



## POLICY COUNCIL ON THE RIGHT TO THE CITY AND INCLUSIVE TERRITORIES

**25 October 2021 – 14:00-16:00 CEST**  
***Organized in the framework of Urban October***

Register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAld-GqrjIrG9L-qKLc4cHZuz0zlpYc6TGj>

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*Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.*

The Policy Councils are a policy development mechanism of UCLG, led by locally elected leaders that allow for strengthening the political debate of our World Organization and develop policy recommendations in relation to strategic topics.

The Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories is an essential mechanism to advance UCLG members' conversation on the Right to the City. While continuing to address key priorities such as shifting the narrative around migration and the right to housing, this mechanism is now set to explore a wider emerging agenda: From renewing approaches equality and accessibility to advancing a new generation of rights.

Since its creation in 2017, the Council has functioned as a platform for in depth policy debate where political representatives can influence the agenda of the World Organization and establish synergies as well as discuss how scale-up specific impact of initiatives led by members, such as the work on housing that led to the adoption of the "[Cities for Adequate Housing](#)" Declaration in 2018 and the contribution to the [Marrakech Mayors Declaration on Migration](#) that marks the path on a new narrative on Human Mobility. The Council represents a periodic and structural meeting point to address UCLG's commitment towards the Right to the City as recognized in the Bogotá Commitment and the New Urban Agenda (both adopted in 2016).

### ***Issues covered until now by the Policy Council***

The meetings held in 2021 allowed the Sherpas and Policy Councilors to discuss concrete proposals for its agenda with particular attention to:

- Expanding the policy discussion on human rights throughout the definition of the People's Axis on the Pact of the Future, exploring concepts such as the new generation of rights that includes the **right to peace, accessibility, technology, mobility and culture**.
- Generate Discussions to support the renewal of [the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City](#) which will be promoted by the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.
- Informing the partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and participation within the UN Human Rights system (e.g UN Special Procedures).

- Accelerating the localization of human rights in the city by adopting and promoting universal accessibility as a common good and pillar to equitable public service provision, sustainable development and participatory democracy.
- Assessing the impact of *COVID-19 on the local implementation of the right to the city* and how a rights-based approach can contribute to the UN concept of **Build Back Better and the equitable Decade of Action**.
- Co-creating a political declaration on Migration and Human Rights to expand upon Lampedusa's proposal of a Charter for Peace in the Mediterranean.
- Explore and reinforce a territorial vision that addresses and protects human mobility as a right at all stages of the migration process and regardless of legal status.
- Addressing the reduction of inequalities through community-driven narratives that value diversity and equity; exploring the following issues: cities as a common good, challenges of peripheral territories, violence against women and girls, migration, universal accessibility, digital rights, cultural rights, and rights to public services.
- Exploring an Agenda on Dignity in response to the rights of all populations to the city.
- Address the interconnection between the right to housing, discrimination and spatial inequality.
- Promote international solidarity for human rights and the protection of human rights defenders.

### ***Preparing the Pact for the Future: issues that could be covered in the year to come***

- **Racism/Discrimination:** adding a further dimension to the right to the city, that tackles the obstacles that burden universal access to rights. Gender, migratory status, race, economic situation, age or disabilities can be tackled in this area.
- **Dignity and intergenerational cities: from 8 to 80/Cities for a Lifetime:** Promoting the agenda on dignity, intergenerational cities and dialogue for diverse and equitable systems and communities, through the human rights based approach to local planning, finance, development and democracy.
  - Idea that Cities and territories must: be planned for human diversity over a lifetime of change from infancy to old age; be enjoyed by and realize the rights of all persons to equitably access and fully participate in the social economic, cultural and political opportunities, and without discrimination of any kind (age, gender, migratory status, disability, race, sexual identity, religion, economic means)
- **Alternatives to detention:** building on the work by UCLG-Africa against migration hotspots, but also leveraging on the work of UCLG with Open Society Foundations (OSF) or the UN Migration Network, addressing detention of migrants or beyond. The mandate over detention centers is national but consequences are local and insufficiently tackled (also in connection with the above on discrimination).