

Participation of mayors and local governments during the Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption

November 8 and 9, 2017, Vienna (Austria)

The Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (COSP) is the main regulatory body of the United Nations in the fight against corruption. The Conference meets every two years to adopt resolutions and decisions to support governments and signatories in the implementation of the Convention. In addition, the Conference provides policy guidance to develop and implement anti-corruption activities.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption was approved in 2003 and entered into force in December 2005. Today, 140 countries are part of the Convention. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) is the custodian of the Convention and the main organizer of the Conference.

The **Urban-GLASS initiative "Governing with citizen"**, led by the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces (FEMP) and the United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat), with the support of UCLG, has focused its work in raising awareness of the need for local governments to combat corruption actively and to draw international attention to the essential role of local governments as agents that are already fighting corruption and generating confidence in the role of the public sector.

As part of this effort, the initiative and UCLG supported the participation of a delegation of mayors and representatives of local governments in the COSP 2017 through the side event **"Fight corruption in cities: identify risks and react in time. The role of local governments"** that took place on November 9 within the official program of the Conference.

The delegation of representatives of local governments was composed of **Richard Rwabuhinga**, Mayor of the Kabarole district, Uganda, representing UCLG Africa; **Sally Ante Lee**, Mayor of Sorsogon City, Philippines, representing UCLG Asia and Pacific; **José Antonio Hernández Fragua**, Municipal President (Mayor) of the City of Oaxaca, representing FLACMA; and **David Lucas Parrón**, Mayor of Móstoles, Spain, representing the Spanish Federation of Municipalities and Provinces and the Council Municipalities and Regions of Europe (CEMR).



Fotos: UrbanGLASS

This was the first time that local governments formally participated in the Conference, where their contributions contributed to the add the local dimension to the effective implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which is generally reserved for the action of central governments.

The session contributed to exposing the specific characteristics of cities as places of opportunity and motors for the prevention and fight against corruption and the achievement of SDG 11 (sustainable cities) and SDG 16 (effective institutions), taking the voice of mayors and an urban perspective to the COSP.



The participation of local governments during the COSP was a perfect opportunity to promote a multilevel debate on the role of cities and the benefits of implementing policies of transparency and accountability in urban management.

The main outcome of the session was the identification of common challenges and innovative solutions to fight corruption in cities and awareness raised on how the development and promotion of initiatives of transparency and accountability at the local level can improve the life conditions of citizens through the provision of services in an open, competitive and fair manner; and can also improve levels of trust in public institutions by offering citizens the tools and information necessary to play a more active role in city management.

The discussions held will contribute to inform the creation, in December, of the "Community of Practice on Transparency and Open Local Government" within the framework of UCLG, and in turn it will be able to contribute to the UCLG report on the progress in SDG 11 in the Political Forum of High Level in July 2018.

With the celebration of this event begins the countdown to the commemoration of the International Day against corruption, on December 9, reason why it is proposed to promote for a month (from November 9 to December 9) the importance of the work of local governments in the prevention and fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency and open government with the use in social networks of the hashtag #Commit2transparency .