



UCLG CONGRESS  
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL  
AND REGIONAL LEADERS



# MANIFESTO

## The Future of Transparency and Open Government

**#CitiesAreListening**

UCLG Manifestos

## **MANIFESTO ON THE FUTURE OF TRANSPARENCY AND OPEN GOVERNMENT**

### **TRANSPARENCY TO REGAIN TRUST**

There is a clear lack of trust of communities in the institutions that represent them, and governing systems are being challenged. The local and territorial level is critical to rethink, and to reshape the governance systems into more participatory, accountable and transparent ones.

The relationship of trust among national governments and the citizens needs to be reciprocated in order to carry out the ambitious goals of the 2030 Agenda, and this can only be carried out through holding governments accountable, and using the tools at our disposal to demand transparency in all aspects of the decision-making processes, and use existing democratic mechanisms to be able to look at how governments act.

The barrage of new technologies has also given way to the rise of fake news, and targeted political campaigns of misinformation that strive to manipulate and to prove that public opinion can, and often has, been corrupted through technology. The future of transparency needs to have this in mind, and bring about a change in corporate culture opening a window into how the world operates and bring about changes in leadership.

#### **Communities shaping technology**

It cannot be up to the market alone to determine our political preferences, which is why transparency means that it is up to all of us, together, to harness innovation to reverse this trend in the digital age, and to scrutinize decision-makers and companies, and we must be active enough as a civil society and as organized citizens to take advantage of these opportunities and shape technology to ensure transparent decision-making processes.

The future of transparency will not only deal with the relationship between communities and their elected representatives and institutions, but it also needs to ensure that we push companies, and academia,

towards more responsible behavior, and to ensure that the relationship between governments and the private sectors is open and transparent.

### **Building trust through participatory and accountable governance democracy**

The principles of transparency and participation are a cornerstone for building relationships with our citizens, and a guarantee that our communities' needs will be reflected in the public decision-making processes. This is why we believe transparency is integral for the achievement of SDG 16, and thus essential for the achievement of the entire 2030 Agenda.

Citizens are increasingly calling for the transformation of our systems of governance, and to respond to these calls, we need to rebuild trust between institutions and citizens. The achievement of the global development agendas depends on transparent relationships between institutions and their citizens that go beyond tools such as fact-checking our representatives, but that consider transparency as a part of a truly participatory process, integrated in every step of the decision-making process, and that allows for the voices of its citizens to shape the decisions that affect them the most.

### **Our Calls**

The above is why **we call** on the local and regional governments around the world, gathered within our municipal movement, **to foster elements of transparency** to open not just our institutions, but our ways of co-creating policies, to the world.

We also call to **create enabling conditions** for our local and regional governments to implement transparency in their territories.

We call for **mainstreaming sustainable policies** that encourage a culture of disclosure among local and regional governments and their partners.

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