

**Policy Council:**  
**Territorial,  
Multilevel  
Governance  
and Sustainable  
Financing**

**POLICY COUNCILLORS**



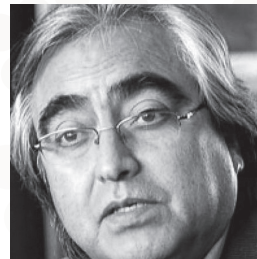
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## BRIEFING

In our World Congress in 2016 in Bogotá, UCLG called to renew the governance model and invest in cities to remake human settlements as the primary driver of a new, sustainable era. Confronted with the persistent challenge of increasing social inequalities, strong local and regional governments play a critical role in defining and driving the inclusive and sustainable development of our cities and territories. The UCLG Policy Council “**Territorial, Multilevel Governance and Sustainable Financing**” is the place to share initiatives and hold in-depth discussions about policies and their consequences at the different levels of government, as well as to propose paths for the development of new model of governance.

Deepening the roots of local democracy and involving inhabitants in the co-production of our cities and territories are key in our transition towards a sustainable future. To this end, we need to govern in partnership, build governance capabilities, implement effective partnerships with multiple stakeholders, and ensure accountable and transparent local governance. Our governance model also needs to be integrated, long-term and innovative; supporting the participation of sub-national governments in the definition of national policies, and particularly the national urban policies and regional development strategies for the localization of the SDGs, the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and other global challenges.

Without empowered local and regional governments, the achievement of the major global sustainability agendas will not be possible. The creation of a system of **multilevel governance** based on the principle of subsidiarity, an enabling environment, and adequate political, administrative and fiscal decentralization should provide the institutional national frameworks needed for this purpose.

A **territorial approach to development**, stimulating endogenous growth, reconciling human and sustainable development, and mobilizing local and regional assets will also be necessary to strengthen our governance model. This further implies guaranteeing food security. Confronted with the current global dynamics, we need to re-territorialize food systems, leading those involved in the production and consumption of food to undertake stronger social and environmental responsibilities. A wide range of local initiatives have already undergone this transition, ensuring a positive social and environmental performance while contributing to regional development.

To implement the global agendas recently adopted by the international community, there is also an urgent need to improve cities’ and regions’ access to international and national sources of finance to invest in local sustainable infrastructure and services. This call is further strengthened by the pressing need to address the chronic market failure that dictates the disconnection between the needs of cities and territories in developing countries and the allocation of funding.

This Policy Council will debate how to boost effective territorial and multilevel governance, and re-think and strengthen sub-national and public financing systems to reconcile financing with sustainability. The discussion will further feed the work of GOLD, geared towards the establishment of a mechanism for local and regional governments’ follow-up and reporting of the implementation of the global agendas. It will also contribute to the recent call by UCLG to establish an International Panel on Sustainable Financing for Cities.