



The UCLG Municipal Peace Talks

Local, regional governments and their associations leading dialogues for peace

In the spirit of our origins and building on the legacy of our movement, the **UCLG Municipal Peace Talks** are an exercise of multilateral peacebuilding from a local perspective aimed at strengthening the multilateral system, promoting the respect for international law, opening pathways of dialogue, and fostering local democracy as a pillar for a sustainable peace. It is our mandate to keep talking among each other, to show our solidarity to the people who suffer the consequences of conflict, and to maintain bridges among peoples. Since its origins, our municipal movement has championed the transformative power of city diplomacy to foster solidarity, advance the rights of communities, and involve our populations as the only way towards sustainable peace founded on local ownership.

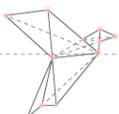
As stated by our founding charter, local and regional governments are one of the main foundations of any democratic society as they represent the level of government closest to the people; Municipal International Cooperation and decentralized cooperation, partnership, twinning, international local government diplomacy, sister city links, and mutual assistance through capacity-building programmes and international municipal solidarity initiatives, are a contribution to multilateralism that has shown to be vital for the construction of a more peaceful and just world.

It is in hard times, when our shared values and principles are most put to the test, that UCLG must rise to the task and become instrumental in the construction and consolidation of sustainable peace. It is in this moment, when the risk of getting back to the times where force prevailed is real, that we must step up for dialogue, building on international agreements, and thinking about the importance of multilateralism.

Inspired by the current context, the Talks will address the crisis triggered by the invasion of Ukraine but will further build on our response to COVID-19 and on the peace agenda of UCLG. The UCLG Municipal Peace Talks are an exercise in multilateral peacebuilding from the local perspectives that will provide the Leadership of our organization with a space to transform their commitments into action, build pathways for dialogue and promote a culture of peace based on local democracy.

Accompanied by peacebuilding organizations and partners, we strive to set the ground for local to local dialogue beyond the current conflict, develop recommendations that will enhance the capacities of local and regional governments and their advocacy towards national governments in peacebuilding matters, and address the urgent issues around the role of local governments in the context of humanitarian emergencies.

This first session identified the importance of the World Organization taking a strong stand in favor of those who are suffering war and conflict, in particular the civilian population, refugees and displaced people. One of the upcoming sessions will include the Global Alliance for Urban Crises to ensure the humanitarian aspect is a cornerstone of the Talks.





The **UCLG Municipal Peace Talks** will pivot around three critical issues:

1. The **response to the humanitarian emergency**: what role can local and regional governments play in addressing the needs of the displaced and refugees?
2. The **dialogue at the local and regional level**: How can we keep communication channels open between sister cities? What are the priorities of local government organizations? What are the approaches of the different Sections?
3. The **identification of mechanisms and tools**: How can the role played by the UCLG Solidarity Fund, the UCLG Peace Prize and the UCLG Forum on Cities and Territories for Peace be further developed and prepared for this context. Which additional tools must be put in place?

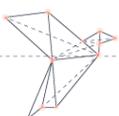
The structure of the Talks

Building on the ongoing peace agenda, longstanding tradition of city diplomacy on which the UCLG constitution is based, the UCLG Municipal Peace Talks will be a series of dialogues that will lead to concrete action within the UCLG work programme. They will be framed within the broader UCLG Peace Agenda and organized in close coordination to and with explicit ties to the work around the World Forum of Cities and Territories for Peace and the UCLG Peace Prize. They will be rooted in the partnership with Mayors for Peace, The UN Alliance of Civilizations and ACCORD.

As we work towards the UCLG World Summit, the Talks are expected to be an important component of the Pact for the Future of Humanity that will serve as strategy of the World Organization.

The Municipal Peace Talks will gather a wider array of partners, and will also engage the Presidency and UCLG Policy Councils to ensure that the results of these conversations are woven into the strategy and the policymaking of the organization, turning Peace into a cornerstone of our movement.

Attempts to build and sustain peace, both once a conflict has erupted and also long beforehand, must be tireless.





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1 April 2022 14:30-16:30 CEST.

Link to register for the session: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdu-grTwtG9QzuWpXAIBcLE1sP-_XqfVE

- **14:30 – 14:40**
Welcome by UCLG

- **14:40-15:25 – Peacebuilding today: A vision from key partners**

This segment will give voice to key international partners with experience in peace building and conflict resolution. The outcome of this part of the session will provide a series of recommendations for local and regional governments.

Facilitation and introductory remarks by **Vasu Gounden**, Executive Director, ACCORD

Janne Nijman, board member of PAX and Director of the Asser Institute
Pol Morillas, Director, CIDOB (TBC),
Viviane Ogou, President, Puerta de África

- **15:25-16:10 - Local Governments and Peace Building**

This panel will allow participants from UCLG to share their experience and to explore the role that the global organization must play in the peacebuilding and humanitarian environments in the immediate and long term.

Facilitation by **UCLG**

Representation from UCLG Sections Secretaries General and UCLG Presidency Representatives

- **16:10-16:30 Wrap-up and next steps**

Building on the vision and recommendations of participants, the session will provide key proposals for local and regional governments in peacebuilding.

