

## Item 3.1

✓ For information

### RIGHT TO THE CITY AND INCLUSIVE TERRITORIES

#### Summary and recommendations

The Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories is an essential mechanism to advance UCLG members' conversation on the Right to the City. While continuing to address key priorities such as shifting the narrative around migration and the right to housing, this mechanism is now set to explore a wider emerging agenda: From renewing approaches equality and accessibility to advancing a new generation of rights.

This document features the results of the discussions of this Policy Council, which will also feed the contents of the Pact for the Future, the renewed strategy for the World Organization as from 2022 onwards.

#### The General Assembly is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the report of the Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories.

1. Since its creation in 2017, the Council has functioned as a platform for in depth policy debate where political representatives can influence the agenda of the World Organization and establish synergies as well as discuss how scale-up specific impact of initiatives led by members, such as the work on housing that led to the adoption of the "Cities for Adequate Housing" Declaration in 2018 and the contribution to the Marrakech Mayors Declaration on Migration that marks the path on a new narrative on Human Mobility. The Council represents a periodic and structural meeting point to address UCLG's commitment towards the Right to the City as recognized in the Bogotá Commitment and the New Urban Agenda (both adopted in 2016).
2. The Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories brings to the debate views on how to support inclusive housing policies and ensure the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all, work with communities to upgrade slums and regenerate poor neighborhoods, and support the social production of habitat.
3. In the past years, the Policy Council on the Right to the City has carried out its mandate to place the focus on shifting the narrative around migration, as well as debating views on how to support the realization of the right to adequate housing for all.
4. The Presidency of the Policy Council on Right to the City, held by **Armand Beoundé**, Mayor of Ouagadougou and Vice-President of UCLG for Africa, and **Philippe Rio**, Mayor of Grigny, together with the rest of the councillors, have deepened the work of the Council with partners such as the Office of the High Commissioner on Human



Rights, as well as with the UN Special Rapporteurs of the UN, or the Open Society Foundation on issues such as migrant detention.

### **Renewed priorities and objectives**

5. In 2021, the Policy Council triggered UCLG discussions on digital rights and human mobility, enabling to feed and shape the Pact for the Future's axis of "Caring for People". The Policy Council emphasized the importance of defending the human rights of each person, preventing unjust detention, and supporting local communities in border regions. It further called for changing the foundations of our society and pushing for the **recognition of a new generation of rights**, including digital and biodiversity rights.
6. The Policy Council also emphasized the importance of **fighting against discrimination at all levels**; ensuring **decent housing** for all; and enhancing mechanisms for integrating undocumented migrants in education and the labor market. It further called for tackling hate speech and fostering international cooperation based on solidarity, including addressing the factors that push people to leave their countries.
7. Throughout 2021, the Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories gathered to discuss concrete proposals for its agenda, with particular attention to:
  - a) Expanding the policy discussion on human rights throughout the definition of the People's Axis on the Pact of the Future, exploring concepts such as the new generation of rights that includes the **right to peace, accessibility, technology, mobility and culture**.
  - b) Generating discussions to support the renewal of the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City, which will be promoted by the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights.
  - c) Informing the partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and participation within the UN Human Rights system (e.g UN Special Procedures).
  - d) Accelerating the localization of human rights in the city by adopting and promoting universal accessibility as a common good and pillar to equitable public service provision, sustainable development and participatory democracy.

### **Urban October and the Policy Council on the Right to the City**

8. The Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories met in the framework of Urban October and introduced critical topics for the development of the UCLG Pact for the Future, building on previous meetings held in early 2021.
9. Over 70 participants, including the mayors of Ouagadougou, Grigny, Sala, Lampedusa, Libreville, Begur, the deputy mayor of Sfax and representatives from Montevideo and Bogotá brought to the table the need to develop intergenerational cities, the importance of designing cities for all for all that care for the more vulnerable communities, including the elderly and people with disabilities, and showed the more human dimension of UCLG with references to the Lampedusa Charter to reframe human mobility, developing alternatives to detention, and developing cities of peace by fostering non-violence.

10. Partners from the **Civil Society Action Committee**, the **Office of the UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility**, and the **Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights** joined the conversation and the calls from the political leadership of the Council, and their inputs will be essential for the development of the Town Hall, as we move towards the 2022 UCLG World Congress.
11. The meeting also provided insights on the interlinkages with the work of other Policy Councils, such as the Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture, and City Diplomacy by exploring the relationship between peace and human rights in our cities and territories.

### **The Policy Council in the 2022 UCLG Executive Bureau: The “10, 100, 1000 human rights cities and territories by 2030” Campaign**

12. In the framework of the 2022 Executive Bureau, a thematic session focused on “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030”: led by the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights, in cooperation with the UCLG Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories, the session presented the global campaign launched jointly with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCHR), which aims to scale up local initiatives and advance towards a consolidated global movement of human rights cities and territories.
13. On this occasion, the Policy Councillors recalled that the most important sentence to describe the 2030 agenda is “leaving no one behind”, which is the very reason to place human rights at the center. They all committed to contributing to the success of the campaign in a historical moment that shows the fundamental importance of human rights. There is an intimate link between human rights and access to basic services, particularly at a time of complex emergencies and of a much-needed balance between economic interests, and respect for natural resources. Including individual and collective rights as part of a renewed social contract can also help combat racism and the feminization of poverty. In this sense, the campaign will contribute to a reflection on the next decade of the human rights cities’ movement, and a new generation of rights to be enshrined in the UCLG Pact for the Future.
14. As part of the follow-up work on the campaign, a special session will be celebrated during the World Congress in Daejeon.

### **Exchanges with the Town Halls, ready to contribute to the Pact for the Future**

15. In September 2022, the UCLG Policy Council met with the UCLG Town Halls to learn from the perspective of local and regional governments prior to finalizing the policy papers before Daejeon. The Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories met with the Town Halls of Global Commons and Caring Systems to provide feedback on their policy papers, addressing the meaning of the “commons” as a response to the current crises, and bringing to the table the need for caring systems to be accompanied by a roadmap that can help local and regional governments reflect on what they still haven’t accomplished, especially in the post-pandemic era. Participants highlighted care as a notion that is inherent to humanity, and thus a valuable bridge towards social cohesion.