THE POST 2015 HIGH LEVEL PANEL
Feedback from a local and regional perspective

The High-Level Panel

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon set up a High-Level Panel to advise on the global development agenda beyond 2015, the target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of UCLG was appointed together with 27 personalities from different parts of the world and society to serve in this Panel. Heads of State, Ministers, Nobel Laureates, Researchers, opinion makers and private sector representatives worked together on recommendations which could serve as reference to define the agenda that will lead the future of humanity. The appointment of President Topbaş to this group has been experienced as a significant recognition of the role of local authorities in development. It has further enable the broader movement of local and regional authorities to influence discussions and deliver the perspective of this specific constituency.

Local and regional authorities' voices

Mayor Topbaş materialized his commitment to voice the interest of the full local and regional governments constituency setting up an inclusive Global Taskforce[1] that will provide views on the priorities of the Post 2015 agenda, namely:

1. The future global agenda should be applicable to both developing and developed countries.
2. It should promote a high degree of policy coherence at the global, national and sub-national levels; define shared responsibilities and a more balanced approach among all levels of government, local stakeholders and development partners.
3. It should address WHAT should be done but also by WHO and HOW.
4. The global partnership should be fundamentally revised. The new framework should be supported by a stronger and more democratic international governance structure, including all stakeholders
5. The financial architecture should be reformed and ensure that direct support is provided to governments as all levels according to their responsibility.
6. Special attention is needed for the transformative phenomenon of urbanization, including a full territorial approach bridging the rural-urban divide. A lack of proper measures to manage and anticipate rapid urbanization would be a mistake of historical proportions.

Building proximity governance should allow to:

- Reduce inequalities –ensuring universal access to basic services (safe sufficient water, sanitation, health care, quality education, transport)
- Improving the quality of life of slum dwellers and achieve the right to adequate housing
- Improving jobs and livelihoods with special attention to pro poor policies specially adapted to informal sectors
- Ensure sustainability building on a broad concept of resilience that will build on culture as fourth pillar of sustainability and will go beyond risk prevention. It will include measures that

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[1] Local and Regional Governments organizations have created a Global Taskforce in order to build a joint strategy to contribute to the international policy making debates within the framework of the Post 2015, Rio+20 and towards Habitat III. The Taskforce aims at representing the worldwide municipal and regional movement, which is celebrating its hundred years in 2013 and has representation in all the countries of the world. Launched in December 2012 at the accession of the Africities Summit in Dakar, the first meeting of the Taskforce took place in Istanbul 19-20 March and the Second one in UN headquarters in New-York on 28 May. The taskforce received the support of the UN secretary General who said "It is often said that, like all politics, all development is ultimately local. […] That is why I welcome the creation of the Global task force of local and regional governments".

will mitigate climate change impacts at the same time that it promotes innovation in a green economy.

The Report

The Report delivered by the HLP to the UN Secretary General on 29-30 May 2013 has been generally welcomed by different sectors of the international community.

It demonstrates the shared believe by different sectors of our global community that extreme poverty can and should be eradicated. It also demonstrates that, despite all the differences and diverse interests, it is possible to reach agreements on the basic principles that can lead us to the kind of world we want for future generations and us.

Its pragmatic approach on tackling poverty, hunger, water, sanitation, education and healthcare, building on the MDGs is also commendable.

The Report emphasizes the universality of the Post-2015 Agenda and signals **five main transformative shifts that need to be applied to the future global policy.**

1. **Leave no one behind**
2. **Put sustainable development at the core.** (Integrate the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainability, and bring about more social inclusion)
3. **Transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth.**
4. **Build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all.** (people the world over expect their governments to be honest, accountable, and responsive to their needs.)
5. **Forge a new global partnership** (a new spirit of solidarity, cooperation, and mutual accountability must underpin the post-2015 agenda.)

12 Goals and their targets have been identified:

1. End extreme poverty.
2. Empower girls and women and achieve gender equality.
3. Provide quality education and lifelong learning.
4. Ensure healthy lives.
5. Ensure food security and good nutrition for all.
6. Achieve universal access to water and sanitation.
7. Secure sustainable energy.
8. Create jobs, sustainable livelihoods, and equitable growth.
9. Manage natural resource assets sustainably.
10. Ensure good governance and effective institutions.
11. Ensure stable and peaceful societies.
12. Create a global enabling environment and catalyse long-term finance

Messages concerning Sub-national Governments

The Report acknowledges cities as *the **world's engines for business and innovation**.* It further acknowledges that with good management they can provide jobs, hope and growth, while building sustainability.

It further recognizes that "Local authorities form a *vital **bridge between national governments, communities and citizens*** and will have a **critical role in a new global partnership**"

It emphasizes the role of local authorities in delivering public services in health, education, policing, water and sanitation. It also stresses their role in providing better life conditions to slum dwellers.

It further underlines de key role the need to play in **acting on resilience and disaster risk reduction**.

Furthermore many of the Goals identified above will necessitate of the active leadership of efficient and resourced local governments as they relay directly on services and policies delivered by local and regional governments.

A compilation of the relevant extracts for Local and regional authorities are attached.

A UCLG perspective on the gaps in the Agenda

Despite the growing awareness on the role of urban centers as the home for the majority of the world population in the coming years, there is insufficient acknowledgement of the transformative impact of the urbanization phenomenon and the risks of badly managed urbanization are underestimated. There is also insufficient use of the potential of the local level, the leaders and citizens and stakeholders in bringing solutions to the global challenges.

The inequality agenda could deserve more attention, in particular through more specific targeting of access to broader service delivery and inclusive mechanisms at the local level.

The explicit recognition of the specific character of sub-national authorities as accountable spheres of governments in international policy making will be key to the definition of a realistic agenda that will need to open up new political spaces of local and regional leaders at the decision making table.

The potential of promoting democratic governance from the bottom up, building on proximity and the tandem of accountable leaders with involved citizenship is also not sufficiently underlined. The role in peaceful and sustainable societies, of strong communities, with a say in government decisions, will need to be further expanded.

In view of the proportions that the urbanization rate is taking in some continents, thought should be given to identifying sustainable urbanization as a specific goal. This concept should not only tackle urban centers but should actually build on the concepts of subsidiary, proximity, territorial cohesion and self-government that the exiting Habitat Agenda and international guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services already agreed by the international community and member states.

The importance of resourced regional governments and the impact of the proliferation of metropolization will be instrumental issues to address in the definition of the *Sustainable Development Goals*.

Local economic and social development should find its way on the agenda if the growing needs of our interconnected youths are to be addressed. The potential of culture not only as driver of development but also as safeguard of the dignity and quality of life should be clearly identified in future goals.

Finally, innovative financing mechanisms directed to local and regional governments will need to be clearly identified as targets if the needed investment on basic infrastructure is to be met.

Future Steps

The HLP Report is not an end in itself. It is an important step towards the governmental negations that will be taking place till 2016.

UCLG and local government networks and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments will continue following the process and providing inputs to the agenda as well as instruments for its implementation.

Please visit the UCLG website (www.uclg.org) to refer to the milestones that deserve special attention.