

About UCLG:

Created in May 2004, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) is the world organization of local and regional governments and their associations, representing and defending their interests on the world stage. UCLG's network of members represents 70% of the world's total population and is present in all world regions: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, the Middle East and West Asia, and North America; organized into 7 regional sections, 1 metropolitan section and 1 section for regional governments. This network includes over 240,000 towns, cities, regions and metropolises, and over 175 associations of local and regional governments in 140 countries. Among UCLG's key areas of political interest are: local democracy, climate change and environmental protection, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, local finance, urban development and city diplomacy in peace building.

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Local and regional governments at the Post-2015 UN Summit in New York call for the localization of the development agenda

New York, 28 September, 2015. Local and regional governments from all over the world were at UN Headquarters in New York this weekend to witness the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Mayors from the delegation, including UCLG President and Mayor of Istanbul, Kadir Topbaş, and Mayor of Bagangté, Celestine Ketcha Courtès, have highlighted the fact that the achievement of all of the 17 new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will depend on local governments.

Kadir Topbaş, Mayor of Istanbul and President of United Cities and Local Governments:

"We, the local and regional leaders gathered in United Cities and Local Governments and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, have been here this week to make everybody aware that the Sustainable Development Goals – all of them – are at the core of our work."

Celestine Ketcha Courtès, Mayor of Bagangté and UCLG Champion on Development and Cooperation.

"We have tirelessly repeated in the UN and other international arenas that the risks of badly managed urbanization are underestimated."

The umbrella network of international local government organizations, the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, has organized a number of debates and workshops in New York over recent days to assess the role of cities and local leaders in the Post-2015 Agenda going forward. This has resulted in a joint declaration: "[All SDGs are Local: Towards an Action Agenda in Habitat III](#)".

In the declaration local and regional leaders commit to playing their part in the success of the Post-2015 Agenda and call for a new global governance system within a revitalized UN system. They propose greater participation in the UN for all stakeholders, and recognition of the unique democratic legitimacy of local governments in particular.

Local and regional governments in New York have celebrated the inclusion of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and pointed out the need for the 'localization' of all of the 17 SDGs. Localization refers to the adaptation of the goals to local circumstances and the decentralization of powers and resources to ensure their implementation and monitoring.

The next dates in the international calendar for local and regional governments are the COP21 Climate Change Summit in Paris in December 2015 and the Habitat III Conference in October of 2016 in Quito.