

Policy debate

Local Multilateralism and City Diplomacy: Linking the Local to the Global

Saturday 28 October - 11:00-12:30

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. 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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In an era in which multilateralism is compelled to rethink itself, we cannot face unprecedented crises with notions, mechanisms and understandings of governance that are tied to the structure of the 20th century. The renewed social contract that we are looking for needs collective decisions, partnering between local and regional governments and the civil society, as well as local voices at the grassroots level. It is critical that local and regional governments and their networks be at the heart of global decisions, bringing the voices of the local communities to decision-making tables.

This transformation requires defining a new governance architecture, one that not only involves local and regional governments and other stakeholders in local-to-global decision making: this is, who is at the table, but that also transforms the current multilateral tools and mechanisms, that are proving themselves unable to face the current crises and emergencies -in short, transforming *what* the global table looks like. This will also entail addressing the governance of the commons and the new essentials, and how we finance the services that our populations need. To respond to the inequality in income distribution and the challenges that governments face in curbing inequalities, the financial ecosystem needs to transform in order to transform our world.

This Policy Council will focus on building a local-global coalition for a more inclusive multilateral system. It will debate different ways to continue dialogue amongst all actors to enhance ownership, trust and accountability and to ensure that a new multilateral system is one that reflects the views of all. Since the New Urban Agenda is a critical cornerstone of the space provided to the international municipal movement in development policies, the Policy Council will provide inputs on its monitoring and state of implementation. It will discuss how to continue bringing the voice of communities in the international forums.



Building on transformative city diplomacy, the Policy Council will aim at tackling the current model based around national governments, ensuring local and regional governments are at the heart of global decisions; advocating for a renewed governance of the new essentials that is financed through a new strong global financial ecosystem. Subsidiarity, decentralization and self-government will be at the heart of the renewed Policy Council, to enhance trust between communities and institutions.

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

11:00-11:10

By the UCLG World Secretariat

The legacy

11:10 - 11:30

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

11:30 - 12:20

During this segment, local and regional governments and other stakeholders are invited to present their insights and perspectives on the priorities that will lead our new process. This open floor format 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

12:20 - 12:30

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