



**UCLG
CGLU**

**PROGRESS REPORT
2020: OUR YEAR OF
SYNCHRONIZATION**

2020 a strong movement fostering synchronization of actions

2020 started strong for UCLG with committed renewed leadership a new Presidency team and a wealth of policy guidance adopted in Durban, with 6 regional position papers, 5 policy papers, and 10 manifestos for the decade of action and under the umbrella of a strong political declaration that builds on the work of our constituency and represents our municipalist patrimony and our commitment to bring about the transformation that our development model needs, responding to the dreams and expectations of our communities.

Little did we know that the world was about to take a very unexpected turn that would change our realities forever. The global pandemic has now doubt marked our work during the first six months of the year and will most probably continue to do so. Our movement has become an even tighter community, the mobilization of the membership for exchange, solidarity and policy visioning has been remarkable. The UCLG network has demonstrated its commitment with the global agendas, it has remained a beacon of solidarity and an instrument for transformational diplomacy with this and future generations.

This report aims at providing an overview of the global activities promoted under the guidance of the UCLG Presidency led by Dr. Mohamed Boudra.

The First Presidency Meeting, Barcelona January 2020

On the heels of a productive meetings with both the UN Secretary General, and Under-Secretary-General in charge of the UN 75 process in New York, President Boudra convened the Presidency to a first meeting in Barcelona.



During two days at the UCLG World Secretariat in the heart of Barcelona, the UCLG leadership converged to discuss their visions, dreams, and plans of action for the World Organization during their mandate 2019-2022. This meeting was particularly relevant as it coincides with the beginning

of the implementation decade, and seeks to consolidate our collective action and share objectives to bring the municipal movement to the next frontier.

In this presidency meeting, three fundamental objectives were agreed upon for the year: an external evaluation of UCLG; the renewal of the organization's consultation mechanisms; and working to strengthen the dialogue with the United Nations System with the aim of achieving a special status for local governments

UCLG Retreat in Tangier



The UCLG Retreat has become, after 6 editions, a very representative gathering bringing together the key nodes of the movement. This Retreat, the first one after our World Congress in Durban that solidified our strategy towards 2020, had the spirit of synchronizing our actions across the network. The concepts of transformational diplomacy, localization decade, and the shift from an international to an interurban system were mainstreamed throughout the week, in order to ensure that the

transformation that we want for our societies begins at home.

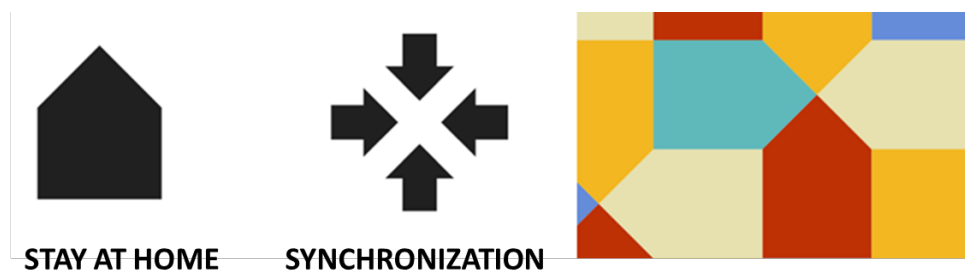
The Retreat was also the place for disseminating the UN75 survey. As we stand at the beginning of the Localization decade, our membership joined the conversation on the future of the world and multilateralism. The Tangier Declaration, launched at the tail end of the Retreat, put the dreams of our political leadership on paper, imagining a future that would allow us to transform peaceful societies, and ready to ensure this future through our commitments towards an inclusive multilateral system.

The annual meeting of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments gathered representatives from the members of its 24 organizations, and agreed on joint action and mobilization for the year, with a particular focus on gender equality, climate and biodiversity, and our role in the upcoming HLPF 2020, that will for the first time not be linked to specific SDGs.

More information:

- [News Tangier 2020 - UCLG Retreat](#)
- [Report of the UCLG Retreat 2020](#)

The outbreak: Empowering the Community



Following the guidance of the international and national authorities and the guidelines of the sanitary authorities the UCLG network started preventive measures in March followed by the stay at home locks downs. UCLG as a whole quickly adapted to the new circumstances we continued working in the spirit of Tangier, ensuring we synchronize work among the different parts of the network and listening carefully to the emerging needs of the members while continuing to implement the work programme.

The response to the demand on the COVID-19 crisis has been our priority during the first part of the year, and we have focused on creating new spaces for exchange, training materials, policy documents and new knowledge platforms. UCLG as a whole has tried to build on its DNA as a key medium for city-to-city, and association-to-association exchange and a mechanism to produce collective knowledge and promote transformative policies while amplifying the voices of the memberships at the global level.

Live Learning Experiences



In partnership with UN-Habitat, Metropolis and key civil society organizations we organised *Live Learning Experiences* with local and regional governments which, through solidarity and political will, are pushing more than ever to fulfill their critical role. They are working to carry out an affordable and fair service delivery, fostering the preservation of the commons, and promoting human rights. These experiences have harnessed the solidarity of local and regional governments on the frontline, showcasing the value of local public servants.

The success of this initiative has been such that 17 thematic sessions have taken place. From housing, to mobility, from women's leadership to informalities... over the last 4 months, the live learning experiences have brought together local and regional governments and partners, and have allowed for sharing over 260 experiences from local and regional leaders working to provide basic services throughout the pandemic.

Each of the Live Learning Experience was communicated through a **press release**, as well as a **briefing and learning note** that encompassed the lessons learnt for each of the exercises. These experiences have fed our work and been the basis for our Decalogue for the post-COVID 19 era. The 10 recommendations of the Decalogue have also, in turn, been the guide for our advocacy towards the UN in the High-Level Political Forum. The **Cities for Global Health** platform, facilitated by Metropolis, is an integral part of this experience, providing a living repository of LRGs' responses to the crisis, where all cities are welcome to engage in the exchange of local initiatives.



[Watch Video Here](#)

Virtual exchanges and learning – Bringing our knowledge to the use of our members

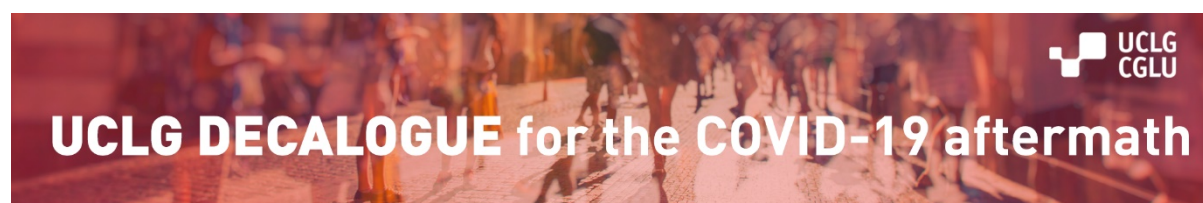
While not the same as in-situ peer-learnings (which provide a valuable space for both formal and informal exchanges), field visits, and experiential learning, these virtual exchanges provide an accessible and flexible platform that can strengthen the interaction, cooperation, and exchanges within our global network. A guide has been developed for members to understand how to organize a virtual exchange by themselves, and is continuing the ongoing efforts to adapt existing learning material to online platforms.

UCLG has also developed a **full-fledged online course**, together with a consulting firm, to analyse the discussions and inputs from the Live Learning Experience, structured into 5 chapters, with 5 masterclasses, based around the importance of local public service delivery. The online course will take the form of a Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).

Political leadership during the outbreak

The Presidency meeting that took place on April 20 highlighted not just how the current crisis is modifying the ways in which we gather and exchange, but also the immense commitment of our Presidency to set a frame for discussion on the post pandemic.

The gathering addressed how cities, territories and their associations are dealing with the pandemic around the world, with members of the presidency sharing examples and visions. Despite the diverse realities the UCLG leadership expressed determined commitment to maintaining basic service provision, and ensuring equal access to them to their communities, paying special attention to the most vulnerable. The Presidency further agreed that the world will never be the same and that our constituency needs to be very involved in shaping the future.



- Visit the dedicated website [here](#)



- Watch the official video of the UCLG DECALOGUE [HERE !](#)

All Sections on Deck

3 Secretaries General meetings have taken place this year in order to align priorities and finetune strategies. The secretaries general agreed to join the conversation with the UN and to hold regional consultations. They exchanged experiences in the context of the COVID and discussed the global agenda approach as well as the agenda of the first ever virtual Executive Bureau.

The last meeting of the Secretaries General so far also took place during the month of June, in order to prepare for the High-Level Political Forum.



In June, we also held a meeting of the **Consultation Mechanisms**, to set the scene for their renewal in the framework of our UCLG World Council.

Our statutory gatherings:

The First ever UCLG Virtual Bureau hosted by the City of Rome

The first day of our first ever **Virtual Executive Bureau**, hosted by Rome, set the scene for the days to come through the celebration of our Institutional Committees: The Financial Management Committee evaluated the financial health of the organization and addressed the budget and the financial state of our organization for the coming months. The Committee on Statutory Affairs addressed the renewal of the Policy Councils of the Organization and the mechanisms to ensure that UCLG remains meaningful and relevant in the covid era.



In the framework of our Executive Bureau we held, together with UNEP, UN-Habitat, UNDP and the members of the Global Taskforce such as ICLEI, CLGF, and the Global Covenant of Mayors, a Ministerial Dialogue. The 5-hour event gathered over 200 participants and more than 50 panelists, with the participation of the heads of 3 United Nations agencies (UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNDP), Ministers from Italy, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Ethiopia, South Africa, Chile, and over 25 Mayors and Governors from all world regions.

The meeting provided an unprecedented opportunity to open channels of communication and trust among spheres of government, boosting coordination efforts for a more effective implementation of the climate agreements, keeping in mind the need to raise the global ambition and accelerate action.

The **final day** of our Executive Bureau was dedicated to showcasing the vision of local and regional governments towards multilateralism through the celebration of the Global Consultation Towards UN75, in which local and regional leaders from all over the world provided their visions, their hopes and their expectation for how the world will look like in 2045, and how multilateralism will have changed in order to meet this vision.

Over **50 participants** from all regions of the world responded to the consultation which was structured around three guiding questions that directly addressed the immediate recovery from the pandemic, and aimed at providing mayors with instruments to imagine the trends in the next 25 years, and how the international system will have changed to, by 2045, include all stakeholders and ensure a true multilateral system. The event was followed, as well, by almost 300 participants and streamed through the YouTube platform.

The Business Session of the Executive Bureau took place immediately after the consultation, opened by President Mohamed Boudra who praised the diversity, the creativity and the vision of the network and highlighted the incredible ability of the World Organization to adapt to the new reality while maintaining the priorities shared in Tangier.

More information:

- **Related news:** [Virtual Executive Bureau - 2020 Rome](#)
 - **Watch the Video of the Official Opening and UN75 Consultation [HERE!](#)**
-
- **What came out of the UCLG Executive Bureau?**



The UCLG Executive Bureau left us with a renewed collaboration between the World Health Organization and UCLG. [Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus](#), Director-General of the World Health Organization took part in our UN75 consultation, in which a structural dialogue among local and regional leaders and a strengthened WHO was a key outcome.

Members of the Executive Bureau adopted the Decalogue and commended the Presidency for this initiative. They agreed to disseminate the content of the Decalogue within their membership and on their social networks. They mandated the World Secretariat to use the document in the Organization's advocacy work.

The UCLG Executive Bureau also saw the launch of Local4Action Hubs, an initiative that will anchor our strategy on the localization of the SDGs with members' practices and initiatives.

The UCLG Executive Bureau saw the membership of UCLG commend the focus of the next GOLD Report on the pathways to equality, which has gained even more traction during the current context, and took note of the Rome Charter-Agenda on Cultural Rights.

• The 2020 Rome Charter-Agenda of Cultural Rights

The UCLG Culture Committee and the City Council of Rome worked together to elaborate a document that updates the global conversation on culture and development: the Rome Charter-Agenda of Cultural Rights.

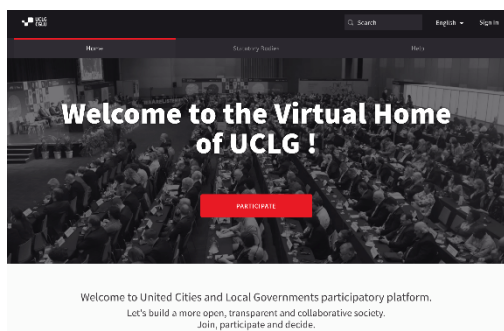
The final document will be presented in September – October 2020, at an international conference to be organized in Rome.



More information:

- Read the 2020 Rome Charter- Agenda of Cultural Rights [HERE!](#)
- Related news: [The 2020 Rome Charter- Agenda of Cultural Rights](#)
- Listen again Luca Bergamo, Vice-Mayor of Rome, in charge of Cultural Development [HERE](#).

• UCLG Meets



Spurred by the pandemic, UCLG has been developing the "UCLGMeets" platform, which was first used during the Executive Bureau as a tool for adding inputs to the **Decalogue for the post-Covid era** and our **UN75 Visioning Report**. The "open code" approach has allowed for innovation, and it is within this same vein that we are seeking your ideas on how best to innovate for the various needs of each team, committee, working group, community of practice, etc. We have an

opportunity as the World's largest association of LRGs to increase our ability to serve our members, and in turn communities across the globe.

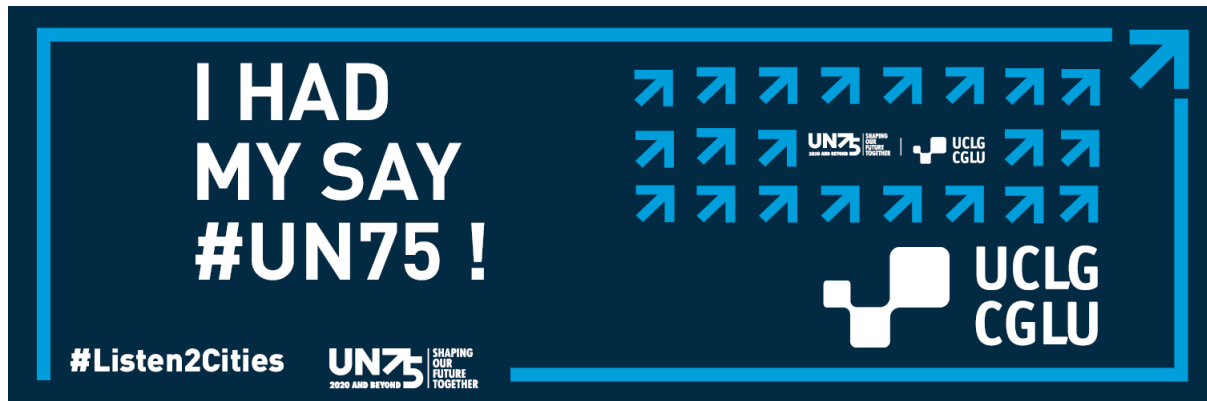
The #UCLGMeets website is further being developed and should become a space for exchange for the members of the governing bodies.

More information:

- Follow latest [#UCLGMeets](#) updates on our Twitter.
- Visit the UCLGMeets Platform [HERE!](#)

- **UN75**

In a context of unprecedented, interconnected, and universal challenges, local and territorial issues are no longer solved only at these levels, and the global transformation required to respond to the needs of communities is not possible without local and territorial ownership.



As part of its mandate to enhance the role of local governments in international policy making, and given that the local and regional government's constituency will be at the heart of managing these challenges, UCLG has confirmed its commitment to promoting the UN75 initiative, by disseminating the online survey (<http://un75.online>) and increasing the number of people consulted and the diversity of those engaged.

Upon request of the United Nations, UCLG has committed to facilitate a Report on the vision of local and regional leaders of the challenges ahead, the future we imagine, and an inclusive and networked multilateral system that is fit for purpose to meet these aspirations.

An online platform is being developed to provide more access to the Local and regional governments report

To truly bring the voices from our constituency to the Report we have gone beyond our global consultation at the Executive Bureau. Our Regional Sections have been holding regional consultations throughout the past months, and we have also celebrated a consultation with the sister networks of the Global Taskforce in June.

More information:

- **Visit the dedicated website of the campaign** [HERE](#).
- **Watch again** LRGs join the #UN75 conversation video [HERE!](#)
- **Join us in social media with** [#Listen2Cities & #UN75](#)

Our Constituency at the High-Level Political Forum.

Throughout the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), our delegation of over 100 mayors and regional leaders called for the importance of localizing the 2030 Agenda in the recovery of the pandemic. Only through the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the core of our efforts will we be able to curb the increased inequalities that the pandemic has highlighted, and thus be on track to build more equal, resilient, and sustainable societies.

President **Mohamed Boudra**, on behalf of the Local Authorities Major Group, took part in the Opening of the High-Level Political Forum, calling to promote the reforms necessary to strengthen municipal and regional governments' own resources, to allow the alignment of all plans with the Sustainable Development Goals.

Our constituency was also strongly represented in the session on "bolstering local action", and we held the **Launch of the Voluntary Local Review Series**, presenting our first volume of the guidelines for the VLRs, in partnership with UN-Habitat. The Guidelines are aimed at showcasing the value of subnational reporting as much more than a part of the reporting process.

As is now a tradition at the HLPF, we have facilitated the third **Local and Regional Governments Forum**, in partnership with UN-DESA, UNDP, UN-Habitat, and the Executive office of the UN Secretary General. During the day, participants addressed the importance of basic service delivery, the need for a renewed multilevel territorial governance in the midst of the pandemic, and how to carry out a full collaboration among spheres of government to build back better after the outbreak taking into account that the transformative roadmap for local and regional governments remains the 2030 Agenda.

We also held the **Local and Regional Governments Day**, in which we presented the results of our fourth "Towards the localization of the SDGs" report, which addresses the role of local and regional governments in the pandemic as well as our involvement in the monitoring and reporting process of the SDGs, and adopted the joint statement of our constituency to the 2020 HLPF.

Our **Joint Statement to the 2020 High-Level Political Forum** on Sustainable Development highlighted the importance of combining efforts from all spheres of governments to transform our societies according to the SDGs, and reiterated the commitment of local and regional governments to the universal development agendas, even in a moment of urgency like the one we are living.

"We are ready to undertake our share of responsibility and accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. We are ready to unite efforts with Member States and the international community to build back with ambition, in line with our common vision for 2030 and beyond."

14 speakers, a number that encompassed mayors from all over the world, the President of the 73rd Session of the UN General Assembly María Fernanda Espinosa, as well as representatives from the Universal Health Care 2030 Movement, gathered in the meeting to debate the lessons learnt from communities during the pandemic, and to identify what

our societies will need to do better, and transform, to ensure equal access to healthcare at the **dialogue between UHC2030 and UCLG**.

Throughout the 2020 HLPF, we demonstrated our strong commitment to the universal agendas and upheld the renewal of the multilateral system. While the Ministerial Declaration is yet to release, and we will have to evaluate its result when it does, one thing remains clear: Local and regional governments are ready to recover from the pandemic in a more sustainable manner, with the Sustainable Development Goals as a framework.



[Read the Joint Statement to the #HLPF2020](#)

More information:

○ **NEWS**



- **8 JULY** / [UCLG and UN Habitat: VLR Series Launch](#)

- **10 JULY** / [LRGs Day - Accelerating Transformation from the Ground-up in a Post-COVID Era](#)

- **13 JULY** / [LRGs Forum: Third Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda: The Decade of Action – Bolstering Change from the Ground-up](#)

LRG Forum Bulletin - [Third Local and](#)

[Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda: The Decade of Action – Bolstering Change from the Ground-up](#)

○ **VIDEOS**



- **8 JULY** / [UCLG and UN Habitat: VLR Series Launch](#)

- **10 JULY** / [Local and Regional Governments' Day](#)

- **13 JULY** / [Local and Regional Governments Forum HLPF 2020](#)

- **14 JULY** / [Dialogue between UCLG and UHC2030](#)

- **15 JULY** / [Cities as bridges between citizens and SDGs in a post COVID19 world](#)

Emergency Governance Initiative for Cities and Regions – Monitoring the impact of COVID 19 and its aftermath

UCLG, Metropolis and the London School of Economics Cities are joining forces to analyze the impact of the current global health crisis and the recovery process on the governance of our cities and territories. Local and regional governments are conscious that our world will never be the same and we will need to build responses to create safer and sustainable communities.

Emergency Governance for Cities and Regions



update of our governance structures.

Started in May and with regular publications the Emergency Transitions Monitor, will collect and analyze data on how cities and regions are transitioning in and out of emergency modes, monitoring to what extent crisis response experiments may become fixtures of post-crisis recovery governance. A final report to be published in 2021 will summarize the most relevant insights, knowledge and evidence on emergency governance at subnational levels.

The first policy brief, as well as the first two analytics notes are available to download [here](#).

More information:

- **Read the Analytic Note 01 - [Covid-19 Monitors Of Relevance To Urban And Regional Governance](#) and the Analytic Note 02 - [The Covid-19 response: Governance Challenges and Innovations by Cities and Regions](#).**
- **Related news: [Launch of the "Emergency Governance Initiative for Cities and Regions" – Monitoring the impact of COVID 19 and its aftermath](#)**
- **Read the [First Policy Brief](#)**



Local and regional governments' contributions to the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief

UCLG as the facilitator of the Global Taskforce, and the local and regional governments' networks, have contributed to the UN Secretary-General Policy Brief on "Covid-19 in an urban world".

The Policy Brief describes how cities can manage the pandemic and emerge as the hubs of energy, resilience, and innovation that make them such vibrant and appealing places for many to live. The Brief lays out the impact of the pandemic in urban eras, and lays out the plans for the response around three axes:

- 1) Tackling inequalities and long-term development deficits
- 2) Strengthening the capacities of local governments to avoid disruptions to essential public services
- 3) Pursuing a resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green economic recovery

In a media event facilitated by the UCLG President, which counted on the participation of the Presidents of ICLEI and CLGF as well as our constituency, participants commended the focus of the brief on tackling inequalities, the calls for strengthening local capacities and pursuing a resilient recovery.


The Networks gathered in the media event expressed their commitment to work with the United Nations, and called for acknowledging the importance of basic service delivery of decentralization and a stronger relationship between spheres of government to ensure all actors are considered in the decision-making, and for a green recovery that is mindful of the resources of our planet to foster new models of growth that leave no one and no place behind.


THE WAY FORWARD

From the Live Learning Experiences to the #CitiesAreListening Experience

The #CitiesAreListening Experience will mark the way towards the implementation of the UCLG **Decalogue for the COVID-19 aftermath**, inspired from the lessons learnt from our membership during the outbreak and on how local and regional leaders envision the future. It will join the virtual and living community and policy recommendations that the network has been promoting through its **Live Learning Experience** with a strong focus on public service delivery and protecting the commons aiming at leaving no one, and no place behind, and with a key focus on local governments as the second line of care for the most vulnerable populations, making great efforts to take care of those that provide services for us.

Over **260 mayors, local and regional leaders and partners showcasing more than 200 total cases** in an exercise that has gathered over 2,800 participants, have provided their experiences during the outbreak and beyond in the Live Learning Experience. Their inputs have provided us with the **political drive to develop a forward-thinking document that will guide our movement beyond the outbreak and into the next decade.**





The #CitiesAreListening Experience will be the **space for dialogue and interaction between different internationally organized civil society constituencies and the political leadership of the local and regional governments constituency** to jointly define our international advocacy, and shape our thinking for the future of humanity. Special attention will be paid to consolidate, now virtually, the **UCLG Town Hall**, an ongoing structural dialogue between local and regional leaders and other constituencies and stakeholders, international partners and in particular civil society. The UCLG Policy Councils issues will be kept as the key pillars.

Life goes on [#BeyondtheOutbreak](#)



Please note that this calendar presents selected events where there are specific roles for the World Organization. It is not a comprehensive events calendar of UCLG, its sections and members. A full calendar is available on the [UCLG Website](#)



SEPTEMBER 2020

Monday 31	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4
		Meeting of the Permanent Working Group on Territorial Prevention and Management of Crises	FPA's	
Monday 7	Tuesday 8	Wednesday 9	Thursday 10	Friday 11
		Cities Are Listening Launch with TownHall partns.		
Monday 14	Tuesday 15	Wednesday 16	Thursday 17	Friday 18
	Opening of the UN General Assembly		Presidency Meeting	TBC Presentation of the UN75 LRG Visioning Report
Monday 21	Tuesday 22	Wednesday 23	Thursday 24	Friday 25
International Summit for the Action of Local Authorities CUF	International Summit for the Action of Local Authorities CUF	Cities Are Listening Public Space Mental Health		
UN75	UN Biodiversity Summit	UN Biodiversity Summit		
Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 1	Friday 2
		U20 Mayor's Summit	U20 Mayor's Summit	



OCTOBER 2020

Monday 28	Tuesday 29	Wednesday 30	Thursday 1	Friday 2
		U20 Mayor's Summit	U20 Mayor's Summit	
Monday 5	Tuesday 6	Wednesday 7	Thursday 8	Friday 9
	UNECE Mayors Forum	Cities Are Listening On Peace territories.		
Webinars Peace Forum	Webinars Peace Forum	Webinars Peace Forum		
Monday 12	Tuesday 13	Wednesday 14	Thursday 15	Friday 16
Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23
Platforma	EU-Africa	Cities Are		

Political Council	Summit for Local Authorities	Listening Women and Migration		
Monday 26	Tuesday 27	Wednesday 28	Thursday 29	Friday 30



NOVEMBER 2020

Monday 2	Tuesday 3	Wednesday 4	Thursday 5	Friday 6
Monday 9	Tuesday 10	Wednesday 11	Thursday 12	Friday 13
		UCLG WORLD COUNCIL	UCLG WORLD COUNCIL	UCLG WORLD COUNCIL
Monday 16	Tuesday 17	Wednesday 18	Thursday 19	Friday 20
Monday 23	Tuesday 24	Wednesday 25	Thursday 26	Friday 27
Monday 30	Tuesday 1	Wednesday 2	Thursday 3	Friday 4
TBC 6th World Forum for Local Economic Development				



APRIL 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday 1	Friday 2
Monday 5	Tuesday 6	Wednesday 7	Thursday 8	Friday 9
Monday 12	Tuesday 13	Wednesday 14	Thursday 15	Friday 16
Monday 19	Tuesday 20	Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23
UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU	UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU	UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU	UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU	UCLG EXECUTIVE BUREAU
Monday 26	Tuesday 27	Wednesday 28	Thursday 29	Friday 30