



ITEM 2

SUMMARY OF THE UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU POLICY OUTCOMES

“CARE AT THE HEART OF LOCAL SERVICE PROVISION FOR AN INCLUSIVE RECOVERY”

This document captures the key policy visions shared throughout the debates within the framework of the UCLG Executive Bureau and will be integrated in the work of the organization in different areas. They will further serve as bases to structure the discussions towards the development of the multi-annual discussion for the Pact for the Future.

1. The pandemic has shown us that our cities and territories will never be the same. The local and regional governments gathered within UCLG are determined to use this opportunity to build a better future. One that puts care at the centre of local service provision and policy development.
2. Against the backdrop of unprecedented transformation and building on the lessons learned in 2020 reflected in the UCLG Decalogue, the 2021 Executive Bureau members, engaged in debates furthering the conversation to define what the needs of our communities are and what it means to develop societies that truly care. The solidarity displayed by local and regional governments, the importance of local and regional decision-making and the new common goods were seen as the stepping stones that would bring us closer to this new reality.
3. The Pact for the Future that we have been mandated to develop in our past World Council, remains the goal for transforming how we relate with each other, with the planet, and with our institutions, building on the framework of the sustainable development goals. In the context of the UCLG Executive Bureau, local and regional governments have continued the conversation to define the new essentials, calling to transform our societies into ones that care.
4. Our Executive Bureau, which coincided with the global accessibility awareness day, has seen our constituency reinstate its commitment to developing our cities with equity and inclusion at the centre, as we shape and define a new social contract that works for the people, for the planet, and for governments.
5. We must prioritize a people centered approach to the way we design public spaces, both digital and physical, and public services, putting care and human rights at the heart of sustainable development. Only by fostering the new common goods, by planning our cities and lives with these new essentials in mind, will we be able to respond to the needs of our societies in the post-COVID era.

Redefining the Essentials

6. The last months have brought an important realization: We are now more aware than ever that culture is essential; that technology at the service of all communities is essential; that access to universal healthcare is essential; that having the time to enjoy our lives with dignity is essential but also that the revitalization of human rights implementation and the consideration of a new generation of rights will be critical. We are committed to protecting these new essentials, and call on all stakeholders to do so as we walk towards the renewal of the social contract.
7. Human mobility is a human right and a critical element of our Pact for the Future. We are working to shape a global voice that fully represents our values, our diversity, our hopes and our strength as a network. The proposal for the Lampedusa Charter presented in our Bureau enshrines the visions, commitments and calls of local and regional governments regarding all forms of human mobility and all aspects of diversity. It will be integral transform the narrative around migration, but also to transform how the phenomenon is perceived and how it happens, making links between the cities that people depart from and those in which they arrive.
8. It is essential to redefine development cooperation and the role that local and regional governments play in it. We need more connections between cities to build collective action to face challenges, and we need to strengthen this action through linking local to national governments' policies for development cooperation.
9. We need to develop a feminist way of going about politics, creating an enabling environment for women and girls to be represented in decision-making, and embracing equality in all parts of life. We need to go beyond equality, as a feminist municipal movement, putting care, empathy, proximity and participation of women in local decision-making at the heart of the agenda.
10. Local and regional governments have come to understand that it is essential to re-design our cities and territories, and the way we work, so that all people can spend time enjoying their lives with dignity. This is also part of designing our cities caring for everyone, and part of what our feminist municipal movement is aiming to bring to Generation Equality in Paris, building on our work in Mexico, and with feminism as the cornerstone of our Pact for the Future.
11. We need to foster a new use of technology that helps us enhance democracy, improve quality of life for people, decrease the use of natural resources and foster the development of individual potentials for our citizens everywhere, young and old. This calls for empowering people, ensuring they are equally skilled, and ensuring that local government officials are able to empower communities to shape technologies.
12. We need to see culture as the fourth pillar of sustainable development, as a vital element of our cities and territories that makes us thrive. Culture needs to be at the centre of planning, interlinked with our public spaces to make our cities places of encountering ourselves. Our relationship with the private sector needs to change to reflect this focus.
13. It is time to ensure equal access to healthy cities and territories, to provide vaccinations and healthcare for all, and to plan our territories in a way that includes all people. In a moment in which we are undergoing the greatest sanitary and social crisis of the XXI Century, we need to transform our systems into ones that are people-centred and rights-based systems to be better suited to respond to disease outbreaks. As we are recovering by the pandemic, we need to ensure that cities participate in decision-making, and are no longer the background to decisions of national governments and large corporations.

A new vision of the urban era

14. The world that we are working towards is no longer one of megacities. The urban era is also one that needs to consider the territorial continuum. A world that cares is one that values healthy people and territories, driven by large and intermediary cities with regional government playing an important articulating, planning and monitoring role.
15. The new urban era will also need to include a strong global component in local management and visions. The connection between the local and global agendas will only become more relevant in the future and we will necessitate transformations at both local and global level, with a renewed multilateral system to address the challenges.
16. In the coming decades, following the warnings that the pandemic has shown us, our cities and our regions will need to develop effective governance mechanisms that respond to the complex global emergencies of our century, transforming our systems into ones that are truly resilient.
17. Against the urge to "re-centralize" by some governments, decentralization must remain a priority, and in particular fiscal decentralization. Local and regional governments are critical layers for implementing sustainable fiscal policies, building resilience. Strengthening capacities at local levels will be needed for more effective and risk-informed development cooperation and for greater financial resilience. Fostering new forms of long-term financing for sustainable and resilient investment projects and setting up renewed platforms for dialogue to support the mobilization of resources are critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda.
18. The New Urban Agenda remains essential to accelerate transformation. As we enter its review and the Quito+5 milestone, our constituency is ready to monitor the process, ensure local voices are reflected in the review and monitoring of the New Urban Agenda, and address the NUA as a cornerstone to strengthen governance needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.
19. In the post-COVID era, the municipal movement realises that the promotion of peace and conflict resolution without violence remains a critical for any sustainability agenda. Local democracy is an integral instrument to protect our communities' freedoms and their wellbeing, and local and regional leaders gathered within our Executive Bureau made sure to reiterate its importance to develop cities and territories of peace.
20. The Executive Bureau reiterated its call for cease fire between Palestine and Israel, as well as the call for restoring democracy in Myanmar.
21. The Executive Bureau members further recalled the need to ensure vaccination for all everywhere and their support of the temporary release of vaccine patents to allow production and distribution to go faster and to reach every person in every corner.
22. They emphasized that the new common goods and the needs of our communities in the post-COVID needed to be at the front and centre of our Pact for the Future: for the people, for the planet, for government. The UCLG leadership is ready to be essential partners in this transformation, with a virtual embrace of unity and resolve. Virtually, until we meet again.