

Local and Regional Governments from all corners of the globe have a date in Rabat

PRESS NOTE

20 September 2013

About UCLG:

Created in May 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and global advocate of democratic local self-governance.

Representing over half of the world's population, members of UCLG are present in 140 of the United Nations member states and in all regions of the world: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle-East West Asia, Latin and North America – organized into seven continental sections and one metropolitan section. UCLG has more than one thousand cities in regions that are direct members and 155 member associations of local governments. Among the key areas of political interest for UCLG are: Local democracy, climate change and environmental protection, achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, local finance, urban development and city diplomacy in peace building.

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Barcelona, 20 September 2013 – As representative body of self-governing and democratic local and regional governments, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is inviting the international community and its members and partners to "Imagine Society, Build Democracy". The date for this encounter will be the Second **World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders** and 4th UCLG Congress in Rabat, Morocco from the 1st to the 4th of October. This event will also be an optimum occasion to increase the role of local and regional institutions, the level situated closest to citizens, in the construction of democracy.

After the celebration of **one hundred years of the International Municipal Movement**, UCLG is organizing this Summit as a turning point in re-affirming the agenda of cities in the 21st century: to build and reinforce democracy by including local and regional authorities in the work that has been initiated on the future of the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) post 2015** and on the definition of the new global urban agenda in the framework of **Habitat III taking place in 2016**.

Local Democracy is vital for democratic development. In the words of **Roger B. Myerson, winner of the Nobel prize for Economy**: "It is not enough to concentrate exclusively on national leaders; local leadership is essential. The economic Investments depend on local security and other public services depend on local government agents." Myerson will participate in the Summit, together with **other renowned speakers and over 3,000 local, regional, national and international political figures** from over 100 countries as well as the international organizations, civil society partners and the public and private sectors.

The Summit will feature debates on how to foster wellbeing, managing diversity, new governance and the dynamics of change and solidarity among territories. The conclusions from the debates and plenaries in Rabat will be decisive in defining the shared position of local and regional level governments before their citizens and the rest of the international community.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Where and when? Rabat, from 1st to 4th October.**
- **Among the speakers, the Summit will include participation by** mayors from Istanbul, Barcelona, Lisbon, Naplusa, Paris, Santiago and Tunis among many others. Furthermore, high representatives from the United Nations and civil society organisations will also take part.

For further information, please consult www.rabat2013.uclg.org or our **Press Kit**.