

Item 3

✓ For decision

REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE UCLG POLICY COUNCILS

Summary and recommendations

The Policy Councils have been the driving force for the World Organization's 2016-2022 strategic priorities and will continue to be so during the 2022-2028 period. They bring forward initiatives, ideas and recommendations, and are essential to enhance policy ownership and the political debate within the Organization. They are integral to renew the involvement of a broader group of political leaders, beyond the Presidency of UCLG

The Policy Councils reflect both key issues in the global agendas and the priority axes contained in the Bogotá Commitment under the following titles: Right to the City and Inclusive Territories; Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy: Keys to sustainable development and peace; Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing; and Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises. The Executive Bureau in May 2020 further agreed to the creation of an additional Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

In their renewed mandate, the Policy Councils have allowed to bridge closer ties between the political and the policy inputs of the World Organization, ensuring a stronger alignment of our priorities, and have also allowed to acknowledge new topics that have emerged in our new reality to be taken into account.

The results of the discussions of the Policy Councils have fed the contents of the Pact for the Future, the renewed strategy for the World Organization as from 2022 onwards.

This document aims at providing the key outcomes of the Policy Councils in 2022, and some initial recommendations and highlights of how to implement the priorities identified under each component of the Pact for the Future: people, planet and government.

The General Assembly is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the reports from the UCLG Policy Councils.
2. **Mandate** the Policy Councils to pursue the work in view of the implementation of the Pact for the Future.

Background

1. The Policy Councils were created in 2017 with the aim to provide an opportunity for political representatives to participate in the Organization's policymaking 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.



2. Five Policy Councils are currently active. The themes they focus on are the results of the priority axes of the Organization and reflect key issues covered by the global agendas for development. The World Council in November 2020 agreed that their work remains very relevant and that they will need to adapt their focus to the post-COVID reality.
3. In May 2020, the Executive Bureau also validated the need, expressed by the membership, to develop a 5th Policy Council dedicated to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which has been fully active since its formal creation during the 2020 World Council.

Policy Councils outcomes in 2022

4. In their initial phase (2018-2020), the Policy Councils have been particularly instrumental in connecting with other consultation mechanisms and in building a strong political commitment, ensuring links for example with the national governments (2018 sessions in Strasbourg), with the World Forum on Urban Violence and Education for Coexistence and Peace (2018), with the UCLG Culture Summit (2019) and ensuring also a structured dialogue with organized civil society through the Assembly and Town Hall tracks of the UCLG World Congress (2019).
5. Following their renewal in 2020, the Policy Councils met several times in 2021: in February before the UCLG Annual Retreat; in May in the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau, and in October in the framework of Urban October and towards the UCLG World Council. The political meetings were preceded by technical preparatory meetings held with the Sherpas.
6. In 2022, the Policy Councils have also been actively involved in shaping the agenda of UCLG, including during their meetings in the framework of the Executive Bureau in Seville.
7. Beyond their own gathering, representatives from the various Policy Councils were present at the 66th session of the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW), the International Migration Review Forum, the World Urban Forum, the High-Level Political Forum, or Urban 20. The Policy Councillors contributed thus to the advocacy of the constituency in the framework of these high-level international events.
8. The Policy Councils in 2022 have also been an integral part of the process towards the Pact for the Future. They took part in meetings with the Town Hall partners, bringing their policy and political contributions to the political statement of the Pact.