



## Draft Political Declaration World Forum of Regions

*Regional Governments present at the World Forum of Regions organized in Dakar by United Cities and Local Governments and Regions United-Forum of Global Associations of Regions declare:*

### Considering:

- That the major world challenges, most notably climate change, the impact of the economic and financial crisis, the food and energy crisis affecting vulnerable populations the most, the loss of biodiversity at global level, the scarcity of natural resources and of essential supplies for the development and survival of the population (water, quality land,) and the persistence of poverty and inequalities are crucially positioned on the local and regional levels;
- That the scale and urgency of the challenges we face are such that they cannot be solved by individual or sectoral approaches. Cooperation and solidarity on a global scale must therefore, more than ever, guide our ambitions
- That it is imperative to reform global governance so that national and sub-national spheres of governments can find solutions together; and that time has come to improve the use of the principle of subsidiarity and acknowledge the importance of governance, funding, implementation and accountability in appropriate levels of government, including subnational and local levels
- That Regional and Local Governments are committed to working in collaboration and complementarity with national and international levels, at the level closest to citizens, on the definition and implementation of public policies that seek to meet the needs of populations within territories.
- That sub-national governments have a key role to play in sustainable development as recognised in the outcome document of Rio + 20.
- That the development of a territory cannot be addressed in a sectoral manner artificially disconnecting urban environments from rural areas, food security from urbanisation, the organisation of spaces from the activities of citizens.
- That only balanced and coherent development built on synergies between different spheres of governments will allow us to achieve sustainable human development and reach the objectives of prosperity and regional and continental stability.
- That adequate decentralization and strengthened local and regional governance are enabling conditions for local and regional governments to play an effective role in development.
- The shared work and messages of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Regions United (ORU-FOGAR), in particular relating to the Global Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, the 6<sup>th</sup> World Water Forum in Marseille and the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20).

**The Regions and Federate States brought together at the World Forum of Regions in Dakar, call for ORU-FOGAR and UCLG to:**

1. Conclude successfully the process of creation of a Section of Regional Governments in UCLG, the "Forum of Regions", led by ORU-FOGAR. This Forum of Regions will seek to bring together the first sub-national level of government and aim at defining joint positions while bringing the voice of the Regional Governments to the international scene.
2. Contribute actively to the implementation of multi-level world governance in closer cooperation with the United Nations.
3. Unite their forces and pursue their shared efforts within the "Forum of Regions" to increase their influence on the international scene, in particular in the identification of strategies to reach the Millennium Development Goals by 2015; the definition of approaches to influence the Future Objectives for Sustainable Development; the evolution of development policies on development cooperation effectiveness; and the preparations for the Habitat III Conference in 2016.

**More generally and following the recommendations of the Rio +20 Conference the regions and federate states, united under the Forum of Regions, call for national governments and the international community to:**

1. Improve the technical capacities of regional governments through collaborations with the United Nations and fostering the integration of the Territorial Approach to Development and multi-level governance into multilateral frameworks and organizations, in particular UN HABITAT, UNDP, UNEP and FAO.
2. Maintain existing commitments on official development aid and seeking additional resources at the level most in line with stakes, in particular through the principle of a tax on financial transactions.
3. Increase the resources available to sub-national governments in order to implement the recommendations of the Habitat Agenda.
4. Ensure the provision of services by improving infrastructure, connectivity among territories and the availability of financial mechanisms accessible to regional authorities on development aid, in particular related to the protection of natural resources, conservation of biological biodiversity, sanitation and health...
5. Make additional efforts concerning the right of access to water for all through the promotion of management and governances mechanisms that are efficient and meet the demands of populations.
6. Contribute to food security, looking beyond production issues and sectoral policies traditionally promoted by FAO, and evolving towards more integrated approaches that include the necessary resources to transform, conserve and promote short commercialization circuits that increase food self-sufficiency in territories. Further attention should also be given to subsistence farming, including in urban areas, and to the professional training of women in rural areas.
7. Recognize local and regional governments as full-fledged partners in the international governance and development architecture, and in the decision-making structures of relevance for the definition and implementation of the development agendas.