

Item 3.5

✓ For information

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

Summary and recommendations

The Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, launched at the UCLG World Council in November 2020, aims to look at the challenges and opportunities associated around the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, a critical corner stone for the development agenda and for the achievement of empowered, inclusive and resilient cities and territories.

In this first mandate, the Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda has also ensured a stronger alignment with the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, the recognised mechanism to monitor and report within the Quito Outcome Document.

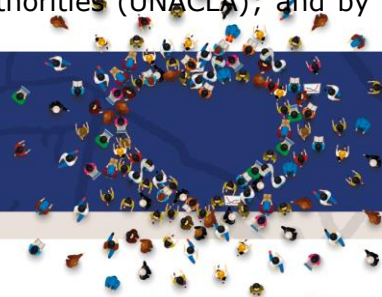
This document features the results of the discussions of this Policy Council will also feed the contents of the Pact for the Future, the renewed strategy for the World Organisation as from 2022 onwards.

The General Assembly is invited to:

1. **Take note** of the Report of the Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Context

1. The New Urban Agenda is a critical corner stone for the development agenda. Empowered, inclusive and resilient territories, which are open and accountable to their citizens, are critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and all Global Goals.
2. The capacity to deliver and the evolution of national and international urban policies is critical both for the role of local governments in development but also for the space provided to the international municipal movement in development policies.
3. Launched in 2020, the new Policy Council on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda started its work in January 2021 with the objective of contributing to the Quito+5+1 milestone held in April 2022 at UN Headquarters.
4. The Policy Council on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda is co-chaired by **Carlos Martínez**, Mayor of Soria and Envoy of the UCLG Presidency on the New Urban Agenda; **Ilsur Metshin**, Mayor of Kazan, President of UCLG-Eurasia and President of the United Nations Advisory Committee for Local Authorities (UNACLA); and by the



South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The Policy Council also comprises nine Policy Councillors.

Ground work in the initial launch phase

5. In its initial work, the Presidency, led by Ilsur Metshin, Mayor of Kazan and Chair of UNACLA, Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria and Envoy of the UCLG Presidency on the New Urban Agenda and Thembisile Nkadimeng, Co-President of UCLG, have highlighted the importance of continuing to link the New Urban Agenda with the rest of the Universal development agendas, and to strengthen our work with UN-Habitat and the G20 on territorial perspectives and subnational urban policies.
6. In its early deliberations in February and May 2021, the Council identified five key issues for the work the Council in the last semester of 2021 and first semester of 2022:
 - a) Allowing direct linkage with the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments as formal mechanism for review and follow-up in the run-up to Quito+5.
 - b) Ensuring articulation between the Policy Council and UNACLA when sharing input to the monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda.
 - c) Stressing the link between the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially within the context of SDG 11 on sustainable cities.
 - d) Ensuring that the relevant data provided for and by local and regional governments is taken into account in the monitoring and progress of implementation of the agenda.
 - e) Guaranteeing the territorial perspective, and advocating for multilevel governance and the inclusion of local and regional governments in all processes related to the agenda.
7. These deliberations led to the adoption of a Technical Roadmap towards Quito+5, identifying the steps to construct the narrative from the Policy Council to the World Assembly and with the support of UNACLA, towards the UN High-Level Meeting.

Concrete recommendations towards the UN High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, Quito+5

8. During the second part of the year 2021 and the first part of the year 2022, the Presidency of the Council, focused its work on sharpening its recommendations towards the UN High-Level Meeting, based on the inputs of the Councillors and the Sherpas.
9. The results of the deliberations focused on different aspects of the local and regional governments perspectives towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:
 - a) The New Urban Agenda and the pandemic: it has often been local and regional governments, supported by their associations and networks across the world, who worked tirelessly at the frontline caring for their communities and protecting their rights and health via local public service delivery, underpinning health measures,

and ensuring the livelihoods of workers. This was addressed within the reporting during the New Urban Agenda.

- b) Care at the centre of local service provision: the New Urban Agenda needs to build upon the display of care provided by local and regional governments over the past years. Care is a dimension that needs to be incorporated into any and all policy decisions, starting by protecting our communities' health and access to healthy territories.
 - c) The New Urban Agenda and the Rights: The right to safe and affordable housing, to healthcare, to basic services, to a clean environment, to quality public education, are as necessary now as they were when the New Urban Agenda was adopted. Access to housing remains a challenge, inequalities have risen, and urbanization is not providing equal opportunities to all, but in many cases, it is hampering access to services.
 - d) The New Urban Agenda and the necessary acceleration of localization: the Policy Council emphasized that the New Urban Agenda is an accelerator of the implementation of the SDGs, and that the 2030 Agenda remains a framework fit for transformation of our systems, but that it cannot happen without localization: their effective implementation from the bottom-up. It also underlined the role of local monitoring, through voluntary local and subnational reviews (VLRs and VSRs) of the Sustainable Development Goals implementation. These mechanisms are a testament to the political will to actually contribute to systemic changes that need to be triggered to leave no-one and no place behind, for bottom-up transformation, and an inspiration to monitoring processes of the New Urban Agenda.
 - e) The New Urban Agenda, effective implementation and multilateralism: The Policy Council reaffirmed the necessity of developing a system in which local and regional governments are fully engaged by holding a permanent seat at the decision-making tables representing their communities and for a strong international community and updated UN system that reflects the current context, including local and regional governments in all stages of decision-making processes giving a more direct representation of communities and including the value and potential of city diplomacy for a renewed multilateral system. The Councillors recommended national governments involved in the New Urban Agenda to support the engagement of our constituency, as a cornerstone for the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and the achievement of the vision of the UNSG's Common Agenda.
10. A Special Session of the Policy Council meeting took place in November 2021 on the New Urban Agenda within the framework of the Metropolis Congress. The session was dedicated to taking stock of the achievements of the constituency towards Habitat III and its first five years, emphasizing the recommendations made by the constituency on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in 2021, and reflecting on the recommendations of the UCLG-LSE-Metropolis initiative on Emergency Governance. The outcomes of the session provided input towards the work of the constituency at the High Level Meeting in New York in 2022.
11. In the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau organized in Seville in June 2022, the Policy Council highlighted the importance of discussing the New Urban Agenda from a bottom-up perspective and in synchronization with the other global agendas. Local governments need to build back better and differently and to bring shared commitments into effective actions. To achieve this, the New Urban Agenda is a key lever for the acceleration of the agendas and for policy coordination among all actors. Furthermore, the Policy Council emphasized that rebuilding trust amongst the

institutions and with the citizens is critical to engage in a dialogue as we move forward to achieve sustainable urban development.

UCLG Pact for the Future

12. The Policy Council will remain instrumental in contributing particularly to the Axis Government of the Pact for the Future, but also linking up with many aspects of the Axis People and Planet.
13. 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 New Urban Agenda met with the Town Halls of Trust and Government and Climate and Culture to provide feedback on their policy papers and reflect on the issues of decentralized cooperation and sustainable financing within their Town Halls in preparation for the UCLG World Congress. The policy council highlighted that the New Urban Agenda's achievement rests on ensuring no one and no place is left behind and that listening to civil society and promoting care at the center of policy is key. Councillors also highlighted the need for the New Urban Agenda to reflect the perspective of the Global South.
14. As a continuity of the work carried out in the two first years of mandate, the Policy Council will put mutual trust at the core of the agenda for an effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Rebuilding trust between citizens, institutions and communities, at all levels, will be an essential precondition to achieve the New Urban Agenda.
15. The Policy Council will continue to promote co-creation and truly inclusive policy and decision-making as a pre-condition for holistic governance leading to effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It can also focus on how to deploy new mechanisms of multilevel governance while enhancing the protection of the global commons.
16. The Policy Council can play a strong role in the push for the revitalization of the multilateral system and the development of an interurban system of small, intermediary and large cities and metropolises, strengthening the urban-rural continuum, to ensure that the next generations benefit from placing local democracy at the centre of development.