

Item 2.1

✓ For information

PRESENTATION OF THE ASSEMBLY TRACK

Summary and recommendations

The Assembly Track of the UCLG World Congress 2022 aims at deliberating and presenting continental and thematic priorities that contribute to the global policies of the World Organization. The Assembly will be co-chaired by the regional political leaders with inputs by the co-chairs of the Policy Councils and with the lead of the UCLG Regional Sections.

The Assembly Track will be built on sessions inspired Position Papers that will be need to be submitted by UCLG Regional Sections. The Position Papers will define a compendium of policy recommendations that will be a part of the Pact for the Future of Humanity: the core of our renewed policy priorities from 2022-2028, and will also be part of the Work Programme of UCLG. The sessions themselves will contribute to disseminate the conclusions of these papers, and feed into the final versions of the Pact for the Future.

The draft structure of the Pact for the Future and its three axes: People; Planet; and government will be the base of the discussions and consultations around each of the Assembly Position Paper. The Regional Sections are invited to present their outcomes to the UCLG Statutory bodies.

The General Assembly is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the outcomes of the Assembly Track process and its sessions in Daejeon.
2. **Make use** of this feedback in the work plans of the World Organization.

1. The Assembly Track includes UCLG Sections and local and regional government representatives as the key drivers, ensuring that the policy process of the World Organization is truly bottom-up, for the people and by the people.
2. The Assembly Track aims at allowing continental, sectoral and thematic priorities that contribute to the global policies of the World Organization of Local and Regional Governments.
3. Through the Assembly Track, UCLG Sections develop position papers to be presented during the Assembly sittings and to further provide a set of recommendations to the newly elected UCLG Presidency and towards the Pact for the Future.



From Durban to the Pact for the Future

4. In Durban, the Assembly Track allowed to showcase the key priorities of the World Organization from a continental perspective. The sittings of the Assembly and the Position Papers delivered in Durban laid out the key themes for each world region, and fed into the Durban Political Declaration, the roadmap laid in Durban for the Decade of Action. Below is a brief summary of the priorities of each paper:
 - a) **Africa** - The challenge of urbanization and the urban poor, access to finance for local and regional governments, capacitation of local and regional leaders, and multi-level governance were of the key themes of the African Position Papers.
 - b) **Americas** - Globalization and financialization are the key elements of the paper. The lack of access to finance for local governments, inequality, urban violence, migration -in particular the situation in Venezuela and Nicaragua, the faces of poverty -in particular how it affects the youth- and the challenge of reducing the carbon emissions and maintaining the Amazon were highlighted as some of the key characteristics to understand the situation in the region.
 - c) **Eurasian-Pacific** – The Asia-Pacific position paper placed its focus on resilient and sustainable cities and the localization of the Sendai framework, as well as promoting cultural heritage and ensuring effective local self-government.
 - d) **Europe** - The European position paper addressed how to strengthen the role, consideration and involvement of local and regional governments in European and global policies, and also focused on achieving international partnerships to implement and disseminate the SDGs worldwide.
 - e) **Metropolis** - The Metropolitan position paper addressed the challenges of the upcoming metropolitan era, and the role large metropolises will play in the upcoming years: in particular, how to rethink city borders and jurisdictions for better quality of life for all.
 - f) **Middle-East and West Asia** - The Middle East and West Asia position paper addresses the consolidation of peace due to the various conflicts in the region, the migratory movements that originate due to this crisis, and the struggle of addressing the climate crisis in the region.
5. The Assembly Track process in 2022 towards and in Daejeon will be the opportunity to show how this reality has updated and renewed the continental priorities of the World Organization, and being a critical part of the Pact for the Future, our strategic priorities from 2022 onwards.
6. The consultations towards the Assembly sittings in Daejeon and the Assembly gatherings in the framework of the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in 2022 have been by the UCLG regional sections, building on the experience of Durban, and with the three axes of the Pact (people, planet, government) as the *motif* running through all papers.

The Assembly Track and the Pact for the Future

7. The political priorities included in the Assembly Position Papers will form a compendium of policy inputs that the Presidency will receive to build the Pact for the Future.

8. The compendium of policy recommendations will be used as inputs to the World Organization 2023 work programme and renewal of the strategic priorities as from 2022 onwards. The outcomes of the Daejeon World Congress are set to inspire an entire decade of local action.
9. They will enable the World Organization to consolidate the voice of the constituency before the United Nations, towards continental mechanisms and, above all, to increase ownership of the members and the Sections in regards to the policy definition of the World Organization.
10. The draft structure of the Pact for the Future and its three axes – People, Planet, and Government- will be the base of the discussions and consultations around each of the Assembly Position Paper.

The format of the Position Paper

11. The Position Paper will have as base the three components of the Pact for the Future: People, Planet and Government. It is proposed that the Position Paper be of maximum 6 pages long, and include the following elements.
 - a) **Key messages:** Summary of the main messages of the paper
 - b) **Current context and state of challenges:** he context and challenges in regards to local implementation faced in the region
 - c) **Key policy priorities in the following areas:** Detail the direct links of these challenges with one (or more) of our global policy priorities identified within the Pact for the Future:
 - **People:** This axis will push for a stronger agenda on supporting rights in the city, including right to adequate housing for all, cultural rights and digital rights, as a critical tool in leaving no one and no place behind and as the sole antidote to the rise in discriminatory and xenophobic discourse. The peacebuilding agenda will be an essential driver of for the Pact for the Future.
 - **Planet:** This axis emphasizes the need to build new models for an ecological transformation and in relation to nature. It could explore further the issues linked to fair and equal distribution of the benefits of climate action and resilience building, the strengthening of care systems, protection of public services and common goods, decentralized and local energy, and water and urban, territorial and human mobility.
 - **Government:** This axis will bring to life our local democracy agenda, including our work on renewal of governance, on emergency governance and redoubling efforts around transparency and open governments.
 - If relevant, link to the recommendations and work of UCLG Fora, Committees and Communities of Practice
 - d) **Policy strategies and tools:** Group a set of policies developed in the region to face the challenges detailed in part 2
 - e) **Links with global agendas and continental mechanisms:** Detail how the policy strategy is linked with continental strategies developed by continental institutions (eg. EU, AU, ASEAN), regional agendas (eg. EU Urban Agenda, 2063 African Union Agenda) and/or global agendas (SDGs, Climate Agenda, Sendai Framework, Financing for Development, Global Migrants Compact)

- f) **Key recommendations and actions by the international local and regional governments movement:** List a set of maximum 8 policy recommendations. For example, the Durban Manifesto included policy recommendations on:
- Eg: Ecological Transformation
 - A Seat at the Global Table
 - National Enabling Environment
 - Accelerating the localization of the SDGs
 - Habitat III legacy, Multi-Level Governance
 - Culture, Pillar of sustainable development
 - Migration

Process of the Assembly Track

12. The Process has been distributed in two moments:

- a) Consultation Phase: February-September 2022
The Sections will ensure a process of consultation of their membership in the 9 UCLG Sections. The Sections are welcome to include the Consultations as a part of their own processes:
- Africa
 - Asia-Pacific
 - Eurasia
 - Europe
 - Latin America
 - Metropolis
 - North-America
 - Middle-East and West Asia
 - Forum of Regions
- b) Assembly Sitting: October 2022
The Sections will be holding their Assembly Sitting forming the Assembly Track of the UCLG World Congress. The Sections will present the outcomes of these sessions to the General Assembly in the Daejeon World Congress

Roadmap for the Assembly Track

13. **February 2022:** Initial discussions by Sections in the framework of the UCLG Retreat 2022 (21-25 February 2022):
- a) Presentation of the Assembly Track Process towards Daejeon and its contribution to the Pact for the Future.
 - b) First presentation of initial priorities identified during the Retreat 2022
14. **June 2022:** Consultations and drafting exercise by the Sections:
- a) UCLG Sections were invited to conduct consultations and start the drafting of their Position Paper towards Daejeon and contribution to the Pact for the Future on People, Planet and Government
 - b) UCLG Sections were invited to present an oral update of their Position Paper at the UCLG Executive Bureau, as a preview to the full position paper.

Towards Daejeon: the Policy Papers and the Assembly Sitzings

15. **Final Draft for publication: September 2022**

16. **ASSEMBLY SITTINGS - October 2022:** Formal sittings of the Assembly Track during the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon and formal contribution to the Pact for the Future.

There will be finally seven sittings of the Assembly, with UCLG ASPAC incorporating its Assembly in the framework of its statutory meetings in Daejeon. North America and the Latin American Section will hold a joint Assembly, as will Metropolis and the Forum of Regions.