



UCLG WORLD FORUM OF REGIONS

High Level Political Dialogues and Joint Declaration

18 November 2021

14h - 16h CET

Please register by 12 November at [this link](#)

Information note for speakers

2021 marks five years since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda at the Habitat III Conference held in Quito. Many advances and transformations have been launched since then, particularly on the importance of considering territorial approaches, urban-rural linkages and multi-level governance. Our common challenge is a new social contract that places the care of people and the planet at the centre of territorial policies.

This high-level dialogue will address the unique role of regional governments to improve ties and collaborative governance towards a future of solidarity with communities, for present and future generations.

Objectives

As a fundamental component of the constituency of local and regional governments, this session will bring together high-level authorities from states, regions and provinces, presidents of sister-networks and partners from all continents, to rethink how to work together to strengthen a common voice in international fora.

A territorial approach is fundamental for the localization of global agendas, in building the links throughout the ecosystem of cities of all sizes, metropolises, roads, infrastructure facilities, built and natural environments. The session will also consider the contribution of regions to develop place-based actions that are tailored cut to the territorial dynamics.

The high-level dialogues will address the complexity of challenges stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic that combined with the climate, pollution and biodiversity crisis, require an integrated lens of interconnected themes in the territory, such as service provision, demographic variations and the need to enhance the collaboration between spheres of governments and with local communities and stakeholders.

In closing the UCLG Forum of Regions, the outcome declaration will be adopted.

Draft agenda & invited speakers

Master of Ceremonies: **Ms. Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General of UCLG

Opening remarks (15 minutes)

- **Mr. Mohammed Boudra**, UCLG President



- **Mr. Pablo Jurado**, President of the Region of Imbabura, President of CONGOPE, UCLG Vice-President and President of the Forum of Regions

Dialogue I - Building territories as integrated ecosystems: a pact for the planet (50 minutes)

- **Mr. Apostolos Tzitzikostas**, Governor of the Region of Central Macedonia, President of the European Committee of the Regions
- **Mr. Koo Manseon**, Acting Governor, Jeju Special Self-Governing Province
- **Ms. Fatimetou Abdel Malick**, President, Regional Council of Nouakchott
- **Mr. Aníbal Gaviria**, Governor of Antioquia
- **Ms. Marcela Villareal**, Director, Division of Partnerships and South-South Cooperation, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- **Ms. Arantxa Tapia**, Minister of Economic Development and Infrastructures of the Basque Government, President of Regions4
- **Mr. Aysen Nikolaev**, Head of Sakha Republic, Yakutia, UCLG Vice-President for EURASIA
- **Mr. Stefano Bonaccini**, President of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), President of Emilia-Romagna

Dialogue II - Accelerating the urban agendas from regional governments: a pact for people (50 minutes)

- **Mr. Edgar Pieterse**, UCLG UBUNTU Adviser, Director of the African Centre for Cities
- **Mr. Jordi Puigneró**, Minister of Digital Policies and Territory and Vice-President, Government of Catalonia
- **Ms. Carole Delga**, President of the Occitane Region, President of Regions of France
- **Mr. Martin Nyaga Wambora**, Governor of Embu County, Chairman of the Council of Governors of Kenya
- **Mr. Luciano Rivas**, Governor, Araucanía
- **Mr. Adama Diouf**, President of the Regional Council of Kaffrine, Vice-President of ORU FOGAR
- **Ms. Lamia Kamal-Chaoui**, Director, OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities
- **Mr. Magnus Berntsson**, President of the Assembly of European Regions, Regional Minister of Environment and Vice President of the Regional Council, Västra Götaland
- **Ms. Veronica Magario**, Vice-governor, Buenos Aires Province

Closing session - Adoption of the Declaration of the World Forum of Regions (5 minutes)

Format

This session will have a hybrid format, onsite and online, within the framework of the UCLG World Council, at the Smart City Expo World Congress.





- Each speaker will be invited to take the floor in turns for a maximum of 4 minutes, taking into consideration the guiding questions below. Please consider no more than two questions in the intervention.
- After the intervention of all panelists, the moderator will ask for reactions to the points raised during the panel, in no more than 2 minutes.

A timer will be displayed on the screen and you are kindly asked to keep the interventions within the allotted time.

Simultaneous interpretation will be available in Spanish, English and French.

Guiding questions

General

1. What has been the role of regional governments in facing the COVID-19 pandemic crisis? What new priorities have been added to the agenda of regions that should be maintained in future years?
2. Regional governments are considered primordial actors to secure a territorial approach to global agendas. What are the key bottlenecks and good practices for a solid territorial governance, in collaboration with local and national/central governments?

Dialogue I - Building territories as integrated ecosystems: a pact for the planet

1. Food systems, climate action, biodiversity conservation, digital and mobility infrastructure, protection of water resources and other global commons, all rely on urban-rural linkages and the broader territorial system. How can regional governments address these linkages and contribute to coherent territorial policies? What are the topics and thematic areas that highlight the unique contribution of regional governments?
2. In face of global combined crises, including the climate emergency, biodiversity loss and pollution, what is the most relevant contribution of regional governments to enable the ecological transformation of territories and achieve carbon neutrality, driving a new relationship with the planet and realizing the global related agendas, as the Paris Agreement and the new global biodiversity framework?

Dialogue II - Accelerating the urban agendas from regional governments: a pact for people

1. Territories are necessary for attaining social justice, as they allow place-based policies and actions, developed in close coordination with local communities and stakeholders. What are the key contributions of regional governments to ensure public services, digital rights and life quality to all people in their diversity?
2. Putting care at the core of territorial organization is essential to address intra- and inter-urban, as well as rural-urban disparities, in order to leave no place behind. How can regional governments contribute to tackling inequalities among cities and territories, securing equal opportunities for all and addressing issues of depopulation?