



United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos

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United Cities and Local Governments Press Release
Cities and regions unite for sustainable and shared development

Around 500 representatives of local and regional authorities, as well as their partners - international institutions and national ministries - gathered together in Guangzhou from 10 to 13 November 2009 at the invitation of the Mayor of the City and UCLG Co-President, ZHANG Guangning, for the World Council and Executive Bureau meetings of the world organization of cities and regions.

The 30 meetings, which included sessions held by most of UCLG's 18 Committees and Working Groups, were presided over by Bertrand DELANOE, Mayor of Paris, France, UCLG President, and UCLG Co-Presidents Amos MASONDO, Mayor of Johannesburg, South Africa and Kadir TOPBAS, Mayor of Istanbul, Turkey.

Analysing the impact of the economic crisis on local and regional governments.

The Vice President of the People's Republic of China, XI Jinping, opened the World Council. He praised UCLG for its role in bringing cities together and in combating the economic crisis. He laid out his conviction that cities must contribute increasingly to opening up and that they are accelerators of innovation and development.

Bertrand DELANOE declared that international institutions must understand just how much local and regional officials, local actors, are effective partners.

Recalling that innovation is the motor of growth, ZHANG Guangning highlighted the fact that his city placed the environment at the top of its priorities. *'We seek to build sustainable cities'*.

Several mayors of cities from across the globe, including Johannesburg, Frankfurt, Rosario, and the President of Metro Vancouver, shared the solutions they implemented in their cities when confronted by the global economic crisis and its repercussions on local finances.

A survey conducted by UCLG, between July and September 2009, on the impact of the crisis on local and regional governments, shows their positive and effective engagement to counter the effects of the downturn.

Following up on the international negotiations on climate change during and after Copenhagen.

Concerned as to the outcome of the COP 15, local and regional authorities reaffirmed their wish for the settlement of a truly global, ambitious, and legally binding agreement, including clearly defined objectives, this December, at the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change. *'We hope for precise objectives and scheduled commitments, legally binding restrictions and a more equal worldview'*, stated Bertrand DELANOE. The participants expressed their disappointment at the disappearance of all references to the local level of governance in the current negotiating texts. As a response, they decided to create a negotiating delegation of cities across the different continents, including Nantes, France, Manaus, Brazil, and Durban, South Africa, and to launch an international campaign for the mobilization of municipalities during the first week of December.

Development Aid Effectiveness and Support for the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. William COBBETT, Director of Cities Alliance - the joint urban development programme of the United Nations and the World Bank - presented the latest trends in international development cooperation. The participants underlined the need to reform a system that has been showing its limitations for decades now. They insisted in particular on the need for involvement of local authorities in the definition, implementation and the evaluation of international policies if development aid is to respond effectively to the needs of populations and to enable the attainment of the goals set by the international community. The participants also affirmed their readiness to participate in the evaluation and the redefinition, ten years after their establishment, of the Millennium Development Goals, which will be undertaken by the United Nations General Assembly in autumn 2010.

The members of the UCLG World Council elected the Mayor of Quito, Augusto BARRERA, UCLG Co-President and responded in favor of accepting the offer of the Mayor of Chicago, Richard M. DAILEY, to welcome the UCLG Executive Bureau to the city in April 2010. This will be the location of the next statutory meeting of the world organization.

United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Founded in May 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the united voice and world advocate of democratic local self-government. Based in Barcelona, UCLG is the largest local government organization in the world. Representing over half the world's population, the cities and association members of UCLG are present in 136 UN Member States across seven world regions – Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Middle East and West Asia, Latin America and North America. Over 1000 cities are direct members of United Cities and Local Governments, as well as 112 national associations which represent all the cities and local governments in a single country.

Contact: Thibaut NANCY; +34 933 428 750; t.nancy@cities-localgovernments.org