

Addressing inequalities and informality: rethinking financing and the role of local and regional governments

Open roundtable dialogue co-organized by UCLG and Cities Alliance, in the framework of the urban exchanges of the Brussels Urban Summit
Wednesday 14 June 2023
16:00-18:00

Description

Halfway to 2030 since the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted, the implementation of the SDGs is not where they need to be. Social, economic and environmental crises continue to hinder the advancement of the achievement of the global agendas and access to finance and international financial architecture remains inadequate. Addressing inequalities and informalities, ensuring a just transition to the climate crisis, and revisiting financial architecture will need to be key priorities for the world to ensure no one and no place is left behind. Clear connections between the global commons, global public goods, and the needs of local communities will need to be made with global financial systems.

To make these connections, it will be key to address the roots of inequalities and their relationship with economic systems and governance models. This session, jointly organized between UCLG and the Cities Alliance, will focus on the policies that local and regional governments will need to prioritize to ensure human rights are protected and to have the impact needed to guarantee the wellbeing of communities. The session will have a special focus caring systems, informalities, ensuring that all people have their basic rights met, access to public services, and healthy and sustainable lives.

Objectives

- Highlight the challenges faced today and potential policy solutions in addressing inequalities and informalities by local and regional governments.
- Share experiences and takeaways from concrete cases of collaboration among local and regional governments, civil society, and international institutions in establishing innovative and solid partnerships to achieve the SDGs, especially in the context of care, inequalities and informality.

- Illustrate the multi-dimensional aspects of addressing inequalities, in the provision of quality local public services and how these aspects can be linked to current modes of production and consumption and finance systems.
- Highlight the importance of ensuring adequate finance for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda through innovative partnerships and strong, sustainable public funding mechanisms, management and social dialogue practices.

Guiding questions

1. What are the biggest challenges faced by local and regional governments in addressing inequalities? How are they interconnected?
2. How can the efforts for achieving the SDGs be strengthened at the local and regional level? How are these linked to current financial systems?
3. How can partnerships and social dialogue guarantee caring systems and community wellbeing?
4. What policy spaces need to be further opened and developed at the international level to ensure the meaningful participation of local and regional governments and civil society representatives is mainstreamed? How do you imagine the financial systems of the future?

Proposed format

The event will be organized in person with an open roundtable dialogue in which participants will be asked guiding questions.

Draft agenda

- Introduction by facilitator
 - **Ana Moreno**, President of OnCities
- Open Roundtable Dialogue
 - **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General, UCLG
 - **Greg Munro**, Director, Cities Alliance
 - **Bheke Stofile**, President of the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and Co-President of UCLG
 - **Ashok Kumar Byanju Shrestha**, Mayor of Dhulikhel and Vice-President of UCLG for ASPAC
 - **Yerlan Bekmurzayev**, Deputy Mayor of Astana
 - **Sithole Mbanga**, Chief Executive Officer, South African Cities Network
 - **Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi**, Secretary General, UCLG-Africa
 - **Bernadia Tjandradewi**, Secretary General, UCLG-ASPAC

- **Joanna Masic, Lead** Urban Specialist for Cities and Climate Change, Global Lead for the Sustainable City Infrastructure and Services Global Solutions Group, World Bank
 - **Lars Gronvald**, Head of Cities Section, EU / DG INTPA
 - **Neila Akrimi**, Manager Networks and Strategy and Director of CILG, VNG International
- Questions from the floor
 - Wrap Up