



PLENARY: THE NEW URBAN AGENDA UNDER REVIEW

THURSDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2022, 17:15 -18:30 (CET)

Get the opportunity to provide your direct inputs to the review and follow-up of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda six years after its adoption in Quito. This Plenary will be critical in building inputs from the constituency towards the UN High-Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda taking place on 28 April 2022 and where the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments will convene on 27 April 2022.

Background and objective

The New Urban Agenda is a critical corner stone for the development agenda. Empowered, inclusive and resilient territories, which are open and accountable to their citizens, are critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and all Global Goals.

The capacity to deliver and the evolution of national and international urban policies will be critical both for the role of local governments in development but also for the space provided to the international municipal movement in development policies. At the eve of the first reporting of member states on the New Urban Agenda to the United Nations, the Global Taskforce needs to play a critical role in monitoring the state of implementation but also in providing inputs to UNACLA and UN-Habitat.

As convener of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, formally acknowledged and recognized in the Quito Outcome Document, the GTF is standing ready to contribute to the international discussions in the new COVID context.

This Plenary will be the opportunity to:

- Take stock of the achievements of our constituency towards Habitat III and in the first five years
- Emphasize the recommendations made by our constituency on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in 2021
- Link up with the recommendations of the UCLG-LSE-Metropolis initiative on Emergency Governance
- Provide political and policy guidance on key messages towards the UN High-Level Meeting scheduled in April 2022.

Key legacy issues and areas of special attention

Based on the work done by the constituency towards Habitat III, including the Hearings of Local and Governments, but also in the framework of the UN75 consultations and LRG report, the capacity to deliver and the evolution of national and international urban policies will be critical both for the role of local governments in development but also for the space provided to the international municipal movement in development policies.

At the eve of the first reporting of member States on the New Urban Agenda to the United Nations, the GTF need to play a critical role in monitoring the state of implementation but also in providing inputs to UNACLA and UN Habitat. As convener of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, the GTF will need to stand ready to contribute to the international discussions in the new COVID context.

Key legacy issues

Back in 2015 and 2016 and the Habitat III PrepComs and the Local and Regional Governments Hearings, our constituency finalized a set of key principles and seven policy recommendations to be included as key cornerstones of the NUA:

- The Global Taskforce called for the New Urban Agenda to recover the spirit of Habitat II, particularly with regard to its commitment to decentralization and its recognition of local authorities as the “closest partner” in the implementation of the agenda
- The Global Taskforce emphasized the need to make local and regional governments stronger and more accountable to drive inclusive and sustainable development
- Harness strategic planning to ensure a strong vision for the development of cities and human settlements.
- Renew the social contract, putting the Right to the City at the heart of the New Urban Agenda.
- Unlock the potential of territories to promote sustainable local economic and environmental policies and protect our planet.
- Rethink local financing systems to make cities sustainable.
- Improve local and regional governments’ capacities in risk and crisis management.
- Foster the spirit of solidarity through decentralized cooperation

Areas of special attention

Up until now, some areas of special attention have been identified:

- a) Allowing direct linkage with the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as formal mechanism for review and follow-up in the run-up to Quito+5.
- b) Ensuring articulation between the GTF and UNACLA when sharing input to the monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda.
- c) Stressing the link between the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially within the context of SDG 11 on sustainable cities.
- d) Ensuring that the relevant data provided for and by local and regional governments are taken into account in the monitoring and progress of implementation of the agenda.
- e) Guaranteeing the territorial perspective, and advocating for multilevel governance and the inclusion of local and regional governments in all processes related to the agenda.

Draft Agenda

Facilitated by Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria, Envoy of the UCLG Presidency on the New Urban Agenda

Welcome 17:15-17:25

Informal Welcome by Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG (on-site)

Opening by Ilsur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan, UCLG Governing President (on-site)

Visionary introduction 17:25-17:45

Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria, Envoy of the UCLG Presidency on the New Urban Agenda (on-site)

Shipra Narang Suri, Chief, Urban Practices, UN-Habitat (on-site)

Carlos Moreno, Associate Professor and Scientific Director (on-site)

Tadeo Garcia, Mayor of Godoy Cruz (on-site)

GTF and UCLG Membership

Achievements and state of implementation: Thematic perspectives, successes and challenges 17:45-18:05

Philippe Rhode, LSE (online)

Santiago Saura, Councillor for International and Cooperation Affairs, City of Madrid (online)

GTF and UCLG Membership

Building our key inputs and recommendations towards the UN High-Level Meeting 18:05-18:25

Magnus Berntsson, President of Assembly of European Regions, President of Region of Västra Götaland (online)

Maria Galindo Garcia-Delgado, Director General for Digital Nation and Urban Agenda, Regional Government of Catalonia (onsite)

GTF and UCLG Membership

Wrap-up and roadmap 18:25-18:30

Emilia Saiz, UCLG Secretary General

