



## CONCEPT NOTE

### *Working Session – The Peace Agenda of UCLG: Milestones and key steps*

**Wednesday 23 February 2022, 17:30-18:30 (CET)**

### **The Peace Agenda for the World Organization**

Building on the Durban Declaration, which was approved in 2019, and in which we expressed our resolve to become a municipalist movement driven by equality and local democracy, UCLG has taken strides to evolve and incorporate its concepts of peace.

2021 was a seminal year for our World Organization in regards to international solidarity and peacebuilding: UCLG has become a coordinator in the celebration and further development of the World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace, a multi-stakeholder and multilevel forum that highlights the importance of building coexistence and peace in cities and territories, as well as the need to identify the causes of tension and violence.

In this regard, UCLG Peace Prize remains a key instrument for UCLG to acknowledge and enhance the position of local governments as actors to advance a culture of peace in their communities. The call for applications for the third edition of this prize launched in The Hague in December 2021 it will be awarded at the UCLG World Congress in 2022.

Peace and city diplomacy are also an essential aspect of the policymaking mechanisms of our World Organization, being ingrained in our Policy Councils, led by local and regional leaders willing to strengthen city-driven diplomacy and peacebuilding initiatives, as well as an essential component of our work on human rights, driven by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.

UCLG's approach to peacebuilding has also been integral in its advocacy towards the Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC), of which we are a part of the group of friends. Building on its long-standing collaboration on diversity and peacebuilding, and the World Organization is set to continue collaborating with the UNAOC to deliver an all-of-society approach to develop peace in our territories.





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The process of the World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace is expected to grow in the coming years, with a more global focus and a full integration into UCLG's work and priorities. The next edition of the Forum, set to take place in Bogotá in 2023, offers the World Organization an opportunity to incorporate the Peace Prize and the aspects of its Human Rights Agenda into a broader, ambitious single process.

## Peace and city diplomacy in 2022

With these components in mind, UCLG is building an all-encompassing peace agenda that is able to place local and regional governments as essential actors in global peacebuilding. 2022 offers some critical milestones to mobilize the membership and generate momentum to disseminate the importance of peace within the movement.

The UCLG World Congress in Daejeon will have peace and coexistence as one of its main topics. As per the suggestion of the hosts, the peace process in the Korean Peninsula will deserve special attention and is expected to produce and Declaration with participation from North Korean and South Korean Local Authorities.

The 2022 World Congress will be the space for the celebration of the third edition of the UCLG Peace Prize. The visibility of the Summit can enhance the outreach of the award, reaching new audiences embracing a broad interpretation of how local governments can contribute to a culture of peace.

Building on the acquis generated in 2021, in particular the Mexico Declaration came out of the Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace, and which was built with the inputs from our membership, UCLG will continue to harness the potential of the UCLG World Summit to ensure that the narrative of peace of the World Organization can be linked with that of the hosts of Daejeon, bringing the local component of peacebuilding to the process of peace in Korea.

Another component of peacebuilding that UCLG is now addressing is that of disarmament and nuclear weapons. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force in January 2021, has begun a process that includes a Conference of States Parties that will take place in 2022. The work that Mayors4Peace has done in building momentum towards this conference, and raising awareness and commitments among local and regional leaders regarding disarmament is critical for local and territorial peacebuilding, and harnessing these efforts it will be essential to mobilize the constituency of local and regional governments to ensure local peacebuilding perspectives at the global conversations on disarmament.

Embracing the dimension of disarmament can reignite linkages between our peacebuilding agenda and the concepts of resilience and good living,





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strengthening, in turn, the holistic approach of UCLG towards all dimensions of peace in our cities and territories.

2022 offers the opportunity to bring together aspects of peacebuilding that were already a part of our Organization and develop them in a single process that can be mainstreamed in our agenda, culminating in an all-encompassing Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace in 2023, and into an integral part of the renewal of our strategic priorities from 2022-2028.

## Goals of the session

The working session around the Peace Agenda of UCLG will lay the groundwork for the work around peace for the year, including the next steps for the Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace which will take place in Bogotá, and enable to developing the linkages between the Forum and the other aspects of the UCLG Peace commitments such as the UCLG Peace Prize, and bringing to the table new aspects of peacebuilding in cities, such as the urban and territorial aspect of nuclear disarmament.

The session will also contribute to developing a roadmap for peace that can be further mainstreamed within the work of UCLG, influencing the political processes towards the UCLG World Summit and beyond, and becoming an important component of the Pact for the Future of Humanity.

## Layout of the session

### 17:30-17:40

Setting the scene - Introduction to the agenda on peace  
UCLG World Secretariat

### 17:40-18:00

Updates on the peace processes  
Peace Prize, Peace Forum, Non-proliferation

### 18:00-18:20

Towards an All-UCLG Peace Agenda  
Milestones towards Daejeon and Beyond

### 18:30

Wrap-up and next steps  
UCLG World Secretariat





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**Some of the voices we will hear:**

**Josep Mayoral**, Mayor of Granollers

**Thomas Hajnoczi**, Executive Advisor, Mayors4Peace

**Shams Asadi**, Human Rights Commissioner, Vienna

**Representative from the city of Bogota**, to be confirmed

**Mariana Flores**, Executive Director of Institutional Representation, Mexico City

**Antonio Zurita**, member of the scientific committee of the Forum of Cities and Territories of Peace

**Sanne van Amerongen**, VNG International, Representative from the UCLG Peace Prize

