



**THE POWER  
OF WE**  
Delivering  
a Pact for  
the Future





# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENCY 2019—2022

## **THE POWER OF WE**

Delivering a Pact for the Future



# Contents

# 6

**STATE  
OF THE UNION**

# 10

**WE CARE  
FOR PEOPLE**  
PLACING OUR COMMUNITIES  
AT THE CENTRE OF ALL ACTION

---

An equality driven movement

---

The Lampedusa Charter to  
transform human mobility

---

New Generation of Human Rights

---

Culture and cultural rights

---

Universal health for our cities

---



# 46

**WE RESEARCH**

**WE LEARN**

# 22

## WE CARE

### FOR THE PLANET

TRANSFORMING OUR  
RELATIONSHIP WITH  
OUR ENVIRONMENTS

Ecological transformation

Transforming our food systems

Sustainable mobility and public  
transport

Race to resilience and race to zero

Harnessing proximity

Regions and intermediary cities  
bolstering urban transformation



## WE CARE

### FOR GOVERNMENT

LOCAL DEMOCRACY,  
CRITICAL TO RENEW  
THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

# 32

Governance renewal

Decentralized Development  
Cooperation

Our Peace Agenda

Revisiting Local Democracy

Local finance



WE MEET

WE ADVOCATE

WE LISTEN



# STATE OF THE UNION



**In the lead-up to the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, our movement presented itself stronger than ever, embracing its origins to deliver its transformative vision for people, for the planet and for multilateralism. Safeguarding local democracy, building peace through mutual cooperation, and remaining loyal to the values and principles of decentralization, subsidiarity, gender equality, self-government and accountability.**

Our World Congress in Daejeon is the moment to renew our leadership appointed in Durban. The time span since our Durban Congress has been atypical, marked by the pandemic and a moment of overlapping crises that have necessarily made our movement reflect on our priorities, and to understand that governing with care and empathy needs to be at the core of what we do.

In 2020, the world stopped, and the way we all relate to each other radically changed, perhaps forever. The COVID-19 pandemic acted as a magnifying glass that highlighted who and what we were leaving behind and exacerbated the impact of the universal challenges we face.



We witness unprecedented levels of inequality to such an extent that peace and democracy are no longer granted. We are confronted with an environmental crisis that is reaching a point of no return. We live in a time of worsening divides where war has made its way into our lives with unforeseen impacts for day to day lives all over the world.

Throughout the duration of this leadership, our joint work has adapted the current context. With the universal development agendas as a framework for transformation, and through the Power of We, of cities and regions ready to deliver a world that cares, our movement has endeavoured to overcome the pandemic that separated us physically, with the aim of developing a **Pact for the Future**: a strategy that goes beyond the decade of action, and speaks to the international processes that are looking at the post-2030 world.

In 2020, after a commitment in Tangier to join UN75, our focus was on galvanising our movement to respond to the call of the United Nations. With the pandemic transforming our habits, we met virtually and were able to build new partnerships, enhance our existing ones, and bring together local and regional governments from all over the world into a knowledge platform. We were able to understand that, in spite of the distance, none of us are alone, and our shared efforts can shape the world around us, which was the guiding force between our Decalogue for the COVID-19 era.

The pandemic raged on, but 2021 saw a step forward in our commitment to place care at the centre of all actions. Our movement took leaps to present itself as a **Feminist Municipal Movement**, a statement to how we understand politics need

to be practiced, and this movement was presented as such in the Generation Equality Forums and in CSW65. With the mandate to adopt a Pact for the Future as a means to deliver our Decalogue, we evolved our learning platform to ensure it was able to bring together partners in a process that would feed the Pact, and began taking strides to evolve our statutory gatherings for a hybrid world.

2022 was the year in which we met again physically, but also a year where our capacity for diplomacy and unity has been put to the test. 2022 marked the review of the New Urban Agenda and saw UCLG facilitating our constituency through the Global Taskforce in the UN Assembly Hall. This year has also been the year of the UCLG Municipal Peace Talks putting the transformative city diplomacy at the centre of the agenda while carrying on our work around, research and learning.



# WE ACT FOR PEOPLE, FOR PLANET, AND FOR GOVERNMENTS

With the adoption of the mandate to deliver a Pact for the Future, our World Organization is transforming how it presents itself to the World. The three axes that structure the Pact -People, Planet, and Government- will guide our work in the coming years, and have become part of our work plan and of how we tell our story.

During the mandate of the Presidency, UCLG has understood that these axes need to permeate our work areas, and that “The Power of We” is our strength to deliver and respond to the current challenges we face. We care, and thus we Advocate, We Research, We Learn, We Listen, and We Meet under to renew the social contract, to pave the way for a new social contract with care at the centre: by developing a feminist way of doing politics, a new relationship with the planet, and a way of governing ourselves with municipalism and local democracy at the centre of decision-making.

Since 2019, **We advocate** for a world in which local and regional governments, and the communities that they represent, are a **part of the decision-making table** to bring about transformation. In regards to the future of **government** we were able to build partnerships with the World Health Organization, to join the UN Secretary-General’s call for UN75, and to engage in the review of the New Urban Agenda in Quito+5 with the full strength of our constituency. Our constituency at the HLPF has maintained its structural spaces with the Local and Regional Government’s Forum and Day, and local and regional governments remain an integral element of the advocacy towards the G-20, with the U20 initiative growing throughout these last years, presenting our calls to the leadership of the G20 countries.

Our movement has also strengthened its involvement in the human rights agenda, showcasing its focus on people with the birth of the **Feminist Municipal Movement** and the **Lampedusa Charter** and the signature of a ground breaking collaboration agreement with the Office of the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights while working hand in hand with the UN Special Envoy on Disabilities to ensure universal access to services is part of the municipal agenda around the world.

When it comes to transforming our relationship with our planet, UCLG has worked to redefine how we interact with our planet, transforming our patterns of production and consumption, and ensuring a true ecological transformation. We have engaged with the three cycles of the COP, as well as with the COP on biodiversity, gathered within the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Major Group, and our strategy on intermediary cities and regions also has the wellbeing of our planet in mind. It will be critical to go from emergency to livability, and continue work through the institutional partnership with key partners in this area.

**We care** means bringing people to the centre of our efforts. It is the core of our values as a movement, following the calls of the Durban Political Declaration. Through solidarity, people-centred planning, and a feminist way of doing politics, the value of care has permeated our statutory gatherings, as our leadership met to take decisions to provide for our communities. Our statutory gatherings during these three years have had our communities at the core, as is proven by the development of the UCLG Decalogue for the COVID-19 era, the Rome Charter, the development and involvement of our Policy Councils in the policymaking of our organization.





**We research** our work areas have worked within the framework of the upcoming Pact for the Future. We research to develop pathways for an equitable and sustainable future. Our 6th Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, which will be presented in the World Congress, is focusing on the “pathways to urban and territorial inequalities”. With participation of different parts of the network as well as academia, and civil society organizations, we are researching as one for a more egalitarian world that cares. Our research has also been the spearhead of our advocacy towards the United Nations, with our report Local and Regional Governments towards the Localization of the SDGs being presented in 2020, 2021, and 2022 focusing on the state of localization, and bringing to light the involvement of local and regional governments in subnational reporting through VLRs and VSRs. Our engagement with the London School of Economics-Cities has transformed how we understand emergency governance.

**We learn** by developing tools, activities, and modules to learn together and re-embrace localization, with the on-line Platform #LearningwithUCLG at the centre, developing over 50 learning courses, four modules on SDG localization and three modules on the localization of the Sendai Framework, and counting on more than 500 people registered. and developing the #LiveLearningExperiences, a platform of shared knowledge aiming at fostering connection of local practices to the global agendas. The training of trainers and peer learning among members are also indispensable parts of the work in this area.

**We listen** to, and build strengthened partnerships with the international community. Through our #CitiesAreListening Experiences and our collaborations with partners from the private sector and the civil society, we follow our mandate that came out of Durban, and strengthen our Town Hall process, which has been integral to the development of the Pact for the Future, to develop a renewed narrative, and to develop policy recommendations for the World Organization.

This work around care has been also mainstreamed in how we communicate, with our teams new platforms that will allow enhanced communication among members and renewed visibility towards partners. The development of UCLGMeets.org and working on the backstage of the UCLG as Platform of Platforms have been critical. The experience of our #LiveLearningExperience and our #CitiesAreListening Experiences platforms have shaped the narrative of UCLG and have led to the renewed storytelling around the #PowerOfWe.

## FAILURE IS NOT AN OPTION - THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE TOWARDS THE RENEWAL OF OUR SYSTEMS

The transformation -of our beliefs, of our actions, of our partnerships- is no-longer dispensable. Failing is not an option. Against this backdrop, we are firmly committed to contribute to a sustained and profound change in our societies and systems. A change to break through as one, stronger, caring for each other and for our planet.

The Daejeon World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, our World Congress, will be the space to renew our leadership and our priorities for the coming six years, with a stronger focus on peace and city diplomacy, on gender equality, on human mobility, accessibility, health, proximity... we will present ourselves with renewed consultation mechanisms and the inputs of our partners of the Town Hall Process and our regional sections.

Through this Pact for the Future, UCLG members and our organized constituency acknowledge the importance of this foundational moment, for a world that bridges local actions and global trends. A world that guarantees equal access to public basic services. A world that has transformed its systems, from degenerative to regenerative. A world driven by well-informed, critical and empowered communities. A feminist world that cares and thrives with girls, women, boys and men equally empowered. A world based on solidarity.

United Cities and Local Governments, an equality driven movement, is committed to facilitating the space for local and regional leaders to make this world a reality, responding to the call of the UN Summit for the Future.

# WE CARE FOR PEOPLE



UCLG CARES FOR PEOPLE  
PLACING OUR COMMUNITIES AT  
THE CENTRE OF ALL ACTION

---

## An equality driven movement

---

Cities and territories that guarantee accessibility for all

---

The Lampedusa Charter to transform human mobility

---

Culture: A core component of territorial identity

---

UCLG cares for healthy populations and societies - Universal health coverage and health in our cities

---

We care for everyone's rights

---

We are moving from inclusion to care. We are moving from equality to a new feminist way of doing politics: a governance with empathy, which prioritizes the commons in direct response to the needs and aspirations of people. Caring for people means defining our future with, for, and by our communities, ensuring the sacrifices made now will reflect on a better life for future generations. This shift towards a brighter future needs to be a collective effort that facilitates access to basic services and the defence of the rights of our communities.

For local and regional governments, migration and displacement are more than an issue of borders. Beyond trends of workforce concentration, rapid urbanisation and growing territorial imbalances, a variety of interrelated factors expose growing parts of the population to move in extremely harsh conditions.

Building on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, it is clear that the challenges of the coming years call on us to assess the new essentials and new rights and rights to promote a form of development

that is sustainable, equitable, inclusive and respectful of human rights for all. UCLG works to advance and reinforce the human rights city movement worldwide through the renewal of the Global Charter.

As an equality-driven movement, UCLG co-leads a coalition of feminist movements and leaderships that advocates for gender equality, women in decision making positions, and feminist leaderships as they embody a new way to do politics based on empathy that fosters social justice and equality and galvanize a culture of peace in all its dimensions. The transformative role of the global municipal feminist movement will contribute to conceive equally empowered women and feminist leaders as an integral part of the solution to the many global and local challenges we face on health, climate, economy or fundamental human rights.

We are moving forward to transform the social contract by developing caring societies based on the provision of local services. We are moving forward towards a new feminist way of doing politics – one that, through empathy, fosters social justice and equality as the indispensable building blocks of any just, sustainable and thriving society. We are moving forward to protect and convey the wellbeing and aspirations of present and future generations, to defend the rights of our communities, and to leave no one and no space behind.



# An Equality Driven Movement



The notion of feminist leadership driven by equality with empathy, care and proximity at the core, are part of the renewed vision for the municipal movement. Cohesion and increased solidarity among territories are also components of the better normal, which will need to be underpinned by renewed governance at all levels and revisited democracy that will prevent the backlogs around authoritarianism that we are observing in some parts of the world and contribute to peace.

Building on UCLG efforts to promote gender equality, local and regional governments are in the midst co-creating and promoting of a global feminist municipalism movement. UCLG facilitated the participation and active contributions of members and the constituency at the meetings of the sixty-fourth, sixty-fifth and sixty-sixth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 64, 65 and 66) and Generation Equality Forums in Mexico and in Paris.

Throughout these years, UCLG laid out the need to place the care for the people and planet at the center, strengthening local public service provision and enhancing the

participation and decision-making of women, girls, and feminist leaders.

Building on the results of the Generation Equality Forum in Paris in 2021 UCLG continued to raise the profile and advocate for further inclusion and recognition of the key role played by local and regional governments for gender equality at the 66th UN Commission on the Status of Women took place in hybrid format between 14 and 25 March 2022. This year's theme was 'Achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of

climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes and its review theme was 'Women's economic empowerment in the changing world of work.'

Coming out of CSW 66, UCLG assesses that further engagement of the constituency in the multilateral processes regarding gender equality is required, especially in follow-up to the Generation Equality Forums, for example via the Action Coalitions, the Global Acceleration Plan on Gender Equality, or the Global Alliance for Care.

## The "Feminist Cities and Territories" Podcast

A podcast series on 'Feminist Cities and Territories' has been developed based on the research processes around the Feminist Municipal Movement, and interviews with local women leaders, led by UCLG UBUNTU Adviser on Gender, Ana Falu. The series, which promotes the power of feminist leadership, was launched during UCLG's 2022 Annual Retreat in February and the latest episodes will be aired at the World Congress.



# Cities and territories that guarantee accessibility for all

Following the strategic recommendations from the political document and debate on inclusive and accessible cities during the 2019 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, UCLG has measurably increased the global recognition of the role of local and regional governments towards the protection of human rights and the realization of the principle of Leave No One Behind.

In 2020, UCLG identified and mobilized local leaders committed to equity, human rights and participation through a series of events within the framework of the Live Learning Experiences and the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. These events reinforced the necessary role that local and regional governments hold in promoting global human rights and development frameworks. Clear commitments were made to support local and regional governments in their efforts to reduce inequalities by stakeholders representing national governments, civil society, the United Nations, and multilateral development banks.ç

In line with our policy roadmap and outcomes of the dialogues in 2020, UCLG held the inaugural meeting of the Community of Practice on Inclusive and Accessible Cities and Territories in April of 2021. The meeting identified clear priority areas developed in the Town Hall process of Durban and reinforced the commitment and call from members for more capacity building tools, knowledge exchange and data to better understand and address universal accessibility in their policies and programs.



Through our strategic partnership with the UN Special Envoy on Accessibility and Disability, World Enabled and the World Blind Union, UCLG has measurably increased the global recognition of the role of local and regional governments towards the protection of human rights and the realization of the principle of Leave No One Behind in global forum this year that include during the 14th Session of the Conference of States Parties (COSPP) to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the World Blindness Summit and the High Level Political Forum.



## The Lampedusa Charter to transform human mobility

In connection with global agendas on migration governance and with the construction of the UCLG Pact for People proposed at the World Council in Guangzhou, Lampedusa has brought to the Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories a proposal to co-create the Lampedusa Charter on human mobility and peace.

Following a period of open online consultations of the Lampedusa Charter through the UCLG Meets Platform, the final draft of the Lampedusa Charter will be discussed and approved at the UCLG Executive Bureau in Seville, held in the framework of the Mediterranean Urban Migration Forum (MUMF). The Charter is stated to be officially launched in October 2022 at the UCLG World Congress.

As a member of the Steering Committee of the Mayors' Mechanism together with International Organization for

Migration (IOM) and the Council of Mayors for Migration (CMM), UCLG has facilitated the presence of its regional sections and over 100 local governments at the various regional consultations of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), as well as at the GFMD Summit.

Under the Chairmanship of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the GFMD Summit gathered over 2000 participants virtually to discuss complex issues such as gaps in migrant protection, labour migration, and irregular migration. Over 840 national government representatives from 116 States attended. The GFMD Mayors Mechanism secured access for over 90 local and regional governments to join the discussions as active participants, including 25 local leaders as official panellists speaking in 18 of the Summit's formal events.

In the field of city-to-city cooperation, through the MC2CM project and the Cities Are Listening process, UCLG has continued to promote the exchange of practices and peer learning on issues such as children, local citizenship or gender aspects of human mobility. Following the Beyond The Outbreak Live Learning Experience on Migration, a policy study was released on migrant sensitive responses to COVID-19.

In addition, as part of the Co-Chairmanship of the GFMD Working Group on Migration Narratives, formed by the Mayors' Mechanism (UCLG, IOM, MMC) and the Governments of Canada and Ecuador, UCLG has contributed to the conception and launch of the "It Takes a Community" global campaign, to promote a fair narrative on human mobility.



## Culture: A core component of territorial identity

Memory, heritage, creativity, diversity and knowledge through cultural programs aiming at education, active participation, critical citizenship, gender equality, linguistic diversity, and the empowerment of indigenous peoples. Culture is a core component of local and regional identity, a strand of global solidarity, and a vector for peace and human rights.

As we work towards the Pact for the Future and renewed social contracts, we have learnt and we are convinced that we have strong avenues that link culture with challenges of humanity. Culture has been critical in this pandemic to connect with one another, and is a critical aspect of the work of UCLG as we enter the phase of defining what is essential. The G20 included Culture in their programme, and UCLG played an important part in including culture in the agenda of the Urban 20 through the #Culture2030goal campaign.

The 4th UCLG Culture Summit was held in Izmir (Turkey) and online on 9-11 September 2021, under the title “Culture: Shaping the Future”. The UCLG Culture Summit has become the main meeting point at global level of cities, local governments and other stakeholders that are committed to the effective implementation of policies and programmes on culture and sustainable development. The contents of the Summit were designed to discuss key issues related to the UCLG Pact for the Future, for the People, for the Planet, for the Government, and included sessions on the relationship between Culture and Gender Equality, the 2030 Agenda, Public



Spaces, Heritage, Urban Planning, City Diplomacy and Climate Action, among many others.

The UCLG Culture Summit gave visibility to the outstanding and generous response to the pandemic given by cultural communities, with initiatives to mourn those who have left, to boost access and engagement in cultural life, to encourage awareness and tolerance, to create new expressions, to identify new energies and to build the capacities to imagine a new future, all together. The Declaration states “Participants to the UCLG Culture Summit have underlined the impressive power of culture to widen rights and freedoms of all, to improve well-being for all, and to build healthier and more resilient communities that leave no one and no place behind”.

The UCLG Culture Summit finished with the presentation of the Izmir Declaration, a document that builds on the UCLG acquis on culture and development.

### In this context, the Declaration:

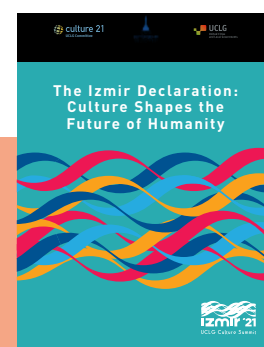
**A.** Calls global leaders “to be bold and embrace a real global conversation on culture in sustainable development, which unfolds with truly ambitious programmes of international cultural cooperation and cultural diplomacy”. We urgently need, as humanity, as world citizens of our spaceship, mother Earth, to forge

new forms of cooperation and solidarity.

**B.** Invites all cities and local governments “to place culture at the centre of local development”, including the local achievement of the SDGs and global sustainable development agendas.

**C.** Invites UNESCO to design an ambitious Mondiacult 2022, with “all actors to actively participate to the conversation, and aiming at allowing the international and the national frames of cultural policies to be adapted to the challenges of the 21st century.”

**D.** Invites “the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to engage in a dialogue with the global cultural actors so that a dedicated Goal on Culture becomes a reality as soon as possible, and certainly in the post-2030 Development Agenda”. A dedicated goal would not prevent culture from also being considered as a cross-cutting element in other Goals, in keeping with the interconnected nature of sustainable development.



## UCLG cares for healthy populations and societies - Universal health coverage and health in our cities

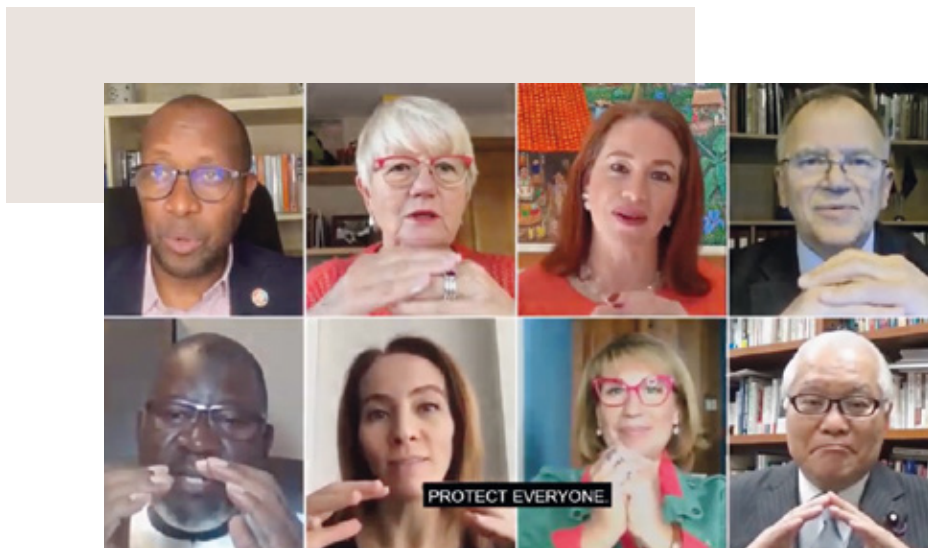
The pandemic has underscored that we are only as strong as those most vulnerable among us. The rise of inequities has taken a new dimension with the difficulty of equal access to vaccinations, and the different speed at which the recovery takes place in rich and poor countries calls on us to defend the importance of equal access to health and healthy cities.

UCLG has been a part of the Urban Preparedness Working Group, a series of virtual meetings aiming to advance health emergency preparedness in cities and other urban settings beyond COVID-19, from January to April 2021, led by the World Health Organization.

UCLG brought experiences from local and regional governments to the table. The deliberations from the Working Group are a part of a technical guide, titled “Advancing health emergency preparedness in cities and urban settings in COVID-19 and beyond”.

Linking the UCLG agenda with that of Universal Health Coverage has been a natural evolution of our political positioning. With this in mind, UCLG has become a full member of UHC2030, with the aim of mainstreaming healthcare and health in cities in its narrative and its political agenda, building on our previous work with the Movement and, in particular, our joint dialogues in the framework of the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) and our joint campaigns around World Health Day in 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The Daejeon Summit saw our joint advocacy grow with



the development of a session on health that brought together health experts and advocates and leaders of local and regional governments to galvanize our experiences and develop a joint advocacy strategy towards the High-Level Meeting on Health set to take place in 2023.

Access to health and healthcare for all people needs to go hand-in-hand with the transformation of the multilateral system. UCLG has consistently been a part of the “state of commitment to universal health coverage”, a document led by UHC2030 that gathered key targets, commitments, and actions in the declaration on Universal Healthcare, by delivering political statements on the importance to strengthen regulations around healthcare, and focusing on the importance of multilateral efforts to invest in primary healthcare and building multi-stakeholder partnerships on health. In 2022, UCLG was also involved in the data-gathering.

With the growth of urbanization being one of the key challenges of the urban era, the World Health Organization has been mandated to develop an Urban Health Research Agenda (UHRA) to push for evidence-based solutions to promote health and wellbeing in urban environments. UCLG has been involved in consultations with the WHO to bring the local visions to the UHRA, ensuring that the full agenda reflects priorities from all stakeholders and the importance of aspects such as health beyond healthcare, and as of September 2022 is also engaged in conversations with WHO to develop a guide for healthy ageing in cities.





## We care for everyone's rights

As we rethink the new essentials, we need to consider the renewal and the next generation of human rights. Through our work with UN Human Rights, our focus on the Rome Charter, and our endeavours on digital rights we aim to redefine essential rights and ensure that no-one is left behind in the post-COVID era.

### Our human rights roadmap, powered by the Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights

The human rights roadmap of UCLG has been strengthened through collaborations between UCLG, the members of the UCLG Committee on Social Inclusion (CSIPDHR), and UN Human Rights (OHCHR in particular). A consultation on the Myanmar crisis co-organized by the UCLG-CSIPDHR brought together representatives of the UCLG and Committee leadership with the OHCHR High Commissioner.

Following up on its Annual Meeting held during the UCLG Executive Bureau, members of the UCLG-CSIPDHR are advancing a comprehensive roadmap on human rights based on: a follow-up process to the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City based on member and partner consultation; an international

campaign to support the human rights cities movement; and an e-learning strategy reflecting members' policy experience on human rights.

The Committee also contributed to the ongoing engagement strategy with holders of UN Special Rapporteurs mandates, pursued by UCLG in partnership with the Global Platform for the Right to the City (GPR2C) and Habitat International Coalition. In partnership with the GPR2C, the Committee also disseminated an open call to local authorities reclaiming a Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights at the UN level. The Committee is also preparing contributions for the next reports of the Special Rapporteur on housing (on discrimination and spatial segregation) and violence against women (on femicides).

The Committee also contributed to UCLG's Right to the City agenda. Various members contributed for instance to the UCLG Policy Council on the Right to the City meeting held in February, which set the tone for the political discussion process



towards the Pact for the Future. Several members in the UCLG-CSIPDHR leadership also joined March events devoted to Women Rights in the framework of the CSW65 and the Generation Equality agenda.

All these efforts are aimed at gathering local government voices on human rights and the right to the city agenda to contribute the Pact for the Future process. In particular, the Committee hopes to explore and highlight emerging priorities by local authorities in revamping the social contract at the local level and addressing the inequality crisis from rights-based policy-making. Participation in the Policy Council on the Right to the City will allow to connect mobilization in the CSIPDHR with the wider UCLG constituency.

The Committee on Social Inclusion, Participatory Democracy and Human Rights (CSIPDHR) has launched the Global Campaign "10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030", to support and expand the Human Rights Cities movement. Throughout 2022, the Committee and its co-presidency promoted the Campaign during the UCLG Retreat in February in February; as well as through the Policy Council on the Right to the City in Sevilla in June 2022. A preliminary list of LRGs participating to the Campaign will be presented during the UCLG World Congress in a session dedicated to it.

The Committee has also kicked-off a new phase the updating process of the Global Charter-Agenda. This phase includes the update and strengthening of the wording and contents of the Charter-Agenda as well as on a strategic reflection on its governance, monitoring and increased ownership of the document by local and regional governments. In order to do so, the Committee will establish of a steering group of local governments experts and

partners working closely with the Committee.

Fostering structural dialogue between local governments and the UN on human rights is at the core of the committee's agenda, in the wake of the cooperation agreement signed with the OHCHR in November, 2021. In April 2022, the Committee prepared a contribution based on its members' inputs for the preparation of the next report on "Local governments and human rights", published in August 2022. The report will inform the next UN Human Rights Council's resolution (to be adopted in September 2022) on "Local governments and human rights". The Resolution will be presented and discussed during a session on Human Rights in the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon.

The Committee is also closely cooperating with the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing for its forthcoming report on the linkages between the right to adequate housing and climate change, to be released at the Human Rights Council in 2023. The Committee and UCLG will organize a specific consultation with local and regional governments to bring the local perspective and experience to



the attention of the UN Special Rapporteur on Housing. This process is in continuity with the collaboration started in 2016 in the framework of The Shift movement, which has resulted in the 2018 Municipalist Declaration for the Right to Housing.

The Committee has engaged in the UCLG initiatives on peace with the objective to promote human-rights based approaches to foster a broadened culture of peace through local public policies, conflict prevention and dialogue; city diplomacy and post-conflict reconciliation. The CSIPDHR co-organized with its co-presidency of Gwangju and in collaboration with the OHCHR a special session of the Municipal Peace Talks, to address the

situation in Ukraine, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Palestine, fostering international solidarity during the Executive Bureau in Sevilla in June 2022. This session represented a follow-up of the Myanmar Conference organised in 2021 by Gwangju, co-president of the Committee.

UCLG and the CSIPDHR is implementing with the Seine Saint Denis an international project "For caring territories to protect women of violence" with the AFD support. One of the objectives of the project is to rally local and regional governments which are at the forefront to fight violence against women and to develop learning tools on how to build public policies for LRGs. In this framework, a newsletter, a webinar on domestic violence and femicide and a bilateral exchange between the Department of Seine Saint-Denis and Barcelona were organized between June and July 2022; and other initiatives such as a regional training in Iztapalapa (December 2022) will be also envisaged in the upcoming months. The Daejeon World Congress 2022 will represent



an important opportunity to present and provide visibility to the project; to foster advocacy on violence against women; and to include this subject into the global UCLG agenda on Gender equality and the Feminist municipal movement.

The Committee has strengthened its commitment in gathering experiences from local governments committed to implement rights-based approaches in their local policies, ensuring the inclusion of migrants and the protection of their fundamental rights. In this regard, the Co-presidency of the Committee participated in the International Migration Review Forum 2022 to promote right-centred approaches to migration. The Committee has also pushed forward its reflection agenda on climate migration, focusing on environmental rights and human-rights-based approach on human mobility through the International Meetings on Climate Migrations, organized with the City of Grenoble. The Committee will also organize two events on climate change and human rights in cooperation with OHCHR during the 12th World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju (10-13 October), which will represent another important step to highlight local perspectives on environmental rights.

All these efforts are aimed at gathering local and regional government voices on human rights and the right to the city agenda to contribute the Pact for the Future process. Participation in the Policy Council on the Right to the City has allowed to connect mobilization in the CSIPDHR.

## Local and Regional Governments at the First International Migration Review Forum (IMRF)

In May 2022, a UCLG delegation of mayors and city representatives attended the first International Migration Review Forum (IMRF) ahead of the UN General Assembly in New York, where the UN Member States and Stakeholders will meet to review the progress towards implementation of the Global Compact for Migration (GCM), the first international agreement on migration reached at UN level in 2018. This LRG mobilization would mark a significant milestone for the World Organization of United Cities and Local Governments, together with the Mayors Mechanism (UCLG, IOM and MMC) and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF), in their advocacy efforts to meaningfully engage local governments in the IMRF discussions, to advance our commitment to elevate local voices and actions to reshape global migration governance in line with the principles of dignity and territorial solidarity.

At the IMRF, the Member States and stakeholders came together for five days of programming, including a Multi-Stakeholder Hearing hosted by the President of the General Assembly, Roundtable Thematic Discussions, side events, and the adoption of a Progress Declaration by the UN General Assembly. Extremely relevant to the municipalist movement, are the LRG Day meeting of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and the side event on the Lampedusa Charter: a municipalist call for dignity and territorial solidarity and the launch of the Mayors Mechanism (partnership between UCLG, IOM and MMC) Call to Local Action with a flagship publication that compiling 60 local government pledges towards the implementation of the Migration and Refugee Compacts (GCM and GCR).



## Inclusive Digitalization

Under the premise of “access for all”, UCLG is engaged in promoting equal access to technology, and develop a public approach that has the commons at heart. Digital technologies and digital rights are becoming critical components of the UCLG agenda. UCLG is a core partner of the Cities Coalition of Digital Rights led by the cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona, and New York City which advocates for the protection of digital rights for all including the right to privacy and right to open data, the need for equitable access to technology and broadband for all residents, and open governance mechanisms.

UCLG as part of the core-team of the Coalition works towards making the connection between global policy processes and the work on digital rights. These global policy processes go beyond just technology to ensure that in important processes, such as for example the HLPF or Generation Equality, the importance of digital technologies is considered.

UCLG has also contributed to making the link between digital rights and culture by connecting the work of a core-partner of UCLG for culture, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and the Coalition of Cities for Digital Rights to further advocate on the link between digital rights and libraries.

Within the context of the 2021 Smart City Expo World Congress, UCLG made a concrete connection between its World Council activities and the activities of the Coalition of

Cities for Digital Rights including its General Members Assembly which takes place annually at the Smart Cities Congress. Follow up will also be given to the #CitiesAreListening Experience on smart recovery, which took place at Smart Cities Live 2020. In 2022, UCLG will make a concrete connection between its activities related to the constituency and its work on digital technologies as well as within the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights.



## The Peace Agenda

The past three years have been essential for international solidarity and peacebuilding. After the adoption of the , in which we expressed our resolve to become a municipalist movement driven by equality and local democracy and in the midst of a pandemic, peace driven by solidarity remains at the core of all our efforts.

After the “Road to the third World Forum” that took place in 2021, as a preparatory meeting for the Third World Forum on Cities and Territories of Peace, UCLG has taken a stronger role within the Secretariat of the Forum, passing the baton from Mexico City (host in 2021) and Bogota, who will hold the fourth edition of the Forum in 2023, with a focus on caring as the cornerstone of the Forum.

UCLG led the development of the Mexico City Declaration, which links the process of the Forum with the development of our Pact for the Future and is available for members of UCLG at our UCLGMeets platform. The Declaration calls for:

**A.** Multilevel work and the acknowledgment of territories in any and all global discussions of peace

**B.** Strengthening health systems and universal vaccination as a cornerstone of peaceful societies

**C.** Developing Cultures of Peace by promoting policies of peaceful transformation of conflict

**D.** Harnessing the strength of UCLG as the global network of local and regional governments to strengthen local-global advocacy on peace and tackle future challenges.

The UCLG Peace Prize is launching its third edition in 2022 in Daejeon. In 2021,



VNG international and UCLG have published the “Local Governments and a Culture of Peace” guide on the Prize. The guide highlights the winning municipalities of the 2016 and 2019, as well as the runners-up and honourable mentions, and lays out the pathways to the future of the Prize.

The UCLG World Congress in Daejeon will have peace and coexistence as one of its main topics. The #CitiesAreListening and Town Hall Process will be essential to foster new partnerships and build on existing ones between the municipal movement and the civil society, in particular with associations such as ACCORD, which has been an inspiring element for the Pact for the Future.

The 2022 World Congress will be the space for the celebration of the third edition of the UCLG Peace Prize. The visibility of the Summit can enhance the outreach of the award, reaching new audiences.



## The UCLG Municipal Peace Talks

2022 has been a call to revert to our origins as a movement driven by Peace and city diplomacy, and following the mandate received from its Presidency, UCLG has launched the Municipal Peace Talks.

The Talks have set the ground for local to local dialogue beyond the current conflict, addressing also the current issues around the role of local and regional governments in the context of humanitarian emergencies. The initiative is set to be a series of dialogues that will lead to concrete action within the UCLG work program, together with peacebuilding organizations and partners and in the framework of the broader Peace Agenda.

The UCLG Peace Talks have so far met in three separate occasions, to bring together the Network on peace issues, with the latest gathering taking place in the city of The Hague after a series of virtual meetings and a session at the UCLG Executive Bureau that brought together mayors, civil society experts, and the UN Special Rapporteur on Myanmar.

UCLG CARES  
FOR THE PLANET  
TRANSFORMING  
OUR  
RELATIONSHIP  
WITH OUR  
ENVIRONMENTS

WE CARE  
FOR THE PLANET

---

**Raising ambitions at  
UNFCCC and UNCCD COPs**

---

**Elevating the voices of our  
territories on climate processes  
and the NDCs**

---

**Transforming our food systems**

---

**Local and regional governments  
protecting our oceans**

---

**Water and sanitation**

---

**Fostering urban resilience**

---

**Sustainable Mobility and Public  
Transport**

---

**Harnessing proximity**

---

**Regions and intermediary cities  
bolstering urban transformation**

---

Human-led development has never been so intense, nor so quick, regarding the use of the planetary resources. Time and emergency go hand in hand, and while change has always been a rule on the planet, the speed of human transformation is being so quick that the double effect on the planet is making action more urgent than ever.

We care for a future with an **ecological view** of ecosystems, shifting from the over-extraction of natural resources to protecting biodiversity, the oceans, its land and subsoil and our atmosphere. Caring for the Planet means defining the commitments toward sustainability, resilience and livability.

Faced with the challenge of the climate emergency, environmental degradation and biodiversity, it is essential to develop new forms of production, consumption and daily living through co-creation.

The current systems are both unsustainable and inefficient and are widening inequalities. We need to transform our collective relationship with nature, and spearhead the development of a new vision for our common future where we re-analyse the values that shape our understanding as beings and develop pathways that are nature-positive.

UCLG promotes a shift in the perception of our life systems, towards an **ecological harmonious relation** between humanity and nature. Cities and territories need to take into consideration the right of current and also future generations to enjoy a healthy, sustainable and liveable planet. As local governments and regions are engaged towards building global resilience, it is important to explore urban-rural linkages and the integration of the broader ecosystems of intermediary cities, metropolises, regions and territories.



## Raising ambitions at UNFCCC and UNCCD COPs

UCLG, together with ICLEI as UNFCCC focal point, has made sure that the voice of cities and regions are heard at COP25 and COP26 and ahead of COP27.

Following the priorities released by the UK Presidency of COP26, the constituency presented a related roadmap, with ICLEI as focal points of the constituency, and COSLA as our local counterpart, focusing on six priority areas: raise the climate ambition of local and regional governments; ensure NDC vertical integration and transparency; localize climate finance; take a balanced approach to mitigation and adaptation; link climate to circular economy and nature; amplify global climate action. On local climate action, the roadmap towards COP26 included the operationalization of the GAP Fund and the operationalization of the links with the UNFCCC Standing Committee on Climate Finance.

The constituency advocated for the role of local and regional governments ahead of the COP26 through a Local and Regional Governments Day, held on 11 November 2021 (Cities, Regions and Environment Day) and by advocating for a renewed 2nd phase of the Paris Agreement increased National Determined Contributions based on multilevel action.

Ahead of COP27, to be hosted by Egypt, as the host country moves from the Global North to the Global South, we expect a bigger focus on resilience and adaptation, food, nature, finance, mitigation, culture, loss and damage. We can also expect that multilevel action and urbanization



will be important in this rapidly developing continent. A Cities and Multilevel Action Day will be organized as part of the official Presidency Programme during the second week of COP27, on 17 November, part of the Solutions Day. Modalities of the Day still need to be clarified.

UCLG World Secretariat is ensuring that UCLG-Africa is also included in the discussions, where ICLEI is the focal point of our constituency to UNFCCC.

The constituency is also advocating for just, inclusive, holistic and nature-friendly action by 2030 and 2050, ensuring links with the COP14 and 15

decisions and agenda. At the UN Convention on Desertification (UNCCD), local and regional governments ensured that desertification is more clearly connected to land management, resilience, nature, migration, food and urban-rural linkages. The desertification COP15 in Abidjan on 9-20 May 2022 built on the first 2 mayors' summits in 1997 and 1999, special high-level roundtable at COP13 in Ordos in 2017, and the first Local and Regional Governments Day at COP14 in Hyderabad, which paved the way for the first specific COP decision.

COP15 addressed the connection between many of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as the Paris Agreement, post2020 global biodiversity framework and targets and land degradation.



# Elevating the voices of our territories on climate processes and the NDCs

As part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Major Group and Stakeholders a Cities and Regions Summit was jointly organized during the United Nations Environmental Assembly 5.2 (UNEA5.2), together with UNEP and the members of the Global Taskforce including UCLG, ICLEI, C40, GCoM with the support of FAO, UNDP, and UN-Habitat. The Cities and Regions Summit included three segments on nature-based solutions to fight extreme heat and limit further global warming, Urban and peri-urban gardens in support of sustainable and resilient food systems and a High-level segment looking into how to scale up solutions to harness the power of nature in cities.

UCLG also ensured the monitoring of Member-State discussions towards Stockholm+50, which took place on 2-3 June 2022 and celebrated the 50 years of the UN Conference on Human Environment. The Government of Sweden, with support from the Government of Kenya, hosted Stockholm+50, as a contribution

to the environmental dimension of sustainable development to accelerate the implementation of commitments in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, including sustainable recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

A Subnational Engagement Track was put in place and a first preparatory call took place in May 2022. UCLG, ICLEI and C40 were invited to participate. The Track aims at ensuring that the perspective from local and regional governments is considered. UNEP will set up a 'friends of' group where a background note will be discussed and a series of consultative meetings will be conducted at regional level. UNEP is also willing to involve a group of 8/10 Local Leaders Champions. GTF networks emphasized the need to ensure that links with Rio+20 and environmental governance are considered. GTF networks also questioned the impact of Stockholm+50 on the UN decision-making bodies and

processes.

A Cities Forum was held in Stockholm, hosted by the Mayor of Stockholm and C40, on 1-2 June 2022, focusing on consumption-based emissions. The Forum will target around 200 local and regional elected officials, practitioners and LRGs partners. The deliverable was a joint Statement with the private sector and youth.

As regards Nationally Determined Contributions, UCLG, together with UNDP, GCoM, UNEP and in collaboration with ICLEI held a high-level Ministerial dialogue on 28 May 2020 calling for a more structured multilevel governance for enhanced NDCs. Ministers from Italy, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, South Africa, Chile, and over 25 mayors and governors from all world regions, with the Global task Force as CLGF, CEMR, UCLG Africa and the Forum of Regions, were present. Importance of a green recovery plan was highlighted, and local and regional governments called for this to be based on a sound national enabling environment and financial mechanisms in support of local efforts.

On 9-19 November 2020, the Race to Zero Dialogues were hosted online to showcase the contribution of non-State actors in support for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth.





## Transforming our food systems

The pandemic and the growingly unstable geopolitical context have demonstrated the ever-increasing need for strengthening the linkages between national and local governments and the importance of promoting policy frameworks which recognize the interdependence of the various components of food systems and the crucial role of different levels of government.

A food systems approach is becoming increasingly relevant for local and regional governments around the world because it connects many different pressing social issues: poverty and inequality including access to food and to healthy diets, public health, new modalities of urban planning, cultural expressions, climate and ecology. The effects of the pandemic also call for refocusing on the right to sufficient, adequate, nutritious and sustainable food.

To that end, UCLG is part of the Core Group of the FAO's Urban

Food Systems Working Group facilitated by FAO and the Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), which is made up of local and regional governments, city networks, organizations that specialize in food, and development institutions and UN Agencies. The Working group focuses on ensuring that local and regional governments and the issue of urban food systems are present throughout all FAO-led processes as well as other international policy processes.

UCLG is also part of an Ad-hoc Working Group on Territorial Governance led by UN-Habitat, FAO, and the OECD, among others, established to highlight the role of local and regional governments in strengthening multilevel governance and enhancing coordination and

collaboration of relevant actors to transform food systems.

UCLG is engaged in the political mobilization and advocacy of the constituency of local and regional governments regarding food systems in various international policy processes including through UNFCCC COP26 and COP27, the 7th and 8th Milan Urban Food Policy Pact Global Forum, and 2022 Africities.

UCLG is part of the UN's Committee on World Food Security (CFS) Advisory Group which is a mechanism made up of member states, international organizations and NGOs dedicated to contributing to the CFS' policy making around world food security.

Throughout all of these processes, UCLG within the Global Taskforce (GTF) is working to ensure that local and regional governments are included within all decision-making processes at the international level related to food systems, including the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021, and that messages from mayors and governors are considered in discussions. UCLG is also included in discussions with the FAO and other key actors on the possible development of an alliance which will focus on food systems and local and regional governments.



## Local and regional governments protecting our oceans

The participation of all spheres of government and stakeholders is crucial for achieving a sustainable use and management of the planet and our oceans. Innovative multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance harnesses the cross-scale and cross-discipline relationships necessary for inclusive governance and decision-making that builds resilience and makes for maximum effectiveness in policy making. Only with approaches to protect the ocean focused on unpacking key tools, resources and innovative governance models that can help national, subnational, and local governments work collaboratively on climate resilient development policies and ocean management can we achieve SDG14.



Within this framework, the 2022 edition of the UN Oceans Conference saw for the first time a Local and Regional Governments Special Forum (LRGF) was organized within the official programme, co-organized by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs, the Global Taskforce with the support of UCLG, ICLEI and Regions4. UCLG, ICLEI and Regions4 facilitated panel discussions with the participation of a delegation of around 20 local and regional elected officials.

The LRGF recommended to strengthen and recognize the role of local and regional government and territories in the governance of oceans as essential for the achievement of the universal development agendas and the SDG14, highlighting the role of multi-level governance and multi-stakeholder collaboration in the protection of our oceans and the

inclusion of cities, regions and territories beyond coastal areas is crucial to achieve meaningful ocean action.

During the official plenary segments of UN Oceans held from 27 June to 1 July, our constituency represented by the Secretary General of the National Association of the Municipalities of Mozambique recommended governments to strengthen capacities of local and regional governments in building sustainable innovative co-management models, where consensus among the different actors including scientists, NGOs, economic sectors and the administrations involved, ensures a decision-making process based on science and innovative solutions that reconcile the protection of maritime ecosystems and the preservation of ecosystem services with the maritime activities for the benefit of all.

## Water and sanitation

The World Water Forum took place from 21 to 26 March 2022 in Dakar, Senegal. UCLG, as part of the International Steering Committee, and in cooperation with UCLG-Africa and the OECD, co-organized a Local and Regional Governments Day on 23rd March, with the presence of over 80 local and regional elected officials and practitioners from Africa, Europe and Asia.

The LRG Day was an opportunity to demonstrate the greater connections between the World Water Forum and the UN processes on Water, including the UN Common Agenda, UN

Water Conference scheduled in March 2023 and the review of SDG6 in 2023. It was also the opportunity to put at the center of the discussions our policy and advocacy inputs on the global commons and the need to protect the universal right to water and basic services on water and sanitation.

An Action Plan for Water Security was discussed and adopted, focusing on the elements mentioned above and including the critical pillars of governance, localization, access to finance on water and capacity building.



## Fostering urban resilience



## Sustainable Mobility and Public Transport

As part of its work to promote urban and territorial resilience, UCLG alongside UNDRR co-chair the Global Coordination Committee of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiatives (MCR2030) a global partnership to strengthen local resilience and ensure cities are becoming resilient and sustainable by 2030, involving advocacy efforts, knowledge sharing, and city-to-city learning networks at the technical and political level.

In May 2022, UCLG also took part in the 7th Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (GPDRR 2022) in Bali, Indonesia, showcasing the ongoing efforts of our network to localize the Sendai Framework and build urban resilience. Co-chaired by the Government of Indonesia and UNDRR, the Global Platform took place at a critical juncture: seven years from the adoption of the Sendai Framework and just over two years since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The GPDRR 2022 saw the convening of a Local Leaders Forum, which focused on the role of Sendai Framework to support local governments achieving SDGs 1,3,11, and 13 and presented learning cases from several MCR2030 Resilience Hubs. In turn, UCLG participated in the Stakeholders Forum in front of representatives from civil society, private sector and humanitarian sector and ensured the visibility and key messages of our constituency were conveyed.

Ahead of the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, whose Political Declaration will be adopted in May 2023 in a High-Level Meeting convened by the PGA, and as part of Sendai's Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism, UCLG has contributed ensuring visibility and outreach to the messages and input from our constituency in front of UNDRR, who is convening the review process.

One of the key priorities of UCLG and the local and regional governments constituency is sustainable mobility. Sustainable mobility supported by public transport as the backbone, is vital to ensuring the achievement of the global agendas and that all people and the planet are protected. Mobility and other key local public services play an important role in our daily lives and are essential to fostering social inclusion, universal accessibility, energy efficiency, climate action and resilience.

UCLG has contributed to making the link between mobility and public transport and other key priorities of the world organization, such as, for example, digital technologies, accessibility, ecological transition, and gender equality.

On the occasion of the 66th Commission on the Status of Women, UCLG mobilised the constituency gathered in the Global Taskforce of Local and



For such an end, the concept of proximity has proven to be a central driver when promoting planning and policy-making initiatives aimed at transforming our societies, systems, and ways of living. Promoting proximity-led public services, models of transport, production and consumption is crucial to preserve our planet, develop urban and territorial quality of life, harness inclusive innovation, and provide the conditions to enable human and collective development and city livability.

With proximity increasingly gaining traction among urban planners and policy leaders, UCLG, alongside UN Habitat, C40 and Smart Cities World Congress, became in 2022 a founding partner of the Global Proximities Observatory, led by the Sorbonne ETI Chair, which is run by the special advisor to the Mayor of Paris Professor Carlos Moreno. The Observatory was launched in the context of the World Urban Forum 2022 in Katowice.

## Harnessing proximity

Regional Governments, to host the Local and Regional Government Day on 'Feminist municipalism: empowering women local leaders as a pathway for the achievement of the SDGs'.

A specific session was held on 'Fostering gender equality and climate action through sustainable urban mobility', co-organised with the International Association of Public Transport (UITP) and held within the context of the NGO CSW Forum. The session brought together local and regional government elected and appointed officials, expert public transport stakeholders, partners and civil society representatives, to reflect and advocate on the role of local and regional governments and sustainable urban mobility in achieving SDG5, taking stock of the where we stand in 2022, and how we can collaboratively work towards this common agenda for 2030 and beyond.

As current patterns of production and consumption are unsustainable, there is a pressing need to replace them by circular and regenerative models. Developing cities and territories where people can easily have access to jobs, services, goods and connect with their communities is essential to promote sustainable and resilient societies grounded on social justice and gender equality.



# Regions and intermediary cities bolstering urban transformation



The global pandemic has made the importance of a system of cities approach articulated by intermediary cities and territories even more prominent than before. The necessity to expand health, food and service systems beyond metropolitan areas is now a priority for most countries around the world. The symbiosis between the urban and the rural world will be defining future investment and planning policies the World round and it has also reached the agenda of the most powerful economies of the planet gathered under the G20.

The Intermediary Cities Forum of UCLG postponed its world gathering from 2020 to 2021. It took place from the 4th to the 8th of October 2021. Hosted by the city of Kütahya, Turkey, this year's gathering aimed at drawing lines towards the world post-COVID, while building on the challenges known during the

COVID pandemic crisis to improve the conditions and capacities of the intermediary cities to unlock their potential at global level.

The Second World Forum on Intermediary Cities, in collaboration with UCLG-MEWA, counted on a series of consultations that took place both at thematic and continental levels which built on the intermediary cities' community that UCLG has been fostering.

The key focus areas were: Economy, Culture, Environment and Human and social capitals. In alignment with the overall agenda and priorities of UCLG, four thematic agendas structured the consultations and were reflected in the Forum sessions as well as the recommendations.

It is worth highlighting the international relevance of this agenda, which is under the priorities of the Italian Presidency of the G20. UCLG

represents the cities constituency at the Development Working Group of G20 where this issue is discussed and the process of the UCLG Forum contributed to the discussions among member states.

The Forum of Regions has been strengthening its agenda during the year, culminating in the session on our UCLG World Council "Forum of Regions: Roadmap: strengthening the voice of regions", which brought the leadership of the Forum together to develop a roadmap to contribute to transformation and renew itself for the post-COVID era.

# 3

# WE CARE FOR GOVERNMENT

---

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments and the review of the New Urban Agenda

---

Development Cooperation and Global Partnership

---

The Urban perspectives in the G20 Process

---

Our constituency before the United Nations

---

Our constituency responds to the call of UN75

---

Localizing finance for development

---

The OECD-UCLG World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment



**UCLG CARES  
FOR GOVERNMENT  
LOCAL  
DEMOCRACY,  
CRITICAL  
TO RENEW THE  
SOCIAL CONTRACT**



Municipalism embodies a way of going about politics that is fit for addressing the ever-connected challenges of today and tomorrow: UCLG believes in the world of tomorrow built on solidarity and governance of proximity that local and regional governments bring to the table, shaped within the aspirations and the vision of our neighbours. Caring for governments is redefining governing in partnership, putting our communities at the core of the decision-making mechanisms, building peace and prosperity from our cities and regions and going from an international system to one driven by our communities, with local democracy as the leading value. Responding to the calls and rebuilding trust between citizens, institutions and communities, at all levels, are essential pre-conditions to achieve the global agendas.

The **Pact for Government** places local democracy at the heart of actions, addressing the development of participatory local governance, the importance of renewing governance and developing governance of emergency, and ensuring that all actors are able to respond through the development of capacities and localizing finance.



# The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments and the review of the New Urban Agenda



The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments is the mechanism through which the local and regional government constituency has made its joint inputs to the Habitat II and III processes convened and facilitated by the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments. Its recognition as a formal mechanism for the review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, puts our constituency in a critical place to pledge for an enhanced role for local and regional governments in the implementation of the global agenda, but also to put forward some of the key challenges faced for the monitoring and review of the implementation.

Beyond the need to deepen the debate on the recognition of local and regional governments as formal actors in the review and follow-up of the New Urban Agenda, a number of key issues have been identified by practitioners and councillors.

The UCLG Policy Council on the New Urban Agenda has played the role of a sounding board for the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

It is proposed to ensure greater articulation between the Policy Council and the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA) when ensuring input to the monitoring and review of the New Urban Agenda, both promoting the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator towards the localization of the SDGs.

In 2020, the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments took place in the framework of WUF10 in Abu Dhabi. Co-chaired by the Global Taskforce and **Maimunah Mohd. Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat and structured around three moments, local and regional leaders members of the Global Taskforce, including Copresident of UCLG **Jan Van Zanen**, Treasurer **Berry Vrbanovic** and Vice President **Carola Gunnarsson**, and up to 50 local and regional elected leaders met to relay recommendations to the World Urban Forum, and were able to exchange with partners from the civil society and the United Nations. The conversations of the World Assembly was a call to action for the localization of the



global agendas, for true local ownership, as the best way in which the innovation and the cultural acquis of local and regional governments would be harnessed for the future of humanity.

The dialogues that took place within the World Assembly contributed to shape the statement of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, that called on national governments and the international system to join our constituency in securing the place of culture in sustainable development, placing people at the center of human life, and committed to continue consolidating the World Assembly as the representative mechanism for our constituency to provide inputs to the universal development agendas. The statement of the World Assembly also included calls for all actors to become involved in plans to carry out the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for the goals, ahead of its review -then foreseen for 2021-.

With Culture being at the centre of the debates of WUF10, UCLG and the UCLG Culture Committee were also involved in the outcome document of the Forum, calling on the WUF to acknowledge Culture as the fourth pillar of sustainability, and to acknowledge the role of local governments in access to Culture.

The United Nations General Assembly held the UN High-Level Meeting on the Effective Implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 28 April 2022 (Quito +5+1), which was the first occasion for formal reporting of Member-States.



UCLG, as facilitator of the Global Taskforce, played a critical role in preparing the inputs of the constituency and in convening the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments on 27 April, with the participation of around 30 Mayors and Governors from all world regions.

As we advance on accelerating localization, our constituency through the World Assembly has put efforts in drawing more attention to the New Urban Agenda as a critical building block for the achievement of the SDGs, as essential to ensure equitable and fair service provision and sustainable, inclusive, fair and safer cities.

Following UCLG's participation within the Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization of the President of the UN General Assembly, it was possible to ensure that four representatives of local and regional governments take part in the debate of the General Assembly.

**A.** Ending poverty and fighting inequalities, with a focus on affordable housing and access to basic services.

**B.** Boosting equitable and sustainable urban economies and predictable financing of

sustainable urban development through innovative approaches.

**C.** Decoupling urbanization from environmental pollution and linking communities to data and finance to strengthen climate adaptation and resilience.

**D.** Promoting participatory urban planning approaches for effective and inclusive urban crisis response and prevention

The convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments focused on demonstrating the need to deepen the debate on the recognition of local and regional governments as formal actors and contribute to build a long-lasting partnership to localize the universal development agendas.

The World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments discussed progress and follow-up on the implementation of the global goals and the New Urban Agenda with the perspectives of the pandemic and peace in mind. It presented the priorities of the constituency with regard to the New Urban Agenda, its challenges related to its implementation, and its relationship with other global agendas. It was structured around three axes: 1. Local public

service provision and the right to the city 2. Equality, finance, and green deals 3. Multilevel governance, intermediary cities and renewed planning models.

The 11th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) took place in Katowice, from 26–30 June. The original theme for discussion was “Transforming cities for a better urban future”, but peace and emergencies were high on the agenda. WUF11 was held in a reduced format compared to other editions due to the complex geopolitical situation in the region at the moment.

The key gatherings for the constituency of Local and Regional Governments was the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments. The Local and Regional Government Round Table, was a joint effort between the Global Taskforce and UN-Habitat, and showcased a joint dialogue between local and regional leaders and spheres of government, building on the efforts of previous iterations of the World Urban Forum.

UCLG took part in various side-events that it is convening or co-convening in the framework of

WUF11, in areas such as gender equality, subnational reporting, accessibility, and peace.

UCLG and the Global Taskforce were present at WUF11 through a pavilion that allowed to hold meeting and showcase materials. The municipality of Daejeon was present at the stand, highlighting the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders.

The Global Taskforce Statement built on the work that had been carried out in New York during the review of the New Urban Agenda. Further, it acknowledged the importance of local and regional governments in peacebuilding and in delivering basic services for all of our communities, as the cornerstone of people-centred planning and ensuring climate action. The importance of WUF11 as a gathering to contribute to the renewal of the multilateral system was also acknowledged, with the Global Taskforce statement acknowledging the need for a strong international community that reflects the current context, and calling on national governments to secure financing, rethink the role of local



and regional governments in the international arena, and enshrine the principles of the New Urban Agenda to ensure we meet the transformation underlined in the UNSG’s Common Agenda.

The WUF11 Declared Actions were presented at the end of the 11th World Urban Forum, and the Global Taskforce contributed the upcoming Pact for the Future of Humanity as a joint effort and a declared action to transform multilateralism into a more inclusive and networked version of itself. The Outcome Document of WUF 11 further included inputs by the Global Taskforce, including references to care at the centre of planning, and the importance of local and regional governments in delivering services and being at the heart of global decisions.



## Development Cooperation and Global Partnership

In June 2022, and building on previous gatherings, the Executive Bureau approved the baselines of the new Policy Paper on Development Cooperation will be ready and released in 2022, demonstrating the new trends and the new role of local and regional governments in development cooperation. Following a preliminary study of the think-tank ISD, and following several interviews of practitioners and UCLG Sections, a first draft will be shared to the members of the Executive Bureau including policy recommendations.

UCLG, as representative of local and regional governments in the Global Partnership on Development Cooperation Effectiveness, together with ORU-Fogar, is also coordinating the presence of local and regional governments towards the 3rd High-Level Meeting on Development Cooperation Effectiveness, to take place from 12 to 14 December in Geneva. It is proposed that part of the Summit focuses on local and regional monitoring and effectiveness. and UCLG has been appointed as focal point to develop this track.

## The Urban perspectives in the G20 Process



The Urban 20 (U20) initiative was launched in 2017, seeking to coordinate a joint position among the mayors of G20 major cities, to inform and nurture the discussions of national leaders at the G20. UCLG is, together with C40, the co-convenor of the initiative, and has an active role in supporting the U20 chairs in delivering the objectives, meetings and outcome documents.

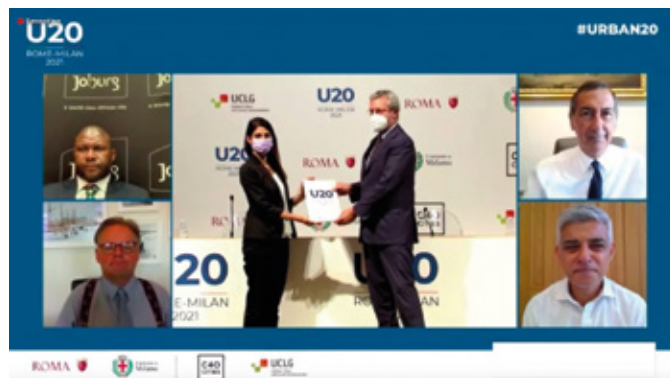
U20 cities come together to deliver to the Chairs of the G20 action-oriented communiqués including their recommendations to national governments on climate action, social inclusion and sustainable economic growth. The first half of the cycle (from January to June) is dedicated to consolidating the positions of U20 cities with respect to the priorities in question and the second half (from June to October) is dedicated to G20 advocacy on U20 messages in preparation for

the G20 Summit. The previous editions of the U20 were chaired by the cities of Buenos Aires in 2018 and the city of Tokyo in 2019.

The 2020 edition of the U20 initiative, chaired by the city of Riyadh, has been a one-year long process that had as its main milestone the U20 2020 Summit from September 30th to October 2nd. The Summit included an opening plenary session, a dedicated session on the Special Working Group on COVID-19, a closed-door political meeting and finally the handover of the U20 2020 communiqué to a representative of the G20 Presidency. 2020's U20 communiqué focused on fostering support for cities which have become critical actors to empower people, safeguard the planet and shape new frontiers of development, and acknowledging their role in delivering safe, inclusive, and fair public services. A total of 39 cities endorsed the communiqué.

The 2021 cycle was co-chaired by the cities of Rome and Milan and held the U20 Summit from 2-3 September 2021. The 2021 communiqué was be directly structured on the Italian G20 Presidency’s priorities: People, Planet and Prosperity. Thus, the Urban 20 Communiqué urged G20 leaders to accelerate climate action ahead of COP26 and invest in the core tenets of a green and just recovery, as well as strengthening health systems and public services to ensure global and equitable access to vaccines. Finally, the Communiqué calls on the G20 to foster social cohesion and equity and to move towards inclusive and prosperous societies. A total of 41 mayors and governors endorsed the communique.

The 2022 U20 cycle was co-chaired by the cities of Jakarta and West Java, with the U20 Summit held in the former from 30-31 August 2022. The 2022 communiqué mirrored the Indonesian G20 Presidency’s priorities focused on health, digitalization, and the energy



transition as well as priorities of the chair city such as a social and economic recovery for all, sustainable mobility, and equality in education and the future of work. Thus, the Urban 20 Communiqué called on G20 leaders to commit to delivering a green, open, inclusive, just, and sustainable post-pandemic recovery where all people are empowered to participate in the green economy and live in open cities without fear of discrimination, war, or climate impacts, in the spirit of solidarity, world peace, and with respect to cultural heritage and diversity. A total of 44 mayors and governors endorsed the communique.



## Our constituency before the United Nations

Over the past three years UCLG has endeavoured to amplify the voices and to secure a space in decision-making for our constituency. As an organized constituency of local and regional governments, we have understood that it is up to us to contribute to deliver a new type of multilateralism, one that is networked and includes all stakeholders. As facilitators of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, we have brought our “Towards the Localization of the SDGs” report to the HLPF over the past three years, highlighting the key role of local and regional governments in the achievement of the SDGs, and detailing the path that needs to be taken to ensure our constituency is able to respond to the challenges of the coming decade.

As part of its mandate to enhance the role of local governments in international

policy making, and given that the local and regional government’s constituency will be at the heart of managing these challenges, UCLG has confirmed its commitment to promoting the UN75 initiative, by disseminating the online survey (<http://un75.online>) and increasing the number of people consulted and the diversity of those engaged.

Upon request of the United Nations, UCLG facilitated a Report on the vision of local and regional leaders of the challenges ahead, the future we imagine, and an inclusive and networked multilateral system that is fit for purpose to meet these aspirations.

Throughout the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), our delegation of over 100 mayors and regional leaders called for the importance of localizing the 2030 Agenda in the recovery of the pandemic, to curb the

increased inequalities that the pandemic has highlighted, and thus be on track to build more equal, resilient, and sustainable societies.

The Local Authorities Major Group represented by UCLG President Mohamed Boudra took part in the Opening of the High-Level Political Forum, calling to promote the reforms necessary to strengthen municipal and regional governments’ own resources, to allow the alignment of all plans with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our constituency was also strongly represented in the HLPF thematic review session on “bolstering local action”, and we held the Launch of the Voluntary Local Review Series, presenting our first volume of the guidelines for the VLRs, in partnership with UN-Habitat.

As is now a tradition at the HLPF, UCLG mobilised the constituency gathered in the Global Taskforce to facilitate the third Local and Regional Governments Forum, in partnership with Local 2030, UN-DESA, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the Executive office of the UN Secretary General, bringing together over 300 participants who addressed the importance of basic service delivery and of a renewed multilevel territorial governance in the midst of the pandemic to carry out a full collaboration among spheres of government.

The Local and Regional Governments Day has been the space to present the results of the fourth “Towards the localization of the SDGs” report,



which addressed the role of local and regional governments in the pandemic and our involvement in monitoring and reporting of the SDGs, and saw the adoption of the joint statement of our constituency to the 2020 HLPF. The Joint Statement highlighted the importance of combining efforts from all spheres of governments to transform our societies within the framework of the SDGs, and reiterated the commitment of local and regional governments to the universal development agendas.

The 2021 High-level Political Forum (HLPF), under the theme “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”, reviewed nine Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): 1 on no poverty, 2 on zero hunger, 3 on good health and well-being, 8 on decent work and economic growth, 10 on reduced inequalities, 12 on responsible consumption and production, 13 on climate action, 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, and 17 on partnerships.

The Fourth Local and Regional Governments Forum, the key political moment of the constituency within the HLPF, met under the theme “Fostering a Recovery that Is Resilient and Led by the Communities.” Convened jointly by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Global Taskforce, the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Development



Programme (UNDP), and Local 2030, the event illustrated the importance of localizing action and partnerships among spheres of governments and stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs under review by HLPF 2021.

The Forum highlighted stressed the link between local public service provision and health coverage for an inclusive, sustainable and resilient recovery, and the role local and regional governments in guaranteeing social inclusion and prosperity, reskilling workers and preparing for the transformation of work and evolving models of production and consumption, and achieving strong institutions based on solidarity. It counted on the participation of the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Director of UN Habitat, mayors and governors from around the world, presidents of local government associations, and high-level representatives from civil society organizations.

UCLG launched, on behalf of the Global Taskforce, the fifth edition of our report to the High-Level Political Forum during the Local and Regional Governments Day, which provided the most comprehensive analysis to date of LRGs’ efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in cities and territories worldwide, and to promote a safe, just and green

recovery. Through the “health in all policies” approach, strong emphasis is placed on health and how this policy dimension, enshrined in SDG 3, affects, and is affected by, other dimensions and public policies such as food, transport, urban planning, water and sanitation, economic activities, etc.

The Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2021 High Level Political Forum dedicated a paragraph to local authorities. As had been the case in last year’s final draft due to an absence of consensus on the adoption of the declaration by Member States, it was not adopted finally.

The 2022 High-level Political Forum was held under the theme “Building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) while advancing the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”. Five Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were in review this year: 4 on quality education, 5 on gender equality, 14 on life below water, 15 on life on land, and 17 on partnerships for the Goals.

Gathered under the theme “Fostering the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals from the local level towards the 2023 SDG Summit”, the Local and Regional Governments Forum was convened jointly by the UN Department of Economic and



Social Affairs (UN DESA), the Global Taskforce of LRGs, the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the UN Development Programme (UNDP), and Local 2030. The event illustrated the importance of localizing action and partnerships among spheres of governments and stakeholders towards achieving the SDGs under review during the 2022 HLPF.

The Forum highlighted the actions taken and the solutions needed by the local and regional governments constituency to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in review by emphasizing the link between local public service provision and education as a key lever to addressing inequalities, the key role women play in local leadership and the importance of feminist policy making in fostering societies of care and social cohesion, the role of cities and territories beyond coastal areas in the protection of our oceans, and the importance of local and regional governments in the protection of nature and biodiversity. It counted on the participation of UN Principals such as the President of the General Assembly and the Executive Director of UN Habitat, mayors and governors from around the world, presidents of local government associations and networks, and high-level representatives from civil society organizations.

The constituency's report to the High-Level Political Forum, presented at the UN Headquarters during the dedicated event of the Local and Regional Governments Day, counted with the participation of local and regional governments, UN Agencies and partners. The evidence presented in the report was grounded on the experiences shared through the 220 responses to the survey received this year from local and regional governments and

their associations from all world regions and included a thorough analysis of the existing over 130 VLRs and 26 VSRs, as well as of the newly produced Country Profiles for SDG localization and the 44 VNRs expected for 2022.

In particular, it analyses LRGs' strategic roles in the coordination mechanisms for SDG localization, in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes, in the implementation of local-level actions, as well as in promoting quality and lifelong education for all (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), life below water (SDG 14), life on land (SDG 15), and partnerships for the SDGs (SDG 17). The report draws upon this year's VNRs; around Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) and Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs) produced to date; the 220 LRG responses to the annual GTF/UCLG survey; and the Country Profiles on SDG localization.

The Local and Regional Governments Day also included the presentation of a special report from the constituency to the HLPF on the review and follow up of SDG 5: "From Making Commitments to Realizing Change: Local and Regional Governments' Progress on Gender Equality". Drawing on a feminist, inclusive and caring lens, this report

synthesizes trends, case studies and best practices to ensure a diverse gender-sensitive approach is incorporated into policies, processes, budgets and programmes to address structural inequalities and improve the wellbeing and livelihoods of all people.

The report specifically provides recommendations and conclusion on the critical roles that local and regional governments play in localizing SDG 5 and advancing gender equality through feminist, inclusive, and caring practices. The report also illustrated how fostering gender equality and the participation of women and local, youth, feminist leaders in decision-making is core to the democratic process, to sustainable development, and the effective implementation of SDG 5 on Gender Equality.

The Draft Ministerial Declaration of the 2022 High Level Political Forum included a dedicated paragraph (P. 135) to empowering and including local authorities and ensuring local ownership of the SDGs as well as various references to local and regional governments throughout the text and strong references to welcoming voluntary subnational and local reviews as an essential tool to show progress towards the SDGs.



# Our constituency responds to the call of UN75

In 2020, on the occasion of the United Nations 75th anniversary, at a time of great challenge and in the midst of the “Decade of Action”, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for unity and accelerated action for all the peoples of the world, convening a global dialogue to discuss human priorities and how we can build a better future for all.

Following the dialogue with the UN Special Envoy for the 75th Anniversary and the visit of the President to the UN Secretary General in January, UCLG was invited to produce a Report on the Local and Regional Governments constituency’s vision towards the 100 anniversary of the United Nations. Providing a vision of the challenges ahead, the future we imagine, and ideas for an inclusive and networked multilateral system that is

fit for purpose to meet these aspirations. This report would be one of the four reports presented to the United Nations General Assembly (including: Youth, Private Sector, Civil Society, Local and Regional Governments)

In this context, the international municipal and regional movement, convened by the Global Taskforce facilitated by UCLG, joined the UN75 global conversation to ensure that the voices of cities and regions around the world are represented.

As part of its mandate to enhance the role of local governments in international policy making, and given that the local and regional government’s constituency will be at the heart of managing these challenges, UCLG has confirmed its commitment to promoting the

UN75 initiative, by disseminating the online survey (<http://un75.online>) and increasing the number of people consulted and the diversity of those engaged.

To truly bring the voices from our constituency to the Report we have gone beyond our global consultation at the occasion of the May Executive Bureau. Our Regional Sections have held regional consultations throughout 2020, and a consultation with the sister networks of the Global Taskforce was held in June.

In the framework of the United Nations General Assembly, on 21 September, local and regional governments worldwide launched their vision, laid out in the Report to UN75 on how Local and Regional Governments Envision the Global Future. The report of the constituency illustrates what trends are affecting the world the most in 2020, what the state of multilateralism will be like in 2045, and the structural shift needed for a more community driven multilateralism.

The report that our constituency of local and regional governments presented is the result of the vision and the leadership of cities and regions from all over the world, who envision a world that leaves no one and no place behind in the recovery from the pandemic and that considers everyone in the decision-making process.

Our constituency has also addressed the important role of local and regional governments leading the way during the pandemic in a session hosted at the UN SDG Action Zone in which President of UCLG and Mayor of Al-Hoceima Mohamed Boudra, Copresident of UCLG and Mayor of Polokwane



## Localizing finance for development

Thembisile Nkadimeng and Vice-President of UCLG Mohamed Saadieh, along with Mayor of Quelimane Manuel de Araújo and Mayor of Oss Wobine Buijs-Glaudemann, laid out the aspirations of local governments for the recovery. UCLG Treasurer and Mayor of Kitchener Berry Vrbanovic took part in another session, titled “Alliances for action: What the world wants” highlighting the results of the Report.

Our collaboration with UN75 is now more relevant than ever, as our recommendations are an integral part of how we envision the future of our planet by putting communities at the center of the transformation of a renewed multilateralism. A world that ensures the provision of public services, that promotes local consumption and production patterns and an inter-city system that builds on the strength of cities and regions will be key to developing the next generation of multilateralism that our communities demand.



Localizing financing has been at the heart of UCLG’s strategic priorities since its outset. UCLG has historically been engaged in research and data collection efforts in order to map the situation of local finance internationally and to inform its advocacy work towards development and investment banks, in particular the World Bank, for the creation of adequate financing mechanisms to meet the growing needs of the urban era.

The International Municipal Investment Fund (IMIF), a joint initiative of UNCDF and UCLG in collaboration with FMDV, was officially launched at the UCLG World Congress in Durban in November 2019. The Fund aims to facilitate access to financial markets for cities (especially intermediary cities) to help them finance capital infrastructure. The Fund has been formally registered, and an initial capitalization of around €200 million is expected by early 2022.

In June 2021, the IMIF-Technical Assistance Facility (TAF), managed by UNCDF and supported by UCLG and FMDV,

conducted an on-site scoping mission in Chefchaouen, one of the 3 pilot cities that are part of the IMIF project pipeline. The objective of this mission was to assess the city’s public lighting project, a car park project and other relevant projects that may be bundled together to reach a total investment of approximately five million USD to be submitted to the IMIF fund manager, Meridiam, for funding. The mission consisted of one expert from UNCDF and a second from FMDV.

To support the implementation of the IMIF-TAF, a Party Agreement was signed between FMDV and UNCDF in August 2021. It is expected to help facilitate and accelerate the provision of technical support to cities for them to access the investment fund managed by Meridiam.

The IMIF-TAF finalized its pilot phase in the first half of 2022. An online questionnaire was designed for subnational governments in need of funding to present their project proposals. If a project is selected, the local or regional government will be



closely accompanied to reach bankable project formulation and then oriented to the most adequate financing modality.

At the end of 2021, UNCDF opened a specific financing line in its balance sheet to support project financing in the form of highly concessional loans. In this context, the IMIF-TAF investment committee has approved a financing plan for a transformative investment in a public lighting project of the Moroccan intermediary city, Chefchaouen. The financing (a grant, part of which is reimbursable, and a concessional loan) should be made available in the coming months, subject to the concurrence of the Moroccan partners.

The Alliance of Subnational Development Banks (SDBs) in Latin America and the Caribbean, whose Secretariat is managed by FMDV and which aims to strengthen the role of SDBs as key financial intermediaries

for increased sustainable subnational investment, convened its Steering Committee on 26 January. A first activity planned for 2022 is a peer-to-peer and multi-stakeholder workshop on de-risking instruments and guarantee mechanisms led by the Inter-American Development Bank.

FMDV has carried out several coaching and match-making sessions, most recently in Lomé, Togo. The objective is to help projects reach bankability through technical assistance delivered by financiers' practitioners, promote peer to peer exchanges and engage in direct dialogue with potential investors.

In sight of the third conference of the Malaga Global Coalition for Municipal Finance to be held in the city of Malaga in 2023, its leading partners- UNCDF, FMDV and UCLG- are setting the scene to ensure that all stakeholders are on board to commit to

transforming the international ecosystem and make it work for subnational governments. Following a first preparatory meeting held online in 2021 by UCLG, a second preparatory meeting will be organized by UNCDF in October 2022 in the framework of the UCLG World Congress in Daejeon.

As part of UCLG's renewed Strategy on Localizing Financing, the policy paper commissioned to Barbara Samuels, UCLG Ubuntu Advisor on Local Finance, was finalized in Q1 of 2022. Starting with the observation that the local financial ecosystem needs to be remodelled, the paper identifies actionable measures, partnerships to be leveraged and specific venues in which local governments and their advocates should put pressure for a better recognition of the importance of local service and infrastructure and close the municipal finance gap.

Between May and November, UCLG has been actively participating in the European Commission and PFD consultations on global challenges, regional programming and inclusive multilateralism, and has brought the views of the members based on the report of the constituency to UN75.

# The OECD-UCLG World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

The OECD-UCLG World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment (SNG WOFI), was launched in 2017 as a joint endeavour of UCLG and the OECD, pursued its joint efforts towards the 3rd edition of the SNG WOFI report, to be launched in October 2022. OECD and UCLG teams are currently working to update and draft around 140 country profiles that will include subnational financial data for the year 2022.

The team finalized the preparation of the methodological guide and templates for country profiles and for data entry in English, French and Spanish. These supporting documents will serve to update qualitative and quantitative information in the 124 countries covered by the World Observatory. The new edition of the World Observatory report will also include up to 18

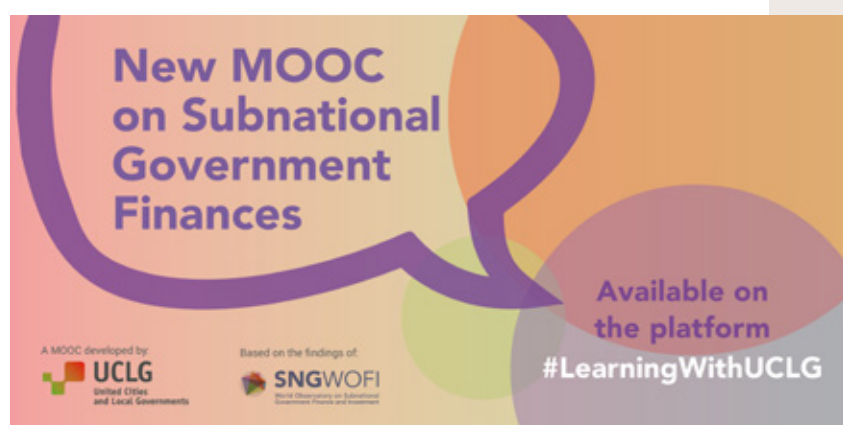
new country profiles, subject to data availability. The preparation of the next edition of the World Observatory report will start in early October 2021 with the mobilization of local experts to collect the data.

As part of a collaboration between the SNG WOFI and GIZ, the webinar “Approaches, Successes and Challenges of Property Tax Reforms for Subnational Domestic Resource Mobilization” was organized in April 2022, with over 90 participants and featuring presentations from international organizations (OECD, VNG International, GIZ), the academia and the city of Beira in Mozambique.

On the knowledge-sharing front, FMDV has continued to develop its Local Finance Knowledge Hub, which features new interviews with leading urban finance practitioners.

FMDV’s association with the learning platform Campus France of the French Development Agency (AFD) has led to the preparation of a series of webinars on “Financing the sustainable city for tomorrow” which will be held throughout 2022. Through this initiative a community of practice of 1800 practitioners on urban finance has been developed.

With a view to better sharing the wealth of information collected by the Observatory and raising global awareness on the issue of local finances, UCLG launched in 2021 a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Subnational Public Finance. Drawing on the findings of the World Observatory, it aims to provide an extensive overview of the main issues and trends related to local and regional finances across the world.





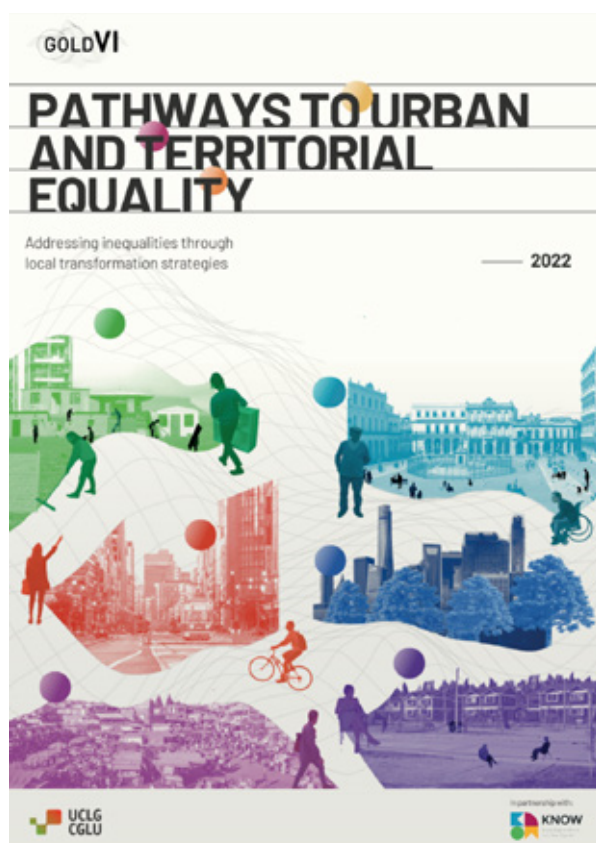
WE ADVOCATE  
WE RESEARCH  
WE LEARN  
WE MEET  
WE LISTEN

## TO DEVELOP THE PATHWAYS TO EQUALITY



# WE RESEARCH

In an increasingly urbanized world, facing unequal and unsustainable patterns of development, cities and territories are essential to reshape a renewed governance that responds to the global and local challenges on several principles of democracy, solidarity and human rights protection. The VI GOLD Report will explore the 'Pathways to urban and territorial equality', working to reframe the notion of equality and recognizing the drivers that perpetuate inequality, as well as how local and regional governments,



## GOLD VI – Our flagship report

together with partners of the civil society and Academia, can act to reduce inequalities and provide better standards of living for their population

Following the decision of the Executive Bureau in May 2020, and building on the renewed agenda on addressing inequalities and caring for communities, UCLG Research has initiated the process of preparation of the GOLD VI report, which will revolve around the 'Pathways to urban and territorial equality'. A partnership agreement was developed with the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College of London and the Know program, involving academia and main networks of civil society organizations (Asian Centre for Human Rights, Co-Habitat, Global Platform for the Right to the City, Habitat International Coalition, Public Service International, Slum Dwellers International, WIEGO).

### **Four stages were defined for the development of the GOLD VI report:**

**Stage 1** (definition of contents, authors of the chapters and expected contributions) concluded at the end of January 2021 with a collective workshop that gathered all contributors involved in the drafting process of the GOLD VI report.

**Stage 2** includes the drafting of the different Issue-Based and Case-Based Contributions (IBCs and CBCs) by a number of actors with different backgrounds: the work areas of UCLG, as well as committees and working groups, local and regional governments, members of academia, civil society networks.

**Stage 3** from July 2021 to January 2022 focuses on the development of the chapters. The expected result is twofold: 1) a report that reframes the notion of equality, recognizing the drivers that perpetuate inequalities across different scales, as well as their context-specificity, and leverages the potential of local and regional governments, civil society and other local actors in the progress towards urban and territorial equality, and 2) the development of a sense of co-production and long-lasting multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships starting with the shared GOLD VI process.

The preliminary draft of the report is foreseen for January 2022.





In 2022, the Preparation of the 6th GOLD Report has entered its final stage before it will be published at the UCLG World Congress in October 2022. Based on the final chapter drafts submitted by chapter curators between December 2021 and January 2022, and with inputs from the different parts of the UCLG network, the GOLD VI Steering Committee started working on the Report’s conclusions and political recommendations. The key elements of these were brought before the UCLG network during the 2022 UCLG Annual Retreat in a dedicated plenary, the high-level political debate on UCLG’s Vision for Equality, held on February 25th, 2022. Between January and April 2022, the GOLD VI Steering Committee has reviewed and coordinated the internal editing of the GOLD VI chapter’s final drafts.

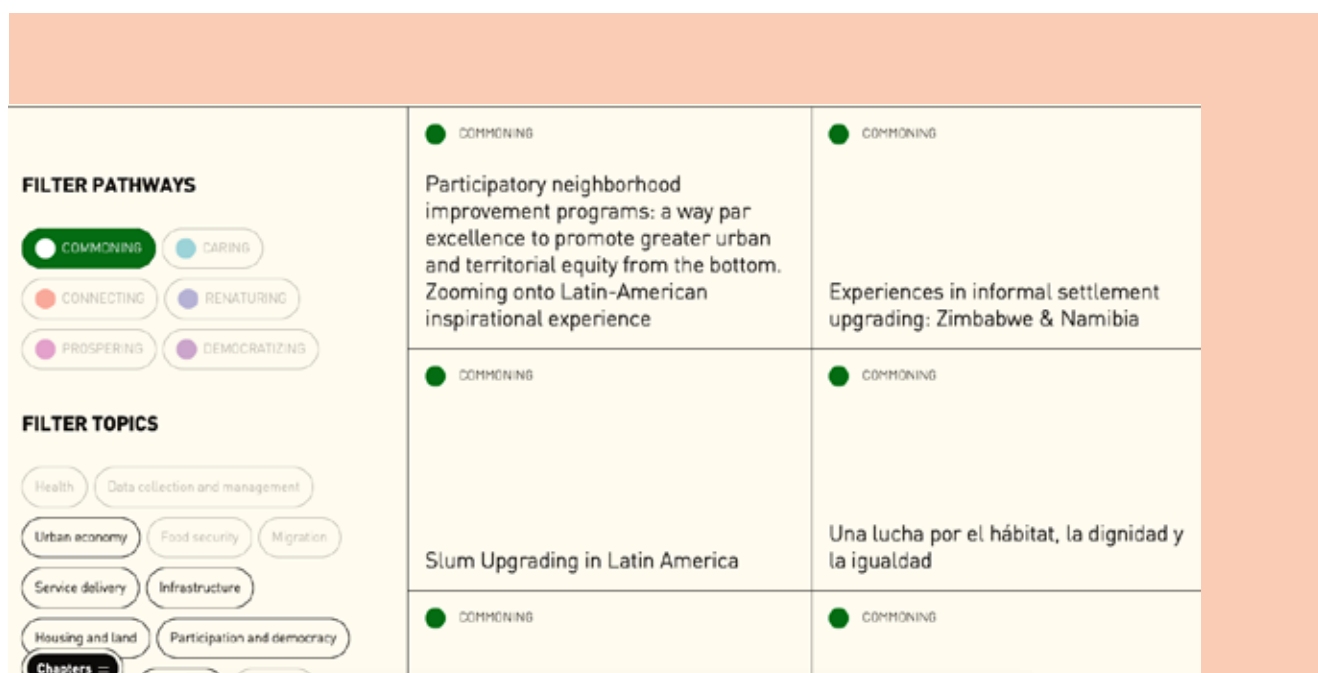
The second batch of the GOLD VI Working Paper series was launched during the KNOW Annual Conference, held between

February 7th and 10th, 2022. KNOW is the research program, led by the University College London, that is partnering with UCLG for the elaboration of the GOLD VI report. Seven Working Papers were launched in the second batch. They covered issues such as the state of inequalities in Sub-Saharan African and Asian cities; disabilities, care and the city; inequalities in urban mobility; sustainable energy access in urban areas; conceptualizing and measuring prosperity; democratizing pathways in Latin America and the economic geography of growth in industrialized countries.

The third batch of the GOLD VI Working Paper series was launched before the review of the New Urban Agenda, on April 20th, as the topics covered are central to the NUA and to increase the Papers’ outreach and influence. The batch includes publications related to the notion of commoning; bottom-up pathways to more equality-driven housing systems; cities caring for people as enabling people to care for others; “sanctuary cities”

and local responses to migration; and democracy in cities and territories.

The GOLD VI Report and the GOLD VI Executive Summaries will be published in the 3 official UCLG languages. A landing website will also be created to allow for a more impactful navigation of the Report, as well as to improve its dissemination and allow for the GOLD VI process to continue in the future, buttressing UCLG’s commitment as an equality-driven movement. The GOLD VI landing page will serve as a repository of the Working Papers produced, but also of the different cases that allow to build pathways to urban and territorial equality.

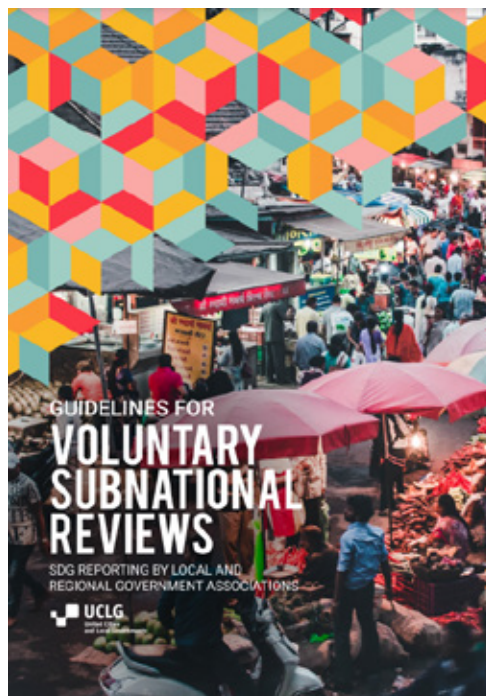


## Voluntary local and subnational reviews

Voluntary Subnational Reviews are bottom-up reports led by national associations of local governments that give account of the state of SDG localization in the country, permeate the national reporting process and advocate towards an enabling environment for the localization of the 2030 Agenda.

UCLG facilitated the reporting process on SDG localization of 8 local governments associations, in Cape Verde, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Germany, Norway, Sweden and Mexico. In March, April and May, the GOLD team organized together with UCLG's CIB Working Group workshops on methodology, results and challenges. These experiences and reports were also presented during a specific session during the VLR-VSR Days of the HLPF, in July. Together with UCLG's CIB Working Group, we are developing a set of guidelines with the aim to bring new associations onboard interested in producing a VSR year. The aim is to engage in the VSR process as soon as possible, to match with the timing of elaboration of the VNRs and therefore to increase the possibilities of including local experiences and inputs in the national reporting processes.

The process, launched in 2019, of supporting the development of Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSRs), resulted this year in the publication, for the HLPF, of 11 new VSRs produced by associations of local and regional



governments from around the world (Argentina, Botswana, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Italy, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, The Philippines and Uruguay). This process was co-organized with UCLG Africa, UCLG ASPAC and the support of the CIB to provide guidelines and support, from December 2021 to July 2022.

Following the success of the first volume of the Guidelines for VLRs that was published in 2020 with UN-Habitat, a second volume was published in June and presented at the VLR-VSR Days, in the framework of our constituency's work at the 2021 HLPF. The second volume of the guidelines focuses on the arising question on how to establish a connection between local and national reporting processes, namely between VLRs and VNRs. Finally, in partnership with UNDP, the Andalusian Development

Cooperation Agency, the Barcelona Provincial Council and other partners, UCLG published in July a comparative study on different SDG monitoring systems fostered at local-national-international levels by public, private and other stakeholders.

Another session, co-organized with UN-Habitat during the World Urban Forum in June 2022, with the participation of different local government associations and partners, also discussed the role of VSRs and VLRs in catalyzing global alliances for SDG localization.

# Acting for government: The Emergency Governance Initiative

The Emergency Governance Initiative (EGI) developed by UCLG with LSE Cities and Metropolis has produced 3 Analytics Notes and 3 Policy Briefs since June 2020 aiming to contribute to building institutional capacities for more effective urban and territorial responses to complex and global emergencies through insights, key trends and reflections on the governance of COVID-19 and other emergencies such as climate and housing.

The fourth pair of publications on multi-level governance of emergencies was foreseen for May-June 2021. The process that is leading to the publication has involved the participation of members from different UCLG Policy Councils which has had a dual goal: firstly, to ensure the publications gather the data, information, insights and concerns coming from the local leaders and, secondly, to foster ownership of the EGI amongst the

Network and translating the key takeaways into local policies that tackle complex emergencies in a collaborative, sustainable and inclusive manner.

In late 2021, Metropolis, UCLG and London School of Economics - LSE Cities have been working on the Policy Brief 4 on emergency multilevel governance models. Beyond desktop research, three workshops (the first in the framework of UCLG's Policy Councils) were organized to identify local governance models during the pandemic and other crises. The next publication, Policy Brief 5, local public **services in emergency contexts**. The Brief has shed light on how the different governance models for public services have allowed responding differently to the COVID-19 emergency, highlighting innovations led by LRGs on the ground. The Policy Brief 5 has been published in Spanish and French.

The Analytics Note 5 has also been published, in English, analyzing the policy priority shifts from before and after the COVID-19 emergency through

an analysis of VLRs. It has focused also on the surge of new essential public services, like digitization, mental health and public space, following the COVID-19 crisis.

The Policy Brief 6 on complex emergencies and local democracy will be launched in June 2023. The Brief will analyze tensions between citizen participation, democracy and effective emergency responses, with a focus on emergency assemblies. It will also include reflections on feminist approaches to leadership and governance for empathic and caring responses to crises. The final report of the Emergency Governance Initiative will be launched during the first semester of 2023



# 5

## EMBRACING LOCALIZATION WORLDWIDE

We develop tools, learning activities, and modules to learn together and re-embrace localization. The Learning Strategy of UCLG has evolved over the last years; we are working to disseminate our work around localization with local and regional governments associations, bringing localization to life by developing new methodologies to train trainers, developing on-line tools and helping to enhance local governments policies and public services.

Thanks to the growing teamwork throughout regional sections in the Learning Forum, the UCLG Learning Agenda has been expanding its tools for the localization of global agendas (SDGs and Resilience) and Peer Learning in several urban public policies areas, providing support for UCLG programs and members.

WE LEARN

#LearningWithUclg  
Explore our Courses, Workshops and Webinars

## E-learning - #LearningWithUCLG platform

The online #LearningWithUCLG platform continues to gain attention with over 530 users registered so far. Massive and Open Online Courses (MOOCs) currently available include (1) Beyond The Outbreak: The importance of Local Public Services, (2) three courses on the Localization of the SDGs, and (3) Innovation and Post-Pandemic Recovery. Additional MOOCs on Local Economic Development (developed by the Committee on Local Economic and Social Development), Local Finances (developed by the Observatory on Local Finances), and Resilience Building (based on the new Learning Modules) will be launched by the end of the year.

The #LearningWithUCLG platform also highlights learning opportunities (webinars,

workshops, etc.) organized by UCLG sections and consultation mechanisms, led by and for local and regional governments. As presented during the Retreat, the site is intended to provide a variety menu of learning opportunities with different thematic and regional specialties, building on and bringing together the existing knowledge and efforts from the network.



## Learning Forum

The Learning Forum is a space for consulting and aligning work plans and rolling out strategies of modules, tools and learning activities. Cooperation and teamwork spans from supporting and adaptation of learning modules, to supporting and advising partnerships for enhanced learning in regions. Alongside the regional section focal points, there are also thematic initiatives such as the Social Solidarity Economy, the Guangzhou award, Local Economic Development, Human Rights and/or Public Space and planning which can and documents to be embedded in the learning agenda.

The virtual roll out of the modules and training of trainers have strengthened the learning forum and given forum members the possibility to engage in and lead virtual learning activities with global outreach



## Training of trainers on the localization of global agendas

The Modules on resilience and the localization of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) continue to be rolled -out successfully together with the regional sections, and in collaboration with UNDRR and UN-Habitat. Regional trainings, adapted to their specific contexts, have been organized together with UCLG-ASPAC and FLACMA, and are being planned together with UCLG-MEWA, UCLG-Africa and Mercociudades, with UCLG, UN-Habitat and UNDRR certification. These modules and training of trainers are one of UCLG's principal contributions to the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative.

The new Learning Module 4 on the Localization of the SDGs, with a focusing on decentralized cooperation and the SDGs was launched, and the first training of trainers carried out with Plataforma, UNDP-Art and UN-Habitat. Upcoming trainings will be done according to the regional sections and members' demands, starting with a training of trainers coordinated by the African Academy of Local Governments (ALGA) of UCLG-Africa.

The first Training on Trainers using the module was conducted for the PLATFORMA team from April 28 to May 3, 2021. This was followed by Two Training of Trainers with UCLG Africa and ALGA. The first one, targeting English-speaking municipalities and associations, was carried out between June 28-July 1, and a second one targeting French-speaking municipalities and associations took place between September 13-16. Both trainings engaged multiple

partners and participants, and brought up concrete examples of decentralized cooperation to reflect upon.

Two more Trainings of Trainers are already scheduled for October this year, one with UCLG-ASPAC and the other with Mercociudades. The Module, as well as its key material is now available in English, French and Spanish for all members to consult and carry out their own training. Furthermore, a new Learning Video focusing on SDG17 and highlighting the importance of decentralized cooperation and horizontal partnerships was also published as part of the module's rollout.

The online course on localizing the SDG developed between UCLG and the provincial council of Barcelona continues a very successful initiative for reaching out to new members and activities, training between 70 and 100 trainers a year. The course, based on the first three learning modules for localizing the SDGs, has been updated with new cases from cities,

developments on the VLRs, as well as the increasingly important role of LRGs in the HLPF. The online courses include live sessions, providing opportunities for interaction with staff of the UCLG World Secretariat and regional sections, as well as highlighting the innovative inputs of the participants on their own process of localizing the SDGs.



## Resilience Learning Modules - from fundamentals to action

The Resilience Learning Modules I & II are a core resource of the Making Cities Resilient 2030 initiative and provide a framework for members and partners to address and support local governments. It enables sections, committees and members to strengthen work and integral approaches around the urgency and emergency of resilient strategies. Besides the regional networks and sections which have led training of

trainers, the Committee of Urban Strategic Planning, as well as the Hague Academy and the Seoul Human Resources Development Center have started to use them as an enabler for virtual network and collective capacity building.



## Digital peer-learning methodologies

Continued methodological support has been given to exchanges among cities, through digital facilitation and the adaptation of existing tools. These include the use of digital whiteboards for the exchange of ideas and reflection on cities' experiences in UCLG- driven dialogues, as well as engaging peer-learning engaging dynamics for interactive problem-based analytical tools to facilitate UCLG working areas and meetings. Empirical methodologies, such as creative storytelling and policy development exercises were also piloted during the Migration project peer learnings.

The new Learning website has been adapted to present the materials and tools (trainers' guides, slides, and related games/resources) in a clear way, for members to do their own training, peer-learnings, and adapted capacity building, in line with UCLG materials and agenda.



STRENGTHENING THE UCLG NETWORK AND THE PATH TO THE PACT FOR THE FUTURE

WE MEET

UCLG came out of our Durban World Congress with a strengthened leadership, with a mandate to develop a more egalitarian world, responding to the call of the United Nations for a renewed multilateralism ahead of the UN's 75th Anniversary.

UCLG came out of our Durban World Congress with a strengthened leadership, with a mandate to develop a more egalitarian world, responding to the call of the United Nations for a renewed multilateralism ahead of the UN's 75th Anniversary. Only a few months after the renewal of our priorities in Durban, the world stopped. UCLG, in very short time, adapted to meet virtually, to develop closeness in spite of the distance, and to develop. The world changed - The development of the UCLG Decalogue for the COVID-19 era, the partnership with UHC2030 and the involvement of WHO and the United Nations in our statutory gatherings, and the virtual consultations towards UN75 in 2020 were important statements from the UCLG leadership and membership -the world needs to change, and we need to be a part of these global transformation-.





Our statutory gatherings have adapted and transformed over the past years, Our Executive Bureau in 2020 held a Ministerial Dialogue together with UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the members of the Global Taskforce such as ICLEI, CLGF, and the Global Covenant of Mayors. The 5-hour event gathered over 200 participants and more than 50 panelists, with the participation of the heads of 3 United Nations agencies (UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNDP), Ministers from Italy, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, South Africa, Chile, and over 25 Mayors and Governors from all world regions.

The meeting provided an unprecedented opportunity to open channels of communication and trust among spheres of government, boosting coordination efforts for a more effective implementation of the climate agreements, keeping in mind the need to raise the global ambition and accelerate action.

The final day of our Executive Bureau was dedicated to showcasing the vision of local and regional governments towards multilateralism through the celebration of the Global Consultation Towards UN75, in which local and regional leaders

from all over the world provided their visions, their hopes and their expectations for how the world will look like in 2045, and how multilateralism will have changed in order to meet this vision. Over 50 participants from all regions of the world responded to the consultation which was structured around three guiding questions that directly addressed the immediate recovery from the pandemic, and aimed at providing mayors with instruments to imagine the trends in the next 25 years, and how the international system will have changed by 2045 to include all stakeholders and ensure a true multilateral system. The event was followed, as well, by almost 300 participants and streamed through the YouTube platform.

Members of the Executive Bureau adopted the Decalogue and commended the Presidency for this initiative. They agreed to disseminate the content of the Decalogue within their membership and on their social networks. They mandated the World Secretariat to use the document in the Organization's advocacy work.

Our virtual World Council, hosted by Guangzhou, , gathered over 300 participants. Dr. Mohamed Boudra, Mayor of Al-Hoceima and UCLG President, introduced in this scene the Pact for the future and , counted on the participation of Volkan Bozkır, President of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Policy Debate that followed was framed by Olivier De Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights and Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization framed the debate, in a conversation that aimed at setting the groundwork for delivering the Pact for the Future that will be the guide of the municipal movement in the coming years. Barbara Samuels, Executive Director of the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance and newly appointed UCLG UBUNTU advisor.

The World Council came to an end with the celebration of its Business Session, the main policymaking body of our municipal movement. The session was divided into four different segments. The introductory segment, chaired by UCLG Copresident and Mayor of Polokwane Thembisile Nkadameng, was titled "powering the organization" and aimed at providing updates on the immediate matters of the organization and introduced the Pact for the Future, adopted yesterday by our Executive Bureau.

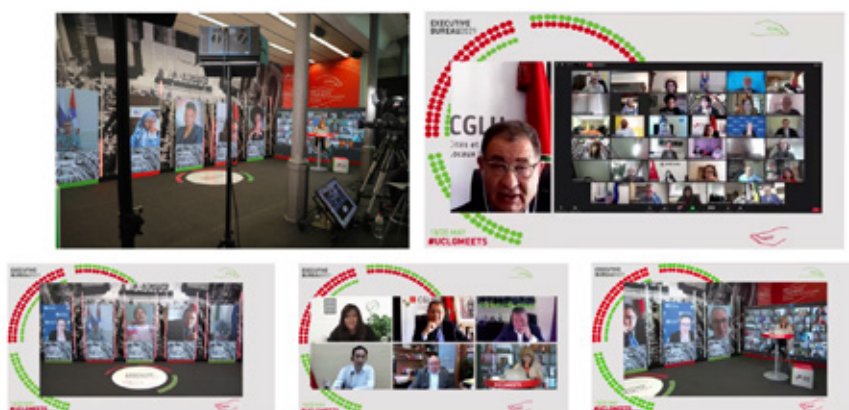
The other three, titled "UCLG Acting for people", "UCLG Acting for planet", and "UCLG Acting for government" echoed the three components of said Pact for the future, and were chaired by UCLG Copresident and Mayor of Utrecht Jan Van Zanen, Copresident Nkadameng, and UCLG President



and Mayor of Al-Hoceima Dr. Mohamed Boudra. Each of these segments included the views of mayors and political representatives members of the World Council, as well as partners from the civil society, Academia, and other stakeholders who aimed at bringing forward their views and their commitments towards the transformation of the planet and carrying out the Pact.

A total of 23 speakers took the stage at the business session. María Soledad Cisternas Reyes, UN Special Envoy on Disability and Accessibility; Sami Kanaan, Mayor of Geneva, Co-Chair of the UCLG Permanent Working Group on Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises; Salvatore Martello, Mayor of Lampedusa, José Ribeiro, Mayor of Valongo; André Viola, President of Aude County; Mustafa Tunç Soyer, Mayor of Izmir; Luca Bergamo, Vice-Mayor of Rome; and Dr. Gholamhossein Mohammadi, Advisor to Mayor of Tehran and president of Communications and International Affairs Center addressed the importance of a people-driven recovery at the UCLG Acting for People.

## Care at the heart of local service provision – the UCLG Executive Bureau in 2021



Our UCLG Executive Bureau, held virtually, was our first moment of the year to reflect on the developing narrative of UCLG, with the mandate of the Pact for the Future at the centre, and brought to life the solidarity on display from local and regional governments, and allowed to bring to the forefront some critical topics for the world organization that had been growing over the year, such as Development Cooperation and Migration.

The Executive Bureau built on our work during the pandemic by bringing to the table the discussion around the new essentials. Through political dialogues around Digitalization and Healthy cities and territories, we brought local and regional perspectives on what needs to be done to include all populations to the digital sphere, and how to develop cities and territories that care for our communities' health.

The Policy Dialogue around Digitalization brought to the table partners such as Microsoft, who called on the need to skill public servants, and highlighted the importance of harnessing technology from the local level to enhance democracy and to serve communities, fostering the development potential of people. Our policy dialogue on health brought together representatives from the World Health Organization, UHC2030, and Cancer City Challenge to debate the importance of local and regional governments in situations of crisis and strengthening health systems, and how to involve communities in the recovery.

The conversation around our new essentials also filtered into the Policy Debate of our Executive Bureau. The session brought to the centre of the conversation the importance of women in developing cities and territories

that care, and that also added the dimension of time and its use, as well as the new common goods that need to be fostered by our territories. President Mohamed Boudra and Copresident Thembisile Nkadimeng, together with the Undersecretary General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women Phumzile Mlambo-Ngucka and Director of the OECD Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities Lamia Kamal, among many mayors and partners, as well as the Director of Cities Alliance Greg Munro also took the stage, as did Director of the World Health Organization Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus through a video message.

The formal Session of our Executive Bureau was chaired by 3 members of our Co-Presidency in 3 segments that echoed the 3 pillars of the Pact for the Future: People; Planet; and Government. Co-President and Mayor of Xi'an Li Mingyuan introduced the session by highlighting the commitment of UCLG towards creating a world that integrates solidarity, care,

and equality and its segment included the presentation of the reports of the reports of the Committee on Statutory Affairs and the Financial Management Committee, by Treasurers Berry Vrbanovic, Mayor of Kitchener and Madelaine Alfelot, Mayor of Iriga. President Boudra addressed the work of UCLG towards a "better normality" while focusing on rights, and presented the upcoming UCLG Culture Summit in Izmir.

The new essentials of human mobility and the Policy Paper of Development Cooperation were presented in the second part of the session, which highlighted the potential of the Lampedusa Charter as a "Charter for all", as Mayor of Lampedusa highlighted in his speech. The Paper on Development Cooperation was introduced as an opportunity to place solidarity at the core of development cooperation.

The third and final segment, chaired by Co-President and Mayor of San José Johnny Araya, aimed at building on these new essentials to redefine our priorities. The territorial focus

for the urban era, redefining governance and our initiative on emergency governance with the London School of Economics-Cities, local financing, and the role of our constituency towards Quito + 5 and the United Nations were the key items of the agenda. Working for government could be the key message of the dialogue, were it not for the inclusion of the commitment of our World Organization with maintaining peace and human rights in Palestine and Myanmar, and the need to incorporate the youth.



## UCLG World Council 2021– A collaborative leadership to deliver the Pact for the Future

After three statutory gatherings held virtually, the 2021 UCLG World Council met in a hybrid format on 16-18 November 2021, under the theme “Smart cities and territories, pillars of the Common Agenda”. This World Council was a special gathering for the Organization: after almost two years of virtual gatherings, the UCLG leadership met in a hybrid format in the framework of the Smart City Expo World Congress. Almost 100 people met physically and 400 virtually over the course of the week. The gathering addressed the potential of local and regional governments to lead a smart recovery and contribute to the Common Agenda being defined by the United Nations.

The 2021 World Council saw the renewal of the UCLG Leadership, following the decision of President of UCLG Mohamed Boudra to not stand for re-election in the local elections in Morocco.

Consensus was reached on a proposal to continue building on the collegial approach that has guided the work of the Presidency since the Durban Congress. This collegial approach will be reinforced by clearly defined rotating



responsibilities for the members of the Presidency, based on the policy agenda for which the representatives are responsible and on the international agenda linked to these responsibilities. The Governing Presidency rotated as follow:

- **Between the World Council and the UCLG Annual Retreat, the week of 21 February: Mayor of Kazan.**
- **Between the Retreat and the high-level meeting on the review of the New Urban Agenda in April: Mayor of Xi'an and Mayor of Iriga.**
- **Between this meeting and our Executive Bureau in June: Mayor of Soria and Mayor of San José.**



- Between the Bureau and the High-Level Political Forum in July: Mayor of Konya and Mayor of Kitchener.
- Between the Political Forum and Urban 20, in July-August: Mayor of Paris and Mayor of Barcelona.
- Between Urban 20 and the UCLG World Congress in October: Mayor of The Hague.



The first of the hybrid UCLG World Councils counted on the presence of key partners. Pilar Conesa, Curator of the Smart City Expo World Congress, addressed the World Council in the opening session, arguing for the importance of hosting the World Council in the framework of Smart Cities, as the voice of cities needs to be at the centre of discussions around smart cities and territories.

The World Council also counted on the presence of important partners such as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, who praised the role of LRGs in combating inequalities and fostering the protection of human rights; commending the joint work with UCLG towards establishing a network of local and regional governments that protect human rights. Assistant Secretary-General for the United Nations Volker Türk, who

commended the commitment of our constituency towards the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda. Navid Hanif, Director of Financing for Sustainable Development Office at UN DESA, provided their support to the advocacy and actions of UCLG.

## UCLG Executive Bureau in Seville - Human mobility at the core of our efforts

After meeting physically in Barcelona for the World Council and the #UCLGMeets Retreat, the UCLG Executive Bureau is taking place in Seville, in the framework of the Mediterranean Urban Migration Forum, an event that gathered over 100 participants physically and virtually in the first day alone.

Together with UN-Habitat, UCLG and ICMPD have been partnering for a decade with the double ambition to mainstream migration in local agendas while enhancing local participation in national and global policy making. The co-organisation

of the MUM Forum in Seville, with strong support and engagement from local, regional and national authorities from around the Mediterranean and beyond, is yet another proof of the success of this partnership and sets a new milestone in fulfilling our ambition to bring territorial solidarity, cooperation and dignity to the center of the human mobility agendas.

The Official Opening of the Mediterranean Urban Migration Forum was facilitated by UCLG and welcomed multilevel perspectives on migration, bringing together UCLG Governing President and Mayor of Soria Carlos Martínez and

Copresident Ugur Ibrahim Altay,; President of the Jaén Provincial Council Francisco Reyes, an intervention by the Mayor of Seville Antonio Muñoz; Minister for Territorial Governance of Spain Isabel Rodríguez And the Deputy Head of the Migration Unit, Head of the Center for Thematic Experts on Migration, European Commission Michele Amadeo.

The Opening session of the Forum saw participants acknowledge the potential of local and regional governments for migration governance. Participants argued that, while often local and regional governments do not have the competences, issues such as migration are pertinent to them and part of the daily lives and realities of the communities that they represent.

The policy dialogue of the UCLG Executive Bureau explored how local and regional governments have been at the forefront of crises and their role in the construction of lasting peace, with the perspectives of the UN High-Representative for the Alliance of Civilization, mayors and leaders, and members of national governments such as the Spanish Secretary of State for Territorial Policy. Participants stressed that the UN Secretary General’s Our Common Agenda needs to place cities and territories on a key role to ensure the renewal of our multilateral system and build peaceful and inclusive cities and territories.

The Executive Bureau endorsed the roadmap to the Pact for the Future, which allowed for

amendments and motions from the membership, and presented the International Award “UCLG - Mexico City - Culture 21”, to cities and personalities who have excelled in the promotion of cultural rights. Dublin and Buenos Aires were awarded the prize as cities, with Daisy Fancourt and Lourdes Arizpe receiving the award as individuals.



## The UCLG Policy Councils galvanizing our political priorities



**The UCLG Policy Councils have gathered throughout these three years to guide the political priorities of the Organization, in a complex moment for the world. Throughout 2020 and 2021, they met leading up to the World Council, building on the momentum gained by the Urban October, and met again prior to the World Congress to feed the process of the Pact for the Future.**

The meetings of the UCLG Policy Councils acted as an essential complement to our statutory gatherings, bringing visions from mayors that would galvanize the themes addressed by the councils; adapt our priorities to the current context; and bring the visions of local and regional leaders that care for some of the most crucial topics of the Urban Era.

The Policy Council on the Right to the City and Inclusive Territories addressed the need to develop intergenerational cities, and brought to the forefront the importance of designing cities for all for all that care for the more vulnerable communities, an issue that was already touched upon in the 2021 Executive Bureau, which had a moment to address inclusivity and designing our territories with and for elderly populations, 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.

The session “10, 100, 1000 Human Rights Cities and Territories by 2030: Building universality through local diversity” was held in the framework of the 2022 Executive Bureau. 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, it presented the global campaign launched jointly with the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCHR), which aims at scaling-up local initiatives and advancing towards a consolidated global movement of human rights cities and territories.

The Policy Council on Territorial and Multilevel Governance tackled the need to ensure financial resources for local and regional governments which had suffered greatly under COVID-19 and how this could be achieved. The need to develop a broad consensus among spheres of government, empowering cities and territories to act and play a role in solving crises at the local level such as climate change, homelessness and lack of access to basic services; and a commitment to work among all spheres of government and with all actors were some of the key issues identified during the session. Participants also identified critical links with the other Policy Councils, in particular that of Opportunities for All, Culture, and City Diplomacy, highlighting the intrinsic relation between multilevel governance and development cooperation.

We came out of the Policy Council with the need to envision a multilevel response to the COVID-19 crisis, in particular one that involves all spheres of government and the civil society in an effort to truly leave no-one behind. This calls for considering the specific needs of cities and territories of all sizes, including financing for intermediary and smaller cities to maintain and foster critical infrastructures for basic services, and to renew tax frameworks to ensure a fairer distribution of wealth and a healthier service delivery environment.

Renewing democracy was at the core of our Executive Bureau in Seville. The Policy Council on Territorial Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing co-led the session on “Renewing Democracy from the bottom-up”, together with the International Observatory on Participatory Democracy and

the Global Democracy Coalition 2022. The session addressed the relevance of local democracy in fostering engagement at the local level, with participants calling to strengthen bottom-up multilevel governance.

The Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture, and City Diplomacy revolved around the issues of solidarity in connection to international action and to development cooperation. The Council built on the Peace Agenda of UCLG, with representatives highlighting its growing importance among the world organization, and the opportunity of developing a secretariat for the cell as city diplomacy as vital for peacebuilding, based on values and dialogue between different spheres of government.

Participants also brought to the table challenge of loneliness in relation to the use of public space, how the pandemic has deepened the loneliness crisis, in particular due to the toll it has taken on older populations. The Council also introduced the vision of libraries and cultural facilities as facilities that provide access to more than culture, insisting on their potential as public spaces and public services, allowing us to foster a conversation on the relationship between culture and

basic services. Cultural spaces and education, if they are seen as services, can prove to be a transformational element that can help bridge inequalities, protect rights and enable us to build our societies in harmony with nature, bringing us closer to the concept of circular culture” included in the Izmir Declaration

In the framework of the 2022 Executive Bureau, the UCLG Policy Council on Opportunities for All, Culture and City Diplomacy co-led the session on “Municipal Peace Talks: Local Governments’ Roles and solidarity in times of international crisis”, in cooperation with the World Human Rights Cities Forum of Gwangju and the UN Special Rapporteurs. The session addressed the migration crisis, highlighting how it is local and regional governments who are on the frontline to support and integrate refugees. It is our common responsibility all over the world. UN Special Rapporteurs and mayors from all over the world called on the international municipal movement to grow their potential in their communities and contribute to peacebuilding.





**The Policy Council on the New Urban Agenda** was held in the framework of the Metropolis Congress, which allowed for the co-creation of a session with its sights set on the 2022 Review of the New Urban Agenda and the Quito+5 Process.

The discussion highlighted the importance of the New Urban Agenda not only in achieving sustainable development but in accelerating action to achieve other global agendas. Participants highlighted “the essence of the New Urban Agenda” as being based on a notion of development that takes into account towns and territories of all sizes, and in itself can be an accelerator of the climate agendas.

The importance of multilevel governance to achieve international policy processes such as the New Urban Agenda was not lost on the gathering of the council, emphasizing the intrinsic links between the work of this Policy Council and that of all of the others. The New Urban Agenda needs multilevel action, needs local and regional governments included in every step of the review and follow-up process, and needs that we

join forces in international fora, among spheres of government, the civil society, Academia, and the private sector, to ensure we recover in an inclusive manner. The next step, participants argued, is to bring this spirit of partnership to the review process of the New Urban Agenda, and the convening of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

At the 2022 UCLG Executive Bureau, the Policy Council met in a session to assess the state of implementation of the New Urban Agenda, right after its review in New York. Mayors addressed the impact that the New Urban Agenda can have in the localization of the SDGs, and its state ahead of the meeting of the World Assembly of Local

and Regional Governments in WUF10, with participants calling on the need to call for enhanced recognition of the role of LRGs and, consequently, more decentralization, a clear roadmap and sufficient resources in a new model of horizontal governance.

In the context of the Local and Regional Governments Day that our constituency held during COP 26, the Policy Council on **Safer, resilient and sustainable cities** took place. During the Local and Regional Governments’ Day, UCLG was part of a delegation of local and regional governments in a closed meeting with the UN Secretary General, who called for strengthening the institutional relationship and partnership between our constituency and the UN System, highlighting COP27 as a milestone, and brandishing Our Common Agenda as the goal to reach.

The meeting of the Policy Council took place after a session that gathered UCLG and many networks of local and regional governments, including UCLG regional sections and





the support of ICLEI, to call on city-to-city cooperation to ensure the success of the Paris Agreement. The Policy Council met at the end of the Local and Regional Governments Day, and in it participants weaved the relations between the agendas of the various Policy Councils, by arguing for the need to consider resilience across different agendas and multilateral processes, connecting with the Voluntary Local Reviews and the upcoming Stockholm+50, which will count with active participation of Local and Regional Governments.

Resilience and preparedness to crises, which themselves are topics that are linked with our rights and inequality agenda, were some of the key issues

addressed as critical to address informality and to achieve territorial equality in urban, rural and arctic areas, for current and future generations.

The UCLG Executive Bureau in 2022 saw a session on “Local Economic Development for an equitable recovery”, in collaboration with the UCLG Committee on Local Economic and Social Development in cooperation with the UCLG Policy Council on Safer, Resilient and Sustainable Cities, Capable of Facing Crises focusing on new proximity models of global consumption and production to harness inclusive innovation, including by integrating the informal sector into the formal economy, promoting small and micro enterprises and start-ups, fostering initiatives of social, collaborative, circular and green economy, smart specialization and technological clusters.

## The Policy Councils and the Pact for the Future

In September 2022 the Policy Councils met with the UCLG Town Halls on two separate occasions to provide input to the Town Halls respective policy papers. These orientation documents will allow the internationally organized civil society to inform the policy making process of the World Organization through the Town Hall track, to ensure that the definition of policy priorities and the localization of the global agendas is a process of co-creation that bring LRG and its partners from civil society together.

The lead organizations from the Town Halls on the (global) Commons and on Caring Systems, respectively the Global Platform for the Right to the City and Cities Alliance, presented their draft policy papers in front of representatives from the Right to the City and New Urban Agenda Policy Councils. In turn, Climate Heritage Network and the General Assembly of Partners, lead

organizations for the Town Halls of Climate and Culture and Trust and Government, presented their policy papers to the Policy Councils on Multilevel Governance, Opportunities for All, and Safer, Sustainable and Resilient Cities Policy Councils. The dialogue allowed the Town Halls 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.

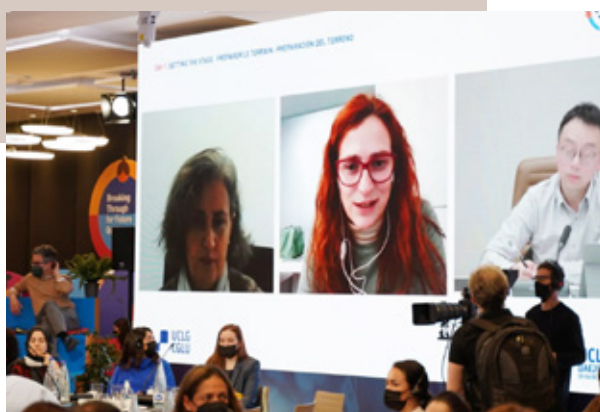
## The Local4Action HUBs

In line with the mandate of UCLG to implement a Pact for the Future and the acceleration of the 2030 Agenda, the Local4Action HUBs initiative by UCLG has become an instrument that allows the leaders and communities to share and showcase their localization processes; gaining recognition for their projects and driving up the visibility of their cities and territories; and multiplying the opportunities of synchronization, so these experiences can amplify their impact while inspiring others.

With more than 15 experiences, addressing key issues from youth, intergenerational transformation, culture, gender equality, shared values, participation and local democracy, innovation, and sustainable urbanization, to

open governance for climate action, nature-based solutions, the defense of public services, and building networks and alliances for the localization of global agendas, the Local4Action initiative is addressing urgent challenges and solutions to advance towards the transformations and commitments requested by the global agendas.





After the process of definition, design, and operationalization from the first call in 2020, 10 Local4Action HUBs initiatives are currently active:

**AICCRE** - Venice City Solutions 2030

**Barcelona Provincial Council** (Diputación de Barcelona) - Promoting women's political participation in the local sphere

**Bilbao** - Bilbao Charter of Values

**Buenos Aires** - Carbon Neutral Platform for 2050

**Cuenca** - Raising awareness about the localization of the SDGs

**FAMSI** - Local public services cooperation

**Madrid** - Projecting a Metropolitan green corridor

**Provincia de Santa Fe** - For greater Autonomy, Territoriality and Youth Networks (ATR Sante Fe)

**Rome** - Culture Charter for Cities

**Xi'an** - Global platform to integrate global high-quality education

Together with these 10 HUBs, an additional five proposals have been validated and are consolidating as a new Local4Action HUB are:

**Esteban Echeverria** - Promoting Resilient, Inclusive and Caring Cities

**Soria** - Urban Agenda 2030 Chair for Local Development

**Subang Jaya** - Subang Jaya Smart Vibrant Hub

**Tandil** - Positioning intermediary cities as talent laboratories for sustainable development.

**Valongo** - Informed and Participative Communities

After the development of these 15 Local4Action HUBs, the initiative is entering a new stage in 2023 and beyond. Among the key priorities for the year, we have

**Integrate and develop new Local4Action HUBs** experiences from partner institutions or UCLG priorities, showcasing the local commitment to the 2030 Agenda, as well as new global dynamics, in line with the Global Sustainability and Resilience leading to the 2022 Congress. A special focus will be placed to enhance the participation of cities and regions belonging to the LDCs to develop new Local4Action HUBs.

**Explore new spaces and opportunities** for collaboration, visualization, and outreach for the experiences of Local4Action HUBs with partners and regional sections of UCLG.

**Foster integration and community** building among existing Local4Action HUBs and encourage collaboration, joint learning, and local knowledge sharing.

**Further develop the Local4Action Platform** as an integrated space to showcase the activities of the Local4Action HUBs, as well as the interaction with the rest of the work of UCLG and its partners.

## The UBUNTU Advisory Board: Policy Sentinels towards the Pact for the Future



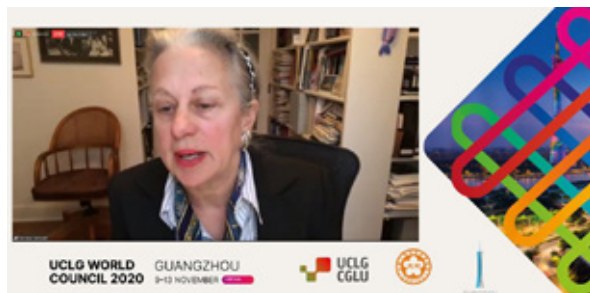
The UBUNTU Advisory board was set up to inspire and provide advice to the Presidency and to help set the priorities of the World Organization while showcasing why Localization is essential for global development. The next generation of UBUNTU advisors arises from the need to face the challenges of the post-COVID 19 world, that have been exacerbated. The next generation of the Advisory Board can allow UCLG to strengthen our strategy, by accompanying and nurturing our advocacy towards the international sphere, building on the work of the World Organization and that of the first Ubuntu Advisory Board. In the spirit of consolidating the UCLG TownHall, the Cities are Listening Experience and with the desire to foster partnership for the recovery from COVID-19 and the future of multilateralism, the

World Organization has set up a second generation of the UCLG -UBUNTU advisory board with the following Advisors, to assist in particular in two key areas for the World Organization, namely the steps to be taken for the **next generation of multilateralism**; the need to revitalize local finance:

- **Maria Fernanda Espinosa**, 73rd Presidente of the United Nations General Assembly
- **Barbara Samuels**, Executive Director of the Global Clearinghouse for Development Finance
- **Farida Shaheed**, Former UN Special Rapporteur on Cultural Rights and UCLG Ubuntu Advisor.
- **Professor Kazuhiko Takeuchi**, President of the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES).

These advisors joined the previous generation of UBUNTUs, namely **Aromar Revi; Jorge Pérez Jaramillo; Ana Falú; Debra Roberts; and Edgar Pieterse**, and met in February 2021 to spur the conversation on what the Pact for the Future means and what it needed to include.

Feminizing politics, bringing Academia to the table, transforming the international system, and revolutionizing how we understand local finance



and the involvement of local and regional governments in the climate agenda were just some of the calls of our advisors as UCLG started to think about what the Pact needs to look like.

The meeting finished with commitment from the constituency and the UBUNTU advisors in contributing towards the Pact for the Future and helping formulate and promote the next generation of human rights. It was moreover stressed that bringing actors together to foster this agenda is key and explore spaces to find solutions to these complex problems.

Building on this first meeting in 2021, the UBUNTU advisors joined the meetings of the UCLG Policy Councils to bring the discussions around the Pact to the policymaking mechanisms of the World Organization. Among other issues, the UBUNTU advisors linked the debate on the Pact with the policy issues

of the Council, and worked to aid the Councillors in linking their own work so as to ensure more cohesive results.

Throughout 2022, the UBUNTU Advisors have continued to provide results for the World Organization. In particular:

Barbara Samuels, UCLG Ubuntu Advisor on Local Finance, was commissioned a policy paper on the state of local finance, that identifies paper identifies actionable measures, partnerships to be leveraged and specific venues in which local governments and their advocates should put pressure for a better recognition of the importance of

local service and infrastructure and close the municipal finance gap.

The Report to the High-Level Political Forum on the localization of SDG5, “From Making Commitments to Realizing Change: Local and Regional Governments’ Progress on Gender Equality”, received the contributions of UCLG UBUNTU Advisor Ana Falú.

Finally, María Fernanda Espinosa has been a part of the drafting committee of the Pact for the Future, being an active part of the process and contributing in particular to the dimension of multilateralism.



## Special Partnership with the European Union

Throughout the 2019-2022 period, the activities of UCLG have been powered in large part by the first generation of the Special Partnership between UCLG and the European Union, which was renewed until 2022 after five successful years. Throughout these years, the partnership with the European Commission has allowed us to enhance our work, to strengthen our partnerships in the international sphere, and has contributed to all work areas of UCLG, as well as to our Regional Sections.

The agreement will further support the role of local authorities and their associations in formulating policies to promote local, regional, and global level sustainable development and formalize a set of common interests and objectives. These include to enhance the engagement between the EU and local and regional governments and their associations in decentralized cooperation, foster the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, raise awareness and build the capacities of local and regional governments and their associations as governance and development policy actors at the international level; Strengthen the capacity of associations of local authorities to coordinate the voices of all partners, create synergies, and add value as a network, ensuring good

governance and sustainable partnerships, including with the European Union.

The next stage of this partnership will begin in 2023, until 2027. Supported by €50 million from the European Commission's Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument – Global Europe (NDICI – Global Europe), the five renewed partnership agreements recognise the contribution of local and regional governments to the design and implementation of policies that are required to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular for making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



## The UCLG External Assessment: A Network that is fit for purpose



Following the mandate received by the Executive Bureau in May 2020 and the selection of the consultants during the World Council in November 2020, UCLG launched the process for its external assessment. This assessment analyses the performance of the Organization and its capacity to adapt to the changing ecosystem in which it operates. As decided by the Governing Bodies, it considers UCLG's position in the global context and the structure of the network. It has been carried out by the agency "DNA Consulting".

After receiving two initial reports on the progress made, in May 2021 and November 2021 respectively, in which DNA Consulting shared the preliminary results of the assessment after a phase of desk-work and in-depth interviews that included the perspective of the Sections, the World Council agreed to give more time to DNA Consulting to conduct additional interviews

and online sessions with specific groups of members.

As per the final report, it appears that UCLG's evolution since its creation has been successful. It is a unique international organization on the international stage, in terms of diversity of membership, legitimacy, uniqueness of its focus, geographical scope and generalist approach, which makes it particularly relevant and beneficial for its members.

UCLG's main added value stems primarily from its **advocacy** capacities, which provide members and partners with an opportunity to have an impact on the international agendas and be involved in global dialogues,

making the voices of local leaders heard. UCLG has reached recognition from several major international organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union. The role of the Global Taskforce has also been mentioned in the questionnaires and interviews as an added value to strengthen collaboration among networks and reinforce the sense of ownership.

During the pandemic, UCLG has proven its agility and **resilience**, being able to continue its advocacy strategy and adapting quickly to the virtual environment, both in terms of communication and networking. The hybrid events have been particularly praised by members and partners.

In terms of **implementation**, the overall balance in the questionnaires and interviews is unanimous: the members and partners of UCLG consider that the World Organization has efficiently contributed to help local governments implement the global agendas and in particular, the localization of the global agendas. The combination of political representatives and technical staff has also been stressed as an important added value of UCLG, ensuring ownership of the global agendas and their implementation.

Regarding **monitoring and follow-up**, the interviews stressed the work UCLG is conducting to establish a framework to provide solid inputs to monitor the progress made towards the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the sustainability agendas.



**Learning** has been acknowledged by members and partners as an important agenda of the Organization. Access to knowledge, good practices and know-how from peers is considered of particular value. Besides events and training activities, the Learning with UCLG platform is considered a useful tool.

As for **strengthening the UCLG network, partnership and governance**, there is a general sense that the multinational structure of UCLG allows for an efficient participation of the different members of the network. The Annual Retreats are particularly seen as a useful event regarding which members express a sense of ownership.

As for the issues that need to be addressed, the report argued that in occasion UCLG overlaps with other organizations; its governance is perceived as complex and might require additional communication among members; geographical imbalances need to be further cared for in order to ensure full synchronization within the network; and it is important to concentrate on the current work



areas before expanding further.

The evaluation calls on the World Organization to be taken with care and in a large participatory approach that will depend on the matter in discussion, and will align with the vision of the renewed leadership. With this in view, the World Secretariat has conducted a study of the report's recommendations and analysis allowing to build the way forward upon the following blocks that are interrelated:

- **Towards a systemic international governance for a systemic advocacy**, to continue uniting a legitimate voice. The uniqueness of the World Organization has been able to gain legitimacy in different parts of the international governance.
- **Flexible and adaptable governance**, in an era where constant change is the norm. This block includes the decision-making processes, in their development and transparency, as well as for the general rules that should reflect the life of the Organization.

- **An empowering monitoring**, where evaluation becomes a culture into the Organization. A new system of monitoring should allow to reflect the real dynamic of the World Secretariat, based on a systemic evaluation of the work delivered in time, quantity, quality and human resources implication, would it be from the staff or from the municipalities.

- **Means and resources**: building on the results of the first phase, the needs in terms of finances and means should emerge from the dialogues and decisions made, that will define the relation and interactions with donors and funders, as well as with the different parts of the network and partners

Building on these recommendations, the World Secretariat is initiating consultation processes next year to address the key recommendations, and it is expected that these processes will be aligned with the strategic priorities defined by the Pact for the Future, and for the process to be launched at the 2023 Retreat.

WE LISTEN

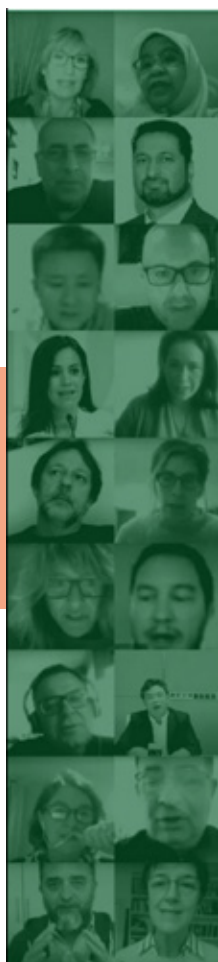
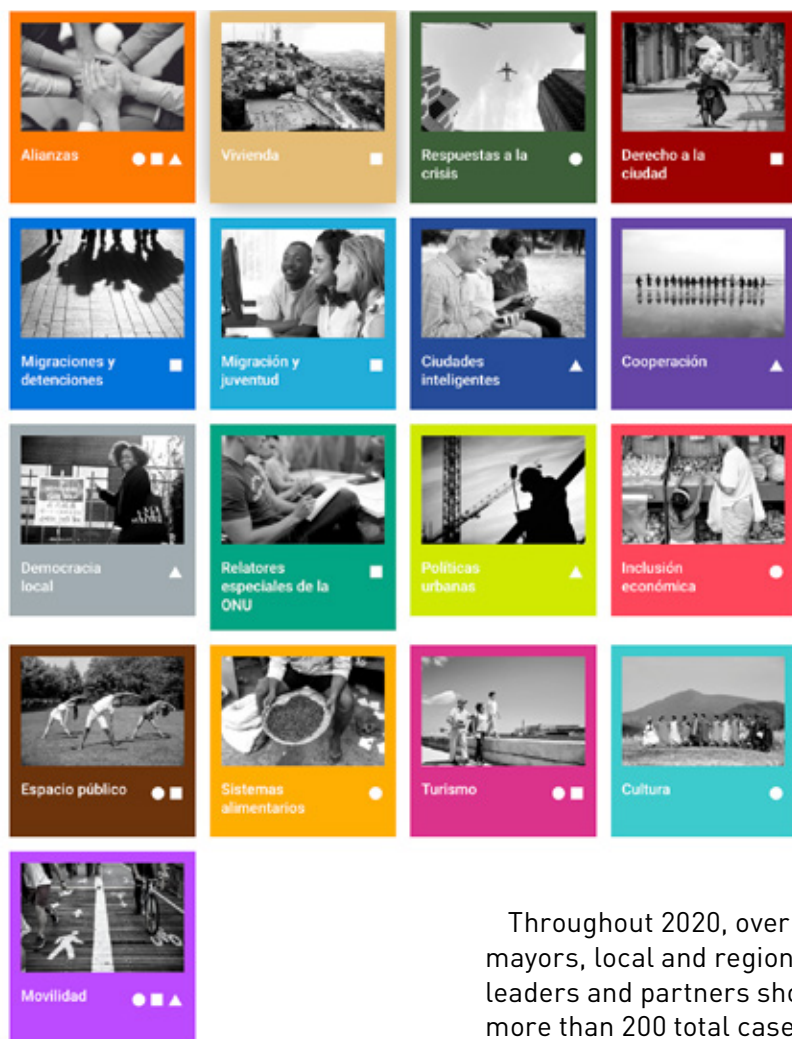
7

DEVELOPING  
PARTNERSHIPS  
WITH THE CIVIL  
SOCIETY

## The #Cities AreListening Experiences stepping up the dialogue with other constituencies in the aftermath of COVID-19

The Membership called upon our World Organization to deliver a space for sharing and exchanging knowledge, experiences, and solutions in a complex environment.

UCLG, Metropolis and UN-Habitat responded to this call by launching our #LiveLearningExperiences with the objectives of developing a virtual and living community; ensuring on-line resources for local and regional governments; and developing guides to respond to the needs of local and regional governments.



Throughout 2020, over 260 mayors, local and regional leaders and partners showcasing more than 200 total cases in an exercise that gathered over 2,800 participants, provided their experiences during and beyond the outbreak in the Live Learning Experiences. Their input was a crucial inspiration to develop the Pact for the Future.

The #CitiesAreListening Experiences were the next step. With the pandemic going beyond early response, UCLG leaders and partners met to envision the implementation of the UCLG Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath, inspired from the lessons learnt from our membership during the outbreak and on how local and regional leaders envision the future, building on the Live Learning Experiences.

The #CitiesAreListening Experiences consolidated themselves as a space for dialogue and interaction between

different internationally organized civil society constituencies and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency. It joined the virtual and living community and policy recommendations that the network promoted through its Live Learning Experiences with a strong focus on public service delivery and protecting the commons aiming at leaving no one, and no place behind.

The CitiesAreListening Experiences brought to the table over 20 partners such as the International Union for Public Transport, the Global Platform for the Right to the City, Habitat International Coalition, the Open Society Foundations, or the Smart Cities Hub. Representatives from the United Nations, WHO, academia and local and regional governments gathered in these virtual sessions to reignite the dialogue process between local and regional governments and our partners to breathe life to the UCLG Decalogue and lead the way to develop a Pact for the Future of Humanity.

Over this three-year cycle, the #CitiesAreListening Experiences have become integral to incorporate critical items in our agenda and revitalize the dialogue with civil society building on our work with partners and the Town Hall Process initiated in Durban and that culminates in 2022 in Daejeon.

## The UCLG Town Hall process



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.

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 that is inclusive and informed, bringing the territorial perspective to transform the development global agendas informed by other core partners.

The Town Hall culminates in a corpus of integrated policy recommendations resulting from a consultation with other stakeholders, including international organizations and the membership of UCLG through its policy councils, and offering both bottom-up continent and region-specific priorities.

### From Durban to Daejeon

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.

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.

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***

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.

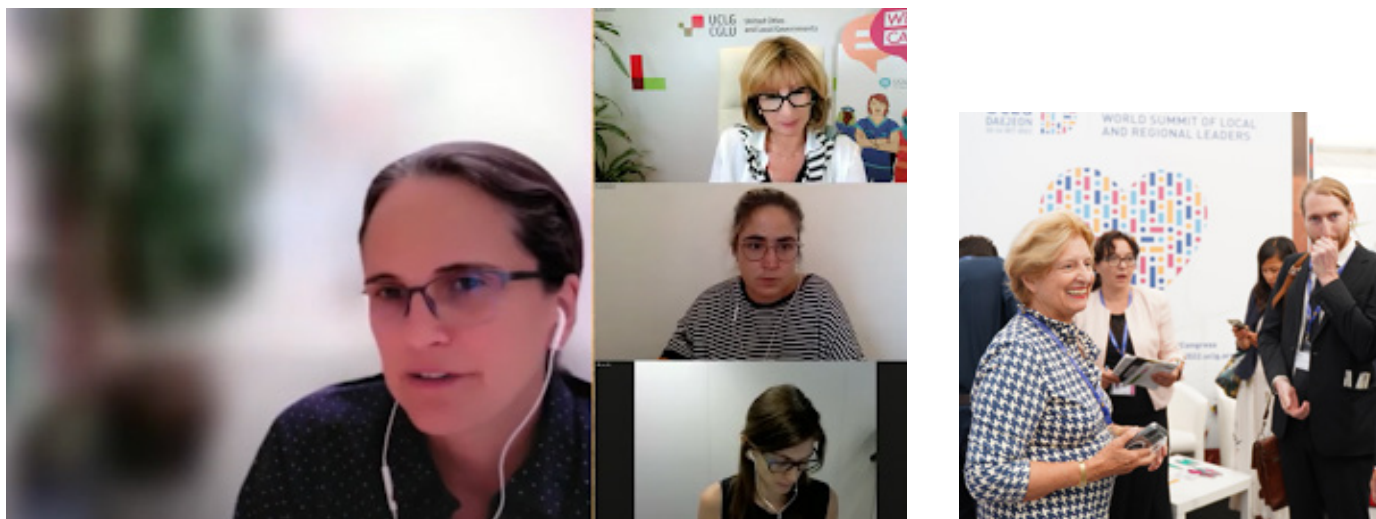
***Trust and Government Town Hall*** rust is the backbone of inclusion and peace and the foundation of key elements of democracy such as transparency and integrity in public information, accountability and multi-stakeholder multi-generational dialogue. Fostering trust between people and government will 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.

#### ***Caring Systems Town Hall***

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.





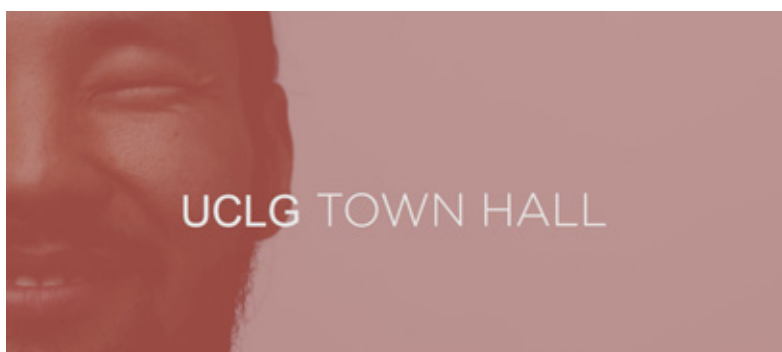
### *Climate and Culture Town Hall*

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.

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.

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 Halls representatives visited care blocks and facilities with Mayor Claudia Lopez and city representatives throughout the city.

Finally, in September 2022, the Town Hall process saw its consultation phase as the Town Hall lead organizations 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.



Copyright © 2022 UCLG

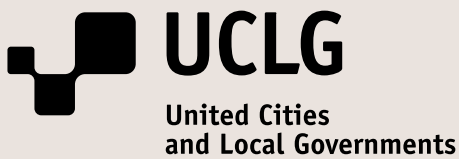
All rights reserved. No part of this report may be reprinted or reproduced or utilized in any form or by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

United Cities and Local Governments  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis  
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos  
Avinyó 15 08002 Barcelona  
[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)

This report has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of UCLG and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the European Union.

Photo credits  
@UCLG/Schardan  
@UCLG-CGLU/Joel Sheakoski  
All others photos in this report are  
copyright of UCLG

[www.uclg.org](http://www.uclg.org)



UCLG Africa



UCLG Asia-Pacific



UCLG Eurasia



UCLG Europe



UCLG Latin America  
General Secretariat Adjunct Secretariat



UCLG Middle East and West Asia



UCLG North America



UCLG Metropolitan Section



UCLG Forum of Regions



Supported by:



Co-funded by  
the European Union

This publication was produced with the financial support of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of UCLG and do not necessarily reflect the views of the European Union.



Sweden  
Sverige

This document has been co-financed by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Sida. Sida does not necessarily share the views expressed in this material. Responsibility for its content rests entirely with the author.