

EXTRACT OF KEY DECISIONS
OF THE UCLG GOVERNING BODIES
5-7 JUNE 2013, LYON
FOR PUBLIC DISEMINATION

UCLG Committees and Executive Bureau met from 5 to 7 June in Lyon. This document provides a summary of the main decisions adopted by the different meetings. Detailed reports will follow and will be presented for adoption.

- The UCLG Executive Bureau took place in Lyon (France) and was organized jointly by the City of Lyon and the Rhône-Alpes Region. The meetings gathered around 270 participants from 37 countries.
- The meetings included the second edition of the Forum of Regions, a meeting of the Resource Mobilization Group and a briefing on the "Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post-2015".
- The meeting of the UCLG Executive Bureau was opened by the President of the Rhône-Alpes Region, Mr. Jean-Jack Queyranne, the Deputy Mayor of Lyon, Mr. Jean-Michel Daclin, and the Mayor of Rabat, Mr. Fathallah Oualalou. The statutory session was chaired by Mr. Ted Ellis, Mayor of Bluffton and Treasurer of UCLG, and by Dr. Wolfgang Schuster, President of CEMR and Vice-President of UCLG.
- The President of UCLG had previously presented his regrets as he was recovering from back surgery and will be unable to travel until July. The Chairperson wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of the Executive Bureau. Other members of the Presidency presented their regrets due to agenda issues.
- The Executive Bureau observed a minute silence and paid homage to Pierre Mauroy, former French Prime Minister, former Mayor of Lille and founding father of UCLG, who passed away at the age of 84. Numerous members of the Executive Bureau recalled his instrumental contribution to the international agenda of local authorities and to the creation of UCLG in particular.
- The statutory session of the Executive Bureau was preceded by a policy debate dedicated to *Local and Regional Governments in the Global Agenda* and was moderated by journalist Alex Taylor.

Rabat Summit

1. The UCLG World Congress and Second World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will take place in Rabat, Morocco, from Tuesday 1 to Friday 4 October 2013. Special efforts are being made to make the Congress inclusive and extend it beyond UCLG and its membership. The Summit should include the private sector, civil society representatives and development partners.
- **The Sections are called to make a particular effort to mobilize their members and networks.**

- **Members are called to register in a timely fashion to benefit from lower registration fees and superior hotel accommodation.**

Culture in the UCLG Agenda

2. UCLG has played an important role in promoting culture in the global development agenda, building on the work of the Culture Committee. In 2004, UCLG adopted the Agenda 21 for Culture, the first worldwide document establishing principles and commitments by cities and local governments for cultural development. It further adopted, during the third World Congress in Mexico in 2010, the Policy Statement "Culture: the Fourth Pillar of Sustainable Development". This Statement advocates for the dimension of culture to be added to policies aimed at sustainable development, in addition to economic growth, social inclusion and environmental balance.
3. Nevertheless, despite the important achievements in the UN Conference on Sustainable Development Rio+20 recognizing local and sub-national authorities as key partners in sustainable development, the role of culture as pillar for development was insufficiently reflected.
 - **There will be a revision of the Agenda 21 for Culture in order to make it more relevant to the current realities.**
 - **Work will be conducted to include Culture in the post-2015 agenda as specific objective.**
 - **The City of Mexico, Co-chair of the Culture Committee, will promote an Award for Culture that will be defined in the coming months and officially launched in the World Congress in Rabat.**

Solidarity with Syrian local authorities

4. Faced with the dramatic situation in Syria and in response to requests from local governments coping with the influx of refugees, the Middle-East Working Group decided to undertake a solidarity initiative.
5. An assessment mission took place in March, aimed at visiting local and regional authorities welcoming Syrian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey. Under the auspices of the President of UCLG, elected representatives from French, Turkish and Dutch local and regional authorities participated in the field visits, along with local practitioners from national associations.
6. The Syrian situation is not the first crises situation that UCLG members have addressed. The war in Kosovo, the Tsunami in Asia and the earthquake in Haiti also mobilised the membership of the World Organization. Driven by the interest in these events and the conviction that, regardless of the conflict or crisis, recovery starts by re-establishing local governments, it was proposed that UCLG establish a proper mechanism to both react to emergencies and to provide structural support gathering efforts of members.
7. The Executive Bureau underlined the need to focus on local government support and to refrain from direct humanitarian support that can be better undertaken through NGOs or international organizations with that specific mandate.

- **The Mayor of Groningen was mandated by the Executive Bureau to act as *rapporteur* on this topic and explore possibilities of establishing feasible mechanisms, such as response protocols or facilities.**

Updates on GOLD III Report

8. The draft regional reports on the governance of public local basic services were finalized in the first half of 2013 and submitted to the GOLD III Steering Committee. A round of consultations further took place by way of 10 Workshops involving local leaders from over 80 countries. The consultations took place in close collaboration with UCLG Sections in Africa, Latin America, Asia-Pacific, Eurasia and Europe.
 9. The Report is due to be presented at the Congress in Rabat and published in 2014, coinciding with the international assessment of the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. GOLD III should serve as bases to define the local and regional government agenda in view of the Post 2015 and Habitat III debates. It aims at illustrating the fundamental role that local governments play in eradicating poverty, addressing inequality and providing wellbeing for populations. It should further help us define the key transformative elements that should integrate the new development agenda.
- ***Members are called to contribute to the dissemination and promotion of GOLD III and encouraged to use it as an advocacy tool during debates on the Post MDGs Habitat III Agendas.***

Updates on the International Policy Processes

10. The international community is focusing on four main international debates that will structure the global development agenda for the coming decades: the UN Development Agenda Post-2015 proceeding of the Millennium Development's Goals review, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) issued from the Rio+20 outcomes and the shaping of the new urban agenda of the United Nations to be agreed at the Habitat III Conference. The climate change negotiations are also running in parallel with a new agreement to be adopted in 2015. Lastly a topic that will need to gain momentum and will be of key importance for local authorities is the Follow up of the Monterrey Consensus on Financing for Development.
11. As those new agendas are very closely related to the work and daily responsibilities of local and regional authorities, UCLG is closely following the discussions and trying to influence the policy debates by facilitating the amalgamation of all the different voices of local and regional governments in the *Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments for Post 2015 and towards Habitat III*.
12. Four major achievements were acknowledged and will mark the UCLG agenda for the coming mandate: 1. The acknowledgment in the Rio+20 Policy Documents as specific stakeholders. 2. The inclusion of decentralized cooperation in the agenda of the United Nations Development Cooperation Forum and the recognition in the Communiqué of the EU as development actors. 3. The inclusion of local authorities in the Advisory Board of the UN Economic and Social Council. 4. The results obtained by President Topbaş in the High Level Panel Post 2015 and

recognition of the Global Taskforce as interlocutor for local and regional governments.

- **The Executive Bureau called on members to get involved and ensure political representation in facing the increasing demands that the above achievements would entail.**
- **The Bureau further called for the definition of our own agenda that will guide our inputs for the international agenda. UCLG should be proactive and not only reactive.**

Statutory Affairs

13. Councillor Tansel Kaya, represented President Topbaş and reported on the work carried out by the Committee on Statutory Affairs and brought its recommendations before the Executive Bureau.

Updates on Increasing the Role of Regional Authorities in UCLG

14. The Committee received the report of Vice-President Bernard Soulage, *Rapporteur* of the UCLG Working Group on Regional Authorities, concerning the collaboration with ORU-FOGAR and strengthening the role of regional authorities in UCLG.

The Bureau decided to follow the road-map agreed between the Organizational Effectiveness and Ownership by Members

15. The Committee on Statutory Affairs examined proposals for the improvement of the organizational effectiveness of UCLG and the ownership of UCLG activities and decisions by the members and leadership. An initial list of proposals, resulting from consultations with members, was put for consideration. The full paper is enclosed for the information of Bureau members.
16. The Committee concurred with some of the concrete proposal made, such as: (a) assigning concrete tasks and mandates to members of the Presidency, (b) defining strategic committees and working groups whose activities would be in line with the Strategic Priorities of the Organization, while continuing to promote Communities of Practice, and (c) creating an Advisory Group of Development Partners.
17. The Committee was favourable to ensuring an open process and applauded the idea of starting an interactive process that will take into account an evaluation of the current state of affairs of UCLG and the changing environment of international networks comparable to the World Organization.
- **The Executive Bureau agreed to start an inclusive process to examine the organizational effectiveness and ownership of UCLG through an interactive workshop with key members by the end of the year;**
 - **The Executive Bureau agreed to mandate the Secretariat to start exploring possibilities for implementation of the recommendations (a-c) mentioned above for the upcoming mandate.**

The UCLG Peace Prize

18. The proposal from the Committee on Development Cooperation and City Diplomacy to establish a UCLG Peace Prize was studied. The Prize would acknowledge the specific work done by local and regional authorities in preventing conflict and in managing post conflict situation.

19. The UCLG Peace Prize would be awarded in 2014, organized in cooperation with MasterPeace, an innovative, bottom-up initiative, whose goal is to actively involve people in peace-building. They are experienced campaigners and have a strong track record in organizing successful festivals and other activities.

- **The Bureau mandated the World Secretariat and the Committee on Development and City Diplomacy to further define the modalities and sustainability of the Award.**

Resource Mobilization

20.

2013 Electoral Process

21. Due to challenges in several Sections to meet the deadline of 22 June for nomination to the Governing Bodies, a postponement was requested.

- **A new deadline for the submission of nominations by Sections is set on 31 July.**
- **The deadline for Presentation of candidatures for Presidency and Treasurer is maintained. Letters should reach the Secretariat by 20 June. Supporting documentation can be completed at a later date but before 15 August to enable evaluation of candidatures at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Committee on Statutory Affairs.**

22. The Committee emphasized the need to ensure a greater gender balance and more representation of different types of members, in particular regional authorities and direct members.

Gender Balance in UCLG Governing Bodies

23. The lack of gender balance in the governing bodies of UCLG is a great source of concern and members emphasized the need to undertake concrete and more extensive action.

24. The members of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality brought up two proposals to ensure a greater presence of women.

25. Councillor Berry Vrbanovic, on behalf of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) and Vice-chair of the Standing Committee, carried a motion to ensure that the Chair of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality become member of the UCLG Presidency.

- **The Executive Bureau decided that for the period 2013-2016 and regardless of the presence of another female candidate for the Presidency, the Chair of the Standing Committee should be able to exercise full functions in the UCLG Presidency.**

26. Peter Woods on behalf of the UCLG-ASPAC Section carried a motion aiming at accelerating the presence and enhancing the visibility of women in the UCLG decision making bodies. Commissions and Working Groups of the World Organization should include two Co-Chairs – one female and one male representative – and chairing of meetings should be equally divided among female and male representatives. This proposal should be effective as from the new mandate of the World Organization.

- **The Executive Bureau agreed to bring this recommendation to Rabat and encourage its implementation.**

Calendar of UCLG Governing Bodies Meetings

27. The Executive Bureau welcomed the candidature of Liverpool to host the 2014 Executive Bureau and welcomed the opportunity to participate in the

International Festival for Business that the City will be celebrating during that period.

28. The Executive Bureau confirmed the decision to hold the 2014 World Council in Haikou.

- **The initial dates proposed for the 2014 Executive Bureau in Liverpool are 17 to 19 June.**
- **The World Council will take place in November 2014 (dates to be defined).**
- **Porto Alegre was confirmed as host for the Executive Bureau in 2015.**

29. **The membership is called to attend the General Assembly and World Congress in 1-4 October 2013 in Rabat.**