



# Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

## Annual Meeting 2022

### Briefing Note

*Thursday 24 February 2022 – 14.00-16.00 CET*

This briefing note aims at providing GTF members and partners detailed information on state of affairs and proposed work plan to be discussed and agreed for 2022 with the following items on the agenda:

1. "Urban 2022": LRGs relation with the UN System & the NUA under Review

UN Common Agenda  
UN Task Force on the Future of Cities  
UN PGA Advisory Group on Sustainable Urbanization  
New Urban Agenda under Review

2. Ecological Transformation

Making LGMA fit for Multilevel Action Delivers  
UNEA5.2 including UNEA5 Cities and Regions Summit  
COP27 on Climate Change  
COP15 on Desertification  
COP15 on Biodiversity  
Stockholm+50

3. Local Common Agenda

Common Agenda Consultations  
GTF Localization Report  
High-Level Political Forum  
CSW66  
International Migration Review Forum  
UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction  
UN High-Level Meeting on Development Cooperation

## **1.LRGs relation with the UN System:** UN Common Agenda: UN Task Force on the Future of Cities & UN PGA Advisory Group on Sustainable Urbanization

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 constituency's contribution to the "Our Common Agenda" Report was channeled through the We the Peoples track led by the Igarapé Institute as well as through its representation of the constituency within the UN Taskforce on the Future of Cities through the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), facilitated by UCLG.

The UNSG established the "UN Task Force on the Future of Cities", an interagency task force chaired by UN-Habitat and supported by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General, which mandate is to identify possible scenarios for strengthening the institutional relationship of local and regional governments with UN intergovernmental processes. The key recommendations and proposals from the constituency were gathered in a deliverable presented to the UNSG containing 14 recommendations to strengthen local government engagement.

They directly contributed to the final "Our Common Agenda" Report which includes a commitment by the UN Secretary General to create an "Advisory Board on Local and Regional Governments" to strengthen the relationship between the United Nations and local and regional governments.

The Report, presented by the UNSG to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 10 September 2021 before the end of the 75th session of the UNGA, is a landmark report which seeks to strengthen multilateralism and global governance for future generations. It is a key report for the constituency of local and regional governments and is linked with the agenda of the World Organization.

### ***1.1 From the UN75 consultation to the We The Peoples Report: basis to the Common Agenda***

As you remember, we as constituency were commissioned by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to conduct the UN75 global consultation for the local and regional government constituency in 2020.

The constituency's UN75 Visioning Report, contributed directly to the UNSG's final UN75 "Shaping our Future Together Report" which collected the results of the consultations conducted by various actors and acted as the basis of the We the Peoples Report and Our Common Agenda Report.

The We the Peoples report is the result of a consultation held with various constituencies, including the local and regional government constituency. Which offers actional proposals for accelerating global cooperation and finding solutions to challenges such as fostering resilience, safeguarding the commons and shared resources, making economies more equal and just, and strengthening global cooperation and international institutions.

The Our Common Agenda report is an agenda designed to strengthen multilateralism and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. The report contains recommendations that touch four broad axes: renewing "solidarity between peoples and future generations", achieving "a new social contract anchored in human rights", better managing of the global commons and shared resources, and "global public goods that deliver equitably and sustainably for all".

The report includes references of the recommendations made by the UN Taskforce on the Future of Cities and the proposals made during the UN75 global consultations and the We the Peoples consultation report facilitated by the Igarapé Institute. Mainly, the report proposes to create an "Advisory Board on Local and Regional Governments" to strengthen the relationship between the United Nations and local and regional governments. The UNSG also encourages member states to take the proposals of our constituency on how we should engage with UN bodies such as the General Assembly seriously to truly achieve an inclusive and networked multilateralism.

The report also includes further references to the work of the constituency such as the advocacy work towards UN75 on the notion of inclusive multilateralism and engaging with local and regional governments in global decision making. References to the importance of VLRs and engagement of the constituency in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda are also present.

The Summit of the future in 2023 to "forge a new global consensus on what our future should look like", reshape global governance of public goods, rethink multilateralism, and establish a global digital compact.

The World Social Summit in 2025 to update the 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development, including key issues such as universal social protection, universal health coverage, housing, decent work, education and forge a new social contract.

### ***1.2 Updates on the UN Task Force on the Future of Cities***

The UNSG established the "UN Task Force on the Future of Cities" which has the mandate to identify possible scenarios for strengthening the institutional relationship of local and regional governments with UN intergovernmental processes.

The Task Force is an interagency task force chaired by UN-Habitat and supported by the Executive Office of the UN Secretary General, consisting of various UN agencies including UNDP, OHCHR, UNEP, WHO, DESA, FAO, UNHCR, UN Women, and UNESCO, among others.

It acted as a mechanism for the constituency to feed into the "Our Common Agenda" report, and answers to the requests of our constituency to strengthen the institutional relationship between the UN System in its intergovernmental processes. Additionally, the Task Force considered how to leverage the efforts made around the localization and Voluntary Local Reviews 39 (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs). UCLG, as facilitator of the GTF, represented local and regional governments within the mechanism. The meetings of the "UN Task Force on the Future of Cities" were dedicated to presenting the state of affairs of the existing relations between local governments and the UN System and options to enhance these relationships. The GTF presented this to the mechanism, expanding on its visioning report within the UN75 process. The presentation included a mapping of where the constituency is in terms of institutional relationship within the UN.

These key recommendations and proposals from the constituency were gathered by the Executive Director of UN Habitat in her capacity as Chair of the UN Task Force and presented to the President of the UN General Assembly to be shared with the UN Secretary-General. The deliverable presented to the UNSG contained 14 recommendations to strengthen local government engagement including the need to find a figure that recognizes local and regional governments as representatives of a sphere of government, distinct from NGOs; the possibility of granting observer status to the constituency within the UNGA; and the revitalization of UNACLA as an advisory mechanism for the system. These directly contributed to the final "Our Common Agenda" Report.

Expanding on our visioning report within the UN75 process, this first meeting held in December 2021 was dedicated to present to the Taskforce and state of affairs of the existing relations between local governments and the UN System and also some options to enhance these relationships.

The second meeting held in January 2022 was the opportunity to take stock of developments since the UN Task Force last convened, including efforts to engage local governments in intergovernmental and national planning processes. It was also the opportunity to discuss how to shape the UN Secretary-General's Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments which was included, as previously informed, in the UN Common Agenda. Specifically, the session began to develop draft terms of reference for the Advisory Group.

### ***1.3 Updates on the UN President of the General Assembly Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization***

The President of the General Assembly (PGA) established in 2021 a multistakeholder composition "Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization" to advise the PGA's planning for the High-Level Meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda taking place on 28 April 2022 and other strategic engagements during the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The first meeting of the advisory committee took place on 2 December 2021. It went through the objective, scope and composition of the Advisory Committee itself which include:

1. Seek advice and receive inputs on the preparations for the High-level Meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda mandated by General Assembly resolution 75/224.
2. Identify key messages for advocacy in the process up to the High-level Meeting to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and other strategic engagements related to urbanization during the 76th session.

It was proposed that the Advisory Committee benefits from the expertise and networks of key constituencies involved in sustainable urbanization landscape. As such the composition of the Committee will include representatives from Member States, as well as the UN system and non-governmental organisations. The Committee will be geographically diverse and gender balanced.

The PGA indicated that the following members are proposed: President of the Economic and Social Council, Permanent Representative of South Africa, Permanent Representative of Canada, Permanent Representative of Lebanon, Permanent Representative of Kenya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia, Permanent Representative of Slovakia, Permanent Representative of Ecuador, Permanent Representative of Jamaica, UN Deputy Secretary-General, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, on behalf of the Regional Commissions, Secretary General of the International Chamber of Commerce, Mayor of Kazan and Chair of the UN Advisory Committee of Local Authorities, Chair of the Habitat Professionals Forum, Mayor of Montevideo and the Huairou Commission.

The next meetings of the PGA Advisory Committee are scheduled on 9 March and 18 May 2022.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to provide feedback or comments on the UN Taskforce on the Future of Cities, the**

## **Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization and LRG relations with the UN System.**

### **1.4 New Urban Agenda**

#### ***UN High-Level Meeting on the Review and Follow-up of the New Urban Agenda***

Five years after the agreement on the New Urban Agenda by Member-States, the first review on the implementation (Quito+5) will take place in New York from 26 to 28 April 2022, mandated by the UN General Assembly.

As we advance on accelerating localisation, our constituency is also putting efforts in drawing more attention to the New Urban Agenda as critical building block for achievement SDGs and sustainable, inclusive, fair and safer cities.

The recognition of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, as formal mechanism for review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, puts our constituency in a critical place to pledge for an enhanced role for local and regional governments in the implementation of the global agenda, but also to put forward some of the key challenges faced for the monitoring and review of the implementation.

A revitalized UNACLA will play a leading role in our actions. Five year after its adoption (Quito +5), the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, including its review and monitoring, at all levels, remains a challenge. Many of the expectations related to a truly enhanced partnership between our constituency and the UN System remain unmet. Yet structural dialogue with all the parts of the system and increased interaction has been ensured.

The establishment of a UN Taskforce on the Future of Cities opens a new door to concretize some of the proposals that the constituency led by UCLG has been making over the past 2 decades.

The high-level meeting will consist in a single afternoon discussion between Member States on the review and state of implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 28 April.

It will be preceded by a convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments on 27 April afternoon onsite.

A 2 hours Plenary Debate will be organised on 24 February at 16.15 CET allowing for the members and partners of the GTF to provide inputs.

#### ***Preparations and activities of the constituency at WUF11***

The WUF was established in 2001 by the United Nations to examine one of the most pressing issues facing the world today: rapid urbanization and its impact on communities, cities, economies, climate change and policies. Representatives of national, regional and local governments, academics, business people, community leaders, urban planners will be among the participants to attend WUF11 which is co-organized by Poland's Ministry of Development Funds and Regional Policy and the Municipal Office of Katowice.

The theme of WUF11, "Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future", will provide greater insights and clarity on the future of cities based on existing trends, challenges and opportunities, as well as suggest ways cities can be better prepared to address future pandemics and a wide range of other shocks.

Regarding preparations, the organizers have set up an Advisory Group where the GTF is identified as the representative of the constituency of local and regional governments.

UCLG and other networks are in close contact with the UN-Habitat and the hosts to firmly confirm the following:

- a special **Assembly Sitting for Local and Regional Governments** through the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments to take place on 26 June (date still TBC) ensuring follow-up of the New York convening
- A **Dialogue between Mayors and Ministers**, as it is traditionally the case (date to be determined)
- UCLG is trying to secure a **Pavilion** in order to host activities for the network

Please note side-events applications are opened until the first week of March.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to indicate any proposal on WALRG programme and availability of political representation at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments in New York on 27 April and Katowice in 26 June**

## **2. Ecological Transformation**

Making LGMA fit for Multilevel Action Delivers  
UNEA5.2 including UNEA5 Cities and Regions Summit  
COP27 on Climate Change  
COP15 on Desertification  
COP15 on Biodiversity  
Stockholm+50

### **2.1 Making LGMA fit for Multilevel Action Delivers**

As indicated in LGMA first webinars towards COP27, it is proposed to evolve LGMA governance and engagement in the new era of the 2nd phase of the Paris Agreement based on the Glasgow Climate Pact and building on our discussions in November and December 2021.

The proposal, made by ICLEI as focal point, is as follows:

#### **Revamping/Reloading LGMA Governance**

##### **Ø LGMA Steering Committee:**

- Focal Point + Co-Chairs of Regional Working Groups + Co-leads of Thematic Groups + Co-Facilitators of COP Working Group
- Reports to monthly LGMA webinars, linkage to UNFCCC Friends of Multilevel Action, convenes bi-annually in February at GTF and in October at Daring Cities Forum

##### **Ø LGMA Regional Groups**

- 2-years mandate, focusing on national/regional priorities

##### **Ø LGMA Thematic Groups**

- 2-years mandate, focusing on UNFCCC processes/bodies

##### **Ø LGMA COP Working Group**

- Annual mandate, leading preparations to COPs/preCOPs

**For action: GTF networks are invited to agree on a way forward to make LGMA fit to deliver Multilevel Action**

### **2.2 UNEA5**

The [UN Environment Assembly \(UNEA\)](#) is the highest decision-making body on environmental matters in the UN system. As you recall, UNEA-5.1 took place in February 2021 adopted a limited set of three procedural decisions: endorsement of the Medium-Term Strategy (MTS) for 2022-2025, and programme of work (PoW) and budget for the biennium 2022-2023; the management of trust funds and earmarked contributions; and agreement to convene a resumed, in-person fifth session in 2022. Local and regional governments ensured representation through the Global Major Group Stakeholders Forum and called for transformative action on environmental governance, climate justice and enhanced localisation of the global development agendas, ensuring connections between the SDGs, the Paris Accords, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework.

The resumed session of UNEA-5 (UNEA-5.2) will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, on 28 February – 2 March 2022, to consider remaining substantive matters related of the agenda, as well as a Ministerial Declaration under the theme of the Assembly, “Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”. Immediately after UNEA-5.2, the Assembly will hold a Special Session of the Assembly on 3 - 4 March 2022, which is devoted to the commemoration of the [50th anniversary of the creation of UN Environment Programme in 1972 \(UNEP@50\)](#).

As it was the case during UNEA4, UNEP has confirmed that a **Cities and Regions Summit** will take place during UNEA5.2, allowing our constituency to provide its inputs to UNEA5. The confirmed dates for the UNEA5 Cities Summit are 23rd February (virtual) and 1st March (hybrid with only two badges for LRGs onsite). UCLG, ICLEI, C40, FAO, UNDP, UN-Habitat, GCoM, IUCN, WWF and WRI have been confirmed as partners of the Cities Summit.

During the first preparatory meetings where many of the GTF networks were present, it was mentioned that it was critical to ensure a clear connection with the Ministerial segments and with Stockholm+50, COP on Biodiversity and COP on Climate Change.

The Cities and Regions Summit will include three segments:

- 23rd February morning: Nature-based Solutions to fight extreme heat and limit further global warming (120 minutes)
- 23rd February afternoon: Urban and peri-urban gardens in support of sustainable and resilient food systems (120 minutes)
- 1st March: High-level segment looking into how to scale up solutions to harness the power of nature in cities (90 minutes)

UCLG, ICLEI and C40 are included into the Opening Segment of the Cities Summit and other networks are part of the programme.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to provide any relevant update on advocacy or mobilisation towards UNEA5**

### ***2.3 COP27 on Climate Change***

*COP27 Governance:* it is announced that H.E. Sameh Shoukry, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt is appointed as the COP27 President Designate and H.E. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment is appointed as COP27 Ministerial Coordinator and Special Envoy. It is possible that Egypt COP27 High Level Climate Action Champion may be announced in the coming days. It has to be noted that the posts of COP President and High Level Action Champion are positions defined in the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement, respectively, whereas the post of Ministerial Coordinator and Special Envoy is defined as a national authority.

*LGMA Roadmap towards COP27:* As the host country moves from the Global North to the Global South, we expect to see resilience and adaptation, food, nature, finance, mitigation, culture, loss and damage to be much more highly prioritized as core elements of COP27. We can also expect that multilevel action and urbanization will be important in this rapidly developing continent.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to provide any relevant feedback on our constituency’s strategy towards COP27**



## **2.4 COP15 on Desertification**

At the UN Convention on Desertification (UNCCD), local and regional governments are ensuring that desertification is more clearly connected to land management, resilience, nature, migration, food and urban-rural linkages.

The desertification COP15 in Abidjan on 9-20 May 2022 will be building on the first 2 mayors summits in 1997 and 1999, special high level roundtable at COP13 in Ordos in 2017, and the first Local and Regional Governments Day at COP14 in Hyderabad in 2019 [COP14: Local and Regional Governments Day | UNCCD](#), which paved the way for the first specific COP decision.

It is expected that COP15 will address the connection between many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement, post2020 global biodiversity framework and targets and land degradation, it still has to be clarified whether there will be a specific agenda for local and regional governments.

## **2.5 COP15 on Biodiversity**

The CBD Secretariat issued a notification on 27 January on the resumed sessions of the 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA 24), the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI 3) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020-3), to be held as in-person meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, from 14-29 March. These meetings will negotiate Conference Room Papers to prepare and finalize L-documents for the CBD COP15.2, which is scheduled to take place in Kunming, China during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of this year.

The position regarding subnational and local governments in the CBD is unique as it is the only Multilateral Environmental Agreement with a consistent, 10-year plan for the engagement of subnational and local governments, which was adopted at CBD COP 10 in Nagoya (Decision X/22). This is set to be repeated with the adoption, at CBD COP 15, of a renewed and more ambitious plan of action (CBD/SBI/3/CRP8) for the current decade.

The elements contained in the updated Plan of Action were identified through a series of consultations with Parties, subnational and local governments and their networks and stakeholders, as part of as part of the "Edinburgh Process", and culminates with the 7th Global Biodiversity Summit of Cities and Subnational Governments to be held as an official parallel event of CBD COP15 in Kunming later this year. The 2021-2030 plan of action is intended to support Parties, subnational governments, cities and other local authorities and their partners in implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, and achieving the 2030 targets and milestones and the 2050 Goals and Vision for Biodiversity.

The Plan of Action is meant to be implemented in accordance with national legislation. It covers the involvement of subnational and local governments in the development and implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), multi-level biodiversity mainstreaming, resource mobilization, capacity development, communication, education and public awareness, biodiversity assessment and improved information for decision-making, and monitoring and reporting. The Plan of Action recognizes CitiesWithNature and RegionsWithNature as the online commitment and reporting platforms where subnational governments can report on, and monitor progress against, their commitments to global and national biodiversity targets.

## **For action: GTF networks are invited to provide any relevant feedback on our constituency's strategy towards COP15 on Desertification and Biodiversity**

### **2.6 Stockholm+50**

The [resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly](#) in May 2021 agreed to hold an international meeting at the highest possible level in Stockholm on 2-3 June 2022, during the week of World Environment Day. The event will commemorate the 50 years since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and serve as a contribution to accelerate action towards a more sustainable society.

Five decades after the 1972 Stockholm Conference, the Government of Sweden, with support from the Government of Kenya, will host [Stockholm+50](#), an international meeting to commemorate the 50 years since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment and its outcome documents, as a contribution to the environmental dimension of sustainable development to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, including a sustainable recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

The international meeting, "*Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity*" will consist in three leadership dialogues, and will have the ambition to accelerate the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action. The meeting will also reinforce the messages and the outcomes of the event to commemorate UNEP's 50th anniversary (UNEP@50), which will have taken place in March 2022.

Leadership Dialogue 1: Reflecting on the urgent need for actions to achieve a healthy planet and prosperity of all.

Leadership dialogue 2: Achieving a sustainable and inclusive recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leadership Dialogue 3: Accelerating the implementation of the environmental dimension of Sustainable Development in the context of the Decade of Action

Background papers for each of the Leadership Dialogues are being prepared and will inform the series of Working Group meetings scheduled in the lead up to a 1-day preparatory meeting in April 2022.

UNEP has confirmed that a **Subnational Engagement Track** is put in place and a first preparatory call took place this week where UCLG, ICLEI and C40 were invited to participate. The Subnational Engagement Track aims at ensuring that the perspective from local and regional governments is taken into account. UNEP will set up a 'friends of' group where a background note will be discussed and a series of consultative meetings will be conducted.

GTF networks emphasised the need to ensure that links with Rio+20 and environmental governance are taken into account. GTF networks also questioned the impact on Stockholm+50 on the UN decision-making bodies and processes.

C40 indicated that the Mayor of Stockholm has expressed its wish to hold a **Cities Forum** during the dates of Stockholm+50 outside the formal venue with a possible joint Statement with the private sector and youth (still tbc).

Special accreditation of non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders is now open on <https://indico.un.org/event/37352/registration/register#/register>

**For action: GTF networks are invited to provide any relevant update on our constituency's activities towards Stockholm+50**

### **3. Local Common Agenda**

#### ***Common Agenda Consultations***

UN Member States have begun consultations on the UN Secretary-General's proposals for Our Common Agenda, a set of 90 ways to realize a "greener, safer, better" future and avert a historical breakdown of societies. Discussions will be organized into five thematic clusters.

UNGA President Abdulla Shahid confirmed to convene a series of "open, inclusive, informal" consultations. He indicated the organization for intergovernmental discussions that will take place in a five-part series over the course of February and March 2022.

Two of the discussion clusters specifically address acceleration of the SDGs; one focuses on leaving no one behind and the other on financing and trust building. Another cluster is 'Protecting our planet and being prepared for the future.' The other two clusters cover the proposals on ensuring a peaceful world and enhancing international cooperation.

Each consultation is scheduled to take place over two days. They each begin with a briefing by Guterres on the proposals related to the respective cluster. To enable Member States to discuss the report's proposals and their potential means of implementation, the consultation will also include a half-day informal plenary debate, and a day of panel discussions with UN system representatives and stakeholders, such as young people, civil society and private sector representatives, and academics.

The objective of the consultations is to "identify those initiatives that gather broad support among the membership and whose implementation could start during the resumed part of the 76th session" of the UNGA – i.e. before September 2022. Such broad support should include agreement on possible means of implementation, he indicates. The consultations would also allow the Assembly to identify initiatives needing further consideration.

The schedule for consultations is as follows:

- 10-11 February: Accelerating and scaling up the SDGs, leaving no one behind;
- 14-15 February: Accelerating the SDGs through sustainable financing and building trust;
- 21-22 February: Frameworks for a peaceful world – promoting peace, international law and digital cooperation;
- 3-4 March: Protecting our planet and being prepared for the future; and
- 7-8 March: Enhancing international cooperation.

Our constituency is envisaged to be formally consulted in the fifth cluster on enhancing international cooperation, taking place on 7-8 March. Modalities are still to be defined.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to provide any comment, feedback or guidance on the strategy towards the Common Agenda consultations**

***GTF Localization Report***

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, as in previous years, will be publishing its annual report of local and regional governments to the HLPF: 'Towards the localization of the SDGs'. These reports, which aim to report on the state of SDG implementation at the local level around the world, have been produced and presented to the HLPF in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.

The sixth report aims at demonstrating the tireless efforts made by local and regional governments (LRGs) from around the world to face the COVID-19 pandemic and contribute to a safe, green, just and sustainable recovery, while directly contributing to the achievement of the SDGs from the bottom up, hand in hand with their local stakeholders.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to convey their one page reports for the GTF Localization Report towards HLPF2022**

***HLPF LRG Forum***

The 2022 High-level Political Forum (HLPF) will be held from 5 July - 7 July, and 11 July - 15 July 2022, under the theme "Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be in review this year: 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

As has been the case in previous years, a Local and Regional Governments Forum will be held within the framework of the 2022 HLPF, co-organized by the Global Taskforce, UNDESA, and other UN Agencies. In the 2021 HLPF, the Forum highlighted the actions taken and the solutions needed by the local and regional governments constituency for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery by emphasizing the link between local public service provision and health coverage, illustrating the role local and regional governments play in guaranteeing social inclusion and prosperity, reskilling workers and preparing for the transformation of work and evolving models of production and consumption, and achieving strong institutions based on solidarity.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to provide feedback on critical topics they would like to address at the LRG Forum and key representation**

***UN Commission on the Status of Women CSW66***

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the main intergovernmental body focused on gender equality and the empowerment of women. As part of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the CSW meets annually to adopt and review its multi-year programme, in promotion of women's rights and global standards, as well as to

mainstream gender equality across the UN system. The CSW takes a leading role in the follow-up of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and contributes to the review of the 2030 Agenda in regards to gender equality.

In 2022, SDG 5 "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" will be reviewed during the High-level Political Forum. The sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 66) will take place from 14 to 25 March 2022, gathering representatives of Member States, UN entities, and ECOSOC-accredited non-governmental organizations (NGOs) from all regions of the world.

The priority theme of CSW 66 will be "Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes"; and review theme "Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work (agreed conclusions of the sixty-first session)". Following previous editions, UCLG will gather the Feminist Municipal Movement to address the unique importance of mayor and feminist local leaders in attaining lasting and gender responsive resilience, in face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate emergency and other crises. As CSW 66 will be mostly virtual, no formal registration or accreditation process will be launched, all participants are strongly suggested to follow the meetings online.

Our actions have revolved around the CSW but also focused on the inclusion of the local perspective in SDG5. The Generation Equality Forum has been a highlight of our work together.

2022 will be marked by the continuation of the Action Coalitions and by the review of SDG5 in the HLPF. This is the reason why we propose our Annual gathering to have a special focus on Gender Equality. A session under the title "A diverse municipal feminist movement: regional perspectives & global initiatives" will take place on 24 February 2022, between 10h - 11h30 CET.

Our annual meeting will also be the occasion to finetune our messages for the [sixty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW66\)](#) that will take place on 14-25 March under the main theme "*Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes*" and review theme "*Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work*".

In preparation for CSW allow us to share key information:

[The agenda of the official meetings and additional information is available on this link.](#)

#### Opportunities to address the Commission

UN Women has opened the opportunity for organizations in consultative status with ECOSOC to express interest to make an intervention during the general discussion and the interactive dialogues of CSW66.

Only one submission can be done per organization for each opportunity. Preference will be given to interventions on behalf of groups of organizations or coalitions. The final selection of speakers will be made by UN Women.

Therefore, we would like to invite colleagues to suggest nominations on behalf of the Global Taskforce:

Side-event

We have requested and secured a side-event as part of the CSW NGO Forum: "Feminist Municipal Movement for Caring & Resilient Cities and Territories" will take place virtually, tentatively on Friday 18 March, 12h – 14h EST / 18h – 20h CET. A detailed agenda and concept note will be shared closer to the date.

#### General Discussion

We propose to present a contribution based on the GTF Joint Statement submitted last year. The interventions will be prerecorded and no longer than 3 minutes.

#### Interactive Dialogues

A limited number of NGOs will be able to make oral interventions of up to three minutes focused on the theme of the panel. The interventions at interactive expert panels will be delivered virtually through online connection/ "from the floor".

The two sessions that are open for expression of interest can be found below:

1. Interactive expert panel on priority theme: Building resilient futures: Bridging the gap between the physical science and social science communities to advance gender equality in the context of climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction, Tuesday, 22 March 2022, 15h – 17h EST / 21h – 23h CET
2. Interactive dialogue - Focus area/Emerging issue: Harnessing COVID-19 recovery for gender equality and a sustainable future, Thursday, 24 March 2022, 10h – 12h EST / 16h – 18h CET

#### Joint calendar

We would like to compile a calendar of relevant side-events and additional opportunities during the CSW. Kindly share with us any activities or plans you have for the CSW and around those dates.

### **For action: GTF networks are invited to share any activity or plan for CSW66 and suggest nominations**

#### ***International Migration Review Forum***

The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) was adopted in Marrakech December 2018 and endorsed by the UN General Assembly. The GCM is the first-ever negotiated global agreement on a common approach to international migration. In general terms, local and regional governments are disappointed by the little consideration they get from the national governments, while migration impacts and interventions fall mainly on their territories. A concrete example is how little space they were given in the negotiation of this agenda. The goal is to reshape this relation and ensure that our constituency is represented in the implementation and review phases of the Global Compact.

Ahead of the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF), which will take place from 16-20 May 2022, local and regional governments have opened spaces and consolidated their role as a key stakeholder in the process of implementation by participating in regional consultation and in the different spaces activated by the UN Migration Network, a group of UN agencies tackling migration under the coordination of the IOM. Progress on the 23 objectives of the GCM will be assessed in four Round Tables, for which background notes are being prepared. Local and regional governments are included in the process through

UCLG, which co-leads the drafting team of the background document of Round Table 3 with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (UNMGCY), focusing on objectives 14, 15, 16, 19, 20 and 22 of the Global Compact, concerning access to basic services, social inclusion and remittances, among others.

With a view to showcase and amplify the actions of LRGs to fulfill the Global Compacts for Migration and Refugees at unison as stated in the Marrakech Mayoral Declaration (2018), the Mayors Mechanism of the Global Forum for Migration and Development (GFMD) will launch a Call to Local Action that will gather and connect local actions to these global processes.

The official kick starter towards IMRF will be the Migration Week, hosted by the UN Migration Network from 14-18 February 2022 under the theme **Cooperation and Partnership: Implementing the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**. The Migration Week is an umbrella event inviting the Network's partners at the global, regional and national levels, to hold or participate in events or activities as they prepare for the first International Migration Review Forum (16-20 May 2022).

**For action: GTF networks are invited to gather, exchange and consolidate the vision and expectations of the constituency towards IMRF**

### ***UN Global Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction***

The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is the main global forum to assess and discuss progress on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The seventh session of the Global Platform (GP2022) will be organized by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) from 23 to 28 May 2022 hosted by the Government of Indonesia. The event will be co-chaired by the Government of Indonesia and UNDRR.

A Mayors Forum has been confirmed by the hosts, to take place on 22 May, with UNDRR, UCLG and ICLEI as co-organizers. At this stage the Government of Indonesia is planning for an in-person event only.

Local and regional governments, as part of the Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism where UCLG and ICLEI have a seat, will be taking part in the GP2022 through the Stakeholders Forum and through direct participation to the formal segments of the Platform.

Particular links will be made with our network's Learning Modules on Resilience and work carried out by the Global Alliance on Urban Crisis. Furthermore, our constituency will join activities of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), as co-chairs of this global multistakeholder initiative to promote and support cities' journey to comprehensive resilience

**For action: GTF networks are invited to share any plan or activity they might have towards UNGPDRR2022 including political representation**

### ***World Water Forum, UN Oceans and UN Decade of Action on Water***

The World Water Forum is the world's largest international forum on water. It has been organised every three years since 1997 by the World Water Council.



The 9th Forum will take place in Dakar from 21 to 26 March 2022, and will be the first of its kind to be hosted in sub-Saharan Africa.

The World Water Forum serves as a platform to connect and make long-term progress between local and regional governments with national governments, multilateral institutions, academia, civil society and private sector.

Local and regional governments have taken active part to the World Water Fora since the fourth edition in 2006, particularly through UCLG and ICLEI, and through the participation of local and regional governments participation to the Political Process of the Forum, and through dedicated sessions in the thematic sessions.

This year's edition will focus on Water Security for Peace and Development and participation will take place on-site only with paying registration fees. It will be an opportunity to promote our constituency's messages on public service delivery, protection of the common goods and a society of care.

A Local and Regional Governments Day is being confirmed on 22 March, in cooperation with UCLGA and OECD.

It is proposed to link our inputs to the World Water Forum as preparatory basis for the UN Oceans Conference scheduled on 27 June and towards UN Midterm Review of the Water and Sanitation Decade of Action scheduled on 23 March 2023.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to share any mobilisation they would like to make towards the World Water Forum**

### ***UN High-Level Meeting on Development Cooperation***

The High-Level Meeting is the meeting point for Heads of State and Government, ministers, heads of international organizations, business, local and regional governments and civil society to showcase successes, as well as identify and scale up innovative approaches to sustainable development. Parliamentarians and representatives of local and regional governments will attend the meeting.

The High-Level Meeting is the highest-level meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. The Third High-Level Meeting on Development Cooperation Effectiveness will drive urgent action to make development work better and fairer for those at risk and increase resilience and accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda in an era of pandemics, economic shocks and climate disasters.

The HLM aims to facilitate important political decisions to move from high-level commitments to action on more effective development co-operation at the country level. Local and regional governments will have a special role in the programme given their lead in the work programme on subnational effectiveness. Both UCLG and ORU-FOGAR are the two focal points for local and regional governments to the HLM and GPEDC.

**For action: GTF networks are invited to share any plan or activity they might have towards the UN High-Level Meeting**

