



## CONCEPT NOTE

### UCLG Municipal Peace Talks: Local Governments roles and solidarity in times of international crisis

13 June 2022, 10:45-12:30 CEST  
Hybrid session

*Led by the World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju, in cooperation with the UCLG Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy:  
Keys to Sustainable Development and Peace*

In 2021 and for the first time, UCLG and its leading cities of Gwangju (Co-president of UCLG Committee on Social inclusion and Human Rights) and Barcelona (UCLG Special Envoy to the UN) met with the UN High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet to discuss about the role of local and regional governments to foster international solidarity and denounce the Myanmar Coup d'état resulting in at least 1,600 people killed, more than 12,500 arbitrarily detained, 440,00 displaced, and 14 million in need of urgent humanitarian assistance.

One year later, new humanitarian crisis and conflict contexts arisen around the world. After the concern expressed by the international community but also by UCLG membership regarding the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, the war started in Ukraine since last February. Many unarmed civilians have been massacred, and UNHRC warned that more than 4 million fled the nation and more than 10 million people displaced.

Building on our origins as a movement driven by Peace and city diplomacy, and following the mandate received from its Presidency, UCLG has launched the Municipal Peace Talks. The Talks aim to set the ground for local to local dialogue beyond the current conflict, addressing also the current issues around the role of local and regional governments in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

This session aims at discussing on the role of local and regional governments and solidarity in times of international crisis, and is envisioned not just as part of the UCLG Municipal Peace Talks, but also as the third session of the "Myanmar Conference III" organized by the City of Gwangju, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, UCLG Committee on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute. It is held in the framework of the Executive Bureau of UCLG (June 13-15).

In the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau and the Mediterranean Urban Migration Forum, and co-led by the UCLG Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy, this session of the Talks will also incorporate peacebuilding organizations and will lead to concrete action within the UCLG work program, in the framework of the broader Peace Agenda.



## Agenda

### Opening remarks (10:45-10:50)

### Cities and territories in conflict: View from UN experts (10:50 – 11:10)

#### Guiding questions:

- What is the situation of LRG in the situations you are reporting on?
- How could LRGs play a role in building international solidarity in the contexts you are addressing?

### Local and regional lessons in peacebuilding (11.10- 11.40)

#### Guiding questions:

- How could international solidarity help in your situations?
- What can LRGs do at the international level to provide short-term responses (humanitarian crisis) and mid-long term responses (city diplomacy)?

### Open discussion (with all panelists and questions/comments from the floor) (11:40 12:15)

#### Guiding questions:

- How can UN Special Rapporteurs better engage with LRGs to foster international solidarity?
- What could be the role of UCLG and networks of local and regional governments in peace building and city-diplomacy in situation of conflicts going forward?

### Closing remarks (12:15- 12:30 )

