



POLICY COUNCIL ON TERRITORIAL, MULTILEVEL GOVERNANCE AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

Wednesday 10 February 2021, 15:00-17:00 CET

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUucO6rqTgsHNVI-sHvRxcNRnIZtiERJ_dr

UCLG team focal points: Massimo Perrino, Mathilde Penard: policy@uclg.org

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 Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing has addressed, since its creation, the notion of how to implement an integrated territorial approach to development, paying special attention to the issues of governance, decentralization and territorial cohesion through its close support to the research carried out as part of the reports of the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization (GOLD reports). The Policy Council in this regard will pay particular attention to the **territorial perspective, the urban-rural continuum** and achieving a **green, fair and equal recovery** for all cities and regions in light of the COVID-19 crisis.

The meeting will allow the Policy Councillors to discuss concrete proposals based on the renewed agenda of the Policy Council basing itself on **access to local financing** and **emergency measures**, and changes in governance and **co-governance**, as well as to develop an initial roadmap of action based on the ideas discussed at the preparatory meeting.

Agenda of the Session

1. Introduction by the Co-Chairs of the Policy Council

a. Moderated by **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General, UCLG

- **Pablo Jurado**, President of CONGOPE, Vice-President of UCLG for the Forum of Region
- **Geoffrey Makhubo**, Mayor of Johannesburg
- **Núria Marín**, Mayor of L'Hospitalet de Llobregat (Spain), President of Barcelona Provincial Council
Represented by:
 - **Pilar Díaz**, Mayor of Esplugues de Llobregat, Deputy to the Presidency, Barcelona, Provincial Council

2. Inspiring Pitch from our Special Guests

- **David Jackson**, Director, Local Development Finance, UNCDF
- **Philipp Rode**, Executive Director, LSE Cities
- **Barbara Samuels**, Executive Director of the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance, UCLG UBUNTU Advisor

3. Open floor with the Policy Councillors

a. Moderated by **Octavi de la Varga Mas**, Secretary General, Metropolis

- **Garth Frizzell**, City Councillor of Prince George, President of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)
- **Madelaine Alfelor**, Mayor of Iriga, Treasurer of UCLG
- **Cemal Baş**, City Councillor of Keçiören
- **Ahmed Aziz Diallo**, Mayor of Dori
- **Steven Heddle**, City Councillor of Orkney Islands, Spokesperson for environment and economy of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)
- **Emilio Jatón**, Mayor of Santa Fe
- **Benoît Pilet**, Deputy Mayor of Angers

Policy Councillors representatives:

- **Santiago Saura Martínez de Toda**, City Councillor for Internationalization and Cooperation, Madrid
- **Àstrid Desset**, Mayor of Anglès, Vice-President of the Catalan Association of Municipalities (ACM)

Focal points:

- Edwin Miño, Executive Director, CONGOPE
- Alicia Trejo, International Representative, CONGOPE
- Toni Montseny, Director of International Relations, Barcelona Provincial Council
- Olivia Paton, Head of European and International Strategy Office, Barcelona Provincial Council
- Simphiwe Mdingi, Deputy Director of Protocol, Johannesburg
- Lluís Corominas, Director of Transparency Foundation, Association of Catalan Municipalities (ACM)
- Mireia Huerta, International Officer, ACM
- Elena Pierce, Governance, Policy and Networks Advisor, FCM
- Inna Dozortseva, Head of International Affairs Division, Krasnoyarsk
- Rashid Seedat, Head of Department: Delivery Support Unit, Office of the Premier of Gauteng

Potential priorities for the next phase include engaging the entire network in:

- Emphasizing the importance of having **a symbiotic relationship between different spheres of government** to promote an enabling environment with a view to achieving aligned goals.
- **Addressing the rural-urban continuum and territorial approach** as important bases for understanding the urban era and guaranteeing cohesion by working within the framework of systems of cities.
- Strengthening the political incidence of local and regional governments towards the national and international spheres with practical recommendations and data-driven analyses, in particular on the issue of the **localization of financing for sustainable development**.
- Highlighting the need to keep advocating for financing local and regional governments while **acknowledging the broader ecosystem of public and private financial stakeholders** engaged in financing local and territorial development.

- Enhancing and **developing new multi-stakeholder partnerships involving national governments and the private sector** to create an enabling environment for cities and regions to leverage finance.
- Considering the need to **reinvent governance from the perspective of growing emergencies**, drawing lessons from the Emergency Governance Initiative for Cities and Regions jointly led by UCLG, Metropolis and LSE Cities.

Relations with other Policy Councils:

- Participants highlighted the important role multilevel governance and access to adequate finance plays in the COVID-19 recovery and therefore in the fulfilment of the agendas of other UCLG Policy Councils, in particular the Policy Councils on **Opportunities for all** and **Implementation of the New Urban Agenda**.
- Ensuring that, for example, the New Urban Agenda is implemented requires not only adequate resources available to all actors involved but also a coordinated multilevel government response that ensures alignment of goals and objectives and coordinated monitoring and reporting mechanisms amongst all spheres of government. This emphasizes a direct link between this Policy Council and the **World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments** and its mandate to ensure that the voices of local and regional governments are heard loud and clear in the process initiated in Quito in 2016.
- Finally, ensuring that the backbone that allows all people to **have access to opportunity**: public services, especially in times of crisis, relies directly on the resources available to local and regional governments.

Links with international processes in 2021:

- The relationship between the work of this Policy Council and the most relevant international processes is clear, and has gained more relevance with the COVID-19 crisis. Access to finance and multilevel governance have been, and will continue to be, at the core of the global agendas such as the **2030 Agenda (SDG 17** in particular), **the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (paragraph 34)**, **the New Urban Agenda**, among others.
- Looking forward to this year, three global political arenas could deserve particular attention: **the 2021 ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development; the 2021 High Level Political Forum** which will have a focus on cooperation, partnership and financing for decent economic growth; and the **reviewing of the 5 years of implementation of the New Urban Agenda: Quito+5**.

Links with other consultation mechanisms:

- The agenda of this Policy Council is deeply connected with **the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV)**. In its capacity as UCLG consultation mechanism for local finance, the **FMDV** produces valuable knowledge products and resources on innovative financial mechanisms that could feed into the work of this Policy Council. Creating concerted spaces for dialogue at the national level between various stakeholders has also been one of the main priorities of the FMDV that this Policy Council could draw upon for its advocacy efforts towards the national and international spheres.
- Strengthening local and regional governments' capacity for local development is also a shared priority of this Policy Council and the **UCLG CIB Working Group**. Enhancing local fiscal autonomy as a precondition for cities and regions to access external financing for long-term sustainable investment projects could serve as a basis for synchronizing efforts between the Policy Council and the UCLG CIB Working Group.
- Finally, there are strong opportunities for connection between this Political Council and the **Forum of the Regions**, particularly in terms of ensuring territorial cohesion and strengthening the urban-rural continuum.

Links with the Axes of the Pact for the Future:

- UCLG's Pact for the Future will be based on three axes: People, Planet, and Government. The Policy Council working towards territorial cohesion and access to financing would best fit to set the tone of the axis on **Government** by reinforcing the notion that a symbiotic relationship between different spheres of government can promote an enabling environment to achieve all objectives set forth in the pact.

