



POLICY COUNCIL ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, CULTURE AND CITY DIPLOMACY: KEYS TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND PEACE

26 October 2021, 13:30-15:30 CEST
Organized in the framework of Urban October

Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYofu-qrT4qHt0U_2r5zrkG0sSzj2L8LYEI

UCLG team focal points: José Álvarez: j.alvarez@uclg.org; Marta Llobet: m.llobet@uclg.org.

Interpretation will be available in English, French and Spanish.

Agenda

Opening remarks

- **Emilia Saiz**, Secretary General of UCLG

Presentation of priorities by councillors

Moderation by **Bernadia Tjandradewi**, Secretary General of UCLG-ASPAC (TBC)

- **Andre Viola**, President of the Aude Provincial Council
- **Féthi Riah**, City Councillor of Grande-Synthe
- **José Manuel Ribeiro**, Mayor of Valongo
- **Abdallah Anati**, Executive Director, Association of Palestinian Local Authorities (APLA)
- **Xabier Ochandiano**, Councillor of Economic Development, Business and Labour of Bilbao
- **Faola Hodaj**, Director of Innovation, City of Tirana

Remarks by partners

- **Milou Jansen**, Coordinator of the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights
- **Catharina Isberg**, Library Director, Helsingborg City Libraries
- **Fiona O'Connor**, Digital Literacy Expert from the Toronto Library

Open conversation and wrap-up

(Facilitated by **Emilia Saiz**, UCLG Secretary General)

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 **curbing the growing inequalities enhanced by the COVID-19 pandemic; fostering the Peace Agenda; and redoubling the work of the Council to explore the linkages between “Opportunities for all” and an equitable recovery.**

The Councilors have particularly emphasized the following issues:

- Engaging in a **more explicit connection and interaction between the peace agenda, equality and service provision for all.**
- Ensuring **decent work for all** and facing the **challenges of the technological transition.** Exploring what the right to work means in the post-COVID era and how to harness automation and innovation to ensure it benefits communities.
- **Reflecting on the need to broaden and the mantle of “Opportunities for all”** to address the growth of inequalities in the COVID-era and what steps need to be taken to ensure this.
- Focusing on **intergenerational dialogue** as a vital element to address conflict mitigation, and understanding that dealing with peace issues means looking at climate risk and disaster preparedness in relation to infrastructure challenges.
- Bringing attention to the **cultural dimension of building back better**, noting the role of cultural policies as a decisive factor for the recovery during and beyond the crisis.
- Emphasizing the **importance of culture** in the midst of the pandemic, and calling for the implementation of strong cultural and social policies to ensure sustainable development and peace.
- [Renewing the Policy Document on Development Cooperation](#) formulated by UCLG, in close collaboration with the Capacity and Institution Building Working Group (CIB), UCLG regional sections and other partners.
- Continued **dialogue with national governments and the international donor community** on the continued need for local government development cooperation in times of COVID-19.

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

- **Building on the Peace Agenda:** Identifying linkages between the **Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace**, the **UCLG Peace Prize**, and how to adapt our Peace Narrative ahead of the 2022 World Congress in Daejeon.
- Bringing to the table the importance of city-to-city cooperation in peacebuilding and **disseminating the renewed Policy Document on Development Cooperation**, in collaboration with the CIB working group.
- Working for the most vulnerable: Ensuring basic livelihoods, decent jobs, and narrowing inequalities through basic service delivery
- Understanding the importance of **time poverty** and equal access to time as a **way to foster equality.**
 - Potential links with Right to the City.
 - Potential links with the Committee on Local Economic and Social Development.
- **Health for all: universal access to healthcare.**
 - Links with UHC2030 (Universal health coverage) and UCLG’s role in the movement and the pathway to the 2023 high-level meeting on health.
 - Links with the #CitiesAreListening work on mental health and planning.
- Opportunities for All at the international stage: **equal opportunities:** SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 5 (Gender equality) will be under review at the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF).

- Potential links with the feminist municipal movement.
 - Links with work with UNICEF, and Right to the City.
- **Rebuilding trust between institutions:** Transparency and open government for city diplomacy.
 - Establishing linkages with the Policy Council on Multilevel governance.
- **Emphasizing the role of culture as the fourth pillar for sustainable development** in the Pact for the Future, enhancing cultural understanding and promoting cross cultural exchanges
 - Linkages with the UCLG Culture Committee.

