



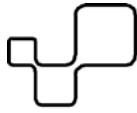
**United Cities and Local Governments
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UNITED CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

FINAL DECLARATION OF THE CONGRESS OF JEJU, THE "ISLAND OF WORLD PEACE" "Changing Cities are Driving our World" Jeju, 31 October 2007

We, the mayors and representatives of cities and local and regional governments of the world on behalf of our rural and urban communities living in small, medium and large cities, metropolises and regions, having come together from October 28-31 2007 in Jeju, the "Island of World Peace", in the Republic of Korea, on the occasion of the 2nd World Congress of United Cities and Local Governments:

- **Recognizing** that for the first time in the history of humankind, the majority of the world's population now resides in cities and that furthermore, this recent phenomenon will have considerable repercussions for the future of our planet and humankind;
- **Recognizing** that an urbanised world opens up new perspectives given that cities have historically been drivers of both creativity and innovation and at the same time acknowledge that this places increased burdens upon local governments in addressing pressing contemporary issues;
- **Expressing** satisfaction that local democracy is progressively extending into every region of the globe, and that local governments in many countries now enjoy elections by universal suffrage; and to expand a new form of citizen participation in decision making.
- **Remaining steadfast** in maintaining our contribution towards the adoption of commitments by the international community during the United Nations summits but simultaneously concerned by a recent UN declaration indicating that several countries will not attain their Millennium Development Goals as forecast;
- **Committed** to promoting sustainable development in our cities and territories that is more equitable, inclusive and respectful of fundamental human rights and the equality between men and women of all colours, cultures and religions, and furthermore, of the need to work to strengthen both the processes of democracy and local self-government, vital elements in the construction of a more united and peaceful world;
- **Troubled** by the threats to the survival of our planet and our territories created by poorly managed urbanisation, global warming and natural disasters all of which are worsening access to both drinking water and other natural resources whilst simultaneously increasing the risk of pandemics;
- **Reaffirming** the commitments of local governments made in the *Declaration of Local Authorities on the Participation of Women* (Beijing +10, March 2005), the *Local Government Millennium Declaration* (Beijing, June 2005), the *Declaration of Cities and*



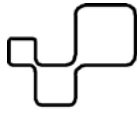
**United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos**

Local Authorities on the Information Society (Bilbao, October 2005), the *Declaration of Mayors and Local Elected Representatives on Water* (Mexico, March 2006), the *Local Governments against HIV/AIDS* (June 2006) commitment, the *Paris Declaration on Global Warming and Local Governments* (UCLG's Executive Bureau, March 2007), and the *Rome Declaration of Mayors and Local Governments Conference on the MDGs* ("Running Out of Time," June 2007);

- **Welcoming** the adoption of the *Guidelines on Decentralisation and Strengthening of Local authorities* (April 2007) by the member states of UN-HABITAT's Board of Directors, a resolution which consolidates years of effort by local governments to achieve recognition from international institutions for the role they play in democratic governance;
- **Welcoming** with satisfaction the advancements in the role accorded to local governments by international institutions such as: the *Final declaration of the Heads of State and Government meeting at the Millennium +5 Summit* (September 2005), the *Ministerial Declaration of the 4th World Water Forum* (March 2006), the *Report of the High-level Group of the Alliance of Civilisations* (November 2006), and the *European Parliament Resolution on Local Authorities in Development Cooperation* (March 2007);
- **Recognizing that**, since its creation in May 2004 in Paris, United Cities and Local Governments has allowed us to dialogue with a united voice to the international community;

By this Declaration, express our commitments to the following:

- I. **Placing the challenge posed by global warming and the need for environmental protection as priority issues for local authority agendas;**
 1. For if we do not act now to mitigate the consequences of global warming, the results could be devastating. Cities are responsible for 75% of energy consumption and 80% of greenhouse emissions. While cities are a part of the problem, they also represent an essential part of the solution.
 2. Reaffirming the call made by the 670 American mayors who signed the Mayors Climate Protection Agreement and the hundreds of cities from other regions which are working to implement the Kyoto Protocol, local governments should mobilise to: promote denser urban planning, use clean and renewable energies, put in place better adapted construction and transport systems, encourage reforestation and promote the more environmentally sound management of natural resources. They should also develop information campaigns for their citizens.
 3. In order to advance the development of **local action plans to combat climate change**, local governments, in developing nations especially, must have access to those international instruments used to combat climate change, such as the Clean

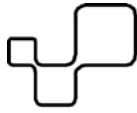


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Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos**

Development Mechanism established within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Global Environment Fund (GEF), and in doing so, receive adequate financial and institutional support.

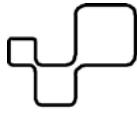
4. We call on both nations and international institutions to fulfil their pledges to ensure the implementation of the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol and to strengthen the global agenda with a view to the renewal of international accords at the upcoming United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Bali, December 3-14, 2007. An agreement must be reached on a new Protocol, involving local governments, to be ratified by states before 2012.
5. The representatives of local authorities around the world and their main networks – the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the World Mayors Council on Climate Change, ICLEI and UCLG – coming together for UCLG’s World Congress in Jeju, are united in making their voice heard at the Bali Conference, where local government sessions will be held in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-HABITAT. We extend a mandate to our delegation to call for:
 - local governments to become active stakeholders in the process of negotiating the new United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which needs to be ratified in 2012 and furthermore, that they be directly involved in the mechanisms of implementation and monitoring of those accords;
 - the international community to respect the commitments already made and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50% of 1990 levels by 2050, in accordance with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change;
 - local governments to have access to international mechanisms that facilitate the use of clean technologies and mitigation plans that can assist in easing their adaptation to the effects of climate change;
 - cooperation and direct exchange of experiences between local governments be encouraged to produce a diversity of local plans to combat climate change, along similar lines to those experienced at the Local Agendas 21.
6. Since climate change has a cross-cutting impact on water, soil, biodiversity and human health, local governments must manage our natural resources and environmental quality in an integrated fashion through systems such as eco-budgeting, linked to economic development and financial planning, and integrating biodiversity issues into local planning.
7. Convinced that climate change has already been responsible for the increased number and intensity of natural catastrophes, local governments agree to work to disseminate the Hyogo Framework for Action as adopted by the United Nations, which aims to limit the loss of human life and material, economic and environmental damage due to catastrophes as well as fostering collaboration with the UN backed World Platform for the Reduction of Risks and Catastrophes

II. Act to promote all human rights and respect diversity in our cities and territories as a foundation for peace and development,



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

8. In a world that is becoming more and more urbanised and complex, local governments are every day on the front line in multicultural cities, working to ensure that citizens' rights are defended, tensions are reduced, conflicts are resolved, and that dialogue is promoted between all cultures and religions. Their actions contribute towards reconciling differences between cultures and religions which, fed by injustice and inequality, can sometimes lead to conflicts on both a local and international scale.
9. Local governments also act on the international stage in the promotion of peace, the prevention of conflicts and in assistance for post-war reconstruction. We reaffirm that city diplomacy and decentralized cooperation are complementary instruments for peace and understanding between peoples. Local governments are multiplying initiatives in favour of coexistence and reconciliation between peoples. All peoples, all religions and all cultures have a place within UCLG. The crucial role played by local governments in peace building deserves the support and recognition of international institutions.
10. Local governments share the goals of the Alliance of Civilisations, an initiative launched by the Secretary General of the United Nations with the support of the Spanish and Turkish governments. Those goals seek to develop policies to promote understanding and mutual respect, and thereby maintain peace in the world. We call upon UCLG to accept the offer made by Mr Jorge Sampaio, former President of Portugal and High Commissioner of the UN Secretary General for the Alliance of Civilizations to become a member of the Group of Friends of the Alliance; local governments should contribute with ideas and initiatives to National Strategies for cross cultural dialogue and to participate in the Forum of the Alliance to be held in January 2008 in Madrid. We also invite the United Nations and its member states to support local governments in the implementation of a global action to promote dialogue between civilisations on 21 May, the World Day for Cultural Diversity.
11. We recall that the use of conventional armaments is at present the cause of unbearable suffering for civil populations. We support, moreover the initiative of the Mayors for Peace campaign, which lobbies the international community to renounce weapons of mass destruction. We call on nation states and armed groups to cease considering cities as military objectives - "cities are not targets".
12. On the eve of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, we invite all local governments to reflect on their duties to uphold peace and justice and to promote human rights for all, building the inclusive cities for an inclusive world.
13. Safeguarding cultural diversity, promoting social cohesion and combating all types of social exclusion are fundamentals for peace and as such should be a priority for local authorities. Local governments should play a major role in combating social exclusion and all forms of discrimination that limit people's rights or their access to the public services and benefits of a social, economic or cultural nature. They should adopt an integrated approach, involving all local institutions, local residents and local knowledge,



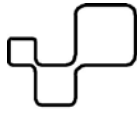
**United Cities and Local Governments
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis
Ciudades y Gobiernos Locales Unidos**

for the active participation of all players, especially those populations which have been excluded from local decision-making processes. Moreover we recognise the important role played by local governments in relation to education in its broadest sense.

14. The issue of universal access to quality public services lies at the heart of local policies to combat exclusion. However, transfers of competence that are not supported by adequate resources together with the scarcity of means available to local communities in many countries of the South affect the ability of local governments to both assume their responsibilities and respond to their citizen's demands. The lack of respect of the principle of self-government of local authorities in the exercise of their competences, upon which free choice and the different ways of managing services are founded, also weakens the role of local governments. In the process of drafting the *United Nations Guidelines on Access to Basic Services*, we will remain vigilant to ensure that these principles are affirmed.
15. Effective local democracy implies the active participation of citizens through methods which enable all sections of the local community, including those traditionally excluded, to be involved on an equal basis. Furthermore, if we want to make progress in the active involvement of citizens, we should implement participatory mechanisms.
16. Equality of women and men in all aspects of local life and decision making is still a major, and often unfulfilled, challenge for local governments. Only 20% of the elected representatives and barely 6% of the mayors of the world are women. There must be greater integration of women in political life, and in positions of responsibility in our cities, as well as in UCLG, if we truly want to make progress in equality of opportunity. We call on UCLG to encourage and promote actions to address this challenge.
17. Local governments recognise that cultural policies form part of the different dimensions of good local governance in the same way as economic and social development or environmental protection. We therefore invite local governments, nations and international institutions to adopt and disseminate the Agenda 21 for Culture, present it as a reference document for their cultural programmes as well as respect international agreements on cultural diversity.
18. Access to all information and communication technologies is a means toward developing individual capacities in a knowledge society. Local governments play a key role in promoting access of all citizens to ICT, and thereby have an impact in reducing poverty and opening-up rural and urban regions.

III. Uphold efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and democracy at the local level, using it as leverage to strengthen the hands of local governments in global governance,

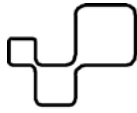
19. In September 2005, at the Millennium +5 Summit and following on from the UCLG's Millennium Cities and Towns Campaign, local governments reaffirmed, in their Declaration to the United Nations, their support for achieving the Millennium



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

Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, improve access for the most vulnerable populations to public education, health care, water and sewerage services, defend the equal rights of men and women, combat pandemics and ensure a sustainable environment. In 2005, the United Nations Secretary-General recognised that most of the Goals can only be achieved at the local level.

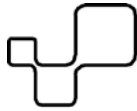
20. Concerned with the cumulative delays in achieving the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, we encourage cities and local governments throughout the world to launch ambitious campaigns to disseminate MDG messages, and to call on governments to keep their promises made in The Millennium Declaration. We commit ourselves to further strengthen the partnership between local governments and the UN Millennium Campaign. New initiatives, such as the “Rome Millennium City Prize”, awarded for the first time in June 2007, encourage locally elected representatives to strengthen their commitments.
21. If the *status quo* remains, in 2020 more than one out of every five human beings will live in a slum, concentrated heavily in the cities of Africa and Asia. In order to confront this challenge, an estimated investment of USD 200 billion in local infrastructure each year over the course of the next 25 years will be required. This must also be viewed in light of the widening gulf between the increasing responsibilities of local governments on the one hand and the few resources available to them on the other, especially in developing regions (less than 5% of public expenditure in Africa, the Middle East, and less than 10-15% in most countries of Latin America or in the countries of Asia).
22. Without radical change in the way local governments are financed, the world will be confronted with major social and ecological crises. Many countries should undertake true reform of their local financing systems in order to provide local governments with sufficient, stable and regular resources to help them achieve the MDGs and assume their responsibilities. The financial sector should also adapt itself to the strategies of local governments, particularly with regard to financial institutions that specialise in lending to local governments. In line with the Declaration of Paris, we call for a more efficient and transparent international aid mechanisms. Procedures must be simplified and local governments should be better involved both in the conception and the implementation of the instruments which are dedicated to them.
23. We propose that at least 20% of all Public Development Aid be dedicated to local governments, either directly or via mechanisms of decentralised cooperation. We propose that a similar proportion of the money available to national governments through debt reduction programmes and processes be transferred to the budgets of local governments in the beneficiary countries to help them combat poverty through local development initiatives.
24. Local governments should maintain and strengthen their decentralised cooperation actions and improve coordination of their initiatives with all partners, while taking existing agreements on aid effectiveness into consideration (Paris Declaration, 2005). Moreover, states should fulfil their promises to increase aid up to 0.7% of the GNI and



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

expect, as part of the agreements on aid effectiveness, to associate local governments in the definition of national cooperation strategies.

25. We remain committed to achieve the MDGs by 2015, we will in particular:
- localise the MDGs through mid and long term local plans and actions involving the poor and civil society organisations, including public accountability processes;
 - share the experience of cities and local governments North and South in implementing the MDGs at local level;
 - take concrete actions to raise public awareness of the MDGs;
 - lobby national governments directly to respect their commitments;
 - urge governments of industrialized countries to increase their official Development Assistance to 0.7% of GNI and to improve the quality of their aid delivery mechanisms.
26. We welcome the progress made in recognising the role of local governments in the European Union's new development aid policy, which confirms its commitment to promoting decentralisation and democratic local governance expressed in the "European Consensus on development". We also welcome the European Parliament's adoption of the Resolution on "Local Authorities and Development Cooperation", which proposes that a significant percentage of European aid be managed by local governments.
27. We highlight the need to foster decentralization processes by strengthening the competences, capacities and financing of local governments. We therefore warmly welcome the adoption by the Member States of UN-HABITAT's of the *Guidelines on Decentralisation and Strengthening of Local Authorities*, the first text of global reference to recognise the role of local communities in developing and achieving democratic governance. We likely welcome the publication of *UCLG's First Global Report on Decentralisation and Local Democracy*, which is a key instrument for analysis and advocacy in front of international organisations and states. We call on UN-HABITAT and the local governments of the world to mobilise in disseminating these texts and obtain the active support of states so that the *Guidelines* are recognised by the UN General Assembly and regional organisations.
28. We commit ourselves to work actively to secure the development of new financing mechanisms to meet the investment needs necessary for the development of our local and regional territories. In this spirit, we support the project to establish the Bank of Cities which has been endorsed by the Executive Bureau and implemented with the support of our Metropolitan section. We express the hope that this project will be finalized and presented to the third congress of UCLG in 2010.
29. We celebrate the strengthened partnership between local governments and all international organisations, in particular the World Bank, Cities Alliance and the agencies and programmes of the United Nations, such as the UNDP, with whom a



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

partnership agreement was signed at Jeju. It is essential that these partnerships be translated into a strengthened participation of local governments in defining the programmes and strategies of the international institutions on questions of local governance, as well as global recognition of the role of local governments within the UN system. We invite local governments to monitor the respect for these principles.

30. Local governments should ultimately be able to enjoy official status within the United Nations which fully recognises them as democratically elected representatives of their citizens. In order to reach this goal, we invite the organisations of cities and regions of the world to come together and support the united effort which has produced ***United Cities and Local Governments*** in order to strengthen the place of local governments in global governance.

Finally, we congratulate the positive détente that is taking place between North and South Korea and commend those who are encouraging this dialogue which, hopefully, will lead to the peaceful reunification of Korea. We support the work of UCLG ASPAC and encourage North Korea's City Federation (DPRK) to join UCLG and further their dialogue alongside our long-standing members from Republic of Korea.

Jeju, Republic of Korea, 31 October 2007