

# Press Kit > 2013

December 2013



**U**nited  
**C**ities and  
**L**ocal  
**G**overnments

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

## UCLG: Our mission

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve.

Headquartered in Barcelona, the organisation's stated **mission** is:

***To be the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting its values, objectives and interests, through cooperation between local governments, and within the wider international community.***

UCLG's work programme focuses on:

- Increasing the role and influence of local government and its representative organisations in global governance;
- Becoming the main source of support for democratic, effective, innovative local government close to the citizen;

**UCLG has a unique convening role as network of networks of local and regional authorities**



### UCLG Sections

UCLG has a decentralized structure with 7 Regional Sections in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Euro-Asia, Europe, Latin America, Middle East and West Asia, North America and a Metropolitan section. These Regional and Metropolitan Sections are independent legal entities which conduct their own regional activities.

#### **NORTH AMERICA**

UCLG -NORAM

#### **EURASIA**

UCLG-EURASIA

#### **ASIA-PACIFIC**

UCLG-ASPAC

#### **LATIN AMERICA**

FLACMA

#### **MIDDLE EAST AND WEST ASIA**

UCLG-MEWA

#### **METROPOLITAN SECTION**

METROPOLIS

#### **EUROPE**

CEMR

#### **AFRICA**

UCLG-AFRICA

#### **FORUM OF REGIONS**

Negotiations in process to become a formal UCLG Sections

## UCLG: A democratic citizen-focussed structure

*Democratic: Citizens express themselves through their democratically elected representatives who are members of National association grouped together into continental sections and represented on the world stage by UCLG.*



### UCLG PRESIDENCY 2013-2016

**PRESIDENT: Kadir Topbas**, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

**CO-PRESIDENCY: Augusto Barrera**, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador

**Anne Hidalgo**, Deputy Mayor Paris, France

**Chen Jianhua**, Mayor of Guangzhou, China

**Alain Juppé**, Mayor of Bordeaux, France

**Ilsur Metsin**, Mayor of Kasan, Russian Federation

**Jacqueline Moustache Belle**, Mayor of Victoria, Seychelles

**TREASURY**  
**Fathallah Oualalou**, Mayor of Rabat, Morocco

**Berry Vrbanovic**, Councillor of Kitchener, Canada

### **UCLG PRESIDENCY** **2010-2013**

**PRESIDENT: Kadir Topbas**, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

**CO-PRESIDENCY:**

**Antonio Costa**, Mayor of Lisbon, Portugal

**Johnny Araya**, Mayor of San Jose, Costa Rica

**Wan Qingliang**, Mayor of Guangzhou, China

**Muchadeyi Masunda**, Mayor of Harare, Zimbabwe

**Ilsur Metsin**, Mayor of Kasan, Russian Federation

**Ted Ellis**, Mayor of Bluffton, Indiana, United States.

### **UCLG PRESIDENCY** **2007-2010**

**PRESIDENT: Bertrand Delanoë**, Mayor of Paris, France

**CO-PRESIDENCY:**

**Zhang Guangning**, Mayor of Canton, Popular Republic of China

**Amos Masondo**, Alcalde de Johannesburgo, South Africa.

**Paco Moncayo**, Mayor of Quito, Ecuador

**Kadir Topbas**, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey

**Clarence Anthony**, Alcalde de South Bay, Florida, Estados Unidos. **Tesorero.**

### **UCLG PRESIDENCY** **2004-2007**

**Bertrand Delanoë**, Mayor of Paris, France

**Smangaliso Mkhathshwa**, Mayor of Tshwane-Pretoria

**Marta Supliciy**, Mayor of Sao Paulo, Brasil

**Clarence Anthony**, Mayor of South Bay, **Tesorero.**

## Bringing the added value of local and regional authorities to global discussions

The creation of United Cities and Local Governments in 2004 was the result of many years of exchanges among the local and regional leaders of the world who worked internationally through different organizations for a common cause.

### Unity

The ideals that united us were based on the conviction that a world advocate of democratic local self-government, promoting the values, objectives and interests of local and regional governments of all shapes and sizes, through joint action was possible and highly necessary.

UCLG's work program during the first six years of existence emphasized the need to create a respected organization before the international community; it focused on enabling the contacts among members and tried to put in place a flexible structure at the service of its heterogeneous membership.

### A special perspective: Our shared values

The Habitat II conference in Istanbul in 1996 was the moment that triggered the notion of going from joint values to joint action. The shared conviction that their proximity to citizens offers local and regional authorities a unique perspective in discussions and solutions on global issues is of greater relevance now than ever before.

The past decades have seen important changes in the international institutional framework: we have witnessed the transformation from a rural to an urban world. Local governments are more than ever at the forefront in facing global challenges. In view of this, our organization has been granted access to new spaces in international decision-making processes.

### Early results

At the Millennium+5 Summit, the final declaration recognized local authorities as actors in the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Governments of the World acknowledged that local authorities play a major role in delivering sustainable access to water. The Declaration of the Local Governments of UCLG was included in the final declaration of the World Forum on Water in 2006.

UCLG became a stakeholder in international aid effectiveness as member of the advisory group of the UN's First Forum for Development Cooperation and participated in the Third OECD High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

As Chair of Cities Alliance for three years, UCLG was at the forefront on slum upgrading.

UCLG strives to **promote** and consolidate **decentralization** as a way to democratize and modernize public governance at all levels.

UCLG **advocates for local self-government** as a requisite for true participation of people in the management of their own affairs.

The perspective of UCLG is that **development and improvement** of people's living conditions should take place primarily at the **local level**.



We are experiencing innovation and hope. We see the youth in our cities wanting to promote change. We enjoy the capacity to rethink our identity and discover new ways of moving forward. Our ability to acknowledge change and opportunities will be pivotal for a sustainable future. This will only happen if we work together in our united organization, UCLG.

## New Challenges

### Leadership and governance

Develop a strong democratic organization to ensure the active participation of political leaders from all spheres and a diversity of local governments.

**UCLG's leadership is not to be understood under institutional headings, it is not limited to the statutory bodies, but rather to the totality of the political representation throughout the membership.**

### Representation

Promote local and regional self-government as well as other shared values around the world, and increase their influence on global governance and policy-making at all levels.

**UCLG will invest its efforts in shaping the international agenda, in particular that of Habitat III.**

### Intelligence

Gather, analyze and share knowhow and information at the service of members and stakeholders.

**UCLG should further consolidate its capacity to determine the trends, topic of interest and opinions of the membership.**

### Cooperation

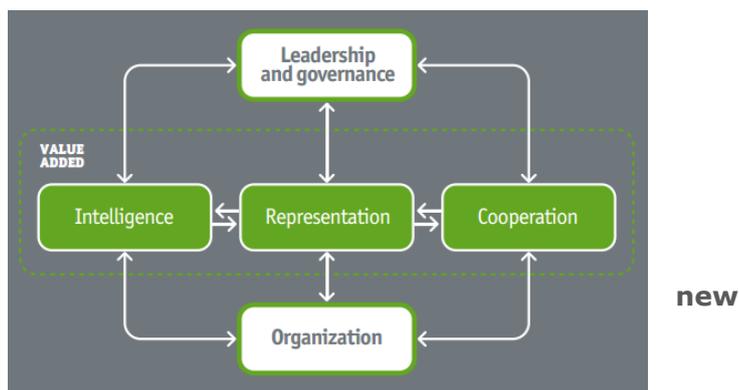
Promote decentralized cooperation and international cooperation between local governments and their associations; promote peer-to-peer ties as a means for mutual learning, solidarity and friendship between people and mobilize resources for cooperation.

**UCLG needs to be a safe-port where ideas and methodologies can be tested.**

### Organization

Strengthen UCLG's organization, through the operational role of Committees, Sections and the World Secretariat, and its relations with other networks.

**UCLG will need to guarantee the continuity of a motivated and flexible team of professionals reflecting the variety of the membership and able to adapt to the changing demands both within the World Secretariat and the UCLG Sections.**



# Our vision: Extract from the Manifesto for the City of 2030

## **A DEMOCRATIC, SELF-GOVERNING CITY**

The city of 2030 cannot be successfully managed from “above” or “outside” – it requires a democratic city government and leadership, chosen by the people and accountable to them.

## **AN INCLUSIVE CITY OF PARTICIPATION**

Participation of all its inhabitants, ensuring that all groups – poor as well as rich, women and men, young and old, migrant as well as multi-generation residents – are able to take an equal part.

## **A CITY WITH A VISION FOR ITS FUTURE**

Clear outward- looking strategic vision, based on an accurate diagnosis of its potential and its resources, and a plan of action to make it a reality.

## **A LIVEABLE CITY**

A successful city is a blend of the positively planned and the creatively organic.

## **A CREATIVE CITY, A CITY OF CULTURE**

Striving for excellence and creativity in its cultural programs, giving full recognition to the role of its artists; placing a high value on education and fostering culture as the essential “fourth pillar” of the sustainable city.

## **A SECURE CITY, A CITY OF PEACE**

Placing a high premium on security, knowing that crime and fear of crime are destructive of citizens’ confidence and aspirations.

## **A MOBILE CITY**

People are able to circulate freely and efficiently, for work, education, shopping, and leisure; goods can be delivered and moved at the right times and in the right modes.

## **A CITY FIT FOR WORK**

Gearing its economic development to the needs and technologies of the future, favoring a climate of enterprise for businesses of all sizes, and offering decent jobs.

## **A CITY WITH PRIDE IN ITS PUBLIC SERVICES**

Public services and public goods play an essential role in promoting the wellbeing of all its citizens, reducing inequality and fostering social cohesion.

## **A CITY WITHOUT SLUMS**

A city in which the poor are not exported to slums on the urban periphery or unsafe land, nor isolated in inner city ghettos, but where their needs (present and anticipated) are integrated into the city’s planning systems for land use, infrastructure development and public services.

## **A CLEANER, GREENER, MORE COMPACT CITY**

Reducing its urban environmental footprint, it will aim to become more compact; giving priority to energy efficiency, to renewable energies and non-polluting technologies; needing to minimize and mitigate climate change, and protect from its adverse impacts.

## **THE CITY OF 2030 - A SHARED RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNANCE**

Cities do not stand alone, the success of the city of 2030 depends substantially on this co-operation between city and region.

## **WITH UCLG, FULL PARTNERS IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE**

UCLG, our representative and advocate at world level, must – both in formal status and in daily practice – be involved as full partner by the UN and wider international community, in all issues concerning the future of our cities and human settlements

# UCLG: 9 Years Making History: 2004-2013

**May 2004- Founding Congress in Paris:** UCLG created to represent and defend the interests of local governments on the world stage.

**2004**



**February 2006:** UCLG Executive Bureau meetings in Washington, strengthening relations with the World Bank.

**March 2006:** The Declaration of the Local Governments of UCLG is included in the final declaration of the World Forum on Water in March.

**2006**

**June 2005:** Local Governments are recognized an advisory role at the UN. UCLG holds the majority of seats in the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA).

**2005**



**October 2007:** Second World Congress, 2,000 mayors approve the Declaration of Jeju on key challenges the world will have to face in the coming years.

**2007**

UCLG undertakes the first ever comprehensive study on the state of decentralization by setting up the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralisation (GOLD).

**June 2008:** UCLG becomes Chair of the Executive Committee of Cities Alliance.

**September 2008:** UCLG contributes to international aid effectiveness debate as member of the UN - First Forum for Development Cooperation in New York and participates in the Third OECD High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Accra.

**2008**

**May-October 2010:** UCLG holds unprecedented presence of a global organization of cities, towns and regions in a Universal exhibition in Shanghai.

**November 2010:** The UCLG Summit addresses: Global crises and Local Impacts and the Local and Regional Governments - Partners in the new Global Governance.

**2010**



The adoption of the **International Guidelines of Access to Basics Services** is a major step forward towards the recognition of Local Authorities' contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

**2009**

## 2011

President of UCLG, Kadir Topbas meets Secretary General of United Nations, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon and calls for a **special status to be granted to UCLG before the General Assembly of the United Nations.**



May  
2011

The Executive Bureau approves the creation of the **Standing Committee on Gender Equality** to promote the participation of women in local decision-making.

June  
2011



December  
2011



## 2012

World Council in Florence (Italy), 700 local and regional elected representatives adopt a **New Strategy for 2010-2016** and highlighted the contribution of local and regional authorities to the international debate on sustainability and **Rio+20.**

April  
2012

Secretary General of United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, welcomed Local and Regional Authorities and their network partners who presented their key messages and **concrete recommendations with view to the Rio+20 Summit.**

UCLG co-organised the Conference on **Decentralization Support in Tunisia** to ensure that local authorities are not forgotten in the constitutional process.

May  
2012

The Earth Summit (Rio+20), the Final Document recognized for the first time the key role of local and regional governments in the international sustainability agenda.

June  
2012

President of UCLG is nominated **member of the High Level Panel for the Post 2015 Development Agenda.**

August  
2012



The International Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments is created to revise the MDG.

November  
2012

The first **UCLG International Prize for Urban Innovation** organized by the **City of Guangzhou** compiles twenty high quality projects for sustainable cities, good management of public services, and economic and urban innovation.

December  
2012



## 2013 - 2016

Rabat October 2013:  
the 4th UCLG World  
Congress

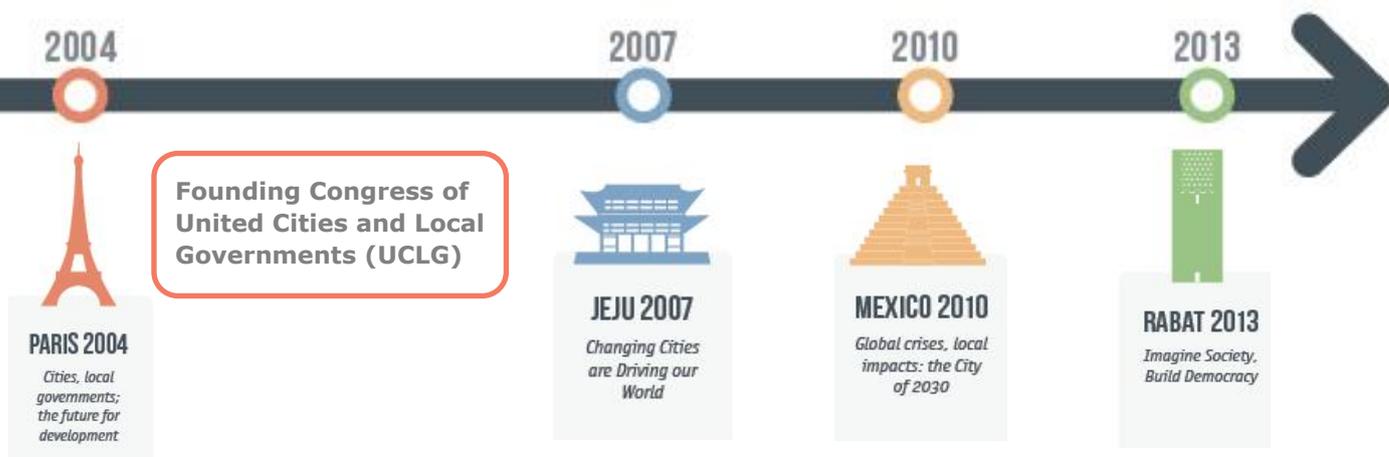
2014: UCLG  
celebrates 10 years  
of unity

The Post-2015  
Development  
Agenda

2016: Habitat III

## IN FOCUS #1

# WORLD Summit of Local and Regional Leaders Rabat 2013: Imagine Society, Build Democracy



Owing to the high tension of the current global context and the reduced resources at our disposal, we are pushed to imagine new ways to promote the development of our territories and ensure solidarity and sustainability.

Debates generated broad-based and permanent dialogue between local and regional authorities, with the involvement of all partners – international organizations, development agencies, experts and practitioners – as well as civil society organizations, to analyze and assess which development goals have been accomplished and to set new priorities together.

Delegations from over 100 countries participated in this Summit that brought together local and regional leaders, international organizations, the public and private sectors, financial institutions and civil society. Please consult the results

**The city of Rabat hosted the  
2<sup>nd</sup> World Summit of  
Local and Regional Leaders  
4<sup>th</sup> Congress of our World  
Organisation  
from 1st to 4th October 2013**

### Debates

#### Fostering wellbeing

Financing and governance of local basic services; Presentation of GOLD III; Smarter cities.

#### Strengthening solidarity among territories

Planning and financing intermediary cities; Food security in cities and regions; Development and decentralized cooperation.

#### Supporting new local governance and dynamics of change

Citizen participation and local governance; Dynamics of change in the Mediterranean; Local democracy and the development agenda.

#### Promoting diversity

Culture in sustainable development; Promoting local economic development; Right to the city and fight against urban inequalities.

## The

### Rabat Declaration

Through this declaration, we, local and regional authorities, our associations and networks commit to:

#### **I. Continue our mobilization by maintaining the values that unite us**

In the international context of crises and conflict and at a time of democratic development, we wish to place peace and development at the centre of our action, to thereby contribute to renewing democracy from the local level up and to engage directly with the youth to involve them in the development of their towns, cities and territories.

#### **II. Take determined steps toward the formulation of the Agenda of Towns, Cities and Regions of the XXI century**

During the VI Africities Summit, held in Dakar, and in the framework of the UCLG World Council, cities and regions recognized the need to create the Agenda of Towns, Cities and Regions of the XXI century in order to reflect the shared values that unite UCLG members and partners in the lead up to Habitat III.

#### **III. Become a recognized partner and of the United Nations System**

We request full participation of local governments in all significant processes of international decision making and call for a more inclusive and cohesive global governance;

We request that the international bodies consider local and regional authorities as a sphere of government and a full partner. We ask that the United Nations accord our Organization observer status within the General Assembly to increase our contribution to all policies of the United Nations system;

We suggest that the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development "Habitat III" in 2016 be an inclusive process engaging all stakeholders;

We commit to actively contributing to the preparation of Habitat III by ensuring the consultation of constituencies led by local and regional authority organizations through the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Authorities for Post 2015 and towards Habitat III.

#### **IV. Build one single Global Agenda for Sustainable Development Post-2015**

We call for one single Global Agenda for Sustainable Development Post 2015, bringing together the objectives of eliminating extreme poverty and contributing to prosperity and sustainable development;

We consider the reduction of inequalities, the improvement of cohesion and cooperation between territories and the promotion of governance and local democracy are key elements of this agenda;

The new agenda should furthermore include specific goals for Sustainable Urban Development. We assert that in order to increase the possibility of success, the Post 2015 Development Agenda should further advance in the "localisation" of its goals, targets and indicators, and provide the necessary means to ensure their implementation;

We, local and regional authorities the world over, undersign this declaration with renewed ambitions for the work that our movement must promote for the next 100 years and starting now in the streets of our villages, cities and towns.





## IN FOCUS #2

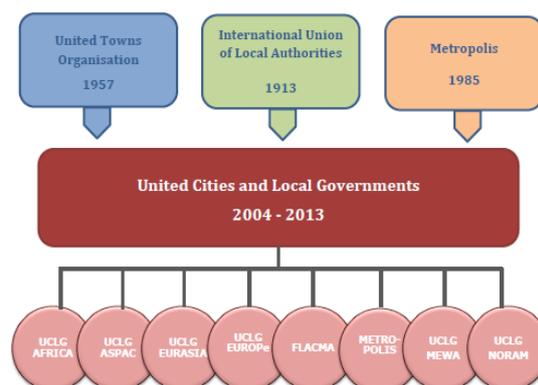
# The Centenary of the International Municipal Movement



### History

The centennial celebration marks 100 years since the beginning of a **permanent international cooperation between municipalities**. The World Fair in Ghent was the setting for the creation of the *Union Internationale des Villes* to maintain permanent links and share information between members all over the world.

The post-war context in Europe helped fuel the municipal movement's peacekeeping and cooperation activities, most notably through the global twinning. Throughout the 1970s projects became more technical and increased projects were launched with Africa and Asia. The 1980s saw the creation of permanent regional sections and numerous new organisations representing local authorities on specific thematic issues. In the 1990s, the municipal movement aimed to coordinate the contributions of local authorities and their representative organisations before the international institutions.



**"10 year of unity,  
100 years of action"**

### Celebrating

The UCLG World Summit in 2013 coincided with the one hundredth anniversary of the international municipal movement of which UCLG is a direct inheritor. To mark this occasion, UCLG has prepared a large-scale exhibition to present the key figures and events of the centennial legacy. **For further information, please consult the [UCLG centenary web page](#).**

### Ten Years of UCLG

The fusion in 2004 of two of the largest organizations of local authorities and Metropolis was a milestone in the international municipal movement. UCLG will celebrate, throughout 2014, its ten year anniversary and look forward to a new stage in its role as global network.



## **IN FOCUS #3**

### **Committees and Working Groups**

#### **Addressing issues today and for tomorrow**

#### **Committee & Working Group Objectives**

Preparation and implementation within spheres defined by the Executive Bureau and the Activities Programme of UCLG. The results of their work are presented before the UCLG Executive Bureau and/or World Council.

#### **Capacity and Institution Building (CIB-ACB platform)**



One of the main objectives is to exchange experiences and to professionalize and enhance the work amongst Local Government Associations and individual local governments. An information sharing platform increases the work of LGAs and individual local governments active in the field of Association Capacity Building (ACB) and Municipal International Cooperation (MIC).

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

#### **Culture**

No other structure at a global level gathers together cities, organisations and networks to foster the relation between local cultural policies and sustainable development. The main objective is to promote the role of culture as a central dimension of local policies through the implementation of the Agenda 21 for culture.

[www.agenda21culture.net](http://www.agenda21culture.net)



#### **Decentralization and Local Self-Government**



Chaired by the Government of the Province of Barcelona, its main objective is to strengthen decentralization and local self-government processes to improve local governance in every region of the world.

[www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/DAL/](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/DAL/)

#### **Development Cooperation & City Diplomacy**

A political Committee, the main objective of the Committee is to inform and support UCLG's reflection on local government development cooperation within the debate on the new aid architecture and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.



#### **Digital and Knowledge-Based Cities**



Creation of an efficient network of cooperation integrated by Local Authorities to take advantage of the opportunities that the new information and communication technologies (ICT), innovation and knowledge bring.

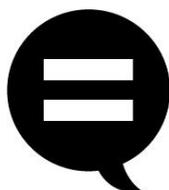
[www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/cdc/](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/cdc/)

#### **Economic Development**

Working Group aiming to reinforce cooperation between local governments in different regions of the world and participate actively in achieving full recognition of the role of local governments in the worldwide debate on new development models.



#### **Gender equality**



The UCLG Standing Committee on Gender Equality ensures follow up of issues of relevance for the international gender agenda and promotes the mainstreaming of gender in the organization of UCLG.

<http://women.uclg.org>

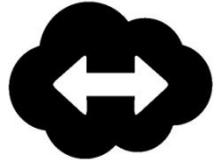
#### **Local Finance and Development**



There is no decentralisation process without local government financial autonomy. The committee aims at advising UCLG members on matters related to municipal finance and resource mobilization.

## Local Governments and Cooperation in Middle-East

A place for discussion and dialogue that favours cooperation, exchange and opportunity sharing among members to strengthen and expand the involvement of local governments in the situation in the Middle-East.



## Mediterranean Interregional Committee

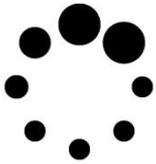
An inter-regional commission at the crossroads of three regional sub-sections: Europe, Africa and the Middle East/West Asia. An institutional consensus-seeking platform promoting decentralized cooperation and engaging in dialogue with national, European and international institutions.

[www.commed-cglu.org](http://www.commed-cglu.org)

## Migration and Co-development

Develop a draft paper on the value and the role of municipal associations and local governments in migrations and co-development for the Decentralized Cooperation Committee; Promotion of the debate and reflection scenarios on links between migration and development.

[www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/fccd/](http://www.cities-localgovernments.org/committees/fccd/)



## Peripheral Cities

Facilitate the exchange of experience and practices and develop a common approach by peripheral cities.

## Responsible Tourism and Sustainable Development

Promoting a tourism that, besides offering the traveler cultural, natural, and recreational attractions, constitutes a responsible mechanism that promotes local communities' economic and social development.

[www.turismosolidario.yucatan.gob.mx/](http://www.turismosolidario.yucatan.gob.mx/)



## Social Inclusion, Participative Democracy and Human Rights (CISDP)

Contribute to constructing UCLG's united voice on social inclusion, participatory democracy and human rights, and to advise local governments on the design of these policies. Promotion of political positions through the Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City.

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

## Urban Health

Following the success of activities accomplished under the Millennium +5 Summit and the well-recognized performance of City Councils, a new initiative dedicated to health. Promotion of health as an indispensable pillar for the main task of the organization as "global combined voice and advocate of democratic local governance."

[www.uclg-urbanhealth.com/eng/](http://www.uclg-urbanhealth.com/eng/)



## Urban Mobility

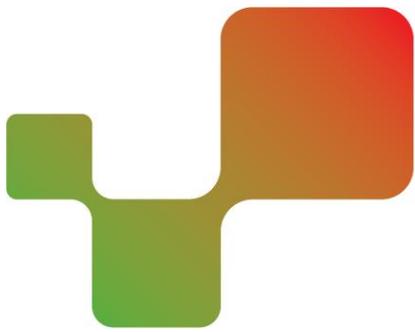
Innovating for common ways towards move towards sustainable mobility - a mobility accesible to all, environmentally-friendly and economy-focused.

[www.cities-for-mobility.net](http://www.cities-for-mobility.net)

## Urban Strategic Planning

Aiming to promote worldwide experiences related to strategic planning and urban development.





**UCLG**

**100 YEARS OF ACTION**  
**100 LETKY DE UNITE**