



**20 MAY 2021**  
14:30-15:30 (CEST)

## **OPENING POLICY DEBATE OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU** **TAPPING THE POTENTIAL OF LOCAL POLICIES TO SHAPE A CARING** **SOCIETY**

### **Background and objectives of the Policy Dialogue**

The pandemic has shown us that our cities and territories will never be the same. The local and regional governments gathered within UCLG are determined to use this opportunity to build a better future. One that puts care at the centre of local service provision and policy development.

As we begin the journey to rethinking what the new essentials are, we need to address what it means to shape a caring society, and the potential of local and regional action and decision-making to ensure that these policies are carried out. The solidarity and resolve displayed by local and regional governments during the pandemic need to be at the forefront of decisions taken at all levels for a renewed world that is based on care.

The time has come to move from gender equality and towards a feminist way of going about politics. To shift from the ecological transition and towards the ecological transformation with a new vision on food systems that work for the people and the planet. It is time to rethink what common goods need to be protected to ensure dignity and sustainability for all. Empathy, proximity, flexibility and solidarity will be key components of the revisited governance of care that the international municipal movement is getting ready to promote.

We need to address the conversations on financing for service provision to ensure that our communities can thrive. Financing is a critical question in the recovery, and a new ecosystem that responds to the needs of our communities and includes human mobility from the outset is also essential.

This policy debate will give the UCLG leadership the opportunity to table the vision around the key components that will shape the new social contract to be promoted by the Pact for the Future, building on the activities of the organization during the past months and looking ahead towards the end of the year.





## Care at the heart of **local service** provision for an inclusive recovery

### Guiding questions

- Caring and decision-making: what mechanisms need to be put in place to protect people and territories?
- Democracy and healthy territories: What is the role that local democracy can play in protecting our territories?
- The new common goods: In the new world that we envision, what are the goods that need to be protected by all governments?
- Boosting local services: What new frameworks of governance need to be updated to deliver services for all?
- The new multilateral system: How do we go beyond a seat at the table and ensure a system that works for our communities?

