

# SOLID LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND SOUND LOCAL GOVERNANCE: THE BASIS OF A SUCCESSFUL HABITAT III AGENDA

**MOTION CARRIED BY ANNE HIDALGO, MAYOR OF PARIS  
ADOPTED BY THE WORLD COUNCIL OF UCLG  
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## **SOLID LOCAL DEMOCRACY AND SOUND LOCAL GOVERNANCE: THE BASIS OF A SUCCESSFUL HABITAT III AGENDA**

**01** We, local and regional governments meeting in Paris, recognizing the special conditions of this challenging time, stress the need to strengthen decentralization and local democracy and to rethink the notion of citizenship as the basis for the New Urban Agenda if we want the 2030 Agenda to lead to more just and equalitarian societies.

**02** Only societies with solid universal values built from the bottom up and with full ownership from citizens will be able to develop sustainable, peaceful and creative models to live together.

**03** In agreement with Article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which states that "every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any distinctions (...) and without unreasonable restrictions, **to take part in the conduct of public affairs**, directly or through freely chosen representatives";

**04** Reaffirming the values of the European Charter of Local Self-Government, expressed in the European Declaration of Local Self-Government, the **IULA Declaration of Local Self-Government**, CLGF's **Aberdeen Agenda**, the **UCLG "City of 2030 – Manifesto"** and the **International Guidelines on Decentralization**;

**05** We call for:

- **National governments** to respect the principles of subsidiarity and self government, and the mandate of local elected representatives;
- **Habitat III to build on a strong universal political agenda with a holistic approach, going beyond sectors**, that will lead to local and regional governments with adequate competences and resources around the world;
- **Inclusive implementation and monitoring mechanisms at national, regional and international level** that will acknowledge the role of local and regional governments in the definition, monitoring and implementation of international policies;

- **Specific representation of local and regional governments, through their international organizations and in particular UCLG, in the international governance architecture.**

**06** We commit to:

- Ensure that our mandate comes from the people, **for the people**, and to renew the social contract through the development of the Right to the City;
- **Constitute a local environment where the full realization of all human rights** and fundamental liberties is guaranteed, assuring the dignity and collective well being of all persons, in conditions of equality, equity and justice;
- **Guarantee appropriate forms of participation** and civic engagement in decision making in order to fulfil our community mandate and assure the capacity of our citizens to all information on public affairs;
- **Guarantee that women and men** play an equal role in decision making;
- **Protect diversity and culture**;
- **Ensure that our cities work with other spheres of government**, as well as with neighbouring municipalities, to develop common approaches for successful development;
- **Invest in capacity building** that will enable us to perform adequately.

### **Further recommendations adopted by the World Council:**

- The City of Madrid and the City of Paris propose holding an International Summit against Violence and for Peace Education, to be celebrated in Madrid. The Summit would act as a process and meeting point for local leaders of the world to come together with civil society, and as an opportunity to reflect on peace. At the current time, cities and local governments have the duty and the responsibility to work for peace, to act against the use of violence to resolve conflicts, and to harness peace education as an instrument for our coexistence and future wellbeing.