In May of 2016, coinciding with the Habitat III Local Authorities Hearings, global networks of local governments, civil society, and the urban community launched the #Listen2Cities campaign to call on national governments and the international community to listen to cities and territories in the negotiations on the New Urban Agenda that will be adopted at Habitat III. Although local and regional governments are on the front line of dealing with the daily challenges of urban and territorial development, only national governments have a seat at the table at the final negotiation table.

On 25 July, and to continue the social media campaign for states to #Listen2Cities at the #H3PrepCom3 in Surabaya, we invited local networks to celebrate their influence on the new draft of the Agenda, released on 18 July. This occasion was the last major opportunity for us to make our voices heard before the Habitat III Conference in Quito in October.

The impact of the campaign on Social Media (especially on Twitter), has being very positive. Thanks to your support, the campaign his having these results:

- Now, everyone following the #H3PrepCom3 hashtag (the official hashtag of the event) can see our messages! (see here)
- The @H3PrepCom3 account added the #Listen2Cities in its twitter bio and supported with lots of RT.
- Many of the networks of the Global Taskforce has joined the campaign, demonstrating our capacity to coordinate to amplify our voices and influence on the world stage.
- UCLG Committees and working groups, sections and lot of important and powerful accounts has supported the campaign by retweeting our tweets and tweeting their own messages (see here). @GlobalQuito, @HelenClarkUNDP, @MYWorld2030, @humanrightsgrow, @unhabitayouth, @urbancampaign are some of them.
- The @GTF2016 twitter account has overpassed 3,000 followers
#Listen2Cities continue to be the official place to communicate about the 2nd World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments, the place where share our messages. Thanks for keep enriching the conversation and see you at the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders in Bogotá.

THE MOST POPULAR TWEETS:

- **United Cities** - Bizuq.org · 25 Jul.
  
  Localgov have been following the process, the latest #Habitat3 draft must go further & #Listen2Cities #H3PrepCom3

- **United Cities** - Bizuq.org · 25 Jul.
  
  We call on national governments & international community to #Listen2Cities & territories at #H3PrepCom3 #Habitat3

- **Global Taskforce** - @GTF2016 · 25 Jul.
  
  Today we’re at #H3PrepCom3 in Surabaya
  Have UN Member States #Listen2Cities in the draft of #Habitat3? gtf2016.org/#IAre-UN-Membe...

- **UCLG Women** - @uclg_women · 25 Jul.
  
  The New Urban Agenda must guarantee the equal representation of women in local decision-making! #Listen2Cities #H3PrepCom3
Global Taskforce @GTF2016 · 26 Jul.
Let’s be bold and ambitious! Our statement at #H3PrepCom3:
media.wix.com/ugd/bfe783_856... #Listen2Cities

Reimbursements of social and economic governments of the opening panel at 7th Preparatory Committee of Habitat III Conference
25 July 2016

Delivered by Mahesh Muluk, Chair, Municipal President, Municipal Council
of Sambiring, Malaysia, President, Federation of Local Authorities
(MAL), Member, UN-Habitat Global Executive Committee

Your Boarders’ and distinguished colleagues,

Allow me to start by thanking you for the opportunity to intervene in this Third Preparatory Committee for Habitat III on behalf of the global taskforce of local and regional governments.

The Global Taskforce welcomes the new draft of the New Urban Agenda released on the 19th of July.

We particularly welcome the increased recognition of the role that local and subnational governments play in the different aspects of the agenda. The Habitat II Conference, twenty years ago, was ahead of its time in acknowledging local authorities as the “main actors” in the implementation of the Urban Agenda, and in its recognition of the transformative potential of decentralization.

Improved local governments will be essential to the successful implementation of the Agenda on the ground. That’s why it’s vital that the reference to institutional capacity based on the principle of subsidiarity is maintained going forward.

We are pleased to see that the reference to the Right to the City has been maintained. It would be wise to assure that local and regional governments will recognize its relevance in the latest draft.

However, we would like to emphasize four key components needed in this new urban agenda.

Firstly, we must be daring on the renewal of the social contract; there is a clear call from citizens which, in our view, is best captured in the notion of the rights to the city.

Secondly, we must address the great challenges of financing the new urbanity. Business as usual will not work to create the infrastructure we need in our metropolitan areas and intermediary cities over the coming decades.

Third, we must be prepared to rapidly change track to sustainability of our cities in the way we plan our infrastructure, deliver our services, consume our resources and produce our waste.

Finally, and most importantly, we will need to address the renewal of governance. The current need fails to make the paradigm shift necessary on multilevel and urban governance that is necessary for a true transformative agenda.

I would urge you to consider the scale of the challenges we face in planning for the next growth cities of the global south, in the need for a more sustainable consumption and production patterns cities in the North and South, and the existential threat of climate change, in the call of children for a new relationship with the state, in the growth of inequalities and, in global migration.

Let’s be bold and ambitious and use the Habitat Agenda to renew local democracy, increase accountability, promote sustainable livelihoods and strengthen participatory governance across the world.
#Listen2Cities  #Habitat3

Make local and regional governments **stronger and more accountable** to drive inclusive and sustainable development.

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Rethink **local financing systems** to make cities sustainable.

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National governments will adopt the New Urban Agenda at #Habitat3 but #localgov will implement it #Listen2Cities bit.ly/2akwu3R

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Unlock the potential of **territories** to promote sustainable **local economic and environmental policies** and protect our planet.
Foster the spirit of solidarity through decentralized cooperation

Nat'l gov't's should engage @uclg_org & @FCM_online cities in preparing @Habitat3UN agenda! #localgov knows best! #Listen2Cities #H3Prepcom

At #UCLGCongress in @BtaGlobal we'll #Listen2Cities & stress the issues & challenges that will guide our future

UCLG World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders... Held every three years, the United Cities and Local Governments Congress, commonly known as the World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders, is the event of r...
youtube.com
Web posts about the campaign:


The campaign in numbers

General Overview

1,495 tweets

- 59 Text tweets 3.95%
- 1,269 Retweets 84.88%
- 6 Replies 0.40%
- 164 Links/Imgs 10.97%

- 5,274,918 Potential impacts
- 1,788,731 Potential reach
- 514 Contributors
- 3,480 Followers per contributor
- 0 Instagram
- 2.91 Tweets per contributor
**Activity**

- 59 original tweets
- 1,269 retweets
- 6 replies
- 164 links & pics

**Contributors**

**Most Active Contributors** by number of tweets:
- @ucig_org: 81
- @piapaoullete: 61
- @GTF2016: 58
- @H3PrepCom3: 38
- @HabitatCO2lutio: 25

**Most Popular Contributors** by number of followers:
- @HelenClarkUNDP: 139,427
- @debrauh: 129,821
- @humanrightsgrow: 99,878
- @iambiente: 58,227
- @IDS_UK: 48,148

#LISTEN2CITIES