01 |
| 8 | It is important to hold coordination workshops that bring different stakeholders together, no matter how long it takes | 41 | -0.65 | 3 | 1.67 | 10 | 0.86 |
| 9 | Visible processes (e.g., projects) in local SDGs are more important than less visible processes (e.g., building trust with the community) | 50 | -2.19 | 37 | -0.75 | 41 | -1.02 |
| 10 | There needs to be separate funding for integrated SDGs actions across different departments | 38 | -0.53 | 5 | 1.31 | 50 | -2.3 |
| 11 | A revolving fund for long-term SDGs projects is important | 10 | 0.81 | 28 | -0.12 | 43 | -1.23 |
| 12 | Changes in council terms and staff turnover do not affect SDGs actions | 45 | -1.4 | 49 | -1.67 | 36 | -0.43 |
| 13 | Operational staff (e.g., finance) in local government need to have a good understanding of local SDGs actions and priorities | 6 | 0.96 | 33 | -0.38 | 28 | -0.22 |
| 14 | It is inevitable to have some local government staff do extra work to push for SDGs actions | 19 | 0.24 | 13 | 0.75 | 11 | 0.85 |
| 15 | Support (resources, expertise) from university researchers is essential for local SDGs actions | 17 | 0.24 | 45 | -1.39 | 12 | 0.84 |
| 16 | Community members need local government staff who can assist them with grant writing and application for SDGs-related projects | 34 | -0.28 | 25 | 0.11 | 44 | -1.29 |
| 17 | Having an evidence-based process to achieve local SDGs priorities is important | 3 | 1.99 | 38 | -0.77 | 9 | 0.87 |
| 18 | Data is not very essential for local governments’ advocacy in SDGs-related issues | 48 | -1.8 | 39 | -0.89 | 34 | -0.42 |
| 19 | Local governments need professionals in their community who have expertise in local SDGs priorities | 20 | 0.19 | 9 | 1 | 23 | 0.23 |
| 20 | High-level support from elected councillors is the most important thing for local SDGs action | 31 | -0.2 | 26 | 0.01 | 22 | 0.24 |
| 21 | Councillors need to hear honest and straightforward advice from officers to make informed policies for local SDGs priorities | 5 | 1.46 | 18 | 0.63 | 16 | 0.63 |
| 22 | State governments need to benchmark local governments’ SDGs actions | 33 | -0.23 | 35 | -0.74 | 5 | 1.44 |
| 23 | State-level governments should provide a framework for local governments’ SDGs action | 46 | -1.41 | 17 | 0.64 | 29 | -0.23 |
| 24 | An integrated global sustainability framework (such as the SDGs) helps broaden local sustainability actions beyond environmental issues | 4 | 1.56 | 30 | -0.27 | 18 | 0.61 |
| 25 | Local governments need an integrated system where different departments can easily coordinate for SDGs actions | 1 | 2.42 | 10 | 0.9 | 33 | -0.41 |
| 26 | Local stakeholders need to think of their works as highly important for wider society | 25 | 0.06 | 29 | -0.26 | 19 | 0.61 |
| 27 | Personal approaches are important to get people on board with SDGs actions | 16 | 0.25 | 31 | -0.27 | 40 | -0.85 |
| 28 | Local SDGs actions do not necessarily need an integrated plan that explicitly synthesises all local government strategic plans | 49 | -1.97 | 48 | -1.42 | 47 | -1.48 |
| 29 | It is most effective to build coalition groups for each local SDGs priorities | 42 | -0.71 | 21 | 0.26 | 45 | -1.46 |
| 30 | It is challenging to make community support SDGs actions without explicit reference to economic benefits | 40 | -0.61 | 43 | -1.27 | 49 | -1.87 |
| 31 | Local governments should actively provide learning support and incentives for the community to adopt sustainability practice | 21 | 0.15 | 2 | 1.78 | 20 | 0.59 |
| 32 | Regional alliance with other local governments is important for the delivery of SDGs actions | 28 | -0.04 | 1 | 1.91 | 15 | 0.8 |
| 33 | Local leaders do NOT have to be well-connected to strategic partners globally | 18 | 0.24 | 6 | 1.28 | 48 | -1.7 |
| 34 | Most of the local government staff are enthusiastic about doing SDGs-related work as long as their workloads are manageable | 35 | -0.29 | 40 | -0.94 | 17 | 0.62 |
| 35 | Local SDGs actions need to overcome organisational hierarchy and bureaucracy | 14 | 0.38 | 4 | 1.56 | 30 | -0.39 |
| 36 | Grassroots-level community groups should be involved in discussing local SDGs priorities | 24 | 0.1 | 8 | 1.01 | 7 | 1.04 |
| 37 | An overarching plan that is owned and written by the community is the main driver of local SDGs actions | 30 | -0.2 | 34 | -0.51 | 27 | -0.2 |
| 38 | External recognition (e.g., awards) for local governments’ efforts in achieving SDGs is important | 47 | -1.48 | 46 | -1.39 | 25 | 0.04 |
| 39 | Local governments need to have SDGs 'champions' | 11 | 0.73 | 42 | -1.26 | 24 | 0.22 |
| 40 | The local staff who do cross-sectoral work to achieve the SDGs need to be moved into a more visible and more senior role | 15 | 0.28 | 41 | -1.04 | 46 | -1.47 |
| 41 | Hiring younger, enthusiastic staff who have more interest in sustainability makes a difference in driving SDGs action | 44 | -1.3 | 20 | 0.38 | 38 | -0.62 |
| 42 | Local governments should prioritise SDGs action that the community are most interested in, regardless of their urgency | 43 | -1.24 | 44 | -1.28 | 31 | -0.4 |
| 43 | Having a progressive and open-minded community is important for local SDGs actions | 36 | -0.44 | 11 | 0.9 | 37 | -0.44 |
| 44 | SDGs targets and indicators need to be embedded into the local governments’ operational framework | 2 | 2.2 | 14 | 0.66 | 39 | -0.66 |
| 45 | Local governments can easily translate local SDGs priorities into policies | 23 | 0.11 | 50 | -1.93 | 6 | 1.05 |
| 46 | Local governments should have an education strategy that supports the overall SDGs actions | 27 | 0.01 | 47 | -1.41 | 14 | 0.82 |
| 47 | Top-down management helps coordinate inter-departmental affairs to achieve the SDGs | 8 | 0.91 | 24 | 0.12 | 21 | 0.44 |
| 48 | Local governments should anticipate future uncertainty and assess possible scenarios for social, economic, and environmental changes | 13 | 0.52 | 23 | 0.25 | 3 | 1.49 |
| 49 | The federal government should be more proactive in coordinating SDGs action for local governments | 26 | 0.01 | 32 | -0.29 | 32 | -0.4 |
| 50 | Making incremental changes is more effective than making big changes | 37 | -0.49 | 15 | 0.66 | 42 | -1.04 |