

## Item 2 – Annex 2

### WORK PLANS OF UCLG CONSULTATION MECHANISMS FOR 2024

1. The Consultation mechanisms of UCLG work on specific thematic areas, approved by the World Council. The work carried out by these mechanisms contribute to the policymaking of the World Organization, enrich its agenda and ensure that what matters to communities reaches the global stage.
2. In an effort to reinforce the synergies between the Consultation mechanisms and the broader work plan of the Organization, these mechanisms are invited every year to submit their work plan for the coming year, to be approved by the World Council.
3. This year, a specific focus was placed on the main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future: people, planet and government.
4. You will find in this annex the work plans that the World Secretariat received from the Consultation mechanisms.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE**

- Standing Committee on Gender Equality

#### **COMMITTEES**

- Culture
- Local Economic and Social Development
- Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights
- Urban Strategic Planning

#### **PERMANENT WORKING GROUPS**

- Capacity and Institutional Building (CIB)
- Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises

#### **UCLG SPECIAL MECHANISMS**

- Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)
- International Observatory on Participatory Democracy (IOPD)



## UCLG STANDING COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUALITY 2024 WORK PLAN

### I. Overview and Mandate

The UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality is the motor behind the UCLG Women Facility, and has been repeatedly acknowledged as the **global voice of locally elected women** by national governments and the United Nations. It is the main body promoting gender equality and feminist municipal leadership in our World Organization, and is constituted of nominated representatives of each of the UCLG sections, and led by an elected Chair.

It has the following mandate:

1. To promote, ensure, and monitor, the **active participation of women in all their diversity**, including in all **governance and decision-making structures of the World Organization**, such as the Policy Councils.
2. To hold the World Organization accountable to **promote and mainstream gender equality** throughout its processes and network and its advocacy, research and learning work areas, including through supervising the implementation of the **All UCLG Gender Equality Strategy**.
3. Nurture, drive and amplify the global **Feminist Municipal Movement**, which puts care, equality, proximity, solidarity, trust and participation at the heart of policies and action and is an essential force in unfolding the UCLG Pact for the Future.
4. Ensure **links between the global agendas and regional and local priorities** grounding our Organization's policies and actions in local realities.

### II. Priority Areas

Despite global progress on the participation of diverse women in public life and decision-making, according to recent data on SDG target 5.5.1, **women remain underrepresented across all spheres of government** and in all regions of the world. In the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, increased climate impacts, and widespread gender equality backlashes, the unique value-add of women's and **feminist leadership** has been highlighted, particularly in its impacts in addressing inequalities, increased access to local public service provision for the most marginalized, equitable redistribution of care and care work, and strengthened democratic and participatory governance.

**With this in mind, the priority areas collectively identified by the Standing Committee in 2023 are the following:**

1. **Women's meaningful political participation** and local leadership. This necessitates addressing **gendered political violence** and harassment, and requires improved **data and monitoring** to identify gaps and measure impacts.
2. **Gender-sensitive approaches and mainstreaming** in policies and governance structures, as well as in urban and territorial planning. This should influence diverse policy areas from disaster-risk reduction, to education.
3. **Care systems:** promoting and amplifying local policies and programs which ensure equitable access to **local public service provision**, women's health and bodily

autonomy, nurturing diversity and anti-racist attitudes, redistribution of care work, and promoting economic systems which care for people and planet.

4. **Partnering and collaboration for gender equality:** working with **diverse stakeholders** like indigenous groups, migrants, racialized persons, grassroots organizations, persons with disabilities, youth; working with **local men as allies** for gender equality; and working with **multi-stakeholder groups and UN agencies**.

### III. Crosscutting Actions of the UCLG Women Facility

These efforts should be promoted, enabled and monitored by the UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality, and conducted through the UCLG Women Facility and its partnerships, knowledge exchange and learning components, as well as across the UCLG network and environment.

#### 1. Women in Local Leadership and UCLG Governance

The Standing Committee must play a central role in monitoring and enhancing equality within UCLG governance, representation and advocacy. This calls for a concrete plan to ensure the nominations for and by women in all structures of the organization are successful and that women's increased meaningful and active political representation is equitably reflected across the Organization's work and the municipal movement.

- 1.1. Create strategies to ensure equitable participation when **nominating representatives for governance bodies** such as the Presidency, committees and Policy Councils. This should include **setting quotas, to be ratified by the Committee of Statutory Affairs**
- 1.2. Agree on **methodologies for monitoring women's participation in UCLG governance and activities** at regional and global level, and on the frequency of report-back periods to UCLG governance structures.
- 1.3. **Call on men in local government and UCLG leadership** to actively promote gender equality and support women's meaningful political participation and leadership.
- 1.4. Promote and ensure local women's increased **visibility and meaningful participation in all advocacy moments**.
- 1.5. Support UCLG Sections to **strengthen women's regional networks** and dialogues between women in different levels of government.

#### 2. Gender Mainstreaming

The Standing Committee enables the work of the UCLG Women Facility by strengthening our collective narratives, and promoting learning, research, advocacy and dialogue in order to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, localize Generation Equality and achieve the 2030 Agenda in a gender-transformative way.

- 2.1. Nurture solidarity between Regional Sections to develop and implement regionally-specific **Gender Equality Charters**.
- 2.2. Support UCLG's collaboration with **UN Women** and its efforts in promoting multi-stakeholder engagements, including in the UCLG Women Facility's work with the Generation Equality **Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership**.
- 2.3. Promote exchanges, **network-building, and learning** opportunities for women in local leadership and on gender mainstreaming.
- 2.4. Strengthen, amplify and enable the **activities on addressing violence against locally elected women**, including Regional Sections' research

initiatives, as well as the work of the UCLG Commission on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR).

- 2.5. Encourage the UCLG environment to mainstream the **Feminist Accessibility Protocol** and **Young Feminist Manifesto**, as part of inclusive gender mainstreaming practices throughout the municipal movement.

### 3. Care Systems

UCLG's **Pact for the Future** is rooted in a feminist politics that **puts care, equality, proximity, solidarity, trust and participation** at the heart of policies and actions; its conception was deeply guided by the Feminist Municipal Movement which calls for new forms of leadership, and a renewed social concrete which truly cares for people and planet. As such, the **Standing Committee plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the unfolding of the Pact remains deeply aligned with its feminist values** of care and equality.

- 3.1. Contribute to and nurture the continued development of the collective narrative and **key pillars of feminist municipalism**, and leadership in the meaningful realization of the Pact for the Future.
- 3.2. Engage in **research and peer learning** exchanges on care systems and the feminist municipal agenda with **diverse stakeholders**.
- 3.3. Promote equitable representation in the local and regional government constituency's efforts at key global milestones like the **Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)**, the **UN Summit of the Future**, and key global agendas like the upcoming UN Pact for the Future.
- 3.4. Support the collation and **amplification of multimedia case studies and tools** for gender mainstreaming and developing feminist policies and programs, through platforms such as the **UCLG CIB Gender Hub** and the **Global Alliance for Care**.
- 3.5. Engage in exchanges with local and regional governments working on gender equitable **social norms change**, and the redistribution of care work, and in particular encourage local **men's allyship and engagement** in these societal transformations.

### 4. Multistakeholder High Impact Partnerships

The **UCLG Women Facility is the ideal platform for bringing diverse groups together**, and the Standing Committee plays a key role, as the motor behind it. Members of the Committee must ensure that the different parts of the network are working well together, while also **connecting with the diverse voices** of partners from grassroots backgrounds, feminist and LGBTQIA+ movements and indigenous women, and to international organizations and the UN system. The Committee should further continue to ensure **links between the global, regional and local agendas**, grounding our Organization's policies and perspectives in local realities.

- 4.1. Amplify a gender-transformative approach, and the values of the feminist municipal agenda in the **joint actions led in partnership with UN agencies and international organizations**, including the Advisory Group of the UN Secretary-General on Local and Regional Governments; the localization of the SDGs with UN-Habitat and UNDESA, in collaborations with UN Women, and the local review of ICPD implementation with UNFPA.
- 4.2. Monitor the active participation and collective agenda-setting **of diverse stakeholders in UCLG processes**, in particular through UCLG's Town Halls, Caucuses and Committees.
- 4.3. Empower UCLG's roles in multistakeholder engagements like the Generation Equality Forum **Action Coalition #6 on Feminist Movements and**

**Leadership**; and as member of the Management Committee of the **Global Alliance for Care**.

- 4.4. Promote dialogue between the **UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls** and local governments, in collaboration with UCLG-CSIPDHR.
- 4.5. Nurture feminist and gender-sensitive lenses in key alliances of our World Organization, including in the **high-impact coalitions presented in the [UCLG Decalogue](#)** on the occasion of the UN SDG Summit.

## **IV. Calendar of interest to the Committee**

### **2023:**

- 26-28 October, UCLG World Council, Konya
- 29 October, International Day of Care and Support
- 6-8 November, Conference of UCLG IOPD, Rio de Janeiro
- 25 November, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 25 November-10 December, 16 Days of Action to end Violence against Women
- 29 November, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day
- 27 November-1 December, UCLG Culture Summit, Dublin
- 4 December, Gender Equality Day of COP28, Dubai

### **2024:**

- January, UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights: Training on addressing violence against women, Banjul
- (Date TBC) Future Envisioning Exercise on feminist municipal agenda and equality-driven local service provision towards the CSW68
- (Date TBC) Meeting of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in Nouakchott
- 19-23 February, UCLG Retreat
- 8 March, International Women's Day
- 11-22 March, 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, New York City
- 10-12 April, UCLG Executive Bureau, San José de Costa Rica
- 8-18 July, UN High Level Political Forum, New York City
- 22-23 September, UN Summit of the Future, New York City

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
**COMMITTEE ON CULTURE**

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

**A. People**

- To organise the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award “UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21”, including the Award ceremonies (July 2024, Mexico City).
- To disseminate the results of the 5<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit taking place in Dublin (28 November – 1 December 2023) and to identify the host city of the 6<sup>th</sup> UCLG Culture Summit (to take place in 2025).
- To disseminate and contribute to unfold the UCLG Pact for the Future with the “Culture 21 PLUS” (working title). To test this frame in at least 8 cities. This new document would be a Cultural Rights-based toolkit, based on the acquis of the UCLG Committee on Culture, including the Rome Charter and the concept of circular culture. To guarantee a dialogue and co-construction process among the cities of the Committee, and to disseminate outcomes.

**B. Planet**

- To consolidate the dedicated website “OBS” presenting more than 300 good practices, and to consolidate its partnerships.
- To work with the Climate Heritage Network and its “Race to Resilience” process, reinforcing the cultural dimension presence at the COPs.
- To consolidate the website of the Committee as a true portal to knowledge on “culture in sustainable cities”, and to consolidate existing work on social media (TW, FB, Flickr, Instagram, Youtube) and explore presence in new social media (LinkedIn).
- To organise or participate in a wide number of online seminars, webinars and meetings.

**C. Government**

- To ensure a strong presence in the HLPF (July 2024) and the UN Summit of the Future (September 2024).
- To continue our committed membership in the #Culture2030Goal global campaign.
- To consolidate long-term partnerships with the UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights, UNESCO and the EU.
- To consolidate long-term partnerships with the culture initiatives of G-20 and U-20, the global civil society networks, and the culture areas of the global and regional city networks.
- To ensure the full involvement of all members of the Governance Team in the leadership of the Committee.
- To launch a new series of workshops of our capacity-building programme “Seven Keys” on the localisation of SDGs with a cultural perspective, in close cooperation with UCLG Sections and UCLG partners.
- To promote the programmes of Leading Cities, Pilot Cities and Culture 21 LAB.
- To guarantee new areas of cooperation, with joint (advocacy and “on-the-ground”) specific projects with all UCLG Sections, especially with those sections with a culture committee or initiative.

## 2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:

The UCLG Committee on Culture is jointly chaired by Buenos Aires, Lisbon and Mexico City, and vice-chaired by Barcelona, Bilbao, Bogotá, Jeju, Porto Alegre and Rome. The list of members of the Committee is available on [this website](#).

Our narrative is based on human rights, good governance, people-centred development and the co-creation of the city. Our narrative is aligned with the UCLG Pact for the Future of Humanity: for the People, for the Planet, for the Governments.

We are a unique meeting point: the global platform that unites cities, organisations and networks that foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. We are seen as the global leader of "Culture in Sustainable Cities".

The Committee on Culture has a Secretariat located at the premises of the UCLG World Secretariat in Barcelona.

## 3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:

- Culture 21 PLUS, our global toolkit on Cultural Rights in Sustainable Development: draft and call of expressions to "test" the toolkit.
- UCLG Culture Summit: [Website, background document and programme](#).
- Launch of the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.
- UCLG Decalogue "Towards cities, governments and a multilateral system that care for people, democracy, and our planet. High-impact coalitions, commitments, and calls to localise the 2030 Agenda.
- [The OBS of good practices](#): new good practices in 2023.
- [Culture2030Goal campaign](#): Statement on the need to implement Mondiacult and to advocate for a Culture Goal.
- [Global advocacy on Culture Goal](#): clear mention to Culture Goal (or to culture and sustainable development) in key statements: the UN SDG Summit (September 2023), the BRICS Statement (August 2023) and the G20 Leaders Declaration (September 2023), among others.
- The report "[A Cultural Boost in the implementation of the SDGs](#)" which includes synergies (positive interactions) and trade-offs (negative interactions).
- The report "[Localising the SDGs with a Cultural Perspective. Initial results of the Seven Keys programme](#)" that summarises the workshops implemented in Bulawayo, Burgos, Concepción, Izmir, Lilongwe, Lisbon, el Puerto de la Cruz, Saint-Louis, Yoff and Xi'an.
- CHN and partners at the COP 28: [Venice Call to Action on Culture and Climate Change](#).
- The Urban 20 White Paper on "[Championing 'Local' Culture and Economy](#)" (CLCE).
- MOOC: [Culture and Gender Equality](#).
- MOOC: [Culture and Climate Resilient Development](#).

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
**COMMITTEE ON LOCAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

The work of the Committee for 2024 will focus on two main axes:

- Renewing the World Forum on Local Economic Development (WFLED) dialogue with a "caring" approach, guiding the world organization with the process, enhancing the greater alignment of UCLG members in it and the inclusion of different components of the Pact for the Future of Humanity. The roadmap towards the 6th WFLED will allow for a renewed, territorial process of articulation of actors, with more presence of the community but encompassed in the global agenda. It will address key elements of the axes of PEOPLE, PLANET and GOVERNMENT both in its knowledge management community and in the intermediate events and global forum.
- Ensure the political momentum and participation of World Organisation members in the Committee, which will also identify champions in local economic development.

**A. People**

- **Action 1.** Enhance collaboration with ILO-ILO by generating mutual learning spaces, disseminating experiences developed in 2023 on SDG8, key document and good practices in decent employment and partnerships, in partnership with WFLED.

*Contributing to component 5: Ensure decent work and fair remuneration for all, based on respect for the principles of subsidiarity, shared responsibilities and collaborative implementation, and entrepreneurship.*

- **Action 2.** Renew Daejeon public services dialogue by developing a document on quality employment, public services and local economy in coordination with Local4Action HUB Public Services and WFLED.

*Contributing to component 2: Promote universal and equitable access to public services, including housing, health, education and participation in cultural and political life.*

**B. Planet**

- **Action 3.** Promotion of the document Local economic development in the framework of just transition (ecological, climate, energy, consumption), with good territorial practices aimed at generating knowledge on local policies on economy and just transition and generating an additional chapter in the MOOC already developed by the committee on LED aligned with learning.

*Contributing to component 3 Promote local economic development policies that foster new indicators based on quality of life and well-being rather than economic growth or performance, and connect city systems to the surrounding hinterlands.*

*Contributing to component 4 Empowering local communities to play a key role in protecting biodiversity, water, the environment and the planet, and regenerating local employment and optimising resources to improve quality of life and protect the environment*

*Contributing to component 5 Initiate the transition to renewable energy systems as an urgent priority for a more sustainable and just future.*



*Contributing to component 8 Promote sustainable and inclusive food systems that are managed and enhanced by all spheres of governance, ensuring food access and quality, food security, sovereignty and resilience.*

*Contributing to component 10 Harnessing the potential of the doughnut economy to move from destructive to restorative models*

### **C. Government**

- **Action 4.** Promote local economic development policy with a multilevel, decentralised and participatory territorial approach based on the quadruple helix, strengthening the presence and leadership of local governments in the VI WFLED and incorporating the process into the global/multilateral agenda.

*Contributing to component 1 Fostering inclusive, participatory and accountable multilevel governance for global action*

*Contributing to component 9 Contributing to the strengthening of multilateralism through meaningful participation in global agendas as well as in global decision-making bodies.*

*Contributing to component 10 Contributing to component Pivot the role of local and regional governments in relation to the future of employment, beyond legislation and the provision of jobs, recognising the concept of time as a currency and its lack as a form of exclusion to be addressed*

## **2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:**

The LESD committee is chaired by FAMSI and its secretariat for local economic development. Until 2023 it has been the Mayor of Las Cabezas de San Juan, Francisco Toajas. After the elections in 2023, it is foreseen that he will continue to hold the presidency in his capacity as Deputy of the provincial government of Seville (Diputación de Sevilla).

The permanent technical secretariat remains in Seville, in coordination with the World Secretariat.

In 2024, the governance will be renewed and strengthened by expanding to a shared political leadership group that includes UCLG member cities that are champions in local economic development.

## **3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:**

Key outcomes in 2023 will be linked to the celebration in October of the event "SDG8 and cooperation in the framework of just transition and social justice" together with the ILO, and the work linked to the "Economy of Care" together with MEWA and aligned with the Pact for the Future, developing a virtual event in November 2023 and preparatory meetings in Konya. Two main documents will be developed during 2023, one on SDG8 and just transition resulting from the Seville workspace, and a second one on Economy of Care, with local policy keys and examples of policies developed at municipal level.

Also in 2023, the 6th WFLED will be launched after a working process that led to a new call and the management of international partnerships; it will be announced in Konya by the Committee.

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL INCLUSION, PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY  
AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

**A. People**

The Committee will continue the update process **of the Global Charter-Agenda of Human Rights in the City**. The process consists of different phases: the first phase (2023 - 2024) is dedicated to the update of the structure of the document; which consists in revising the structure of the 12 rights currently included in the Charter-Agenda (title, formulation and re-grouping), with the support of a Steering Board of experts and civil servants of Local and Regional Governments. The second phase (2024 - 2025) will consist in the update of the content and main principles (preamble, general provisions). **The update process will touch upon several thematic areas mentioned in the three axes of the Pact for the future.**

**A third wave of the Global Campaign "10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030"** – which currently gathers more than 100 LRGs around the world – will be launched to share local initiatives to protect human rights at a global level; work in collaboration with other cities and territories; participate in events of international advocacy; and reflect with us on the future of the "Human Rights Cities".

The Committee will also focus **on gender issues through the implementation of its international project on violence against women – in cooperation with the Department of Seine Saint Denis - "Towards caring Territories against women's violence"** through the organization of an international training in Banjul; webinars and online meetings; the production of a MOOC and the drafting of a "Value Charter" for local governments committed to the fight against violence against women. Furthermore, the Committee will pursue its **collaboration with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls**, including in the framework of UN events.

The Committee will continue supporting local events and initiatives led by member-local governments seeking to share knowledge, advance political discussions or trigger collective action among local governments on human rights. **In particular, in 2024 the Committee will support the City of Barcelona in producing tools and instruments for local governments on the subject of antiracism, along with other LRGs such as the Cities of Rio de Janeiro, San Antonio and Malmo. Moreover, the Committee will support Ciudad Juárez in the implementation of a local charter on Right to the City adopted in 2023.**

**B. Planet**

The Committee will organize joint activities to explore the notion promoted by the OHCHR on "**Human Rights Economy**"; in collaboration with the OHCHR and Raoul Wallenberg Institute, including in the framework of the World Human Rights Forum of Gwangju. In this context, a special focus will be given **to budgeting and procurement frameworks to foster a just-green-transition and protect environmental rights**, including by promoting innovative public-private partnerships at local level.

## C. Government

The Committee will promote activities and collective reflection on issues related to **Human Rights, Government and Trust**, with a specific focus on transparency, accountability and anti-corruption, with key partners such as The Raoul Wallenberg Institute. The Committee will also promote cooperation to **explore participatory approaches and practices of local democracy with the IOPD and civil society organizations** to promote citizens' participation and co-creation to shape urban equity.

**Following the reactivation of the Housing Community of Practices by convening a virtual gathering in September 2023 on "The Role of Local and Regional Governments in Addressing the Decriminalization of Homelessness and Poverty,** in 2024 the Committee will continue to support the collaboration among local and regional governments on right to housing; leveraging the CoP to advocate for the localization of the housing agenda; and for the allocation of responsibilities and resources at local level to address housing challenges.

### 2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:

No updates

### 3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:

- Report of the first results of the Global Campaign "10, 100,1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030".
- Political Declaration on "Caring Territories against gender-based violence", adopted in Iztalapa in December 2022, in the framework of the international training "Fighting Violence against Women in public and private spaces".
- Letter co-signed by the UCLG Secretary General Ms. Saiz and Mr. Türk, the current United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to invite LRGs to participate in the UN 75 initiative for the 75 anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Report of the Consultation with the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and Girls held in the framework of the Bogotá Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace in June 2023.
- Contribution for the Report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing on "The role of Local and Regional Governments in relation to the decriminalization of homelessness and poverty".

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
**COMMITTEE ON URBAN STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

The Urban Strategic Planning Committee will in 2024 actively support the implementation of the Localization of the SDG's. This would be done in collaboration with various working groups and committees of the UCLG. It is important to note that the SDG's require a transversal approach to implementation and as such the Committee on Urban Strategic Planning would work with the other committees to continue localization. There will be a stronger focus on formalization of reporting mechanisms at a Local Government level as we lead up to the Summit of the Future.

**A. People**

- Progress in the construction of new views, through networking and strategies adapting to the global context, aiming at local, human, solidary, inclusive, sustainable development.

**B. Planet**

- Working with existing partners to promote the 15 Minute city concept within the parameters of the Pact for the Future and ensuring inclusivity;
- Promoting the debate on the fundamental components and the great challenges facing future development strategies, in the context of the new normality, and addressing resilience and resilience building strategies into planning processes;
- Continue to address and advocate on issues of public space development.

**C. Government**

- Sharing experiences, tools and strategies for the application of a territorial focus in Local Development;
- Continue advocacy for decentralized local government with appropriate resources;
- Promote and advocate for co-created intergovernmental planning.

**2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:**

The Committee is currently Co-Chaired between the Cities of Buenos Aires and EtheKwini Municipality (Durban). Undersecretary Giorno and Mayor Kaunda are supported at a technical level by Ms. Mancuello and Mr. Akkiah respectively.

The committee operates on an open structure where any member cities can champion areas of interest, this is key as it builds capacity as well as promotes succession planning.

One of the key areas that would need to be explored in 2024 is the need to expand the membership of the committee. This would require active marketing of member cities as well as funding to generate continuous activities related to the work of the Committee.

To this end, the Committee will continue promoting its work with networks such as Mercociudades, CIDEU, FLACMA, ICLEI and seek to extend to other networks should there be sufficient requests on the related matters.

It is planned to present in November 2023 a publication with the contents and contributions made by speakers and participating cities at the Training in Spanish done in 2022 and 2023, for cities member of CIDEU about Implementation of Resilience Strategies, organized with the UCLG Learning Team.

### **3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:**

The USP will continue to be a key committee in the UCLG by effectively supporting the work of the Global Organization. Key to this would be to leverage support of the Member Cities in the committee to actively network with other like minded organizations. As Mayors within the committee we would actively engage various networks on the importance and relevance of the UCLG. It is key that the UCLG pursue opportunities for member cities to cross pollinate work of various external networks. We will also work on the identification and recognition of regional particularities through a diverse representation, adding cities of the different regions of the world

Learning and the development of knowledge tools has been one of the key areas that the USP has been involved in, this will continue in 2024. Based on the advocacy areas listed above the USP will provide input into key learning tools developed by the UCLG and Network Partners. Key areas for input are Public Space, Resilience in Planning, Global Observatory of Proximity specifically workgroup 1.

Some of the key areas of progress in 2023 are as follows:

- The committee was actively involved in the development of the SDG 11 report to the HLPF, with two member cities being present as part of the expert group meetings.
- Inputs were provided to the Expert group responsible for the report on impacts of COVID on Cities, which was presented at the HLPF.
- The committee was represented at the Expert Group on Stakeholder engagements by invited from the President of ECOSOC.
- Member cities were present and made inputs at the HLPF 2023 on behalf of the committee as well as organizations at various side events.
- Active participation by the member cities in the Global Observatory of Proximity WG1 and ensuring the principles of the Pact of the Future are incorporated into the 15 Minute city concept.
- Learning exchanges on Resilience and Territorial planning in South America.
- Partnering with other networks to deliver training on disaster risk reduction and the importance of planning at an Africa Regional Level.
- The committee was represented at the Global Policy Forum and presented on the need to develop strategic planning frameworks to ensure sustainability.

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
**WORKING GROUP ON CAPACITY AND INSTITUTION BUILDING  
(CIB)**

For the coming year, we have identified four main cross-cutting objectives in order to further strengthen the network and increase potential impact:

1. Strong information exchange, knowledge exchange, coordination & learning among CIB members, leading to increased development effectiveness and a stronger local government development cooperation sector.
2. Continued policy work & advocacy, leading to further acknowledgment of the need and relevance of local government development cooperation, within UCLG and towards the international community and national governments.
3. Joint members actions. Strengthening CIB network and internal structure, leading to active engagement of a geographically evenly spread CIB membership voicing coherently both Global North and Global South.
4. Contribute in the UCLG efforts in unfolding of the Pact for the future and the acceleration of SDGs.

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

**A. People**

The following activities and products are focused on maintaining and deepening this network:

- CIB Gender Equality and Inclusive Governance Knowledge Hub: After the launch of the website in 2023, the online repository and network will be expanded through the use of timely newsletters, webinars, member meetings and the development of new resources in order to support the transmission of knowledge, network building and improved access for local government associations, regions, cities and local leaders to existing evidence and research about the impact of gender mainstreaming in LRG's affairs. Furthermore, establishing a champions programme of champions who advocate for gender equality and inclusive local governance, based on the knowledge curated in the Gender Hub. These 'gender champions' will be connected to the broader initiative of CIB, in which we create a pool of champions for development cooperation of local governments.
- In-Person Annual Meeting in Barcelona together with Diputació Barcelona: The annual meeting presents itself as the perfect opportunity for the CIB membership to touch base and exchange knowledge and experiences and to provide input to the Pact for the Future.

**B. Planet**

Climate adaptation and resilience has become a clear growing issue that our members have expressed the need for more resources on. In this light, the CIB is actively exploring into opportunities to facilitate experience- and knowledge sharing events and/or platforms through which practitioners can share and showcase best practices. During the CIB Annual

Meeting 2023 in Marrakesh, CIB successfully organized a workshop on climate resilience and crisis preparedness and is looking into expanding on this work.

### **C. Government**

A key guideline for CIB in 2024 is to make the implementation of new practices tangible for governments.

In terms of government, the main objectives for the coming year are to strengthen the network in order to have an inclusion participation of our members worldwide. We aim specifically to involve more actors from Latin America, Africa and Asia region. In order to achieve this, we formulated four actions:

- Showcasing of repertoire of effective approaches, best practices and tools for the challenging realities of our current time where LRGs play a crucial role, for instance by expanding on the CIB study on the International Cooperation of Cities.
- CIB will be more visible and represented during specific meetings aimed at the 'target regions'.
- Prioritise bilateral meetings LGAs and other relevant actors from the target regions in the margins of UCLG gatherings.
- Aim to actively involve more diverse actors in the CIB initiatives, such as the Gender Knowledge Hub.

## **2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:**

The leadership has been renewed in 2022 and is being co-chaired by Dr. Neila Akrimi, Head of Strategies and Networks at VNG International, and Pascal Lavoie, Director of International Program at the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. The CIB secretariat consists of Anne Schuurmans and Finn Speulman from VNG International based in The Hague, who succeeded Jessie Post and Joppe Bastiaansen.

## **3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:**

- Launch of the CIB Gender Equality and Inclusive Governance Online Knowledge Hub website.
- Development of CIB Gender Equality Toolkit designed to provide LGAs with materials and tools for effectively incorporating gender equality into their local policies, programs and initiatives.
- CIB Annual Meeting 2023 in Marrakesh during which four thematic workshops on gender equality and inclusive governance, climate resilience and crisis preparedness, city-to-city cooperation, and the localization of SDGs were organized.
- In light of the many changes within the CIB network (new leadership in 2022, Pact for the Future, adoption of the UCLG-CIB policy paper), the leadership facilitated a strategic review of the organization which identified emerging issues and consisted of recommendations for strategic actions.
- Joint Action Program among CIB members on Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion in Local Governance facilitated by Diputació Barcelona.

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
**WORKING GROUP ON TERRITORIAL PREVENTION AND  
MANAGEMENT OF CRISES**

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

**A. People**

In 2023 two new major crises hit local and regional governments hard. In order to help people and their communities, two initiatives were launched in 2023 and will continue in 2024.

On February 6th, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southeastern Turkey, near the city of Gaziantep, as well as much of northern Syria. The death toll has been very high, more than 50,000 dead and hundreds of thousands injured. There has been widescale destruction. In light of this major disaster, Cités Unies France, in partnership with UCLG, the World Secretariat and the Working Group, launched a rehabilitation assistance program and raised approximately 350,000 Euros in donations from French and international communities. A partnership has been established with the Union of Municipalities of Turkey (UMT) to launch an aid program that will take place in 2024 with the municipalities of Besni and Gölbaşı.

On September 8, 2023, a magnitude 7 earthquake heavily affected Morocco, killing more than 2,900 people and injuring 5,000. In light of this disaster, it is important to mobilize local and regional governments and UCLG. The collection phase currently underway will continue until the end of the year and already has the support of more than 40 French local and regional governments. A direct assistance program for the most affected villages will be launched in 2024 with the help of local partners, including UCLG-Africa.

**B. Planet**

Reconstruction assistance programs supported by the Working Group and the UCLG World Secretariat through the **International Solidarity Fund** are all aimed at strengthening local resilience for planet-friendly reconstruction and rehabilitation.

**C. Government**

In 2024, the Working Group will continue its advocacy activities in order to strengthen, with other aid actors (United Nations, NGOs, think tanks, researchers), the role of local authorities around **crisis response** and **local diplomatic action in response to crises**.

A learning and knowledge sharing document setting out the direct contributions of local authorities in these areas will boost UCLG's collective contribution to the Summit of the Future convened by the United Nations.

**2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:**

The City of Geneva has confirmed its willingness to continue in the leadership role for this group for 2024.



### 3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:

#### We advocate:

- Through decentralized cooperation, international diplomatic action, which was previously seen as a “closed area”, has become a growing prerogative at local level. Local **level diplomacy** refers to efforts made by local authorities to engage in international relations with other cities and regions of the world. In the context of crises of any kind, whether a diplomatic crisis or impact of a natural disaster affecting them, local elected officials are now on the frontline. During the global pandemic, wars or following the ever-increasing number of natural disasters, local elected officials are there first to deal with the situation and come to the aid of the population. They often have a low level of resources, but they always bring the spirit of solidarity. In order to reassert the crucial role that local authorities have in local diplomatic action, a key conference was organized in July 2023 by Cités Unies France, in partnership with UCLG and the Working Group, within the French Parliament entitled: national diplomacy and international action by local and regional governments in response to crises.
- At the end of December 2023, on the sidelines of the Global Refugee Forum, the Working Group will hold its annual seminar around two key areas: urban diplomacy in response to crises and solutions to internal displacement.

#### We act:

- Two solidarity initiatives have been launched: the solidarity funds for Morocco and for Turkey.
- Two solidarity initiatives have been closed: the Lebanon and Indonesia solidarity funds.

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
GLOBAL FUND FOR CITIES DEVELOPMENT (FMDV)

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

**Cross-cutting Finance Component of the “Planet” & “Government” Pillars**

- **Annual Forums of the Alliances of Subnational Development Banks in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean** – Dates to be confirmed.
- **Early discussion on the creation of a Multilateral Development Banks’ joint technical assistance fund for Subnational Development Banks** in Latin America and/or Africa
- Proposition for a **Local Investment Forum** to be held in Sao Paulo, in June 2024 during the “Sao Paulo International Summit 2024” together with UCLG and Metropolis and other partners to be confirmed.
- **Series of webinars and in-person workshops on subnational finance** for local and regional governments in West Africa, Uganda & Kenya
- **Implementation of Country Programs on Sustainable and Climate Urban Finance** in Togo, Côte d’Ivoire and Uganda and a sub-regional Program in 10 countries part and partners of the West African Economic and Monetary Union.
- **Design phase of the *Urban Opportunity Fast Forward Initiative – UFFI*** – selection of recipient countries and regions in Latin America and Africa to create regional & national hubs of financial engineering (one-stop-shops) to support access to sustainable and climate finance for Ministries and Local and Regional Governments and their utilities/agencies + domestic networks.
- **On-line Platform capitalizing on publications and webinars/masterclasses on access to Financing** for Smart and Green ASEAN Cities – SGAC Program led together with UNCDF and funded by the European Commission
- **Launch of the first edition of the “Finance Innovation Awards”**, as part of the ‘Finance your Cities & Regions’ Platform, together with UCLG, ADEME and the French Ministry for Ecological Transition.
- **Scaling up and out of the International Municipal Investment Fund** (on subnational equity investment opportunities) together with UNCDF and UCLG.

**2. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023**

- **September 2023 - Finance in Common Summit Final Communiqué** - integrating the key role of Subnational Development Banks-SDBs (based on the 3 initiatives coordinated by FMDV: the 2 Alliances of SDBs for Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean + the Coalition on Resilient Cities & Regions)  
<https://financeincommon2023.com/final-communiqué/>

Abstract:

« The work that PDBs, and especially local banks, can do in originating projects on the ground, building on their knowledge of local markets, was fully recognized. Given the existing capillarity of subnational development banks, the role of municipalities and local authorities, the potential to reduce financing gaps and increase economic and social integration of territories, the FiCS Coalition on resilient cities and regions will propose a reinforced working agenda with subnational development banks based on the strategies designed by the two Alliances of SDBs in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean. This includes consolidating the ecosystem of players, technical assistance and funding and financing channels to ensure the setting up of a systemic urbanization financing architecture. Participants also insisted on the need to invest more on project preparation facilities. »

- **September 2023 - Contribution to the Joint Statement of the U20 Climate Finance Working Group**  
<https://www.urban20.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/U20-CFWG-statement-FINAL-TO-PUBLISH.pdf>
- **October 2023 - Third Meeting of the Malaga Coalition** – 5 & 6 October 2023 in Malaga

### **FMDV's Publications in 2023**

- "Alignment of LAC SDBs strategies, norms, standards and operational procedures with global agendas" (June 2023)
- "The Role of Subnational Development Banks (SDBs) in financing the urban climate transition in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)" - coordinated by FMDV and CAF (September 2023)
- "Subnational Development Banks (SDBs) - Risk Mitigation Mechanisms for Local Investment" - coordinated by IDB and FMDV (November 2023)
- 'Bridging Africa's urban infrastructure gap: financial intermediaries for facilitating cities' access to debt finance in Africa' Working Paper by ODI and supported by FMDV (Authors: Löffler, G. and Haas, A.) (September 2023)

WORK OF CONSULTATION MECHANISMS IN 2023-2024  
INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATORY ON PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACY

**1. Main activities planned for 2024, organized according to the key components of the Pact for the Future, when relevant:**

**A. People**

Through a new edition of the IOPD Distinction “Best Practices in Citizen Participation”, the IOPD will continue to **promote a more inclusive, diverse and transparent participatory democracy**. In the last editions, those experiences have been recognized as innovative in their contexts and as having human rights approaches, gender equality with a diversity/non-binary perspective, social inclusion of neglected groups (women, diverse gender identities, children, youth, older adults, people with disabilities, street people, inhabitants of rural areas).

**B. Planet**

The IOPD will continue to work to visualize and promote **participatory and co-creation practices that favor sustainability, natural regeneration and environmental justice approaches to ecological transition**. All of these municipal and regional experiences can be found on the Participate IOPD platform, which serves as a repository for knowledge sharing.

**C. Government**

A large part of the Observatory's work is aimed at the **development of content and learning tools, especially for members representing local and regional governments**. Webinars will be held where they will be invited to participate in order to share knowledge, and the monthly newsletter will continue to be sent out according to the communication needs of the network.

**2. Updates on the leadership and membership of the consultation mechanism:**

During the next General Assembly in 2023, **Valongo will assume the presidency of our network and Rio de Janeiro will become co-chair**. Valongo will be the host city of the next 23rd IOPD Conference in 2024.

It will be during this same General Assembly that the IOPD will launch a call for the **appointment of the female Co-President of our network to ensure gender equality among the membership**. The Coordination Committee will also be renewed.

**3. Key outcomes or policy documents in 2023:**

During this year, three virtual sessions have been organized and held towards the 22nd **IOPD Conference** under the theme “Participatory Democracy for Diverse, Inclusive and Transparent Cities”, which will take place on **6-8 November 2023 in the city of Rio de Janeiro**. From each of these webinars, three policy recommendation documents have been produced:

- “Municipal Feminism: towards the political participation of women in all their diversity”<sup>1</sup>. The objective of the session was to explore the notion of feminist participatory democracy, how to ensure gender equity in local public policies and leadership and meaningful transformations that guarantee the full inclusion of women in all their diversity, as well as gender identities and structurally marginalized groups, such as children, youth, the elderly, indigenous people and people with disabilities.
- “Co-creation in SDG localization: Citizens and local governments co-creating the localization of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs”. The objective of the webinar was to share examples of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through citizen participation in co-creation practices and to discuss what steps to take to make the goals as achievable as possible. In this sense, co-creation in SDG localization has been placed at the center of IOPD's work as an unbeatable opportunity to achieve better solutions, strengthen communities and build resilience in cities and local territories.
- “Local and regional governments facing the rise of mistrust, polarization and extremism”. The objective of this session organized on the International Day of Democracy was to visualize how distrust towards institutions and among citizens is growing due to the rise of disinformation, fake news and polarization, and how it impacts democracy. It also aims to present possible solutions through local participatory and deliberative democracy to address these challenges.

In the 17th edition of the **IOPD “Best Practices in Citizen Participation” Award**, 149 experiences of local, regional and supra-local governments were presented.

This was an outstanding year for the IOPD: our award set a new record for the number of nominations received. This achievement goes beyond a simple number, it is a reflection of the hard work of local and regional governments to promote a more inclusive and sustainable participatory democracy with communities in all their diversity, despite the multiple crises we face in the world today.

In addition, this year two categories were added to classify and evaluate the practices presented. The first focuses on the most outstanding dimension of the practice: the deliberative process, the inclusion and role of citizens in decision-making and the centrality of the citizen dimension of the project.

The 149 applications received were initially evaluated by a jury to select the 40 finalists. A second, smaller jury deliberated on the winning experience and the special mentions.

The main criteria for selecting the winning experiences were the degree of innovation in their own context, the promotion of inclusion, the impacts achieved and the inspiring example to achieve a significant transformation hand in hand with local and regional governments in collaboration with communities.

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<sup>1</sup> See the publication here: <https://www.oidp.net/en/publication.php?id=1913>