



UCLG KONYA
WORLD COUNCIL

26 — 28 OCT 2023, TÜRKİYE

#UCLGMeets
**ENVISIONING
THE FUTURE**

Policy debate

Multilevel Governance: Regaining Trust

Friday 27 October - 9:00-10:00

Grand Ballroom, Selçuklu Congress Centre

Background

The Policy Councils were created in 2017 with the aim to provide an opportunity for political representatives to participate in the Organization's policy making and to have their views raised before the UCLG's governing bodies. They usually meet twice a year in the framework of the UCLG statutory meetings to bring forward initiatives, ideas and recommendations that enrich the policy ownership and the political debate within the Organization.

During its first five years of existence, the Policy Councils introduced significant advances not only in the organization's narrative - with substantive contributions to our agenda on the Right to the City or the NUA, among others - but also in terms of innovative processes that have been key to the international positioning of the network, such as the Peace Dialogues. Recognizing this legacy and willing to build on it, the Policy Councils are the driving force for the World Organization's 2022-2028 strategic priorities.

The renewed Policy Councils

In the era of the Pact for the Future - Daejeon Political Declaration, this renewed mandate is setting up the next stage of the UCLG Policy Councils. and channels their legacy through five cross-cutting areas that will serve as entry points in our conversation with the international community. With care and human rights as crosscutting axes. The five Policy Councils build on the existing priorities of our constituency to expand and renew them through five pillars that encompass our common endeavor for People, Planet and Government. Reclaiming the Commons, Redefining Finance and Economies of Equality, Regaining Trust, Renaturing and Linking the Local to the Global are at the same time our pledge and our priorities to envision the future together.



PEOPLE
PLANET
GOVERNMENT



The Future Envisioning Exercises: breaking through as one

Beyond the evolution of the themes, the space for interlocution is also renewed and expanded, adding a structural dialogue with self-organized civil society in the Town Halls. This space for dialogue will be organized in the form of Future Envisioning Exercises, which, under the mandate of each policy council, will be convened at least once a year. All members of the Town Halls are invited to participate in this structural conversation and to provide oral or written inputs to the work plan of the Policy Councils when necessary and in coordination with the other mechanisms and processes included in the same (i.e. Communities of Practice, working groups, etc.).

Multilevel Governance: Regaining Trust

A key factor in rebuilding trust is the involvement of citizens in the decision-making processes of their cities. Local innovation is necessary to promote bold actions and alliances to build trust in a context of increasing polarization, the rise of extremism and the multiplication of communication bubbles. The Future Envisioning Exercise on Trust made it clear that our constituency shares the call in the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda to build trust as a necessary condition to achieve the new social contract. There was a shared understanding of the gravity and complexity of the current drivers of mistrust. There was also a shared aspiration to ensure safe environments for elected officials, so as to enable them to take risks and foster institutional innovations that improve populations' engagement with public institutions. Proximity, transparency and co-creation were highlighted as ways to build trust in the political arena; while quality journalism and scientific cooperation were spotlighted as useful tools.

The Policy Council on Multilevel Governance: Regaining Trust will advance the reflection on how to shape democratizing as a pathway to equality by fostering an enabling environment for local democracy and decentralization; promoting transparency, accountability, open governance and the fight against corruption. It will explore how to advance the above while taking an intersectional approach to participatory policy and programming, and promoting participatory processes to involve all residents in decision-making and local governance monitoring. This Policy Council will focus on the renewal of local democracy (including citizenship, the renewal of public institutions and the needs of communities). It will continue building on the idea that multilevel governance needs to be prepared for addressing the new demands of responding to complex emergencies (climate breakdown,



health emergencies, security and energy crisis, crisis of rights and citizenship for communities) and will push for the inseparable relationship of public services and trust. It will deliberate on strategic tools to consider local and regional governments as an enabling environment to regain trust.

The Session

Within the framework of the World Council that will approve the composition and objectives of the new policy councils, this session will focus on consolidating the legacy of the previous phase and outlining the thematic priorities and landmark processes that will guide the work of the new generation of policy councils.

Agenda

Setting the scene

09:00-9:05

By the UCLG World Secretariat

The legacy

9:05 - 9:20

This takes the form of a Panel Discussion with key actors involved in previous Policy Councils and processes. They will share lessons learned, challenges overcome, and forward-looking recommendations. This discussion will delve into the enduring legacy of these key actors and offer valuable reflections on past challenges and key milestones achieved.

From pact to act: inspiring action for humanity

9:20 - 9:50

During this segment, local and regional governments and partners from the civil society, as well as other stakeholders are invited to present their insights and perspectives on the priorities that will lead our new process. This open floor format, which builds on the mandate of renewed Policy Council to expand and structure the dialogue with the Town Halls through Future Envisioning Exercises, encourages collaborative dialogue, allowing for refining and identifying key themes that align



with our overarching goals. It's a dynamic exchange that taps into collective wisdom, ensuring our priorities are well-informed and reflective of our shared values.

OPENING REMARKS	PRIORITIES	OPEN FLOOR
Session facilitator	Key issues for the new Policy Council	Policy Councilors and World Council representatives

Closing remarks

9:50 - 10:00

The final recap will be a testament to the engagement cultivated during the policy debate session, setting the collective commitment to advance in the key endeavors of the new Policy Councilors, as well as their spaces of convergence with the Town Halls under the umbrella of the Future Envisioning Exercises.

Concluding remarks from the Session facilitator