

5th Edition

RETREAT & CAMPUS

2019 BARCELONA
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#UCLGmeets
#Listen2Cities



UCLG

United Cities
and Local Governments

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United Cities and Local Governments

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INDEX

1

Page 4

What is the UCLG Retreat?

2

Page 8

From joint positions to synchronised action: catching the waves of action

HIGHLIGHTS

What does a Wave of Action need to have?

Going beyond the Waves of Action

3

Page 14

The next stage of the municipal movement

HIGHLIGHTS

From World Conference to Global Policy
Generating Congress

4

Page 18

Guiding our movement to the next decade - The UBUNTU Advisory System

5

Page 24

Synergising the network: sharing our priorities at a continental level

HIGHLIGHTS

Our partnership with the European Union – Making the Difference in the work of local governments

6

Page 28

The Annual Meeting of the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments

HIGHLIGHTS

Monitoring the localization of the global agendas: reporting to the high-level political forum

7

Page 32

Our strategic lines

HIGHLIGHTS

Gender equality, at the core of our strategy

Food Democracy, essential for developing our territories

Peripheral cities and their role in development

8

Page 37

Issues on our radar

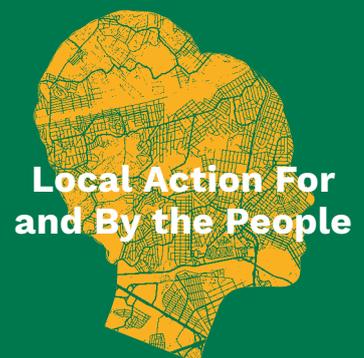


1

WHAT IS THE UCLG RETREAT?

“Our collaborative action will be important to take us forward. The retreat is a part of this: it reflects on how far have we come, how far we still have to go, what do we need to do”

Mpho Parks Tau
President of UCLG



The UCLG Annual Retreat is a week-long gathering that provides an opportunity for the key nodes and partners of the organization to define synergies and develop actions in line with the work plans set out by the governing bodies. It offers participants an opportunity to boost the connections among the different parts of the UCLG ecosystem, involving political leaders as well as technical staff, to come together as a Network and reflect on our priorities and goals for the year. It is further experienced by many of the participants as the perfect space to come to understand how a truly global network works and get introduced to different work areas.

The above probably explains the growing interest in the exercise that began by gathering around 60 participants and has grown into a 200-plus experience. During the five years since its inception, the UCLG Annual Retreat has become a global gathering, signalling the good health of the Retreat, as well as the willingness of participants to engage and its usefulness for the broader UCLG Network.

WHO WAS PART OF THE RETREAT?

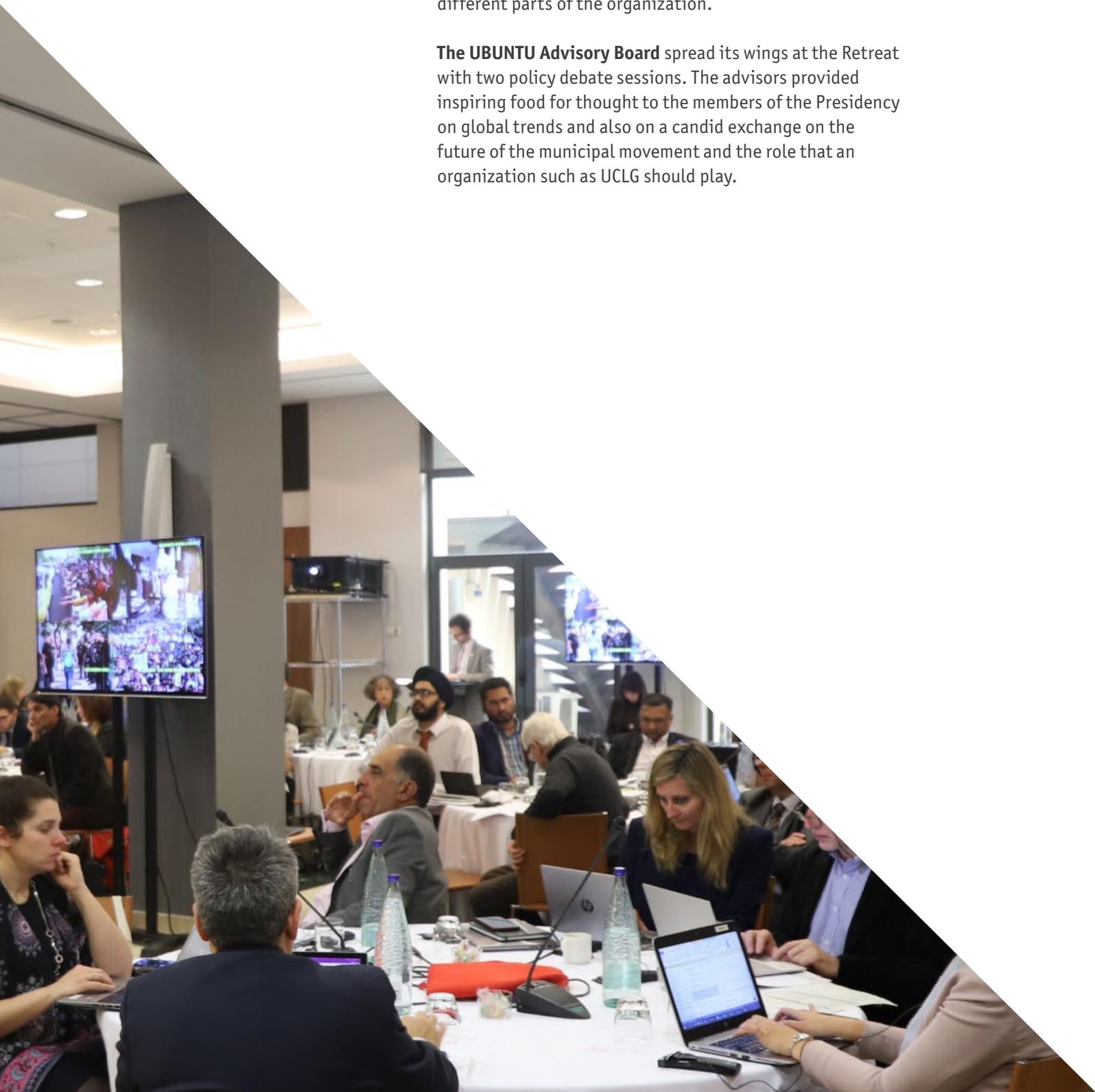
The fifth edition of the UCLG Retreat and Campus gathered approximately 200 participants from 47 cities, regions and provincial governments, 29 associations of local and regional governments, and with representation from all world regions and all of the UCLG Sections.



A TASTE OF WHAT IS TO COME

The **World Summit of Local and Regional Governments, our 2019 Congress**, which will take place in Durban in November was the common thread running throughout the week long gathering. Representatives of Durban and SALGA presented the perspective of the hosts and their vision on the legacy of the Congress. There were two sessions dedicated to setting the stage for the Congress in which members and partners agreed to enhance the global gathering's policy-making feature, ensuring broader engagement of partners and strengthening the role of the different parts of the organization.

The **UBUNTU Advisory Board** spread its wings at the Retreat with two policy debate sessions. The advisors provided inspiring food for thought to the members of the Presidency on global trends and also on a candid exchange on the future of the municipal movement and the role that an organization such as UCLG should play.



HOW DOES THE RETREAT WORK?

The UCLG Retreat was structured in two distinct moments: The first part of the week was dedicated to the work of the different parts of the network, with workshops, presentations and working sessions from our various work areas. During these days, the main goal was to co-create our joint work as an organisation, learn from each other, and synchronise our work among the different parts of the Network.

The Policy Debate -with our UBUNTU Advisory Group stimulating the discussions and bringing our policy priorities into the next decade, as well as the Annual meeting of the **Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments**, which gathered representatives from the 24 organization members and agreed on joint action and mobilization, took place at the end of the week.

Stocktaking sessions were a novelty in the 2019 Retreat's programme. These short sessions were designed to both assess the work of the day at the Retreat and, at the same time, elicit debate on what was missing, what could be done better, and how the Retreat's format was helping address specific issues in our joint agenda.

Working sessions were held around the Learning Forum, Monitoring the Localization of SDGs, the All-UCLG Communication Strategy and Gender Equality, the work plan of the Forum of Regions, meeting of the Community of Practice on Migration as well as Elevator Pitch presentations on Food Security, Peripheral Cities Forum, the Metropolis Urban Sustainability Exchange Platform (USE) and the findings of the Gender Study on Women and Public Space.

Cities are Listening



2

FROM JOINT POSITIONS TO SYNCHRONISED ACTION: CATCHING THE WAVES OF ACTION

The first Waves of Action were born in 2017 and lasted until the end of 2018. These Waves made up of a series of **coordinated actions** within a period of approximately six to eighteen months, involving **different parts of the network**. Each wave focusses on a **policy priority** and involves action in at least three of UCLG's four strategic priorities, namely: advocacy, learning, monitoring and implementation.

Waves of Action are not just coordinated communication and advocacy campaigns. They must also consist of actual learning actions, monitoring processes, cases of local implementation, **which are already part of our ongoing work**. With 3 initial waves of action on Migration and Housing, both of which are integral elements of the Right to the City, **and Local Finance**, which supports the work of our **Policy Council** on Multilevel Governance, coming to an end in 2019, participants presented the lessons learnt.

HOUSING IS A RIGHT, NOT A COMMODITY

The **Wave of Action on Housing** has brought the right to housing and the right to the city to the centre of the political debate. Under the hashtags #maketheshift and #right2housing, UCLG has fought for, and will continue to defend, the right to housing together with many stakeholders, and has further been involved with the **Make the Shift** movement, led by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing.

The Wave of Action was first introduced at the Cities for the Right to Housing event, in late 2017, with its key milestone being the presentation, during the 2018 HLPF, of the **Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration**, drafted by the city of Barcelona, by the local and regional governments' delegation.

The political leadership of the cities that inspired the Cities for Adequate Housing Declaration has been essential in bringing over 20 cities and regions together to ask for a shift in the right to housing. Further, a **Community of Practice on Housing** has been set up, in which best practices from cities are being shared.

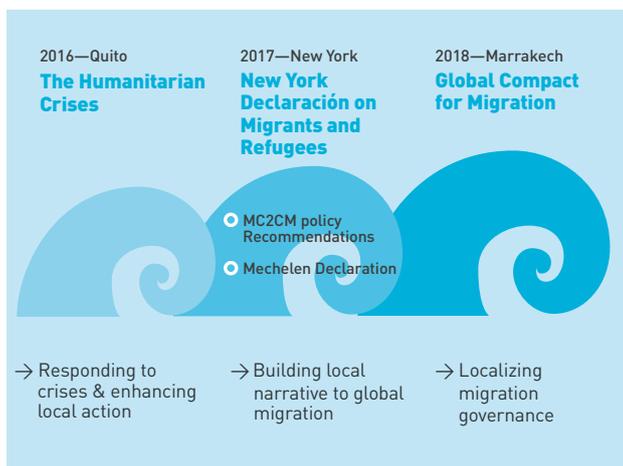


ALL MIGRANTS, ALL CITIZENS

The **Wave of Action on Migration** strives to change the negative perspective on the phenomenon, and to highlight the positive aspects of migration through joint work among the World Secretariat, Sections and Committees.

The Wave of Action kickstarted in late 2017, with the goal of changing the narrative on migration at the local level, highlighting the opportunities on the inclusion of migrants, and working to influence, from the local level, the **Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration**, which was adopted in Marrakech in December 2018 with inputs from the constituency of local and regional governments.

One of the key milestones of the Wave of Action was the **Mediterranean City to City Migration project (MC2CM)**, a laboratory in which peer learning sessions have been held on issues related to governance of migration and inclusion of newcomers at local level. The next step of MC2CM, which is set to end in 2021, has started development in the terrain, with even more cities and partners mainly from the Global South.



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**Local Action For
and By the People**

“Financing the New Urban Agenda is part of the problem that we face and, yet, part of the solution if we want to provide services to our citizens”

Nelson Fernández
Director of International Relations
and Cooperation of Montevideo

TOWARDS A NEW NARRATIVE FOR LOCALIZING FINANCING

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda commits to the importance of “strengthening the capacities of municipalities” and other local authorities. To strengthen our capacities, we need to circumvent legal frameworks that are, in many cases, poorly designed to finance local governments.

The **Wave of Action on Local Finance** has been integral for the creation of the UCLG **Strategy on Localizing Finance**, which placed the topic at the core of the work of the World Organization. Only through the consolidation of the access to finance will it be possible to successfully transform the current model of governance, and achieve the global agendas.

Further, the strategy on localizing finance has led to the creation of an international coalition calling for renewed financial mechanisms and the development of a community of practice, with over 20 cities, that was presented at the World Council in Madrid and that will allow participants to share experience and feed the work of our policy councils.

In partnership with UNCDF and in close collaboration with FMDV, a Municipal Fund has been set up to help local governments access finance.



HIGHLIGHT

WHAT DOES A WAVE OF ACTION NEED TO HAVE?



THE UCLG WAVES OF ACTION 2019 -2020

The following topics were signalled as able to conjure political leadership with policy and with work that is relevant to our organization, which will allow us to feed on it and give us the opportunity to involve more partners and stakeholders in our work.

a/ **A Hashtag/slogan with a clear political message**

b/ **Calendar:** A clear time frame should be defined, ranging from **six to eighteen months**, which includes **key international moments** (events, reports, campaigns), e.g. UN conferences, SDG reports, civil society campaigns.

c/ **Diversity of actors:** A Wave should include actions in **at least three UCLG regions**. The campaign should also be able to link up with the work of **external partners** (civil society, UN Agencies, private sector, academics, etc.).

d/ **Original content:** A Wave should be based on original UCLG content (e.g. publications, events, policy recommendations, case studies) from **at least three of UCLG's four strategic work areas:** implementation, monitoring, learning, and advocacy.

a/ **Public Space: Tool for Equality:** A Wave of Action encompassing gender and accessibility to make public space a means to inclusion.

b/ **Reinventing Local Democracy:** building on the need to regain trust of the citizens and show the potential of transparent and solid institutions in transformation of society.

c/ **Localizing the Sendai Framework:** the ecological transition will need to pay attention not only to mitigating climate change but also to developing sustainable and resilient societies. The Sendai framework can be instrumental for local and regional governments if understood from a local and territorial perspective.

“We need to address global challenges in our waves of action. Only global networks such as UCLG can undertake this work”

Lorena Zarate
Habitat International Coalition



HIGHLIGHT

GOING BEYOND THE WAVES OF ACTION

HOUSING

A Community of Practice has been set up to build on the momentum generated by the **Wave of Action on Housing**, of which the most visible component has been the presentation of the **Declaration of Cities for Housing** at the High-Level Political Forum in 2018.

The Community of Practice seeks now to transform the policy vision into action through the development of a space for learning and exchange of practices. It should also be the space where our members championing this issue develop proposals for the next advocacy steps at national, regional and global level. As an example, the Retreat hosted a special meeting of the Community that gathered representatives of European cities and networks to discuss a draft **European Declaration of Cities for Housing**.

The European Declaration builds on the Declaration of Cities for Housing and proposes actionable policy measures for the next European Commission and Parliament to develop policies that guarantee access to adequate housing in the continent. Work further continues at research level with a prominent chapter on Housing at the upcoming GOLD V Report.



MIGRATION

Migrants are not numbers for local and regional governments. They are our neighbours and dealing with migration is not an issue of borders for local and regional governments but an issue of rights, of basic services and of solidarity.

Those have been the messages conveyed by the strong Wave of Action on migration that reached the coast of Morocco to inform the debates of the Global Compact on Migration

Although our efforts to bring local and regional governments at the table to discuss these issues have not been as successful as we might have wanted our collective action has generated joint positions and the spaces to learn from each other while harnessing the positive opportunities of migration, particularly in how this phenomenon can link territories and help bridge the rural-urban dichotomy.



Waves keep going after they crest. Their energy, our collective effort, is transformed but keeps going. Here is how.

“We need to re-politicise this Community of Practice, tell participants participants to go back to their cities and organizations and bring political leadership back to the table”

Jean-Pierre Elong Mbassi
Secretary General of UCLG-Africa

“What we hope to achieve with the International Municipal Investment Fund is to achieve consensual financing to achieve the global agendas. The route to Paris is through cities and local governments”

David Jackson
Director of Local Development Finance, UNCDF

LOCAL FINANCE

Only through the consolidation of the access to finance for local governments will we be able not just to achieve the global goals, but successfully transform the current model of governances into a fairer and more sustainable one that truly leaves no-one and no place behind.

UCLG is taking strides to change the current paradigm and towards developing an ecosystem of mutual understanding beyond spheres of government and other stakeholders that allows finance to reach the communities that need it.

One of the outcomes of this commitment has been, building on the work of the Wave of Action, the development—in partnership with UNCDF and in close collaboration with FMDV— of a **Municipal Investment Fund** to help local governments access finance. During its first steps, it has targeted pilot investments in some municipalities to showcase the potential of investing in municipal infrastructure.



3 THE NEXT STAGE OF THE MUNICIPAL MOVEMENT

The The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders (our World Summit) will take place just before we enter the next decade, and will serve as the consolidation of our strategy. The UCLG Retreat offered a chance to debate about the challenges that the municipal movement -and, indeed, the world- will face in the next decades, and what can be done, from the local sphere, to ensure we come out on top.

Prior to the presentations of the Congress, a brief dialogue took place among stakeholders that set the scene for the topics that the Congress would address. Challenging traditional ideas and policymaking, rethinking local democracy, constructing a culture of peace, and developing a more inclusive economy were among the issues addressed during this presentation.

“To promote the role of international cooperation in times in which security and sovereignty are guiding policy priorities everywhere, we need to give voice to the municipal movement”

Salvador Gausa
Director of International Relations
of the Barcelona Provincial Council

THE WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL LEADERS, THE CONSOLIDATION OF OUR STRATEGY

2019 is Congress year, and the 2019 Retreat and Campus kicked off with a clear focus on co-creating the 2019 UCLG World Summit: The Congress, reminded President Parks Tau, needs to strike a balance between the issues that matter to the membership, but also to the whole world.

The UCLG World Summit would need to be both the consolidation of the strategy of the World Organization, as much as the first step into new territory. The World Summit would need to see a shift in focus from listening to cities to cities are listening, a motto that signals just how the municipal movement is ready to move beyond asking for a seat at the table.





“ The active contribution and the generosity of sister organisations needs to be put in value and highlighted. All of us will be there, not to just exchange but to actually take decisions. The World Summit will be a policymaking gathering”

Emilia Saiz
Secretary General of UCLG

The World Summit needs to proactively offer a space for all stakeholders to participate and co-create, together, the future of the municipal movement. Further, it needs to drive home the point that only through stakeholder engagement and through a true multi-level dialogue will it be possible to transform the international governance system.

The transformations that we want call for us to move beyond mere consultation processes into co-creation, with our communities and with all stakeholders. The Congress, to succeed as a space for transformation, needs to go beyond the UCLG family and truly build, from the ground, a policy and decision-making process, together with sister organizations, the Global Taskforce, local communities and the civil society.

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“ We want to take a step further and not only invite partners and stakeholders to join us but to actually help us shape our global policies to shape the communities of the future”

Mpho Parks Tau
President of UCLG



THE THEMES OF THE UCLG WORLD SUMMIT

Local democracy, which is making its way back to the core of the organization, gender equality, intergenerational dialogues, and peacebuilding, will be some of the strategic keys to address in the World Summit, all of which have been a key part of the World Organization.

In order to guarantee the contribution of the World Summit deliberations to the World Organization's policy and strategy, the key axes should include the UCLG policy areas: Right to the City, Opportunities for All, Multilevel Governance, and Resilience and the Ecological Transition.

The World Summit should allow us to get ready for purpose as we enter the next phase of the municipal movement, which moves us from exchange to joint strategy, from declarations to joint policy development. A phase in which beyond asking to be heard and given a place at the global table we LISTEN to communities and ensure also a place for them at our decisions making table.

“ We are committed to promoting the values peace and dialogue, and make sure that gender agenda will be at the forefront”

Nkoselhe Madlala
Councillor of Ethekewini-Durban

HIGHLIGHT

FROM WORLD CONFERENCE TO GLOBAL POLICY GENERATING CONGRESS

The Outcome of the World Summit will be a series of integrated policy recommendations resulting from consultations with other stakeholders and offering both continental and specific perspectives. This process of inputs will further consolidate the network.

The consultations with other stakeholders will be ensured through a **Town Hall** process, which starts with consultations held throughout the year and culminating in exchanges in the Congress with representatives of local and regional governments. The inputs of these Town Halls will be presented to the local and regional government constituency meeting at the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments.

The World Summit is indeed global, but it needs to feed the city, the country and the region. **It should be ingrained into the territory**, incorporating the African dimension, and showcase the city and its potential. This dimension would need to permeate every aspect of the Congress, from the design (which was presented during the Retreat) to the thematic areas of the Congress.

One of the key innovations that the World Summit brings to the table will be its **policy making process**, which will be ensured through the **Assembly** track, a non-stop component of the Congress that aims at deliberating and presenting both continental and thematic priorities that contribute to the policy and advocacy of the organization.

The Assembly will **receive policymaking inputs from all parts of the Network**, and further use these inputs as the basis for discussions, which will lead to specific recommendations that ensure the transition between the old and new leadership and consolidate the strategy of the Network. Further, the Assembly will support the integration of visions from other sister organizations, culminating in presentations at a session of the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments convened by the Global Taskforce.

“ It is indeed important to shape the global movement with strong inputs from our constituencies, and the Assembly Track is an essential step forward for this to happen”

Octavi de la Varga
Secretary General of Metropolis



4 GUIDING OUR MOVEMENT TO THE NEXT DECADE - THE UBUNTU ADVISORY SYSTEM

We are ready to be considered a partner for development, and to contribute to shape global governance, but this is not something that we can accomplish by ourselves. Only through establishing dialogues and with pointed advice will we be able to bring the World Organization into the next decade.

The World Organisation is moving from demanding a place at the global table, to an approach in which it welcomes and is willing to provide a space for stakeholders to share and truly shape the global governance system together: From “listen2cities” to “citiesARElistening”.

Inspired by the South African notion of Ubuntu, that understands the community as the building blocks of humanity and that encourages us to see ourselves in the eyes of others, and in the spirit of listening to all stakeholders, UCLG has set up the UBUNTU International Advisory System that aims to inspire and provide advice to the Presidency of the World Organization.



Their aim is to help set the priorities of the World Organization, with a broad look that goes beyond the day-to-day work of its members, and aid the World Organization in showcasing why localization is essential for global development.

The UBUNTU Advisors met for the first time within the framework of the UCLG Retreat and Campus, guiding the policy debate of the World Organization, which provided an opportunity for the Board to spread their wings and showcase their vision, both inspiring the discussions taking place within the Retreat and allowing them to provide the Presidency with tools to become partners for transformation.

Their presentations **kickstarted the political debate among our members**, who took stock of the inspiring views showcased by our UBUNTU advisors. Members from all over the Network reacted to the scenarios and ideas presented and provided their own insights on the challenges and opportunities that the municipal movement will face in the coming decade.





FROM INTER-NATIONAL TO INTER-URBAN SYSTEMS

Aromar Revi argued that in a world where cities are currently leading the way, with half of the global population and over 70% of its economy, the time to “beg” to be represented in the global system is over. It is now time to go from **an inter-national to an inter-urban system**. Local and Regional Governments need to see and imagine themselves as the spaces in which transformation can take place.

He further highlighted cities as a paradoxical space: A place of opportunity, and a place where inequalities happen. Our ambitions as local governments, he argued, need to be dramatically upscaled in order to fix these inequalities and fully implement the global goals.

“It is up to cities, not member states to deliver the global agreements. We need a new model of governance that allows us to achieve the goals that we committed to”

Aromar Revi
UBUNTU Advisor, Director of the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS)

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

The implementation of the SDGs cannot be achieved if we do not demonstrate political mobilization. For this reason, he called on UCLG and its sections to **identify and focus on five key themes** for synchronization towards the Congress, highlighting it as the space in which these priorities can be developed and adopted.

Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona, agreed with the move towards the interurban system by arguing that **“Our advocacy is not only to demand that national governments listen to the cities, but also to acknowledge that the cities are the level of government that allows us to weave complicity with the citizenship”**.

Carlos Martínez, Mayor of Soria further showed his willingness to reform international institutions by stating that **“It is necessary to reinforce multilateralism and the position of local governments, who are full actors of sustainable development”**.



LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, SCIENCE ENABLERS

Debra Roberts argued that the changes in the way that we build, work and live in cities cannot happen without evidence-based decision-making, and that science cannot be left behind. She called for local governments to become “science enablers”, to consider, at the decision-making level, the credibility of knowledge produced by and in local governments and to make them places of dialogue to make them, truly, a transformative element for the future.

The IPCC report, she argued, was clear on the areas that needed to see most change in order to change the world: **urban infrastructure, land, energy, and industry**, and called for immediate action and ambition from cities to achieve the 1.5° goal. Forging partnerships with universities and the Tertiary sector would allow infusing the narrative of the World Organization with a focus on evidence-based politics.

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Debra Roberts argued that we need to orient the upcoming Congress as a place towards evidence-based policymaking, and called for building a **UCLG network of Universities and Tertiary Institutions** that would fully build on exchanges of knowledge. She further emphasized the need to bring the issues identified as research gaps to the forefront: financing to achieve the global agendas, and in particular the climate agenda.

“ 2030 does not mean that we have 4000 days to reach the 1,5° goal, but rather that today, right now, is when we need to act, and it is essential to mobilize the nexus of science, local governments and local knowledge from the get-go to do so”

Debra Roberts
Ubuntu Advisor, Co-Chair of Working
Group II of the IPCC

Peter Kurz, Mayor of Mannheim, showed his intention of going one step further in facing climate. He argued that **“If we, local governments, are the global community on the issue of climate and facing inequalities, and if we have consensus on how to act, we need to be able to help local governments answer these questions and strengthen them to act autonomously”**.



THE COLLECTIVE POWER OF CITIES GOES BEYOND GOVERNMENTS

“ We need leadership yes, but we also need the capacity to have long-term vision, to lead processes and promote changes. We need to understand the complexity of cities, strengthen thinking on metropolises”

Jorge Pérez Jaramillo
Ubuntu Advisor, Dean of Architecture Faculty,
University of Santo Tomás, Medellín

Jorge Pérez Jaramillo highlighted the values of ethics and loyalty that are at the core of UBUNTU, and further emphasized the need to envision cities in the long-term, as a collective project, that goes beyond political leadership of their mayors. Visionary leaders are necessary, but they need to respect the collective process of city-building.

Cities, he reminded, are comprised of their people, and are the product of both planning and social dialogue, and called for the promotion of territorial interdependence (among municipalities) to be able to manage the resources that are generated in the territories.

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Jorge Pérez Jaramillo stressed the notion of the city as a collective project that needs to be developed with a long-term vision. This long-term vision calls for bringing the collective power of communities, promoting co-creation among these local communities and cooperation among municipalities, complementing agendas of the cities and sharing good practices, which would allow for the development of networks of local knowledge, starting with smaller “micro-networks” which could begin to develop in the Congress.

Johnny Araya, Mayor of San José agreed with the notion of cities as a collective project, and added that **“all elected officials, with the citizens, must build a story for each city, a story that has to do with the vision we have of the future”**.



EQUALITY KEY TO TRANSFORMATION

Ana Falú highlighted the role of grassroots women that were leading the conversation on gender equality and transforming their societies to end discrimination. The strength of women defending their rights calls for us to question what the new role of women is: how we address the different identities in politics, how we tackle the gender dimension of poverty, and how we deal with inequalities that are, in spite of the progress made, still ingrained in our societies.

Women, she stated, are resilient and not the “vulnerable sector”, and further highlighted the need to map who the women are and where they are, and facilitate access of women to positions of power and integrate them in the decision-making processes. **Without women, there is no democracy.**

“There is no democracy without women. It’s not only about no leaving no one and no place behind. We need to leave no identity behind”

Ana Falú

Ubuntu Advisor, Professor and Researcher in Architecture at the National University of Cordoba and Director of the INVIHAB)

FROM WORDS TO ACTION

Ana Falú called for landing the global agendas into local action and policies, and gave **three concrete proposals to integrate gender equality at the heart of urban planning:** mainstreaming gender policies, establishing alliances with women in the territories and, finally, including these measures in the budget. She further proposed that UCLG developed a **pilot programme in which 10 cities of the world would commit to proposals such as mapping women,** and building on an agenda for gender equality that could be shared with other cities in the space of two or three years.

Laura Pérez, Councillor of Feminism of Barcelona, highlighted the need to plan for women in the urban space by stating that **“Urban space is conditioned by gender. Only with a critical gender look will we build more on inclusive cities”.**



5 SYNERGISING THE NETWORK: OUR PRIORITIES AT A CONTINENTAL LEVEL

Bottom-up construction and diversity are key anchors in the World Regions. The Regional Sections of UCLG were invited to think three key themes on which they had already worked on in previous meetings of the Secretaries General in order to align their priorities and enhance coordination among the Network.

Climate action, Finance, and Localization are at the forefront of our strategy globally, and the three areas in which the World Organization can make the greatest difference, and the continental approach to each of them is critical to better understand how to tackle them.



“The worst enemy for climate is political procrastination. If we don't act urgently, we won't have to bother. We won't be on the planet any more”

Frédéric Vallier
Secretary General of CCRE-CEMR

CLIMATE BEYOND MITIGATION: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FACING THE ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

In regards to **climate**, panellists agreed on the need for UCLG to play a bigger role in defending a new model around an ecological transition that includes circular economies. UCLG further needs to support municipalities on the issue of climate and champion the territorialisation of Locally Determined Contributions (LDCs) at the UN level.

Linking the resilience and climate agendas with the SDGs and the broader development agendas was seen as a key priority, to tackle the global development agendas as one and ensuring no area in development is left behind.

“What we, in ASPAC, advocate for, is not just the global goals but the importance of all the agendas, particularly the Sendai framework, which is a top priority. Our advocacy calls for understanding the structure of each region”

Bernadia Irawati Tjandradewi
Secretary General of UCLG ASPAC



WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR THE LOCALIZATION OF THE GLOBAL GOALS

The **localization of the SDGs** was deemed a top priority by participants. As such, moving forward beyond aligning priorities with the SDGs and strengthening LGAs were seen as the key **Next Steps on Localization**. Coordination among the various regional sections and strengthening the training of trainers on achieving the SDGs were also highlighted as essential.

“We are mapping the SDG initiatives in Turkey, aiming to raise awareness among municipal staff to implement and monitor the SDGs, integrating them in the work of municipalities”

Mehmet Duman
Secretary General of UCLG MEWA

**Local Action For
and By the People**



LOCALIZING FINANCE TO ACHIEVE THE GLOBAL AGENDAS

The need to strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships –including those with the private sector- and develop communities of practice on finance was seen as essential for the **UCLG Strategy on Localizing Finance** to become a success. Participants called to identify how the Sections are adapting the strategy on finance of the World Organization to the strategy of their regions.

At the end of the session, there was a stocktaking moment in which participants called to strengthen collaboration with national governments and interlink the global agendas in order to strengthen our work on localization.

“ For Latin America, there is no doubt: financing is a central issue. In our Congress, finance will be one of the key themes, and it is crucial for the Agenda of local governments everywhere”

Sergio Arredondo
Secretary General of FLACMA

“ We have the possibility of having more members, but we need specific spaces. Our organization is very rich and needs to build on our diversity”

María Julia Reyna
Secretary of International Relations and Integration of the Province of Santa Fe (Argentina)

HIGHLIGHT

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EUROPEAN UNION – MAKING THE DIFFERENCE IN THE WORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

The retreat showcased **the important bond among the European Union and the municipal movement**. The Strategic Partnership between UCLG and the European Union has been essential in triggering transformation, in particular in regards to monitoring the work of the world organisation and in developing links among the municipal movement, the civil society, and other networks.

The European Commission, represented by **Paolo Ciccareli** highlighted its priorities and expectations in regards to dialogue with subnational levels of government. He stressed the need to broaden links among local governments and Academia, UN Agencies, and other networks in order to develop knowledge and acknowledged the importance of providing support to local governments' associations.

This support, he argued, had allowed the European Commission to increase cooperation with local governments, and overall strengthen the efficiency of their work. Increasing cooperation at the national level, he argued, would prove to be essential to scale-up the joint work of the Commission and Networks of local and regional governments.



Cities are Listening

6

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GLOBAL TASKFORCE OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS



CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE CONSTITUENCY OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

During the last 4 years, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments has been meeting annually in order to define the joint work plan and align the strategies of the different member organizations in view of upcoming international policy processes.

The Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments highlighted that the strategy for the year should plant the seeds for joint policy development enhanced policy dialogue among the constituency, as well as with other stakeholders. The half-day meeting held on the occasion of the UCLG Retreat gathered representatives of GTF local and regional government member networks, and focused on four main agenda items:

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- 1/ **The 2030 Development Agenda**

 - 2/ **The Climate Agenda**

 - 3/ **The New Urban Agenda and Relations with UN-Habitat**

 - 4/ **Urban-20**

The Global Taskforce of local and regional governments has been active on the SDGs, the 2030 Agenda, and Goal 11 in particular, ever since the start. One of the main goals of our joint advocacy has been to claim all of the Global Goals, and the Global Agendas, as being related to local environments and governments.

“ Local and regional governments are already localizing the global agendas, but need to make sure we integrate the language of localization into their daily work”

Lucy Slack
Deputy Secretary General of CLGF

The session on the 2030 Development Agenda highlighted the contributions of the Global Taskforce towards the 2030 Commitment, including collaboration with the SDG Action Campaign and Local 2030. The role of the Global Taskforce in the localization of the Global agendas was stressed by UCLG Secretary General **Emilia Saiz**, who highlighted that the advocacy of the constituency around the 2030 Agenda was related to considering all of the SDGs were about local governments. **Lucy Slack**, deputy Secretary General of CLGF, brought forward the gaps in data-gathering at the local level, and argued that, for a true multilevel governance model to develop, there needed to be a strong grasp on the concept of localization among local and national governments.

The Spanish government, represented at the meeting of the GTF by **Gabriel Ferrero**, Director of Sustainable Development Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Spain, laid out the commitments of the Spanish Government in the accomplishment of the 2030 Agenda, and highlighted the meeting in Seville -with UCLG and the Global Taskforce- as a key political milestone prior to the High-Level Political Forum.





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Linking the global agendas calls for connecting the discussions on Climate and the SDGs. **Yunus Arikan**, Head of ICLEI Global Policy, chaired the panel that tackled the main advocacy events regarding climate for 2019, and reminded the floor of the legacy of the local governments' constituency on climate. He further welcomed **Amanda Eichel**, executive director of the Global Covenant of Mayors, as the newest partner of the Global Taskforce. **Natalia Vera**, Secretary General of nrg4SD, laid the groundwork for the constituency of local and regional governments at UNEA-4, which would for the first time hold a Cities Summit.

Emanuelle Pinault, head of City Diplomacy of C40, updates on the **Urban 20 initiative** – a platform for G20 cities to organize and convey their joint position to G20 national leaders- which is held in Tokyo in 2019.

Diana López, Head of the Local Government Unit of UN-Habitat, provided further insights on the changes currently taking place within UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat is the UN agency responsible for safeguarding and implementing the NUA and SDG 11. It has been undertaking a governance reform, which will result in the first-ever Habitat Assembly - replacing the Governing Council.

Other participants in the session included **Paola Arjona**, Technical Director of AL-Las, **Marlène Siméon**, director of Platforma, **Ronan Dantec**, president of Climate Chance and Spokesman of UCLG on Climate, and **Jean-François Habeau**, director of FMDV.

HIGHLIGHT

MONITORING THE LOCALIZATION OF THE GLOBAL AGENDAS: REPORTING TO THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

The documentation of our membership's visions and experiences led to the publication of the **second "Towards the Localization of the SDGs"** report in 2018, as the backbone to our advocacy strategy before the HLPF. The UCLG GOLD Team held a GTF workshop to develop a joint methodology and roadmap in developing the **3rd Report on the Localization of the SDGs**, which will be presented at the 2019 HLPF in July 2019. The workshop opened with the presentation of the structure and results of both NRG4SD and GTF reports to the 2018 HLPF, which was, as follows:

a/ An annual contribution to HLPF with data and stories from local, metropolitan and regional governments in the preparation of VNRs and in the implementation of the SDGs.

b/ A methodology based on a survey, combining open and closed questions, and desk-based assessment of the narrative of the VNRs.

c/ Improving visibility at the HLPF and achieving broader outreach will be a critical issue for our reporting.

CLGF and C40 moderated the conversation on the distribution of tasks in the preparation of the 2019 report, which will be presented by UCLG on behalf of the Global Taskforce to the 2019 HLPF.

2019 will also bring about the first **Quadrennial Report on the Implementation of the SDGs**, which will inform the HLPF, and aims to provide a strong evidence-based instrument to support policymakers in eradicating poverty and in delivering sustainable societies.

With this in mind, the UCLG GOLD Team held a workshop to enhance the effectiveness of their reporting. The workshop aimed to find an answer to three key issues asking representatives from all around the network, and work in unison to strengthen the reporting capacity to of the Network.



7 SPECIAL FOCUS

The UCLG Retreat and Campus further saw sessions that aimed to enhance the strategic priorities of the different areas of the Network. Tightening the coordination among the teams of areas such as Communication, Learning and Gender Equality will be essential for the World Organization gearing up to the World Summit and beyond.

COMMUNICATION

The UCLG Congress provides a unique opportunity for strengthening collaboration and achieving greater visibility as a Network. As such, it is a milestone for the communication teams of the World Organization, as a fundamental pillar to inform citizens of the actions and decisions that local governments take every day.

In a world organization like ours, coordinated communication is essential to develop a solid and strong message that effectively amplifies the voice of local and regional governments. The UCLG Communication Campus aimed to strengthen coordination between the World Secretariat, Sections and Committees to find new synergies towards the UCLG World Congress.

This campus was the first time in which the communication teams of all parts of the network gathered together, sharing their experiences, their challenges and their regional and global narratives.





The first part of the session was aimed as a get-together: an ice-breaking exercise in which participants were invited to share their superpowers, as well as their fears and hopes for the session. The goal of this exercise was to find common synergies among the group, encouraging participants to exchange among one another.

Participants highlighted why the session had been useful to them at the end, showcasing that the shared challenges and reflections allowed for better understanding of the priorities of the communication teams of the Network, to share their passion about local governments and how to streamline collaboration in the future.

After the workshop, a follow-up session took place in which the communication focal points committed to 4 concrete outcomes, in order to fully develop joint strategies and actions towards the World Summit:

-
- 1/ A Who is Who? with the aim of getting to know the focal points of communication, in the form of a mailing list and a Google calendar with milestone events.**

 - 2/ Collaborative Flickr Album for the retreat and beyond.**

 - 3/ A Twitter Group.**

 - 4/ A "Media Centre" within the UCLG World Summit.**

LEARNING

The IV Learning Forum will take place during the UCLG World Congress, and the Retreat offered an opportunity to fine-tune and co-define the thematic and methodological priorities that would guide the activities for the year and towards the Forum, which would further inspire the UCLG Learning agenda for the coming years.

The Learning Session during the Retreat, structured as a World-Café, aimed to establish, together with the UCLG family, the main needs and expectations in:

-
- 1/ SDGs Localizing process.**

 - 2/ Peer learning topics priorities.**

 - 3/ Learning activities alignment to the SDGs and proposed thematic areas.**

 - 4/ UCLG Learning Forum.**

The exercises results indicated seven Learning clusters and four possible thematic areas that could facilitate the future combination and articulation of the several existing Learning activities, methodologies and partnerships.

HIGHLIGHT

GENDER EQUALITY, AT THE CORE OF OUR STRATEGY

Gender Equality is a general objective of UCLG, and the World Organization and its founding associations have a longstanding track record in global advocacy to enhance gender equality policies among the membership and to foster the participation of women in local decision making.

Equally important steps have been undertaken to enhance equality in the World Organization by transforming the Gender Equality Committee into a Standing Committee, ensuring the presence of women in the UCLG Presidency and applying gender quotas for the UCLG governing bodies.

The All-UCLG Gender Strategy first appeared during the previous UCLG Retreat in 2018, where it was discussed for the first time, and further mandated for adoption in Madrid late during the year.

The 2019 Retreat built on the discussions undergone throughout the previous year, and incorporated two sessions on Gender Equality. The first of the two was an informal meeting in which, throughout the session, participants argued on **the next steps for the gender equality strategies of UCLG, as well as for the localization of SDG 5.**

The exchanges that took place within the meeting were held with the aim of integrating potential amendments or revisions to the document that would allow enhancing the gender strategy, considering inputs from several work areas and sections of the organization.

During the second session, a more formal working session, participants adopted an agenda for the coming months.

COMMITMENTS TOWARDS THE ALL — UCLG GENDER STRATEGY THROUGHOUT 2019

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- a/ Mapping regional representation of women among UCLG governing bodies and membership.

 - b/ Mapping the activities carried out by regional sections on gender mainstreaming and gender equality.

 - c/ Organising a meeting of the Standing Committee on Gender Equality in July in Paris.

 - d/ Developing a strong component on Gender Equality for the UCLG World Congress 2019, to be held in Durban.

 - e/ Closely monitor the renewal of the governing bodies and foster female nominations as well as compliance with the 30% quota agreed.



**Local Action For
and By the People**

HIGHLIGHT

FOOD DEMOCRACY, ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPING OUR TERRITORIES

Since its foundation and in particular through its regional governments and their associations and UCLG-Regions, the Community of Practice on Food Security has been working on the issue of access to food and agricultural transition in order to defend a paradigm shift.

Christelle de Crémiers, Vice-president of the Centre Val de Loire Region stated that food democracy needed to become a staple of the political priorities of the organization since it is a vector for development in a vision of the city and the territory that are interlinked. Territorial collaboration, she argued, needs to envision territories as fully-fledged entities in which the city and the rural areas are seen as a coherent whole with a common vision.

De Crémiers argued that a territorial approach to food security would allow for the transformation of local democracy and bring about a world in which many small producers, small transformers, respectful of the environment will be able to unite and thus anchor employment and local development.

The role of political representatives in food democracy is primordial since they are able to provide an integrated vision of the territory, and contribute to changing the economic relations at local level. It is up to them to achieve the SDGs, to report on what is happening, and to enable this transition in their territories. Due to their link with the civil society, it is also their responsibility to raise awareness and help empower citizens in their decision-making when it comes to nutrition.



“I am convinced that UCLG, as a global association of local governments, has a special responsibility in the feasibility of ecological transition. This transition necessarily involves a relocation of activities and therefore involves the territories. Who better than elected officials to achieve the sustainable development goals?”

Christelle de Crémiers

Vice-president of the Centre Val de Loire Region

HIGHLIGHT

PERIPHERAL CITIES AND THEIR ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT

Ary Vanazzi, Mayor of São Leopoldo and president of the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities, and **Djamel Sandid**, Coordinator of the UCLG Forum on Peripheral Cities, gave an elevator pitch highlighting the inclusion of peripheral cities as a key strategic matter for UCLG.

Peripheral cities, they argued, are often the first line of reception of migrants, and tend to face problems that are often overlooked by national governments. In a Network that is becoming increasingly sensitive to the needs and challenges of intermediary cities, the importance of peripheral cities cannot be overlooked. The challenge of the peripheries, Sandid reminded, is a challenge for humanity, since 70% of humanity will live in cities.

“Migrants go to peripheral cities, rather than capital cities. These cities are also the ones that show greater solidarity with migrants”

Ary Vanazzi

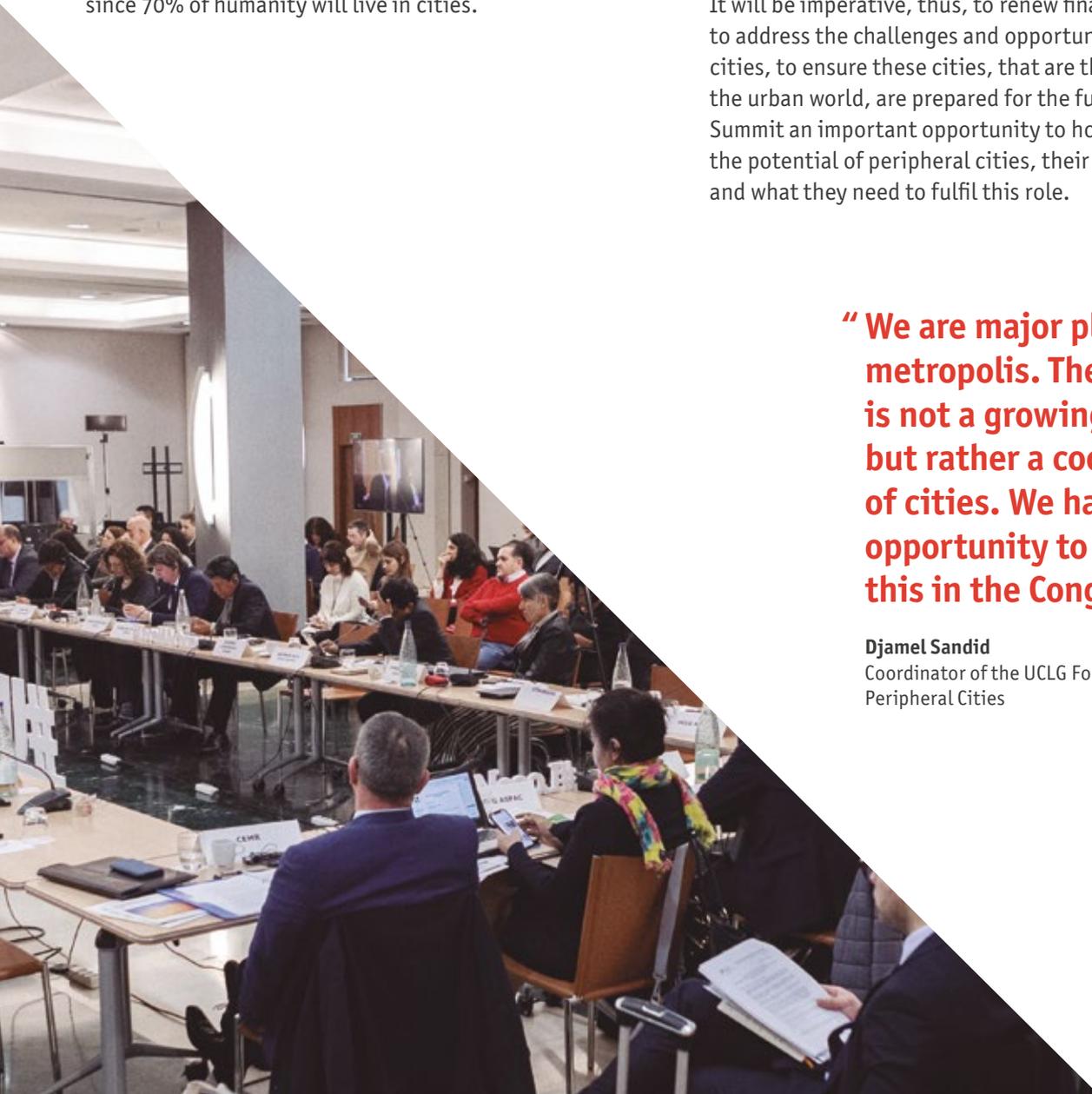
Mayor of São Leopoldo, and president of the Forum of Peripheral Local Authorities

It will be imperative, thus, to renew financing mechanisms to address the challenges and opportunities of peripheral cities, to ensure these cities, that are the gateways to the urban world, are prepared for the future. The UCLG World Summit an important opportunity to hold the discussion on the potential of peripheral cities, their role in development, and what they need to fulfil this role.

“We are major players in the metropolis. The metropolis is not a growing central city, but rather a cooperative of cities. We have an opportunity to showcase this in the Congress”

Djamel Sandid

Coordinator of the UCLG Forum on Peripheral Cities



8 ON OUR RADAR



The Structure of the Retreat allowed for a moment every morning in which members were able to give **elevator pitches** on various subjects; a the transformation of the Metropolis Policy Transfer Platform into USE, and a brief **Stocktaking session** among members of the Network on the challenges of the future.

USE

The growth that the Metropolis **Policy Transfer Platform (PTP)** experienced since its launch encouraged the network to undertake the challenge of making it more robust and visually more attractive.

During the first elevator pitch of the Retreat **Thomas Honeck**, urban researcher of the Berlin Senate Department for the Environment, presented the work spearheaded by the city of Berlin to **relaunch the PTP under the new name of Urban Sustainability Exchange (USE)**. Boasting a renovated design and more accessible tools, use goes further in showcasing innovative and practical solutions to urban issues and in exchanging knowledge **between city makers around the globe**.

The transition from **PTP to use** was carried out throughout 2018, with the academic advice of the Western Sydney University's Institute of Culture and Society. The new platform was officially presented, after the elevator pitch at the UCLG Retreat, at a launch event in Berlin which featured speeches by Mayor of Berlin **Michael Müller** and Secretary General of Metropolis **Octavi de la Varga**.

MAPPING METROPOLITAN GENDER POLICIES TO ACHIEVE GENDER EQUALITY

Around the world, troubling levels of violence against women result in a restricted or complete lack of rights and opportunities for women and girls. For a majority of the world's population, who is increasingly concentrated in large cities, this violence takes place in public spaces which are not restricted by jurisdictional borders, i.e., the metropolitan territories that to a great extent are managed by the members of Metropolis.

Laura Pérez, Councillor of Feminism and International Action, Barcelona, provided a presentation on a study on that addressed the issue on safety of women and girls in public spaces, as well as how gender conditions our access to the public space.

The results of the study were also divided in 3 main areas, classified according to the type of policy developed by the local governments:

- a/ **Reactive policies:** when you suffer violence, what does the local government do?
- b/ **Preventive policy:** what to does the local government do to prevent this violence.
- c/ **Transformative policies:** Go beyond reaction and prevention, and aim to transform how the city engages with gender in public space.

The study showed that local governments are still fundamentally applying reactive policies but that, slowly and surely, preventive and transformative policies were on the rise.

The study aimed to assess how local governments tackle gender bias in urban planning, and argued that a gendered perspective is crucial to build more inclusive cities.

By mapping policies, strategies and instruments that foster safe and more accessible streets and cities, public space will eventually be accessible to all. This is one of the key elements of the proposed **Wave of Action** on public space, which would address, among other elements, gender mainstreaming to design cities accessible to all.



UCLG CONGRESS
WORLD SUMMIT OF LOCAL
AND REGIONAL LEADERS

Local Action For and By the People

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durban2019.uclg.org



The World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders will not only serve as a meeting point for innovative dialogue on the global agendas from the local and regional governments' perspective, but for a renewed strategy for the municipal movement as a whole, and a renewed leadership of the World Organization.

There are 4 main tracks at the World Summit, - Town Hall, Assembly, Local4Action and Statutory - each track designed to foster the dialogues, to guide the debate and exchange process that will take place throughout the Summit, and to produce specific outcomes.

For years, we have called for cities to be listened to, and it is equally important to provide a space for dialogue that allows us to reflect on our policies and solutions.

This will be the only way we can foster the transformation we need. We want to take a step further and not only invite partners and stakeholders to join us but to actually help us format our global policies to shape the communities of the future. Our quest for a seat at the global table is not an aim in itself. It is about transformation of governance, about different decision making mechanisms with different stakeholders.

These outcomes, once debated at the Congress and presented to the World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments will help to guide the constituency into 2020, a crucial moment to reassess and realign global efforts to attain the global agendas.



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