

## Town Hall Process

### Background

The UCLG Town Hall is the space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized civil society constituencies and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency to jointly define our global policies.

Driven by civil society, it allows different international stakeholders to collaborate in the definition of policy priorities and the localization of the global agendas. The policy recommendations commissioned for local and regional governments are a sign of the transformation of our movement to include all stakeholders in the decision-making process and to showcase how cities are listening to deliver a pact for the future. The Town Hall culminates in a corpus of integrated policy recommendations resulting from a consultation with other stakeholders and offering both bottom-up continent and region-specific priorities.

The contributions of the first generation of the UCLG Town Hall process were integrated into the Durban Declaration and into the daily work of the World Organization in its different areas (policy, advocacy, learning and research). Structured around 5 key priorities: Accessible Cities; Addressing Informalities; Gender Equality; Right to the City, and Sustainable Urban Development.

### From Durban to Daejeon

Following the outcomes of the Durban Town Hall, continued spaces for dialogue and interaction between different stakeholders and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency were created. The Live Learning and the #CitiesAreListening Experiences discovered how to bring about a resilient recovery by including all stakeholders. These dialogues also shaped UCLG's international advocacy and inclusive, sustainable thinking for the future.

The 2022 UCLG Town Hall will renew the structured dialogue between the local and regional governments constituency and internationally organized civil society and will be strengthened by the presence of international partners and 3 cross-cutting caucuses (youth, feminism and accessibility). The UCLG UBUNTU Advisors will also be contributing and following the discussions. The subjects of the Town Hall are directly linked to UCLG's Pact for the Future and its three axes: People, Planet and Government.

It will be about defining how we will regain trust in government and the public sector, redefining our institutions and governments, shaping the public services of the future, thinking about what will be part of the global commons for future generations, showing solidarity with youth, moving towards community-led care systems and rethinking just ecosystems.

The process will feed into the GOLD VI report which focuses on pathways to Urban and Territorial Equality and how we can address inequalities through local transformation strategies. The process will also build on the work of the constituency on the localization of the SDGs and on the UCLG Decalogue for the Post-COVID era and aims at facilitating the building blocks of the new social contract built within the framework of the global agendas. Special attention will be given to the United Nations Secretary-General's Common Agenda report and its 12 areas of action which provide a co-created vision on the future of multilateralism and strategies to reinvigorate it in the next 25 years by

making it more inclusive, networked and transformative. For this common agenda to be put into action and to truly reinvigorate multilateralism, it is clear to the constituency of local and regional governments that localization must be at the forefront of the agenda and that this can only be done with the full involvement of all spheres of government and all stakeholders.

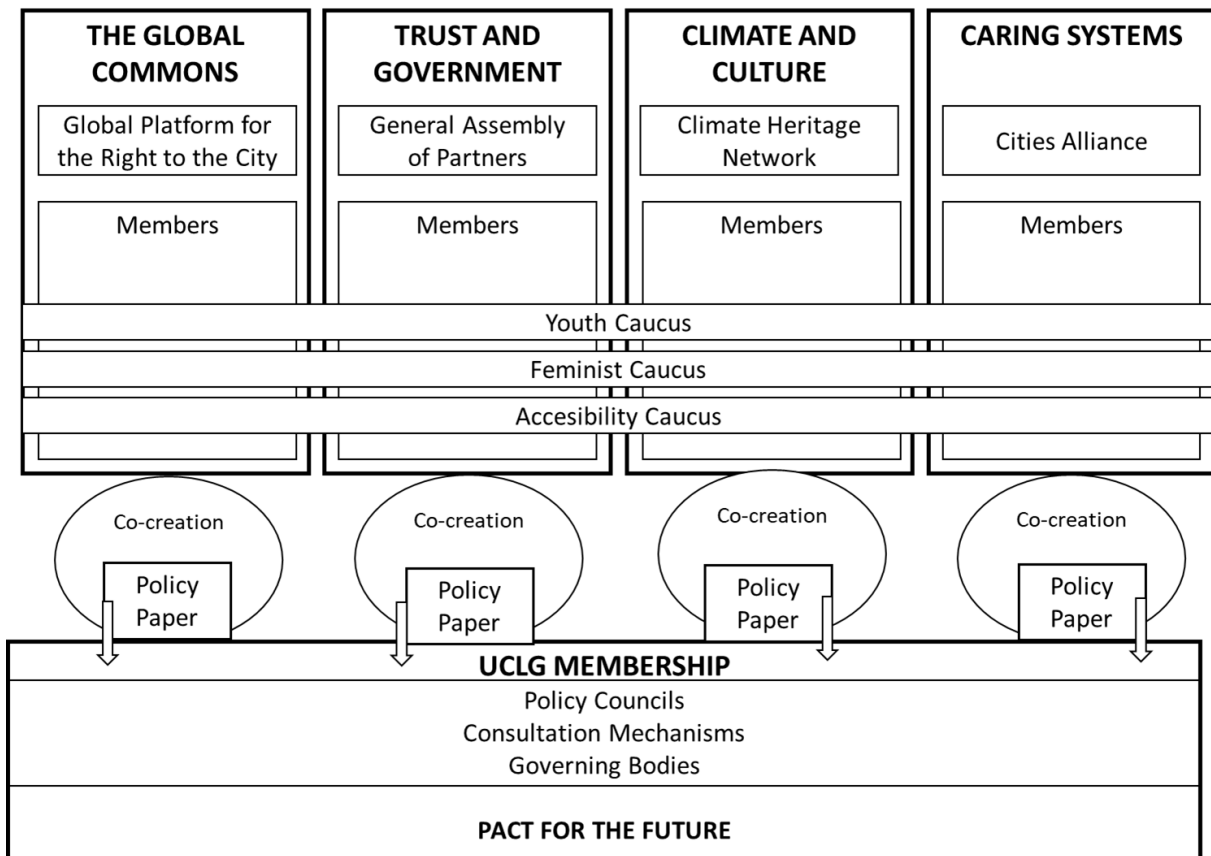
## **We Listen**

Towards the UCLG World Congress in 2022 there will be 4 Town Halls:

- **The Global Commons**
- **Trust and Government**
- **Climate and Culture**
- **Caring Systems**

## **Structure of the Town Halls**

- **Lead Organization:** An international organization that represents one or more constituencies. It will be the organization in charge of leading the conversation. It will propose the questions that will guide the Town Hall process and generate debate, the field visits, and finally propose the outlines of the policy paper, its drafting, consultation and final presentation. The Organization will be represented by one or more of its members.
- **Town Hall members:** A diverse set of representatives from civil society organizations specialized in the issues to be discussed in each town-hall and various representatives of international partners of UCLG.
- **The Caucuses:** As part of the members of each Town Hall, there will be one representative from 3 constituencies: the children and youth constituency, the women and girl's constituency and the persons with disabilities constituency. They will form the cross-cutting caucuses on youth, feminism and accessibility (more information can be found below).
- **UCLGMeets:** The process will have an interactive space in the UCLGMeets platform where leading organizations and members will be able to navigate between the different sessions, virtual discussions and online documents organized in the framework of our Town Hall. Participants will be able to visit the page of each session, access the links to participate in the virtual meetings, consult the key documents posted online, and consolidate their policy recommendations.



**The 2022 Town Halls:**

**The Global Commons**

The COVID-19 pandemic and its related crises have underlined what is essential to our everyday lives and have redefined the notion of what is public and what should be considered as part of the commons. It has never been clearer that basic services such as access to housing, to water and sanitation, to health, to nutritious and sustainable food, and to transport are indispensable to protect the livelihood of people. Over the past two years, the importance of access to green public spaces, the right to clean air and a clean environment, digital rights and the right to connectivity, the right to quality time, among others, has risen.

This Town Hall will explore and think about the local public services of the future and debate around the new essentials to transform the relationship between society and the global commons starting from the voices of the people.

**Lead Organization:**

- Global Platform for the Right to the City

**Members:**

- Cities Coalition for Digital Rights
- Open Society Foundations
- ACCORD
- (Youth, Feminism and Accessibility Caucus)

**International Partner:**

- FAO
- UNICEF

### **Trust and Government**

Trust is the backbone of inclusion and peace and the foundation of key elements of democracy such as transparency and integrity in public information, accountability and multi-stakeholder multi-generational dialogue. Fostering trust between people and government will be key to truly reinvigorate multilateralism and ensure that the global agendas are achieved. Trust includes not only listening to others but also learning from others.

This Town Hall will cover how to reinvigorate trust between people and government. It will also cover how to repurpose public institutions to foster solidarity and ensure they co-create with people and their everyday priorities while maintaining a global vision and that the governance of emergencies and international cooperation are strengthened.

#### **Lead organization:**

- General Assembly of Partners

#### **Members:**

- Open Government Partnership
- Fixed Africa
- International IDEA
- (Youth Caucus, feminism and accessibility)

#### **International Partner:**

- UN Habitat New York Office

### **Caring Systems**

Protecting our communities and enhancing their well-being is a must in the COVID-19 aftermath and this calls for transforming our systems and who is involved in decision-making. The relevance of care work shifted during the pandemic, including by considering the disproportionate impact on women and girls on their uses of time and their full participation in public life. Embracing equality in all parts of life is essential to transform our societies and develop a new way of doing politics, emphasizing the unique role of women and feminist local leaders and their transformative contribution to decision-making. To develop caring communities means understanding that priorities have changed and that we need to renew our social contract.

This Town Hall will bring to light the main elements of a caring society firstly going over the relationship between care and local public service provision. It will also cover the issue of human mobility and building communities that ensure all are cared for and protected. The issue of the future of work will also be key as changes in production and consumption are brought about.

#### **Lead organization:**

- Cities Alliance

#### **Members:**

- Public Service International
- IFLA
- Civil Society Action Committee
- (Youth Caucus, Feminism and Accessibility)

#### **International Partner:**

- UNHC2030

## **Climate and Culture**

To guarantee that our planet and future generations are protected and able to live decent lives, we will need to acknowledge the turning point in history we find ourselves at. The climate emergency must be mitigated and action is needed from all actors. This action must be one that is rooted in change: a change in production and consumption, a change in our relationship with nature, and a change in priorities to achieve caring systems. This change can be brought about through culture as the backbone of our societies and as our motor for change and sustainable development.

This Town Hall will cover the relationship between climate and culture and focus on the social side of the climate crisis. Issues such as climate justice, displacement, and resilience will be covered in light of the Stockholm +50 process to achieve a healthy planet for the prosperity of all among others.

### **Lead organization:**

- Climate Heritage Network

### **Members**

- Climate Chance
- Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature
- International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI)
- (Youth Caucus, Feminism and Accessibility)

### **International Partner:**

- MCR2030

## **The caucuses**

### **Youth**

There is an imminent need to integrate youth voices into both policy and advocacy co-creation processes. To this end, UCLG will launch an international call together with the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) to select young councilors (respecting regional and gender balance) who will formally contribute to the recommendations of each of the Town Halls. There will be at least one youth councillor in each of the Town Halls. These youth representatives, in turn, will form the Youth Caucus that will meet periodically to exchange ideas and findings from each of the Town Halls. Finally, the caucus will have to draft a standalone document to be presented to the UCLG World Council in Daejeon in 2022.

### **Feminism**

In order to ensure that the voices of UCLG Women and the UCLG feminist movement are in each and every Town Hall conversation, a representative of the feminist organizations that the organization works with will be invited to formally contribute to the recommendations of each of the Town Halls. There will be one representative of municipalist feminism in each Town Hall. These 4 representatives, in turn, will form the Feminist Caucus that will meet periodically to exchange ideas and findings of each of the Town Halls. The Huairou Commission will be facilitating this caucus.

### **Accessibility**

In order to formalize the mainstreaming of the accessibility agenda in all deliberations of our network and building on the work of the UCLG community of practice on accessibility, a representative or partner from the UCLG community of practice will be invited to formally contribute to the recommendations of each of the Town Halls. There will be one community representative in each Town Hall. These 4 representatives will in turn form

the Accessibility Caucus that will meet periodically to exchange ideas and findings from each of the Town Halls. World Enabled will be facilitating this caucus

### **Suggested readings, videos and platforms**

The [Town Hall 2019 Policy Papers](#). Structured around 5 sessions the 2019 edition revolved around policy papers drafted by our partners on different themes: Accessible Cities; Addressing Informalities; Gender Equality; Right to the City, and Sustainable Urban Development. The process contributed to the [Durban Political Declaration](#).

The [UCLG DECALOGUE](#) for the COVID-19 aftermath and the [Live Learning Experiences](#) series adding up to over 40 hours of idea-sharing and featuring over 94 cities during the earliest stage of the pandemic #BeyondTheOutbreak. The [#CitiesAreListening Experiences](#) platform driven by UCLG's partners from civil society in a coherent window of dialogue, collective knowledge and participation.

The [Video](#) describing how UCLG is ready to deliver the spaces for change in a foundational moment and the UCLG voices from and [Equality Driven Movement](#).

The UCLG [Ubuntu Advisors](#) short pitches to inspire our conversations.

The United Nations Secretary General's report on "[Our Common Agenda](#)" on the future of multilateralism building on the global consultation process ([Read here](#) the Local and Regional Governments UN75 visioning report). UCLG's contribution to the Common Agenda was channeled through the [We the Peoples](#) consultation led by the Igarapé Institute.

### **Roadmap of each of the Town-Halls**

#### **14<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- **Kick-off meeting (one meeting with Lead Organizations)**

Get acquainted meeting. Introduce the Lead Organizations. Presentation of the UCLG Pact for the Future and the status of the Town-Hall theme. The roadmap of activities will also be presented.

#### **January - February 2022**

- **Thinking big meeting (one meeting per Town Hall)**

This meeting aims to get to the heart of the issue and its main challenges through a series of questions on the substance of the matter (questions will be presented by the guiding organization and sent in advance to the members). There will be a Keynote speaker to help inspire the members followed by a discussion on an open floor.

- **Monday 24 January (15.00 – 17.00 CET) – Global Commons**
- **Tuesday 25 January (15.30 – 17.30 CET) – Trust and Government**
- **Monday 31 January (15.00 – 17.00 CET) – Climate and Culture**
- **Tuesday 1 February (15.00 – 17.00 CET)- Caring Systems**

- **All Town Halls Meeting**

At this meeting the deliberations of the Thinking Big meeting will be presented. The idea is for all THs to know what the others are doing and receive feedback from each other. The discussion will be open and will be attended by the UCLG membership.

- **UCLG Retreat 21-25 February (specific time and date of the meeting TBC)**

### **March - April 2022**

- **Deep dive visit (one field visit per Town Hall)**

The objective of the visit is to learn about an inspiring case that addresses the Town Halls theme. The visits will be proposed by the UCLG World Secretariat. During the field visit, the experience of a local or regional government on the subject will be presented and will help the members to know firsthand the experience of the UCLG membership in the field. During the visit there will be a workshop that will aim to propose outline of the policy paper and structure of the recommendations.

### **June-July 2022**

- Online consultation and co-drafting of the policy paper
- The consultation process will be done through the **UCLGMeets platform**.
  - Outline sent to councilors
  - First draft
  - Second draft