

Policy debate

Resilient and Regenerative Territories: Renaturing

Saturday 28 October - 09:30-11:00

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.

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.).

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It is a sobering fact that, even as the world exceeds its planetary boundaries, billions of people still do not have access to even the most basic services. Such exclusions are a matter of conscious policy choice, and not as a result of lack of resources. Our current systems of consumption and production are both unsustainable and destructive and are driving ever-increasing injustice and inequality. The Pact for the Future of Humanity stresses the need to transform our collective relationship with nature, and for local and regional governments to spearhead the development of a new vision for our common future that addresses climate change, both from a mitigation and adaptation lens, re-analyse the values that shape our understanding as beings, where we think global and act local, and where we develop pathways that are nature-positive and seriously address transactional inequalities. Where we foster proximity and places of creative bubbling as spaces of all kinds that allow us to regenerate livelihoods and local initiatives.

In light of the triple crisis of the climate emergency, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution and damage, this Policy Council will advance the discussion on how to decouple human development and wellbeing –in harmony with nature– from an economy solely centred on growth, resource depletion and the social inequalities that accompany it. The Policy Council will foster debate on innovative public actions that can change extractivist relationships both between cities and the environment, through models of green growth and de-growth, as well as regenerate the lost and damaged instances of interdependence in the continuum between larger cities, intermediary cities and rural land. The Council will utilize proximity as a key lever through which to advance sustainable and equality-driven life-enabling systems, such as sustainable and healthy food systems. It will meaningfully engage

with past and present structural inequalities, contributing to the conversation of redressing the uneven distribution of environmental benefits and burdens as a critical tool for ensuring justice within ecological transitions in the face of the aforementioned triple crisis.

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

9:30-9:40

By the UCLG World Secretariat

The legacy

9:40 - 10:00

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: broadening the dialogue through Future Envisioning

Exercises

10:00 - 10:50

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

10:50 - 11:00

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