



Building Bridges:
from Vision
to Collective Action.

20—24 FEB 2023

Unfolding the Pact for the Future

The Pact for the Future of Humanity adopted by UCLG is both the **political mandate** of the municipal movement and the **roadmap of work** of our world organization. Its ambitious agenda is both the basis and the objective that our constituency strives for to renew our social contract and develop further the interlocution established with the international agenda. **The Power of We** will be the Organization's method for achieving this.

This year the UN General Assembly will review the 2030 Agenda at the **SDG Summit** and in 2024 the **Summit of the Future** will go into depth on the Secretary General's "Our Common Agenda". By speaking directly to the international development agendas, the Pact aims to be the contribution of our organized constituency to both Summits.

The Pact's vision and commitments are ambitious and universal. They are all aligned with the SDGs and are designed to accelerate their localization. The Pact allows to identify **links between the global and local agendas** by proposing care as the key to the renewal of public services and as the basis of a new social contract articulated by a change of model.

The unfolding of the Pact consists in reaching real, tangible and continuous conclusions through forward-looking exercises around 4 entry points: reclaiming the **commons**, redefining **finances**, regaining trust and rebuilding **government architecture**.

Reclaiming the Commons



In its wake-up call, Our Common Agenda recommends that the renewed social contract must find expression in a new deal to deliver global public goods. It refers to the global commons as natural and cultural resources that are shared by and benefit us all. It claims that "public goods are understood as those goods and services provided to and benefiting all of society". Public goods concern the welfare of humanity as a whole. Their protection is an increasingly urgent task that demands a whole of society approach.

While the United Nations understands the Global Commons as the High Seas, the Atmosphere, Antarctica and Outer Space, the Commons as an **entry point** will focus on its understanding being both resources (material or immaterial) and social practices: the core of the innovative right to the city and the municipal movements and agendas. As a strategy, commoning provides a concrete tool for putting social and environmental functions over accumulation, privatization and speculation (through, for example, community land trusts and cooperatives), ensuring equal access and benefit to all. It

represents a productive opportunity to experiment with new forms of public-community collaboration (service provision, cultural facilities, etc.).

Commons and commoning practices can be considered as multidimensional and multi/trans-scalar endeavors. They encompass material, symbolic and political resources and social relations (including: housing and land, nutrition and health; education and culture; information and communication; affects, solidarity and creativity) that interconnect the local, national, regional and global spheres of action.

In focus: The above is directly linked to the central line of action of both the 2030 Agenda and the Common Agenda: Leaving no one behind. Where it is explicitly proposed to renew the social contract anchored in human rights; a new era for universal social protection; and reinforcing adequate housing, education, and lifelong learning and decent work. In the long term, our recommendations will have to reach the World Social Summit in 2025.

Redefining Finance and Economy



One of the 12 Commitments in the proposed way forward of the Common Agenda is to ensure sustainable financing. The proposal calls to support a Sustainable Development investment boost, including through a last-mile alliance to reach those furthest behind. It also urges to resolve weakness in debt architecture.

The UN Secretary-General calls for a global economy that works for all. GDP is limited to continue being the only threshold for determining international support. A true global economy requires “adequately resourced public sectors and private actors who understand themselves to be contributing and benefiting from the delivery of global public goods”.

As an **entry point** we will call for a transformational shift in investment and for the creation of new business models and public policies through the lens of the doughnut economy to ensure that development is not destructive and simultaneously turn to measuring success with indicators based on quality of life and well-being. Public action needs to be prioritized through green budgets and taxonomies, participatory and multi-stakeholder processes, universal and gender-based policies. People-centered policies have been found to lower costs, promote business innovation and enhance productivity. Investors are called to turn to transformative social projects that consider vulnerable populations, to halt the deepening of inequalities.

Financial resources must be unlocked urgently and on a large scale by all stakeholders, including local and regional governments, to bridge the investment gap for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy and local communities.

In focus: We will need to target the Biennial Summit between the G20, the ECOSOC and the heads of the international financial institutions for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy. “It is time to correct a glaring blind spot in how we measure economic prosperity and progress”.

Regaining Trust

Both in the 2030 Agenda as in the key proposals, there is consensus on the need to build trust. Trust is one of the three foundations for the proposed renewed social contract. There is a specific point on the need to improve people’s experiences with public



institutions and basic services. The agenda recognized that people wish to be heard and to participate in the decisions that affect them. The UN Secretary-General also urges investment in public systems and ensuring quality public servants.

As our constituency's **entry point** protecting human rights and democratic values are an essential precondition to boost our democracies and build a fairer, more inclusive and an effective international system. Our movement places trust at the heart of our action, stressing the importance of representation and participation; inclusivity and empowerment in decision making instances, the urgent need to restore transparency, honesty and accountability at all spheres of government, fostering a media and scientific community as a means to rebuild a more representative, inclusive and efficient multilateral system.

We will advocate and call for the necessary resources and capacity-building to guarantee the meaningful participation of citizens in public life, an effective dialogue between equals and common decision-making processes. Co-responsibility and active citizenship should be at the center of democratic governance. Governments can make decisive contributions by enacting clear and consistent policies, ensuring impartial and detached administration and ensuring the consistent application of the rule of law, and the certainty of sanction.

In focus: Special attention will be paid to the new vision on the revision of SDG 16 and a stronger commitment to the universality of human rights and the recent concerns about trust and mistrust linked to technology.

Rebuilding Government Architecture



The Common Agenda calls for an update on governance arrangements to better deliver public goods and usher in a new era of universal social protection (health, education, skills, decent work, housing and digital rights). All spheres of government should be involved in the protection of the interest of future generations and the new government architecture should understand and assess the future. In times of overlapping crises all public spheres need to be ready to be convened in response to complex global crises.

It is stated that these challenges can only be addressed by an equally interconnected response, through reinvigorated multilateralism and in consequence there is a commitment to upgrade the United Nations. This is a form of multilateralism that is more networked, more inclusive and more effective.

Our **entry point** means a renewed impulse to well-resourced decentralization and subsidiarity and an active and informed civic participation. Promote inclusive, participatory, responsible and accountable multilevel governance leading to global action. Protect and promote all public institutions, ensure the integrity of the justice system, and ensure equal access for all citizens.

We need a broader recognition of what democratic legitimacy entails. We will call for the development of a new culture of democratic emergency governance. We will strengthen public institutions and emphasize on the need for a feminist leadership and power sharing at all levels of government. Our constituency will contribute to the renewal of multilateralism through a meaningful engagement in global agendas and representation in decision-making bodies.

In focus: We have to target the proposal of an Emergency Platform, to be convened in response to complex global crises. The High-level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods. And the proposed parameters for a networked – inclusive- and effective multilateral system.