



UCLG WORLD FORUM OF REGIONS

Opening and Innovation Panels: Innovative territories in scenarios under transformation

**16 November 2021
11h - 13h CET**

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

Information note for speakers

The ecological transformation with the background of the climate crisis, social justice with the gaps between citizens, the cohesion of the territory with the necessary urban-rural link or prosperity with access to opportunities and services, are examples of the challenges that our societies and our governments face in current times.

The territorial perspective of these factors is key to addressing them. Regional and local governments have the responsibility and an opportunity to integrate policies that address territorial conflict and facilitate alliances and coordination among actors. The first day of the World Forum of the Regions will host two panels aimed at seeing proposals to move towards innovative territories in a context in transformation:

The first panel will deal with the climate emergency, which is a priority on the agendas of regional governments to mitigate climate change, and will delve into such concepts as fair ecological transition, where the territorial perspective is fundamental to increase the ambition and accelerate the actions of transition to inclusive and zero-emission societies. Addressing key aspects such as social justice and governance, through an inclusive and interactive multilevel articulation that allows working with less effort, models of innovation, subsidiarity-solidarity that facilitate the sustainable, efficient and inclusive development of territories, ensuring balanced economic growth between urban and rural areas that at the same time empowers regions and territorial entities.

The second panel will deal with the opportunities for innovative territories, highlighting the driving capacity of the regions, shaped by urban and rural realities that coexist in the same area, thus recognizing their diversity and with an emphasis to overcome the perception of regions as exclusively rural areas and providers of supply services for urban or metropolitan areas. The intention is to explore how regions can be territories that take advantage of their potentialities, and that are open, resilient, territorially, socially and economically cohesive, that place people and the environment at the center of their policies.





With the aim of contributing to sustainable development, regions can foster innovative territories that are economically competitive, physically and digitally connected and socially cohesive.

Objectives

This forum aims to provide a thematic space for dialogue and co-creation where we discuss the importance of regions and territorial entities and their real contribution to the key issues discussed above, such as ecological transition, multilevel governance, social justice and innovative territories. Overcoming the barriers of decentralization and exercising territorial cohesion and effective and participatory governance, whose purpose is to achieve inclusive, sustainable, balanced and environmentally friendly local development.

It also aims to strengthen existing relationships between agents, foster new contacts and map regions, territorial entities and other actors who wish to share experiences and knowledge within the framework of the themes presented at the Forum of the Regions. It is expected, through a pooling of ideas, and in a subsequent joint work, to design a roadmap with shared, complementary regional agendas, under subsidiarity schemes that allow the strengthening of regions on the global stage.

Invited speakers

Opening remarks (15 minutes)

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

Panel I: Proposals for ecological transformation, multilevel governance and social justice (50 minutes)

- **Dr. Shipra Narang Suri**, Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat
- **Mr. José Chira Larico**, Gran Chaco Coordinator
- **Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta**, Director of Territorial Planning, Urban Planning and Urban Regeneration, Basque Country
- **Mr. Daniel Chapo**, Governor of Inhambane
- **Director General - Lombardy representative**

Moderator from the Government of Catalonia





Panel II: Territories that take care of their people, are competitive, connected and socially cohesive are unstoppable (50 minutes)

- **Ms. Claudia Andrea García**, Director of Planning, Antioquia
- **Government of Catalonia representative**
- **Ms. Ine Baetens**, Sustainable Development Expert, Government of Flanders
- **Mr. Rashid Seedat**, Executive Director, Gauteng City-Region Observatory
- **Mr. Emil Dardak**, Vice-Governor, East Java

Moderator: Alicia Trejo, International Cooperation and Business Development Representative for Europe & Asia Regions GONGOPE

Methodology

In order to accomplish each panel's goals, the following thematic axes are proposed through 3-minute panelist interventions related to:

- Specific related experiences of local governments that are members of one of the networks;
- Strategies and/or work carried out as part of the network's actions;
- Some complementary point of view with the thematic axis and / or guiding question that enriches the reflection

The moderator will be in charge of asking the questions and according to the availability of time reinforce ideas and/or re-ask the panelists. Once the thematic axes panelist interventions are concluded there will be time to answer questions asked by the public.

Finally, each panelist will have two minutes to make a final intervention and the moderator will close the panel with a summary of the most remarkable ideas of the session. This session will have an online format and will be part of the UCLG World Council program at the Smart City Expo.

Guiding questions

Axis 1: Territories as integrated ecosystems, and care at the centre for a sustainable and fair recovery.

- 1) What are the possible roles for regions as territorial ecosystems that leave no one behind?
- 2) What governance tools are most suitable to contribute to the social and economic recovery in the post-pandemic context?





Axis 2: Territories to move forward towards a more sustainable future, together.

- 1) What is the right approach to ensure that opportunities reach every part of the territory?
- 2) What new roles are available for digital transformation as a tool of development for regional policy?
- 3) What would be the appropriate way to face the new industrial revolution?

Axis 3: Resilient and green territories, ecological transformation, key for the future of the planet.

- 1) What planning tools and mechanisms are at the disposal of regions and within their reach in a state of climate emergency?
- 2) What current transformation of infrastructure, land or cities are, or will be contributing to greater regional resilience?

