



A Pact for the Future: Renewing the Social Contract for the great reset

18 November 2021, 11:00-13:00 CET

Local and regional governments are endeavouring to build on the lessons learned from the pandemic and the demonstrated essential role they play in protecting our communities and our world. Public service provision has been the backbone of health measures, caring for people to ensure no one and no place is left behind.

There is an urgent need for global stakeholders to cooperate in simultaneously managing the direct consequences of the COVID-19 crisis and transform society. The municipal movement understands the sense of urgency, and believes in the importance of co-creating and setting the priorities in the great reset. In short; there is a need to renew how we relate with each other, with our planet, and with our governments. To achieve the breakthrough scenario listed in the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda in which we face the challenges of the future in a sustainable, resilient, and fair manner, a new social contract is needed.

The UNSG's report on "Our Common Agenda" provides the Secretary-General's vision on the future of multilateralism and strategies to reinvigorate it in the next 25 years building on the global consultation process engaging local and regional governments and other actors for the UN's 75th anniversary (UN75).

The Pact for the Future that UCLG is mandated to develop aims to take advantage of the window of opportunity that the pandemic has opened. Its three axes speak directly to the work of the constituency and to the themes identified in the UNSG's Common Agenda such as

- leaving no one behind through basic service provision;
- protecting our planet through our renewed relationship with nature;
- promoting peace and placing women at the centre through our work on Generation Equality;
- reshaping the multilateral system and building trust among spheres of government and with the international system through our local democracy agenda.

The transformation that the world needs begins at the local level, by breaking through many of the concepts that worked for the 20th century but no longer do in the post-COVID world. Reimagining our relationship with nature, rethinking local and global finance, redistributing wealth and power across all spheres of government and communities, and rethinking our relationship as spheres of



government with the international system, Academia, and civil society will give us the chance to develop a renewed social contract that develops a feminist world, that places value in the ecological transformation, and that acknowledges municipalism as the way to bring our communities closer to the institutions that govern them.

A social contract to care for people, for the planet, and for governments.

This Policy Debate will count on the presence of the UCLG-UBUNTU Advisors and the Membership to explore key issues to be covered by the renewed social contract, to envision what it means to develop a world that cares and how to break through as one, as the municipal movement rises to the challenge to meet the post-COVID era. Participants will provide policy recommendations and envision future scenarios to guide the development of the Pact in preparation for the great reset by debating and co-creating the new essentials for people, for the planet, and for the government inspired by the themes of the UN's Common Agenda.

Voices you will hear:

Ana Falú, Professor Emeritus of the National University of Cordoba, UCLG UBUNTU Advisor

Jorge Pérez Jaramillo, Advisor of Urban Planning, Government of Antioquia, UCLG UBUNTU Advisor

María Fernanda Espinosa, President of the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, UCLG UBUNTU Advisor

Aromar Revi, Founding Director, Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS), UCLG Ubuntu Advisor

Annex

Key areas of the UN Secretary General's report on "Our Common Agenda"

The report includes key proposals based on the [12 areas of action](#) identified within the UN75 declaration that can only be addressed through reinvigorated multilateralism:



a) **“Leave no one behind”** through a renewed social contract and universal social protection, among others.

b) **“Protect our planet”** through committing to net zero emissions by 2050 or earlier and a 1.5-degree Celsius goal, mitigating the effects of climate change and displacement, and strengthening food systems, among others.

c) **“Promote peace and prevent conflicts”** through adopting a “New Agenda for Peace” and promote multi-stakeholder dialogue, among others.

d) **“Abide by international law and ensure justice”** by guaranteeing the protection of human rights, even online, legal identity for all, and a global roadmap for the implementation of international law, among others.

e) **“Place women and girls at the centre”** through striking down gender discriminatory laws, women’s empowerment and promoting the inclusion of young women in decision-making processes, among others.

f) **“Build trust”** by promoting integrity within public information, better quality public services, tackling corruption, reforming the tax system and encouraging dialogue between national governments and other actors, among others.

g) **“Improve digital cooperation”** and adopt a “Global Digital Compact” to provide access to all to the internet, protect data, apply human rights online, promote the regulation of AI, among others.

h) **“Upgrade the United Nations”** through the creation of a “High-level Advisory Board led by former Heads of State and Government on improved governance of global public goods”, promoting policies centered around people, increased consultations with different actors, among others

i) **“Ensure sustainable financing”** through the establishment of a “Biennial Summit between the Group of 20, the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General and the heads of international financial institutions for a sustainable, inclusive and resilient global economy” based on investment boosts on achieving the SDGs, more flexible



development incentives, and a fairer world trading system, among others.

j) **“Boost partnerships”** through annual meetings between the UN, regional organizations, and multilateral development institutions, **“systematic engagement with parliaments, subnational authorities and the private sector”**, and establish civil society focal points in all UN entities.

k) **“Listen to and work with youth”** by establishing a United Nations Youth Office, a coalition to promote the creation and training of green and digital economy jobs, and represent succeeding generations, including through a “repurposed Trusteeship Council, a Declaration on Future Generations, and a United Nations Special Envoy for Future Generations”.

l) **“Be prepared”** by convening an “Emergency Platform” to tackle complex global crises, a strengthened WHO, and promote universal health coverage.

