Item 2.2
✓ For information

PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN HALL TRACK

Summary and recommendations

The UCLG Town Hall is the space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized civil society constituencies and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency to jointly define our global policies building on the Live Learning and #CitiesAreListening Experiences, which shaped UCLG's international advocacy and inclusive, sustainable thinking for the future. Driven by civil society, it allows different international stakeholders to collaborate in the definition of policy priorities and the localization of the global agendas.

The 2022 UCLG Town Halls focus on: the Global Commons; Trust and Government; Caring Systems; and Climate and Culture. They kicked off in January with "Thinking Big" meetings to get to the heart of the issues of each Town Hall and to start setting the general priorities to be discussed during the cycle.

In July 2022, the "Going Deeper" phase gathered the Town Hall leading organizations in Bogotá for a field visit led by UCLG. This visit focused on care policies in which the Town Hall representatives visited care blocks and facilities throughout the city. The field visit gave a hands-on perspective on care and local public services and was documented through a video which will serve as material for exchange amongst local and regional governments.

In September 2022, the Town Halls met with the UCLG Policy Councils to test their ideas with UCLG's membership and to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments to finalize the policy papers before Daejeon.

At the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon, the policy papers of the Town Halls will be presented to the local and regional government constituency through a dialogue, which is meant to kick off the next phase of the Town Halls focusing on implementation, advocacy, and linking it to the UN Common Agenda and Summit for the Future.

The General Assembly is invited to:

1.   Take note of the recommendations and conclusions of the Town Hall Policy Papers.

Background

1.   The UCLG Town Hall is the space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized civil society constituencies and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency to jointly define our global policies. It builds on the spaces for dialogue and interaction between different stakeholders and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency created

such as the Live Learning and the #CitiesAreListening Experiences which shaped UCLG's international advocacy and inclusive, sustainable thinking for the future.

2.   Driven by civil society, it allows different international stakeholders to collaborate in the definition of policy priorities and the localization of the global agendas. The policy recommendations commissioned for local and regional governments are a sign of the transformation of our movement to include all stakeholders in the decision-making process and to showcase how cities are listening to deliver a pact for the future. The Town Hall culminates in a corpus of integrated policy recommendations resulting from a consultation with other stakeholders and offering both bottom-up continent and region-specific priorities.

From Durban to Daejeon

3.   The contributions of the first generation of the UCLG Town Hall process were integrated into the Durban Declaration and into the daily work of the World Organization in its different areas (policy, advocacy, learning and research). Structured around 5 key priorities: Accessible Cities; Addressing Informalities; Gender Equality; Right to the City, and Sustainable Urban Development.

4.   Following the outcomes of the Durban Town Hall, the 2022 UCLG Town Hall renewed the structured dialogue between the local and regional governments constituency and internationally organized civil society and is strengthened by the presence of international partners and 3 cross-cutting caucuses (youth, feminism and accessibility). The UCLG UBUNTU Advisors are also contributing and following the discussions. The subjects of the Town Hall are directly linked to the UCLG Pact for the Future and its three axes: People, Planet and Government. They also reflect the priorities and targets included in the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda, which looks at the next 25 years and tries to imagine a more inclusive and networked multilateral system, and will serve as contributions from our constituency to the UN Summit for the Future in 2023.

Kicking off the 2022 Town Halls

5.   The 2022 UCLG Town Halls focus on: the Global Commons and redefining public services and the notion of what is public and what should be considered as part of the commons; Trust and Government and defining how we will regain trust in the public sector and redefine our institutions; Caring Systems and understanding what we need to renew our social contract to put care at the center of our cities and territories; and Climate and Culture to guarantee that our planet and future generations are protected through culture as the backbone of our societies and as our motor for sustainable development.

   Global Commons Town Hall

6.   The COVID-19 pandemic and its related crises have underlined what is essential to our everyday lives and have redefined the notion of what is public and what should be considered as part of the commons. It has never been clearer that basic services such as access to housing, to water and sanitation, to health, to nutritious and sustainable food, and to transport are indispensable to protect the livelihood of people. Over the past two years, the importance of access to green public spaces, the right to clean air and a clean environment, digital rights and the right to connectivity, the right to quality time, among others, has risen. This is what is at the heart of this Town Hall led by the Global Platform for the Right to the City with Town Hall organizations including Cities Coalition for Digital Rights, Open Society Foundations, ACCORD, FAO and UNICEF.

7.   Lead Organization: Global Platform for the Right to the City: Lorena Zarate, Sophia Torres, Nelson Saule.

8.   Town Hall Organizations:

   a) Cities Coalition for Digital Rights: Aik Van Eemeren, Lead Public Tech at CTO, City of Amsterdam
   b) Open Society Foundations: Nina Madsen, Programme Officer
   c) ACCORD: Karishma Rajoo, General Manager
   d) FAO: Marcela Villareal, Director of Partnerships Division
   e) UNICEF: Thomas George, Global Lead, Urban
   f) Youth Caucus: Marta Verani Migration Youth & Children Platform, Major Group for Children and Youth
   g) Accessibility Caucus: World Enabled
   h) Feminist Caucus: Huairou Commission

Trust and Government Town Hall

9.   Trust is the backbone of inclusion and peace and the foundation of key elements of democracy such as transparency and integrity in public information, accountability and multi-stakeholder multi-generational dialogue. Fostering trust between people and government will be key to truly reinvigorate multilateralism and ensure that the global agendas are achieved. Trust includes not only listening to others but also learning from others. This is what is at the heart of this Town Hall led by the General Assembly of Partners with Town Hall organizations including Open Government Partnership, Fixed Africa and International IDEA.

10. Lead Organization: General Assembly of Partners: Eugenie Birch, Nussdorf Professor of Urban Research, University of Pennsylvania.

11. Town Hall Organizations:

   a) Open Government Partnership: Rudi Borrmann, Lead, OGP Local
   b) Fixed Africa: Barbara Holtmann
   c) International IDEA: Alberto Fernandez, Senior Programme Officer
   d) UN Habitat: Chris Williams, Director
   e) Youth Caucus: Viviane Ogou, President, Puerta de Africa
   f) Accessibility Caucus: World Enabled
   g) Feminist Caucus: Huairou Commission

Caring Systems Town Hall

12. Protecting our communities and enhancing their well-being is a must in the COVID-19 aftermath and this calls for transforming our systems and who is involved in decision-making. The relevance of care work shifted during the pandemic, including by considering the disproportionate impact on women and girls on their uses of time and their full participation in public life. Embracing equality in all parts of life is essential to transform our societies and develop a new way of doing politics, emphasizing the unique role of women and feminist local leaders and their transformative contribution to decision-making. To develop caring communities means understanding that priorities have changed and that we need to renew our social contract.

13. Lead organization: Cities Alliance: Greg Munro, Director; Gabriela Mercurio, Urban Analyst.

14.	Town Hall Organizations:

   a) Public Service International: Rosa Pavanelli, Secretary General
   b) International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA): Gerald Leitner, Secretary General
   c) Civil Society Action Committee: Colin Rajah, Coordinator
   d) UHC2030 Universal Health Coverage: Co-Chair of the UHC2030 Steering Committee
   e) Youth Caucus: Elana Wong, Major Group for Children and Youth, Youth Caucus
   f) Feminist Caucus: Huairou Commission
   g) Accessibility Caucus: World Enabled

Climate and Culture Town Hall

15.	To guarantee that our planet and future generations are protected and able to live decent lives, we will need to acknowledge the turning point in history we find ourselves at. The climate emergency must be mitigated and action is needed from all actors. This action must be one that is rooted in change: a change in production and consumption, a change in our relationship with nature, and a change in priorities to achieve caring systems. This change can be brought about through culture as the backbone of our societies and as our motor for change and sustainable development.

16.	Lead organization: Climate Heritage Network: Andrew Potts, Coordinator.

17.	Town Hall Organizations:

   a) Climate Chance: Ronan Dantec, President
   b) Global Alliance for the Rights of Nature: Corinne Lepage
   c) International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI)
   d) Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030): Sanjaya Bhatia, Head of Office Incheon of UNDRR
   e) Youth Caucus: Daniel Akinjise, African Youth Leader
   f) Feminist Caucus: Huairou Commission
   g) Accessibility Caucus: World Enabled

The Caucuses

Youth

18.	There is an imminent need to integrate youth voices into both policy and advocacy co-creation processes. To this end, UCLG launched an international call together with the United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY) and other leading youth representative organizations to select young councilors (respecting regional and gender balance) who will formally contribute to the recommendations of each of the Town Halls. There is at least one youth Councillor in each of the Town Halls which form the Youth Caucus that will meet periodically to exchange ideas and findings from each of the Town Halls. The youth caucus will be accompanied by political representatives from UCLG, the Cities Are Listening series and UCLG Policy Councils, through Elisenda Alamany, Barcelona City Councilor and Metropolitan Councilor (Metropolitan Area of Barcelona), Gissela Chalá, Vice Mayor of the Metropolitan Council of Quito, and Annie Chrystel Limbourg, Deputy Mayor of Libreville.

Feminist

19.	In order to ensure that the voices of UCLG Women and the UCLG feminist movement are in each and every Town Hall conversation, a representative of the feminist

organizations that the organization works with have been invited to formally contribute to the recommendations of each of the Town Halls. There is one representative of municipalist feminism in each Town Hall. These 4 representatives, in turn, form the Feminist Caucus that will meet periodically to exchange ideas and findings of each of the Town Halls. The Huairou Commission is facilitating this caucus.

Accessibility

20.   In order to formalize the mainstreaming of the accessibility agenda in all deliberations of our network and building on the work of the UCLG community of practice on accessibility, a representative or partner from the UCLG community of practice on Accessibility has been invited to formally contribute to the recommendations of each of the Town Halls. There is one community representative in each Town Hall. These 4 representatives in turn form the Accessibility Caucus that will meet periodically to exchange ideas and findings from each of the Town Halls. World Enabled is facilitating this caucus.

The co-creation undertaken

21.   The Thinking Big meetings at the beginning of 2022 set the scene for the Town Hall to consider its core priorities in light of the All Town Halls meeting that took place during the UCLG Retreat, which presented Headlines from the Future within a municipal newspaper entitled the "Municipal Times" to inspire creativity and innovation on what the world would like in 2042 if the goals of each Town Hall were to be met.

22.   In July 2022, the "Going Deeper" phase gathered the Town Hall leading organizations in Bogotá for a field visit led by UCLG. This visit focused on care policies in which the Town Hall representatives visited care blocks and facilities with Mayor Claudia Lopez and city representatives throughout the city. The field visit gave a hands-on perspective on care and local public services and was documented through a video which will serve as material for exchange amongst local and regional governments.

23.   Finally, in September 2022, the Town Halls met with the UCLG Policy Councils to test their ideas with UCLG's membership and to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments to finalize the policy papers before Daejeon.

Global Commons

24.   *Going Deeper phase:* Since the UCLG retreat, the commons Town Hall has met monthly, first to define a common roadmap for the process and then to start getting to a common approximation to define the commons, particularly from a Local and Regional government point of view.

25.   After this first step, the group has been developing participatory workshops to identify lessons learned from concrete cases, in particular from the GOLD VI Report, and key aspects that should be taken into account in order to foster the development and joint management of commons by LRGs and civil society organizations. During the field visit in Bogotá, a perspective on care and local public services was highlighted, connecting the Global Commons through the revitalization of what is considered public, shared use of spaces and facilities, and co-governance of municipal resources.

26.   *Consultation and Presentation phase:* In September 2022, the Town Halls met with the UCLG Policy Councils to test their ideas with UCLG's membership and to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments prior to finalizing the policy papers before Daejeon. The Global Commons Town Hall met with the policy councils of Right to the City and New Urban Agenda and identified 3 main elements to recognize

commoning experiences: 1) realizing a community of commoners; 2) a common pool of resources and 3) a set of shared principles.

27. *Key messages from the Global Commons Town Hall stemming from the policy paper:* Taking into account the diversity under which commons can be collectively managed, public authorities can adopt a diversified strategy to support and spur commoning initiatives, including:

    a) Respect and trust: focus on giving community initiatives the space and tools to flourish and thrive and that seeks to remove potential (legal, regulatory, financial, political, attitudinal) obstacles and biases for such;

    b) Protect: protecting commoning initiatives (and commoners) from possible resistances or retaliation under adverse configurations;

    c) Realize: ensuring that commoning practices act indeed as levelers for greater equity and equality. Commoning should be intrinsically feminist, anti-racist, anti-ableist, anti-ageist, inter-generational and aligned with the emancipation and autonomy of those traditionally marginalized and excluded.

Trust and Government

28. *Going deeper phase:* Since the UCLG Retreat, the Trust and Government Town Hall has been focusing its research on how trust is not a univocal concept, it has to be broken down between different levels of government and different elements that make up citizenship – age groups, ethnicity, gender, and purchasing power. The field visit allowed to focus on the illustration of policies that transform the relationship between government and people, by ensuring that residents have direct and easy methods of communication with their local governments.

29. *Consultation and Presentation phase:* In September 2022, the Town Halls met with the UCLG Policy Councils to test their ideas with UCLG's membership and to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments prior to finalizing the policy papers before Daejeon. The Trust and Government Town Hall met with the policy councils of Multilevel Governance, Opportunities for All, and Safer, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and highlighted the notion that public trust does not only help governments, but it also addresses global issues like the health crisis, climate change, and other crises we are witnessing today.

30. *Key messages from the Trust and Government Town Hall stemming from the policy paper:* Three principles of a new social contract according to the Town Hall:

    a) Involve residents in problem-solving and policymaking through transparency and access to useful information and data, promoting widespread and meaningful engagement consciously including under-represented groups, and supporting civic space for dialogue, expressing ideas, co-creating policies and programs, and partnering on various projects;

    b) Commitment by the residents to participate actively and accept multi-stakeholder leadership in civic life to advance and improve agreed upon collective action;

    c) Acknowledge and respect subsidiarity. All countries decide how to allocate power and responsibilities. An important guiding principle is subsidiarity that holds that functions which are performed effectively by subordinate or local government belong more properly to them than to a higher level of government. A critical dimension to any decentralization policy is the clear articulation of the associated obligations, powers and resources to undertake the assigned tasks.

Caring Systems

31. *Going Deeper Phase:* Since the UCLG Retreat, the Caring Systems Town Hall has met periodically to start outlining the Policy Paper, and enter deeper in discussions on priorities. Discussions have highlighted the holistic nature of care which requires the adoption of a rights-based approach focused on granting all residents access to structures and mechanisms that allow them to care for themselves and for others. The field visit in Bogotá brought the focus on policies that transform the notion of care, putting at the center education, legal advice, wellness and sports.

32. *Consultation and Presentation phase:* In September 2022, the Town Halls met with the UCLG Policy Councils to test their ideas with UCLG's membership and to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments prior to finalizing the policy papers before Daejeon. The Caring systems Town hall met with the policy councils of Right to the City and New Urban Agenda and stressed that care goes beyond the healthcare approach and includes local public services and that follow human rights based principles that look at all people as empowered and active versus passive.

33. *Key messages from the Caring Systems Town Hall stemming from the policy paper:*

    a) Focus on the informal and most marginalized: Strong caring systems value the contributions, needs, and rights of individuals and households made invisible by current practices, and help repair historical wrongs;

    b) Foster development from bottom up: participatory governance and collaboration are cornerstones of inclusive caring systems and allow for the understanding of the challenges, needs and contribution capacities of urban dwellers;

    c) Invest in technology advances to allow people to receive essential services: Modern technologies can be used to the benefit of public administration and people;

    d) Care for people and the environment promoting a just transition: caring systems encompass not only the services and structures created by humans, but also the environment and elements of nature.

Climate and Culture

34. *Going Deeper Phase:* Since the UCLG Retreat, discussions of the Climate and Culture Town Hall have focused on unlocking the potential of culture including arts, heritage, traditional knowledge and Indigenous ways of knowing to help people transformatively reinterpret today's petrocultures and their accompanying mindsets and imagine and realize low-carbon, just, climate resilient futures. The field visit stressed the relationship between care services and resilience, and their power to change cultural and societal norms that can be harmful to people and to the planet.

35. *Consultation and Presentation Phase:* In September 2022, the Town Halls met with the UCLG Policy Councils to test their ideas with UCLG's membership and to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments prior to finalizing the policy papers before Daejeon. The Climate and Culture Town Hall met with the policy councils of Multilevel Governance, Opportunities for All, and Safer, Sustainable and Resilient Cities and highlighted the notion that culture is a missing force in climate planning and that local and regional governments are uniquely positioned to handle issues with climate planning due to their unique position and collaboration with cultural voices and civil society.

36. *Key messages from the Climate and Culture Town Hall stemming from the policy paper:* In order to make short- and medium-term progress on climate and culture, LRGs should pursue one or more of the following pathways:

   a) Culture public bodies aligning on climate science and policy;

   b) Culture and climate bodies partnering to integrate culture contributions into LRG climate plans;

   c) Commitment to strong and robust targets for culture-based climate action at LRG level;

   d) Action, measuring, and reporting embedded in LRG culture-based climate action;

   e) Utilization of cultural strategies to support Inclusive and Rights-based Climate Action.

Key areas of the UN Secretary General's Report on "Our Common Agenda", Local and Regional Governments and UCLG Town Hall Process

37. The conceptual umbrella of the Town Hall's follow up will be the UN Secretary General's Report on "Our Common Agenda" and the 12 areas of action identified within the UN75 declaration that can only be addressed through reinvigorated multilateralism. The implementation and advocacy stemming from the Town Halls will be linked to the constituency's contribution towards the achievement of the UN Common Agenda as well as towards the UN Summit for the Future. See Annex for detailed information on the link between each Town Hall's work and the 12 areas of action.